



# Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report

January 2019

## Quality information

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## Revision History

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Figure 1.1 Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Area.

## Non-Technical Summary

### What is strategic environmental assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken to inform the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan, and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

### What is the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan?

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area for the period to 2033. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will also support the strategic development needs of the Northumberland Local Plan, and the government agenda for planning as established in the National Planning Policy Framework. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, landscape and townscape character, the quality of life of residents, and the protection and enhancement of the environment.

### Purpose of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report, which accompanies the current consultation on the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan, is the second document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (February 2017), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan; and
- The next steps for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA process.

## Scoping

The purpose of scoping is to identify the important environmental, social and economic conditions and issues within Cramlington. This helps to focus the SEA on the big issues and presents information that helps in determining whether the effects of the Plan are significant or not. The main output of the Scoping Process is a series of environmental objectives that form the framework for assessing the impacts of the plan against. Thirteen objectives were established for this SEA as follows:

1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington.
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.
8. To ensure good air quality.
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters.
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.

## Assessment of alternative approaches for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

During the development of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group considered different approaches to guiding housing and employment development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. To support decision-making on this element, the SEA process undertook an appraisal of the different site and policy options proposed through the Plan.

### Changes to the settlement boundary

The Plan proposes to make amendments to the settlement boundary for Cramlington. Primarily, this involves ensuring that the separate character and role of settlements is maintained, keeping uninterrupted stretches of countryside between Cramlington and other settlements, by managing its expansion and to control sporadic development in the open countryside.

It is considered reasonable to explore the implications of these changes in comparison to a 'business as usual' approach. Therefore, two options have been appraised as follows:

1. The preferred approach: Proposed changes to the settlement boundary
2. Business as usual: Do not make amendments to the settlement boundary.

### *What are the appraisal findings at this stage?*

The effects associated with both options are relatively minor. The business as usual approach would result in neutral effects across the range of SEA Objectives, as it would be a continuation of the baseline position. Not

taking action to amend the boundary would not be likely to have negative effects with regards to housing and economic growth or the provision of new facilities.

The proposed approach could have some minor negative effects on biodiversity, townscapes/landscapes and travel patterns. However, it could also generate positive effects for housing and communities which may otherwise not occur (at least in the short term).

### *Justification for the proposed approach*

As part of the preparation of the Plan, the Steering Group considered the advantages and disadvantages of settlement boundaries. It was agreed that the advantages of settlement boundaries outweighed the disadvantages. In particular, that they seek to ensure that development is directed to more sustainable locations and that they ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the consideration of planning applications.

In order to establish the most appropriate boundary that would support the sustainable development of Cramlington, the Steering Group developed a settlement boundary methodology. This included a review of existing documents, including: the Blyth Valley Local Plan; Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment and Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study. It also considered current planning permissions and applications, as well as sites included within the Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The review was undertaken within the context of the results of the Housing Needs Assessment.

The proposed settlement boundary takes into account extant planning permissions and seeks to establish a logical shape to the edge of Cramlington, following its planned completion. It also avoids irregular incursions into the open countryside and has been drawn to follow features which are easily identifiable of the ground.

### Appraisal of site options

During the development of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group considered a number of potential housing sites for allocation within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The table below sets out all the sites that were considered, the sites that were shortlisted and the initial stage 1 assessment summary.

The two sites highlighted in blue are proposed for allocation.

Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Outline reasons for selection / rejection
1 (6893) Land North of West Hartford Farm	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of the settlement wide constraints, there are specific constraints relating to part location in the Green Belt, landscape value and biodiversity.
2 (4725) Land to the West of East Hartford	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, there are constraints relating to landscape value and biodiversity.
3 (6892) Land North of East Hartford	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, the site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is unacceptable.
4 (4644) Land at Shankhouse	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, the site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is doubtful. The extent of the site's location within Flood Zone 2 suggests it is unacceptable.
5 (4645) Land to the East of Bog Houses	Y	Development would be in relatively open landscape and poorly connected to services and education facilities.

Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Outline reasons for selection / rejection
6 (4702) Land to the south (west) of Cheadle Avenue	Y	Unconstrained and reasonably well connected site; sustainable, but with limited delivery.
7 (4701) Land North of Station Road	N	Sustainable development opportunity, with good accessibility. Subsequently received planning permission.
8 (4730) Land to the rear of the Brockwell Centre	Y	Sustainable development opportunity, with good accessibility; presence of Stythe gas and significant biodiversity likely to preclude development though.
9 (6940) Nelson Village Recreation Ground	Y	Unconstrained, well connected site; will require replacement and improved green space, but otherwise sustainable. Limited delivery.
10 (4713) Cramlington Fire Station, Shankhouse	Y	Unconstrained, brown field site with infrastructure in situ. Limited delivery potential.
11 (6767) Officer's Club (North)	Y	Presence of Tree Preservation Order indicates that the trees offer high amenity value and potentially constrains development. Unacceptable.
12 (4749) Eastlea First School, Bowmont Drive	N	Site in viable educational use, therefore not available for housing.
13 (4581) Parkside Middle School, Village Road	N	Site has the benefit of planning permission and construction has commenced.
14 (4652) South West Sector 1	N	Longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town", supported by Development Plan policy; capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy. Acceptable. Note: Site has Planning Permission
15 (4703) South West Sector 2	N	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". It is supported by Development Plan policy and is capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy. Acceptable. Note: Site has Planning Permission
16 (6904) Land East of Fisher Lane	Y	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". Housing development is not supported by current Development Plan policy and is only capable of sustainably delivering new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy in association with other sites identified above. Presence of overhead line suggests site is doubtful.
17 (6886) South West Sector Phase 3	Y	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". Although it is not supported by Development Plan policy, it



Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Outline reasons for selection / rejection
		is capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy.
18 (4783) Former Dam Dykes Farm, South of Arcot Lane	N	The site is under construction.
19 (4580) Cragside First School, Cateran Way	N	The site is under construction.
20 (4757) East Cramlington Farmhouse	Y	Small site, which lies out with the Cramlington "box" and adjoins a nature reserve (undesignated). Would deliver only a small number of new homes in the plan period. Acceptable.
21 (6943) Land at Carlcroft Place	Y	Well located and connected, but the loss of green space may mitigate its suitability for development. Doubtful.
22 (4578) Land at Hall Close Grange	Y	Well located and connected, but the loss of green space may mitigate its suitability for development. Doubtful.
23 (4655) Westfield Cramlington Village	Y	Well located and connected within and to town centre. Would require demolition of existing dwelling. Unacceptable.
24 (6907) Land West of A1068	Y	The fact that the site is relatively remote from the rest of the town, and adjacent to a surface mine and industrial estate and lies within the Green Belt, suggests that the site is unsuitable for housing development.
25 (6794) Land East of A1, West Cramlington (part)	Y	The fact that the site is located within the Green Belt, is relatively remote from the rest of the town, subject to extant conditions for the restoration of the site on completion of surface mining, suggests that the site is unsuitable for housing development.
26 (4612) Land at West Hartford Farm	N	Under construction.
27 (6778) Land South of B1326 at East Cramlington	N	Under construction.
28 (6821) Land south of B1326, East Cramlington	Y	Located east of the A189 the site would extend East Cramlington to the south of the B1326 and although not into open countryside (following the construction of the emergency care hospital), it would unnecessarily extend an ad hoc collection of housing estates, into the Green Belt.

## Assessment of the current version of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

An appraisal of the Plan was undertaken, considering the policies both individually and 'as a whole'. The findings are summarised in the table below, as well as identifying potential measures for monitoring the significant effects.

SEA Objective	Assessment summary	Monitoring measures
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		

SEA Objective	Assessment summary	Monitoring measures
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Overall, the Plan is predicted to have <b>significant positive effects</b> on biodiversity in the long term. This is due to multiple plan policies seeking to achieve enhancement and a gain in biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net change in habitats</li> <li>• Protected species affected by development.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per capita CO2 from domestic, transport and industrial sources.</li> </ul>
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green infrastructure improvements secured through development</li> </ul>
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to the number of properties at risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The Plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on landscape and heritage in the longer term through influencing the quality and location of new developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring changes in landscape and townscape character.</li> <li>• Vacant buildings brought back into use</li> </ul>
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.		
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	No significant effects are predicted for land, soil, air and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of agricultural land Grade 1, 2, 3a lost to development.</li> <li>• Amount and % of brownfield land developed.</li> </ul>
8. To ensure good air quality		
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters		
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	No significant effects are predicted with regards to SEA Objective 10.	
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	With regards to housing, a <b>significant positive effect</b> is predicted as the Plan ought to help address affordable housing issues and also support the delivery of attractive homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of affordable homes delivered per annum.</li> <li>• % of affordable homes delivered.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	<b>Significant positive effects</b> are predicted due to the protection and enhancement of open space, recreation, walking and cycling routes and community facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net creation of open space (hectares)</li> <li>• Achievement of open space standards</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	<b>Significant positive effects</b> are predicted in the longer term by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use, well-located housing development, and supporting infrastructure improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of residents that use public transport to travel to work.</li> <li>• Number of car trips</li> <li>• Walking and cycling routes created.</li> <li>• % of housing development within 400m of a bus stop, primary school, GP, local convenience store.</li> </ul>

## Next steps

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan and this updated Environmental Report will need to be submitted to Northumberland County Council for its consideration. Northumberland County Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.

If the subsequent Independent Examination is favourable, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Northumberland County Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to the Northumberland County Council with a request it is adopted. Once adopted, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the Civil Parish of Cramlington.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan.

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan area, which covers the Civil Parish of Cramlington (Figure 1.1), is being prepared in the context of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.

This report follows Regulation 14 consultation of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and will accompany the submission of the Plan for examination.

Key information relating to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Qualifying Body	Cramlington Town Council
Title of Plan	Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area for the period to 2033. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will also support the strategic development needs of the Northumberland Local Plan, and the government agenda for planning as established in the National Planning Policy Framework.
Timescale	To 2033
Area covered by the plan	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area covers the Civil Parish of Cramlington.  (Refer to Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of community-led planning policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Bob Baker, Town Clerk  Email address: <a href="mailto:cramlingtontc@gmail.com">cramlingtontc@gmail.com</a>

## 1.2 SEA explained

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan has been ‘screened-in’ as requiring an SEA.

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.

The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan’s contribution to sustainable development.

The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>1</sup>.

The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside a draft plan that ‘identifies, describes and evaluates’ the likely significant effects of implementing ‘the plan, and reasonable alternatives’. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:

- What is the scope of the SEA?
- What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?
  - ‘Reasonable alternatives’ must have been appraised for the plan.
- What are the appraisal findings at this stage?
  - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
- What happens next?

These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present ‘the information to be provided within the report’. **Table 1.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

## 1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report

This document is the Environmental Report for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed in paragraph 1.2 with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

**Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory<sup>2</sup> requirements**

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... <sup>3</sup>
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</li> </ul>
What is the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant environmental protection <b>objectives</b>, established at international or national level</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
<b>What's the scope of the SEA?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan</li> </ul>
What is the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
What are the key issues & objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key <b>problems/issues</b> and <b>objectives</b> that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment</li> </ul>
<b>What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the <b>alternatives</b> dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach)</li> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>alternatives</b></li> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of <b>alternatives</b> appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the assessment findings at this stage?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>the draft plan</b></li> <li>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing <b>the draft plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>What happens next?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next steps for plan making/SEA process.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

<sup>3</sup> NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

## 2. Local Plan context and vision for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

### 2.1 Local Plan context for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan area's location within Northumberland, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of Northumberland County Council planning policy.

This Neighbourhood Plan, once 'made', will be the Development Plan for Cramlington, and will be used to decide whether to approve or refuse planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to National Planning Policy (contained in the National Planning Policy Framework). It should also be in line with strategic policy in the Northumberland Local Plan. The higher level policy is complex with regards to Northumberland due to a number of factors. In April 2009, following Local Government Reorganisation, the County Authority was established as a Unitary Authority. It replaced the former County Council and six District / Borough Councils of Alnwick, Berwick, Blyth Valley, Castle Morpeth, Tynedale and Wansbeck.

Various policies that applied as part of the now disbanded District / Borough Council Local Plans have been 'saved' under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and remain in force until replaced by subsequent Development Plan Documents adopted by Northumberland Council. These documents, together with any 'made' Neighbourhood Plans, have been brought together to form the 'Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework', which sets out the relevant planning policy documents for Northumberland. Those policies relevant to the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area are: the Blyth Valley Core Strategy (2007) and the saved policies of the Blyth Valley District Local Plan.

The policies in the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will be used by planning officers at the County Council to determine planning applications. It will also be used by planning inspectors, when deciding planning appeals. It will be a part of the statutory development plan for the area, and policies in it will supercede some of the policies in the old Blyth Valley plans. Where there are matters that are not covered in the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan, these matters will still be determined in line with the existing 'Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework', and subsequently in the new Northumberland Local Plan, once this is adopted.

The Northumberland Core Strategy was submitted in April 2017, but was subsequently withdrawn. The withdrawal of the Core Strategy should not put a stop to progress on neighbourhood plans. Recent case law makes it clear that a neighbourhood plan can be brought into force ahead of a local plan. Neighbourhood plans form part of the development plan for Northumberland, alongside, but not as a replacement for the new Local Plan.

Neighbourhood plans are required to be in conformity with the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Northumberland, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.



## 2.2 Vision for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan was developed following extensive consultation with local stakeholders carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The vision for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is presented below.



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Cramlington will continue to grow, becoming a successful sustainable community. It will strive to become the main town in the county and one of its principal gateways.

Cramlington will be transformed into Northumberland's Garden Town thereby creating a distinct identity for its residential and business communities and visitors.

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**Vision for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan**



To support the Neighbourhood Plan's vision, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan sets out a number of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The latest iteration of these policies has been appraised in **Chapter 4** of this Environmental Report.

## 3. The Scope of the SEA

### 3.1 SEA Scoping Report

The SEA Regulations require that: *“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”*. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.<sup>4</sup> These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan SEA in February 2017.

The purpose of scoping was to outline the 'scope' of the SEA through setting out:

- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
- The key sustainability issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and

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<sup>4</sup> In-line with Article 6(3) of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because *'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme'*.

- An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.

The baseline information and contextual review presented in the Scoping Report is replicated in **Appendix A** of this Environmental Report.

. Only one of the statutory consultees (Historic England) provided a response to the SEA report accompanying the Regulation 14 consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The comments made and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 3.1** below.

**Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Report for Regulation 14 consultation**

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<b>Historic England</b>	
Section 3.2.3 refers to 26 “locally listed buildings”. These are statutorily listed buildings, ie. a national designation. The same section still fails to mention Cramlington Conservation Area, which is also a designated heritage asset.	Scoping updated to include suggested changes.
Section 3.2.3 fails to mention the potential for non-designated heritage assets. There is still no mention of archaeology. There is no clear assessment of significance of heritage assets, including that gained from their setting. There is no reference to relevant historic environment legislative requirements (for example that for listed buildings).	The Environmental Report sets out whether site options are likely to have minor or significant effects with regards to the historic environment. Likewise, these issues are addressed in section
When carrying out the assessment, section 5.6 does not address the listed buildings or non-designated heritage assets including archaeology, and when addressing the conservation area it does not discuss impact on its setting. It does not appear to clearly set out the significant effects on the historic environment which might be experienced as a result of the plan, and there is an associated risk that historic environment issues have become conflated solely with landscape issues.	

## 3.2 Key sustainability issues

Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline position, it was possible to identify a range of sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of SEA. These issues are as follows, presented by seven environmental themes:

### 3.2.1 Biodiversity

- Nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites are present in the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area.
- The Arcot Hall Grasslands and Ponds is considered to be one of the largest lowland species-rich unimproved grasslands in North East England, and the majority of Cramlington falls within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for the designation.
- Bassington Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located centrally to the Neighbourhood Area
- The Neighbourhood Area has a diversity of woodland species, grasslands and meadows which should be considered under the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Otters are present within Cramlington according to the Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP),

### 3.2.2 Climate Change (including risk of flooding)

- Fluvial flooding is considered only a minor risk in Cramlington.

- Built development and an increase in hard-standing surfaces as a result of new development within Cramlington are likely to increase the potential for surface water flood events, unless appropriately mitigated through surface water disposal infrastructure.
- Cramlington, and Northumberland as a whole, has an above average level of greenhouse gas emissions from the Industry and Domestic sector compared to the England average.
- Predictions for the north east of England suggest the area should expect warmer winter and summer weather events, alongside increased winter precipitation, and decreased summer precipitation.
- The Neighbourhood Plan should seek to adopt resilience measures in order to mitigate against future climate and weather fluctuations, the onset of which may have various consequences within the Neighbourhood Area.

### 3.2.3 Landscape and Historic Environment

- Cramlington is designated as having an 'Urban and Urban Fringe' Landscape Character Type, characterised by a landscape which has a relatively high human influence, is industrially developed, and has large settlements.
- Views are relatively contained within the Neighbourhood Plan Area by surrounding woodland and infrastructure.
- Green Belt designations overlap with the southern and the western border of the Neighbourhood Plan Area in addition to a section of the northern border.
- 26 nationally listed buildings lie within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and a Conservation Area covers the western part of the town centre and surrounding area.
- There is potential for new development to erode the townscape or landscape qualities of Cramlington, and to encroach on the setting of local heritage assets.

### 3.2.4 Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources

- Agricultural Land Classification within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is predominantly Grade 3b. Land of agricultural value is located in the south west and the north.
- The whole Neighbourhood Plan Area is situated upon a coal resource.
- The current Wastewater Treatment infrastructure of Cramlington is not thought capable of accommodating future development demands.
- New development is likely to encroach on existing land resources, and potentially threaten land of agricultural or amenity value.
- The 2015 Air Quality Updating and Screening Report for Northumberland County Council states that the county has complied with the national Air Quality Objectives, and as such there isn't a need to adopt further management strategies.
- Development of a new biomass CHP plant within Cramlington has begun and is expected to be operational in summer 2018. This is likely to have a long term effect on reducing green-house emissions and improving local air quality within the neighbourhood.

### 3.2.5 Housing, Population and Community

- Population density is highest in the south-east of Northumberland, with Cramlington being one of the most populated towns within the county.
- The population within the Neighbourhood Plan Area between 2001- 2011 declined by approximately 3%.
- The number of 64+ residents within Cramlington is expected to increase, whilst the numbers of residents aged below 15 years old are expected to decrease

- Many of the communities within the south-east of Northumberland experience high levels of deprivation, including Cramlington.
- There are a high proportion of homes which are owned with a mortgage/ loan, and a lower proportion of private rented dwellings within Cramlington than the Northumberland average.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Area has fewer individuals with a Level 4 Qualification and above compared to the England and Wales percentage.
- There is a concentration of people employed within the Associate Professional and Technical, Administrative and Secretarial and the Sales and Customer Service occupations.

### 3.2.6 Health and Wellbeing

- Cramlington has fewer deaths from circulatory disease and coronary disease than the England average, as well as fewer overcrowded houses and fewer pensioners living alone.
- The instances of alcohol related harm, the provision of unpaid care-work, and the admissions of under-fives into hospital are above the England average, and are highlighted as points of potential focus for the Neighbourhood Area.
- The development of a Specialist Emergency Care Hospital near Cramlington is likely to contribute to more efficient health care provision.
- Cramlington currently suffers from inaccessibility to various Green Infrastructure features; however the South East Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy offers an opportunity to address this need.

### 3.2.7 Transportation and accessibility

- Cramlington is considered to have strong transport links, being located near the A1 and the A19, as well as having a rail station on the East Coast Main Line (ECML).
- Cramlington was originally developed as a new town with an extensive network of traffic free routes.
- Indiscriminate parking of cars is thought to affect local communities as well as the reliable operation of bus services.
- Cramlington is served by a multitude of bus services and routes, the use of which is popular and increasing.
- Passenger usage of rail services has experienced a slight decline since 2008/09, and there are structural limitations to the Cramlington Rail Station which may need addressing in the future.
- Due to its accessibility, Cramlington is considered to be a dormitory settlement which serves the wider Tyne and Wear City Region

## 3.3 SEA Framework

These key issues were translated into an 'SEA Framework', which provides a methodological basis for the appraisal of the Plan (and reasonable alternatives). The SEA framework for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is presented below.

**Table 3.2: SEA Framework for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan**

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	
To protect and enhance Cramlington's	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species?</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance natural / semi-natural habitats?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to protected species?</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance woodland cover and management?</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places?</li> <li>• Avoid habitat fragmentation and strengthen ecological framework?</li> <li>• Ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity?</li> <li>• Contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets within the Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan?</li> <li>• Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate?</li> <li>• Result in a net gain for the natural environment with each new development?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the Arcot Hall Grasslands and Ponds SSSI?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>	
To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption or providing energy from waste?</li> <li>• Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable or zero or low carbon sources?</li> <li>• Will it reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances?</li> <li>• Will it promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development? Will it reduce contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices?</li> <li>• Will it contribute to reducing Cramlington’s carbon footprint?</li> <li>• Will it ensure that the adverse impacts of development are minimised in order to protect the amenity of local communities?</li> </ul>
To ensure Cramlington’s resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the vulnerability of Cramlington’s communities, natural environment and economy to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, disruption during extreme weather etc.?</li> <li>• Will it reduce vulnerability of the economy to climate change and harness any opportunities that may arise?</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it ensure that impacts and opportunities of climate change on natural habitats and species are full considered and incorporated in spatial planning decisions?</li> </ul>
<p>To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all developments comply with legislative requirements and emerging flood strategies?</li> <li>• Ensure that the adverse impacts of development are minimised in order to protect the amenity of local communities?</li> <li>• Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property in new and existing developments?</li> <li>• Take into account predicted future impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and flooding events?</li> <li>• Promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in appropriate circumstances?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b></p>	
<p>To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington’s rural and urban landscapes.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?</li> <li>• Improve the landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the landscape character and scenic quality of the countryside?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance natural landscapes within the urban area, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors?</li> <li>• Incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate?</li> <li>• Protect the strategic function of the Green Belt?</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements?</li> <li>• Improve access to the countryside for recreation?</li> <li>• Improve the amenity of residential areas?</li> <li>• Deliver good quality design that reflects local character?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the historic value of rural and urban landscapes?</li> </ul>
<p>Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of the Cramlington Conservation Area?</li> <li>• Improve the visual and spatial relationships in and between the towns’ residential, business and commercial sectors through a programme of environmental improvements?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b></p>	

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions</b>
To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Minimise the loss of soils to development?</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance soil quality?</li> </ul>
To ensure good air quality	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve air quality?</li> <li>• Limit air pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems or human health?</li> <li>• Ensure that the adverse impacts of development are minimised in order to protect the amenity of local communities?</li> <li>• Mitigate the impacts on air quality from road transport?</li> <li>• Discourage or mitigate against uses that generate NO2 or other particulates?</li> </ul>
To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit water pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems?</li> <li>• Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity)?</li> <li>• Maintain and restore key ecological processes e.g. hydrology, water quality, coastal processes)?</li> <li>• Improve the quality of inland water?</li> <li>• Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources?</li> <li>• Ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development?</li> <li>• Promote and encourage the installation of water saving measures?</li> <li>• Will it contribute positively to achieving objectives set for the Northumbria River Basin Management Plans as part of delivery of the Water Framework Directive?</li> <li>• Will it fulfil all duties under the habitats regulations?</li> </ul>
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>	
To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>• Minimise fuel poverty?</li> <li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including education, retail and leisure, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> </ul>
To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> <li>• Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing?</li> <li>• Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all part of the community?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including innovative building materials and construction methods.</li> <li>• Ensure that appropriate use is made of the existing housing stock?</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions</b>
To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>• Ensure that the adverse impacts of development are minimised in order to protect the amenity and quality of life of local communities?</li> <li>• Improve access to high quality, accessible healthcare facilities?</li> <li>• Promote recreational and leisure opportunities, including in the countryside?</li> <li>• Help to deliver a comprehensive network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure?</li> <li>• Improve access to open space, the open countryside and / or recreational facilities?</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>	
To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect people effectively to the social, economic, educational, recreational and cultural facilities they require on a daily basis?</li> <li>• Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?</li> <li>• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?</li> <li>• Improve road safety?</li> <li>• Decrease the amount of traffic using the road system?</li> <li>• Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?</li> <li>• Promote car-share schemes and/or working from home?</li> <li>• Promote the development of Park &amp; Ride Schemes?</li> </ul>



## 4. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?

### 4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include:

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an assessment of alternative strategic locations for housing and employment development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### 4.2 Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken since 2014

Plan-making for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan has been underway since 2013. Initial work incorporated a number of informal and formal consultation exercises carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, including on the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

A significant number of consultation events have since been carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan. This has included a range of exhibitions, public meetings and questions and answer sessions as well as workshops.

The following sections discuss the evolution of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan in association with the SEA process.

### 4.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA Regulations<sup>5</sup> are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.

The following sections therefore describe how the SEA process to date has informed the preferred approach for the Neighbourhood Plan area and potential policies for shaping new development in the parish. Firstly, there is an assessment of the effects of the housing sites, and secondly, how the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan's development policies preformed against the SEA Framework.

### 4.4 Establishing and appraising reasonable alternatives

#### Housing Sites

During the development of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group considered a number of potential housing sites for allocation within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Table 4.1 sets out all the sites that were considered, the sites that were shortlisted and the initial stage 1 assessment summary.

A detailed SEA Site Assessment can be found for each of the shortlisted sites in **Appendix B**.

#### **Table 4.1 – Initial Site Options and Neighbourhood Planning Group Assessment**

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<sup>5</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment – Stage 1
1 (6893) Land North of West Hartford Farm	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of the settlement wide constraints, there are specific constraints relating to part location in the Green Belt, landscape value and biodiversity.
2 (4725) Land to the West of East Hartford	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, there are constraints relating to landscape value and biodiversity.
3 (6892) Land North of East Hartford	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, the site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is unacceptable.
4 (4644) Land at Shankhouse	Y	Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, the site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is doubtful. The extent of the site's location within Flood Zone 2 suggests it is unacceptable.
5 (4645) Land to the East of Bog Houses	Y	Development would be in relatively open landscape and poorly connected to services and education facilities.
6 (4702) Land to the south (west) of Cheadle Avenue	Y	Unconstrained and reasonably well connected site; sustainable, but with limited delivery.
7 (4701) Land North of Station Road	N	Sustainable development opportunity, with good accessibility. Subsequently received planning permission.
8 (4730) Land to the rear of the Brockwell Centre	Y	Sustainable development opportunity, with good accessibility; presence of Stythe gas and significant biodiversity likely to preclude development.
9 (6940) Nelson Village Recreation Ground	Y	Unconstrained, well connected site; will require replacement and improved green space, but otherwise sustainable. Limited delivery.
10 (4713) Cramlington Fire Station, Shankhouse	Y	Unconstrained, brown field site with infrastructure in situ. Limited delivery.
11 (6767) Officer's Club (North)	Y	Presence of Tree Preservation Order indicates that the trees offer high amenity value and potentially constrains development. Unacceptable.
12 (4749) Eastlea First School, Bowmont Drive	N	Site in viable educational use, therefore not available for housing.
13 (4581) Parkside Middle School, Village Road	N	Site has the benefit of planning permission and construction has commenced.
14 (4652) South West Sector 1	N	Longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town", supported by Development Plan policy; capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core

Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment – Stage 1
		Strategy Local Plan strategy. Acceptable. Note: Site has Planning Permission
15 (4703) South West Sector 2	N	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". It is supported by Development Plan policy and is capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy. Acceptable. Note: Site has Planning Permission
16 (6904) Land East of Fisher Lane	Y	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". Housing development is not supported by current Development Plan policy and is only capable of sustainably delivering new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy in association with other sites identified above. Presence of overhead line suggests site is doubtful.
17 (6886) South West Sector Phase 3	Y	The site has the potential to meet the longstanding aspiration to complete the South West Sector and therefore Cramlington "new town". Although it is not supported by Development Plan policy, it is capable of sustainably delivering an important number of new homes in accordance with the emerging Northumberland Core Strategy Local Plan strategy.
18 (4783) Former Dam Dykes Farm, South of Arcot Lane	N	The site is under construction.
19 (4580) Cragside First School, Cateran Way	N	The site is under construction.
20 (4757) East Cramlington Farmhouse	Y	Small site, which lies out with the Cramlington "box" and adjoins a nature reserve (undesignated). Would deliver only a small number of new homes in the plan period. Acceptable.
21 (6943) Land at Carlcroft Place	Y	Well located and connected, but the loss of green space may mitigate its suitability for development. Doubtful.
22 (4578) Land at Hall Close Grange	Y	Well located and connected, but the loss of green space may mitigate its suitability for development. Doubtful.
23 (4655) Westfield Cramlington Village	Y	Well located and connected within and to town centre. Would require demolition of existing dwelling. Unacceptable.
24 (6907) Land West of A1068	Y	The fact that the site is relatively remote from the rest of the town, and adjacent to a surface mine and industrial estate and lies within the Green Belt, suggests that the site is unsuitable for housing development.
25 (6794) Land East of A1, West Cramlington (part)	Y	The fact that the site is located within the Green Belt, is relatively remote from the rest of the town, subject to extant conditions for the restoration of the site on completion of surface mining, suggests that the site is unsuitable for housing development.
26 (4612) Land at West Hartford Farm	N	Under construction.

Site Ref & name	Shortlisted site?	Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment – Stage 1
27 (6778) Land South of B1326 at East Cramlington	N	Under construction.
28 (6821) Land south of B1326, East Cramlington	Y	Located east of the A189 the site would extend East Cramlington to the south of the B1326 and although not into open countryside (following the construction of the emergency care hospital), it would unnecessarily extend an ad hoc collection of housing estates, into the Green Belt.

### Changes to the settlement boundary

The Plan proposes to make amendments to the settlement boundary for Cramlington. As part of the preparation of the Plan, the Steering Group considered the advantages and disadvantages of settlement boundaries. It was agreed that the advantages of settlement boundaries outweighed the disadvantages. In particular, that they seek to ensure that development is directed to more sustainable locations and that they ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to the consideration of planning applications.

In order to establish the most appropriate boundary that would support the sustainable development of Cramlington, the Steering Group developed a settlement boundary methodology. This included a review of existing documents, including: the Blyth Valley Local Plan; Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment and Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study. It also considered current planning permissions and applications, as well as sites included within the Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The review was undertaken within the context of the results of the Housing Needs Assessment.

It is presumed that land falling within the settlement boundary would be more likely to be viewed as appropriate for development (in line with a focus on development in the built up area).

Therefore, a change in the boundary could in the longer term contribute to development coming forward (or not). As such, it is considered reasonable to explore the implications of these changes in comparison to a 'business as usual' approach. Therefore, two options have been appraised as follows:

1. The preferred approach: Proposed changes to the settlement boundary
2. Business as usual: Do not make amendments to the settlement boundary.

### *What are the appraisal findings at this stage?*

The table below presents a visual summary of the findings for the settlement boundary options appraisal. Detailed discussion is provided in **Appendix C** for each SEA Objective.

In summary, the effects associated with both options are relatively minor. The business as usual approach would result in neutral effects across the range of SEA Objectives, as it would be a continuation of the baseline position. Not taking action to amend the boundary would not be likely to have negative effects with regards to housing and economic growth or the provision of new facilities.

The proposed approach could have some minor negative effects on biodiversity, townscapes/landscapes and travel patterns. However, it could also generate positive effects for housing and communities which may otherwise not occur (at least in the short term).

SEA Objective	Option 1: Proposed changes	Option 2: Business as usual
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	x	↔
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	↔	↔
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	↔	↔
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	↔	↔
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	↔	↔
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	x	↔
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	x	↔
8. To ensure good air quality	↔	↔
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	↔	↔
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	✓?	↔
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	✓?	↔
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	↔	↔
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	x	↔

### What is the preferred approach and why?

The preferred approach is to amend the settlement boundary as outlined on the policies map in the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The outline reasons for this approach are as follows:

- Ensuring that the separate character and role of settlements is maintained;
- Keeping uninterrupted stretches of countryside between Cramlington and other settlements, by managing its expansion and to control sporadic development in the open countryside.

The amended boundary takes account of extant planning permissions and seeks to establish a logical shape to the edge of Cramlington, following its planned completion, supporting sustainable development. It avoids irregular incursions into the open countryside and has been drawn to follow features which are easily identifiable on the ground.

## 4.5 Development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

To support the implementation of the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan discussed in Section 2.2, the current version of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan puts forward 25 policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The policies, which were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering, are follows:

- CNP1 The sustainable development of Cramlington
- CNP2 Promoting good quality design in new development
- CNP3 Development in the open countryside
- CNP4 Housing
- CNP5 Extending choice in housing
- CNP6 Providing lifetime affordable housing
- CNP7 Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout
- CNP8 Making the most of the existing housing stock
- CNP9 Growth in employment and the economy
- CNP10 Protecting main industrial sites
- CNP11 Ensuring a vital and vibrant town centre
- CNP12 Improving the quality of the town centre environment
- CNP13 Sustainable and active travel
- CNP14 Connectivity of development sites
- CNP15 Improvements to east-west road links
- CNP16 Cramlington Railway Station
- CNP17 Green Infrastructure Networks
- CNP18 Local Green Space
- CNP19 Open Space
- CNP20 Protecting trees and woodland
- CNP21 Allotments
- CNP22 Cramlington Village Conservation Area
- CNP23 Community facilities
- CNP24 Infrastructure
- CNP25 Healthy communities

Chapter 5 presents the findings at this stage of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan on the SEA objectives and themes.

## 5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

### 5.1 Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current Regulation 14 version of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan policies. This chapter is structured as follows:

**Sections 5.42 to 5.3** present an appraisal of the site options proposed for allocation in the current version of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan against the individual SEA objectives grouped by the SEA theme headings; and

**Section 5.4 to 5.10** reports on the appraisal of the Plan policies on the SEA themes

**Section 5.11** subsequently discusses overall conclusions at this current stage.

### 5.2 Appraisal of proposed Sites

Following the initial stage 1 assessment of the sites by the NPG (summarised in table 4.1), the sites were assessed for their impact on the SEA objectives.

Taking the 28 sites listed in table 4.1 as a starting point, sites which had planning permission or that were in educational use were discounted from the assessment. The remaining sites were then assessed for their effects on the SEA objectives, and a full portfolio of SEA site assessments can be viewed in **Appendix B**.

In the Appendix, rationale is provided for each site as to why it was rejected or proposed for allocation. In summary, it was considered unnecessary to allocate further sites as the level of planning permissions in place from other sites well exceeds the needs identified in the Housing Needs Assessment. Furthermore, there are a number of site specific constraints, and many of the sites are large scale. The two sites identified for allocation are smaller infill sites within the proposed settlement boundary with limited constraints and good access to services.

The following two sites have been proposed for inclusion in the Reg14 Version of the Plan:

- Site 9 (6940) Nelson Village Recreation Ground – lies within the settlement boundary and comprises an unconstrained and well connected site;
- Site 20 (4757) East Cramlington Farmhouse – lies within the proposed settlement boundary and well located to access local services and facilities.

The tables below present a summary of the SEA appraisal against those sites proposed for allocation, and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the SEA objectives. The symbols summarise the impact on each SEA Objective as follows:

++ Significant Positive Effect	+ Positive Effect
- Neutral Effect	? Uncertain Effect
XX Significant Negative Effect	X Negative Effect

**Table 5.1 - Site 9 (6940): Nelson Recreation Ground**

SEA Objective	Assessment summary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's	Large Greenfield site and although not in an official designation it is likely to have some value.	X

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment summary</b>	<b>Effect</b>
biodiversity and geodiversity.		
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is open space and therefore development of the land may reduce the areas ability to adapt to climate change (temporary flood storage, tree cover, green infrastructure etc.)	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	The site has experienced some surface water flooding, but is not within a higher risk flood zone	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is adjacent to the existing urban area, and although green space would be lost, the site would protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	+
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is adjacent to Nelson Village and therefore the design would need to reinforce the character of the area.	?
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, but is not considered as good quality agricultural land	-
8.To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect. In addition the site is well connected and therefore offers the opportunity for future residents to access services and facilities by walking, cycling, or public transport.	+
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site does not have any watercourses running through or adjacent and therefore is not considered to have an effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		



<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment summary</b>	<b>Effect</b>
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is well connected to services and facilities, close to employment sites, the town centre and the railway station and therefore supports the SEA Objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities. In mitigating the negative impact surrounding the loss of open space, this would be addressed by replacement and improved open space within the locality.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
Conclusion	The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration. The site is considered to have a significant negative effect against SEA3 as the site is open space and therefore development of the land may reduce the areas ability to adapt to climate change.	
Mitigation	Mitigation measures against this site would be concerned with reducing surface water flood risk and replacement and enhanced open space.	

**Table 5.2 - Site 20 (4757) East Cramlington Farmhouse**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment summary</b>	<b>Effect</b>
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Site is within a Green Corridor, and adjacent to Lanercost Nature Area.	XX
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is a former farmhouse and lies outside of any high risk flood zones. Therefore, a neutral effect is anticipated.	-
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Site is outside high risk flood areas and therefore development would support this SEA objective	++
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The impact would be dependent on the design of the development, although the site does lie to the east of the A189 and the existing urban area	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Although the site is relatively close to the town centre, it is on the east of the A189, although the site is adjacent to a cluster of existing residential properties, the impact will be dependent on the design but is not expected to have a significant effect	-
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is partially brownfield, and is not good quality agricultural land.	+
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site is not considered to have a significant effect either positive or negative against this SEA objective	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Assessment summary</b>	<b>Effect</b>
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Although the A189 is a barrier to the west of the site, it is relatively close to the town centre and can be accessed on foot via a footbridge across the A189.	+
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Development of the site would not result in the loss of open space, and is located in an area where walking to and from the town centre is a realistic option, and is adjacent to a nature reserve therefore is largely supportive of the SEA objective	+
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Development of the site would offer realistic walking access to and from the town centre.	+
Conclusion	Development of the site would have significant negative effects on SEA1 and biodiversity, as it is within a green corridor, although it does record a significant positive effect on SEA 4 as it is not within higher risk flood zones, and SEA 11 as it would contribute to meeting the identified housing requirement in the NPA.	
Mitigation	Mitigation could be secured through provision of habitats either on or off site in order to reduce the effect against SEA1	

## 5.3 Approach to the policy appraisal

The appraisal of the Plan is structured under the seven sustainability themes identified through scoping.

Though every policy has been considered individually; the appraisal focuses on the pertinent issues and the in-combination effects (given that Plan's should be read 'as a whole' to understand their effects). This ensures that the appraisal is succinct and deals with the important elements of the Plan for each element of sustainability.

Therefore, the appraisal commentary for each sustainability theme does not necessarily discuss every single Plan policy, only those where notable effects are predicted.

It should be presumed that there are no effects predicted for specific Plan policies if they are not explicitly identified in the appraisal commentaries.

For each sustainability theme, the effects of the Plan have been established, taking account of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.<sup>6</sup> So, for example, the magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects are taken into account as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the appraisal commentaries as appropriate.

Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the Plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications.

Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and to ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms. This means that the Plan could be described as having a positive or negative effect, without this being 'significant'. For an effect to be significant there would need to be a tangible and notable change to the baseline position identified as a result of the Plan.

The following sections set out a discussion of the Plan effects for each sustainability theme. The effects are discussed for individual policies and also when considered in-combination. Where appropriate, recommendations for mitigation and enhancement are also identified.

## 5.4 Biodiversity and geodiversity

In terms of the impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, policies were appraised for their potential impacts on the **SEA Objective1: To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.**

As would be expected, policy CNP1 - *The sustainable development of Cramlington* recorded a positive effect as *the policy* includes criteria that states that proposals for major development will be supported where they ensure that the quality of the NPAs biodiversity will be maintained and enhanced. Only minor effects are predicted as this is not a major departure from the current policy framework. Requirements for all new residential development to make financial contributions to the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service should also have a positive effect on the preservation of important coastal habitats. However, these will also be minor as they will compensate for the increase of housing and subsequent recreational disturbances predicted.

CNP20 *Protecting trees and woodland*, and CNP21 *Allotments* both record positive effects for their protection of areas and habitats that support biodiversity.

The vast majority of policies that did record an effect recorded minor positive effects against the SEA objective. Policy CNP3 *Development in the open countryside* has a positive effect as it aims to guard against large scale development in the open countryside and only supporting development proposals in specific circumstances.

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<sup>6</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout* has a positive effect as it states that new residential development should, amongst other things, safeguard, respect and enhance the natural environment, the biodiversity, landscape and wildlife corridors and the countryside. In addition, the policy encourages proposals to include where appropriate enhancements to biodiversity and open spaces which add to and support the creation of wildlife corridors.

Further positive effects are recorded against policies CNP9 *Growth in employment and the economy*, as it seeks to ensure that development does not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment, including designated ecological assets.

The other positive effect was recorded against CNP23 *Community facilities* which again supports development where this would not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the environment.

There are no policies in place to offer protection to either the Arcot Hall Grasslands SSSI or the Bassington LNR.

Recommendation for enhancement: Whilst these wildlife sites will still enjoy protection through their relevant national and local designations it may be beneficial for such policies to be included within the CNP which would provide an additional layer of protection to these sites that are of central importance to preserving the biodiversity of the CNP area.

### Summary of effects for Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Overall, the Plan is predicted to have **significant positive effects** on biodiversity in the long term. This is due to multiple plan policies seeking to achieve enhancement and a gain in biodiversity.

## 5.5 Climate change

### Climate change mitigation

A variety of policies recorded effects against **SEA2: To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington.**

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* states that the NP will support developments that ensure that constraints on development arising from potential flood risk have been effectively assessed and that developments reduce the need to travel. This ought to have positive effects with regards to managing flood risk and reducing emissions. However, these principles would need to be considered as part of the existing policy framework, and so the additional benefits generated would not be significant.

There may be a minor positive effect on the SEA objective resulting from policy CNP3 *Development in the open countryside*, as this will help direct development to locations that would reduce the need to travel, however the effect is not significant.

With regards to policy CNP12 *Improving the quality of the town centre environment*, the policy aims to improve access to and circulation within the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists and therefore could have a positive effect on the SEA objective, but again the effect is not considered to be significant. Similarly, policy CNP13 *Sustainable and active travel* aims to ensure major development to include cycling and walking routes that connect with existing routes, therefore supporting sustainable modes of travel. It also supports proposals that seek to improve or extend Cramlington's walking and cycling network, which in turn would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

Policies that address the protection and enhancement of green spaces (CPN17 *Green Infrastructure Networks*, CNP18 *Open Space*, CNP17 *Local Green Space*, CNP20 *Protecting Trees and Woodland*) all recorded a positive effect, as these can act as carbon sinks especially if they include trees.

### Summary of effects for Climate Change Mitigation

The Plan is predicted to have mixed effects with regards to greenhouse gas emissions. Whilst development could lead to an increase in carbon emissions during construction and operation, these negative effects are

considered to be minor in the context of the County (and emissions would be likely to be generated anyway in the absence of the plan). Furthermore, a number of policies seek to encourage and support sustainable modes of transport and to reduce the need to travel. These could contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from transport. On balance, the effects are **neutral**.

#### Climate change resilience

The other SEA objective relating to climate change is **SEA3: To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.**

The Neighbourhood Plan area's geography, sensitivities highlights the requirement for it to adapt to a changing climate, including extreme weather events.

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* recorded a positive effect as it supports development proposals that ensure that constraints on development arising from potential flood risk have been effectively assessed and that developments reduce the need to travel.

As predicted for SEA 2, the policies that address the protection and enhancement of green spaces (CPN17 *Green Infrastructure Networks*, CNP18 *Open Space*, CNP17 *Local Green Space*, CNP19 *Protecting Trees and Woodland*) all recorded positive effects for SEA3, as green spaces can play a temporary flood storage role and can also provide shaded areas to reduce the effects from increased temperatures.

By protecting trees and woodland, policy CNP19 has a positive effect on the SEA objective as they help reduce and slow run off rates and therefore reduce flood risk. Policy CNP16 is also likely to have positive effects by helping to protect and strengthen networks. Improved links between habitats ought to benefit biodiversity that may be isolated by climate change, and would also provide benefits with regards to SUDs and urban cooling.

The other positive effect was recorded by CNP24 *Infrastructure*; the policy should ensure that additional development does not result in significant adverse impacts, including impacts on drainage infrastructure which can help reduce the risk of flooding.

#### **Summary of effects for Climate Change Resilience**

The Plan is predicted to have a minor positive effect with regards to climate change resilience, and this would be achieved mainly through policies that encourage the protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure.

#### Flood Risk

The remaining objective under the climate change theme is **SEA4: To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.**

A number of policies recorded positive effects relating to the management of flood risk.

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* records a positive effect as it seeks to ensure that constraints arising from potential flood risk are addressed. Whilst positive, the effects are not significant as management of flood risk is a requirement under the current policy framework anyway.

Policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout*, is likely to have minor positive effects, as the policy states that new development should adopt the principles of sustainable urban drainage.

CNP20 *Protecting trees and woodland* should help to reduce run off rates and therefore help to reduce flood risk in the long term. Minor positive effects are predicted.

Policy CNP17 *Green infrastructure networks* has a positive effect on the SEA objective as green infrastructure can provide areas that act as temporary flood washlands and reduce stormwater runoff.

Finally, policy CNP24 *Infrastructure* requires that additional development does not result in significant adverse impacts, which should help to protect the capacity of the existing drainage infrastructure, although this is not explicitly referenced.

Recommendations for mitigation: Policy CNP4 *Housing* could be strengthened to include criteria on flood risk. In addition, policy CNP23 *Infrastructure* could be strengthened by including reference to drainage infrastructure.

Although the baseline indicates that fluvial flooding is only considered a minor risk in the area, the risk of surface water flooding does have the potential to increase as a result of climate change.

Consequently, it is considered that the Plan could be strengthened by including more detailed policies on flood mitigation and prevention measures.

However, it should be noted that in relation to both fluvial and surface water flood risk, it is anticipated that the provisions of the NPPF and actions resulting from the SFRA and Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will provide an appropriate level of protection in this regard. Therefore, significant effects would not be anticipated.

### Summary of effects for Flooding

There is potential for increased surface water run-off, and pressure on wastewater and drainage networks as a result of development. However, there are a number of mitigating factors that should ensure that risks are minor, . This includes the existing provisions of national and Local Plan policies, and a number of proposed policies in the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan (Which seek to reduce flooding through the use of SUDs and the enhancement of green infrastructure. Overall, **neutral effects** are predicted. A minor positive effect could possibly be achieved by taking a more proactive approach to flood risk management in relation to new housing and infrastructure.

## 5.6 Landscape and historic environment

The SEA framework included two SEA objectives under this theme.

### Rural and urban landscapes

In terms of effects on **SEA 5: To protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes**, several policies recorded minor positive effects

Policy CNP2 *Promoting good quality design in new development* should ensure that development supports the SEA objective by requiring locally distinctive designs. Likewise, CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout* requires all new developments to demonstrate good quality design, and design that should reflect the character of its surroundings.

Policy CNP12 *Improving the quality of the town centre environment* states that development should *be well designed....improve the public realm in the town centre, and create good quality accessible public open spaces*. Policy CNP21 *Cramlington Village Conservation Area* supports development that will protect and enhance the Conservation Area, e.g. by acknowledging the quality of the areas historic architecture and townscape. Both of these policies should contribute to positive effects on the appearance of the town centre and surrounding areas.

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* states that support will be given to major development where proposals ensure the quality of the NPAs historic environment will be conserved and enhanced. This is positive, but unlikely to lead to significant effects compared to the current policy framework.

CNP4 *Housing* requires that new development integrates with the rest of the town and surrounding countryside, which is positive. Only two small site allocations are proposed in the urban area and so the potential for negative effects is negligible. Policy CNP5 *Extending choice in housing* requires the housing mix in

the NPA to have regards to and be informed by the character and density of the surrounding development and site constraints.

Policy CNP8 *Making the most of the existing housing stock* seeks to ensure that adaptation, extension and alteration of properties do not have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the street scene, whilst policy CNP9 *Growth in employment and the economy* is expected to have a positive effect on the SEA objective as it seeks to ensure that development that provides job opportunities and economic growth does not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment, including designated heritage assets and their settings.

The remaining policies that have minor positive effects all relate to the protection and enhancement of open spaces (CNP19), green spaces (CNP18), trees and woodland (CNP20), and Allotments (CNP21); as green infrastructure forms part of the character of both the rural and urban landscape.

### Landscapes and townscapes

The other objective under this theme is **SEA 6: Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.**

For similar reasons to those described above (for SEA Objective 5), minor positive effects are predicted for several policies:

- Policy CNP2 *Promoting good quality design in new development* requires development to embed high quality design which would maintain the character and distinctive nature of the settlement and help to protect designated and locally important heritage assets;
- Policy CNP5 *Extending choice in housing* requires the housing mix in the NPA to have regards to and be informed by the character and density of the surrounding development and site constraints.
- Policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout* is expected to have a positive effect, by placing a focus on high quality design that respects the existing landscape and townscape and by encouraging design to conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets and their setting.
- Policy CNP17 *Green Infrastructure networks* can support the SEA objective as green infrastructure in new development can enhance the landscape and townscape character.
- Policy CNP18 *Local Green Space*, CNP20 *Protecting trees and woodland* and CNP21 *Allotments* all provide protection to elements of green infrastructure, which should help to preserve and enhance landscape and townscape character.
- Policy CNP22 Cramlington Village Conservation Area is likely to have benefits for the townscape by ensuring that development is sensitive to the character of Cramlington.
- CNP3 *Development in the open countryside* seeks to ensure that development is directed to within the settlement boundary, which should help to reduce the effects of development on the urban fringes and the open countryside. Though changes to the settlement boundary involve areas of greenfield land, these are not considered to be particularly sensitive.

### **Summary of effects for Landscape and Historic Environment**

The Plan is predicted to have broadly positive effects on the landscape and historic environment. This relates to policies that seek to protect and enhance the Conservation Area, implement high quality design and to enhance green infrastructure links.

Taken together, the policies could potentially have a **significant positive effect** on landscape and heritage in the longer term through influencing the quality and location of new developments.



## 5.7 Land, soil and water resources

Three SEA objectives fall within this theme.

Only three policies recorded effects against **SEA 7: To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.:**

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* recorded a minor positive effect as the policy encourages developments that effectively use brownfield land, as well as supporting proposals that bring empty properties back into a viable use.

Policy CNP4 *Housing* proposes the allocation of one small site, which is unlikely to generate notable effects upon natural resources.

With regards to **SEA 8: To ensure good air quality**, policy CNP13 *Sustainable and active travel* has a positive effect as it seeks to improve or extend walking and cycling routes, which should help to reduce negative air quality issues associated with road congestion.

Policy CNP3 *Development in the open countryside* may have a minor effect on the SEA objective as the policy will help direct development to locations that would reduce the need to travel.

CNP25 *Healthy communities* includes a criterion that aims to prevent negative impacts on air quality.

A small number of policies recorded effects on **SEA9: To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters.**

Policy CNP24 recorded a minor positive effect on SEA8 as it requires development to prevent negative impacts with regards to ground and water contamination.

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* records a minor positive effect as it supports major development provided that constraints (including contamination) are effectively addressed. Another minor positive effect is recorded for policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout* as this policy states that development should adopt the principles of SuDs.

### Summary of effects for land, soil and water resources

There are several policies that should help to ensure that the risk of pollution is managed and natural resources are protected. In combination, the effects are positive, but are not predicted to be significant, as the Plan policies are not a substantial departure from the existing policy position.

## 5.8 Population and community

The first SEA objective relevant to this theme is **SEA10: To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community facilities.**

Several of the Neighbourhood Plans policies are predicted to have positive effects. Policy CNP2 *Promoting good quality design in new development* requires development proposals to ensure that buildings and spaces are easily accessible and safe.

Policy CNP23 *Community facilities* supports the provision of new community facilities where the development would not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the environment, and policy CNP24 *Infrastructure* states that developments will be supported where adequate infrastructure, services, and community facilities are made available to serve the development, or necessary improvements are made to existing infrastructure, services and community facilities. The other policy to record a positive effect is policy CNP25 *Healthy Communities*, as it calls for development to create an inclusive built and natural environment, and provide good access for all to health and social care facilities, alongside leisure and recreation spaces.

CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* supports developments that maintain and enhance links between key areas of the town.

Policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout* policy requires developments to create safe and accessible places, and policy CNP12 *Improving the quality of the town centre environment* aims to ensure that developments should improve access to and circulation within the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists and the provision of accessible and efficient public transport.

Policy CNP13 *Sustainable and active travel* aims to ensure that developments should reinforce routes for accessing the town centre, along with local schools, industrial estates, public transport hubs, the hospital, parks and playgrounds..

There were no negative effects recorded.

The other SEA objective within the Population and Community theme is **SEA11: To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home**. The policy that recorded a **significant positive effect** on the SEA objective is policy CNP6 *Providing lifetime affordable housing*, as it includes the mechanism to deliver affordable housing for local people, unless specific criteria can be met by developers.

Three other policies recorded positive effects against the SEA objective, albeit these were minor. In providing the framework for the delivery of large scale housing development within the NPA CNP4 *Housing* has a positive effect, as does policy CNP5 *Extending choice in housing* as the housing mix is to have regard to and be informed by evidence of the housing needs of the NPA. Policy CNP11 *Ensuring a vital and vibrant town* can increase housing choice through delivery in mixed use schemes in the town centre.

There were no negative effects recorded.

### Summary of effects for population and community

Overall, the Plan is predicted to have broadly positive effects with regards to community development, which would be achieved through the protection and support for new community facilities. There is also a focus on delivering well-connected developments that are safe and accessible. Though several policies are predicted to have benefits in this respect, the overall effects are not considered to be significant.

With regards to housing, a **significant positive effect** is predicted, which is mainly attributable to policy CNP6, which addresses affordability. This is supported by other housing policies which support the delivery of attractive homes.

## 5.9 Health and wellbeing

The policies of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan are predicted to have a range of benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents. The SEA objective relevant to this theme is **SEA12 To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities**.

Two policies recorded **significant positive effects** against the SEA objective. Policy CNP24 *Healthy communities*, as the aim of the policy is to consider all new development in the context of the need to improve the health and wellbeing of communities, though supporting appropriate facilities, avoiding negative effects on residential amenity and public safety, providing good access for all to health related facilities, as well as controlling the location of unhealthy eating outlets.

The other policy to record a significant positive effect is policy CNP7 *Creating high quality new places through good quality housing design and layout*, as the policy requires new residential development to support health and wellbeing by applying the principles set out in guidance produced by Sport England or NHS England. The policy also requires developments to create safe and accessible places where the potential for crime and disorder is minimised.

A number of other policies recorded minor positive effects. Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* supports the SEA objective in a number of ways, from promoting walking and cycling routes, minimising the need for travel, avoiding flood risk, contamination, and adding to the towns green spaces.

There is a minor positive effect from CNP3 *Development in the open countryside* as the policy supports developments that provide local services or community facilities which support a rural community, and requiring recreational and educational facilities alongside open spaces.

Meeting identified housing needs through CNP5 *Extending choice in housing*, and improving access to affordable housing through CNP6 *Providing lifetime affordable housing* are also considered to have a minor positive effect.

CNP13 *Sustainable and active travel* promotes active travel choices by aiming to improve or extend walking and cycling routes. Policies CNP16 *Green infrastructure networks*, CNP18 *Local Green Space*, CNP21 *Allotments* provide and protect green spaces which support the SEA objective.

CNP23 *Community facilities* aims to protect existing community facilities including outdoor playing pitches and children's play areas, both of which offer different generations the opportunity to improve their health and wellbeing.

There were no negative effects recorded on this SEA objective.

### Summary of effects for health and wellbeing

The Plan is predicted to have **significant positive effects** on health and wellbeing, particularly in the longer term as developments ought to have helped to improve access to open space and recreational facilities, extended housing choice and supported healthy living (walking and cycling for example).

## 5.10 Transportation

One SEA objective relates to the Transportation theme; **SEA13: To reduce the need to travel and improve transport integration.**

A range of policies recorded positive effects. Of particular relevance is Policy CNP13 *Sustainable and active travel* which seeks to ensure development reinforces sustainable travel routes to promote sustainable travel choices, i.e. public transport, walking, and cycling. The policy further aims to improve connectivity between residential areas and jobs, schools, open spaces and the town centre.

Policy CNP1 *The sustainable development of Cramlington* includes criteria relevant to the SEA objective – e.g. maintaining and enhancing links between key areas of the town, including the south west sector to allow safe walking and cycling, and efficient public transport connections.

Policy CNP3 *Development in the open countryside* will help direct development to locations that would reduce the need to travel.

CNP11 *Ensuring a vital and vibrant town* aims to support the town centre and to encourage residential development in the town centre as part of a mixed use scheme – which would reduce the need to travel for some residents, albeit on a relatively small scale.

Policy CNP14 *Improvements to east-west road links* would have an effect on the SEA objective, as in safeguarding the routes of the proposed east-west link roads it would protect land identified for the development of necessary transport infrastructure improvements.

CNP24 *Infrastructure* is predicted to have minor positive effects as additional infrastructure (including transport infrastructure) would aid the integration of transport e.g. cycle / walking routes to rail and bus stations.

### Summary of effects for Transportation

A number of plan policies are predicted to have benefits with regards to transportation, which in combination could generate **significant positive effects** in the longer term by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use, well-located housing development, and supporting infrastructure improvements.

## 5.11 Conclusions at this current stage

### 5.11.1 Potential significant effects

Table 5.2 below summarises the **significant positive effects** identified in the appraisal. It is important to establish measures to monitor the extent to which such effects are generated 'in reality' once the Plan has been made. This helps to identify where interventions might need to be taken to ensure that the Plan is implemented more effectively.

No significant negative effects have been predicted. However, it is useful to monitor the **minor negative effects** that have been identified to ensure that they are not likely to become significant in practice.

**Table 5.2: Summary of effects and proposed monitoring measures**

SEA Objective	Assessment summary	Monitoring measures
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Overall, the Plan is predicted to have <b>significant positive effects</b> on biodiversity in the long term. This is due to multiple plan policies seeking to achieve enhancement and a gain in biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net change in habitats</li> <li>• Protected species affected by development.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per capita CO2 from domestic, transport and industrial sources.</li> </ul>
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green infrastructure improvements secured through development</li> </ul>
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	No significant effects identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to the number of properties at risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes. 6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The Plan is predicted to have a <b>significant positive effect</b> on landscape and heritage in the longer term through influencing the quality and location of new developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring changes in landscape and townscape character.</li> <li>• Vacant buildings brought back into use</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Assessment summary	Monitoring measures
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	No significant effects are predicted for land, soil, air and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of agricultural land Grade 1, 2, 3a lost to development.</li> <li>• Amount and % of brownfield land developed.</li> </ul>
8. To ensure good air quality		
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters		
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	<p>No significant effects are predicted with regards to SEA Objective 10.</p> <p>With regards to housing, a <b>significant positive effect</b> is predicted as the Plan ought to help address affordable housing issues and also support the delivery of attractive homes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of affordable homes delivered per annum.</li> <li>• % of affordable homes delivered.</li> </ul>
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.		
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	<b>Significant positive effects</b> are predicted due to the protection and enhancement of open space, recreation, walking and cycling routes and community facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net creation of open space (hectares)</li> <li>• Achievement of open space standards</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	<b>Significant positive effects</b> are predicted in the longer term by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use, well-located housing development, and supporting infrastructure improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of residents that use public transport to travel to work.</li> <li>• Number of car trips</li> <li>• Walking and cycling routes created.</li> <li>• % of housing development within 400m of a bus stop, primary school, GP, local convenience store.</li> </ul>

## 6. What are the next steps?

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will need to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Northumberland County Council, for its consideration with this updated Environmental Report. Northumberland County Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.

Subject to Northumberland County Council's agreement, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with the Northumberland Local Plan.

The Examiner will be able to recommend that the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should be refused. Northumberland County Council will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Northumberland County Council will invite the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated Environmental Report. Where the Examiner's Report recommends that the proposal is to be refused, Northumberland County Council will do so.

Where the examination is favourable, the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Northumberland County Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Northumberland County Council with a request it is 'made'. Once 'made', the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the Civil Parish of Cramlington.

# Appendix A Context review and baseline

## A.2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

### Context review

At the European level, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**<sup>1</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually, but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>2</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves, to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting, to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

In addition to the national agenda, efforts to maintain biodiversity have also been made on the more local level. The **Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan** (BAP) offers a series of specific plans for each of the threatened species and/or habitats within the area with the intention to protect their levels within the Northumberland local authority area. It is noted that the BAP dates from 2008 and has not been updated.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission, 2011, 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020', Available: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5b1%5d.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf), Accessed: 23/06/16

<sup>2</sup> Defra, 2012, The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, Natural Environment White Paper, Available: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>, Accessed:23/06/16



Biodiversity will also be protected through the emerging Core Strategy, which has been informed by a **Habitats Regulations Assessment**. The purpose of the HRA is to assess possible effects of the Core Strategy on the nature conservation interests of sites designated on a European Level under the **Habitats and Wild Birds Directives**. The commitment of the council to protect and enhance biodiversity features is outlined under Policy 29 of the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft document (October 2015).

### Baseline Summary

Northumberland currently exhibits a range of wildlife species and habitats. A number of these are protected sites, the designation of which helps to preserve the nature and the character of the sites. Nature designations within Cramlington are presented in the following table.

**Table A2.1- Nature Designations within Cramlington<sup>3</sup>**

Designation Type	Total Number	Location
Natura 2000	0	N/A
Special Area for Conservation	0	N/A
Special Protection Areas	0 1* within 10km of Neighbourhood Area	N/A *Northumbria Coast
Ramsar Sites	0 + 1* within 10km of Neighbourhood Area	N/A *Northumbria Coast
Site of Special Scientific Interest	1 + 5* within 10km of Neighbourhood Area	Arcot Hall Grasslands *Northumberland Shore, Holywell Pond, Willow Burn Pasture, Brenkley Meadows, Big Waters
Local Nature Reserve	1 + 3* adjoining parish boundary	Bassington LNR *East Cramlington LNR, Annitsford Pond LNR, Bedlington Country Park LNR, Bedlington Country Park LNR
Local Wildlife Sites	1 + 3* outside of Neighbourhood Area but in close proximity	Plessey Woods *East Cramlington Pond, North Brenkley, Annitsford Pond
Northumberland coalfield nature improvement area	1	Whole parish

<sup>3</sup> Cramlington Landscape and Townscape Framework- Robinson Landscape Design and Kapok 2014

## The Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds

The Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds site is a 68.08 hectare nationally designated SSSI located in the south west of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area. The site is described as follows:

'Arcot Hall Grasslands and Ponds comprise a complex of species-rich grasslands, with heaths, ponds and associated damp habitats. It supports the largest area of lowland species-rich unimproved grassland in North East England. The grassland contains a number of plant species now uncommon in the county. Both this grassland and the heathland are now extremely rare in Northumberland and threatened by agricultural improvement and development.<sup>4</sup>

## SSSI Impact Risk Zones

SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is designated. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area is within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for the Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds SSSI.

## Otter

The Otter species (*Lutra lutra*) are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and are currently prevalent around most river catchments in the Northumberland area, notably around the River Blyth and the border of the Neighbourhood Area. Otters are threatened by the river disturbances and obstructions (such as flood defences, recreational activities etc), watercourse pollution, and the reduction of riparian habitats from intensive agricultural practices.

## Lowland Heathland

Lowland Heathland is found below 300m in altitude, and is characterized by the presence of ericaceous dwarf-shrubs such as heather and cross leaved heath. Present in Arcot Hall, this habitat is threatened by potential lack of management (which may subsequently lead to grazing and burning), agricultural fertilizer usage, and development pressures.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation\\_photo/1000498.pdf](http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000498.pdf) Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds, Natural England.



## Future baseline

A number of issues threaten protected and priority species and habitats within Northumberland, notably recreational pressures, climate change, unsuitable land management and invasive species. Development within the Neighbourhood Area is highly likely to encroach on certain habitats, threaten local species, and impact biodiversity networks should mitigation measures not be adopted. Threats to biodiversity may also be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.

If an approach to development is taken which seeks to maintain ecological corridors and habitat and improve or expand existing habitats where possible, the potentially negative effects from development may be offset to some extent.

## A.3 Climate Change (including risk of flooding)

### Context Review

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assessed the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommended a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.<sup>5</sup> In relation to energy, the Commission recommended that the EU's energy efficiency should be improved by 20% and that the share of renewable energy should grow to 20% by 2020.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GhG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>6</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
  - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GhG emissions;
  - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
  - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
  - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
  - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The **Flood and Water Management Act**<sup>7</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion;
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>6</sup> The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

<sup>7</sup> Flood and Water Management Act, 2010, Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>8</sup> N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

Further guidance is provided in the document **Planning for SuDs**.<sup>9</sup> This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDs are capable of ‘contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure’.

Northumberland County Council is the lead local flood authority (LLFA) for the county as defined by the **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**. Under this role, it is the Councils responsibility to assist in the management of flood risk from local sources such as surface water, ordinary watercourses, groundwater, canals, lakes and small reservoirs. As a result, the Council has produced a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to outline how they will manage flood risk within local areas.

A draft **Renewable Energy SPD** is currently being consulted on. It will provide further detailed guidance on the implementation of sustainable and renewable energy policies within the Core Strategy.

## *Baseline Summary*

### Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>10</sup>. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

The effects of climate change for the north east of England by 2050, based on a medium emissions scenario, are predicted to be as follows:

- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.0°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.5°C; and
- the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 11% and summer mean precipitation is – 15%.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;

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<sup>9</sup> CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen’ Available:

<http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

<sup>10</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

### Flood risk

The risk of fluvial flooding is contained in proximity to the rivers which run through the neighbourhood area boundary (the River Blyth to the north and Sandys Letch to the south-west). The River tributaries are located at a distance from the majority of settlements within the Cramlington NP area. As such, the majority of the Neighbourhood Area is designated within Flood Zone 1, and therefore subject to minimal flood risk. According to the 2015 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 22 properties within Cramlington are located within Flood Zone 2. Ten properties lie within Flood Zone 3, and are at risk of fluvial flooding<sup>11</sup>.

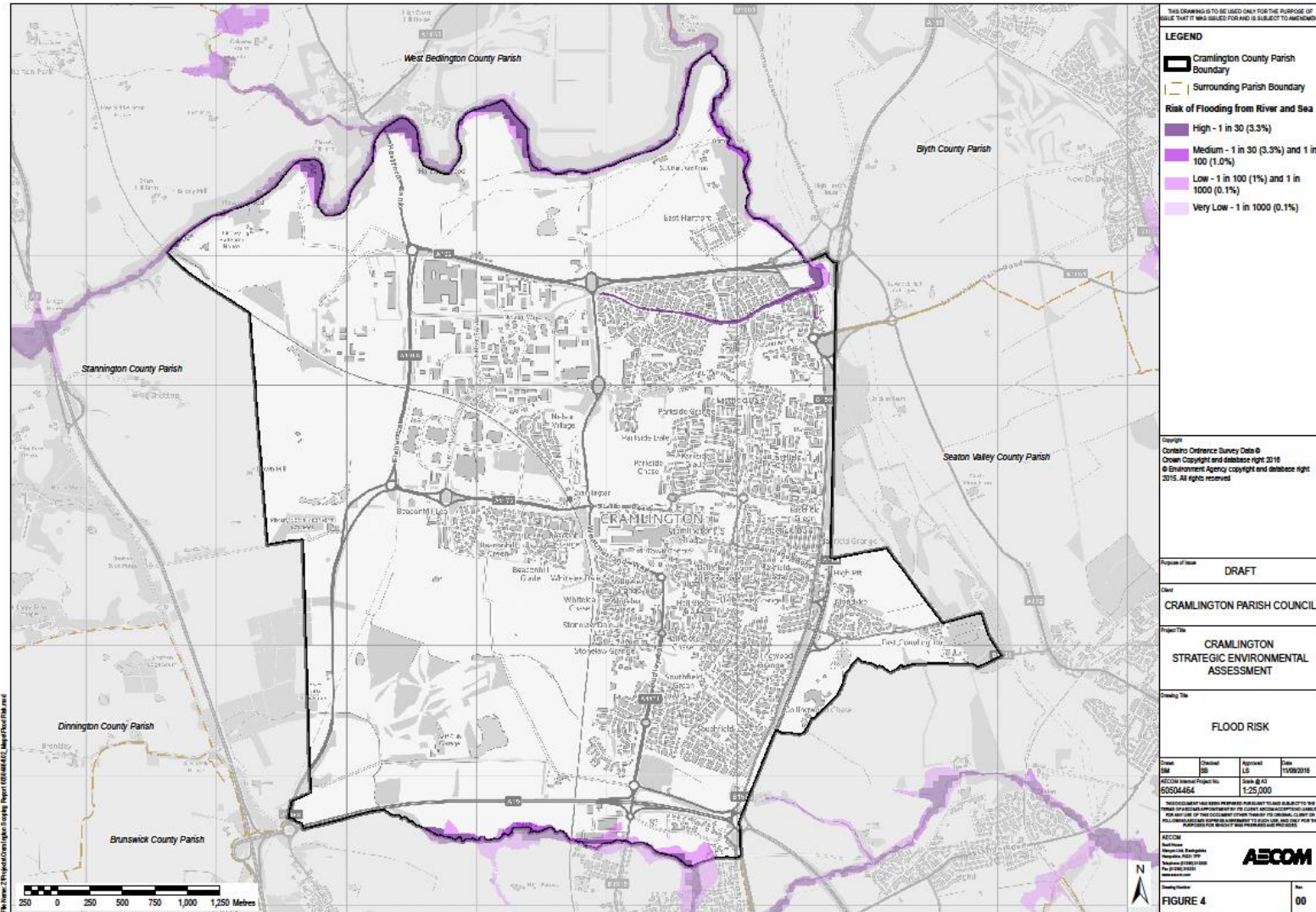
Groundwater flooding occurs as a result of water rising up from an underlying aquifer or from water flowing from springs after periods of sustained high rainfall. Whilst the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy notes that groundwater rebound is more likely to occur in the south-east of Northumberland, Cramlington is not listed as a area which is considered susceptible.

Pluvial flooding, or surface water flooding, is more likely to occur in areas with hard-standing surfaces through which rain water cannot permeate. The urbanised nature of Cramlington means there is a higher likelihood of surface water flooding within the Neighbourhood Area than other less-developed localities within Northumberland. Given this risk, the Level 2 SFRA recommends that a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) should be taken for Cramlington, as identified through the Level 1 SFRA.

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<sup>11</sup> Northumberland County Council- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (for approval) , page 19, Available: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Roads-streets-and-transport/coastal%20erosion%20and%20flooding/Local-flood-risk-management-strategy.pdf>, Accessed: 23/06/16

Figure A3.1: Cramlington Flood Risk





## Greenhouse gas emissions

Emissions in Northumberland from the Industry and Commercial sector are consistently above both the regional and national averages, highlighting the prominence of these sectors in the local economy. Although local levels have fluctuated for this sector, the data suggests a decline from 2005 levels. Per capita emissions for the Domestic and Transport sector have also shown a steady decline whilst remaining fairly consistent with the regional and national levels.

**Table A3.1- Per capita Local CO2 emissions estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors 2005-2012<sup>12</sup>**

	Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	Total
Northumberland	2005	13.7	2.9	2.2	9.1
	2006	13.7	2.9	2.1	9.0
	2007	13.4	2.8	2.2	9.0
	2008	13.5	2.7	2.0	8.9
	2009	11.8	2.5	1.9	7.0
	2010	12.5	2.7	1.9	8.4
	2011	12.5	2.3	1.9	8.2
	2012	9.5	2.6	1.9	5.7
North East	2005	9.0	2.6	1.9	12.3
	2006	8.7	2.6	1.9	12.0
	2007	8.7	2.5	1.9	12.0
	2008	8.3	2.4	1.8	11.4
	2009	6.9	2.2	1.7	9.7
	2010	5.8	2.4	1.7	8.8
	2011	5.2	2.0	1.7	7.9
	2012	6.7	2.3	1.7	9.6
England	2005	4.0	2.6	2.3	8.7
	2006	4.0	2.6	2.2	8.7
	2007	3.9	2.5	2.3	8.5
	2008	3.7	2.4	2.1	8.1
	2009	3.2	2.2	2.0	7.3
	2010	3.3	2.3	2.0	7.5
	2011	3.0	2.0	2.0	6.8
	2012	3.1	2.2	1.9	7.1

<sup>12</sup> Available; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>, Accessed; 21/06/16

## Future baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. Although Cramlington currently faces a relatively low risk level with regard to fluvial flooding, climate change may increase the likelihood of flood events. With increased development and hard standing surfaces, the likelihood of surface water flooding is also more likely, especially in the more densely populated parts of the Neighbourhood Area. There is therefore a need to adopt measures of resilience and adaptation within local plans.

Per capita emissions of GhGs are likely to decrease as new technologies become adopted, especially following the completion of the Cramlington biomass CHP plant. However, overall emissions within the Neighbourhood Area are likely to increase over the plan period due to new development and transport pressures.

## A.4 Historic environment and landscape

### Context Review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop ‘robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics’.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt ‘proactive strategies’ to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The **Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England**<sup>13</sup> sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognize its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

The **Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment** is used to help inform decisions relating to policy and development by defining the local landscape. The **Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study**<sup>14</sup> makes recommendations to reduce the impact of new development on the local landscape, with specific reference to Cramlington as follows;

- Provide sufficient open space with trees to reflect other areas of Cramlington and reinforce the green network;
- To strengthen the settlement edge of new development with woodland belts and trees
- To enhance landscape elements across the south of Arcot Hall.

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<sup>13</sup> HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx)

<sup>14</sup> Northumberland Key Land Use Impact Study, Available: [http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/874E5F83-ACC9-4B5B-91E8-D27F9285A352\\_1\\_0.pdf?nccredirect=1](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/874E5F83-ACC9-4B5B-91E8-D27F9285A352_1_0.pdf?nccredirect=1) Accessed: 23/06/16.

With regard to the town centre, the **Northumberland Town Centre and Retail Study Update**<sup>15</sup> states that *'it is important that the development of new town centre facilities supports centres which are performing well such as Cramlington [and Morpeth], building on their roles as retail destinations'*.

## Baseline Summary

### Landscape

The Northumberland Coast was designated as an AONB in 1958 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Government confirmed that landscape qualities of both National Parks and AONBs were equivalent. As such, the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in areas designated as National Parks and AONBs should also be equivalent. Additionally, twenty four percent of the AONB lies within the North Northumberland Heritage Coast, which is recognised for its landscape, recreational and heritage interest. Although Heritage Coasts are 'defined' rather than designated, they are established to conserve, protect and enhance the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England<sup>16</sup>.

The Northumberland Coast AONB covers an area of 138 sq. km along a 64km stretch of the coastline between Berwick-upon-Tweed and the Croquet Estuary, and encompasses the entirety of the coastline located in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The AONB is situated in the Northumberland Coast Coastal Plan National Character Area (NCA), with the summary of the NCA profile<sup>17</sup> stating the following:

- *'The dramatic coastline is exceptionally varied, with rocky headlands and cliffs contrasting with long, sweeping sandy beaches backed by dunes, and extensive intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh around Lindisfarne (to the north of the Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area)'*
- *'The Heritage Coast and coastal fringe are of national and international nature conservation importance for their geology, dune and coastal cliff habitats, offshore islands and intertidal habitats' previously discussed in Chapter 3.*
- *'The huge skies, striking views, tranquillity and natural beauty of this area draw a large number of visitors and tourism is now a very important part of the local economy'*

The most recent Landscape Character Assessment undertaken in 2010 on behalf of Northumberland County Council identified five Landscape Character Types and 12 Landscape Character Areas within the NCA, with the following located within the Neighbourhood Plan area<sup>18</sup>:

One character area within 'LCT 4 Rocky Coastline':

- *Farne Islands (4b): The western section of this area is punctuated by the eminence of Bamburgh Castle on its basalt outcrop. This feature dominates the low lying landscape, and the dune systems which stretch to Seahouses. Further south, the coast is rockier, tough still with some dunes. Seahouses and Beadnell are important local tourist centres.*

One character area within 'LCT 5 Sandy Coastline':

- *Beadnell and Embleton Bays (5b): These two small bays have broad sandy beaches, backed by dune systems. The small villages of High Newton by the Sea and Embleton are set back from the coast, with Low Newton and Beadnell Harbour associated with the beach. The low hill by Low Newton offers a dramatic view across the bay to Dunstanburgh Castle. There is a large caravan park at Beadnell, and a coastal footpath runs the length of the area.*

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<sup>15</sup> Northumberland Town Centre and Retail Study Update, 2016, WYG Planning and Environment

<sup>16</sup> Natural England (2015): 'Heritage Coasts: definition, purpose and Natural England's role', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heritage-coasts-protecting-undeveloped-coast/heritage-coasts-definition-purpose-and-natural-englands-role>> last accessed [23/02/17]

<sup>17</sup> Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile: 01 North Northumberland Coastal Plain' [online] available to download from: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5236546013757440>> last accessed [26/01/17]

<sup>18</sup> Land Use Consultants (2010): 'Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment Part A: Landscape Classification', [online] Available from: <<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=ce99fc57-0610-4498-afc2-c9ce03fadb03&version=-1>> last accessed [26/01/17]

With regard to the marine environment, the emerging North East Marine Plan<sup>19</sup> will cover an area of approximately 687km of coastline, covering over 6,000km<sup>2</sup> of sea. The Marine Policy Statement is the framework for preparing marine Plans and taking decisions in the marine environment. Both of these plans will have to be considered when planning development in the marine environment. These plans have a strong focus on sustainability, working towards the UK Administrations vision of having 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

### Historic Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment. Numerous features are recognised through historic environment designations, including the statutory listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and three conservation areas, designated at the local level<sup>20</sup>: Bamburgh Conservation Area (designated in 1972), North Sunderland Conservation Area (designated in 2005) and Seahouses Conservation Area (designated in 2005).

The 2014-2019 Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan categorises the historic environment into four themes: ecclesiastical, castles and defence, fishing and farming, and industry and transport, highlighting that the history of human interaction and occupation of the landscape is integral to the character of the AONB.

Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains two Grade I listed buildings, five Grade II\* listed buildings and sixty-eight Grade II listed buildings.

The Grade I listed buildings are as follows:

- Bamburgh Castle; and
- Church of St Aidan.

The Grade II\* listed buildings are as follows:

- Beadnell Hall;
- The Craster Arms;
- Budle Hall;
- Monument to Grace Darling circa 30 yards west of Church of St Aidan; and
- Dovecote circa 50 yards south of Armstrong House.

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England<sup>21</sup>, there are six scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan area, listed below:

- St Ebba's Chapel and monastic site (south eastern corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area)
- Benthall round cairn (south eastern corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area)
- Deserted medieval village and chapel at Tughall (south western corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area)
- Dovecote 150yds (140m) NE of Lepers' Hospital (north eastern corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area)
- Round barrow 520m WNW of Quarry Cottage (north eastern corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area); and

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<sup>19</sup>Marine Management Organisation (2017) The Emerging North East Marine Plan [online] available at: <<http://mis.marinemanagement.org.uk/north-east>> last accessed [22/02/17]

<sup>20</sup> Northumberland County Council (no date): 'Conservation Area Interactive Map' [online] available at: <<http://map.northumberland.gov.uk/Conservation/>> last accessed [26/01/17]

<sup>21</sup> Historic England: National Heritage List for England: <<http://list.historicengland.org.uk>> last accessed [26/01/2017.]

- Unknown wreck. 600m ENE of Bamburgh Castle (north east corner of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan area).

Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II\* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The latest Heritage at Risk Register<sup>22</sup> highlights that there are three scheduled monuments deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are:

- Round barrow 520m WNW of Quarry Cottage: Condition is generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems; principal vulnerability is from animal burrowing (at moderate risk).
- Benthall round cairn: Condition is generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems; principal vulnerability is from animal burrowing (at moderate risk).
- St Ebba's Chapel and monastic site: Condition is generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems; principal vulnerability is from coastal erosion.

It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are seen as important by local communities. For example, listed on the 'Keys to the Past'<sup>23</sup> online database are 197 historical sites in Bamburgh, 164 historical sites in Beadnell and 131 historical sites in North Sunderland.

Cramlington is categorised as being located in the 'Urban and Urban Fringe' Landscape Character Type (LCT) within the South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Such areas are characterised by widespread urban and industrial development, active and restored mining sites, open arable fields with scattered development, and a large human presence when compared to the rest of the County.

The setting of Cramlington is predominantly defined by its surrounding landscape of agricultural fields on the coastal plain, and the nearby Newcastle conurbation. Views across Cramlington are largely contained within the settlement by the framework of roads and woodland belts, and there are very few views overlooking the Neighbourhood Area. Areas to the north and south east of Cramlington are excluded from the Green Belt and provide potential development sites.

The Neighbourhood Area has considerable overlap with various Green Belt Land Parcel Areas (LPAs) interspaced with woodland blocks and settlements. The purposes of Green Belts are established within the NPPF as follows:

- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land

Of the LPAs which are present, all are considered to offer a high contribution towards the purpose of the Green Belt given their ability to prevent coalescence between surrounding settlements.

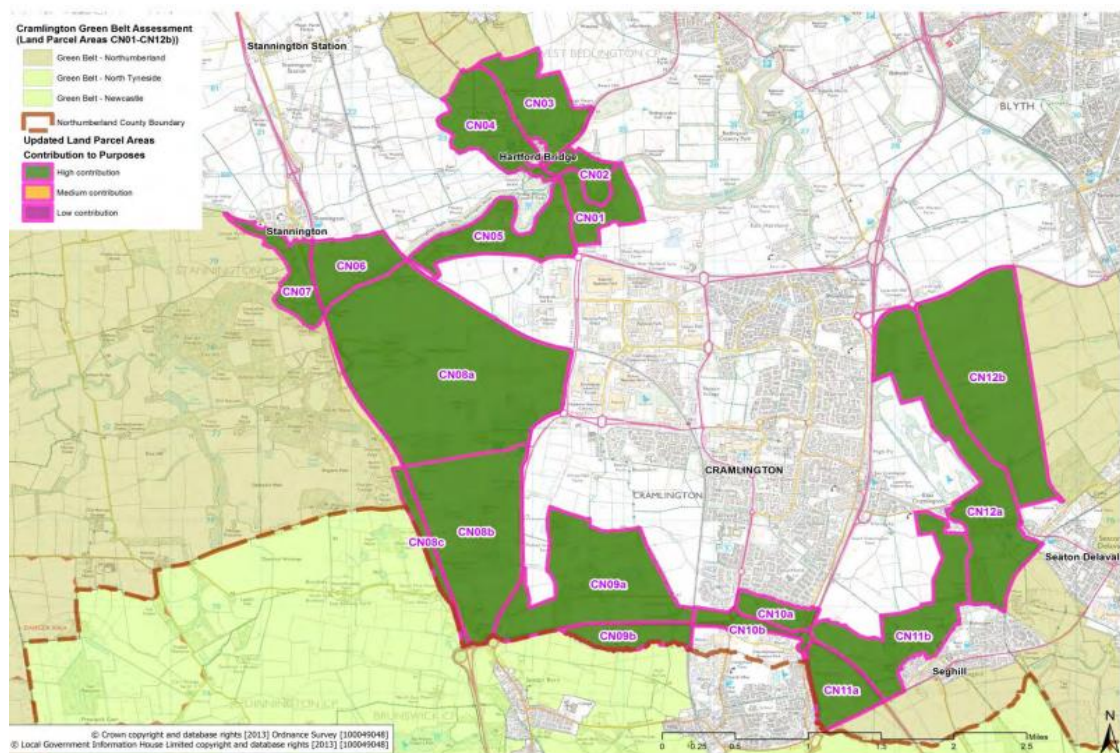
<sup>22</sup> Historic England (2016): 'Heritage at Risk Register 2016: North East', [online] available to download from: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/>> last accessed [26/01/17]

<sup>23</sup> Northumberland County Council & Durham County Council (2017): 'Keys to the Past – last updated October 2016', [online] available at: <<http://www.keystothepast.info/article/8749/KeysToThePast-Home-Page>> last accessed [26/01/17] presents features listed on the Historic Environmental Record for Northumberland.

**Table A4.1: Cramlington Land Parcel Areas and their Green Belt Status**

<b>LPA Label and Name</b>	<b>National Character Area</b>	<b>Green Belt Status</b>
CNO1 Hartford Bridge South	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland	Grass/arable fields with hedgerows and wooded valley.
CN05 Plessey Hall	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland	Bounded by River Blyth to the North. Includes two farms and grass arable with hedgerows, trees and woodlands.
CN08a Northumberlandia (part)	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland	Surface coal mine surrounded by open fieldscape with hedges and some shelterbelt plantations.
CN08b Fisher Lane (part)	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland	Open fields with hedgerows around central core of woodland plantations.
CN09a Arcot Hall	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland/ Urban and Urban Fringe	Central core of golf course grass, woodland and water with open fields alongside the A19.
CN09b South of A19	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland/ Urban and Urban Fringe	Open fields with hedges and some hedgerow trees and small areas of woodland along watercourse.
CN10a Cramlington Moor Farm	-	Mainly woodland planted with open aspects in north part.
CN10b South Cramlington A19 Interchange Corridor	South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Coalfield Farmland/ Urban and Urban Fringe	Narrow strip around major road interchange.

**Figure A4.1: Cramlington Land Parcel Areas- Contribution to Green Belt Purposes**

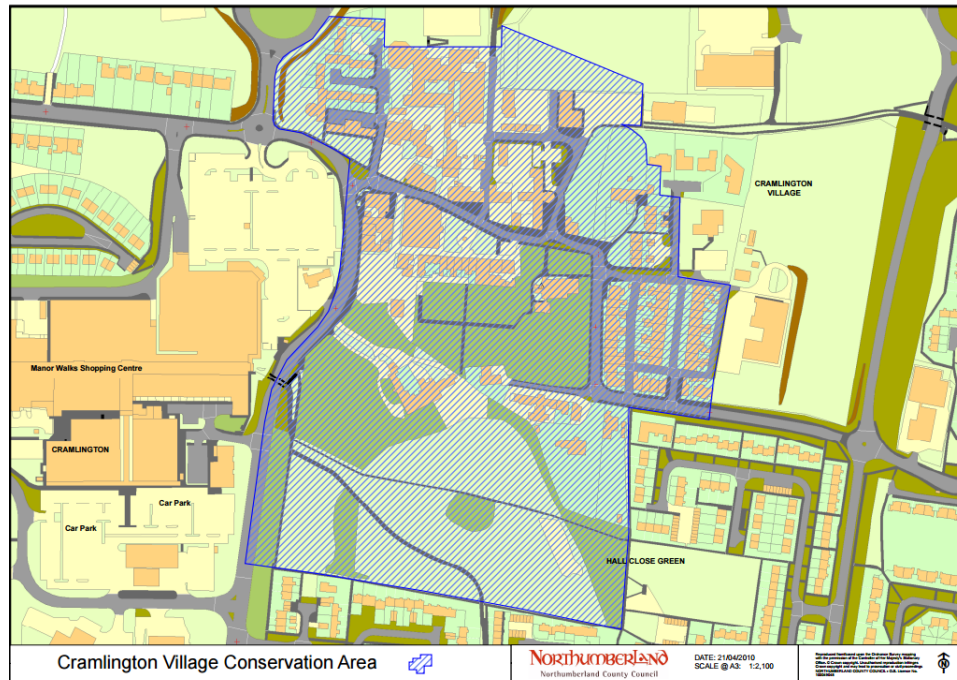


## Townscape

The historic core of Cramlington consists of a small nucleated settlement of traditional sandstone buildings. Cramlington originally operated as a coal mining community, especially during the 19<sup>th</sup> century when this industry thrived, but grew significantly in size during the post-war period where it was designated as a new town in 1964. The area has since been largely defined by the planning and architectural styles of the 1960s, notably several low density housing estates around the historic core. The historic core of Cramlington Village expresses a distinctly different character and style to the remainder of the Neighbourhood Area. The Cramlington Village Conservation Area (Figure 4.2) establishes a boundary around these early historic assets in order to preserve the architectural style and character of this core.

The existing development and settlement within Cramlington is contained to the east of the rail line and bounded by the A192 and the A189. Development to the south west is more sporadic.

Figure A4.2 Cramlington Village Conservation Area



### Historic environment

There are twenty six heritage assets designated within the Neighbourhood Area, all of which are listed as Grade II buildings. These include;

- Arcot Hall Golf Club attached walls and outbuilding;
- Church of St John the Baptist;
- Middle Farmhouse;
- Gray Tomb 13m south of Church of St Nicholas;
- Walls, rails and gate to south of Damdykes Farmhouse;
- Cramlington Hall;
- Old Windmill 700m south west of Plessey Checks roundabout;
- Hartford Bridge, over the River Blyth;
- Dovecote 50m north west of Plessey North Moor Farmhouse;
- Plessey Hall;
- Plessey Hall, adjoining Plessey Mill House;
- Shelter Shed to south of main farm building group, to east of west Hartford Farmhouse;
- Pair of Table Tombs 7m south of Church of St Nicholas;
- East Hartford Farmhouse with adjacent outbuilding to East;
- Outbuilding with attached wall to north west of Blagdon Arms;
- Garden walls to south of middle farmhouse;
- Damdykes Farmhouse;



- Outbuilding range to east of Arcot Hall Golf Club;
- War Memorial in Village Square;
- Railway viaduct over the River Blyth;
- Hartford Bridge over the River Blyth (part in Blyth Valley District);
- Plessey Mill house and adjacent outbuildings;
- Main farmbuilding group to east of west Hartford Farmhouse;
- The Blagdon Arms;
- Church of St Nicholas;
- Farmbuildings to North and West of Damdykes Farmhouse.

There are no registered battlefields, parks or gardens within the Neighbourhood Area and none of the above mentioned listed structures are identified on the Heritage at Risk register.



## Future baseline

New development within Cramlington is likely to have a spatial demand, and therefore has the potential to disturb the current landscape and setting of the Neighbourhood Area. The Green Belt designation will help to protect various land parcels, and in doing so is likely to concentrate development in areas which are not designated as Green Belt. The south-west sector in particular is highlighted as a potential development zone for a major new urban extension to the town. The landscape of these areas may then be compromised, but can be managed through various mitigation techniques.

New development may also encroach on some of the heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area either physically or visually; however the listed status of many of these, alongside local and national policy, is likely to ensure their safeguarding. It is likely that there will be areas where increased development will affect the nearby tranquillity of the landscape, and will contribute to noise and light pollution, in which case such areas should be the focus of interventions to help manage such effects.

## A.5 Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Context Review

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>24</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.

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<sup>24</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)> last accessed [30/01/17]

- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England<sup>25</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>26</sup>, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

Northumberland County Council has conducted **Strategic Flood Risk Assessments** (SFRA) in 2010 and 2015 which are to be used as a way to identify all sources of flooding and assess the risk posed to each locality area. Such assessments allow the areas which are potentially at risk of flooding to be identified, and a management strategy to be adopted. In addition, an **Outline** and **Detailed Water Cycle Study** help to determine the capability of local settlements to cope with flood events or the construction of new development.

Northumberland County Council is responsible for monitoring local air quality across the region, and is required to intervene when records exceed nationally set levels. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are often declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan in order to improve air quality in the area.

## *Baseline Summary*

### Quality of agricultural land

The Agricultural Land Classification 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. With regard to Cramlington, land of agricultural value is concentrated in the south west and the north of the Neighbourhood Area, with a small section also located to the east. The land is predominantly Grade 3b, with smaller sections of Grade 3a and Grade 4.

The soil-scape predominantly consists of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base rich loamy and clayey soil across the Neighbourhood Area, with a small area of restored soils in the east. Also in the east there is an instance of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, acid loamy and clayey soils.

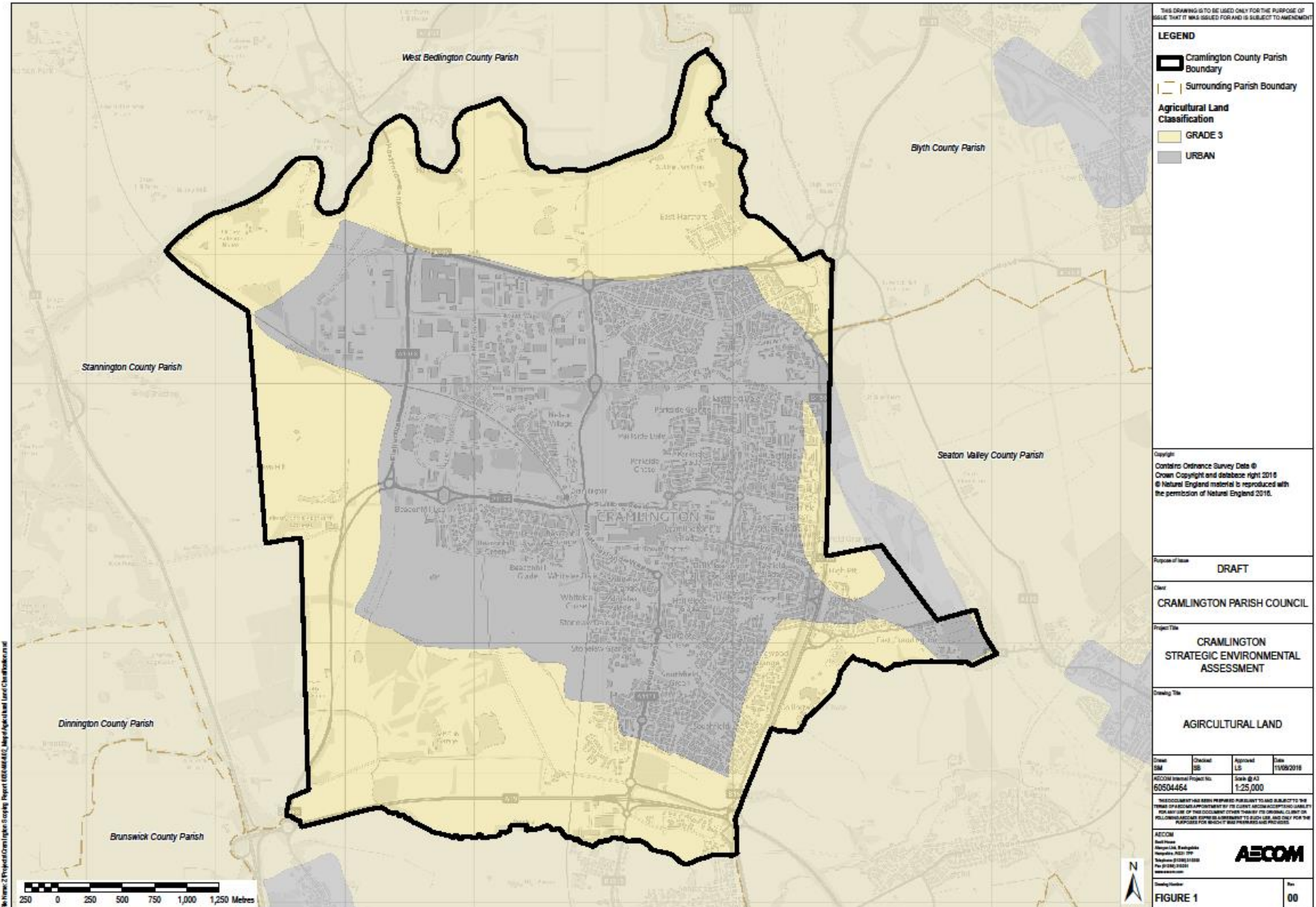
The whole of Cramlington, like the rest of the south-east of Northumberland, is located upon a coal reserve. Coal resources have played a crucial role in the mining history of the town, an industry which has since declined.

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<sup>25</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>> last accessed [30/01/17]

<sup>26</sup> Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>> last accessed [30/01/17]

Figure A5.1 Agricultural Land Classifications



## Recycling centres

There are four recycling centres located within Cramlington at the following points;

- Southfield Green Shopping Centre;
- Cramlington Sainsbury's car park;
- Cramlington Morrison's car park;
- East Hartford, The Pavilion.

The recycling centres are located predominantly to the eastern edge of the Neighbourhood Area where the majority of settlement is situated, and are accessible by a range of primary and secondary routes.

## Water

The main watercourse within the area is the River Blyth, which lies adjacent to the northern edge of the site, just outside of the Neighbourhood Area boundary. With regard to water management, Cramlington is considered under the Southeast Northumberland Delivery Area. Cramlington is listed as a site which does not have the capacity or infrastructure to accept or treat any further Wastewater Treatment Work (WwTW)<sup>27</sup>. Further development within the town is therefore considered to pose a risk to downstream watercourses/ waterbodies based on the likelihood of the WwTW to exceed current flow. The Northumberland Water Cycle Study has already identified sewer flooding incidents across North and South Cramlington, so it could be assumed that further development may also be likely to breach the current capacity of the sewerage network. For this reason, the study recommends that developers adopt Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUD's) where possible, and should maintain separation between foul and surface water so as not to overflow the sewage systems.

## Air

Cramlington is one of the principal towns within Northumberland, and as such has a relatively high concentration of development and settlement in comparison to the rest of the region. Commercial and industrial parts of the town contribute to localised impacts on air quality, as do the various transport routes which intersect the Neighbourhood Area. Two A2 Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC) sites monitor air quality within Cramlington and Blyth, both areas of which contain large industrial/commercial districts.

Monitoring shows, however, that these sources do not comprise a significant issue, and that current air quality within Cramlington complies with national Air Quality standards. There are no locations within the Neighbourhood Area which are considered at risk of exceeding air pollutant levels, nor are any areas subject to Air Quality Management designations. Previously, the nearby town of Blyth was subject to an AQMA, however this was revoked in 2011 due to pollutant levels falling below the threshold.

## **Future baseline**

Land of best and most versatile agricultural value should be protected from new development as, once removed, it is unlikely to be restored to its current productivity levels. However, the largely undeveloped south west area of the Neighbourhood Area offers a large scale development opportunity, and as such threats to agricultural land are likely unless mitigation measures are adopted.

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates. It is therefore likely that recycling rates would continue. Should new development locate in the south-west of the Neighbourhood Area, there may be a demand to introduce more, or relocate, waste disposal units and recycling centres within Cramlington so they cater to the new settlements.

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<sup>27</sup>Northumberland County Council Water Cycle Study, 2015, Available:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Core%20strategy/Evidence%20based/EB15a-Detailed-Water-Cycle-Study-Final-report.pdf> Accessed: 22/06/16

Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The Neighbourhood Plan should recognize the infrastructure constraints in the area and that a considerable amount of new development is likely to strain the existing wastewater infrastructure systems and, unless further capacity can be provided, may increase the risk of sewer flooding events.

Development within the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to adversely affect air quality. This would primarily be through the construction and operational process of the development, but also as a result of the increased traffic flows and associated pollutants which may be generated. This could include an increase in the release of nitrogen dioxide. Any increase could be offset in part by the adoption of sustainable construction methods and standards for built development, minimising energy use, the use of zero or low carbon energy sources for energy requirements, and the implementation of the Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026, which is likely to encourage a modal shift from the private car.

Development of the Cramlington biomass CHP plant (due for completion in 2017) is likely to reduce dependency on non-renewable energy sources, the use of which may currently contribute to poor air quality. Converting to biomass CHP may therefore help to offset future increases in emissions and pollutants. The emerging Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) may also encourage greater uptake of low-carbon methods of energy production, and subsequently improve air quality even further.

## A.6 Population and Community

### Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.

With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.

In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.

The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

**Northumberland Housing Strategy**<sup>28</sup> outlines the Councils commitment to ensure that; *'The population of Northumberland have access to a home that is safe, warm and affordable, and that help and support is available to those that are unable to meet their own housing need'*. The report goes on to state the diversity of the Northumberland housing context whereby there is a need for a variety of types and tenures across the area, and an increase in dwelling units to cater to the growing population.

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<sup>28</sup> A Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2013-2018, Available: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Housing/Housing-Strategy-2013-2018.pdf>, Accessed: 22/05/16.



The Northumberland county-level demographic analysis and forecasts (July 2015) presents population and household forecasts for Northumberland based on different demographic scenarios, using a range of migration and economic assumptions. These scenarios help to establish the objectively assessed need for housing.

### Baseline summary

#### Population

There is an uneven distribution of population within Northumberland, with the south eastern towns of Cramlington, Ashington, Blyth and Bedlington accommodating the largest concentration of housing, employment, retailing and services in the area. Compared to the south-east, the north and western area of Northumberland are more sparsely populated. This is expressed through the population density of Cramlington, which in 2011 was 1,286 pop/km<sup>2</sup> compared to the Northumberland average of 63 pop/km<sup>2</sup>. Unlike the overall population of Northumberland, the population of Cramlington has declined from 30,119 to 29,413 between the censuses.

**Table A6.1: Resident Population, 2001- 2011** <sup>29</sup>

	Cramlington		Northumberland		England and Wales
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2011
All Persons	30,119	29,413	310,619	316,028	53,012,456
Males	14,577	14,146	152,109	154,124	27,573,376
Females	15,542	15,267	158,510	161,904	28,502,536
Population Density (pop/km <sup>2</sup> )	1,319	1,286	61	63	37

The majority of the population reside to the east of the Neighbourhood Area, leaving the western side largely unpopulated. The south-west sector of the Neighbourhood Area in particular remains sparse and undeveloped.

#### Age structure

The age composition of the Cramlington population is similar to the Northumberland average. There are slightly more 0-4 years and 5-15 year olds than experienced on a regional level, and slightly fewer individuals which fall within the 65-74 years and 75+ year category. Despite Cramlington having the lowest number of 64+ residents than any other locality in Northumberland, this group is increasing, whilst the number of younger individuals (below 15 years old) is showing a decline<sup>30</sup>. There is also a higher proportion of working age people than the county as a whole.

<sup>29</sup> Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics, Available:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp> Accessed: 23/06/16.

<sup>30</sup>South East Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy, Northumberland County Council, October 2011, Available:

[http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/4659BF9E-7F92-40B6-83D4-6A780738B30E\\_1\\_0.pdf?nccredirect=1](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/4659BF9E-7F92-40B6-83D4-6A780738B30E_1_0.pdf?nccredirect=1) Accessed: 24/06/16

**Table A6.2: Population by Age (all usual residents), Census 2011**

	Cramlington		Northumberland		England and Wales
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
0-4	1,594	5.4	16,003	5.1	6.2
5-15	3,685	12.5	37,863	12.0	12.6
16-24	3,051	10.4	30,847	9.8	11.9
25-64	16,393	55.7	168,011	53.2	52.8
65-74	2,836	9.6	34,366	10.9	8.7
75+	1,854	6.3	28,938	9.2	7.8

### Household deprivation

Household deprivation of all dimensions (Employment, Education, Health and Disability, Household Overcrowding) within Cramlington falls below both the regional and England and Wales average, with a higher proportion of households experiencing no deprivation.

**Table A6.3: Household Deprivation by Dimension, Census 2011**

	Cramlington		Northumberland		England and Wales
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Household not deprived	5,734	45.7	60,451	43.6	42.3
Deprived in 1 dimension	3,966	31.6	44,844	32.4	32.6
Deprived in 2 dimensions	2,244	17.9	26,716	19.3	19.3
Deprived in 3 dimensions	555	4.4	6,150	4.4	5.2
Deprived in 4 dimensions	35	0.3	373	0.3	0.5

### Index of Multiple Deprivation

Overall deprivation figures mask pockets of deprivation within both parishes. The more recent Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

**Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).

**Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

**Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.

**Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

**Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.

**Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.

‘Geographical Barriers’: relating to the physical proximity of local services

‘Wider Barriers’: relating to access to housing such as affordability.

**Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.

‘Indoors Living Environment’ measures the quality of housing.

‘Outdoors Living Environment’ measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:

**Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.

**Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales

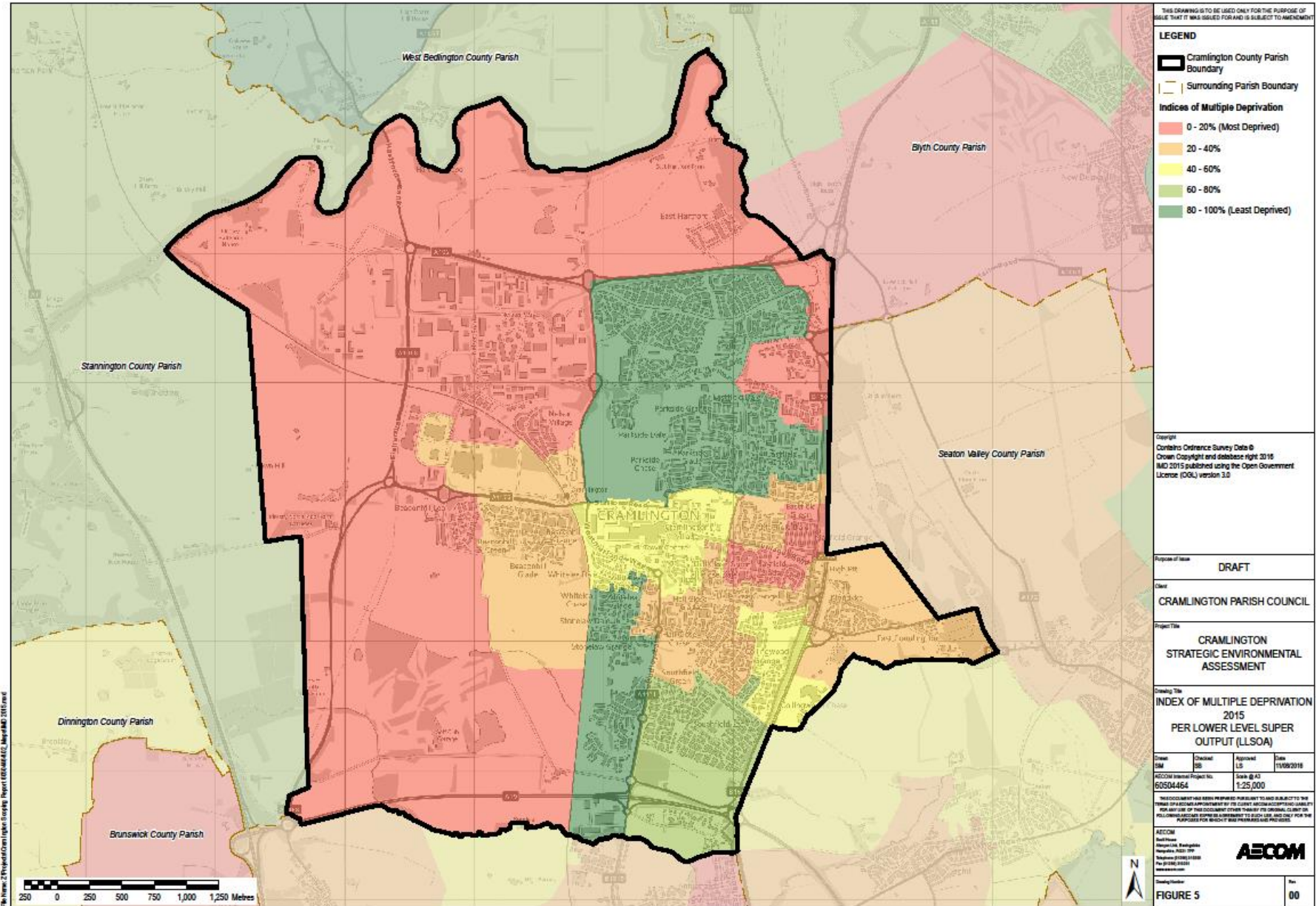
Northumberland is ranked the 136<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority district of England with regard to the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)<sup>31</sup>. The score ranks each of the 326 local authority district areas against a series of deprivation indicators, and offers a useful national comparison.

Within Northumberland, many of the communities within south-east of the local authority area, including Cramlington and the Neighbourhood Area, are characterised by high levels of deprivation, notably catalysed following the decline of the coal mining industry. In order to address the high levels of deprivation in the area, and stimulate housing development, regeneration and economic prosperity, the Government designated south east Northumberland as a New Growth Point in 2008.

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<sup>31</sup> File 10: Local Authority District Summaries, Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>, Accessed 22/03/16

Figure A6.1 Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015



## Housing tenure

The characteristics of housing tenure in Cramlington are similar to Northumberland as a whole with respect to the amount of owned outright, shared ownership, and socially rented dwellings in the Neighbourhood Area. There are, however, a significantly higher proportion of those who own properties with a mortgage or a loan, and a considerably fewer number of private rented dwellings than within Northumberland as a whole.

**Table 6.4: Household by Tenure (all households), Census 2011**

	Cramlington		Northumberland		England and Wales
	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Owned outright	3,804	30.3	46,086	33.3	30.8
Owned with mortgage or loan	5,230	41.7	45,121	32.6	32.7
Shared ownership (part owned & part rented)	41	0.3	510	0.4	0.8
Socially rented	2,257	18.0	25,841	18.7	17.6
Private rented including living rent free	1,202	9.6	20,976	15.1	18.1

## Education

The educational profile of the Neighbourhood Area is relatively consistent with the Northumberland and England & Wales average, however there are considerably fewer members of the population who have achieved a Level 4 Qualification and/ or above. Although Cramlington is aligned with the regional average with regard to individuals with no qualifications (22.4% compared to 23.9%), this is significantly above the England & Wales average of 15.0%, and highlights an issue of low educational attainment.

The location and catchment areas of the town's First Schools is clustered in the north-east sector of the Neighbourhood Area, with more dispersed provision elsewhere. There is only one First School in the western half of the town.

**Table A6.5: Qualifications, 2011**

	Cramlington <sup>32</sup>		Northumberland (%)		England and Wales (%)
	<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Absolute</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
Level 4 Qualifications and Above	5,116	21.2	67,024	25.6	29.7
Level 3 Qualifications	3,278	13.6	31,650	12.1	14.5
Level 2 Qualifications	4,416	18.3	43,363	16.5	17.2
Level 1 Qualifications	3,763	15.6	35,791	13.7	15.2
Apprenticeships and Other Qualifications	2,154	8.9	21,750	8.2	8.6
No Qualifications	827	22.4	62,584	23.9	15.0

<sup>32</sup> Figure represented is the total calculation of Cramlington West, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington East, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East and the Cramlington Village Local Ward areas, Available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx> Accessed: 22/06/16

## Employment

Data from the 2011 Census data shows that the Neighbourhood Area has an economically active population which is above the regional and England and Wales average. Unemployment levels of those considered to be economically active are lower than experienced in Northumberland and England and Wales, as are the percentage of people who are classified as Economically Inactive.

**Table A6.6: Employment and Unemployment Levels of the Economically Active and Inactive, 2011**

	Cramlington <sup>33</sup>		Northumberland	England and Wales
	Absolute Figure	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
<b>Economically Active</b>	15,238	78.3	77.3	76.8
In Employment	14,220	73.0	71.6	71.0
Unemployed	1,018	6.7	7.3	7.6
<b>Economically Inactive</b>	4,206	21.3	22.7	23.2

Cramlington is a sub-regional centre for industry, and has the largest concentration of manufacturing businesses in Northumberland, and a cluster of companies which operate in the pharmaceutical sector. Data from the 2011 Census indicates that, there are proportionately less people employed as Managerial and Senior Officials, Professional, Skilled Trades, Personal Services, Sale and Customer Services and Process Plant and Machine Operatives within Cramlington than the Regional and England and Wales averages. There is above average employment within the Administrative and Secretarial and the Sales and Customer Service occupations.

**Table A6.7: Employment by occupation, 2011**

	Cramlington <sup>34</sup>		Northumberland	England & Wales
	Absolute	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Managers and Senior Officials	1,171	8.1	10.6	10.8
Professional	1,907	12.8	15.5	17.4
Associate Professional and Technical	1,888	12.8	11.4	12.7
Administrative and Secretarial	2,407	16.6	11.5	11.4
Skilled Trades	1,550	10.8	13.0	11.5
Personal Services	1,330	6.3	10.6	9.4
Sales and Customer Services	1,636	11.4	8.6	8.4
Process Plant and Machine Operatives	1,152	8.0	7.8	7.2
Elementary Occupations	1,462	10.3	11.0	11.2

<sup>33</sup> Figure represented is the total calculation of Cramlington West, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington East, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East and the Cramlington Village Local Ward areas, Available:

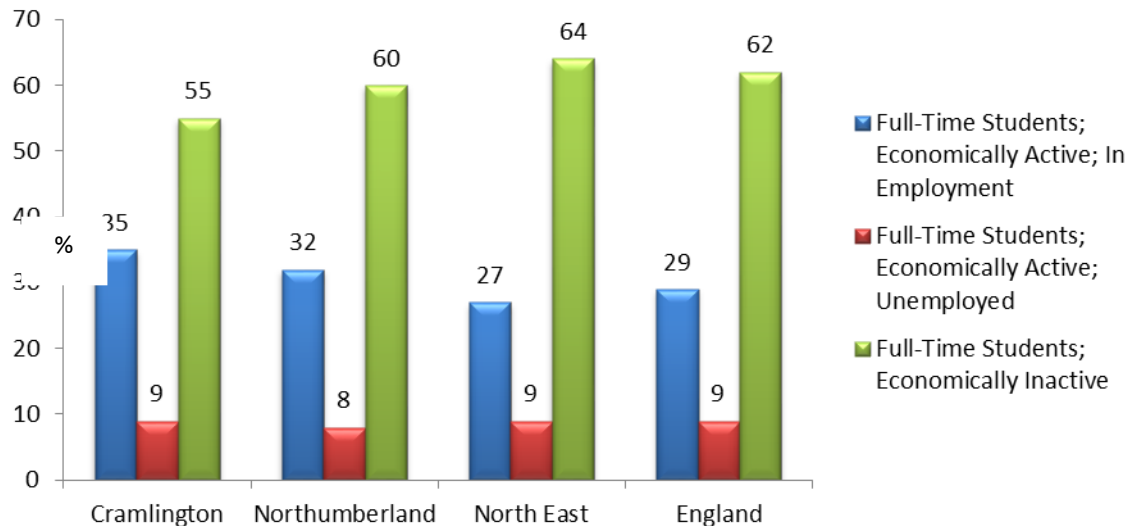
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx> Accessed: 22/06/16

<sup>34</sup> Figure represented is the total calculation of Cramlington West, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington East, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East and the Cramlington Village Local Ward areas, Available:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx> Accessed: 22/06/16

Figure A6.2 shows how Cramlington has a greater number of full time students who are in employment than Northumberland, the North East, and England averages.

**Figure A6.2: Economic Activity- Full Time Students, Census 2011**



### Town Centre

According to the Northumberland Town Centre and Retail Study Update (TCRS), the proportion of A1 units in Cramlington town centre has grown from 57% in 2013 to 59% in 2015. The proportion of A1 units is now six percentage points higher than both the north-east small towns and national small town averages. A high proportion of comparison units also exist (80%) in relation to the proportion of convenience units (20%) within the town centre.

The vacancy rate for the town centre is 9%, which is similar to the average vacancy rate for small towns within the north-east area. This vacancy rate, however, has increased by one percentage point since 2013.

### Future Baseline

The population within Northumberland is expected to rise to approximately 330,000 by 2035, with a significant increase in the 65+ age range, which is projected to grow from 20% of the population in 2010 to 31% by 2031. In order to deal with this demographic shift, there is a need to plan for education, social and health services and housing accordingly to accommodate not only the increase in population, but a more elderly population than currently experienced.

Given the town's accessibility due to the road and rail network, and the quality of the local environment, Cramlington is considered to be a prime location for inward economic investment. Under various scenarios, there is potential for Cramlington to develop between 3480- 3820 new dwellings by 2031, and to develop 102 ha of employment land. Such growth is likely to put an increased demand on services within the Neighbourhood Area. Whilst there is potential for this demand to have a negative effect by overstressing existing services in the short term, it may be offset by new development of such services in the long term. Over the long term this may therefore have a positive effect on local education and skill levels

## A.7 Health and Wellbeing

### Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
- A core planning principle is to ‘take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all’.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities’.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, **Fair Society, Healthy Lives**<sup>35</sup> (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. **The Health and Social Care Act 2012** transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Health and Wellbeing** within Northumberland offers information regarding the health and wellbeing of the county. The requirement for the JSNA was created in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, and a JSNA was subsequently produced in Northumberland in 2009 (updated in 2012). The assessment is used to establish countywide priorities which focus on various themes such as child safety, educational attainment and poverty, and to work towards improving the quality of life of Northumberland’s population.

The current local planning framework (the development plan) for green infrastructure is a combination of the existing saved planning policies of the Blyth Valley District Local Plan, the Blyth Valley Local Development Framework and the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.

In 2011 a Northumberland county-wide assessment of green infrastructure was conducted.<sup>36</sup> This assessment and subsequent **Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy** appraised sustainable land and water resources, biodiversity, sport and recreation, landscape and community issues relating to the environment and community quality of life. It also covered the potential impact of climate change, conserving and enhancing biodiversity and the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision.

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<sup>35</sup> The Marmot Review, The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning, 2011, Available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> PPG17 Open Space Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy, October 2011, Strategic Leisure, URS and Scott Wilson



A number of site specific priorities for Cramlington emerged as a result of the assessment:

- To improve the quality of Beacon Hill Green, Westfield Park.
- To create a new green space linking to the cycleways and bridleways connecting to Blyth and the coast.
- Seek to develop circular bridleways if possible

## Baseline Summary

### Health indicators and deprivation

The Neighbourhood Area is shown to perform better than the England average with regard to a number of health indicators. This includes the number of households which have central heating (99.2% compared to 97.3%), the number of houses which suffer from overcrowding (4.2% compared to 8.7%), and the number of pensioners living alone (28.7% compared to 31.5%)<sup>37</sup>. There are also fewer deaths from circulatory disease and coronary heart disease than the England average.

Cramlington performed worse than the England average for other indicators. There are a higher percentage of individuals with limiting long term illnesses or disabilities (19.1% compared to 17.6%), a higher provision of 50 hours or more unpaid care per week (2.8% compared to 2.4%) and more emergency admissions regarding under-fives (175 per every 1000 individuals compared to 150 per 100 individuals). There are also more admissions for alcohol related harm than the England average.

The percentage of residents living in Cramlington who consider their health to be 'very good' is 45.3%, which is slightly higher than at the county level, but lower than the average percentage across England and Wales. Generally, levels of good and bad health reflect the county and national averages, with a few minor differences.

**Table A7.1: Health (all usual residents), Cramlington Locality Profile**

	Cramlington <sup>38</sup>		Northumberland		England and Wales
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Percentage
General health is very good	13,332	45.3	138,990	44.0	47.1
General health is good	10,128	34.4	108,458	34.3	34.3
General health is fair	4,246	14.4	48,580	15.4	13.2
General health is bad	1,320	4.5	15,641	4.9	4.3
General health is very bad	387	1.3	4,359	1.4	1.3

<sup>37</sup> Based on the combination of the wards of Cramlington West, Cramlington East, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington North, Cramlington Village and Cramlington Sout East. Public Health England- Local Map Available: <http://www.localhealth.org.uk/#v=map4;l=en;z=421210,580535,13044,8505>, Accessed: 23/06/16.

<sup>38</sup> Figure represented is the total calculation of Cramlington West, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington East, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East and the Cramlington Village Local Ward areas, Available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx> Accessed: 22/06/16

## Influences on health and wellbeing

The introduction of Green infrastructure into communities is considered to have a positive effect on local health by offering a platform where residents and visitors can engage with exercise. The following land uses are identified to be common 'typologies' for elements of green infrastructure:

- Parks and Gardens – urban parks, Country and Regional Parks, formal gardens;
- Amenity Greenspace – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, urban commons, other incidental space, green roofs;
- Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces - woodland and scrub, grassland (e.g. down land and meadow), heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground), bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs and quarries);
- Green corridors – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way; and
- Other - allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards.

The presence of such facilities can therefore be considered to have positive health benefits, and are reviewed further within this chapter.

Although 81% of settlements within the south east of Northumberland are within the access threshold of parks and gardens, 19% of households, predominantly in the Cramlington, Bedlington, Nelson Village and North Blyth area are outside of this threshold, highlighting access for some localities could potentially be improved. Likewise, with regard to the access threshold for allotments, it is thought a large proportion of households within Cramlington are outside of the catchment area<sup>39</sup>. Despite this, the entire of Cramlington centre is located within 2km of a natural/semi-natural 20ha site, and 5km of a natural/ semi-natural 10ha site<sup>40</sup>.

Figure 7.1 shows how the majority of Open Space is located amongst the settlement within the east of Cramlington. The quality of these spaces ranges from Poor to Excellent. There are also various playing pitches within Cramlington, the presence of which helps to enable a healthy lifestyle for locals (Figure 7.2).

With regard to social and community facilities, access to which can offer opportunities for social interaction and platforms to support the well-being of residents, Figure 7.3 shows how existing facilities have been developed alongside, and integrated with, the growth of settlement sites. Facilities are therefore more common in the north and the south-east sectors. Health care has also been made more accessible within the Neighbourhood Area through the recent opening of the Specialist Emergency Care Hospital at East Cramlington (the first of its kind in the UK to provide this level of specialist emergency care) in June 2015.

## Crime

Crime or the perception of crime can directly affect people's feelings of safety: in 2014/15 there were 1,225 crimes committed in the town (accounting for 11% of all crime across Northumberland). The majority of these crimes were of violence or criminal damage<sup>41</sup>. There are no particular identifiable 'hotspot' areas of criminal activity within Cramlington.

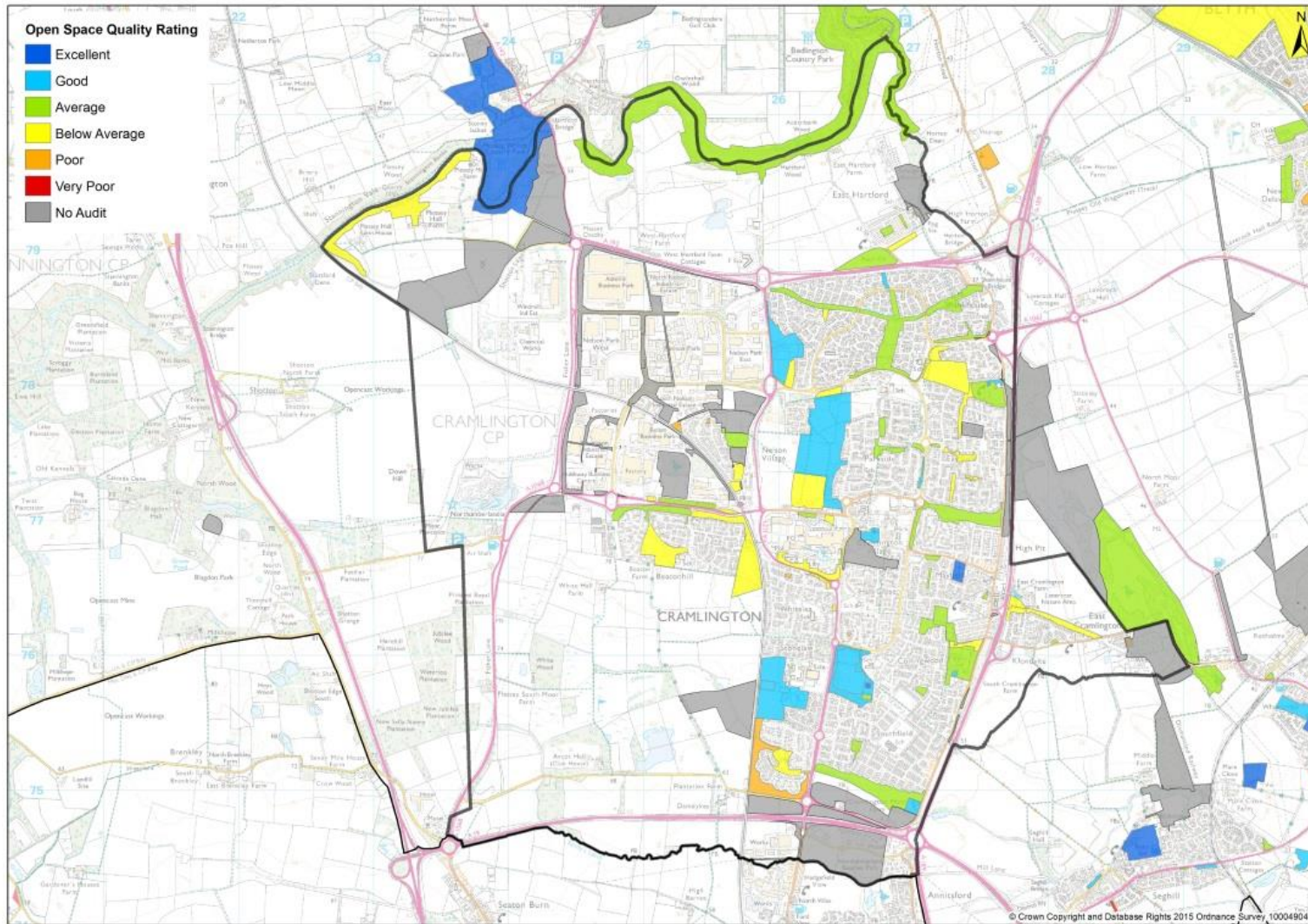
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<sup>39</sup> South East Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy, Available: [http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/4659BF9E-7F92-40B6-83D4-6A780738B30E\\_1\\_0.pdf?nccredirect=1](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/4659BF9E-7F92-40B6-83D4-6A780738B30E_1_0.pdf?nccredirect=1), Accessed: 22/06/16

<sup>40</sup> Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy

<sup>41</sup> Northumbria Polic

Figure A7.1: Cramlington Open Space Quality<sup>42</sup>



<sup>42</sup> Source: Northumberland PPG 17 Assessment 2011

Figure A7.2: Location of Playing Pitch Sites within South East Northumberland

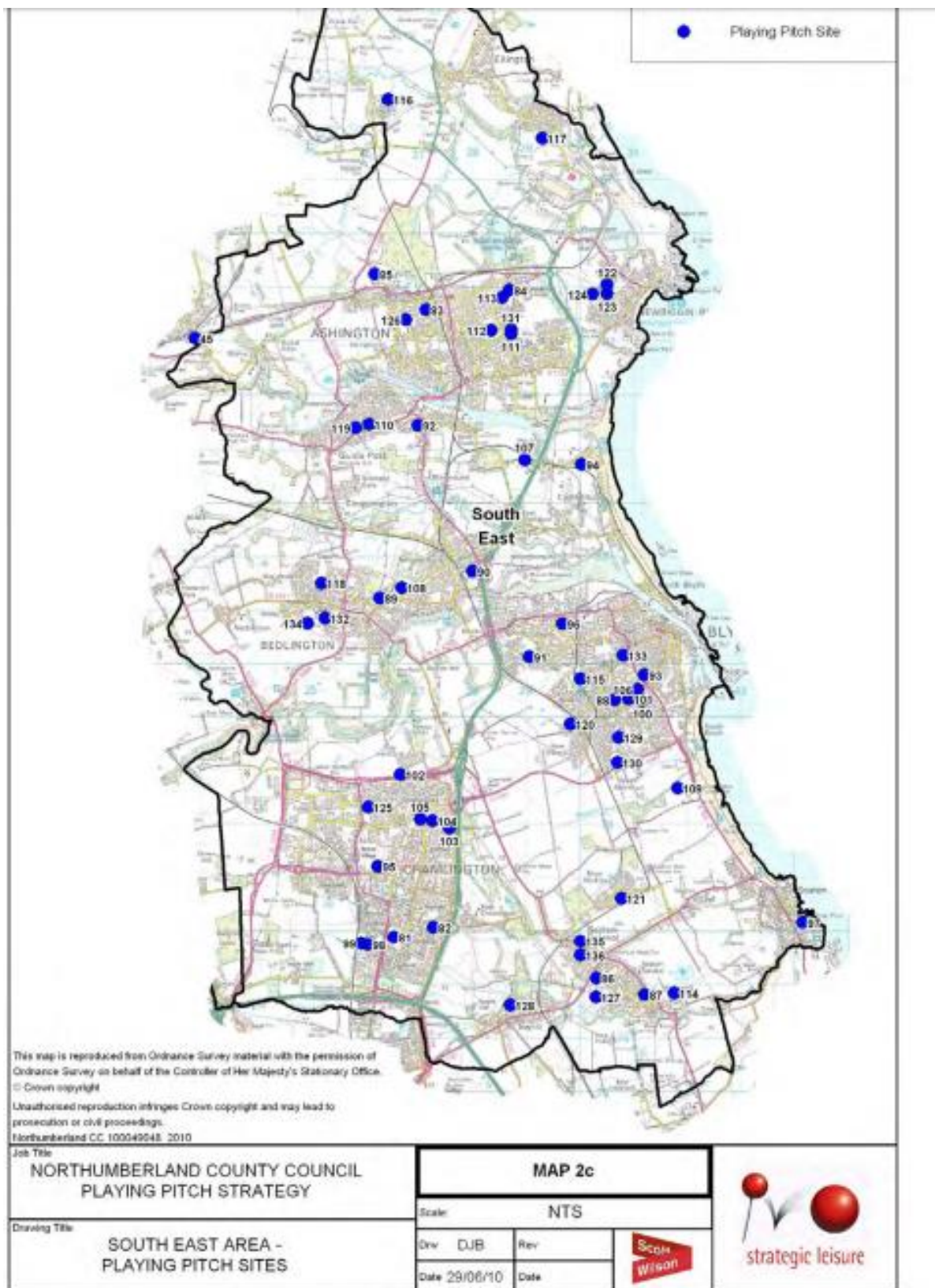
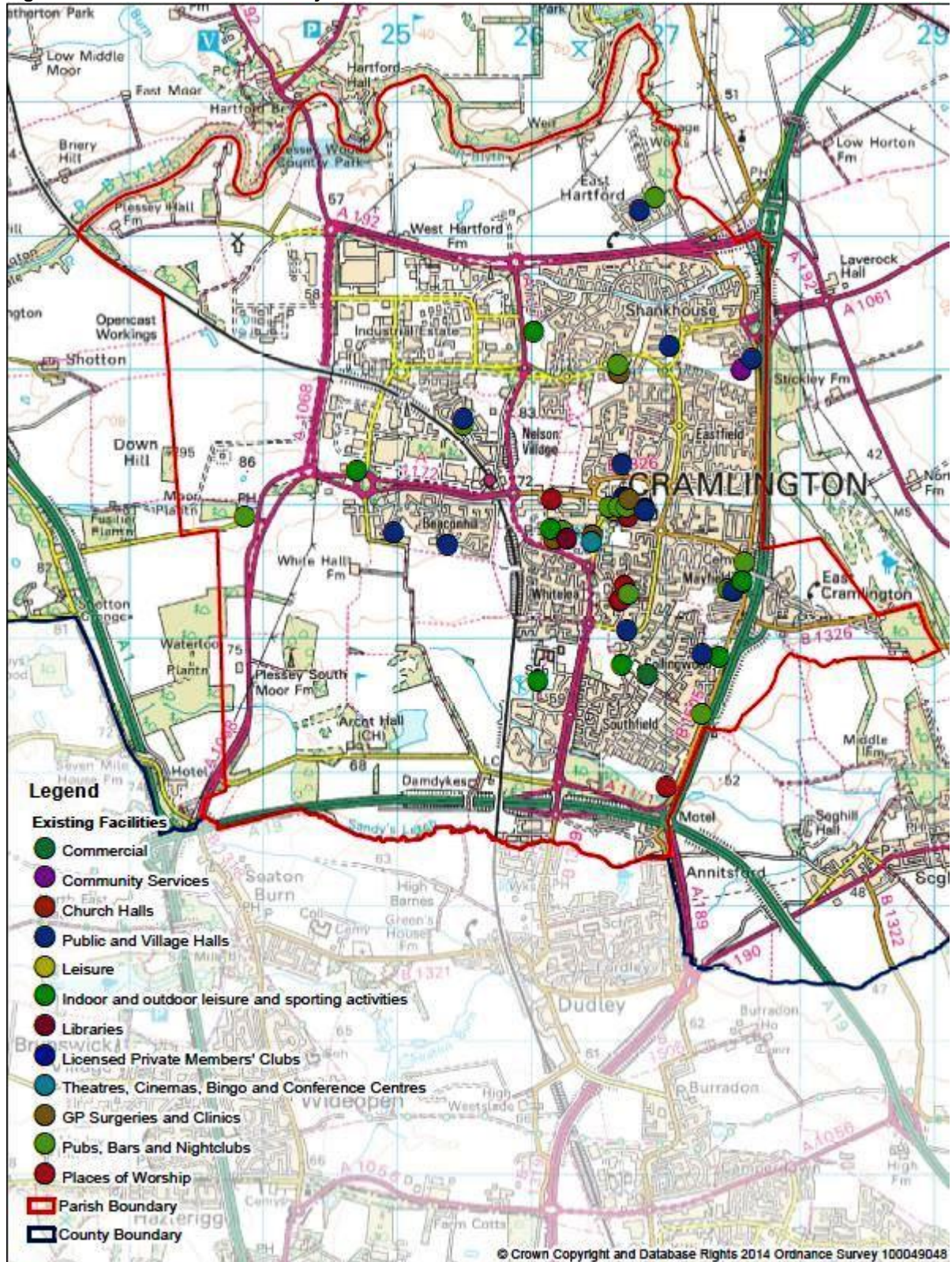


Figure A7.3: Social and Community Infrastructure



## Future baseline

The recent development of the Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in East Cramlington is likely to increase the capacity of the Neighbourhood Area to deal with local incidents and emergencies, and may improve treatment times within the area.

The development of space within the Neighbourhood Area offers is an opportunity to capitalise on the extension of Green Infrastructure that offer opportunities for recreation in green spaces close to people's home and work place. This would help to address the current inaccessibility of such leisure facilities, and is likely to encourage exercise and active lifestyles within the local population, helping to improve local health and fitness levels. There is an opportunity to introduce better connectivity and increase the multi-functionality of existing Green Infrastructure sites, and to introduce a new cycleway within the south-western corridors of the Neighbourhood Area. These are all priorities of the Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy, and as such are likely to be achieved if consideration is given to the assessment.

## A.8 Transportation and accessibility

### Context review

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel.

The NPPF emphasises the important role that transport policies have not only in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. It states that developments should be located and designed where practical to:

- Accommodate the efficient delivery of good and supplies;
- Give priority to pedestrians and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;
- Create safe and secure layouts which minimize conflict between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;
- Incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and
- Consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport

Northumberland County Council has produced a **Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026** to support the national agenda, and establish the Councils vision, aims and objectives for transport over this period. It outlines the commitment to deliver reliable, resilient and efficient transport networks, reduce carbon emissions, increase accessibility and safety, and to use transport as a tool to improve the quality of life for those within the Northumberland area. The **Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy** which derives from the LTP aims to *'develop a well maintained network using 'Good' design combined with the right encouragement and promotion to provide the right environment for walking and cycling to flourish'*<sup>43</sup>.

The **Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Major Modifications (NLPCS)** seeks to create a sustainable pattern of development which will result in a reduction in the need to travel, with the majority of development focused in the most sustainable locations. The NLPCS suggests that:

*"living closer to jobs, education, services and amenities and making the most of communication technologies can lead to more sustainable travel, reduced carbon emissions and more sustainable and enduring communities in the long-term".*

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<sup>43</sup> Northumberland County Council Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016, p12

Alongside reducing the need to travel, the critical importance of ensuring connectivity is fully recognised. The NLPCS seeks to maintain and support a local transport system and IT connections that are resilient and responsive to changing needs to:

- Promote sustainable economic growth;
- Minimise the environmental impact of travel;
- Improve safety, health and wellbeing;
- Advance equality of opportunity; and
- Enhance quality of life.

### *Baseline Summary*

#### Rail network

A rail link runs from the north-west to the south of the Neighbourhood Area, with a stop at Cramlington Station. The Council hopes to increase the number of journeys made by rail within the region, however lack of parking facilities at the ECML train station in Cramlington is considered to be a barrier to passenger growth. There are currently only 48 parking spaces with expansion restricted due to surrounding land use.

The existing station is currently only used by Northern Rail Services, and offers one journey each off peak hour to either Newcastle or Morpeth, and two services in the morning and afternoon peak times. Only one service arrives in Newcastle before 9am.

After a period of steady growth between 1997/97 to 2008/09, where it reached 89,828 passengers, passenger usage of the rail network has since declined in more recent years. The most current patronage figures from Cramlington Train Station are as follows:

- Total Number of Entries and Exits 2013/14- 85,668
- Total Number of Entries and Exits 2014/15- 89,070<sup>44</sup>

#### Bus network

The Neighbourhood Area is well served by numerous bus services including the X10, X11, X13, X21, X22, 57 and 58, all of which run five days a week with five journeys or more. Cramlington is therefore considered to be accessible and well connected to other localities within the south-east of Northumberland.

The frequency of services and the convenience of passenger stops have enabled bus patronage numbers to increase annually. Journey duration is dominated by the flow of traffic, and congestion points have been highlighted outside the Neighbourhood Area at South Gosforth and Gosforth High Street. Whilst outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Area, congestion here impacts journey time between Cramlington and Newcastle City Centre.

#### Road network and congestion

The centre of the Neighbourhood Area lies approximately 2.4km to the east of the M1, 2.3km to the north of the A19, and 2.2km to the west of the A139. The site is also intersected by various other primary routes (the A192, A1068 and the A1171), ensuring it is well served by the national highway and local road network. Under the LTP 2006-2011, the A1068 was identified as a high risk site, and has since been subject to a local safety scheme.

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<sup>44</sup> Northumberland County Council Data on Northumberland train patronage

## Availability of cars and vans

The proportion of households with no access to a car or van is lower than the regional and national averages. Notably, the average for the North East is more than 10% higher than each of the three parishes, which is perhaps a reflection of the geographical location of the Neighbourhood Plan area (along the coastline) and the potential barriers to public transport given the absence of a railway station or a regular bus service away from the coast.

Table A8.2 shows that there are considerably more 1 and 2 car households within the Cramlington Neighbourhood Area than the proportion in England and Wales. This is comparable to the Northumberland average, and may indicate the sparse development within the region. There are fewer households without cars or vans than what is experienced in England and Wales on average, and likewise there are fewer households which have 3 or more cars or vans.

**Table A8.2: Household cars and vans**

	Cramlington <sup>45</sup>		Northumberland		England and Wales
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
No cars or vans in household	2,544	20.3	30,543	22.0	25.6
1 car or van in household	5,811	46.4	60,875	43.9	42.2
2 cars or vans in household	3,427	27.3	36,916	26.6	24.7
3 cars or vans in household	589	4.7	7,671	5.5	5.5
4 or more cars or vans in household	163	1.3	2,529	1.8	1.9

## Cycle network

The east of the Neighbourhood Area has multiple cycle lanes which allow for bicycle travel throughout the area, and the Cramlington Learning Village provides access to a cycle speedway track. Cyclists are less accommodated for within the west. The Cramlington Sustainable Travel Audit<sup>46</sup> identified that cycling provision (i.e. dedicated lanes in Cramlington) is more extensive compared to other market towns in Northumberland. These routes, however, have declined in quality and have not been well maintained, unlike other infrastructure networks in the area.

Several 'missing links' have also been identified in the network for pedestrians and cyclists, notably at a number of key junctions and major roads. These have created a hazardous crossing point for those on foot or bike.

<sup>45</sup> Figure represented is the total calculation of Cramlington West, Cramlington Eastfield, Cramlington East, Cramlington North, Cramlington South East and the Cramlington Village Local Ward areas, Available:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/ward2011/contents.aspx> Accessed: 22/06/16

<sup>46</sup> Cramlington Sustainable Travel Audit, Sustrans, July 2015





## Travel to work

Data suggests that there is similar alignment of travel to work methods between the Cramlington and England and Wales average. There are fewer individuals who work from home compared to Northumberland as a whole.

Table A8.3: Method of Travel to Work (aged 16-74 in employment)

	Cramlington		Northumberland		England and Wales
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage	Percentage
Car/ van/ taxi/ motorcycle	11,105	76.7	106,897	72.8	76.4
Public transport	1,387	9.6	10,337	7.0	10.5
On foot	1,162	8.0	16,924	11.5	6.9
Bicycle	295	2.0	2,137	1.5	1.9
Work from home	430	3.0	9,195	6.3	3.5
Other	99	0.7	1,411	1.0	0.4

## Junction Assessments

The junction modelling results show that generally, despite the proposed addition of a large number of additional housing and employment sites in the Cramlington area, the majority of junctions continue to operate satisfactorily in all scenario tests. Two junctions are identified to be close to operational capacity, with the most significant impact anticipated to occur at the A1172/ A1171/ Station Road junction. Although congestion is known to occur at this junction, this is normally associated with retail traffic at specific periods rather than sustained commuter congestion

## Future baseline

It is likely that future development will locate employment sites in closer proximity to residences, in which case the methods of travel within Cramlington may shift towards more public transport, bicycle or foot. It is probable; however, that new development will lead to an increase in the number of vehicles on the road system, which may increase journey times within the Neighbourhood Area. In order to deal with this extra capacity, car parking issues need to be addressed to allow for future growth.

In order to reduce further reliance on the automobile, rail services to higher order urban centres could be increased. This may include increasing the number of commuter trains to Newcastle to arrive prior to 9:00am, and may address the recently declining patronage figures for rail travel. Alternatively, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership as well as members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are looking into the viability of replacing the existing Rail Station at Cramlington with a modern station on a new site closer to the Manor Walks Shopping and Employment Centre, and to then encourage other rail operators to serve the station.



## APPENDIX B: ASSESSMENT OF CRAMLINGTON NP SITE OPTIONS

This Appendix sets out the appraisal findings for each site option against the SEA Objectives.

For each site option, the potential effects have been identified according to one of the categories set out below. It is important to note that the effects may be different dependant upon scheme details. The appraisal at this stage is intended to illustrate the broad constraints and opportunities for each site option without taking specific mitigation and enhancement measures into account.

++ Potential for significant positive effect      + Potential for positive effect

- Neutral Effect      ? Uncertain Effect

XX Potential for significant negative effect      X Potential for negative Effect

**Site 1 – Land North West of Hartford Farm**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Ancient replanted woodland adjacent to the north of the site, likely to require a buffer zone . Also adjacent to the River Blyth (Site of Nature Conservation Importance). Part of South East Northumberland Wildlife Network	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage as there are reports of surface water flooding.	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Flood Zones 3b, 3a and 2 along northern edge of the site, and reports of some surface water flooding.	XX
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Part of the site is designated as Landscape of high value, and is entirely within the Green Belt.	XX
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Development would result in an illogical settlement pattern.	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, although is not classed as good quality agricultural land	-
8.To ensure good air quality	Development of such a large site would significantly increase vehicle movements to and from the site, and therefore has the potential to have a significant positive effect.	XX
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Uncertain impact as the site is adjacent to the River Blyth	?

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Site is detached from the existing urban area and therefore would not support this SEA objective	X
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Development of the site would provide additional homes for the NPA and therefore support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Site is not expected to have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Site is detached from the existing urban area and therefore would not support this SEA objective	X
<b>Conclusion</b>		
<p>Site is considered to have negative impacts on flood risk, the Green Belt and is within an Area of High Landscape Value, air quality, accessibility and the South East Northumberland Wildlife Network.</p> <p>The significant negative effects are recorded against SEA objective 1, 4,5,6,8, 10 and 13.</p>		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
<p>The site is not allocated because there are specific constraints relating to part location in the Green Belt, landscape value and biodiversity. The site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington would significantly extend the town to the north of the dual carriageway, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is unacceptable.</p>		

**Site ref 2 Land to the West of East Hartford**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Part of South East Northumberland Wildlife Network. Meta population of Newts, and a pond takes up around a quarter of the site. The River Blyth (a Site of Nature Conservation Importance) flows to the north of the site. Ancient replanted woodland adjacent to the north of the site, likely to require a buffer zone	XX
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Greenfield site, north boundary is adjacent to the River Blyth and therefore development could increase surface water run-off. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage as there are reports of surface water flooding.	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Suggested the site suffers from some surface water flooding and adjacent to the River Blyth, site is greenfield as well and therefore could have a significant effect on this SEA objective	XX
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Site is detached from the existing Urban area of the NPA	XX
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Site is adjacent to an Area of High Landscape Value and is located in a wider archaeological landscape	?
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	Majority of site is Grade 3b agricultural land, some is Grade 3a	X
8.To ensure good air quality	Development of the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, and given the potential scale of development, could result in a significant negative effect.	XX
9.To protect and enhance the quality of	Site is adjacent to River Blyth therefore uncertain impact.	?

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters		
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	North of A192 therefore detached from the existing urban area in the NPA	XX
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Development would support the SEA objective by delivering additional homes to the NPA	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is some distance from health facilities, and is detached from the existing urban area and not clear as to how attractive and realistic walking and cycling would be to and from the site.	X
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	North of A192 therefore detached from the existing urban area in the NPA	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
<p>Site is considered to have negative impacts on biodiversity, including a population of Newts and the South East Northumberland Wildlife Network. The site is within an archaeological landscape and adjacent to an Area of High Landscape Value.</p> <p>The significant negative effects are recorded against SEA objective 1, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 13.</p>		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
<p>Although relatively unconstrained in terms of settlement wide constraints, there are constraints relating to landscape value and biodiversity. The site's spatial location in relation to the rest of Cramlington, in terms of access to services and facilities suggests the site is unacceptable.</p>		



**Site 3 – Land North of East Hartford**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is not within a biodiversity designation, although it is a greenfield site and there have been protected species recorded on the site. The Woodland to the North of the site would require a buffer from the development.	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development will likely increase greenhouse gases especially in the short term	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Uncertain as the site's north boundary is adjacent to the River Blyth and therefore development could increase surface water run-off, and development would prevent the area performing a temporary flood water storage role.	?
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Some Surface water flooding has been recorded on the site, but it is not flagged up as a serious constraint, although the site is greenfield and development could increase run off, and along with the northern boundary of the site adjacent to the River Blyth development is unlikely to reduce flood risk.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Site is detached from the existing Urban area of the NPA and development would create an illogical development pattern.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Site is adjacent to an Area of High Landscape Value and is located in a wider archaeological landscape	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	Site is mainly Grade 3a agricultural Land	XX
8. To ensure good air quality	Development of the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, and given the potential scale of development, could result in a significant negative effect.	XX
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Site is adjacent to River Blyth therefore uncertain impact.	?

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	North of A192 therefore detached from the existing urban area in the NPA	XX
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Development would support the SEA objective by delivering additional homes to the NPA	+
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is some distance from health facilities, and is detached from the existing urban area and not clear as to how attractive and realistic walking and cycling would be to and from the site.	X
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	North of A192 therefore detached from the existing urban area in the NPA	XX
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Site is considered to have significant negative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, good quality agricultural land, and is not considered as being in an accessible location. The site is adjacent to an Area of High Landscape Value.</p> <p>The significant negative effects are recorded against SEA objective 7, 8, 10 and 13.</p>		
<p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <p>As the site has some reports of surface water flooding, SuDs can mitigate the impact of increased run off from development of a greenfield site.</p>		
<p><b>Decision making rationale</b></p> <p>Site identifies a number of constraints: highways constraints, proximity to sewage works, pylons and protected species suggest that the site is unlikely to be deliverable at the present time.</p>		

**Site 4 – Land at Shankhouse**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is not considered to have a designated biodiversity value	+
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, but in the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Majority of site in Flood Risk Zone 2, part of site is in 3b.	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Majority of site in Flood Risk Zone 2, part of site is in 3b. A water course passes through the centre of the site.	XX
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is adjacent to the existing urban area, but provides a buffer between the settlement and a busy road and roundabout.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is adjacent to the existing urban area and therefore would not have as significant an impact as other locations.	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield , but is not considered as good quality agricultural land	-
8.To ensure good air quality	Site is adjacent to main roads to the north and east, and a busy roundabout.	X
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	A watercourse crosses the site therefore development would need to take account of this	?
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Although the site is adjacent to the urban area, the site is considered to be remote from the town centre, although it is closer to employment sites.	+
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposed for housing and therefore would make a contribution to meeting the identified housing need in the NPA.	+
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Whether development of the site would have a positive effect on this SEA objective is uncertain.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	It is suggested that although the site is adjacent to the urban area, its access to services and facilities is still constrained.	X
<b>Conclusion</b>		
<p>Site is considered to have negative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, reducing flood risk, and future residents may suffer from increased air pollution from the adjacent roads and roundabout. In addition, although the site is relatively close to employment sites, it is still remote from the majority of services and facilities.</p> <p>The site records significant negative effects on SEA objectives 3 and 4.</p>		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
SuDs can mitigate the impact of increased run off from development of a greenfield site.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
With a water course, pylons and electricity lines, and a pipeline crossing the site the site is not considered suitable for housing. Parts of site have significant flood risk, and there are also access and noise constraints.		

**Site 5- Land to East of Bog Houses**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is not considered to have a designated biodiversity value	+
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, but in the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Majority of site in Flood Risk Zone 2, part of site is in 3b.	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Majority of site in Flood Risk Zone 2, part of site is in 3b. A water course passes through the centre of the site.	XX
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is part of an Archaeologic site, the 'Plessey Old Waggonway'.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is detached from the existing urban area and development would result in an illogical settlement pattern.	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield although is not considered as good quality agricultural Land. Contaminants (Stythe gas) are present. Redevelopment could provide an opportunity to remediate the land.	-
8.To ensure good air quality	The site is adjacent to the A192 and the A189/A192 roundabout; therefore air quality would be an issue for future residents.	X
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Water course runs through the site, therefore development would impact on this.	?
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	North of A192 therefore detached from the existing urban area in the NPA	XX
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Site is proposed for residential and therefore would help meet the identified housing requirement for the NPA	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Uncertain impact, although given the sites location it is unlikely to have a positive effect on the SEA objective.	x
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is landlocked by roads and is detached from the existing urban area, therefore future residents would be unlikely to walk or cycle to access services and facilities due to the location.	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
<p>The majority of the site is flood risk zone 2, part is in 3b. The site is part of an Archaeological site, the Plessey Old Waggonway, and air pollution may be an issue for future residents. In addition the site is detached from the urban area.</p> <p>The site recorded significant negative effects against SEA objectives 3,4,10 and 13.</p>		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
<p>In terms of mitigation, SuDs should be implemented to reduce increasing any existing flood risk – the design of development should exclude those areas within 3b, and protection should also be given to the Archaeological site. Some form of acoustic barrier should also be designed in, so as to protect future residents from noise issues.</p>		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
<p>The site has a number of constraints including noise, contamination, pylons, a watercourse, flood risk, an archaeological site and highway issues, which make it unsuitable for housing at this time.</p>		

**Site 6 - Land to South West of Cheadle Avenue**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Development of this site would not have any significant effects on the SEA objective	-
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	There have been instances of surface water flooding, therefore these would need to be mitigated	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Site is outside of areas at a high risk of flooding therefore the impact would be positive, if the surface water issues can be addressed	+
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is an infill site and as such would reinforce the urban area of Cramlington, for example by protecting the strategic function of the Green Belt.	+
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The design of the development would be required to conserve and enhance the townscape features	?/+
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, although the site is not considered as being good quality agricultural land	-
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect	-
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site does have a small watercourse and therefore the design should take this into account, and maintain or improve the water quality.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is an infill site within the existing urban area and close to Nelson Park Industrial Estate (Although this is across a busy road). It is also close to schools and the health centre therefore scores a significant positive effect against this SEA objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
There have been instances of surface water flooding therefore any development would need to mitigate the risk of this through appropriate use of SuDs.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Site functions as open space, with residential areas to three sides. Developer has confirmed that a scheme is no longer being pursued for the site with no proposals likely in the foreseeable future. Multiple private ownership may impact upon availability.		



**Site 8 – Land to rear of Brockwell Centre**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site falls within the south east Northumberland Wildlife Network	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is open space / scrub land and therefore development of the land may reduce the areas ability to adapt to climate change (temporary flood storage, tree cover, green infrastructure etc.)	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	The site appears to be unaffected by climate change issues relating to flooding and therefore supports the SEA objective.	++
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Development of the site would reinforce the urban area of Cramlington, and although green space would be lost, it is not considered of high value. The site would also protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	++
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The design of the development would be required to conserve and enhance the townscape features	?/+
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, but is not classed as good quality agricultural land	
8.To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site does not have any watercourses running through or adjacent and therefore is not considered to have an effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is close to schools and other amenities and services and therefore supports this SEA objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Significant mine gas concerns prevents housing development on the site at this point in time.		

**Site 9 – Nelson Village Recreation Ground**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Large Greenfield site and although not in an official designation it is likely to have some value.	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is open space and therefore development of the land may reduce the area's ability to adapt to climate change (temporary flood storage, tree cover, green infrastructure etc.)	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	The site has experienced some surface water flooding, but is not within a higher risk flood zone	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is adjacent to the existing urban area, and although green space would be lost, the site would protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	+
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is adjacent to Nelson Village and therefore the design would need to reinforce the character of the area.	?
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, but is not considered as good quality agricultural land	-
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect. In addition the site is well connected and therefore offers the opportunity for future residents to access services and facilities by walking, cycling, or public transport.	+

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site does not have any watercourses running through or adjacent and therefore is not considered to have an effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is well connected to services and facilities, close to employment sites, the town centre and the railway station and therefore supports the SEA Objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities. In mitigating the negative impact surrounding the loss of open space, this would be addressed by replacement and improved open space within the locality.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
<p>The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.</p> <p>The site is considered to have a significant negative effect against SEA3 as the site is open space and therefore development of the land may reduce the areas ability to adapt to climate change.</p>		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
Mitigation measures against this site would be concerned with reducing surface water flood risk, and replacement and enhanced open space.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
The site is well connected to services and facilities within an established residential area.		

**Site 10 – Cramlington Fire Station, Shankhouse**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	No biodiversity issues, brownfield site on the edge of the urban area	++
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact on this SEA objective, especially in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Redevelopment of the brownfield site would not have a significant effect on this SEA objective.	-
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Site is within flood risk zone 2 and has some surface water flooding issues, however the site is brownfield and development would be unlikely to increase existing run off rates.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is on the edge of the urban area and would not have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is not expected to have a significant impact on the conservation area nor on other townscape features	-
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is brownfield and therefore would avoid losing agricultural land to development	+
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland’s ground, river and sea waters	There is a water course alongside the eastern part of the site and Horton Burn is to the North. Overall the impact is uncertain	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is considered as being in an area that is reasonable accessible to the town centre, and employment sites, therefore has a positive effect on the SEA objective.	+
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is not expected to have a significant effect either way on this SEA objective, although it is brownfield and therefore development would not reduce the levels of open space.	-
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is on the edge of the urban area and reasonably accessible. The location would offer potential residents the choice of public transport to access services and facilities, although it is unlikely to help reduce vehicle movements.	+
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Overall, the site is not expected to have significant positive or negative effects. However, it is a brownfield edge of urban area site, with no known biodiversity issues and therefore has a significant positive effect against SEA 1, and would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support SEA11.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
Development would need to mitigate risks associated with flood risk zone 2.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Whilst the site is brownfielded there remain unresolved issue with regard to flood risk.		

**Site 11 – Officer’s club (North)**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington’s biodiversity and geodiversity.	Site is adjacent to a Local Nature Reserve and subject to a TPO, although it is within an existing industrial estate. Reported that Red Squirrels are likely to be present.	XX
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	Removal of trees would have a negative effect on the SEA objective, as they act as a carbon sink. New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington’s resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation and would increase run off rates. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	The site is not considered to be in a high risk flood zone therefore would support the SEA objective, although it is greenfield and therefore would require mitigation in terms of run off rates.	+
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington’s rural and urban landscapes.	The site is a heavily wooded area within an existing industrial estate and development would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscape.	The site if developed for residential would be unlikely to improve the visual and spatial relationships in and between the towns’ residential, business and commercial sectors	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	Although the site is not classed as good quality agricultural land, it is greenfield and heavily wooded and therefore development would not support the SEA objective	X

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
8.To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect. In addition the site is well connected and therefore offers the opportunity for future residents to access services and facilities by walking, cycling, or public transport.	+
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site has recorded instances of sewer flooding, and any new development would obviously have to address this whilst ensuring the development supported the relevant elements of the SEA objective, however the impacts either positive or negative are not expected to be significant	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is well located in relation to employment sites and the town centre and its associated services and facilities therefore records a significant positive effect.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is not expected to have a significant effect either way on this SEA objective, although it is greenfield and has significant tree cover.	-
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is covered by TPOs and there are reported protected species on site, both of which result in a significant negative effect on SEA1 and biodiversity. The significant positive effects relate to SEA10, 11 and 13, due to the sites location close to employment sites and the town centre, and its contribution to the identified housing requirement in the NPA.		



SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Mitigation</b> Design of the site should include SuDs in order to reduce the increased run off rate.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b> Site consists mainly of woodland and is situated within an industrial area of Cramlington. Site is not suitable as it is currently allocated employment land, due to be retained as part of emerging Local Plan policy.		

**Site 16- Land East of Fisher Lane**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is adjacent to a SSSI, and protected species have been recorded locally. The site is within the South East Northumberland Wildlife Network and wildlife corridor	XX
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Although the site has recorded instances of surface water flooding, it is not in a high risk flood zone	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site if developed would be isolated from the town centre and would create an illogical settlement pattern, even allowing for the fact the northern part of the site is adjacent to the south west sector. The site is also adjoins an Area of High Landscape Value.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site if developed would be isolated from the town centre and would create an illogical settlement pattern, which would have a negative effect against this SEA objective	X
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield and is Grade 3b agricultural land.	X
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site is not considered to have a significant effect either positive or negative against this SEA objective	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is isolated and is not connected to services and facilities, close to employment sites, the town centre or the railway station and therefore has a negative effect on the SEA Objective.	X
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is isolated from the town centre and would result in a loss of green space, and it is likely that active modes of travel (walking & cycling) would not be attractive options in this location	X
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is isolated and detached from the existing urban area and therefore would have a negative effect on this SEA objective	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Development of the site would have significant negative effects on SEA1 and biodiversity, as it is within a wildlife habitat network, and on SEA 13 and reducing the need to travel as it is detached from the existing urban area and isolated.		
The site does record a significant positive effect on SEA 11 however as it would contribute to meeting the identified housing requirement in the NPA.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
The site if allocated would need to mitigate the effect on the wildlife habitat network.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Developer has indicated that the site is undeliverable due to significant site constraints e.g. its location and potential impact on the adjacent SSSI, access requirements, pylon location and noise implications due to proximity to the A1086.		

**Site 17- South West Sector 3**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Small part of site in the south east Nothumberland Wildlife Network, suggests the site has some value, and it is adjacent to a SSSI.	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage as there are reports of surface water flooding.	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Although the site does not appear to be at a high risk of flooding from fluvial sources, it does have some reports of surface water flooding and is greenfield.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The development of the site would, on its own create an illogical settlement pattern, and is adjacent to an Area of High Landscape Value. However it is part of the south west sector development and would be delivered after the other two sites and therefore would reinforce the edge of the future urban area of Cramlington.	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site would not impact on the Conservation Area, although the design would need to be consistent with the other phases of the south west sector.	?
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, and the majority of the site is classed as Grade 3b agricultural land, with some small areas of Grade 3a.	X
8.To ensure good air quality	Development of the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, and given the potential scale of development, could result in a significant negative effect; however the site is relatively close to the town centre, and would be closer to the facilities and services delivered through the south west sector.	X

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	A watercourse crosses east to west; therefore the impact is uncertain, although higher level policies would be expected to maintain the existing quality.	?
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Overall positive, if taken in the context of the permitted phases of the other south west sector development.	+
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site would make a significant positive contribution to meeting the identified housing needs of the NPA and therefore this SEA objective as well.	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	It would be expected that the south west sector would deliver facilities that would support this SEA objective.	+
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site would not come forward until phases 1 and 2 of the south west sector have been delivered, this will allow road improvements to be made which will increase accessibility to the town centre and could help increase the number of trips made on foot or cycle.	+
<b>Conclusion</b>		
On its own, the site would be expected to have a number of significant negative effects; however, these are mitigated by and large as a result of the site being part of the overall south west sector, and the associated services and facilities that are to be delivered as part of the development.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
The potential significant effects are mitigated by the south west sector in terms of accessibility, green spaces, although as the site is greenfield the adoption of SuDs will be necessary to mitigate the increased run off and associated surface water flooding.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Highways network cannot be developed until phases 1 and 2 of the SWS are developed. Impact on adjacent SSSI and protected species requires further assessment.		

**Site 20 – East Cramlington Farmhouse**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Site is within a Green Corridor, and adjacent to Lanercost Nature Area.	XX
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is a former farmhouse and lies outside of any high risk flood zones -- expected to have a neutral effect overall.	-
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Site is outside high risk flood areas and therefore development would support this SEA objective	++
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The impact would be dependent on the design of the development, although the site does lie to the east of the A189 and the existing urban area	X
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Although the site is relatively close to the town centre, it is on the east of the A189, although the site is adjacent to a cluster of existing residential properties, the impact will be dependent on the design but is not expected to have a significant effect	-
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is partially brownfield, and is not good quality agricultural land.	+
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-
9. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site is not considered to have a significant effect either positive or negative against this SEA objective	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Although the A189 is a barrier to the west of the site, it is relatively close to the town centre and can be accessed on foot via a footbridge across the A189.	+
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Development of the site would not result in the loss of open space, and is located in an area where walking to and from the town centre is a realistic option, and is adjacent to a nature reserve therefore is largely supportive of the SEA objective	+
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Development of the site would offer realistic walking access to and from the town centre.	+
<b>Conclusion</b> Development of the site would have significant negative effects on SEA1 and biodiversity, as it is within a green corridor, although it does record a significant positive effect on SEA 4 as it is not within higher risk flood zones, and SEA 11 as it would contribute to meeting the identified housing requirement in the NPA.		
<b>Mitigation</b> Any development would need to compensate for the loss of the green corridor, through either on or off site measures.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b> Accessible, brown field site with limited constraints.		

## Site 21 – Land at Carlcroft Place

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	No specific biodiversity designation although the site is urban green space and therefore development of the site is likely to have some effect	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage as there are reports of surface water flooding.	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Although the site does not appear to be at a high risk of flooding from fluvial sources, it does have some reports of surface water flooding and is greenfield.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The development of the site would reinforce the urban area of Cramlington, as the site is within an established residential area although it is open space. The site would also protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	+
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The design of the development would be required to conserve and enhance the townscape features	?/+
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, although is not classed as good quality agricultural land	-
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-



SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Site is not expected to have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is located within the existing urban area close to the town centre and therefore development would have a positive effect on this SEA objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
As the site has some reports of surface water flooding, SuDs can mitigate the impact of increased run off from development of a greenfield site.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Much of site is designated open space. Site cannot be accessed without additional land acquisition.		

**Site 22 – Land at Hall Close Grange**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	No specific biodiversity designation although the site is urban green space and therefore development of the site is likely to have some effect	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage as there are reports of surface water flooding.	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Although the site does not appear to be at a high risk of flooding from fluvial sources, it does have some reports of surface water flooding and is greenfield.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The development of the site would reinforce the urban area of Cramlington, as the site is within an established residential area although it is open space. The site would also protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	+
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The design of the development would be required to conserve and enhance the townscape features	?/+
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, although is not classed as good quality agricultural land	-
8.To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Site is not expected to have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is located within the existing urban area close to the town centre and therefore development would have a positive effect on this SEA objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Overall uncertain impact, the site is open space which could be lost to development, although the site is close to existing healthcare facilities.	?
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
As the site has some reports of surface water flooding, SuDs can mitigate the impact of increased run off from development of a greenfield site.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Access only through car park, may need dedicated highway access. Sewer/main cross the site.		

**Site 23 – Westfield, Cramlington Village**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Site has TPOs to the south of the site	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	The site is a residential / gardens therefore is not expected to have a significant effect against the SEA objective	-
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Site is not expected to have a significant effect on this SEA objective although majority is greenfield	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is within the Conservation Area, although development would help protect the strategic function of the Green Belt.	-
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site is within the Conservation Area and therefore development could have a significant effect on the SEA objective although this will be dependent on the design.	?
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is existing residential and gardens, therefore development would not have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-
8.To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Site is not expected to have a significant effect on the SEA objective.	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is located within the existing urban area close to the town centre and therefore development would have a positive effect on this SEA objective.	++
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is close to existing healthcare facilities, open space and the town centre.	+
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	Due to the location of the site it is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA objective, as it is located within the existing urban area and future residents would have opportunities to walk / cycle to access services and facilities.	++
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is predicted to have significant positive effects on SEA 10 and the accessibility of services and facilities, SEA11 and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home, and SEA13 reducing the need for travel and improve transport integration.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
SuDs can mitigate the impact of increased run off from development of a greenfield site.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Previous planning permission has lapsed suggesting lack of developer interest.		

**Site 24 – Land west of A1068**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is a Green Corridor , and in the South East Northumberland Wildlife Network	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2.To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, although the capacity of the site means the impacts would not be significant. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site as is could offer temporary flood storage	X
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Although the site has recorded instances of surface water flooding, it is not in a high risk flood zone	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is adjacent to an open cast mine and is detached from the existing residential areas in Cramlington; in addition the site is in the Green Belt	XX
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Development of the site would have a negative effect with regards to improving the spatial relationship in and between the residential, business and commercial sectors of the town as residential development would create an isolated pocket of housing at the western edge of the area amongst commercial and open cast mining operations.	XX
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield and is considered as grade 3b agricultural land.	X
8.To ensure good air quality	The site is adjacent to an open cast mine and close to a large industrial area, and is also within a HSE zone associated with a factory.	XX
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site is recorded as having some surface water flooding and is greenfield therefore it would increase run off.	X

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is detached from the existing residential area, although it is close to some employment opportunities, these are of a nature that would impact on any future resident's quality of life.	XX
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Development of the site would have a significant negative effect on the SEA objective as the site is adjacent to an open cast mine, and is within a HSE zone of a factory.	XX
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is detached from the existing residential area and is some distance from the town centre	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The greenfield site is detached from the existing residential area, and is adjacent to an open cast mine, a pharmaceutical factory, and a large industrial area. It is also within a HSE zone. It is considered to have significant negative effects on SEA 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
Some of the negative effects cannot be mitigated due to the adjacent uses, although Suds can reduce run off from developing greenfield sites.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Site not considered deliverable due to lack of access and location adjacent a large industrial area west of Cramlington. Culmination of other constraints also suggest that site is not deliverable.		

**Site 25– Land east of A1, West Cramlington (part)**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	The site is currently an open cast mine	-
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	The site is likely to be a significant emitter of greenhouse gas emissions at present due to its operation as an open cast coal mine. Subsequent new residential development would have a negative impact in the short term. In the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve, the impacts are likely to be less significant.	-
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Residential development instead of the restoration of the surface mine and the creation of agricultural land and woodland would have a significant negative effect on the SEA objective.	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Overall uncertain impact as the site is at present a surface mine	-
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	The site is an open cast mine and is detached from the existing residential areas in Cramlington; in addition the site is in the Green Belt	XX
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Development of the site would have a negative effect with regards to improving the spatial relationship in and between the residential, business and commercial sectors of the town as residential development would create an isolated pocket of housing at the western edge of the area amongst commercial and industrial operations.	XX
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is currently an open cast mine, and is expected to be restored to agricultural and woodland, therefore residential would have a negative effect on the SEA objective	X
8. To ensure good air quality	The site is currently an open cast mine and close to a large industrial area, and is also within a HSE zone associated with a factory.	XX



SEA of Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland’s ground, river and sea waters	Overall the impact would be uncertain, as it would depend on the effect between restoration of the surface mine compared to residential	X
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	The site is detached from the existing residential area, although it is close to some employment opportunities, these are of a nature that would impact on any future resident’s quality of life.	XX
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Development of the site would have a significant negative effect on the SEA objective as the site is within a HSE zone of a factory. Contamination is likely as well due to the present use.	XX
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is detached from the existing residential area and is some distance from the town centre	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
The site is detached from the existing residential area, and is an open cast mine, adjacent to a pharmaceutical factory, and a large industrial area. It is also within a HSE zone. It is considered to have significant negative effects on SEA 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 13.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
Some of the negative effects cannot be mitigated due to the adjacent uses, although Suds can reduce run off, and the land could be remediated.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Green Belt site in countryside. Site is unsuitable for development as Green Belt designation is to be retained within emerging Local Plan policy.		

**Site 28 - Land south of B1326 at East Cramlington**

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>		
1. To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Small part of the site is within the South East Northumberland Wildlife Network	X
<b>Climate Change (including risk of flooding)</b>		
2. To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	New development would have a negative impact in the short term, in the mid to long term as technology and fuel efficiency methods improve the impacts are likely to be less significant.	X
3. To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	If developed the site would reduce the opportunity for habitat creation (wildlife network) and would increase run off rates as it is greenfield. In addition, the site could offer temporary flood storage as it is considered to be susceptible to flooding, although it is not within a high risk flood zone.	XX
4. To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	The site is greenfield therefore development would increase run off rates and reduce areas that could act as temporary surface water flood storage areas.	X
<b>Landscape and Historic Environment</b>		
5. To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Development of the site would extend east Cramlington into the open countryside and would have a negative effect on the strategic function of the Green Belt	XX
6. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	The site lies to the east of the A189, in the Green Belt, although is adjacent to a recently permitted residential development.	x
<b>Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources</b>		
7. To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources.	The site is greenfield, although it is not classed as good quality agricultural land	X
8. To ensure good air quality	Although the site will result in increased vehicle movements to and from the site, the scale of development, and therefore the number of associated vehicle movements is not likely to be so great as to result in a significant negative effect.	-

SEA Theme and Objectives	Commentary	Effect
9.To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	The site is not considered to have a significant effect either positive or negative against this SEA objective	-
<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>		
10. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Site is located to the east of the A189 and is somewhat detached from the main urban area, even allowing for the adjacent residential development.	X
11. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	The site is proposing residential and therefore would contribute to meeting the identified housing needs and support this SEA objective	++
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
12. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	The site is isolated from the town centre and would result in a loss of green space, and it is likely that active modes of travel (walking & cycling) would not be attractive options in this location, to the east of the A189	X
<b>Transportation and accessibility</b>		
13. To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.	The site is isolated and detached from the existing urban area and therefore would have a negative effect on this SEA objective	XX
<b>Conclusion</b>		
Overall the site recorded significant negative effects against SEA objectives 3, 5 and 13 due to the potential effects on climate change adaptation, the Green Belt, and the relatively detached location of the site. The site did however record a significant positive effect against SEA11 as the proposal is for residential.		
<b>Mitigation</b>		
Some of the negative effects cannot be mitigated due to the location of the site, although in terms of surface water flooding, SuDs can reduce run off.		
<b>Decision making rationale</b>		
Green Belt site in countryside. Site is unsuitable for development as Green Belt designation is to be retained within emerging Local Plan policy.		

## **APPENDIX C: APPRAISAL OF SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY OPTIONS**

SEA Objective	Appraisal commentary			
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>				
To protect and enhance Cramlington's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	x	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The areas that are proposed for inclusion within the settlement boundary fall within close proximity to areas that are designated for their biodiversity value. This includes a Local Nature Reserve to the north of the existing settlement and Arcot Hall Grassland and Ponds SSSI to the south west. The area of land that is affected in the south-west forms only a small part of a larger site allocation for the south west sector. It should also be acknowledged that the area to the north is already allocated in the Blyth Valley Core Strategy for employment uses.</p> <p>Although no development is proposed as such in either location, the formal inclusion of greenfield land within the new settlement boundary is likely to make development here more likely to occur in the Plan period.</p> <p>In the locations concerned, this could lead to disturbance during construction, as well as longer term effects on habitats due to recreational pressure, light and noise pollution. For option 1, a negative effect is therefore predicted. Any development that comes forward in these areas ought to incorporate measures to mitigate any negative effects and secure enhancements wherever possible, this would be considered in detail through the development management process. Option 2 is predicted to have neutral effects, as it would be a continuation of the existing situation.</p>			
<b>Climate change mitigation</b>				
To mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Cramlington	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	Expanding the settlement boundary is unlikely to lead to a significant change in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions being emitted. Development on the edges of the settlement could possibly lead to an increase in car travel, but the scale of effects would be small. Consequently, a neutral effect is predicted for both options.			

<b>Climate change adaptation</b>				
To ensure Cramlington's resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>Whilst greenfield land would be lost should development come forward in these areas, it does not currently serve a strong function in relation to climate change resilience. Much of the surrounding areas have also been permitted planning permissions or are part of existing Plan allocations. Therefore, significant effects would not be anticipated.</p> <p>Should strategic development be proposed on greenfield land (which is now included within the settlement boundary) there may potentially be opportunities to secure improvements through natural shading, green infrastructure and other sustainability measures. However this is dependent upon scheme details.</p> <p>Overall, neutral effects are predicted for both options.</p>			
To avoid or reduce flood risk to people and property in Cramlington.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The areas that are proposed for inclusion within the settlement boundary are categorised as flood zone 1. Therefore, any changes here are not likely to lead to an increase in the amount of development at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Development in areas now classified as within the settlement boundary is likely to lead to a reduction in green space at the edge of the settlement. However, this is not likely to have a considerable effect on rates of run-off and flooding downstream, particularly as SUDs would be expected.</p> <p>Consequently, neutral effects are predicted for both options.</p>			
<b>Built and natural environment</b>				
To protect and, enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Cramlington's rural and urban landscapes.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The areas that are affected by proposed boundary changes have been identified as areas of least concern in a landscape study. This suggests that development is not likely to have significant effects on landscape quality. Nevertheless, these areas are currently green space, and so there may be a perception that visual amenity is affected.</p> <p>As mentioned for other SA Objectives, the effects cannot be attributed purely to a change in boundary, as the areas in question have already been identified as potential locations for development with much of the areas already benefiting from planning permission or an existing allocation.</p> <p>It is therefore probable that these would become built-up in any event (though perhaps in the longer term).</p> <p>Overall, a neutral effect is predicted for both options.</p>			

Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	✘	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The amendments to the boundary would mean that development in the new settlement area is more acceptable in principle. At the south-west of the settlement, the expanded area recognises the full potential of the strategic site over the long term. In this location, there are no designated heritage assets that would be directly affected by development. However, there are several listed farm buildings to the south of the area. Subsequent development of this parcel of land would change the open setting to these buildings to an extent.</p> <p>This could have negative effects, but ought to be possible to mitigate with buffer zone and landscape measures. It should be acknowledged that this parcel of land has previously been identified as part of a wider strategic allocation. Development may therefore be proposed without changes to the boundary. However, the changes ought to make it easier for development to come forward sooner. Consequently, a minor negative effect is predicted.</p> <p>Option 2 would have neutral effects as the situation would remain the same.</p>			

Land, Soil, Air and Water Resources				
To ensure prudent use and supply of natural resources	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	✘	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The land to be included within the settlement boundary is mostly agricultural in nature and has been categorised as Grade 3. It is not clear whether this is best and most versatile (3a) or not (3b).</p> <p>It is more likely that this land will be developed given that it is included within the settlement boundary. However, much of the site already has planning permission or is allocated in current Plans. Therefore, whilst a loss of soil is probable.</p> <p>The amount that would be lost is very minor in the context of available resources in the County and much of the area could be expected to be affected anyway. Therefore, the effects are not significant.</p> <p>For option 2 a neutral effect is predicted.</p>			
To ensure good air quality	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>There are no air quality management areas within Cramlington, nor are there locations that exceed air quality standards substantially or on a regular basis. Though changes to the settlement boundary could encourage more development on the edge of the urban areas (which are less connected to services), it is unlikely that the number of trips generated would affect air quality significantly.</p> <p>Furthermore, much of the areas affected already have planning permission or are existing allocations, so the magnitude of effects would be very small. Consequently, a neutral effect is predicted for both options.</p>			

To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's ground, river and sea waters	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The land is not within sensitive areas with regards to ground water, and so effects are unlikely to occur should development come forward.</p> <p>New development could have short term negative effects, as the areas involved are within proximity to watercourses (for example the River Bylth to the north). Construction could lead to temporary negative effects on water, but it is expected that mitigation measures would be in place to manage these. In the longer term, development could incorporate SUDs, which would help to ensure that negative effects are avoided.</p> <p>It is also likely that water saving measures will be encouraged through new development through an improvement in building standards. Therefore, any development in this area in the longer term ought to have some benefits. This is not directly attributable to the decision to expand the settlement boundary though.</p> <p>Overall, neutral effects are predicted for both options.</p>			

<b>Housing, Population and Community</b>				
To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	✓?	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The areas to be included within the settlement boundary are currently green space / agricultural land. However, much of this already has planning permission or is allocated in current Plans.</p> <p>These are not formal areas of open space or used for sports and leisure.</p> <p>There are no community facilities that would be affected should these areas subsequently become developed. Negative effects on community facilities are therefore unlikely.</p> <p>New residential development could be facilitated as a result of the settlement boundary being amended to the south west. This could include enhancements to green infrastructure and the provision of new community facilities. Much of the area is already allocated or benefits from planning permission though; and so the scope of effects would be minor.</p> <p>New residential development should also have good access to social facilities at Cramlington Learning Village, which could be positive for such communities with regards to social capital. However, these effects are uncertain, and not directly attributable to the boundary being amended. Consequently, only minor positive effects are predicted for option 1, and these are uncertain. As there would be no change for option 2; neutral effects are predicted.</p>			



To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	✓?	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>The area of land included within the settlement boundary to the south west is likely to form part of a larger strategic development. Though this parcel of land is not considered to be available until the longer term, it is part of the broader masterplan area for this location. Therefore, in the longer term, the settlement boundary could be altered, but not recognised in policy (For option 2).</p> <p>With regards to housing, option 1 could possibly help to encourage and facilitate development in this location more effectively (by recognising that it will form part of the formal settlement area). This could potentially have some minor positive effects with regards to housing delivery. However, the effects are uncertain and would not be significant given the long term commitment to this site as a strategic allocation for growth.</p>			

Health and Wellbeing				
To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.	Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary	↔	Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary	↔
	<p>Changes to the settlement boundary and subsequent development of these areas could help to improve access to the countryside and to recreational activities should there be enhancements to green infrastructure (in areas that are currently agricultural in nature). However, it is unlikely this would have a substantial effect upon health and wellbeing in Cramlington overall.</p> <p>A change in use in these areas could be perceived as negative by some communities, but similarly the effects would be negligible.</p>			

**Transportation and accessibility**

<p>To reduce the need for travel and improve transport integration.</p>	<p>Option 1: Amendments to the settlement boundary</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Option 2: No changes to the settlement boundary</p>	<p>↔</p>
	<p>Expanding parts of the settlement boundary further is (in principle) supportive of development on the edges of the current built-up area. This could lead to an increase in car trips to and from these areas, as they are generally less well serviced by public facilities and public transport options.</p> <p>However, employment development to the north would be in close proximity to an existing business park with established infrastructure and transport links. It is therefore considered unlikely that negative effects would be prominent.</p> <p>Residential or mixed-use development to the south-west of the settlements could also lead to an increase in car trips, but it is likely to be part of a larger strategic development, which ought to be well served by public services and transport.</p> <p>It is also important to acknowledge that development may also be brought forward in the absence of a formal boundary change, and is not directly attributable.</p> <p>Consequently, only a slight negative effect is predicted for option 1 as it may help to encourage and facilitate development quicker. The effects for option 2 are neutral given that there would be no change to the boundary.</p> <p>In the long term, the effects are not likely to be significantly different between either option, as similar amounts of development are likely to come forward irrespective of this policy.</p>			

## APPENDIX D: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM DYSART DEVELOPMENTS LTD

### Comment 1:

It is unclear whether there has been a formal screening stage undertaken for the SEA (rather the document makes reference to the SEA being 'screened in'). Our Client therefore has concerns that procedurally, the CNP has not been prepared correctly and as such, would not meet the Basic Conditions in that the process is not compatible with European Union obligations.

#### *Response:*

An Environmental Report or a Screening Opinion (stating that SEA is not required) must be submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. There is no obligation to provide a screening opinion if the decision to undertake an SEA has been reached. The SEA has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant Regulations.

### Comment 2:

The SEA does seek to assess an alternative and considers changes to the settlement boundary as well as alternative sites. However, we do not deem the analysis to the proposed boundary to be thorough and robust, rather it reads more like a fait accompli in that it fails to mention amendments to boundaries to accommodate future sustainable growth of Cramlington (for instance through examining land that has previously been released from the Green Belt) rather it is narrow in nature and effectively assess one additional alternative as opposed to exploring other possibilities.

#### *Response:*

*The Steering group has identified potential amendments to the boundary based upon a settlement boundary methodology. This culminated in proposed amendments to the boundary in the draft Plan. There could be countless alternatives tested in the Plan with regards to exactly where settlement boundaries could be amended. However, these need to be reasonable and justified. The Steering Group do not consider that there is a need to test a range of alternative boundary changes as this exercise is addressed through the settlement boundary methodology. Therefore, only one reasonable alternative has been identified which is the 'business as usual' approach of not amending the boundaries.*

### Comment 3:

The SEA also does not explore whether the Neighbourhood Area itself has been appropriately defined or whether it needs amending to accommodate additional opportunity for growth opportunities (consistent with some of the evidence used to inform the Settlement Boundary Background Paper). As this is the case, the site analysis is incomplete as it does not assess the development potential of our Client's land adjacent to the hospital.

#### *Response:*

*It is not the role of an SEA to determine the scope of a Plan, and this includes the 'appropriateness' of the neighbourhood plan area itself (which has already been established prior to the Plan being drafted).*