

# Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Scoping Report

Eglingham Parish Council

December 2021

## Quality information

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## Acronyms

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AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Air Status Report
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
ENP	The draft Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan
EPC	Eglingham Parish Council
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LEP	Local Economic Partnership
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

# 1. Introduction

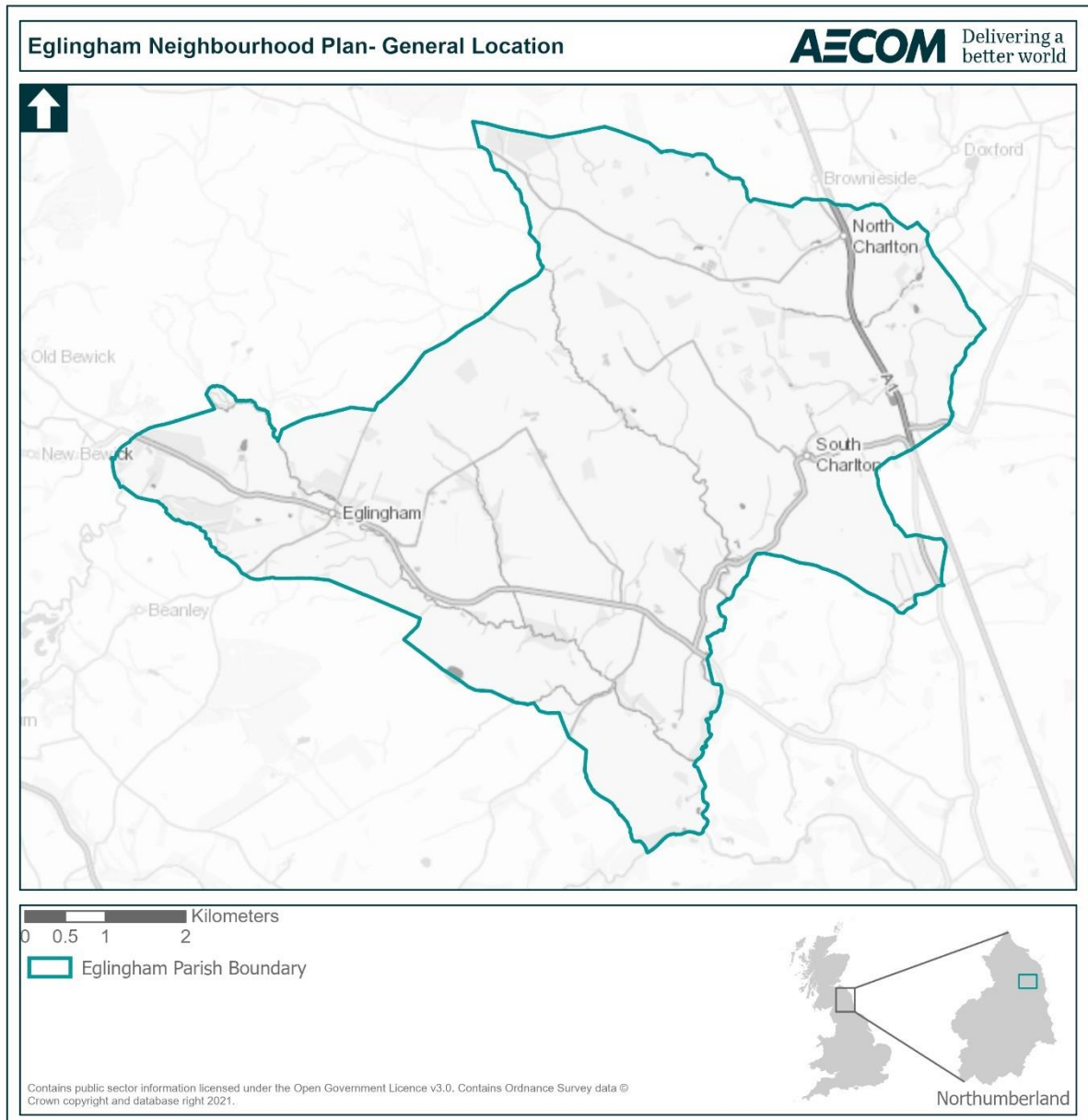
## Background

- 1.1.1 Eglington Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the sustainable future growth of the Parish. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan (NP) on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1.1.2 The Key information relating to the Eglington NP is presented in the table below (Table 1.1).

**Table 1-1. Key facts relating to the NP for Eglington**

Name of Responsible Authority	Eglington Parish Council
Title of Plan	Eglington Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The Eglington Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.</p> <p>Once 'made' the Eglington NP will be used to guide and shape development within the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the Civil Parish of Eglington. A predominantly rural Parish of three villages, interspersed with farms. It lies in North Northumberland, about 7 miles northwest of Alnwick and 10 miles (16 km) southeast of Wooler. The eastern boundary of the Parish is around 4 miles from the Northumberland Coast. The main settlements are the villages of Eglington and South Charlton. The A1 lies to the east less than a mile from South Charlton. The Parish is around 71 miles south east of Edinburgh, 43 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne and 316 miles north of London.</p>
Summary of content	The Eglington Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and a range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	David Biesterfeld; <a href="mailto:dbiesterfeld@icloud.com">dbiesterfeld@icloud.com</a>

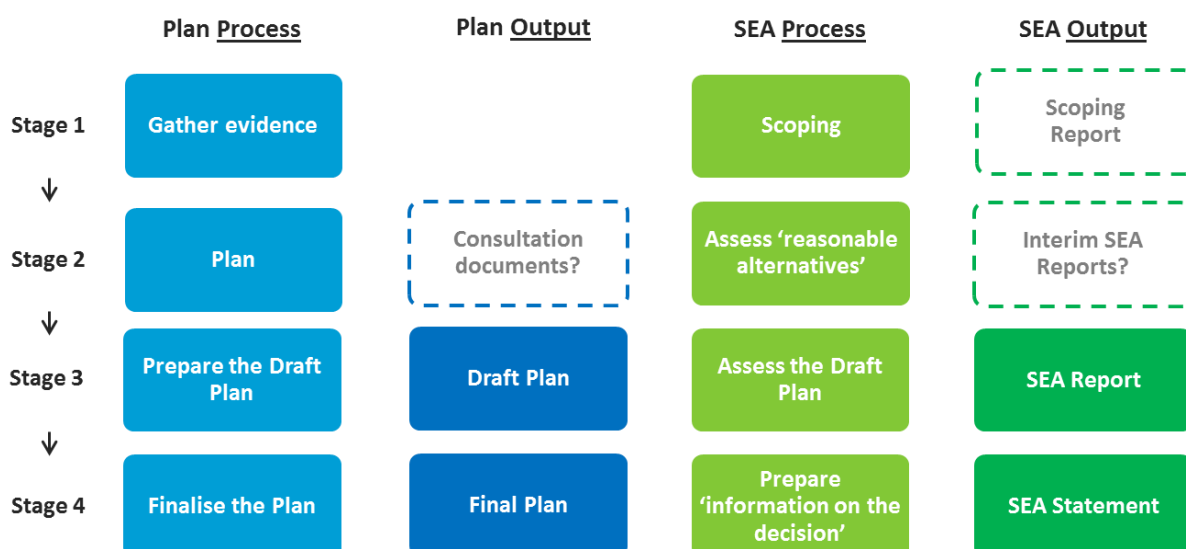
**Figure 1-1 Eglingham Location**



## SEA explained

- 1.1.3 The Eglington Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Northumberland County Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)<sup>1</sup>. 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.
- 1.1.4 The European Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>2</sup> requires certain plans to be subject to a SEA. This Directive is realised in the UK through Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations). These Regulations require an environmental assessment to be carried out on certain plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing a SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.1.5 SEA can be viewed as a four-stage process that produces a number of statutory and non-statutory outputs. As illustrated in Figure 1.2 below, ‘Scoping’ is a mandatory process under the SEA Directive, but the publication of a scoping report is a voluntary (but useful) output.

**Figure 1-2: SEA as a four step process**



<sup>1</sup> The ENP was screened-in for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) by Northumberland County Council (NCC) due to potential effects on European sites. Therefore, a SEA is required as “Appropriate Assessment” under the Habitats Regulations automatically triggers the requirement for SEA.

<sup>2</sup> [Directive 2001/42/EC](#)

## Introduction to scoping

- 1.1.6 One of the first stages in the SEA process is to establish what the key issues are that the appraisal should focus on. This is called ‘scoping’, and involves a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (a ‘contextual review’) and information about the current and future state of the environment, economy and social factors (the ‘baseline’). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.
- 1.1.7 The Regulations<sup>3</sup> require that certain statutory bodies are consulted on the scope of a SEA. This can be done in a number of ways, but most often a Scoping Report is produced that presents the key information and a methodology for how future appraisals will be undertaken. Statutory Consultees have 5 weeks to comment on the scope of the appraisal. In England, the statutory consultees are Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.
- 1.1.8 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- Defining the broader context for the Eglingham NP and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
  - Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Eglingham NP) to help identify the plan’s likely significant effects;
  - Identifying particular problems or opportunities (‘issues’) that should be a focus of the SEA; and
  - Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions based on these issues, which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

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<sup>3</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004



## Scoping outcomes

1.1.9 The SEA Regulations aim to encourage proportionate assessment and therefore it is important to scope out issues where it is apparent that the Plan could not affect the topic area in a significant way. In order to do this, an initial scoping sifting exercise has been undertaken. As a result, a number of SEA topic areas have been scoped-out without the need to establish a more detailed baseline position. For other topics, further detail was gathered through the scoping process, which led to additional topics being scoped out. Only biodiversity, climatic change adaptation, the historic environment, landscape and population and housing have been identified for further assessment at the next stages of the SEA. The scoping outcomes are summarised in Table 1.2 below.

**Table 1.2: Scoping outcomes**

<b>SEA topic area</b>	<b>Scoping Outcomes</b>
Air Quality	<b>SCOPED OUT.</b> The ENP does not allocate sites for housing or employment and there are no Air Quality Management Areas in NP area. Therefore, the Plan is unlikely to have significant effects air quality.
Biodiversity	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN.</b>
Climatic change (mitigation and adaptation)	Climate change mitigation considered through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b> as the NP is limited in its ability to reduce emissions. However, climate change adaptation was <b>SCOPED IN.</b>
Historic Environment	Considered through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN.</b>
Landscape	Considered through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN.</b>
Waste	The Plan is unable to influence this to a significant extent and therefore this topic area can be <b>SCOPED OUT.</b>
Minerals	The plan does not pose any sterilisation risk to mineral resources. Therefore, this topic area can be <b>SCOPED OUT.</b>
Land, Soil and Water Resources	Considered in through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>
Population and Housing	Considered through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN.</b>
Health and Wellbeing	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>
Transportation	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>

## Structure of this Scoping Report

1.1.10 The outcomes of the scoping exercise for the topic areas further considered in the scoping process (following the initial sift) have been presented as follows:

- Chapter 2: Air Quality;
- Chapter 3: Biodiversity;
- Chapter 4: Climatic factors (Flood Risk and Climate Change);
- Chapter 5: Historic Environment;
- Chapter 6: Landscape;
- Chapter 7: Land, Soil and Water Resources;
- Chapter 8: Population and Housing;
- Chapter 9: Health and Wellbeing; and
- Chapter 10: Transportation.

1.1.11 In accordance with the SEA Directive, the final chapters of the report summarise the overarching sustainability issues, set out the SEA Framework and outline the next stages in the process. To demonstrate a clear trail of how the SEA objectives have been identified, each topic Chapter (which is scoped into the SEA) concludes with suggested objectives and supporting criteria for inclusion in the SEA Framework.

## 2. Air Quality

### Focus of theme:

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots

### Policy Context

2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021)<sup>4</sup> outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.

- *‘Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.’*
- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health.’*
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.1.2 Local Planning Authorities are required to publish annual Air Quality Annual Status Reports (ASRs) to discharge their monitoring obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act (1995). Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and Part II of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) if improvements are necessary. Where an AQMA is designated, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) must then be put in place.

2.1.3 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 transpose into UK law the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) which sets legally binding limits for outdoor concentrations of major air pollutants which impact public health.

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<sup>4</sup> [HM GOV \(2021\) National Planning Policy Framework](#)

- 2.1.4 The Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (2018)<sup>5</sup> issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the National Air Quality Objectives apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year).
- 2.1.5 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>6</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan are relevant.
- 2.1.6 The Clean Air Strategy<sup>7</sup> (2019) sets out the strategy for improving air quality, including goals to reduce exposure to toxic pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia, particulate matter, non-methane volatile organic compounds and sulphur dioxide. For example, the strategy aims to reduce particulate matter emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 46% by 2030.
- 2.1.7 The Environment Act 2021 sets out new legal frameworks for air pollution, water quality and nature conservation. The act requires the secretary of state for DEFRA to set long-term legally binding targets on air quality, biodiversity, water, resource efficiency, and waste reduction. These targets must be of at least 15 years duration, and be proposed by late 2022. The Act requires the government to publish an Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) which the government has pledged would include interim targets for each five-year period and lay out the steps to be taken to improve the natural environment. The 25-Year Environment Plan will be adopted as the first EIP. The Act also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), a new environmental watchdog for England and Northern. The OEP is intended to hold the government to account for meeting targets set in the EIP.
- 2.1.8 The Defra report Action for air quality in a changing climate<sup>8</sup> (2010) focuses on the synergies between the two issues of air quality and climate change. In particular, it notes the potential for additional health benefits through the closer integration of climate and air pollution policy. It is suggested that co-benefits can be realised through a variety of means, including promoting low carbon vehicles and renewable energy.

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<sup>5</sup> [Defra \(2018\) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance](#)

<sup>6</sup> [HM GOV \(2018\) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Defra \(2019\) Clean Air Strategy](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Defra \(2010\) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate](#)

- 2.1.9 In terms of the local context, Northumberland County Council is required to monitor air quality across the county, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area. There are currently no AQMAs in Northumberland.
- 2.1.10 The Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP)<sup>9</sup> sets out the county council's vision, aims and objectives for transport over the period 2011-2026. The LTP's goals include; reducing carbon emissions and improving quality of life and healthy natural environment. It sets out to achieve this through various strategies; including, helping to create sustainable communities by affording safe and quality access to key services and helping to provide a healthy lifestyle through enabling and promoting active travel. The LTP is accompanied by Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). This aims to enable the public's use of rights of way for recreation and purposeful journeys. It also promotes wider countryside access, contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of residents and visitors.
- 2.1.11 The emerging NLP policy POL2 (Pollution and air, soil and water quality) seeks to protect air quality in Northumberland. It states that development proposals in locations where they would cause, or be put at unacceptable risk of harm from, or be adversely affected by pollution by virtue of the emissions of fumes, particles, effluent, radiation, smell, heat, light, noise or noxious substances will not be supported. Furthermore, development would be required to Maintain air quality standards and support improvements in any identified Air Quality Management Areas consistent with any local air quality action plans.

## Baseline summary

- 2.1.12 Northumberland County Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)<sup>10</sup> states that the Council currently monitors air quality at two monitoring stations in Blythe and these currently meet the national air quality objectives. The council's monitoring of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) across the county indicated that none of the monitored locations require further investigation or monitoring. Similarly, 2.5 micron particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) monitoring (sited to one of the busiest urban roads in Northumberland) currently meets the unoffical cap limit at both monitoring stations, and for comparison meets the stricter objective set in Scotland. The report also concludes that the national air quality objectives have been met for annual means and daily exceedances for particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) and annual mean and hourly exceedances.
- 2.1.13 There are no air quality management areas (AQMAs) in Northumberland and the last AQMA was revoked in 2012 due to improving air quality.

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<sup>9</sup> [Northumberland Transport Plan 2011-2016](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Northumberland County Council 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report \(Aug. 2020\);](#)

## Future baseline

- 2.1.14 Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist within the Eglingham NP area, new employment and /or housing provision within the NP area can potentially have adverse effects on air quality through increase traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>.
- 2.1.15 The implementation of the Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026, which includes improved foot and cycle links to bus stations and stops and cycle storage at interchanges, is likely to encourage active travel and reduce the reliance on the cars.
- 2.1.16 Improvements in air quality may be experienced as a result of lower emission vehicles, which could offset any increases associated with traffic.

## Key issues

- 2.1.17 The key issues are as follows:
- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
  - Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase vehicular emissions and reduce air quality in the area (though low emissions vehicles could offset this to an extent).

## Scoping outcome

- 2.1.18 The ENP does not allocate sites for residential development or employment and therefore not expected to lead to significant effects on air quality.
- 2.1.19 For the above reasons, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.
- 2.1.20 Whilst significant effects are unlikely, it is still possible for the Plan to contribute towards air quality improvements. This is evident from the Plan aims and objectives seeking to achieve environmental improvements.

### 3. Biodiversity

#### Focus of theme:

- European and nationally designated sites
- Local wildlife sites
- Priority habitats and species
- Nature recovery

#### Policy Context

- 3.1.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>11</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*'.
- 3.1.2 The European Commission Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>12</sup> (2013) suggests that a SEA should focus on ensuring 'no-net-loss of biodiversity' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of 'ecosystem services' and the links between natural environment and economy.
- 3.1.3 Natural England's Conservation Objectives for European Sites<sup>13</sup> are based on the qualifying nature conservation features for which site has been specifically designated and informed by the ecological requirements of those features. These Objectives are specifically needed by to ensure that new plans or projects proceed without having an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site unless, in the absence of alternative solutions, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and the necessary compensatory measures can be secured. The objectives for SACs and SPAs are as below;
- SACs: Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its qualifying features. This is achieved by maintaining or restoring the extent, distribution, structure and function of qualifying habitats and the habitats of qualifying species and supporting processes on which qualifying habitats rely. Conservation also aims to maintaining and restore populations of qualifying species, and their distribution within the site.

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<sup>11</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at:

[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)

<sup>12</sup> European Commission (2013) Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment [online] available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Natural England: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>



- SPAs: Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive. This is achieved by maintaining or restoring the habitats of qualifying features including their structure and function and supporting the process on which they rely. It is also important to maintain/ restore the populations and distribution of qualifying features within sites.

#### 3.1.4 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective *'to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy'*
- *'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value [...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
  - *'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
  - *'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'*
- *'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*
  - a. *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
  - b. *Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'*

3.1.5 The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>14</sup> (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the protection and promotion of biodiversity are as follows:

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<sup>14</sup> Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>



- Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
- Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
- Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
- Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

3.1.6 The Environment Act 2021 sets out new legal frameworks for air pollution, water quality and nature conservation. This includes a target to halt species decline by 2030 and a requirement to set at least one long-term legally binding target for biodiversity. Other measures introduced in the Act include:

- New developments are required to deliver a 10% increase in biodiversity
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) to cover the whole of England. These involve mapping the most valuable existing habitat for nature, mapping specific proposals for creating or improving habitat, and agreeing priorities for nature's recovery.
- A Species Conservation Strategy is introduced as a new mechanism to safeguard the future of particular species at greatest risk, and a Protected Site Strategy, which will seek to achieve a similar purpose in respect of protected sites.
- Local authorities will be required to produce a 'Biodiversity Report' every five years. This is to include actions taken and their impacts, and a summary of action taken under the BNG policy. The reports will also provide information to update Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

3.1.7 The Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2008)<sup>15</sup> 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.

3.1.8 The emerging Local Plan has been informed by a Habitats Regulations Assessment<sup>16</sup> (July 2018). The purpose of the HRA is to assess possible effects of the Local Plan 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

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<sup>15</sup> [https://www.nwt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/Nland\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.nwt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/Nland_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Northumberland County Council (2018) Habitat Regulations Assessment [online] available at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/NCC-Habitats-Regulations-Assessment-July-2018.pdf>

outlined under Policy ENV2 of the Draft Plan for Regulation 18 Consultation (July 2018).

## Baseline summary

- 3.1.9 Northumberland has a range of wildlife species and habitats. A number of these are protected sites; the designation of which helps to preserve the biodiversity and the character of the areas. Nature designations within Eglington and the surrounding area are presented in the following table and illustrated in Figure 3.1.

**Table 3-1 Nature Designations within or near Eglington**

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	North Northumberland Dunes SAC Newham Fen SAC (6km north) River Tweed SAC
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Northumbria Coast SPA (6km east) Northumberland Marine SPA (6km)
Ramsar Sites	Northumbria Coast Ramsar
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI Tweed Catchment Rivers-England: Till Catchment SSSI
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Hulne Park (LWS)

- 3.1.10 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are areas designated under EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. There are around 256 SACs in England. Together with Special Protection Areas (SPA) they form a network of protected sites across the EU referred to as “Natura 2000”.
- 3.1.11 The North Northumberland Coast SAC is formed of a number of separate dune areas located along about 45 miles of the North Sea coast of Northumberland, between Amble in the south and Berwick-upon-Tweed to the north. It comprises a number of interlinked qualifying dune habitats within a wider complex of dune and associated coastal habitat features including intertidal foreshore and saltmarsh areas. Qualifying habitats comprise several dune systems including; Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes, Fixed dunes, Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation, Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. And Humid dune slacks. The SAC supports, inter alia; Lyme-grass, Sand couch, the bloody crane’s-bill, lesser meadow rue and the burnet rose. A rare liverwort, Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* (the SAC qualifying species), has been recorded from Holy Island and from two locations on the

mainland<sup>17</sup>. Risks to the condition of the site and the qualifying features include;

- Inappropriate grazing management
- The invasion of fixed dune habitats by the non-native species; spreading via seed dispersal from animal fur and visitors clothing.
- Recreational activities within the dune systems and erosion due to access to the beach through the dunes.
- Coastal squeeze where development, limits or prevents natural dune movement
- Changes in sediment transfer along the coast which may result from changing climatic conditions or changes to marine, coastal and land use.

3.1.12 Newham Fen SAC is situated within the Northumberland Coastal Plain National Character Area (NCA) and comprises a basin fen, developed from the natural hydroseral succession of a small lake which formed at the end of the last glacial period. It is an important example of Alkaline fens (qualifying habitat), which are rare in the north east of England. Alkaline fens generally consist of a complex assemblage of vegetation types characteristic of sites where there is tufa and/or peat formation with a high water table and a calcareous base-rich water supply<sup>18</sup>. A number of rare species occur at this site, including narrow-leaved marsh-orchid, coralroot orchid, dark-leaved willow and round-leaved wintergreen. Risks to the SAC include:

- Environmental stress brought about by climate change (e.g. changes in sea levels, precipitation and temperature)
- Fragmentation or contraction of the feature leading to loss of diversity and undermining resilience
- Invasive or introduced non-native species
- Quality (nutrient content, PH levels) of the irrigating water
- Air pollution

3.1.13 The Birds Directive aims to conserve the habitats of qualifying wild birds in order to ensure their survival and reproduction. The Special Areas of Protection Designation is a key mechanism in achieving this. The Northumbria Coast SPA supports internationally important populations of Purple Sandpipers and Turnstone. The site is also listed as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar convention for its internationally important wetland status. Human activities potentially pose risks to the SPA through deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species (e.g. by removal or smothering of the habitat) and through noise or visual disturbance.

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<sup>17</sup> Source: Natural England: European Site Conservation Objectives: supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features. North Northumberland Dunes Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

<sup>18</sup> Source: Natural England: European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features: Newham Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

- 3.1.14 The Northumberland Marine SPA is located on the Northumberland coast between Blyth and Berwick-Upon-Tweed. The site supports a wide range of marine habitats. The coastal parts of the site consist of sandy bays separated by rocky headlands backed by dunes or soft and hard cliffs. There are extensive areas of inter-tidal rocky reef, long sandy beaches at Beadnell, Embleton and Druridge Bay and extensive sand and mud flats at Budle Bay and Fenham Flats at Lindisfarne. Discrete areas of intertidal mudflats and estuarine channels are also included where the site extends into the Aln, Coquet, Wansbeck and Blyth estuaries. The open coast habitats extend into the subtidal zone, where large shallow inlets and bays and extensive rocky reefs are present. Further offshore, soft sediments predominate. Qualifying features include several species of terns (Arctic, Common, Little, Roseate and Sandwich), Guillemot, Puffin and Seabird assemblage.
- 3.1.15 Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It aims to protect and conserve rare wetland habitats for their importance in conserving biological diversity. The Northumbria Coast Ramsar is designated for; the Little Fern (breeding), Purple Sandpiper (wintering) and Turnstone (wintering).
- 3.1.16 There are over 4,100 Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) in England, which cover around 8% of the country's land area. SSSIs are recognised as amongst the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. There are several, overlapping, SSSI designated sites within the NP area including; the Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI and Tweed Catchment Rivers-England: Till Catchment SSSI.
- 3.1.17 Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI is nationally important due to the quality and diversity of its mosaic of upland habitats, including mires (including blanket bogs), heaths, fens, flushes and wet grassland. The site is also nationally important for its relict juniper woodland and scrub, and an outstanding assemblage of amphibians<sup>19</sup>. The principal vegetation by is a wet heath and with an understorey that occasionally includes the bog-moss. Various water-bodies, both natural and man-made, are scattered across the site. These support beds of yellow water-lily, reed, alongside willow woodland with bog-myrtle. The site also supports large heath butterfly, a variety of upland birds and some unusually species-rich stands of bracken, supporting a woodland ground flora and including healthy populations of chickweed wintergreen.
- 3.1.18 Tweed Catchment Rivers - England: Lower Tweed and Whiteadder SSSI is of international importance for its estuary, intertidal mud and sandflats and its riverine floating vegetation communities often dominated by water-crowfoot species. It also supports internationally important populations of river lamprey, sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon and common otter. The lower reaches of the Tweed and Whiteadder are nationally important examples of lowland rivers with minimal gradients in England, and rivers on rich geological strata in

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<sup>19</sup> Natural England Designated Sites View available at <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S2000676&SiteName=bewick&countyCode=&responsi blePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=>

Scotland and northern England. The exposed river sediments are nationally important for their invertebrate assemblage. The site holds nationally important populations of wintering goldeneye and moulting mute swans. Risks to site include: heavy grazing (cattle and sheep stock), inappropriate use of burning as a management tool, changes to the water table, nutrient content and drainage, inorganic fertilizers, pesticides and barriers to amphibian movement.

3.1.19 Natural England collects data on the condition of SSSIs and Table 3.2 below sets out the condition of the local SSSIs;

**Table 3-2 SSSI Conditions<sup>20</sup>**

Site	% area	% area	%
	Unfavourable- Recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable- No change
Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI	98.13	1.54	0.34
Tweed Catchment Rivers - England: Lower Tweed and Whiteadder SSSI	19.39%	0.00%	80.61

3.1.20 SSSI Impact Risk Zones, map zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is designated (Figure 3.2). 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 majority of the NP area falls within SSSI Impact Risk Zones for the Bewick and Beanley Moors SSSI. Activities that are identified as potentially impacting the SSSIs include residential development, infrastructure, commercial and industrial development, and development which may result in externalities such as waste and air pollution.

3.1.21 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are sites with ‘substantive nature conservation value’. They are defined areas, identified and selected for their nature conservation value, based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species with a national, region. There is one such LWS in the NP area namely Hulne Park which is part of the Northumberland Estate on the edge of Alnwick, comprising woods and farmland in the valley of the River Aln. The

<sup>20</sup> Natural England (2021)

site includes diverse habitats favoured by birds, amphibians and invertebrates. The site is one of the last strongholds of the native red squirrel.

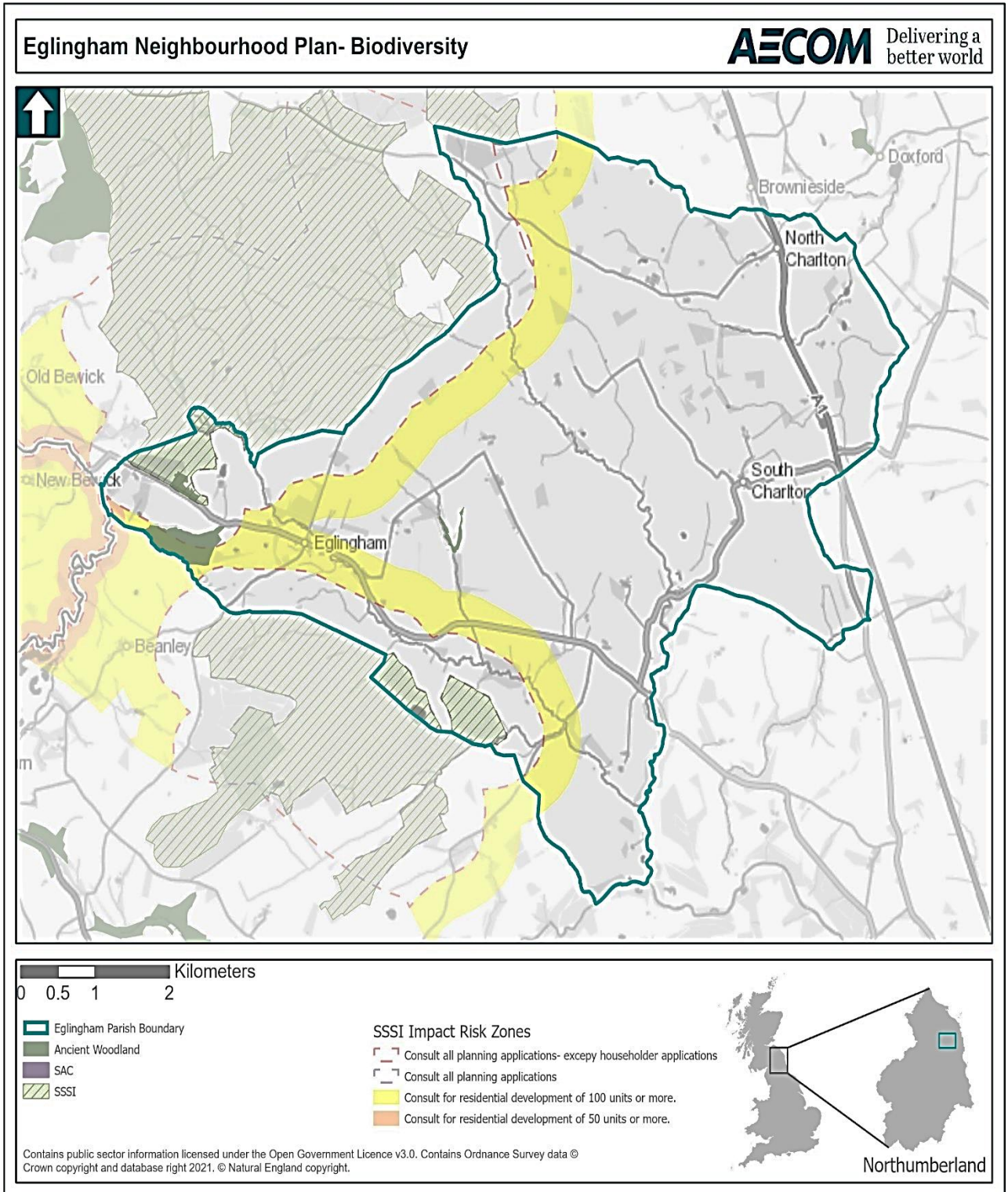
- 3.1.22 UK BAP Priority Habitats are a range of semi-natural habitat types that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action. Table 3.3 lists the main Priority Habitats within the NP area.

**Table 3-3 UK BAP priority habitats within the NP area**

Ancient woodland	Great Wood, Hannah's Wood, Eglingham Hall
Upland heathland	Harehope and Shipley Moor
Woodpasture and parkland	Stately homes
Deciduous woodland	Harehope, Cockhall, Coal Burn, Shipley Burn, Eglingham Burn, North Charlton Moor and Charlton Hall



**Figure 3-1 Biodiversity Designations in Eglingham**



## Future baseline

- 3.1.23 A number of factors threaten protected and priority species and habitats within Northumberland. Notably recreational pressures, climate change, unsuitable land management and invasive species.
- 3.1.24 Development within the NP area could encroach on certain habitats, threaten local species, and impact biodiversity networks in the absence of effective mitigation measures.
- 3.1.25 Increased development in the NP area will place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land take for development and an increase in population. An increase in population is likely to lead to an increase in leisure and recreational pressure and increased demand for natural resources such as water. New development may lead to an increase in disturbance through human activity, loss of habitat, increased predation (e.g. from domestic pets), atmospheric, light, land and water pollution.
- 3.1.26 Habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through higher level planning policy (including the emerging NLP) and whilst these areas face increasing pressures from future development, planning policy should safeguard the most valued areas and protect ecological networks.

## Key issues

- 3.1.27 There are several sites of high biodiversity importance within the NP area such as, the North Northumberland Dunes SAC, the Northumbria Coast SPA and Newham Fen SAC. The risk impact zones associated with the Bewick and Beanley Moors and Till Catchment SSSIs extend through most of the NP area.
- 3.1.28 Development in the NP area could place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land take for development and an increase in population.



## Scoping outcome

- 3.1.29 The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for localised effects at sites that could be identified for development, as well as increased recreational pressure.
- 3.1.30 It will also be important to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects upon the numerous important biodiversity designated sites in the NP area.
- 3.1.31 There may also be opportunities to enhance ecological networks and achieve net biodiversity gains.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?

- 3.1.32 The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 3.3 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 3-4 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Biodiversity**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Supporting Questions</b>
To protect, maintain and enhance the extent and quality of biodiversity and geodiversity sites and networks within and surrounding the Plan area.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support connections between habitats?</li><li>• Avoid significant impacts on designated sites within, and in the vicinity of the NP area including; the North Northumberland Dunes SAC, Newham Fen SAC, the River Tweed SAC should be included in the Biodiversity section of the SEA. Northumbria Coast SPA, Northumberland Marine SPA, Northumbria Coast Ramsar, Bewick and Beanley Moor SSSI and the Till Catchment SSSI?</li><li>• Support the delivery of biodiversity net gains?</li><li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change?</li></ul>

## 4. Climatic Change (mitigation and adaptation)

### Focus of theme:

- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation;

### Policy Context

4.1.1 The UK Climate Change Act (2008) established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 means that there is now in place a legally binding target of net zero by 2050. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- Commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The target was based on a 2019 report; 'Net Zero-The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' and introduced into law through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Climate Change Committee (CCC) was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Act requires the Government to assess the risks and opportunities from climate change for the UK, and to prepare for them. The associated National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same.

4.1.2 The Clean Air Strategy released in 2019 sets out the Government plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution. The strategy sets out proposals in detail and indicates how devolved administrations intend to make their share of emissions reductions, and complements the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan.

4.1.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (2021) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to ‘contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment’ including by ‘mitigating and adapting to climate change’ and ‘moving to a low carbon economy.’ ‘The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.’
- Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.’
- ‘Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.’
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). ‘Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.’

4.1.4 In May 2019, the UK Parliament declared a climate emergency, with a view to explicitly acknowledging that human activities are significantly affecting the climate, and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be paramount. This declaration has been mirrored by several local planning authorities across the country. Additionally, the shared vision produced by the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Environment Agency in January 2020 outlines the use of nature-based solutions to tackle the climate and ecological emergency<sup>21</sup>. This includes through large-scale woodland planting in the right places, working with nature to manage flood risk, protecting and restoring peatlands, supporting farmers towards net zero, managing land in a more strategic way, as well as encouraging the use of less carbon intensive materials such as timber in construction.

4.1.5 The Flood and Water Management Act<sup>22</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; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).<sup>23</sup>

4.1.6 DEFRA's National Adaptation Programme and Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting<sup>24</sup> is the second National Adaptation Programme (NAP). It sets out the government's response to the second Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) presenting the actions government is/ will be taking to address the risks and opportunities posed by a changing climate. It forms part of the five-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008. The key actions include;

- Ensure that decisions on land use, reflect the level of current and future flood risk.

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<sup>21</sup> GOV.UK (2020): 'Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environmental-bodies-set-joint-vision-to-tackle-climate-change>

<sup>22</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available to access via: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>23</sup> N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

<sup>24</sup> DEFRA The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (July 2018) [online] [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf)

- Boost the long-term resilience of homes, businesses and infrastructure.
- Reducing risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion through greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Deliver more, better quality, local Green Infrastructure.
- Work to restore natural processes within river systems to enhance storage capacity.
- Set ambitious targets for water leakage reductions.
- Introduce a new Environmental Land Management scheme to deliver environmental outcomes.
- Implement Nature Recovery Network, linking habitat restoration/creation to access, flood protection and water quality.
- Incentivise good soil management to deliver environmental benefits.
- Introduce sustainable fisheries policy.
- Build ecological resilience on land, rivers, lakes and seas.
- Protect soils and natural carbon stores.
- Ensure a resilient food supply chain and review UK Food Security Assessment.
- Manage existing plant and animal diseases and reduce risk of future new ones.
- Tackle invasive non-native species.

4.1.7 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 Council's 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. The Key objectives from the Northumberland Local Flood Risk Management Strategy are<sup>25</sup>:

- Improve Knowledge and understanding of flood risk throughout Northumberland; Promote sustainable development to reduce local flood risk with consideration to the anticipated impact of climate change;
- Actively manage flood risk and drainage infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of flooding;
- Encourage communities to become more resilient to flooding by increasing public awareness and understanding their concerns; and
- Be better prepared for flood events and post flood recovery.

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<sup>25</sup> Northumberland County Council (2015) Local Flood Risk Management [online] <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Roads-streets-and-transport/coastal%20erosion%20and%20flooding/Local-flood-risk-management-strategy-action-plan.pdf>

4.1.8 The emerging NLP, Policy STP4; Climate change mitigation and adaptation, states that *'development proposals should mitigate climate change and contribute to meeting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.'* The policy lists criteria to be considered when determining planning applications, these include;

- Development design that reduces the need to travel and encourages sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and the use of public transport;
- Are designed to reduce energy consumption;
- Incorporate decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy;
- Include the re-use of existing buildings, and materials;
- Incorporate multi-functional green infrastructure,
- Protect and enhance habitats that provide important carbon sinks, including peat habitats and woodland; and Incorporate electric vehicle charging facilities.

4.1.9 Policy STP4 further states that development proposals should support adaptation and resilience to climate change and not adversely impact the susceptibility of neighbouring areas to the effects of climate change. Criteria to be considered when determining planning applications include;

- Incorporation of features that provide resilience to climate change;
- Design that reduces demand on water resources;
- Take into account the risk of flooding and coastal change;
- Incorporate sustainable drainage systems to minimise and control surface water run-off; and
- Incorporate, where feasible, multi-functional green infrastructure.

4.1.10 NCC declared a 'climate emergency' vowing to halve carbon footprint by 2025 and make the county carbon neutral by 2030. NCC sets out how it is going about this in its second Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2023<sup>26</sup>. This includes a focus on both enabling activities (Policy, Engagement and Partnerships) and delivery activities (Heating; Transport; Renewable Energy Generation; Sequestration; Waste Reduction). Each of these priority action areas have a set of key targets detailed in the plan.

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<sup>26</sup> NCC Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2023 [online];  
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/About-the-Council/Climate%20change/Climate-change-action-plan-2021-23.pdf>

## Baseline summary

### Greenhouse gas emissions

- 4.1.11 The total per capita emissions figures for Northumberland (table 4.1) are substantially lower than those for the North East region as a whole. Whilst emissions for earlier years were initially higher in Northumberland than the national average, they decreased substantially, with levels from 2015 and 2019 being much lower in Northumberland than the national average figures for England as a whole.
- 4.1.12 The 2005 and 2010 industrial emissions are significantly higher for Northumberland than the corresponding figures for the North East and England. The trend is reversed later, with industrial emission figures in 2015 and 2019 substantially lower in Northumberland than the corresponding figures over the same period for the North East.
- 4.1.13 The data shows a trend of declining emissions for Northumberland. The total emissions in 2019 show a reduction of 83% on 2005 levels. A similar trend of declining emissions is observed at regional and national levels.

**Table 4-1: Per capita local CO<sup>2</sup> emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>27</sup>**

Sectors	2005	2010	2015	2019
<b>Northumberland</b>				
Industrial	10.2	7.7	1.6	1.3
Commercial	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.4
Public sector	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Domestic	2.8	2.6	2.0	1.7
Transport	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Total per capita</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<b>The North east</b>				
Industrial	7.6	4.3	4.2	2.1
Commercial	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.4
Public sector	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2
Domestic	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.5
Transport	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7
<b>Total per capita</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>England</b>				
Industrial	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.0
Commercial	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.5
Public sector	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Domestic	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.4
Transport	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9
<b>Total per capita</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>

<sup>27</sup> [National Statistics UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019](#)



## Effects of climate change and adaptation

4.1.14 Research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team. UKCP18 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 level of confidence in each prediction. As highlighted by the research, even with very rapid, sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions globally, the UK will experience an additional warming of around 0.6°C between now and 2050. This will be accompanied by around 3 to 37cm of sea level rise for different parts of the UK by the middle of the century, a 10% increase in heavy rainfall and a 50% chance of each summer being hotter than 2018. These probabilistic projections represent the minimum levels of changes to plan and adapt to.

4.1.15 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks exist for the Plan area, including:

- Effects on water resources, such as a reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction and a need to increase capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding and a need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution and spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning; and
- Heat stress related issues with infrastructure due to increased temperature.

## Flood risk

4.1.16 A level 2 strategic flood assessment was completed in 2015 for Northumberland and looked at areas that would be at risk of pluvial flooding (surface water flooding), rivers/sea (fluvial/tidal), groundwater flooding, sewers and artificial sources such as reservoirs and canals. This helped to identify areas at particular risk of flooding in Northumberland. The assessment also included strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA) sites including 11 sites within Eglingham. Of these, the following were identified as being at risk of flooding:

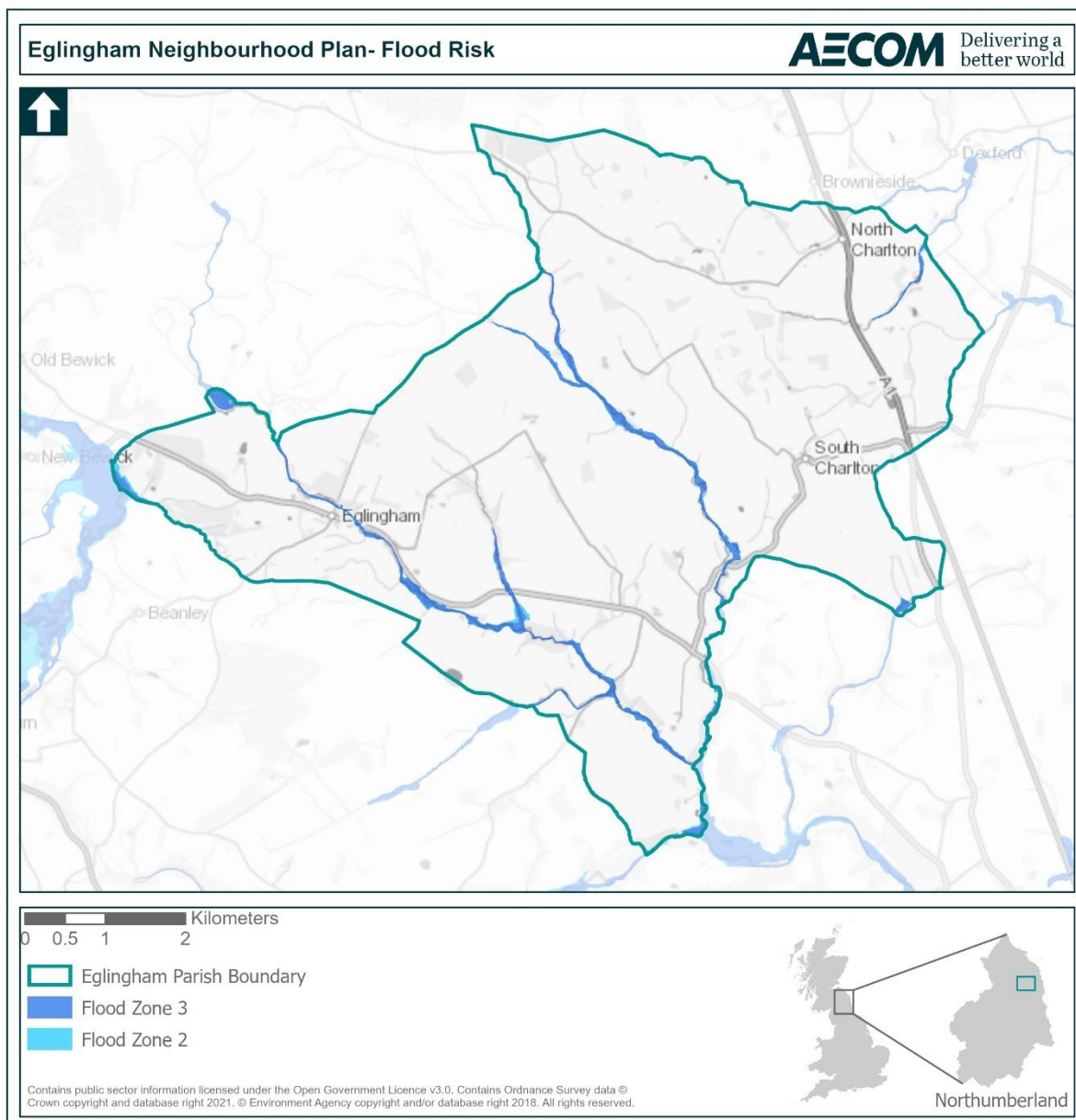
**Table 4-2 Flood risk at SHLAA sites within Eglingham**

Site SHLAA ref. - Site Name	Surface water flooding Risk annual exceedance probability events			Within Fluvial Flood Risk
	30 year (High Risk)	100 year (Medium risk)	1000 year (Low risk)	Flood Zones 2/3a/3b?
67 - South of War Memorial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Zone 2 & Zone 3a
189 – Field north of Eglingham Terrace	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
190 – Field south of Eglingham Terrace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Zone 2 & Zone 3a

4.1.17 Flood Zone 1 is defined as having a ‘Low Probability’ of flooding and incorporates areas where the annual probability of flooding is lower than 0.1% (a 1 in 1000 year flood event). Flood Zone 2 is defined as having a ‘Medium Probability’ of flooding, with an annual probability of flooding between 0.1% and 1.0% for fluvial flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event) or 0.1% and 0.5% for tidal and coastal flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event). Flood Zone 3 is defined as having a ‘High Probability’ of flooding, with an annual probability of beyond 1.0% for fluvial floods and beyond 0.5% for tidal and coastal floods.

4.1.18 Figure 4.1 indicates the location of flood zones 2 and 3 in Eglingham. There are narrow areas of Flood Zone 3 along the course of the river Aln and its tributaries (Eglingham Burn, Titlington Burn and Shipley Burn). Otherwise, the majority of the Parish is at low risk of flooding.

Figure 4-1 Eglingham Flood Risk



## Climate change adaptation

4.1.19 There is no baseline information or data relating specifically to climate change adaptation. However, there is a range of green infrastructure that will benefit communities in terms of flood risk, hotter summers and wetter winters. Northumberland's strategic green infrastructure (GI) includes international and national natural environmental designated sites, moorlands, forests and river valleys. It also includes blue infrastructure, such as; rivers, other water bodies and the sea. An analysis conducted by NCC concluded that there is an overall provision of 4,180 ha of accessible greenspace in the County provided through over 1,280 sites which translates to a provision of 13.4 ha per 1000 population. However, this varies across the county with the north area (which includes the NP area) having the greatest provision at 18.3 ha per 1000 compared to the west area of the county which has significantly lower provision at 7.1ha per 1000 population (note this excludes the Northumberland National Park). At local level GI includes gardens, allotments, village greens, grassland, woodland and rights of way.

## Future baseline

- 4.1.20 There is potential for climate change to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the NP area. Such weather events are likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.1.21 In terms of the exacerbation of climate change, GHG emissions could decrease through the adoption of energy efficient measures and cleaner energy (especially in transport and industry, which is a key contributor in the NP area). However, increases in population and the number of households could counteract this.
- 4.1.22 Flood risk at any specific location may be influenced by local factors such as existing formal or informal flood defences and the capacity of existing drainage systems or road/rail culverts. The adoption of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) and introduction of Green Infrastructure within development schemes may reduce the speed of surface water run-off and have positive effects in terms mitigating flood risk.
- 4.1.23 Development in any instance has the potential to exacerbate flood risk within and in the vicinity of the NP area by increasing the volume of surface water run-off, or by introducing areas of hard standing which could increase the speed of surface water run-off. The risk would be greatest if development were to take place in proximity of Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 areas.
- 4.1.24 In the absence of the Plan, there will still be a need to satisfy policy measures relating to flood management.

## Key issues

4.1.25 The key issues are as follows:

- Average per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are declining in Northumberland and are below the regional and national average.
- The NP area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although stretches of Flood Zone 2 and 3 exist along the water courses associated with the River Aln and its tributaries.
- The likelihood of flooding from fluvial and non-fluvial sources could be exacerbated by development in the NP area. However, opportunities for mitigation exist through sustainable design and SuDS.

## Scoping outcome

4.1.26 With regards to climate change mitigation, the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on carbon emissions. It is limited in the ability to implement higher standards of energy efficiency, and there are no plans in the scope of the NP to identify areas of potential for renewable energy schemes. The NP does not allocate housing or employment land and therefore will not lead to significant emissions beyond what might be otherwise experienced in the absence of the Plan (likewise, any reduction is not likely to be significant). Therefore, this factor has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA process.

4.1.27 Resilience to climate change including flood risk has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards flood risk mitigation.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?

4.1.28 The SEA topic 'Climatic Factors' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 4.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 4-3 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Climatic Factors**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Supporting Questions</b>
Avoid and manage flood risk and support the resilience of the Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change.	Will the option/proposal help to: <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 surface 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 in the design of new development in the Plan area?</li><li>• Avoid placing development in areas that are at the risk of flooding?</li></ul>

## 5. Historic Environment

### Focus of theme:

- Designated heritage assets;
- Conservation areas
- Heritage at risk;
- Locally important features; and
- Archaeology and other historic records.

### Policy Context

5.1.1 Heritage assets are protected under a number of different consents, required for new development and for carrying out works to existing buildings and sites including planning permissions and listed building consent. This requirement is covered in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The historic environment is managed using;

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 which provides specific protection for scheduled monuments

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

- 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.
- Plans should set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- *'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss of less than substantial harm to its significance'*

- 5.1.3 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England'<sup>28</sup> (2010) sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise 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 Heritage Statement (2017)<sup>29</sup> updates the 2010 Statement on the Historic Environment for England and sets out the Government's vision for supporting the heritage sector to help it to protect and care for heritage and the historic environment in the coming years, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.
- 5.1.4 Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 – Second Edition (February 2019)<sup>30</sup> outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:
- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
  - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 5.1.5 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)<sup>31</sup> provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments. Advice Note 3 offers further guidance on how a positive strategy for the historic environment in Local Plans (also applies to neighbourhood plans) can ensure that site allocations avoid harming the significance of heritage assets, including effects on their setting<sup>32</sup>. It also recommends considering how the plan can present opportunities for the historic environment. For example, new development may better reveal the significance of heritage assets (NPPF

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<sup>28</sup> DDCMS (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

<sup>29</sup> Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (2017) Heritage Statement; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-heritage-statement-2017>

<sup>30</sup> Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1 (second edition)'; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>

<sup>31</sup> Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8'; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

<sup>32</sup> Historic England (2015) Advice Note 3: 'The Historic Environment and Site Allocation in Local Plans' ;<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/heaq074-he-and-site-allocation-local-plans/>



paragraph 137) or may provide an opportunity to tackle heritage at risk through the sensitive development of specific sites.

5.1.6 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan sets out several policies pertaining to the heritage assets in the county;

- Policy ENV7 states that development proposals and decisions will be made to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the significance, quality and integrity of Northumberland's heritage assets and their settings.
- Policy ENV9 pertains to conservation areas and seeks to preserve or enhance their character and appearance and /or reinforce their attractiveness or better reveal their significance. Development that would lead to substantial harm would not be supported unless exceptional circumstances apply.

## Baseline summary

### Designated Heritage Assets

5.1.7 The NP area contains numerous heritage assets (see figure 5.1) including 56 designated assets such as, listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments and a Registered Park and Gardens (Table 5.1). These assets have been designated by Historic England as being of special interest by way of their historic and architectural value. Listing marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest (e.g. the Grade II Eglington Post Office or the Grade II\* Church of St. Maurice), and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations.

5.1.8 The legal definition of a Conservation Area (CA) is an 'area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Conservation areas are designated at local level by local planning authorities. They provide protection against demolition and introduce other controls, such as reduction of permitted development rights and protection for trees. The Eglington Conservation Area was designated in 1972 and covers most of the settlement and surrounding land. Its extent is shown in Figure 5.1. The Eglington Conservation Area Character Appraisal<sup>33</sup> summarises the CA thus;

- *'Church and mill as focal points;*
- *Ribbon development along single road, lowered in places;*
- *Designed landscape of Eglington Hall and associated features;*
- *Development contained within the traditional settlement boundary;*
- *Pillboxes, millpond.'*

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<sup>33</sup> Eglington Conservation Area Character Appraisal available at [https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Consolidated%20Planning%20Policy%20Framework/Section%20B/Part%202%20-%20Adopted%20PPDs%20\(Not%20Statutory\)/Alnwick/ADC-Eglington-Conservation-Area-CA.pdf](https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Consolidated%20Planning%20Policy%20Framework/Section%20B/Part%202%20-%20Adopted%20PPDs%20(Not%20Statutory)/Alnwick/ADC-Eglington-Conservation-Area-CA.pdf)

5.1.9 The CA character appraisal goes onto summarise the architectural and townscape character as follows;

- *Small groups of houses along main road, with a few building groups stretching back from it*
- *Buildings set back slightly from road behind low walls with distinctive copings*
- *Open views of valley at village centre*
- *Walls and trees along Tarry Road*
- *Houses 1 or 2 storey, rectangular plan, gables and chimneys*
- *Windows vertical with varied detailing, dormers, porches etc*
- *Walls coursed buff sandstone, roofs Welsh slate • 'Gothick' detailing, metal gates*

5.1.10 Threats to the CA include inappropriate new development that is out of scale and character, unsuitable modern materials used in replacement doors/windows.

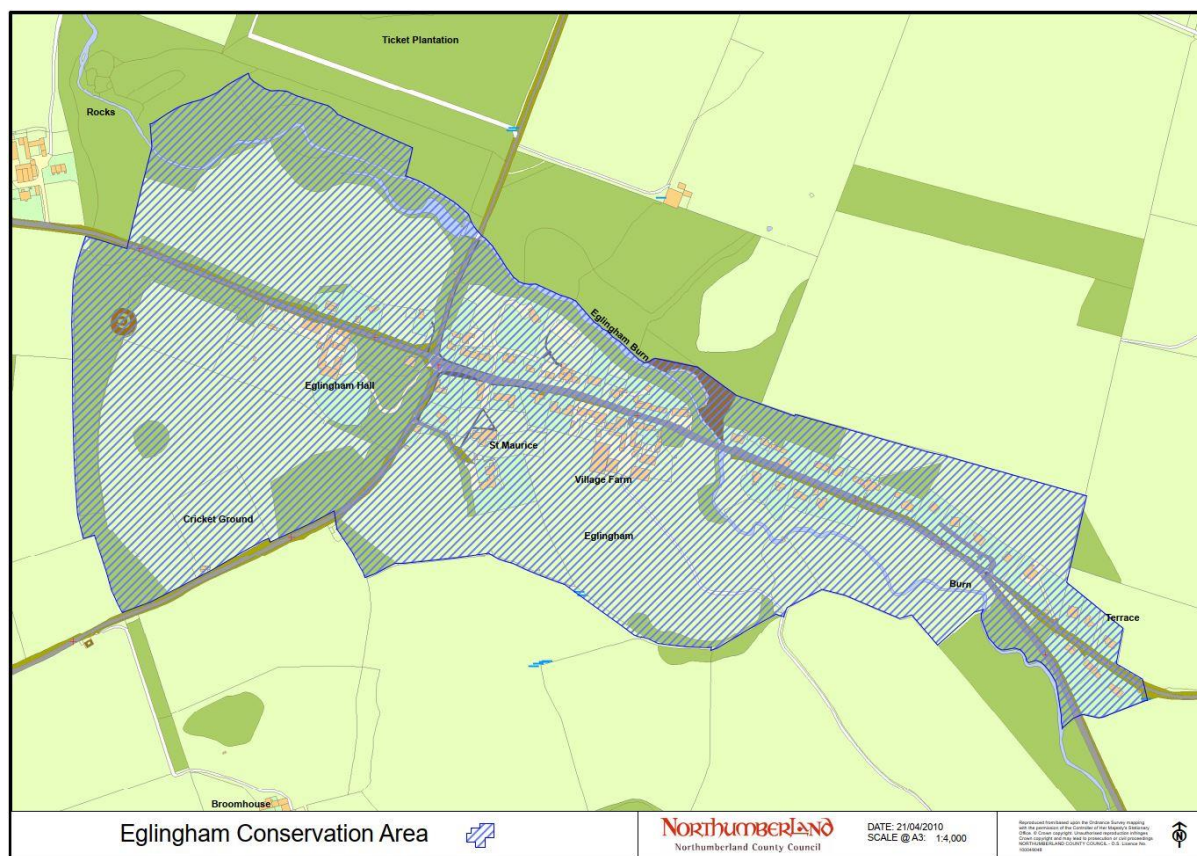
5.1.11 Historic England 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England', established in 1983, currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of particular significance. The Register comprises gardens, grounds and other planned open spaces, such as town squares. The majority of sites registered are, or started life as, the grounds of private houses, but public parks and cemeteries form important categories too. Registration is a 'material consideration' in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the landscapes' special character. There is one such example in Eglingham; namely the extensive landscape parks and pleasure grounds developed from a series of medieval deer parks, around Alnwick Castle.

5.1.12 Scheduled Monuments are nationally important archaeological sites. Permission to alter scheduled monuments is required from the Secretary of State. The NP area has six Scheduled Monuments including North Charlton medieval village and open field system.

**Table 5-1 Eglingham Heritage Assets**

Designations	Count
Grade II*	3
Grade II	46
Scheduled Monuments	6
Registered Parks & Gardens (Grade I)	1

**Figure 5-1 Eglingham Conservation Location**



Source: NCC

### Heritage at Risk

5.1.13 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights some of the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II\* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. There is one entry in the register for Eglingham which concerns the Iron Age settlement in Camp Plantation (350m north west of North Charlton Mill). Historic England's assessment information states that this archaeologically important listing is "generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems" and cites 'plant growth' a major vulnerability<sup>34</sup>.

### Locally important features

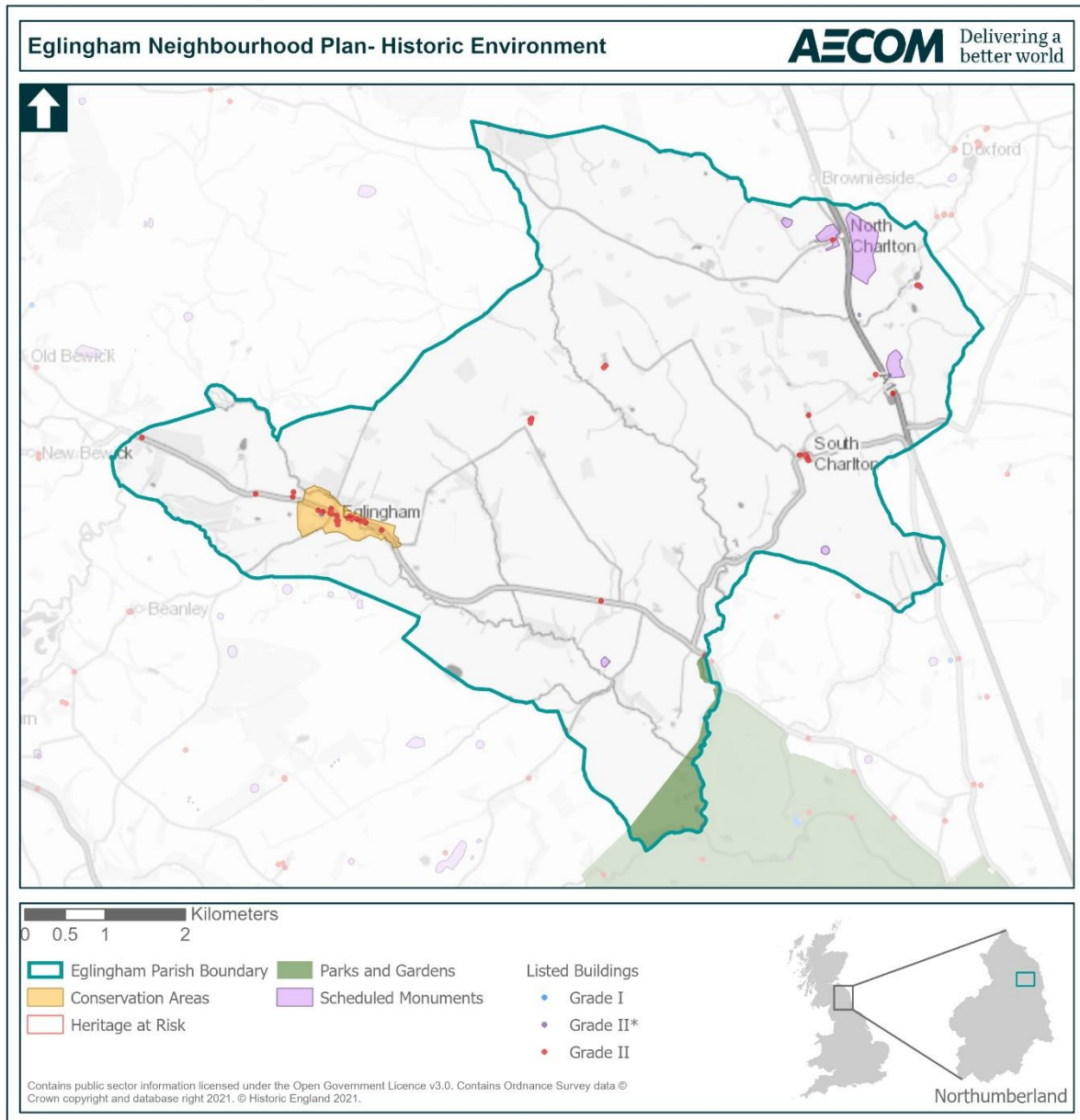
5.1.14 In addition to designated heritage assets, the NP area is likely to contain many non-designated buildings and sites that contribute to the historic environment. The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) currently lists

<sup>34</sup> [English Heritage report 2009 'Heritage at Risk register North East'](#)

around 149 entries for Eglingham. These include mileposts, lime kilns, boundary stones, farm houses, Pillboxes etc.

5.1.15 There are around 642 sites<sup>35</sup> of archaeological interest within the NP area. The majority being Bronze Age, Celtic, Roman and medieval.

**Figure 5-2 Heritage designations in Eglingham**



<sup>35</sup> [ARCHI UK](https://www.archi.uk/)

## Future baseline

- 5.1.16 The numerous heritage assets in the NP area render the area sensitive to change. Heritage assets are significant not only due to their physical presence but also due to their setting. The NPPF defines setting as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.” Setting include, inter alia, key views of the asset in its wider context.
- 5.1.17 Development in the NP area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and upon the character of the townscape. This may lead to negative effects, such as the delivery of unsympathetic design and material use. Conversely, it could lead to positive effects through redevelopment of derelict and underused land and buildings. In the absence of a plan, there is less strategic direction for the Parish though; meaning that negative effects may be more likely to occur.
- 5.1.18 It should be noted that historic environment designations and the historic environment related policies within the Local Plan<sup>36</sup> and the emerging Northumberland Local Plan, would offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

## Key issues

- 5.1.19 The key issues are as follows:
- The NP area contains numerous heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings and a Registered Park and Gardens. These could be affected by policies and proposals within the plan (either positively or negatively).
  - There are numerous non-designated heritage assets in the NP area which are particularly vulnerable to change, and these must be similarly protected by assessing the impacts of policies/ proposals on their significance and contribution to the historic environment. Such an assessment (a statement of heritage significance) must stem from the interest(s) of the heritage asset (archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic)<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> The Alnwick District Core Strategy (2007) including the saved policies of the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (1997) and the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.

<sup>37</sup> Historic England Advice Note 12 “Statements of Heritage Significance: “Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets”



## Scoping outcome

- 5.1.20 Historic Environment has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon heritage assets and their settings. It is also important to ensure that the wider character of the built and natural environment is protected and enhanced.

### What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?

- 5.1.21 The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 5.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 5.2 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Historic Environment**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the integrity, distinctive character and setting of historic environment and the wider built environment.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the Eglington Conservation Area.</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets including locally listed buildings and assets listed in the Northumberland HER?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> <li>• Consider the impact on setting in a manner proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.</li> <li>• Promote heritage-led regeneration?</li> <li>• Lead to the repair and adaptive re-use of a heritage asset and encourage high quality design?</li> </ul>

## 6. Landscape

### Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality

### Policy Context

#### 6.1.1 Key messages from the NPPF include;

- *‘Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.’*
- *Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for ‘conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.’*
- *Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments ‘are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).’*
- *‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
  - *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils<sup>38</sup>*
  - *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*
  - *remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’*

#### 6.1.2 The Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’ (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character are as follows:

- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
- Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England’s Natural Character Areas and,

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<sup>38</sup> ‘valued landscapes’ include locally designated ones and not restricted to nationally designated sites.

- Monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.
- 6.1.3 Natural England has produced 15 National Character Area profiles<sup>39</sup> (2015) for the North East of England; each of which, is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based.
- 6.1.4 The Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment looks at the character of the landscape within Northumberland and what makes it distinctive. It identifies the 44 different character types and the 108 distinctive landscape character areas across Northumberland.<sup>40</sup> These areas, their geology, topography, soils, biodiversity, woodland, human and historic influences, landform, land use and built form, are discussed in detail. It further sets out general guidelines relevant to the whole district but also specific guidelines for the management of each of the landscape character areas presented.
- 6.1.5 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan sets out some policies that are relevant to the townscape and landscape of Eglington;<sup>41</sup>
- Policy ENV3 Landscape: The possibility of wider impacts on the landscape, townscape or seascape or of other significant impacts on the environmental resource will be assessed through the proportionate use of landscape and visual impact assessment;
  - Policy ENV4 Tranquillity, dark skies and a sense of rurality: development proposals must minimise intrusive external features such as car parking and urban style boundary treatments and maintain the sense of openness of the countryside. Development should not result in an adverse impact on the level of dark skies particularly in AONBs such as Northumberland Coast AONB.
  - ENV5 Northumberland Coast AONB; the special qualities of the AONB will be conserved and enhanced. The sensitivity of local landscapes and their capacity to accommodate new development will be taken into consideration when assessing development proposals.
- 6.1.6 The Northumberland and Newcastle Society published a report evaluating and recognising the value of a significant part of North Northumberland's landscapes – 'the Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales – a Valued Landscape' by Alison Farmer Associates (January 2021)<sup>42</sup>. The Study concluded that most of the area is worthy of designation as an 'Area of High Landscape Value'. A more detailed assessment is provided in the Eglington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Assessment (May 2021)<sup>43</sup>. The report,

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<sup>39</sup> [NCA In-depth profiles](#)

<sup>40</sup> [LUC report \(Aug. 2010\); 'Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment' prepared for Northumberland County Council](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Northumberland Local Plan Publication Draft Plan \(Jan. 2019\)](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Northumberland Sandstone Ridges and Vales: A Valued Landscape](#)

<sup>43</sup> Alison Farmer Associates (May 2021) "Eglington Parish Neighbourhood plan Landscape Assessment Final report".



commissioned by EPC, provides further detailed assessment on the special qualities and sensitivity of the Eglingham Parish landscape in support of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

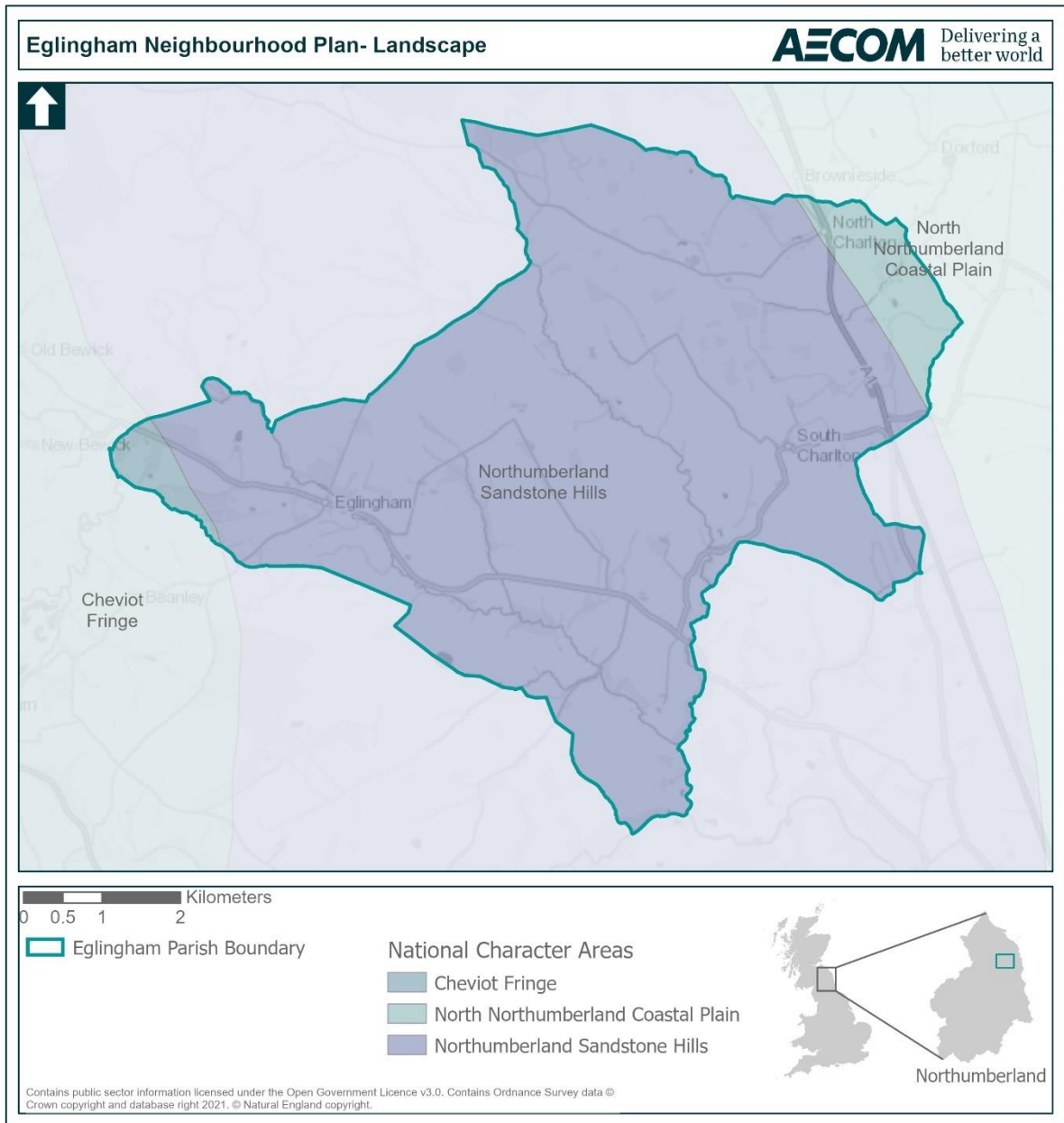
## Baseline summary

### Summary of current baseline

6.1.7 The majority of the NP area falls within the Northumberland Sandstone Hills Character Area (NCA) as defined by Natural England (figure 6.1). The NP Area partially overlaps two further NCAs; the North Northumberland Coastal Plain (to the north east) and the Cheviot Fringe NCA (to the west). The Northumberland Sandstone Hills NCA provides the context to the character of the Parish and is characterised by;

- Sandstone hills forming distinctive skyline features.
- Panoramic views of the coast and across the lowland Cheviot Fringe to the Cheviots and Scotland and views across the Aln Valley.
- Heather and grass moorland on the upper slopes and broad tops of the ridges, interrupted by large geometric conifer plantations, giving way to improved pasture and cropping on lower slopes and valley bottoms.
- Wide valleys of the Coquet and Aln rivers pierce the arc of hills, containing remnant native woodland and a patchwork of wet pastures and arable fields, often with steep-sided bluffs and fed by incised tributaries.
- Wet peaty flushes, mires, loughs, lakes and small reservoirs occur throughout the area.
- Broadleaved woodland is associated with rivers, burns, loughs, scarp slopes and country house estates.
- Nationally and internationally important species including Atlantic salmon, brook and river lamprey, otter, water crowfoot, hen harrier, peregrine, merlin, ring ouzel, black grouse, whinchat, golden plover, dunlin, curlew, nightjar and red squirrel. These are also prevalent on the moorland & adjacent farmland, between the B63436 & the A1 between Eglingham Village and Hulne Park (especially, hen harriers & curlew)
- Limited woodland cover confined to small blocks and shelterbelts adjacent to farmsteads and settlements, with larger areas of mixed broadleaved woodland in the river valleys and around the Howick estate. For example, the 'Great Wood' and Hulne Park and its surroundings.
- Farmed landscape comprising large, open arable fields, with some remnant semi-natural grassland in the valleys and coastal fringes. Fields are bounded by low, often fragmented hedgerows, grey sandstone walls and post-and-wire fences.
- The rivers Tweed, Aln and Coquet, and numerous smaller watercourses (Burns) that come down to the Aln from the high ground above Eglingham and meander across the coastal plain to the sea.

**Figure 6-1 National Character Areas in Eglingham**



6.1.8 The North Northumberland Coastal Plain NCA overlaps a small area to the north east of the Parish. This NCA is characterised by:

- Narrow, low-lying coastal plain with wide views east of the coast and out to sea, and west to the Northumberland Sandstone Hills and Cheviots.
- Diverse coastal scenery with the 'hard' coast of spectacular high cliffs, offshore islands and rocky headlands contrasting with the 'soft' coast of sweeping sandy bays, sand dunes, mudflats and salt marsh.
- Prominent, distinctive medieval castles, fortifications and religious buildings
- Limited woodland cover confined to small blocks and shelterbelts adjacent to farmsteads and settlements, with larger areas of mixed broadleaved woodland in the river valleys and around the Howick estate.
- Farmed landscape comprising large, open arable fields, with some remnant semi-natural grassland in the valleys and coastal fringes. Fields are bounded by low, often fragmented hedgerows, grey sandstone walls and post-and-wire fences.
- The rivers Tweed, Aln and Coquet, and numerous smaller watercourses, meander across the coastal plain to the sea.

6.1.9 The Cheviot Fringe NCA overlaps a relatively small area to the west of the Parish. This NCA is characterised by:

- Corridor of softer mudstones, sandstones and limestones forming a lowland landscape of valleys and plains between the more resistant rocks of the Cheviot Hills to the west and the Northumberland Sandstone Hills to the east.
- Agricultural landscape of mixed farmland, combining pasture and meadows for livestock with arable, and interspersed with parklands.
- Strong pattern of hedgerows, with many hedgerow trees within the undulating vales, contrasting with flatter, more open, arable farmland to the north.
- Strong rectilinear pattern of small, coniferous woodland blocks and shelterbelts with deciduous woodland more prevalent along watercourses.
- Many meandering rivers and streams, often flowing between raised terraces and flat, gravel benches, supporting internationally and nationally threatened species such as Atlantic salmon, sea trout, otter, lamprey, water vole and water crowfoot, and providing one of England's most important game fisheries.
- Farmed environment supporting a nationally important assemblage of farmland birds and providing important roosts and feeding grounds for wintering wildfowl on the coast, with wet woodland and grazing marsh

occurring along streams and rivers, and pockets of fens, mires and heath scattered within the landscape.

6.1.10 The Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment<sup>44</sup> provides a detailed assessment of landscape character in the NP area. It shows the Parish overlapping 6 landscape types and 8 character areas. Further detail is provided by the Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Assessment (May 2021) which provides the following information on the landscape within the Parish<sup>45</sup>:

6.1.11 Table 6.1 summarises the key qualities of the character areas found within the Parish.

**Table 6-1 Landscape Character Types in Eglingham**

<b>Landscape Character Type</b>	<b>Key Qualities</b>
Smooth Moorland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open, sweeping, expanses of heather moorland.</li> <li>• Relationship with the scarp slope to the west.</li> <li>• Views west to the Cheviots, and east to the coast.</li> <li>• Remote character with few roads and very sparse settlement.</li> </ul>
Outcrop Hills and Escarpments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinctive scarp hills with rocky outcrops.</li> <li>• Relationship with the Cheviots, across the Cheviot fringe landscapes.</li> <li>• Open, relatively remote character.</li> <li>• Areas of uninterrupted, sweeping moorland.</li> <li>• Historic features, particularly concentrations of settlements, cup and ring marked rocks, etc.</li> </ul>
Broad Sandstone Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong enclosure pattern.</li> <li>• Extensive historic features such as ridge and furrow</li> <li>• Enclosed, bowl-like western valley.</li> <li>• Small, steep-sided valleys of tributaries, such as the Eglingham Burn.</li> </ul>
Estate Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed landscape of national value, with extensive parkland and estate woodland, providing the setting for a number of prominent historic buildings.</li> <li>• Enclosed wooded valley.</li> <li>• Forms a key part of the setting of Alnwick, particularly when approached from the north-west.</li> </ul>
Farmed Coastal Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmsteads of traditional vernacular architecture, with brick industrial farm chimneys.</li> <li>• Shelterbelts of mature beech and pine.</li> <li>• Estate landscapes and associated semi-natural and plantation woodland.</li> </ul>

<sup>44</sup> [LUC Report 2010 “Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment-Part A Landscape Classification”](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Source: Alison Farmer Associates \(May 2021\) “Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood plan Landscape Assessment Final report”, accessed Dec. 2021](#)

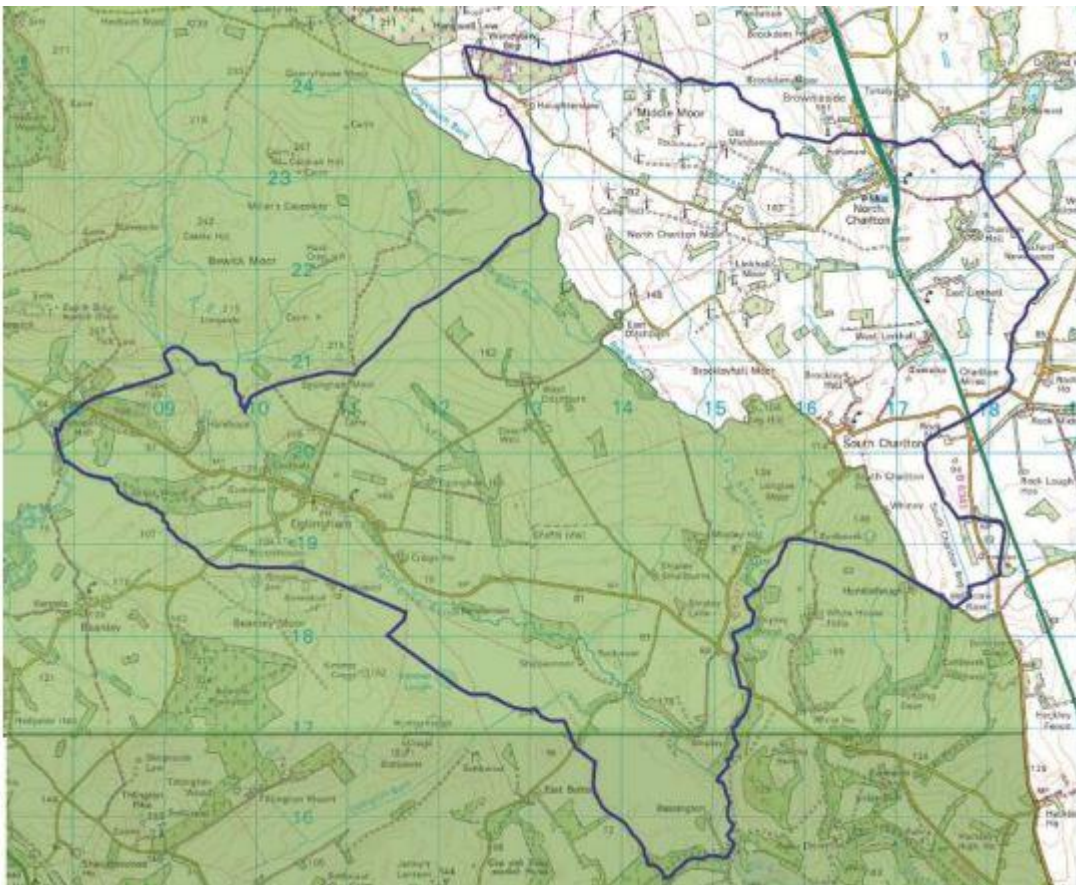
## Landscape Character Type

## Key Qualities

Landscape Character Type	Key Qualities
Broad Farmed Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal character, with views to the sea and coastal features and landmarks.</li> <li>Historic estates provide historical interest, recreational resources, and tree cover within this otherwise open landscape.</li> <li>Dramatic views of the scarp slopes to the east, and views west to the Cheviots.</li> </ul>

6.1.12 The Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Assessment identifies an area of valued landscape within the Parish shown the green shaded area in Figure 6-2. The assessment posits that the majority of the Parish is considered to be a valued landscape, adding that *“those areas which are excluded lie to the northeast and comprise land which is in transition, predominately sloping gently in an easterly direction towards the coast. Here the landscape has undergone change in terms of agricultural improvement, conifer planting and windfarm development.”*

**Figure 6-2 Eglingham Parish Valued Landscape**



Source: Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood plan Landscape Assessment

## Future baseline

6.1.13 The existing Development Plan and emerging NLP policies offer a degree of protection to valued landscape within the NP area. However, depending on the scale of development, a lack of overall vision and framework could result in the delivery of less sympathetic development styles, layouts and material choice. This could have a disruptive impact on the landscape through the lack of cohesive development. Insensitive development could also result in the loss of landscape features and adverse visual impact. Conversely, sensitive development presents an opportunity to enhance the existing townscape character of Eglingham whilst respecting the key characteristics of the landscape.

### Key issues

6.1.14 The key issues are as follows:

- A substantial part of the NP area constitutes valuable landscape that make a significant contribution to the character of the area.
- The existing Development Plan and the emerging NLP's policies offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings, but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.

### Scoping outcome

6.1.15 Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the character of landscapes. Whilst the NP does not allocate sites for housing it can potentially have impacts (positive and negative) on landscape.



## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

6.1.16 The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 6.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 6.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Landscape**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Supporting Questions</b>
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets?</li><li>• Contribute to better management of landscape assets?</li><li>• Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?</li><li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?</li><li>• Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?</li></ul>

## 7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of theme:

- Soil resource and quality;
- Watercourses;
- Water availability; and
- Water quality.

### Policy Context

7.1.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>46</sup> (2006) presents a strategy for protecting soil 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.

7.1.2 Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving 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;
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
- Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.

7.1.3 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
  - protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and*

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<sup>46</sup> [European Commission \(2006\) Soil Thematic Strategy](#)



- i. *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.*
- 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’.
- ‘Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or ‘brownfield’ land.’
- ‘Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.’
- Planning policies and decisions should ‘give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs’, and ‘promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.’
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

7.1.4 In Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England<sup>47</sup> (2009), a vision is set out for the future of soils in the country. It suggests that changing demands on our soils need to be better understood and it must be ensured that appropriate consideration is given to soils in the planning process.

7.1.5 The Future Water<sup>48</sup> strategy (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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<sup>47</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> Defra (2011) Future Water – The government’s water strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

- 7.1.6 The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes using and managing land sustainably by protecting the best agricultural land, improving soil health and restoring and protecting peatlands. This also includes respecting nature by using our water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a net environmental gain which can include water quality.
- 7.1.7 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) set out a framework for how all river basin stakeholders, including water companies and local communities, can help improve the quality of the water environment. There are eight RBMPs in England which all have a harmonised plan period of 2015-2021 and are reviewed every five years.
- 7.1.8 The Water Resources Management Plan<sup>49</sup> (2019) by Northumbria Water sets out how the organisation will ensure the sufficient supply of water over a 40-year period.
- 7.1.9 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 local area. Such assessments allow the areas which are potentially at risk of flooding to be identified, and a management strategy to be adopted.
- 7.1.10 The emerging NLP's, Policy POL2; seeks to protect soil and water quality by requiring development to; maintain soil quality, protect displaced soils and improve water quality. Development resulting in soil and/or water pollution would be required to incorporate pollution prevention/ reduction measures. However, where the likely pollution levels are deemed unacceptable, development would not be supported. Similarly, policy POL3 seeks to protect 'best and most versatile' agricultural land by withholding support for development unless the need for it clearly outweighs the need to protect BVM land and there are no suitable alternative sites on lower quality or previously developed and.
- 7.1.11 The emerging NLP's Policy WAT1 seeks to ensure that water bodies achieve 'good status' by 2021 preventing any deterioration in their status. This would be achieved by;
- Supporting development and/or landscape measures that maintain, or enhance water quality, including bathing water;
  - Not supporting development likely to have an adverse impact on water bodies (surface, ground and mine water) and ensuring that any development with potential impacts on water would bring about improvements to the affected water environment.

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<sup>49</sup> Northumbria Water (2019) Northumbria Water Resource Management Plan. Available at: <https://www.nwg.co.uk/responsibility/environment/wrmp/current-wrmp-2015-2020/>

- Avoiding any reduction in the 'high status' of certain surface water bodies and assessing the effects of development on designated Bathing Waters.

7.1.12 Policy WAT2 of the emerging NLP seeks to ensure that water supplies and sewerage infrastructure will be maintained and secured having regard to the findings of the Northumberland Water Cycle Study. This includes ensuring the protection of existing abstraction sources and obtaining assurance from water provider that the supply capacity can support proposed development. Similarly, the policy seeks to ensure that sewerage treatment capacity can support proposed development.

## Baseline summary

### Soil resources

7.1.13 The Agricultural Land Classification categorises land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the considered 'best and most versatile' land (BVM) and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.

7.1.14 As illustrated in Figure 7.1, the NP area comprises a mix of grades 3 and 4. There is no post 1988 survey data (provides a more detailed assessment) for the area, however, it is likely that the grade 3 areas include some grade 3a BVM land.

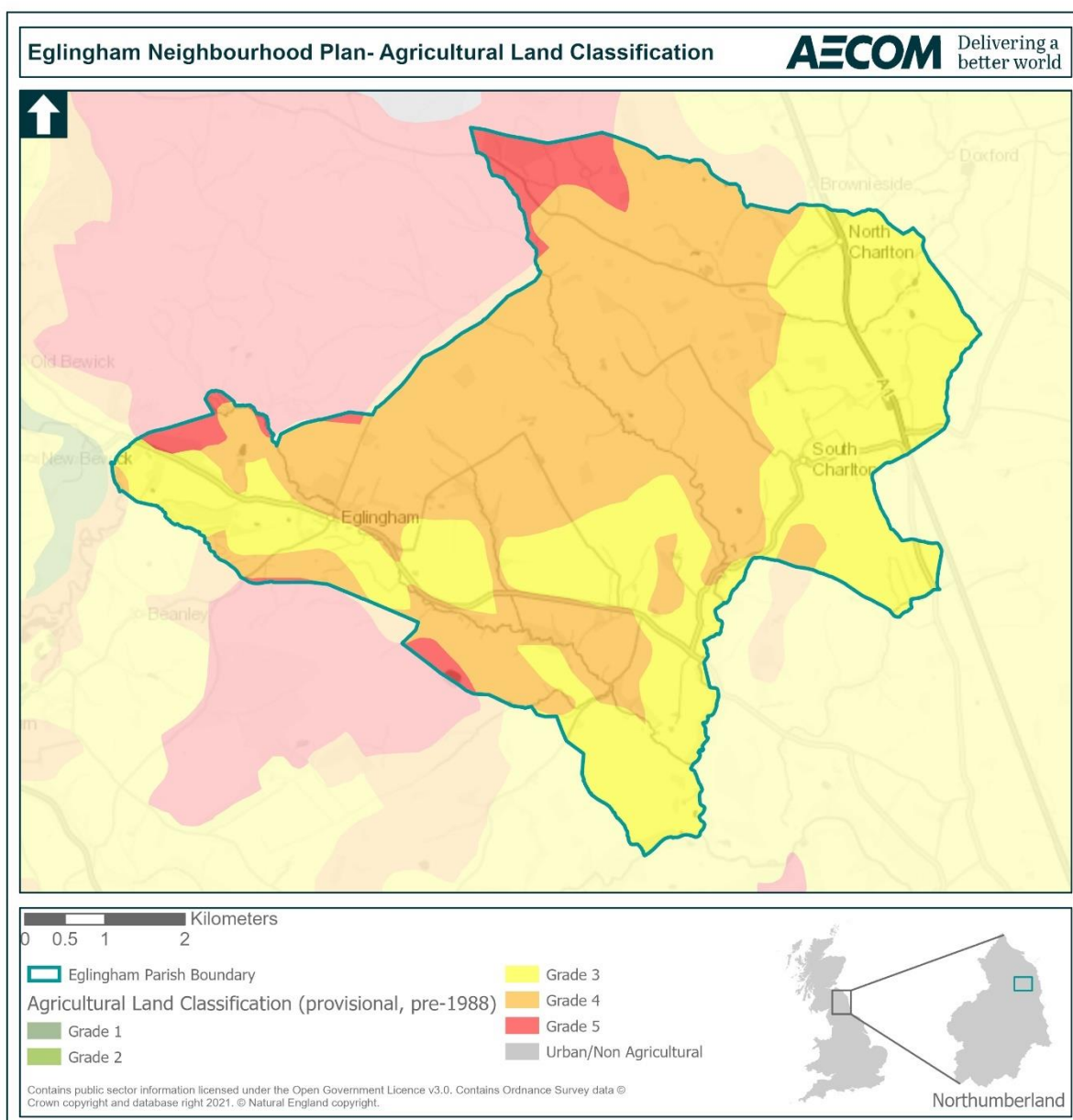
### Water resources

7.1.15 Northumbrian Water is the water utility responsible for water and wastewater services in the NP area. Their Water Resources Management Plan<sup>50</sup> states that their two water resource zones (Berwick and Kielder WRZs) have sufficient supplies to meet demand up to 2060 with no need to increase supply availability. Various measures are proposed in the management plan to reduce leakage and improve efficiency to help reduce consumption.

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<sup>50</sup> Northumbrian Water: Water Resources Management Plan 2019 available at <https://www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp>

**Figure 7-1 Eglingham Agricultural Land Classification**



## Watercourses

7.1.16 The NP area falls within the AIn Operational Catchment (OC); part of the Northumberland Rivers Management Catchment (MC) which extends southwards from Berwick-upon-Tweed to the Blyth Valley, with the Cheviot Hills to west and the North Sea to the East.

7.1.17 The Environment Agency (EA) measures the quality of England's rivers in two ways. An ecological measure examines the diversity and health of its wildlife, while a chemical measure assesses whether rivers contain too much sewage, phosphate or other harmful substances. The overall classification (Table 7.1) for the main water bodies within the NP area are 'Moderate' Ecologically and 'Poor' chemically. In this instance Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (flame retardants) and Mercury compounds are cited as main reason for the chemical 'Fail' status. Typically, such compounds are discharged to the environment through wastewater treated wastewater effluent and wastewater treatment sludge spreading.

7.1.18 The main water bodies in the parish are listed in Table 7.1:

**Table 7-1 Status of water bodies in the NP area**

<b>Water Body</b>	<b>2019 Cycle 2 Ecological status</b>	<b>2019 Cycle 2 Chemical Status</b>
AIn from Edlingham Burn to Tidal Limit	Moderate	Fail
Eglington Burn from Source to Shipley Burn	Moderate	Fail
Shipley Burn from Source to AIn	Moderate	Fail

## Water quality

7.1.19 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been designated by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. There are no SPZs within the NP area.

7.1.20 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The NP area does not fall within a Groundwater NVZ.

## Future baseline

- 7.1.21 In terms of water quality; requirements set out in the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. However, water quality could be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 7.1.22 Water availability in the area may be affected by increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change, but this is likely to be negligible.
- 7.1.23 Development which requires sewage treatment may, if not designed correctly or located appropriately, result in an increased risk of pollution to groundwater and surface water. Development will therefore need to have due consideration to the capacity of sewage works.
- 7.1.24 It is unlikely that large amounts of agricultural land would be lost to development, as the plan does not allocate land for housing or employment. However, it might be possible that higher grades of land are affected with un-planned, ad hoc growth.

## Key issues

- 7.1.25 The key issues are as follows:
- The NP area mainly consists of Grade 4 and Grade 3 agricultural land. Some of this is likely to be Grade 3a; best and most versatile land.
  - There are no Groundwater NVZs or Groundwater Source Protection Zones in the NP area.

## Scoping outcome

- 7.1.26 The topic of 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on land and water quality.
- 7.1.27 There are important soil resources in the NP area that ought to be avoided. However, the NP does not allocate land for housing or employment development and therefore unlikely to have a significant effect on soil resources. For this reason, soil is scoped out of the SEA. This does not mean that higher quality agricultural land should not be protected.
- 7.1.28 As the NP area does not overlap SPZs or NVZ, it is considered unlikely that significant effects upon water quality would occur as a result of the NP. With regards to waste water treatment and drainage, the NP is not expected to impact existing and planned infrastructure, and so significant effects in this respect are also unlikely. Consequently, water has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA

## 8. Population and Housing

### Focus of theme:

- Population size and age structure;
- Housing delivery and needs;
- Housing tenure;
- Housing affordability.

### Policy Context

#### 8.1.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; 'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'
- To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies 'should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.'
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions 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.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, 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' and taking a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

8.1.2 In February 2017, the Government published a housing white paper entitled 'Fixing our broken housing market'. This establishes the government's plans to reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes in England through a series of four proposals. These including planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.

8.1.3 The Northumberland Housing Strategy<sup>51</sup> outlines the Council's 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 highlight the need for a variety of housing types and tenures across the area, and an increase in dwelling units to cater to the growing population.

8.1.4 The Northumberland Strategic Housing Market Assessment<sup>52</sup> (2018) provides an update to a review in 2015 of housing requirements in the county and establishes an objective assessment of the need for additional housing provision. The report concludes that an additional 885 dwelling per annum are required within the Northumberland County Council area.

8.1.5 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan (BLP) classifies Eglington as a 'small village' within the North Delivery Area. Strategic Policy HOU3; Housing requirements for neighbourhood plan areas, identifies the housing requirement as zero for Eglington NP area (over the period 2018-2036).

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<sup>51</sup> A Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2016-2021, Available:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Housing/Housing-Strategy-2013-2018.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> Northumberland County Council (2018) Northumberland SHMA partial update [online] available at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Studies%20and%20Evidence%20Reports/Housing%20Studies/2.%20SHMA/NCC-SHMA-June-2018.pdf>



## Baseline summary

### Age Structure

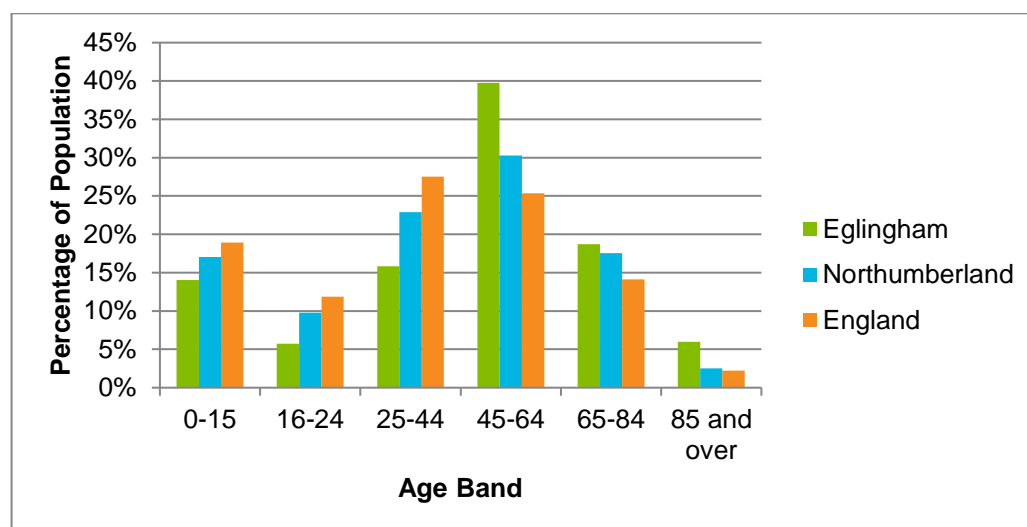
- 8.1.6 In 2019, the population of Eglingham was estimated to be 370; a slight decline (around 4%) on the 2011 census figure of 385. In comparison, Northumberland has seen a 2% increase in population since 2011<sup>53</sup>.
- 8.1.7 Table 8.1 and figure 8.1 show the age structure (2011 census) of the local population in comparison to that of Northumberland and England. It is apparent that Eglingham has a smaller proportion of younger age groups when compared to the wider region and nationally. Conversely, the older age groups (65-84 and 85+) are over represented in the Parish when compared to Northumberland and England as a whole. At the time of the 2011 census the 45-64 age group formed the highest proportion (40%) of the population in Eglingham.

**Table 8-1 Age Structure in 2011 (ONS)**

Age group	Eglingham	Northumberland	England
<b>0-15</b>	14%	17%	19%
<b>16-24</b>	6%	10%	12%
<b>25-44</b>	16%	23%	28%
<b>45-64</b>	40%	30%	25%
<b>65-84</b>	19%	18%	14%
<b>85+</b>	6%	3%	2%
<b>Total population</b>	385	316,028	53,012,456

<sup>53</sup> ONS 2011 Census Table KS101EW

**Figure 8-1 Age Structure**



## Housing Delivery and Tenure

8.1.8 With regards to housing delivery in Northumberland, Table 8.2 shows that over the last 5 years 1,489 dwellings were completed per annum on average; which is considerably higher than the target set in the emerging new Northumberland Local Plan. Fluctuation in delivery rates is also apparent with dips in 2015/16 and 2017/18. The trend in net completions suggests a gradual increase in housing delivery in Northumberland as a whole since 2011.

**Table 8-2 Net Housing Completions in Northumberland<sup>54</sup>**

	2011/12	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Completions (net)</b>	559	1,447	991	1,531	1,376	1,802	1,744
<b>Housing requirement</b>	-	-	-	885	885	885	885
<b>Supply</b>	-	-	-	+646	+491	+917	+859

<sup>54</sup> Source: NCC

8.1.9 With regards to housing tenure, data from the 2011 census shows that the proportion of owner occupation in the NP area is equivalent to the corresponding figure for Northumberland and slightly higher than the national average (see Table 8.3). The proportion of private rents is substantially higher in Eglington than in Northumberland and England as a whole. Conversely, the proportion of socially rented accommodation (rented from the Council or a Registered Social Landlord) is substantially smaller in the NP area than in Northumberland and England. There were no shared ownership tenures in the Parish in 2011.

**Table 8-3 Housing Tenure in 2011 (ONS Housing Tenure)**

Tenure	Eglington	Northumberland	England
<b>Owned (Total)</b>	65.8%	65.8%	63.3%
<b>Shared Ownership</b>	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%
<b>Socially Rented</b>	1.2%	18.7%	17.7%
<b>Private Rented</b>	26.7%	13.3%	16.8%

8.1.10 Table 8.4 shows how tenure has changed in the NP area between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. The private rented sector has seen the largest growth, increasing by 164%. Whilst the proportion of owner occupation also rose substantially (84%) in the intercensal period in contrast to the much smaller increase (4.6%) for Northumberland and the 0.6% decrease for England. Social rents increased in the Parish by 7% (albeit from a small base) compared with decreases in the wider region and nationally.

**Table 8-4 Trends in tenure between 2001-2011<sup>55</sup>**

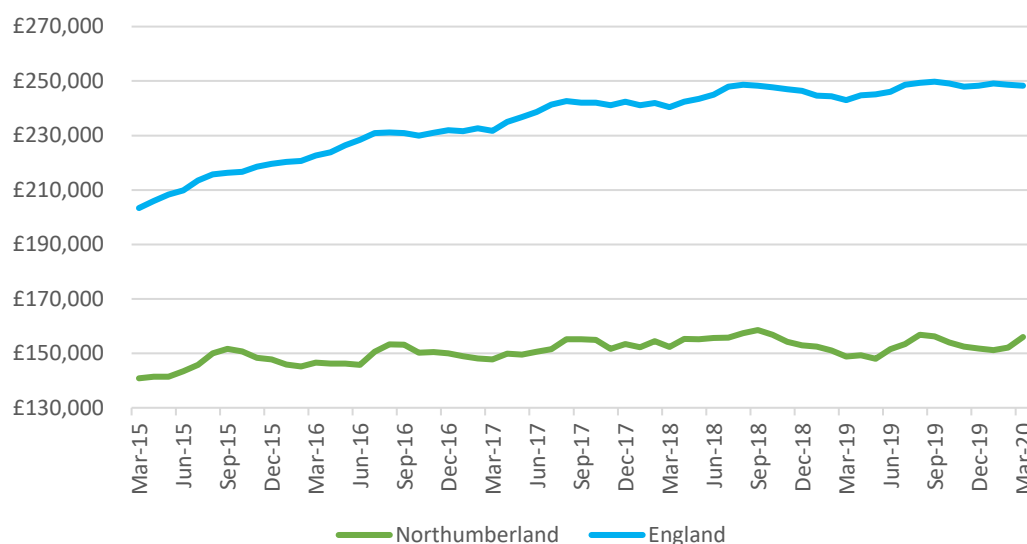
	Eglington	Northumberland	England
<b>Owned (Total)</b>	84.4%	4.6%	-0.6%
<b>Shared Ownership</b>	0.0%	-0.2%	30.0%
<b>Socially Rented</b>	7.1%	-8.2%	-0.9%
<b>Private Rented</b>	164.4%	93.0%	82.4%

8.1.11 The average house price in Northumberland in March 2020 (£155,568) showed a 4.5% increase on March 2019 (see Figure 8.2). The average property price for England was £249,402, indicating that average property prices in Northumberland are significantly lower than the national average.

<sup>55</sup> Source: 2001 and 2011 Censuses, AECOM calculations

8.1.12 The average detached house price in Northumberland in March 2020 was £262,209, representing around 5% increase on March 2019 (£249,792). The average semi-detached house price was £147,921, and the average terraced dwelling was £121,669.

**Figure 8-1 Average house prices for all property types 2015 to 2020<sup>56</sup>**



8.1.13 Property prices within the NP area vary widely depending on type, size and location. Whilst the HIP data doesn't include Parish level information, Zoopla quotes £425,000 as the average price paid (all property types) in Eglington (over past 12 month period). Therefore, the average property price in the NP area is significantly higher than that for Northumberland and England as a whole.

### Future baseline

8.1.14 Population trends in the NP area show a slight decline in population (4% since 2011). Census data shows the majority of residents (40%) were in the 45-64 age groups with almost a quarter of the population aged 64 and over. Residents making up the large 45-64 cohort in 2011 would now be in the 65-84 group.

8.1.15 Average house prices in Eglington are substantially higher than average prices for Northumberland. In the long term house prices are likely to continue to increase, though prices may fluctuate in the interim.

8.1.16 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan does not allocate housing development in Eglington (to 2036), setting a zero housing requirement figure for Parish.

8.1.17 Social and economic changes as a result of COVID-19 are likely to effect housing including but not limited to, housing need, affordable housing need,

<sup>56</sup> Source: UK HPI

the type of housing required locally and house prices. However, the impact of COVID-19 on housing need is uncertain at this stage.

## Key issues

8.1.18 The key issues are as follows:

- The population of Eglington has declined by around 4% since 2011.
- The net housing completions trend in Northumberland currently exceeds annual targets. The trend over the past 5 years indicates an increase in housing delivery.
- Average house prices in Eglington are considerably higher than the regional average for Northumberland.
- The housing requirement figure for Eglington is set at zero in the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.
- It is likely that COVID-19 will have an effect on housing factors, but these are uncertain at this stage.

## Scoping outcome

8.1.19 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been SCOPED IN to the SEA. The NP does not intend to allocate sites for housing delivery. However, the Plan includes policies pertaining to affordable housing and housing in rural areas which will influence the nature and location of housing delivered within the NP area.

## What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

8.1.20 The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 6.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 8-5 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Population & Housing**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes (including affordable housing) to meet the objectively identified needs of different community groups?</li> <li>• Maintain sustainable communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>

## 9. Health and Wellbeing

### Focus of theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation; and
- Influences on health and wellbeing.

### Policy Context

9.1.1 There are numerous links between planning and health highlighted throughout the NPPF. Paragraph 69 of the NPPF states that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that Local Planning Authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in Local Plans and in planning decision-making.

9.1.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'*
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- 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.

9.1.3 Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('The Marmot Review')<sup>57</sup> (2011) 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.

9.1.4 Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020) has been produced by the Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation to mark 10 years on from the landmark study Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review)<sup>58</sup>.

The report highlights that:

- people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health;
- improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women;
- the health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas; and
- place matters – for example living in a deprived area of the North East is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.

9.1.5 Public Health England (PHE) has a key role in shaping health policy and practice across the country. In 2017 the organisation published 'Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places'.<sup>59</sup> The review provides guidance on the role of the built and natural environment in shaping health impacts. The review also explores the impacts of neighbourhood design, provision of housing, transport and the natural environment on public health. Additionally, in 2018 PHE produced a 'Healthy High Streets'<sup>60</sup> briefing which highlights how health inequalities can be addressed in the design of the built environment.

9.1.6 The emerging NLP's policy STP5, Health and Wellbeing, supports development which promotes the health and wellbeing of residents. It states that development proposals will be required to demonstrate;

- they are safe, inclusive and prioritise pedestrian and cycle movement
- encourage community cohesions and social interaction

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<sup>57</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

<sup>58</sup>Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on (2020) [online] available to access via <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

<sup>59</sup> Public Health England (2017) Spatial Planning for Health An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places [online] available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/729727/spatial\\_planning\\_for\\_health.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729727/spatial_planning_for_health.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> Public Health England (2018): 'Healthy High Streets: Good Place-Making in an Urban Setting', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-high-streets-good-place-making-in-an-urban-setting>

- provide access to a range of facilities including public transport, health, education, green spaces and leisure facilities
- include green space and blue infrastructure where appropriate and contribute towards urban greening
- they are designed to promote and facilitate physical activity and healthy lifestyles

9.1.7 Policy STP6 of the emerging NLP, Green infrastructure; seeks to protect and enhance GI, stating that; '*development proposals should seek to protect, improve and extend green infrastructure*'. It requires that several criteria be taken into consideration when assessing development proposals, including how these;

- protect/ enhance strategic and/or local GI, link existing assets and GI networks within adjacent authority areas and,
- improve access to GI, rights of way and cycling routes
- secure biodiversity net-gains through ecological networks
- provide opportunities for growing healthy food, including through community schemes
- comply with national standards for GI

## Baseline summary

### Health indicators

9.1.8 According to the Northumberland Health Profile 2019<sup>61</sup>, the health of people in the Borough is varied compared with the England average.

- The life expectancy for males (79.5) and females (82.8) and the under 75 mortality rates are significantly better than the regional average and similar to the England average.
- The percentage of physically active adults (72.1%) is significantly greater than regional (64.9%) and national (67.2%) averages.

9.1.9 In terms of healthcare facilities, the nearest hospital is Alnwick Infirmary, around 8 miles from the centre of Eglingham. There are two GP surgeries and three Dental clinics within 7 miles of Eglingham.

9.1.10 There are several Leisure centres within a 8 miles radius at Alnwick.

9.1.11 Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on health by encouraging and facilitating outdoor activity. Eglingham has several green open spaces such as woodland, open green space, fields and church yard.

9.1.12 Eglingham is surrounded by open countryside, featuring woodland, rivers, ponds, fields, footpaths and bridleways. The NP area further includes numerous formal and informal walking and cycle routes.

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<sup>61</sup> Public Health England (2019) Northumberland Local Authority Health Profile 2019 [online] available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>



## Deprivation

9.1.13 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (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.
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness / disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the 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.
- **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.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, including the quality of housing stock, air quality and road traffic incidents.

Two indices, subsets of the Income deprivation domain, are also included:

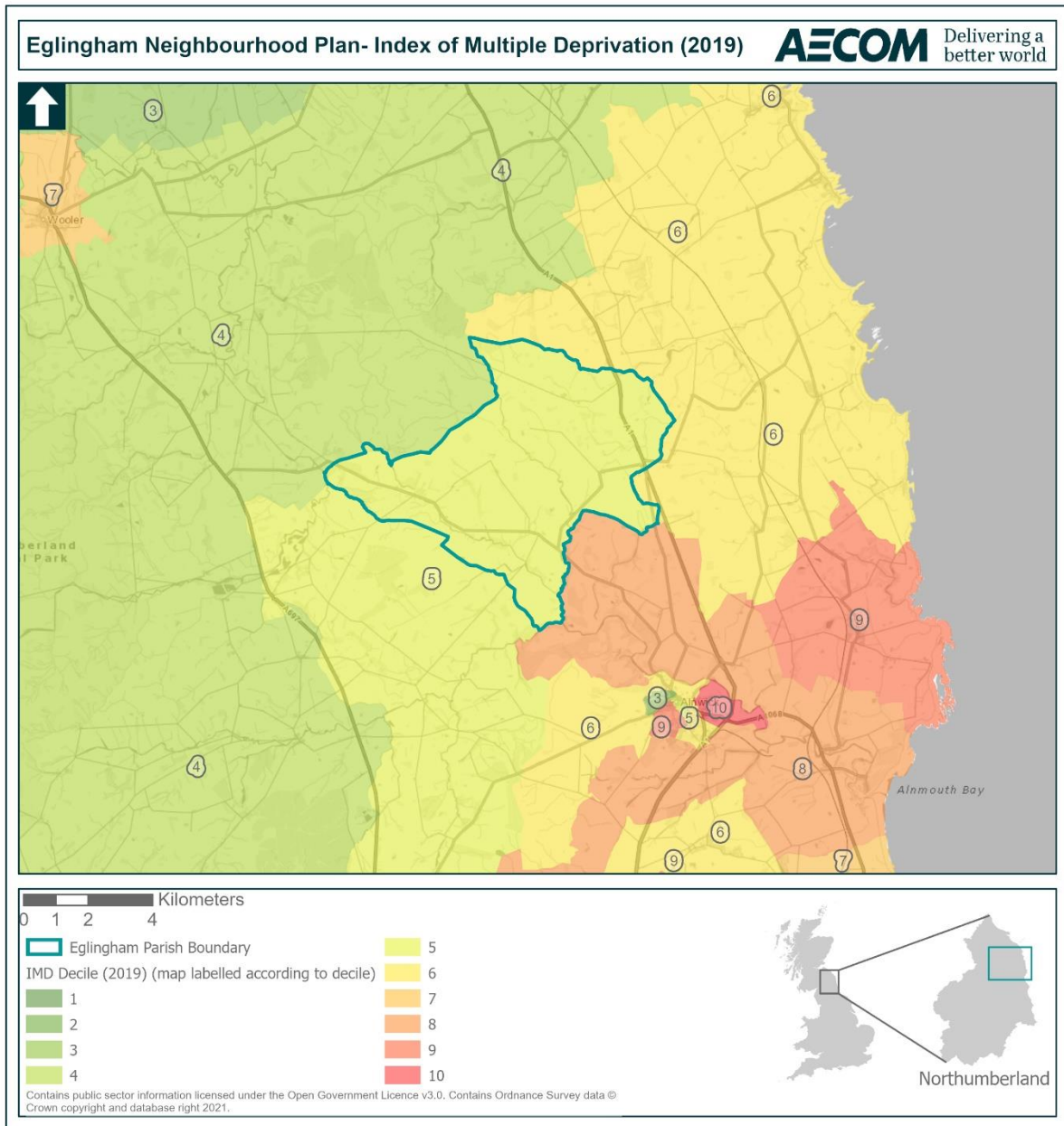
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

9.1.14 As illustrated in Figure 9.1 below, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) data for the NP area show the majority of the area to be in the 5th decile (decile 1 is the most deprived and decile 10 is the least deprived); representing 50% of the most deprived areas in England. The lower super output area (LSOA)<sup>62</sup> is ranked 15,887 out of 32,844 LSOAs in England. That is to say the Parish has no deprivation.

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<sup>62</sup> Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a standard statistical geography designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 LSOAs in England. They were produced by the Office for National Statistics for the reporting of small area statistics and are a standard way of evenly dividing up the country by population. For ease of communication, LSOAs are sometimes referred to as 'neighbourhoods' or small areas.

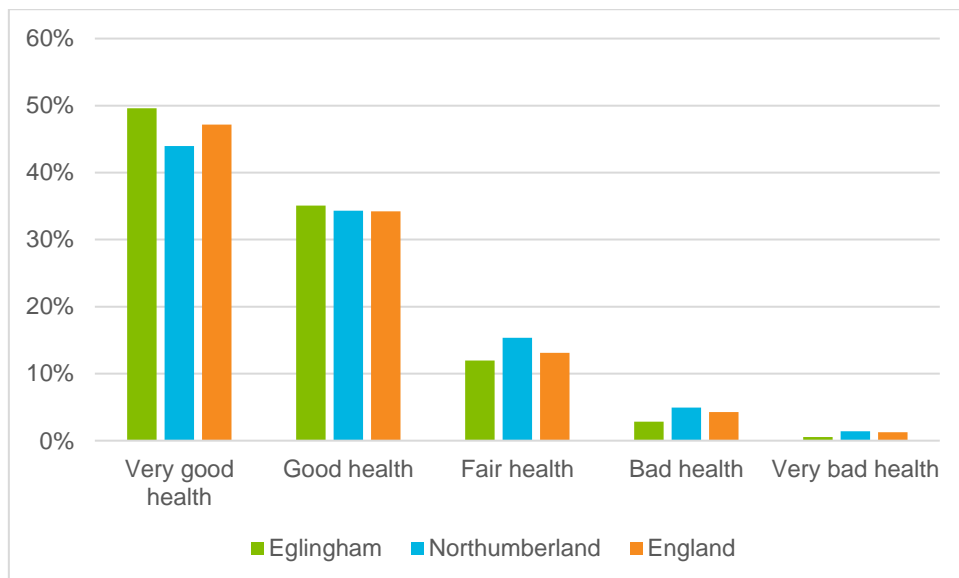
**Figure 9-1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019**



9.1.15 A self-assessment of health by residents in the NP area indicated that most residents in Eglingham consider themselves to be in good or very good health (85%) which is higher than the corresponding levels for Northumberland (78%) and England as a whole (81%). Only 4% of residents consider their health to be bad or very bad compared to 6% for Northumberland and 5% for England (Figure 9.2).

9.1.16 These trends are similar to the national pattern with the key difference being that Eglingham has a notably larger proportion of residents that consider themselves to have very good health (59%) compared to the regional (44%) and national average (47%). Those considering themselves to be in Bad health are also lower in Eglingham (2%) compared to regional (5%) and national (4%) average.

**Figure 9-2 Residents General Health (Census 2011: KS301EW)**



## Future baseline

9.1.17 It is likely that with time the growth in the 65+ age group is likely to increase pressure on health and social care services and facilities in the NP area.

## Key issues

9.1.18 The key issues are as follows:

- Eglingham has a broadly healthy population with life expectancy on average higher than the rest of the region and on par with the national average.
- There are no pockets of deprivation in NP area.
- There are several health and recreational facilities within 7-8 miles of the NP area.
- The Parish has an increasingly ageing population. With time, the older age groups will grow, placing additional pressures on health and social services.

## Scoping outcome

9.1.19 The Plan has the potential to engender effects on health and wellbeing, as development on allocated sites could lead to benefits with regards to affordable housing access, or negatives in terms of amenity disturbance. However, given that the NP is not allocating sites for development it is unlikely to produce significant effects on health and wellbeing.

9.1.20 With this in mind and given the good levels of health enjoyed by residents of the NP area (and low levels of deprivation) the SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED OUT**.

## 10. Transportation

### Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Accessibility; and
- Modes of travel.

### Policy Context

#### 10.1.1 Key messages from the NPPF (2021);

- ‘Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
- The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
- Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised;
- Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
- The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account; and
- Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.’
- ‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.’

#### 10.1.2 The Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan<sup>63</sup> (2018) sets out a plan for transport infrastructure investment in the North of England with an aim of supporting economic growth through enhanced connectivity and higher productivity.

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<sup>63</sup> Transport for the North (2018) Strategic Transport Plan [online] available at: <https://transportfornorth.com/stp/>

- 10.1.3 Northumberland County Council has produced a Northumberland 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.
- 10.1.4 The Walking and Cycling Strategy<sup>64</sup> 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.
- 10.1.5 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan 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. Alongside reducing the need to travel, the critical importance of ensuring connectivity is fully recognised. The emerging local plan seeks to maintain and support a local transport system with connections that are resilient and responsive to changing needs.

### Baseline summary

- 10.1.6 The A1, which runs through the Parish to east (North Charlton), connects Eglingham to settlements across north east England and Scotland. The A697 runs parallel to the west of the Parish linking it to Morpeth and Newcastle to the south and Wooler and Scotland to the North. The B6346 runs through the Parish (north west to south east) passing through Eglingham village and linking it to Alnwick.
- 10.1.7 The Parish is well-served by the railway network through Alnmouth railway station (10-12 miles away). This is on the East Coast Mainline which runs between London King's Cross and Edinburgh Waverley.
- 10.1.8 The NP area has a limited bus service with one route (470) which connects to Wooler and Alnwick. National Express coach services run from Alnwick, linking the area to Newcastle-upon-Tyne via (Morpeth) to the south and Berwick-upon-Tweed to the north.
- 10.1.9 There are several Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) in and around the NP area (Figure 10-3).

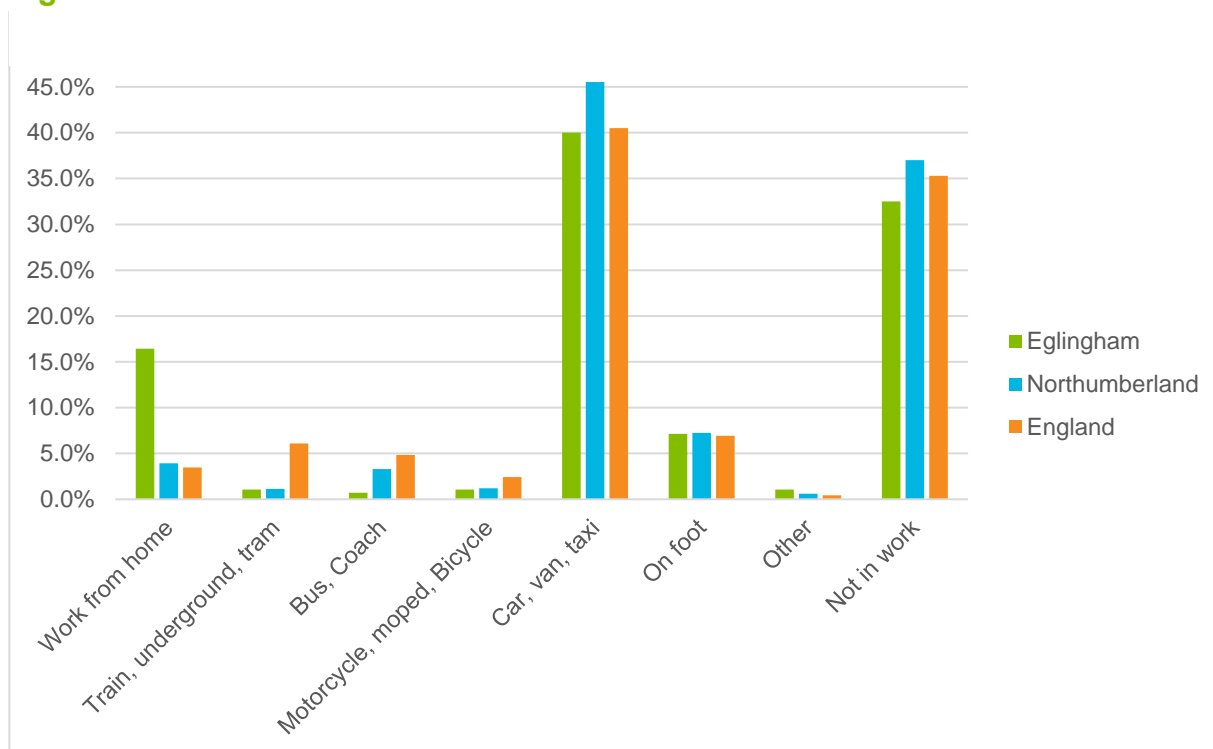
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<sup>64</sup> Northumberland County Council Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016.

## Modes of travel

10.1.10 According to Census data, most residents (40%) are likely to travel to work driving a car or a van (figure 10.1). A markedly large proportion of residents work from home (16.4%) compared to the wider region (3.9%) and England as a whole (3.5%). Walking (7.1%) is the next most popular method of travel to work, followed by Tain (1.1%). Less than 1% of residents travel to work on the bus which is not surprising given the limited bus service in the Parish.

**Figure 10-1 Methods of travel to work**

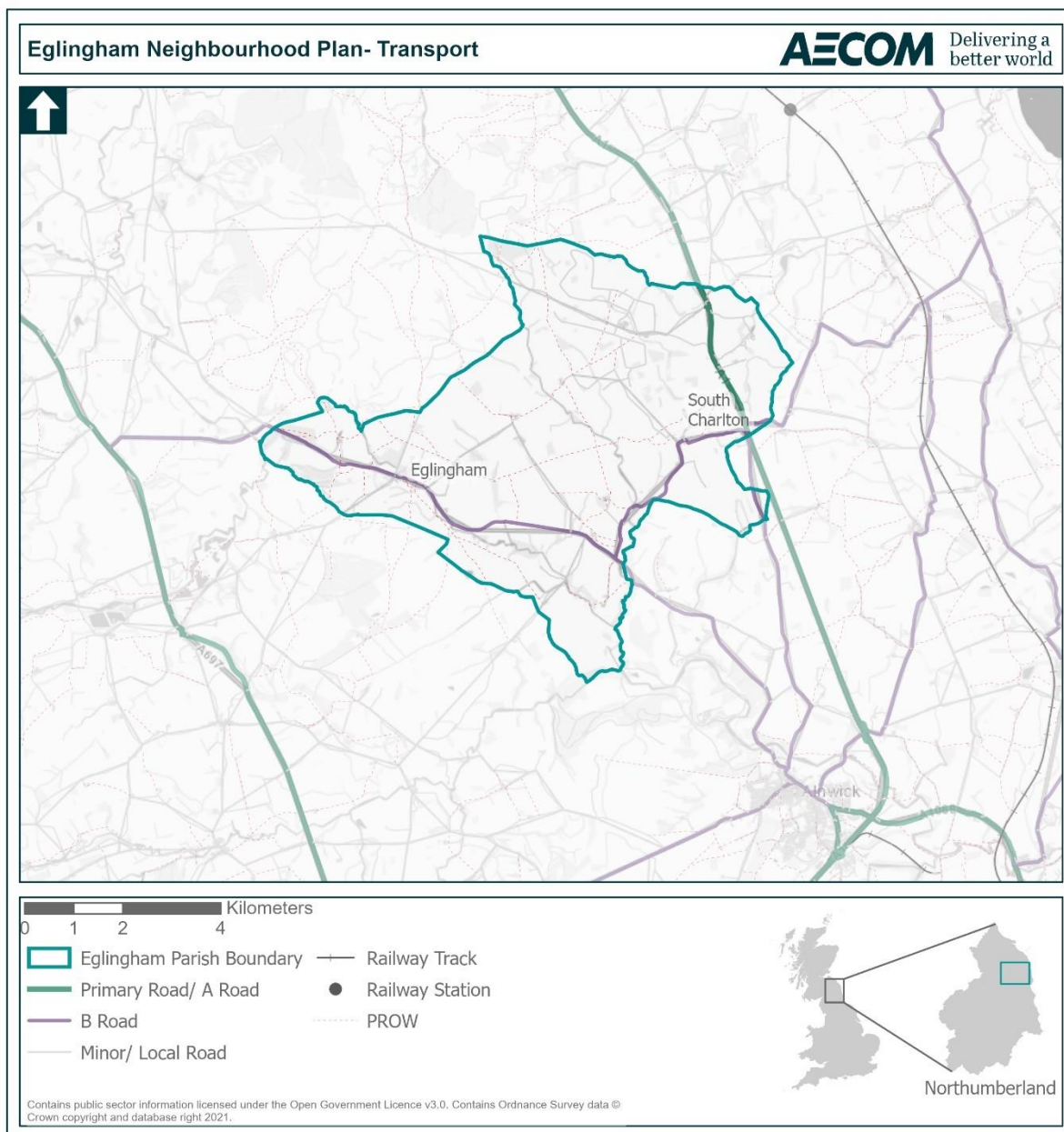


**Figure 10-2 Method of travel to work (Census 2011)**

Method of Travel	Eglington	Northumberland	England
Work from home	16.4	3.9	3.5
Train, underground, tram	1.1	1.1	6.1
Bus, coach	0.7	3.3	4.9
Motorcycle, moped, bicycle	1.1	1.2	2.4
Car, van, Taxi	40.0	45.5	40.5
On foot	7.1	7.3	6.9
Other	1.1	0.6	0.4



**Figure 10-3 Transport Connectivity and Road Network across the NP area**



## Future baseline

10.1.11 New development is likely to result in higher amounts of traffic and congestion on the local road network. A greater local population through the delivery of Local Plan housing allocations and other developments and subsequent demand for public transport could provide opportunities to increase bus provision. However, Eglingham is unlikely to experience the scale of growth that would be likely to add significant congestion to the local road network or make major improvements to public transport viable.

## Key issues

10.1.12 The key issues are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well served by the highway network and benefits from good railway connectivity.
- A large proportion of residents work from home
- The majority of residents are likely to travel to work by car/ van, but trends could change as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.
- Development can potentially lead to increased traffic and improve the viability of public transport, but this is unlikely to be significant.

## Scoping outcome

10.1.13 The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the NP does not allocate sites for residential development and therefore unlikely to generate significant additional traffic and movement in the NP area.

## 11. The SEA Framework

11.1.1 The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 2-10).

11.1.2 The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Development Plan Document (and any reasonable alternatives).

11.1.3 Table 11.1 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The Framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can have in some areas.

**Table 11.1: The SEA Framework**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to... )</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Biodiversity</b></p> <p>To protect, maintain and enhance the extent and quality of biodiversity and geodiversity sites and networks within and surrounding the Plan area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats?</li> <li>• Avoid significant impacts on designated sites within, and in the vicinity of the NP area including; the North Northumberland Dunes SAC, Newham Fen SAC, Northumbria Coast SPA, Northumberland Marine SPA, Northumbria Coast Ramsar, Bewick and Beanley Moor SSSI and the Till Catchment SSSI?</li> <li>• Support the delivery of biodiversity net gains?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climatic factors</b></p> <p>Avoid and manage flood risk and support the resilience of the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change.</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 surface 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 in the design of new development in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Avoid placing development in areas that are at the risk of flooding?</li> </ul>

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to... )</b>
<hr/> <p>Historic environment</p> <p>Protect, enhance and manage the integrity, distinctive character and setting of the historic environment and the wider built environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li><li>• Protect and enhance the Eglington Conservation Area.</li><li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets including locally listed buildings and assets listed in the Northumberland HER?</li><li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li><li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li><li>• Consider the impact on setting in a manner proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.</li><li>• Promote heritage-led regeneration?</li><li>• Lead to the repair and adaptive re-use of a heritage asset and encourage high quality design?</li></ul>
<hr/> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets?</li><li>• Contribute to better management of landscape assets?</li><li>• Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?</li><li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?</li><li>• Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?</li></ul>
<hr/> <p>Population and housing</p> <p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs of different community groups?</li><li>• Support the provision of affordable housing in the NP area.</li><li>• Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?</li></ul>

## 12. Next Steps

### Subsequent stages for the SEA process

12.1.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a five-stage SEA process:

- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation (NPPG Stage D/E)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)

12.1.2 The next stage will involve establishing and appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will involve consideration of strategic issues such as the growth and distribution of housing, and site options. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back so that they can be considered when preparing the draft plan.

### Consultation on the Scoping Report

12.1.3 Involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

12.1.4 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

12.1.5 Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to the below contacts;

Omar Ezzet,	AECOM	omar.ezzet@aecom.com
David Biesterfield	Eglingham Parish Council	dbiesterfield@icloud.com

12.1.6 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

