



Northumberland
County Council

Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Environmental Report

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Northumberland County Council for Embleton Parish Council

16 September 2019

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Introduction

Embleton Parish Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Embleton Parish area.

Communities may choose to produce a Neighbourhood Plan; however, they are not required to do so. Once in force, the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for Northumberland, which is the background against which planning decisions are made.

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Strategic Environmental Assessment, or SEA for short, is a process of assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The Assessment is a legislative requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (often referred to more simply as the SEA Regulations).

This SEA 'Environmental Report' and is a key output of the SEA. It tells the story of the stages of the SEA process to date, and presents the findings.

What is the purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

The main purpose of the SEA is to identify and assess the potentially significant environmental effects of a Plan; and to suggest measures to avoid, reduce or manage damaging environmental impacts, and enhance positive effects. The SEA is also intended to enable stakeholders / consultees to comment on and shape the approach taken to the assessment and its outcomes.

Why is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan necessary?

Not every Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA. The need for SEA is influenced by the nature of the area which the plan applies to and its likely significant environmental effects.

In the case of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan an assessment known as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) triggered the need for an SEA. A Habitats Regulations Assessment is a requirement of separate legislation. It relates to

assessing the effects of plans on protected habitats known as Natura 2000 and European Designated sites. These are networks of internationally important, high quality nature conservation sites.

What has the Strategic Environmental Assessment involved so far?

There are six key stages in undertaking an SEA:

Stage A – Screening

The first stage is to decide whether or not an SEA is required. This is referred to as screening. The County Council initially issued a screening opinion indicating that SEA would not be required. However, the need for a SEA for the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan was subsequently triggered by a later conclusion by the County Ecologist, supported by Natural England, that ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the Plan was required under separate legislation governing the protection of internationally important habitats. The SEA was therefore undertaken to comply with that conclusion.

Stage B- Scoping

This stage is about deciding the scope and level of detail for the SEA. A scoping report was produced and was issued for consultation with ‘consultation bodies’ named in regulations, specifically Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. Responses from the consultation bodies are attached at Appendix G of the Environmental Report. The Scoping Report included:

- A review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of European, national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan;
- A description of the baseline environmental position;
- Identification of key environmental issues/problems; and
- An SEA Framework, which forms the basis of the proposed methodology for undertaking the SEA

Stage C – testing

This stage is about assessing the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan. This involved:

- Testing the Neighbourhood Plan objectives;
- Examining alternatives;
- Predicting the effects;
- Evaluating and scoring the effects;
- Identifying measures to mitigate adverse effects and maximise positive impacts; and
- Proposing measures for monitoring the environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stage D – reporting

This Environmental Report represents the outcome of the assessment carried out at stage C of the process at this point in time. This may be modified in future should further significant changes be made to the Plan prior to it being ‘made’.

Stage E consulting

This report will be subject to consultation with prescribed consultation bodies and others who have an interest in the Plan and in the area.

Stage F monitoring

This stage will not take place until the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted and the effects of implementing the plan are monitored.

SEA Scope and Limitations

Taking a proportionate approach is a key principle applied to SEA. The process should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of a plan. The scope of the SEA of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been influenced by the relatively small geographic area covered by the Plan and the overall strategy, vision and objectives. It has also been informed by a higher level ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ (including SEA) of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan.

SEA is not an exact science and there are certain difficulties commonly encountered in undertaking any SEA. For example, the baseline analysis, i.e. looking at what is the situation ‘now’ is dependent upon the available information. Projecting what might happen with or without the plan or in light of alternatives is also inherently difficult.

What does the Strategic Environmental Assessment tell us?

The assessment presented in the Environmental Report comprises conclusions on the likely effects of the Plan on the environment. In view of the stage of plan preparation reached when the SEA was undertaken it was considered appropriate to carry out an assessment of a draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan that was modified having regard to various representations made after consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (January 2019). The SEA therefore considers the effects on the environment of the ‘Draft Submission Version – April 2019’ version of the Plan. That version of the Plan will be made available alongside consultation on the Environmental Report.

The area covered by the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan is environmentally sensitive, hosting a number of international, national and locally designated nature conservation sites. Some of the key environmental issues based on the current state

of the environment and how it is likely to evolve without the Neighbourhood Plan include:

- The area and surroundings are rich in biodiversity. There may be opportunities for enhancement. There are also potential pressures which could lead to disturbance or depletion;
- Any growth in development and any increase in levels of car ownership could lead to higher greenhouse gasses with resulting impacts on climate change.
- The effects of climate change could increase the risk of flooding in some areas;
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a number of heritage assets and sits within part of the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These are assets which could be sensitive to the impacts of new development;
- There are issues of poor water quality in the wider area (River Aln and Aln Estuary). However, there is no evidence that this will worsen.
- There is a declining population and an ageing population with associated implications for the area, including in respect of the sustainability and viability of services and facilities;
- There are pressures from existing second or holiday homes and continued demand for these properties which can have detrimental impacts;
- The health and well-being of people living in the Neighbourhood Plan area is generally good. However this could change relatively over time as a result of there being an increasingly ageing population;
- Reliance upon private vehicle is high reflecting the rural nature of the area. This is likely to continue to be the case.

The appraisal demonstrates that individually and collectively the policies and objectives of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan serve to mitigate any potential negative environmental effects and enhance positive effects. The Plan overall therefore has positive or neutral effects on the environment. There are no significant adverse impacts as a result of the Plan.

The 'reasonable alternatives' considered in the plan making process related to:

- alternative settlement boundaries;
- potential site allocations for housing; and
- a no policy approach to second / holiday homes.

The SEA demonstrates the alternatives do not represent more favourable outcomes in respect of environmental impacts.

In conclusion there are no changes required to the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the SEA.

What Next?

Subject to the findings of consultation, the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan SEA Environmental Report will be finalised. The final draft Neighbourhood Plan will then be submitted to Northumberland County Council, alongside the SEA Environmental Report. The County Council will then consider whether the Plan and the various submission documents meet certain legal requirements. Provided these requirements are met the Plan will then progress to Independent Examination.

1. Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 Embleton Parish Council is currently preparing a neighbourhood plan for the Embleton Parish area.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 allows parish councils and groups of people from the community, called neighbourhood forums, to formulate neighbourhood development plans and orders, to guide and shape development in a particular area. Such plans must have regard to national policies and conform to local strategic policies.
- 1.3 To be 'made' (brought into legal force), a neighbourhood plan must pass an independent examination and meet certain 'basic conditions' defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These include that the making of the plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.
- 1.4 One of these obligations is European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This is often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive or SEA Directive for short.
- 1.5 It should be noted that this Environmental Report uses both the terms 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' and 'SEA'. Both should be taken to mean the same but are used interchangeably so that readers may be able to read elements of the report and understand the terminology.
- 1.6 The SEA Directive '*seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes*'. The SEA Directive is transposed into UK legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (also known as the SEA Regulations) 2004 and it is these regulations that a neighbourhood plan must comply with.
- 1.7 It is the responsibility of the local planning authority to decide whether a neighbourhood plan is compatible with relevant legislative obligations.
- 1.8 Beyond its duty to advise and assist Embleton Parish Council with neighbourhood planning¹, Northumberland County Council offered additional assistance to help by undertaking the SEA process and preparing this report. This additional support is akin to the role of an independent consultancy and

¹ as required by paragraph 3 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

was done to assist in light of the limited resources available to the Parish Council and the lack of support available from any other sources, including the government's national support programme for neighbourhood planning.

Purpose of Report

- 1.9 This report is technically referred to as an 'Environmental Report' and is a core output of the SEA process. It has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

Structure of the Report

- 1.10 Regulation 12 of the SEA Regulations specifically sets out the requirements of an Environmental Report. It must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan and of the reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan. The Environmental Report must clearly show how these requirements have been met.
- 1.11 In order to address the specific required contents and to produce a user friendly document, the remainder of this report has been structured according to the following chapters:
2. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Approach – including stages involved
 3. Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and policy context
 4. Environmental baseline position
 5. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Framework used to appraise the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan
 6. Appraisal of the effects of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan on the environment
 7. Monitoring and Next steps

Scope and Limitations

- 1.12 In accordance with national planning practice guidance², Strategic Environmental Assessment should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects of a neighbourhood plan. It should focus on the environmental impacts which are likely to be significant. To this end, the SEA has not needed to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than was considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.13 Furthermore, in undertaking the assessment, it is necessary to be mindful of the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the plan making process in order to avoid duplication of assessment. Accordingly, the SEA process has been informed by the Sustainability Appraisal of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan, which includes an SEA.
- 1.14 It should be noted that in undertaking any SEA, there are certain limitations which are referred to throughout this Environmental Report. The assessment is based on the information found to be available at the time of undertaking the SEA. There may be additional information, which has not been identified or in some instances the available information may be dated (such as data derived from the census). In addition, projecting or forecasting the future situation, with or without the plan is not a precise science. It involves a level of judgement to be applied, including considering the wide range of external factors which could have an indirect influence on the environment over time.

² Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 11-030-20150209

2. The SEA approach

What is strategic environmental assessment (SEA)?

- 2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternative approaches to address key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging Plan's contribution to achieving sustainable development.
- 2.2 The SEA process is sometimes undertaken as a part of a 'Sustainability Appraisal'. The Sustainability Appraisal process has a broader remit than SEA. In addition to assessing the likely effects of a plan or programme on the environment, a Sustainability Appraisal involves examining the likely effects of a plan in social and economic terms.
- 2.3 The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan is not a 'development plan document' for the purposes of the Planning Acts. Accordingly 'Sustainability Appraisal' is not required. The SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan therefore addresses only the SEA Directive requirements. Whilst it does not constitute a Sustainability Appraisal, it has informed wider considerations by the Parish Council in respect of ensuring the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development which is one of the 'basic conditions' required of neighbourhood plans.

Determining the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment?

- 2.4 Not every neighbourhood plan requires SEA. The need for SEA is influenced by the nature of the area which the plan applies to and its likely significant environmental effects. In order to determine if a neighbourhood plan requires SEA, a screening process is necessary.
- 2.5 To assist in determining the need for SEA in respect of the emerging Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the local planning authority prepared and consulted on a screening opinion. This screening opinion can be found on Northumberland County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/ourplan

- 2.6 Based on the characteristics of the initial draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the area characteristics, the conclusion of the SEA Screening process, in the opinion of Northumberland County Council, was that the Plan would be unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and SEA would therefore not be required.
- 2.7 However, subsequent to that conclusion being reached, a separate screening determination in respect of Habitats Regulations Assessment would prove to override the original screening opinion.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.8 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations') requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of land use plans on the Natura 2000 network of European protected sites. This is to determine whether there will be any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of the plan's implementation (either alone or 'in combination' with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site's integrity with reference to the site's conservation objectives. The process by which the effects of a plan or programme on European sites are assessed is known as 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA).
- 2.9 In accordance with the Habitats Regulations, an HRA screening exercise was undertaken to identify the likely impacts of the Pre-Submission Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (January 2019) upon European sites, either alone or 'in combination' with other projects or plans, and to consider whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- 2.10 That screening exercise found the possibility of significant effects could not be excluded, therefore it was deemed necessary to undertake a more detailed assessment, known as 'Appropriate Assessment'. The Appropriate Assessment is reported separately from the SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan, but importantly has helped to inform the appraisal process, particularly in respect of biodiversity.
- 2.11 While the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment are set out in separate legislation, there is a relationship between the two. The SEA Regulations state that, where plans and programmes require Appropriate Assessment for HRA, this will trigger the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This will be the case even if SEA would not normally have been considered to be required following screening. Accordingly it was determined that the Embleton Parish

Neighbourhood Plan would require SEA on the basis of it requiring Appropriate Assessment.

- 2.12 Having regard to the stage reached in plan preparation, noting that consultation had been carried out on a Pre-Submission Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (January 2019) in accordance with requirements set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, it was concluded that it would be appropriate to undertake the SEA of the Plan as modified following that statutory stage of consultation. This reflects the timing of conclusions regarding the need for SEA which, as explained above, only arose through the need for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations.
- 2.13 The Parish Council's Steering Group considered the representations made in response to consultation on their draft Neighbourhood Plan. This resulted in some modification to the Plan. A draft 'Submission Version' of the Plan was prepared by the Steering Group in April 2019 containing modifications, including those recommended in the HRA Appropriate Assessment. It is that version of the Plan that has been assessed in this SEA Environmental Report. That version of the Plan will be made available alongside consultation on the Environmental Report.
- 2.14 It should be noted that changes made to the Plan following consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft Plan are not considered sufficiently significant to the extent that further statutory consultation would be required under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Stages

- 2.15 The SEA Regulations prescribe a process for undertaking SEA and specific guidance on what must be addressed at each stage. The stages for the SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan are included in Planning Practice Guidance³ and are as follows:

Stage A - Screening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine whether the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects2. Consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies
Stage B - Setting the context and Objectives, establishing the	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives2. Collect baseline information3. Identify sustainability issues and problems

³ Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 11-033-20150209

baseline and deciding on the scope	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Develop the strategic environmental assessment framework 5. Consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies on the scope of the strategic environmental assessment
Stage C – Defining and refining alternatives and assessing effects	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test the neighbourhood plan objectives against the strategic environmental assessment framework 2. Develop the neighbourhood plan options including reasonable alternatives 3. Evaluate the likely effects of the neighbourhood plan and alternatives 4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects 5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the neighbourhood plan
Stage D – Prepare the environmental report	
Stage E – Publish and consult the consultation bodies and the public on the environmental report	
Stage F- Post making reporting and monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare and publish post adoption statement 2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the neighbourhood plan 3. Respond to adverse effects

Stage A

- 2.16 Stage A is often referred to as screening and is the process of determining whether the neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This is subject to consultation with the environmental assessment consultation bodies.
- 2.17 As set out above, the local planning authority prepared and consulted on a screening opinion, concluding that in the opinion of Northumberland County Council the Plan would be unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and SEA would therefore not be required. However, a separate screening determination in respect of Habitats Regulations Assessment overrode that original screening opinion and triggered the need for SEA.

Stage B

2.18 The SEA Regulations require that “*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, these consultation bodies are Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The consultation bodies were consulted on the scope of the SEA for the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan in April 2019.

2.19 The Scoping Report included:

- A review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of European, national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan – this review has been continually reviewed but has not required updating since the scoping stage and is presented in Appendix A.
- A baseline against which the Neighbourhood Plan could be assessed – based on the anticipated scope of the neighbourhood plan’s effects, the baseline position was presented in respect of the following environmental topics:
Air quality;
Biodiversity and geodiversity;
Climate Change (including flood risk);
Landscape and historic environment;
Land, soil and water resources;
Population and community;
Human health; and
Transportation
- Key environmental issues/problems for the Neighbourhood Plan – based on the above topics, the key issues and problems were identified. Where the issues were of little or no relevance to the Plan they would not be addressed or afforded more limited weight.
- An SEA Framework – the SEA process seeks to assess the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan for its likely significant effects on the environment. The SEA framework is a set of objectives and guiding questions. It is a recognised method by which the likely effects of the plan and alternative options can be described, analysed and compared. The SEA framework is set out in Appendix B.

Consultation responses to the SEA Scoping document are provided in Appendix G to this report and were taken into account and informed the subsequent stage of assessment. Comments from the consultation bodies are summarised as follows:

Historic England

No detailed comments to make other than signposting to Historic England guidance on the SEA process (Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8, 2016).

Natural England

Natural England considered that the Neighbourhood Plan should require appropriate mitigation of the effects of visitors on the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar site. It was also considered that any increase in housing numbers would have a likely significant effect on the special interest features of designated sites, presented through recreational disturbance. It was considered that the SEA process should reinforce the requirements to mitigate against recreational disturbance through Northumberland County Council's Coastal Mitigation Service, a matter originally identified through the HRA Appropriate Assessment.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency welcomed and supported the SEA objectives (SEA Framework) set out in the Scoping Report. The Environment Agency also stated that the UKCP18 climate change projections were published in November 2018 and that these should be reflected within the SEA process.

Stage C

- 2.20 Following consultation on the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping Report, testing of the Neighbourhood Plan was progressed. This involved each of the five actions identified in the methodology, that is:
- Testing the Neighbourhood Plan objectives against the strategic environmental assessment framework
 - Developing the Neighbourhood Plan options including reasonable alternatives
 - Evaluating the likely effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives
 - Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
 - Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan

Stage D

- 2.21 This Environmental Report represents stage D of the process. It seeks to present information on the draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the alternative options considered. The Environmental Report explains the process that was undertaken and why the policies in the draft plan were chosen in light of other options which considered.
- 2.22 In accordance with **Stage E**, this report will be subject to consultation. **Stage F** will not take place until the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted and the effects of implementing the plan are monitored.

3. Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and policy context

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.1 Communities have a right to use discretionary powers introduced into the Planning System in 2011 to produce a neighbourhood plan. Communities are not required by legislation to produce such a plan but they may choose to do so in order to shape development in their area. Local Planning Authorities have a duty to support those groups which choose to pursue a neighbourhood plan and are required to bring plans into force provided they meet all statutory obligations. Once neighbourhood plans are 'made' (brought into legal force) they become part of the statutory development plan and must be used in making decisions on planning applications in the area to which they apply.
- 3.2 There are various regulations governing neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood Plans may only be prepared by a 'qualifying body' as defined through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The preparation of neighbourhood plans is governed by requirements set out in The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (and subsequent amendments); and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.
- 3.3 Neighbourhood plans must meet several statutory requirements to ensure they are legally compliant. This includes meeting what are known as the 'basic conditions'. It must be demonstrated that the basic conditions have been met before a neighbourhood plan can proceed to a referendum and then be formally 'made' by the local planning authority. These are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Planning Practice Guidance⁴. Independent examination of neighbourhood plans comprises an assessment of the extent to which a plan meets the basic conditions and other legal obligations. The basic conditions applying to neighbourhood plans are that:
- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
 - the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);

⁴ Paragraph: 065 Reference ID: 41-065-20140306

- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
- prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.4 The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by Embleton Parish Council (as the “qualifying body”) and will be ‘made’ by Northumberland County Council as the Local Planning Authority
- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the entire Embleton administrative Parish area. **Figure 1** shows the extent of the area covered.

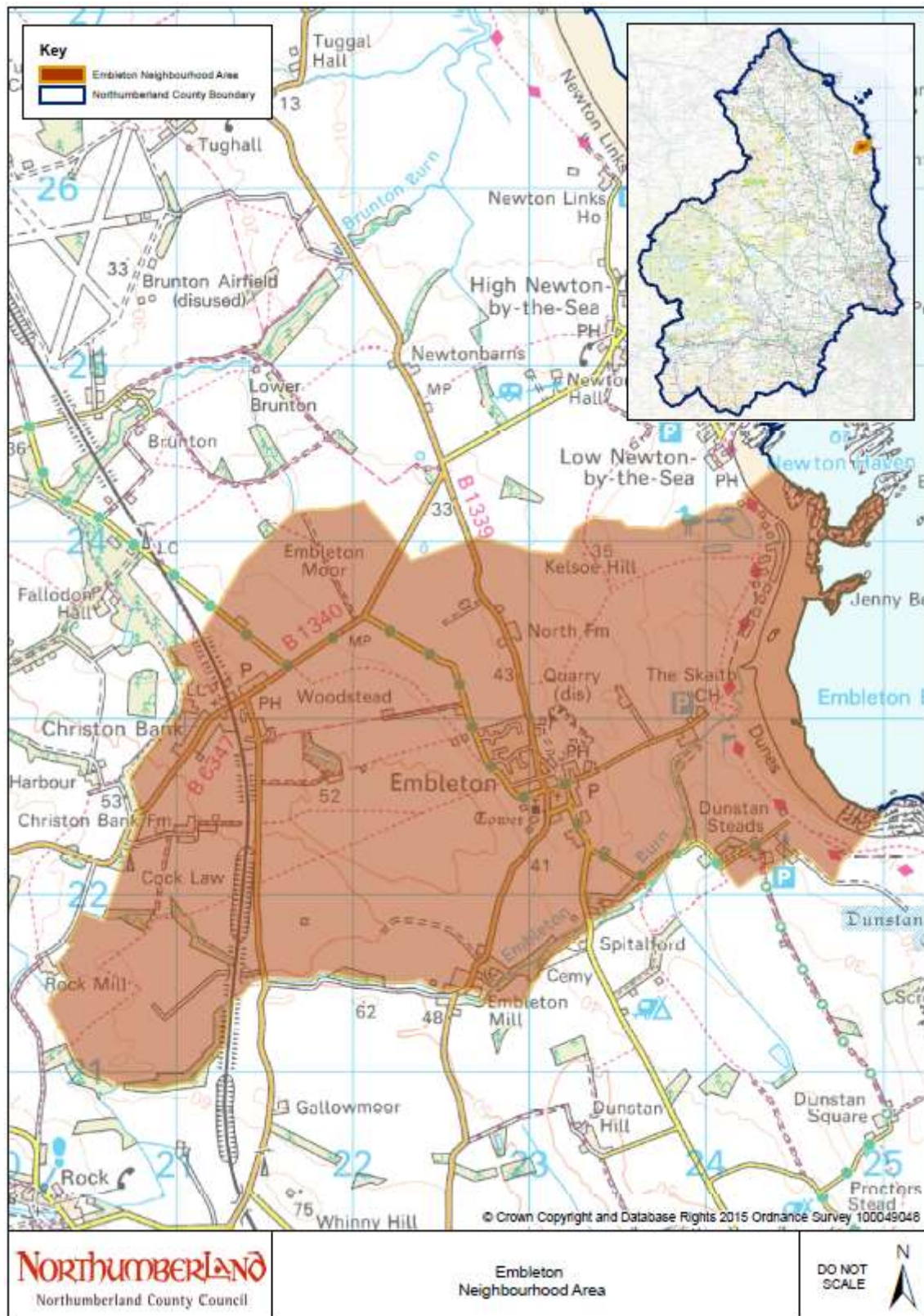


Figure 1: Embleton Neighbourhood Area

3.6 Embleton Parish is a rural civil parish in Northumberland, situated on the Northumberland coast north east of Alnwick.

- 3.7 Work on the neighbourhood plan began in 2017. Between summer and autumn of 2017 the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook various consultations and undertook qualitative and quantitative analysis to inform the formation of vision and objectives for a neighbourhood plan. In spring 2018, following further informal consultation with the local community, the draft vision and objectives for the Plan was agreed by the Parish Council.
- 3.8 In January 2019 the Pre-Submission Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan was published for formal consultation for a period of not less than six weeks in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Further consultation was subsequently undertaken to address minor mapping errors on the original policies maps.
- 3.9 Informed by consultation responses, analysis and discussions with the local community the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address key issues of:
- protecting and promoting the special landscapes around the settlements of Christon Bank and Embleton village (particularly the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty);
 - ensuring that new housing is affordable for young people;
 - ensuring any new housing is secured for people who want to live permanently in the area; and
 - promoting high-quality design which is sympathetic to the local environment.
- 3.10 The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following Vision and Objectives:

Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Vision

The rural parish of Embleton will continue to be a thriving and sustainable place to live, learn, work and visit. We will contribute to the long-term sustainability of our communities by supporting high quality and locally distinctive development which responds to the needs of our parish. We will protect, and where possible enhance, the setting and environment of our parish, the Northumberland Coast AONB, the Northumberland Heritage Coast and other special and natural places in our Parish.

Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

Objective 1: Sustainable Development

To support development that enhances and protects the environment, supports the economy, and helps our communities become more sustainable, whilst ensuring that we protect the assets that make the Embleton Parish special, and ensure there is a positive legacy for future generations.

Objective 2: Sense of Place

To protect heritage assets and enhance local green spaces, landscapes and views that contribute to the distinct look and feel of Embleton Parish.

Objective 3: Local Economy

To support, encourage and protect local businesses, the school and other key facilities that contribute positively to the rural charm and characteristics of Embleton Parish so that it can thrive as a sustainable community.

Objective 4: Housing

To support enough affordable and Principal Residence housing to meet the housing needs for Embleton Parish. Any future housing will be of high-quality design and environmentally sensitive and sympathetic to the historic landscape and natural surroundings.

Objective 5: Community Facilities

To protect, improve and, as appropriate, develop, year-round community and recreational facilities for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

3.6 In order to deliver the vision and objectives, the Draft Plan includes a range of policies as follows:

- Policy 1: sustainable development;
- Policy 2: landscapes and seascapes;
- Policy 3: habitats and species;
- Policy 4: high quality and sustainable design;
- Policy 5: Embleton Village and Christon Bank settlement boundaries;
- Policy 6: Development affecting Embleton Village conservation area;
- Policy 7: Local Green Spaces in Embleton Village and Christon Bank;
- Policy 8: non-designated heritage assets in the neighbourhood area;
- Policy 9: business, employment and tourism;

- Policy 10: principal residence housing;
- Policy 11: affordable housing contributions;
- Policy 12: rural exception sites and community-led housing;
- Policy 13: change of use of holiday let to principal residence;
- Policy 14: community facilities and recreational facilities;
- Policy 15: provision and improvement of pedestrian and cycle routes;
- Policy 16: telecommunications and broadband.

The Planning Policy Context

- 3.11 Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan. In Northumberland, the development plan consists of the adopted Core Strategies and saved policies of the Local Plans of the former local planning authorities that made up Northumberland, prior to Local Government Reorganisation in 2009.
- 3.12 Specifically, Embleton lies within the administrative area of the former Alnwick District Council. The Alnwick District Wide Local Plan was adopted in April 1997 and, following the adoption of the Alnwick Core Strategy in October 2007, a number of Local Plan policies were superseded. However, a number of policies from the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan were 'saved' beyond September 2007 and continue to form part of the statutory development plan, along with the Alnwick Core Strategy.
- 3.13 A new Northumberland Local Plan is set to supersede all existing Core Strategy and Local Plan documents. Northumberland County Council submitted the Northumberland Local Plan, to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 29 May 2019 for examination. The Local Plan is, at the time of preparing this report, subject to independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Hearings are expected to take place around autumn 2019, with a view to adoption thereafter in 2020.
- 3.14 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the need to meet the 'basic conditions' including the need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan. This recognises that the existing Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (1997) and Alnwick LDF Core Strategy (2007) are somewhat dated. The Parish Council has also taken into account the new emerging strategic planning policy context when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.15 The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Northumberland County Council, alongside this SEA Environmental Report.

The County Council will consider whether the Plan is suitable to progress to Independent Examination in terms of meeting legal requirements.

- 3.16 If the Plan is successful at Independent Examination and meets the basic conditions it will progress to Referendum. If more than 50% of voters vote in favour of the Plan, it will then be for Northumberland County Council to seek to 'make' the Plan. Once made, the Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the Parish of Embleton.
- 3.17 The SEA has been undertaken to support the Neighbourhood Plan in meeting the basic conditions, and particularly the need to ensure that the Plan is compatible with, and does not otherwise breach EU obligations. The Environmental Report provides an assessment of the impact draft policies presented in the 'Draft Submission Version – April 2019' version of the Plan may have on the environment. That version of the Plan incorporates minor modifications made following consideration of representations made in response to consultation on the Pre Submission Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (January 2019).

4. Environmental baseline position

Plans, programmes, policies and strategies

- 4.1 In order to establish a clear scope, and in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, it was necessary to review and develop an understanding of a wide range of relevant plans, programmes, policies and strategies. The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan first needed to be framed in the context of international, European, national, regional and local objectives and take account of strategic planning and environmental policies. The purpose of this review was to highlight the key elements of these plans and strategies that will influence the SEA and to ensure that their requirements are taken into account.
- 4.2 Recognising national planning practice guidance in respect of taking a proportionate approach to SEA of neighbourhood plans and avoiding duplication of work, the review of such plans and programmes, policies and strategies was derived from the Sustainability Appraisal of the Northumberland Local Plan (produced by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Ltd). It was considered that the same plans, programmes, policies and strategies would be relevant to the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan but additional consideration would be given to any more locally specific context. Appendix A provides the full schedule and outlines brief details of their potential relevance to the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3 The plans and programmes identified do not act in isolation and links between their scale and objectives can be made. International and national plans and strategies often provide high level guidance, with their objectives being reflected in plans at a regional, sub-regional or local level. The schedule of plans and programmes identifies the diversity of documents that are considered to have a bearing on the preparation of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The Baseline – Environmental issues

- 4.4 The selected environmental themes for the assessment, set out below, incorporated the ‘SEA topics’ suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive⁵.

⁵ The SEA Directive does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on “the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors”.

These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of Neighbourhood Plan effects. These topics are:

- Air quality;
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Climate change (including flood risk);
- Landscape and historic environment;
- Land, soil and water resources; and
- Population and community;
- Human health; and
- Transportation

4.5 The interrelationships between the above topics were also taken into account.

4.6 The following provides a brief overview of the baseline environmental characteristics in the Embleton Parish area and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan as required in Planning Practice Guidance⁶. As described, some of the issues are of little or no relevance i.e. do not represent environmental problems or opportunities and therefore have not been addressed in the SEA or have been afforded a more limited focus. The baseline provides the broad basis against which to assess the likely effects of the draft plan and any reasonable alternatives.

Air quality

4.7 As of February 2019, the Embleton Neighbourhood Area has no recorded Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and air quality is not automatically monitored anywhere within the Neighbourhood Area as part of the Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment process carried out by Northumberland County Council⁷.

4.8 Embleton is in a rural part of Northumberland, where the air quality is generally good. Air quality is impacted by: nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) from road traffic near to main roads; particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) from road traffic near to main roads; and naturally occurring Ozone near the sea and in the hills of Northumberland. Road traffic is highly unlikely to increase to such levels that it would have a detrimental impact on air quality in the area.

4.9 Key environmental problems / issues

⁶ Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 11-036-20140306

⁷ <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Public-Protection/Pollution/2015-LAQM-Updating-and-Screening-Assessment-Report.pdf>

- Partly on account of the rurality of the area there are no current or future air quality issues.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site

- 4.10 The Northumbria Coast SPA covers the coastline of the Neighbourhood Area. The SPA is recognised as a wetland of international importance and is therefore also designated as a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention. The citation for the SPA states: *“The Northumbria Coast SPA includes much of the coastline between the Tweed and Tees Estuaries in north-east England. The site consists of mainly discreet sections of rocky shore with associated boulder and cobble beaches. The SPA also includes parts of three artificial pier structures and a small section of sandy beach.”*
- 4.11 The site hosts populations of species contained in the annexes of the European Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) including the Annex II listed Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) during the breeding season, and the Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) and Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) over the winter.

Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)⁸

- 4.12 Designated under the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC contains four Annex I habitats and one Annex II species which are noted as the primary reasons for its designation. These are as follows:
- Annex I habitats:
 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;
 - Large shallow inlets and bays;
 - Reefs; and
 - Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.
- 4.13 The general character of the site is predominantly marine areas and sea inlets (approximately 73%), with tidal rivers, estuaries, mudflats, sandflats, lagoons, sea cliffs and coastal sand dunes located in the remaining 27%.
- Annex II species:
 - Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

⁸ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0017072>

Northumberland Marine Special Protection Area (SPA)

- 4.14 The Northumberland Marine SPA was classified in January 2017 and 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.
- 4.15 The Northumberland coast and surrounding sea supports important breeding colonies of seabirds and auks, protected at four existing SPAs: Farne Islands SPA, Coquet Island SPA, Lindisfarne SPA and Northumbria Coast SPA. The surrounding waters are protected by Northumberland Marine SPA; these areas are used by the seabirds and auks for foraging and maintenance activities, such as bathing and preening.

Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest⁹

- 4.16 Northumberland Shore SSSI was notified in 1992 under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The SSSI contains two broad habitats and six notified features, including populations of Golden Plover, Purple Sandpiper, Redshank, Ringed Plover, Sanderling and Turnstone. The citation for this SSSI states: *“The Northumberland shore consists largely of sandy bays separated by rocky headlands with wave-cut platforms, backed by dunes or soft and hard cliffs. Discrete areas of estuarine intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh are also included.*
- 4.17 *Annual counts carried out during the winters of 1983/84 to 1989/90 show that two species of shorebird are present in internationally important numbers (i.e. at least 1% of the East Atlantic Flyway population), turnstone (regularly over 1300) and purple sandpiper (regularly over 600). The populations of four other species regularly exceed 1% of the British wintering populations and thus are of national importance; i.e. 240 sanderling (1.6% of the British population), 37 ringed plover (1.6%), 1100 redshank (1.5%), and 3500 golden plover (1.8%).*

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<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S2000134&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

- 4.18 *The Northumberland Shore as a whole is used by a wide variety of other shorebirds in winter, including up to 400 curlew, 1000 oystercatcher, 2000 dunlin, 600 knot, 150 bar-tailed godwit and 4000 lapwing. Arctic and little terns breed on the shore during the summer. The inter-tidal zone is also favoured all year round as a feeding area for eiders, which are present along the coast in nationally important numbers and use the mudflats by the Coquet estuary as a feeding ground for their young.”*
- 4.19 Additionally, the site is included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, also fulfilling the criteria for listing as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under European Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).

Embleton Quarry Local Wildlife and Geological Site

- 4.20 A former whinstone quarry, closed in 1961 and now restored and landscaped with areas of scrub, whin grassland, coarse grassland, a lake and marginal vegetation. The quarry faces are generally low and the quarry floor has been partly infilled, but there are still four small areas of whin grassland.

Habitats of Principal Importance

- 4.21 The following habitats are recognised as being of principal importance in the Embleton Neighbourhood Area:
- Deciduous woodland along Embleton Burn;
 - Semi-improved grassland (good quality);
 - Coastal sand dunes.

Designations outside the Embleton Neighbourhood Area

- 4.22 A number of other designations lie beyond the boundary of the Embleton Neighbourhood Area, but within a reasonable distance. These include:
- North Northumberland Dunes SPA
 - Castle Point to Cullernose Point SSSI
 - Longhoughton Quarry SSSI

- 4.23 As set out above the Neighbourhood Area and surroundings contain a number of important international and national designations, as well as internationally and nationally significant species. Development in the Neighbourhood Area, increasing numbers of visitors and wider climate change have the potential for negative effects on the environment in terms of disturbance or depletion of those habitats and species.
- 4.24 Specifically new development can have a range of impacts on protected areas. One that is likely to arise from all new housing or tourist accommodation, or an increase in visitor numbers as a result of tourism, is increased recreational activity on the coast. This can lead to disturbance to bird species and the spread of a non-native plant invasive species.

Key environmental problems / issues

- The area and surroundings are rich in biodiversity as recognised in the international, national and local designations detailed. There may be opportunities to enhance such assets. There are also potential for pressures on such assets which could result in disturbance or depletion.

Climate Change

- 4.25 Coastal, fluvial and surface water run-off flood risk within the Neighbourhood Area is likely to increase in the future as a result of development, land use change and climate change. Northumberland observed greater reductions in greenhouse gas emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (27%) compared to the North East (20.5%) and England (16.7%). No emissions data is available for the Neighbourhood Area.

Potential effects of climate change

- 4.26 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team¹⁰. UKCP18 provides the most up-to-date assessment of how the climate of the UK may change over the 21st century and provides projections of future changes to the climate, based on simulations from climate models.

¹⁰ <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk>

- 4.27 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for central England by the 2070s for a low emissions scenario¹¹ are likely to be as follows:
- The estimate of summer rainfall change is 41% drier to 9% wetter;
 - The estimate of winter precipitation change is 3% drier to 22% wetter;
 - The estimate of summer temperature change is no change to 3.3oC warmer;
 - The estimate of winter temperature change is -0.1oC cooler to 2.4oC warmer.
- 4.28 The effects of climate change for central England by the 2070s for a high emissions scenario are likely to be as follows:
- The estimate of summer rainfall change is 57% drier to 3% wetter;
 - The estimate of winter precipitation change is 2% drier to 33% wetter;
 - The estimate of summer temperature change is 1.1oC warmer to 5.8oC warmer;
 - The estimate of winter temperature change is 0.7oC warmer to 4.2oC warmer.
- 4.29 These results are broadly consistent with the figures provided in the research from UKCP09.
- 4.30 A range of issues may result from such climatic changes, some of which could affect the Neighbourhood Area. These include:
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
 - Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
 - Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
 - Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
 - A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
 - A need to upgrade flood defences;
 - Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
 - Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
 - Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
 - Increased demand for air conditioning;
 - Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;

¹¹ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18-infographic-headline-findings-land.pdf>

- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperatures; and
- Flooding of roads.

Flood risk

- 4.31 The eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Area comprises part of the North Northumberland coastline. Many areas along the coast are located within Flood Zone 3 (medium-high risk of coastal flooding), meaning that they are classed as having a 0.5% or greater (1:200) chance of being affected by coastal flooding in any given year. Additionally, the Embleton Burn is a watercourse extending inland from east to west. Some land adjacent to the Embleton Burn is also located in Flood Zone 3. Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.32 Climate change has the potential to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial, coastal and drainage related flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation. Additional future development has the potential to exacerbate flood risk without suitable mitigation.
- 4.33 Moving forward, with increased awareness of climate change and new technologies, greenhouse gas emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Area could reduce. For example, as a result of wider adoption of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production and reduced waste. Conversely, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Area and increases in car ownership could contribute to increases in levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Key environmental problems / issues

- The effects on climate change could increase flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area while future development has the potential to exacerbate flood risk however, the scale of development would have negligible impact;
- Increases in population and increasing car ownership could contribute to increases in absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Energy efficiency, renewables, reduced waste could reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Landscape and historic environment

Landscape

- 4.34 A large area of the Neighbourhood Area is located within the Northumberland Coast AONB boundary. The AONB covers approximately half of the Neighbourhood Area. The Northumberland Coast was designated as an AONB in 1958 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that landscape qualities of both National Parks and AONBs were equivalent. As such, the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in areas designated as National Parks and AONBs should also be equivalent. Additionally, a large area of the AONB lies within the North Northumberland Heritage Coast, which is recognised for its landscape, recreational and heritage interest. Although Heritage Coasts are ‘defined’ rather than designated, they are established to conserve, protect and enhance the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England¹².
- 4.35 The Northumberland Coast AONB covers an area of 138km² along a 64km stretch of the coastline between Berwick-upon-Tweed and the Coquet Estuary, and encompasses the entirety of the coastline located within the Neighbourhood Area. The AONB is situated within both the North Northumberland Coastal Plain National Character Area (NCA) and Mid-Northumberland NCA. Key characteristics of the North Northumberland Coastal Plain NCA (NCA1), as defined in *Countryside Character of England*, are:
- Narrow, low lying, windswept coastal plain, with wide views east towards the sea and west to the Cheviots. Particularly striking views along the coast;
 - Intensively farmed landscape of predominantly open, mixed, arable land with limited trees and woodland, with permanent pasture/semi-natural grassland typical of the valleys and coastal fringes;
 - Diverse coastal scenery, with a ‘hard’ coast of high cliffs, off-shore islands, and rocky headlands, alternately contrasting with a ‘soft’ coast of wide, sweeping sandy bays backed by sand dunes, and also intertidal flats backed by saltmarsh to the south;
 - Patches of coastal grazing marsh still remain;

¹² Natural England (2015): Heritage Coasts: Definition, purpose and Natural England’s Role, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heritage-coasts-protecting-undeveloped-coast/heritage-coasts-definition-purpose-and-natural-englands-role>

- Rivers Aln, Coquet and Tweed, as well as numerous smaller watercourses, meander across the coastal plain to the sea;
- Coastal plain and offshore islands provide rich wildlife habitats, particularly for migratory and breeding sea birds;
- Distinctive historic heritage reflects importance of ecclesiastical influences and the strategic defence of the coast and English/Scottish border. Features include prominent medieval castles, fortifications and structures from both world wars and religious buildings;
- Whin Sill intrusions produce dramatic landscape features, including the coastal cliffs at Bamburgh and the Farne Islands. Inland, outcrops and escarpments form distinctive local landmarks and support rare, semi-natural, whinstone grasslands;
- Dispersed pattern of isolated farmsteads, small nucleated villages, fishing villages and small coastal resort towns;
- Long history of mineral extraction, including whinstone quarrying and opencast coalmining, to the south of Berwick-Upon-Tweed.

4.36 Key characteristics of the Mid-Northumberland NCA (NCA12) are:

- Intermediate plateau of upland fringe forming a transitional area between the Pennine uplands to the west and the low-lying coastal plain to the east; a series of ridges and intimate river valleys in the northern part of the area opening out to a broader, flatter landscape in the south;
- Agricultural landscape with arable and cattle farming on lower land merging into sheep farming on higher land and moorland to the west;
- Varied woodland cover, with well-wooded valleys of the rivers Font, Wansbeck, and Coquet, mixed and ornamental woodlands of the country estates, small coniferous blocks and belts of the more open farmland to the south;
- Large reservoirs and ornamental lakes provide distinctive areas of open water;
- Frequent country houses and fortified defensive structures, typically set within 'landscaped' parklands and ornamental woodlands on country estates;
- Ancient market town of Morpeth serving a medieval pattern of small villages, often surrounded by the extensive ridge and furrow of medieval field systems and ancient earthworks.

4.37 The Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment (2010) identified five Landscape Character Types and 12 Landscape Character Areas within the National Character Area. The following are relevant to the Neighbourhood Area:

4.38 One character area within LCT5 Sandy Coastline:

- Beadnell and Embleton Bays (05b): *These two small bays have broad sandy beaches, backed by dune systems. The small villages of High Newton by the Sea and Embleton are set back from the coast, with Low Newton and Beadnell harbour associated with the beach. The low hill by Low Newton offers a dramatic view across the bay to Dunstanburgh Castle. There is a large caravan park at Beadnell, and a coastal footpath runs the length of the area.*

One character area within LCT3 Farmed Coastal Plain:

- Rock (3c): *This area is similar to 3b, but is generally more wooded. The transition is gradual, but this area is characterised by coniferous shelterbelts and deciduous woodland strips. Hedgerows are more common, although their condition remains variable. Belts of Scots pine are a distinctive feature. Estate influences occur at Rock House and Howick Hall, resulting in a more intimate landscape experience.*

Historic environment

- 4.39 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. Numerous features are recognised through historic environment designations, including the statutory listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, as well as the Embleton Conservation Area, designated at a local level. The Embleton Conservation Area was designated in 2008¹³.
- 4.40 The 2014-2019 Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan categorises the historic environment into four themes: ecclesiastical, castles and defence, fishing and farming, and industry and transport. This highlights that the history of human interaction and occupation of landscape is integral to the character of the AONB.
- 4.41 Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Embleton Conservation Area contains a number of designated heritage assets, including one Scheduled Ancient Monument (also Grade II* listed) and 21 Grade II listed

¹³ Embleton Conservation Area Character Appraisal:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/Conservation/Embleton-CAA.pdf>

buildings. The Embleton Neighbourhood Area contains further designated heritage assets¹⁴.

- 4.42 New development in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations, the AONB Management Plan and the existing statutory plans and emerging Local Plan offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings. Additionally, a Conservation Area Character Appraisal exists for the Embleton Conservation Area, offering additional protection in terms of outlining suggested priorities for management and decision making for areas within the Conservation Area.
- 4.43 New development has the potential to lead to small, but incremental, changes to landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Area. However, new development need not be harmful.
- 4.44 **Key environmental problems / issues**
- New development in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and on landscape character
 - The Neighbourhood Area contains part of the Northumberland Coast AONB. Development in or near to the AONB can result in negative effects on the purposes of its designation.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

Land quality

- 4.45 There are no 'Special Sites' within the Neighbourhood Area, as defined under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act. The Neighbourhood Area does have historic land uses, which may have resulted in soil and groundwater pollution. There are no recorded pollution incidents related to industrial sites regulated under the EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC).
- 4.46 Quality of agricultural land

¹⁴ <http://www.keystothepast.info/article/10338?SEARCH=embleton>

- 4.47 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (in addition to 'non-agricultural' and 'urban' land), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, no detailed classification has been carried out in the Neighbourhood Area¹⁵. The Neighbourhood Area is wholly classed as Grade 3, but with no distinction between 3a and 3b.
- 4.48 Watercourses
- 4.49 Small watercourses such as the Embleton Burn are located within the Neighbourhood Area. The River Aln and Aln Estuary are classified as having 'poor' water quality¹⁶. Embleton Burn meets the North Sea within the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, a Protected Area¹⁷.
- 4.50 Water supply and waste water provision in the area is provided by Northumbrian Water. The Kielder Water Resource Zone (WRZ) serves the Neighbourhood Area. The Final Water Resources Management Plan (2010-2035)¹⁸ states that, while dry year deployable output to 2040 reduces by 1.1% due to climate change, there will remain a significant surplus throughout the planning horizon and beyond.
- 4.51 Groundwater Source Protection Zones have been defined 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. The Neighbourhood Area contains no SPZs¹⁹.
- 4.52 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improving recycling and composting rates. In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality could potentially be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.

¹⁵ MAGIC Interactive Map: Landscape; POST 1988 Agricultural Land Classification (England):

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

¹⁶ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3007/Summary> and

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB103022076370>

¹⁷ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/protected-area/id/sac/UK0017072>

¹⁸ https://www.nwl.co.uk/assets/documents/NW_Final_Published_PR14_WRMP_Report.pdf

¹⁹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

Key environmental problems / issues

- There are issues of poor water quality in the area. However there are no apparent likely risks of the situation worsening and the Water Framework Directive may improve water quality.

Population and Community

Population

- 4.53 The population of the Civil Parish of Embleton was shown in the 2011 Census as 672, equating to a density of 0.8 people per hectare or 79.5 per km². There has been a slight decrease in the population of Embleton from the 2001 Census to the 2011 Census, with a decrease from 699 to 672, a decrease of 3.9%. Average household size has reduced from 2.2 to 2.1 people per household. This compares with population increases in Northumberland, the North East and England as a whole over this same period.
- 4.54 There is a risk that the population could continue to decline with associated impacts on the sustainability and viability of community services and facilities including the school.
- 4.55 The population of Embleton is also ageing, which is consistent with Northumberland wide trends. This can raise challenges in respect of the proportion of the working age population. It can also place increasing pressures on facilities such as doctors.

Second / Holiday Homes

- 4.56 The prevalence of homes being bought as second or holiday homes has been shown to be increasing in the area. This gives rise to a number of risks such as empty properties much of the year with no residents to participate in community life, or support local shops and services. It can also have a detrimental impact on the affordability of homes. Demand increases values which can make properties unaffordable for many people who wish to live in the area.
- 4.57 Trends suggest homes may continue to be bought up as second homes. In 2017 the Resolution Foundation reported that there had been a 30 per cent increase between 2000-02 and 2012-14 in the proportion of adults who own multiple properties, rising from 1.6 million to 5.2 million people (one in ten

adults) in that period. The analysis also found increasing trends of people who do not own property.

Key environmental problems / issues

- The decrease in population, together with an ageing population in the Neighbourhood Area, can lead to the loss of community services and facilities and pressure on other facilities;
- Pressure from second and/or holiday homes can have negative impacts on community cohesion and services and can detrimentally affect housing affordability.

Human Health

Age structure

- 4.58 Embleton has a significant number of residents aged 60 or over, with over half the population of the Parish (65.5%) being aged 45 and over. Compared to Northumberland, the North East and the national average, Embleton has a significantly lower percentage of people aged 0-44, and a significantly higher percentage aged 45 and over.

Household deprivation

- 4.59 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 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;
- Employment;
- Education, Skills and Training;
- Health Deprivation and Disability;
- Crime;
- Barriers to Housing and Services; and
- Living Environment.

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

- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index; and
- Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index.

- 4.60 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardised geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1000 to 1500 people. In relation to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalised into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.
- 4.61 One LSOA has been identified in relation to the Neighbourhood Area:
- *E01027515: Northumberland 020A*
Northumberland 020A has a workforce with average levels of income and employment, but with slightly higher levels of education, including adult skills. The indoor and outdoor quality of life is excellent, as is the living environment. While there don't appear to be significant barriers to housing and services, geographical barriers do appear slightly worse by comparison.

Health and wellbeing

- 4.62 According to 2011 Census data, the percentage of people within the Neighbourhood Area who consider themselves in 'very good' health is high (39.7%), with 37.8% being in 'good health' and 16.5% considering themselves to be in 'fair health'. 6% consider their health to be 'bad' or 'very bad'.

Key environmental problems / issues

- The health and wellbeing of those living within the Neighbourhood Area is generally good. However, the ageing population structure has the potential to impact the future health and wellbeing of the population as a whole within the Neighbourhood Area.

Transportation

Infrastructure

- 4.63 The East Coast Main Line cuts through the Neighbourhood Area from north to south, with Chathill Railway Station being located within approximately 5.5km of the Neighbourhood Area boundary. The closest part of the strategic road

network is the A1, located less than 4km to the west of the Neighbourhood Area boundary.

Availability of Cars and Vans

- 4.64 Slightly more than half (52.2%) of those living within the Neighbourhood Area have access to one or two cars or vans, with an average of 1.4 cars or vans per household.

Travel to work

- 4.65 The most frequently used method of travel to work is via car or van (73.6%). 13% travel to work on foot whilst 7.7% work from home. Increased trends of home working and flexible working may increase this. A small fraction of people (3%) use public transport with 1% travelling by bicycle.

Key environmental problems / issues

- Car ownership and travel to work by car are high in the Neighbourhood Area reflecting the rural nature of the area

5. The SEA Framework used to appraise the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 An SEA Framework is a recognised method by which the likely effects of a Plan and alternative options can be described, analysed and compared. It comprises objectives, which are intended to be a statement of what is intended, specifying a desired direction of environmental change. It also includes guiding questions. It is not the intention of the assessment to answer all of the questions identified below. The questions were posed to act as prompts and to help focus the environmental assessment.
- 5.2 The SEA Framework for the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan was informed by the aforementioned review of plans and programmes and the analysis of the baseline position to identify environmental problems / key issues . The framework was subject to consultation with the consultation bodies as part of the SEA Scoping stage.

SEA Objective	Assessment prompts
Biodiversity and Geodiversity Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support continued improvements to the status of the European designated sites of significance within the neighbourhood area?• Support the status of SSSIs located wholly or partly within the neighbourhood area?• Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats?• Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?• Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate Change Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel?• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?

SEA Objective	Assessment prompts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?
Climate Change Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the neighbourhood area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the neighbourhood area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape and Historic Environment Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the landscape in the neighbourhood area? • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Ensure the efficient use of land	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Promote sustainable waste management	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Support the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste?

SEA Objective	Assessment prompts
solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption?
Population and Community Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of a range of high-quality, accessible community facilities? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?
Human Health Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Human Health	Will the option/proposal help to:

SEA Objective	Assessment prompts
Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the neighbourhood area to work locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enhance the viability of small local businesses? • Support the diversity of local businesses and the economy? • Support employment opportunities which enable residents to work from home?
Human Health Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the neighbourhood area	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?
Transportation Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

Methodology

- 5.3 Based on the contents of the Draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA Framework has been used to appraise the Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives; the strategic approach and reasonable alternatives where they existed; and the draft policies.
- 5.4 Along with identifying effects, consideration was given to the level of significance; for example, whether the effects are positive or negative and whether the degree of significance is major or minor. The SEA Regulations specify the criteria which should be taken into account. These criteria

essentially relate to the nature of the effects arising from the Plan and the value and vulnerability of the receptors as follows:

- How valuable and vulnerable is the receptor that is being impacted?
- How probable, frequent, long lasting and reversible are the effects?
- What is the magnitude and spatial scale of the effect?
- Are the effects positive or negative?

5.5 The evaluation involved judgement both in respect of the likely effects of the Neighbourhood Plan, the significance of the effect and the nature of the effect.

5.6 It should be noted that evaluating effects is inherently challenging. There are inevitably many limitations. There is uncertainty about predicting the implications of policy. The ability to evaluate effects is also limited by the understanding of the baseline. Accordingly, the SEA can only be assumed to identify the broad implications for the SEA topics as it takes a proportionate approach, as required by the guidance

5.7 The figure below illustrates the scoring system applied to assist in the evaluation. Given the evaluation must be informed by judgement, a small group of suitably qualified officers was set up to apply the scoring. This collective approach helped to ensure a degree of objectivity beyond those familiar with the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

6. Appraisal of the effects of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (and Reasonable Alternatives) on the environment

- 6.1 The key purpose of this Environmental Report is to present information on the effects of the draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the alternative options considered. This chapter presents the appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Draft Submission Version (April 2019) of the Neighbourhood Plan.

SEA of Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

- 6.2 It is important that the Objectives of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan are aligned and compatible with the SEA objectives. The Objectives contained in the Neighbourhood Plan have therefore been appraised using the SEA Framework which is presented in Appendix D. The appraisal confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan objectives are in accordance with the environmental objectives having a positive or neutral effect.

Appraising the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Reasonable Alternatives

- 6.3 The SEA needs to consider and compare the reasonable alternatives as the Plan evolves, including the preferred approach, and assess these against the baseline environmental characteristics of the area and the likely situation if the Neighbourhood Plan were not to be made.
- 6.4 Reasonable alternatives are defined in Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as *'the different realistic options considered in developing the policies in the plan'*. They need to be sufficiently distinct so that meaningful comparisons can be made. However, PPG acknowledges that there may be limited alternatives that can realistically be considered in the context of the strategic policies for the neighbourhood area²⁰.
- 6.5 The following accounts for the preferred approach in the draft Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan together with reasonable alternatives considered in the preparation of the Plan.

²⁰ Paragraph: 038 Reference ID: 11-038-20190722

Reasonable Alternatives

- 6.6 It should be noted that, as in any plan making process, the earliest discussions, brainstorming, and sharing of ideas were not formally recorded. Specifically in the case of the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA appraisal stage was initiated at the time of consultation on the Pre Submission Draft Plan. As discussed in Section 2 of this report the need for SEA had initially been screened out, i.e. determined not to be necessary. The HRA screening determined the need for Appropriate Assessment, which invalidated the earlier SEA screening determination, and triggered the need for SEA.
- 6.7 It should also be noted that the vision and objectives established for the Neighbourhood Plan and the strategic policies in the statutory development plan will limit the reasonable alternatives that can realistically be considered. In some instances the only reasonable alternative would be a 'no policy' alternative, which is appraised in the baseline analysis provided in section 4 of this report and describes the likely evolution of the environmental baseline position without the policy.

Alternative Settlement Boundaries

- 6.8 In preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, alternative settlement boundaries were considered. The Plan includes settlement boundaries for Christon Bank and Embleton village. Both are relatively tightly drawn around built development.
- 6.9 Settlement boundaries were defined for both villages in the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan, but the policies related to these settlement boundaries were not 'saved'. Therefore there are currently no settlement boundaries for either village. The Steering Group decided that boundaries were appropriate in order to give greater protection to important areas of countryside and that these must be defined within the context of a requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan to support the delivery of sufficient sustainable development in the Neighbourhood Area. As such, it must be based on the need to ensure there is sufficient housing land available within the settlement boundaries of both settlements to accommodate housing growth over the plan period up to 2036. These are discussed and described in detail in the background evidence papers²¹.

²¹ Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Paper 1: Housing Evidence Paper, Paper 2: Settlement Boundary Evidence Paper

- 6.10 The key alternatives considered in the plan making process were larger settlement boundaries in respect of both settlements (see Appendix E). In Christon Bank a boundary encompassing a much larger area (to include the farm) was considered. In Embleton village a boundary including an area of land to include the cottages near the golf club was considered. The latter would have meant including a field in the AONB.
- 6.11 These options were subsequently dismissed, informed by the emerging Northumberland Local Plan and consultation responses received in response to informal consultation on the proposed settlement boundaries with the local community.
- 6.12 The Northumberland Local Plan identifies that a minimum 17,700 net additional dwellings at an average 885 per annum is required in Northumberland over the 20 year plan period which runs from 2016 to 2036. It goes on to identify an indicative distribution of homes in parishes designated as neighbourhood areas. Policy HOU3 of the Plan provides indicative minimum housing requirements in respect of designated neighbourhood areas in order that they contribute to the overall need for additional housing. The Northumberland Local Plan identifies an indicative requirement for 30 additional dwellings in Embleton Parish during the plan period. This is a reduction from the requirements set out in an earlier draft of the Local Plan which identified a requirement for 65 dwellings. However, as recognised in the draft Northumberland Local Plan there are more than the required 17,700 homes already in under construction or with planning permission, yet to be started. While some of these permissions may lapse and not be delivered, analysis of delivery rates indicate that there is a reasonably high degree of confidence that the majority of permitted housing applications will come forward and be delivered.
- 6.13 In Embleton the parish area was shown to have far exceeded the designated indicative number of 30 additional dwellings. As described in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence background papers there were 80 dwellings recently completed or in the pipeline. It was therefore determined that it was not necessary to draw wider settlement boundaries or allocate any specific sites for housing development through the Neighbourhood Plan. Wider boundaries were considered to potentially result in much higher rates of development with associated negative environmental impacts including:
- creating adverse impacts on the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside;
 - eroding the character of the two small rural settlements including the character of Embleton Conservation Area:

- putting greater pressure on areas of biodiversity and geodiversity importance (notably by increasing recreational pressure);
- increasing reliance on private cars with associated impacts on green house gasses and climate change;
- exacerbating problems with second home ownership; and
- increasing pressure on local services/infrastructure.

Site Allocations

- 6.14 In developing the neighbourhood plan, there were also two housing sites considered for allocation (see Appendix F). In respect of the site to the north of Creighton Place in Embleton circumstances overtook Plan preparation as a planning application was submitted and approved on the site. It was therefore deemed no longer necessary to allocate it for housing. Development has subsequently commenced on that site. The other site that was considered for allocation related to old quarry buildings in Embleton Quarry. As recognised in the Embleton Conservation Area Management Plan the quarry buildings have been subject to vandalism and may be worth repairing and reusing because of their history and quality. However, in view of the Northumberland Local Plan housing requirement defined for the Parish, it was not considered necessary to allocate the site.
- 6.15 The quarry and all of Embleton village to the east of the whinstone ridge lies within the Northumberland Coast AONB. The aim of this designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the coast, whilst taking into account the economic and social needs of the local communities in it.
- 6.16 Whilst redevelopment of the site could be supported without the site being specifically allocated for housing, allocating the site for housing could have led to positive environmental effects, such as in respect of re-using historic buildings and contributing to housing choice.

Principal Residence

- 6.17 Further to early engagement with the community at the initial stages of plan preparation, many residents said that they would like to see more permanent residents living in the area, and fewer holiday homes and second homes.
- 6.18 The emerging Northumberland Local Plan includes a policy to restrict all development to Principal Occupancy in those areas that can demonstrate in excess of 20% holiday homes/second homes in their area.

- 6.19 As presented in the background evidence paper²², data demonstrates Embleton Parish has well in excess of 20% second homes and holiday rental homes. The Steering Group chose not to rely on the overarching emerging Local Plan policy due to the stage of plan preparation of the Local Plan and the remaining associated uncertainty over the outcome of the examination of that Local Plan. Accordingly a specific policy to ensure that all future development in the Neighbourhood Area is for principal residence only is included in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.20 In addition it was determined that an additional policy would be appropriate for the parish to address the issue of historic planning policy supporting the provision of holiday homes in rural areas. Policy 13 of the Neighbourhood Plan supports the change of use from holiday accommodation to principal residence. Without the policy, former conditions attached to planning permissions would have had the opposite effect of the proposed development plan policy approach to promote permanent residence.

Appraisal findings

- 6.21 The appraisal has been structured using the SEA Framework. For each SEA Objective, the likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan have been predicted and evaluated where possible. Account has been taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations, including the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects, as far as this is possible. As set out in chapter 5 there are inherent difficulties in undertaking SEA which should be recognised.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 6.22 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a range of provisions to limit the impact of development on features and areas of biodiversity interest, and to support enhancements to ecological networks within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 6.23 Key designations in the Neighbourhood Area and their attributes are described in section 4 of this report which outlines the environmental baseline characteristics. Designations which demonstrate the value and potential vulnerability of the area to environmental effects include the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site, Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast SAC, Northumberland Marine SAC, Northumberland Shore SSSI, a Local Wildlife and Geological Site, as well as habitats of principal importance.

²² Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Paper 1: Housing Evidence Paper

- 6.24 Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan does not support major development in the Northumberland Coast AONB, other than in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest.
- 6.25 The policy also states that to ensure the impacts arising from increasing levels of recreational disturbance on coastal European sites and SSSIs can be addressed, all developers whose development will result in a net increase in the number of residential or tourism units will be required to contribute to the Northumberland Coast Mitigation Service or provide alternative mitigation to demonstrable effectiveness.
- 6.26 Policy 3 seeks to ensure that development proposals which would result in an adverse effect on internationally important wildlife sites will not be permitted, unless it can meet the 'no alternatives' and 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' tests set out in the Habitats Regulations. The policy also seeks to ensure that development proposals which would result in an increase in recreational pressure on European sites are not permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site.
- 6.27 Policy 3 is supportive of proposals which would promote the preservation and restoration of priority habitats as well as proposals which support the biodiversity and community value of the Embleton Village Quarry Local Wildlife and Geological Site.
- 6.28 Collectively these policies serve to support continued improvements to the status of the European designated sites of significance within the Neighbourhood Area, support the status of SSSIs, protect and enhance priority and semi-natural habitats. The Plan will be in place up to 2036 and at any stage prior to then may be reviewed and updated. It therefore provides relatively long term protection in addition to protection already afforded through designations and other development plan policies.
- 6.29 Policy 4 relates to high quality and sustainable design. The final part of the policy requires the demonstration of development delivering measurable net gains for biodiversity. In the neighbourhood area it is recognised in the Plan that simple measures such as providing nesting habitats for birds and bats could provide measurable net gains for wildlife. These small measures could be delivered quickly and therefore achieve net gains in a short length of time.
- 6.30 Policy 7 designates a series of Local Green Spaces. The spaces serve a number of purposes including in respect of biodiversity. Specifically the Glebe Field and Embleton Village Quarry are recognised for biodiversity value.

- 6.31 In the context of the above, it is noted that Embleton Parish is an environmentally vulnerable area. The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have positive effects on biodiversity and geodiversity through preservation and enhancement led policies. Development in the area is only ever likely to be of a relatively small scale and therefore any negative effects are likely to be minor. However, development of any scale could have a negative effect on European sites, if it is assumed that the development will increase recreational pressure. This will be mitigated through the requirement for contributions from residential and tourist accommodation development to be made to the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service.
- 6.32 As required through the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan HRA Appropriate Assessment, in order to ensure that effective mitigation can be provided to address the impacts of recreational activity within coastal European sites, Northumberland County Council has introduced the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service. This is a developer-funded warden service. This service may, where necessary, be supplemented by other regulatory mechanisms, such as the Council's Public Space Protection Order which requires dogs to be kept on lead in certain circumstances including when disturbance is being caused to wildlife.
- 6.33 Mitigation for impacts on coastal designated sites is required for development that will cause a net increase in housing numbers or tourism accommodation within 10km of the coast. A steering group comprising representatives of Northumberland County Council, Natural England, RSPB and the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership has being established to oversee the work of the Service and to monitor its effectiveness. Contribution to the Coastal Mitigation Service enables a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity to be reached when a planning application is subject to appropriate assessment, without the developer having to commission any survey or mitigation work.
- 6.34 In light of the conclusions and recommendations made through the HRA Appropriate Assessment requiring modification to policies in the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure necessary mitigation required as a result of development impact, and the fact that policies have now been modified to secure contributions towards the Northumberland Coastal Mitigation Service, no further policy modification is required in the Neighbourhood Plan to achieve SEA objectives.

Climate Change

- 6.35 The Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan recognises the villages of Embleton and, to a lesser extent Christon Bank, as settlements with services and facilities. The Alnwick LDF Core Strategy defined Embleton as a sustainable village centre and Christon Bank as a local needs centre. The Neighbourhood Plan approach is to support housing development within settlement boundaries in most instances, which potentially reinforces the nature of these settlements as centres providing homes close to services. This can promote sustainable modes of transport, notably walking and cycling. However, it must be recognised that the area is rural in nature and this prohibits the opportunities for any significant shift to sustainable transport. The villages are served by very limited bus services and inevitably there will continue to be a high reliance upon private cars, even in the long term.
- 6.36 The strategic approach is also to support rural businesses and tourism. This could reduce the need to travel if residents choose employment close to their home; or at home in respect of increasing patterns of home working, as supported in Policy 9.
- 6.37 Policy 16 supports improved telecommunications and broadband which similarly has the scope to reduce the need to travel, and in turn reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
- 6.38 Policy 4 sets out a list of design criteria which should be met by all new development proposals. This includes the incorporation of measures relevant to the effects of climate change. Namely it promotes embedding renewable energy, where opportunities exist and exploiting layout and building orientation to minimise energy consumption and benefit from passive solar gain.
- 6.39 There are sources of flood risk in the Parish and flood risk can increase as a result of climate change. The eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Area comprises part of the Northumberland coastline. Many areas along the coast are located within Flood Zone 3 (medium-high risk of coastal flooding). Additionally, some land adjacent to the Embleton Burn is also located in Flood Zone 3. Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Area. The Plan does not seek to allocate land for development in these areas of increased flood risk or indeed out with them. However the strategy is to direct development in most instances within the settlement boundaries with limited flood risk.
- 6.40 In preparing the Plan, alternative settlement boundaries were considered. Appendix E illustrates that the alternative settlement boundary for Embleton

could have increased risk of surface water flooding to the north of the settlement if development occurred there.

- 6.41 Notwithstanding there being no allocated sites and therefore no allocated sites in areas of flood risk, development anywhere can increase the overall built footprint in the area and influence surface water run off. However, the scale of future development is so small the impacts are likely to be negligible in terms of any increased flood risk. In order to mitigate risks, Policy 4 includes a criterion for sustainable drainage as part of new development (SuDS).
- 6.42 Overall, the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to result in a largely neutral or positive effect. There are many other factors at a macro level which could influence climate change. The strategic approach seeks to reduce the need to travel and support sustainable transport, where it is possible to do so. It also includes policy provisions to ensure climate change is considered and mitigated in new development. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

Landscape and Historic Environment

- 6.43 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. Numerous features are recognised through historic environment designations. A large part of the Neighbourhood Area is located within the Northumberland Coast AONB boundary. Additionally, a large area of the AONB lies within the North Northumberland Heritage Coast, which is recognised for its landscape, recreational and heritage interest.
- 6.44 New development in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to negatively impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and landscapes; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. Existing designations, the AONB Management Plan and the existing development plan and emerging Local Plan offer a degree of protection to such assets and their settings. Additionally, a Conservation Area Character Appraisal exists for the Embleton Conservation Area, offering protection in terms of outlining suggested priorities for management and decision making for areas within the Conservation Area.
- 6.45 The Neighbourhood Plan serves to reinforce protection and enhancement and the Landscape and Historic Environment. Policy 2 requires development proposals affecting landscape character areas to respect the features of landscapes as set out in the Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment, National Character Areas and the Historic Landscape

Characterisation, as well as setting out criteria and giving great weight to the conservation of local landscapes.

- 6.46 In addition, Policies 6 and 8 relate to the Embleton Village Conservation Area and Non-designated heritage assets respectively. These policies provide additional protection over and above the existing development plan. Policy 6 supports the enhancements of the appearance of specific buildings. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

- 6.47 The Embleton Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development and therefore does not actively promote development on previously developed land. However, there are development principles which encourage effective use of land. Notably, Policy 1 includes a criterion which promotes the re-use of redundant or disused buildings.
- 6.48 No detailed classification of agricultural land has been carried out in the Neighbourhood area. However, there is grade 3 agricultural land which could potentially represent the 'best and most versatile'. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to direct development to within the settlement boundaries and does not allocate land. The plan's settlement boundaries for Embleton Village and Christon Bank have been relatively tightly drawn around both settlements. This is in recognition of the scale of proposed housing in the emerging Northumberland Local Plan which identifies 30 dwellings over the plan period and the need to protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. 80 dwellings have already been delivered or have planning permission. It is therefore not necessary to create wider or more extensive settlement boundaries.
- 6.49 For both settlements alternative settlement boundaries were considered. In the case of Embleton, a slightly extended boundary northwards would have included additional agricultural land. The preferred option therefore avoids the potential loss of Grade 3 agricultural land. In Christon Bank an alternative boundary to the north of Springfield View and west of the railway line similarly would have taken in agricultural land. The preferred option therefore also avoids the potential loss of Grade 3 agricultural land.
- 6.50 The plan does not make explicit reference to reducing waste or supporting the re-use and recycling of waste. However there are increasing legislative and regulatory requirements out with the planning system for improving recycling and composting rates.

- 6.51 Similarly the plan does not make explicit reference to recycling and minimising resources during construction. However this could be indirectly secured through the Plan's policy intention to ensure reuse of buildings of substantial construction i.e. that do not constitute almost entirely new build.
- 6.52 Water quality is not addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality could also be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies. It is not expected that climate change would affect the ability to supply water in the Kielder Water Resource zone.
- 6.53 Policy 4 includes sustainable drainage (SuDS) for new development. SuDS can include elements of water harvesting thereby reusing water with positive effects in respect of water consumption.
- 6.54 The Neighbourhood Plan policies are considered to have a largely neutral or positive effect on land, soil and water resources. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

Population and Community

- 6.55 The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities. Policy 7 relates to protecting Local Green Spaces. As recognised in the supporting text, Local Green Spaces can be valuable assets for the community in a number of ways including for recreation, sport and providing a 'centre' for residents and visitors.
- 6.56 Policy 14 resists the loss of community facilities and supports proposals which can enhance the viability and value of community facilities and assets and identifies a number of specific assets in both Embleton village and Christon Bank. The policy reinforces their importance to the community and community cohesion. The area includes services which can be particularly important to older people, such as a doctor's surgery and post office, which are afforded policy protection in the plan.
- 6.57 Fuel poverty is not expressly addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. However Policy 4 includes embedding renewables and minimising energy consumption which could indirectly have positive impacts addressing fuel poverty in the longer term.

- 6.58 The intention as set out in the draft Plan's foreword is to develop a plan that can guide and manage development in a way that will benefit the economy and enhance the lives of current and future residents. The Plan may therefore have a key role in maintaining and enhancing quality of life.
- 6.59 Policy 10 relates to principal residence housing. Local monitoring has shown that, in line with a Northumberland wide trend, second homes or holiday lets have increased in the Neighbourhood Area. A recent development at Creighton Place has sold at least 30% of its new market dwellings as second homes. Second homes, with no permanent residents can have a negative impact on a balanced and sustainable community. Policy 10 builds on evidence produced in support of the emerging Local Plan. It requires planning obligations to be entered into to ensure new housing is restricted to principal residency. In doing so it may also serve to maintain and potentially enhance key local facilities including a primary school, village hall and shops.
- 6.60 Land for allotments and cemeteries is not an issue addressed in the Plan as these are more typically relevant to larger settlements, and/or areas of a more urban nature.
- 6.61 The Neighbourhood Plan policies are considered to have a largely positive effect on population and community. The issues of principal residency and Local Green Space designation potentially have the most significant influence. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

Human Health

- 6.62 In common with Northumberland more generally, there is an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Area. Generally, the health and wellbeing of those living within the Neighbourhood Area is good. However, an ageing population has the potential to influence future health and wellbeing.
- 6.63 There are a range of objectives and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan with potential for indirect effects on health.
- 6.64 Policy 4 seeks to secure high quality and sustainable design. Good design can improve the character and quality of the area, indirectly improving people's wellbeing and enjoyment of the area in which they live or visit.
- 6.65 Policy 7 designates Local Green Spaces. These have a wide range of roles including in respect of recreation with associated positive impacts on health.

- 6.66 Housing can also have a key influence on health. Policies 10 to 13 relate to housing and support the supply of permanent occupancy residences and affordable homes. These policies may help to meet the needs of different sectors of the community.
- 6.67 The Plan does not directly support the provision of a range of house types and sizes or enhancements to the current housing stock. However these are addressed in the policies of the overarching emerging Northumberland Local Plan. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

Transportation

- 6.68 The approach adopted in the Neighbourhood Plan is to support housing development within settlement boundaries in most instances, which potentially reinforces the nature of these settlements as centres providing homes close to services. However, as stated above, it must be recognised that the area is rural in nature and the settlements of Embleton and Christon Bank are small. Inevitably there will be continued reliance upon accessing services and employment outside of the area. The scope for any significant shift to sustainable transport modes is also very limited. The community and visitors will remain reliant upon private vehicles. The villages are served by very limited bus services and this is unlikely to improve.
- 6.69 Provision and improvement of pedestrian and cycle routes is supported in policy 15. The provision of links to connect existing rights of way, and the upgrading of other routes could benefit both residents and visitors in terms of access and recreation.
- 6.70 Policy 9 supports rural businesses and tourism. This could reduce the need to travel if residents choose employment close to their home; or at home. Policy 9 supports proposals for home working recognising the increasing prevalence of more agile ways of working.
- 6.71 Policy 16 supports improved telecommunications and broadband which has the scope to help facilitate alternative effective ways of working, including home working and in turn reducing the need to travel.
- 6.72 The impact of the road network on the local community is recognised in Policy 9. In supporting business, employment and tourism, the policy also seeks to ensure proposals do not have adverse impacts on nearby residents in terms of noise and vehicular traffic.

- 6.73 Overall, the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to result in a positive effect on transportation. However, given the likely small scale of development and the small geography covered, the effects are not likely to be significant. The rural nature of the area means car reliance will continue to be high. In conclusion there are no required changes to the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the SEA objectives.

7. Monitoring and Next Steps

- 7.1 The assessment has demonstrated that the Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to positive or neutral environmental effects. Whilst the area hosts a number of environmental designations reflecting its environmental value and sensitivity, the Plan's vision, objectives and policies have avoided significant environmental impacts and / or will serve to mitigate potential adverse effects.

Monitoring

- 7.2 Monitoring the significant effects of the implementation of a neighbourhood plan that was subject to a strategic environmental assessment will enable unforeseen adverse effects to be identified and enable appropriate remedial actions to be taken. Monitoring will be led by the Parish Council but will be informed by monitoring data captured in respect of the Northumberland Local Plan.

Next Steps

- 7.3 This Environmental Report will be subject to consultation in accordance with requirements set out in the SEA Regulations. Subject to any necessary amendments arising from representations made as a result of that consultation the Environmental Report will be finalised prior to submission of the Plan and all necessary supporting documents to the County Council.
- 7.4 There are a number of subsequent stages before the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan can come into force, as described in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.
- 7.5 In summary the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Northumberland County Council, alongside the SEA Environmental Report. The County Council will consider whether the Plan meets various legal requirements prior to confirming that it may progress to Independent Examination.
- 7.6 If the Plan is successful at Independent Examination, it will progress to Referendum. If more than 50% of voters vote in favour of the Plan, it will then be for Northumberland County Council to seek to 'make' the Plan, subject to meeting EU obligations. Once made, the Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the Parish of Embleton

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Review of Plans and Programmes

The following provides a review of plans and programmes, which is derived from the Sustainability Appraisal of the Northumberland Local Plan. It should be noted that in a number of instances the relevance of the plan or programme relates to the Local Plan and therefore are only indirectly related to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
International/European Plans and Programmes		
EC (2011) A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship Initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM 2011/21)		
<p>This flagship initiative aims to create a framework for policies to support the shift towards a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy which will help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost economic performance while reducing resource use; • Identify and create new opportunities for economic growth and greater innovation and boost the EU's competitiveness; • Ensure security of supply of essential resources; and • Fight against climate change and limit the environmental impacts of resource use. 	<p>Each Member State has a target calculated according to the share of energy from renewable sources in its gross final consumption for 2020. The UK is required to source 15 per cent of energy needs from renewable sources, including biomass, hydro, wind and solar power by 2020.</p> <p>From 1 January 2017, biofuels and bioliquids share in emissions savings should be increased to 50 per cent.</p>	<p>The Local Plan policies should take into account the objectives of the Flagship Initiative.</p> <p>The SEA framework should include objectives and guide questions that relate to resource use.</p>
European Commission (2013) Strategy on adaptation to climate change		
<p>The EU strategy aims to make Europe more climate-resilient by adapting to the changing climate. It aims to provide a coherent approach to enhance preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change. The three key objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting action by Member States – encouraging Member States to adopt adaptation strategies and provide funding to boost capacity; • 'Climate-proofing' action at EU level – promoting adaptation in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and fisheries; and 	<p>No target or indicators.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should include criteria relating to climate resilience.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better informed decision-making – addressing gaps in knowledge and improving the European information sharing platform, Climate-ADAPT. 		
European Commission (2014) A Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period from 2020 to 2030		
The 2030 Climate and Energy Framework was adopted in 2014 and builds on the 2020 targets. The greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy targets are binding, while the energy efficiency target will be reviewed in 2020.	<p>It sets three key targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); At least 27% share for renewable energy; and At least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. 	The SEA framework should include the consideration of energy and greenhouse gas emissions.
European Landscape Convention 2000 (became binding March 2007)		
Convention outlined the need to recognise landscape in law, to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. It also encourages the integration of landscape into all relevant areas of policy, including cultural, economic and social policies.	<p>Specific measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness of the value of landscapes among all sectors of society, and of society's role in shaping them; Promoting landscape training and education among landscape specialists, other related professions, and in school and university courses; The identification and assessment of landscapes, and analysis of landscape change, with the active participation of stakeholders; Setting objectives for landscape quality, with the involvement of the public; and The implementation of landscape policies, through the establishment of plans and practical programmes. 	SEA objectives must consider the outcomes of the convention.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)		
<p>Establishes a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems; Promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources; Aims at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, inter alia, through specific measures for the 	The achievement of "good status" for chemical and biological river quality. Production of River Basin Management Plans.	SEA framework should consider effects upon water quality and resource.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>progressive reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances and the cessation or phasing-out of discharges, emissions and losses of the priority hazardous substances;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevents its further pollution, and • Contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 		
EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment		
<p>The SEA Directive provides the following requirements for consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities which, because of their environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned with the effects of implementing the plan or programme, must be consulted on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. These authorities are designated in the SEA Regulations as the Consultation Bodies (Consultation Authorities in Scotland); • The public and the Consultation Bodies must be consulted on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report, and must be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions. • Other EU Member States must be consulted if the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment in their territories. • The Consultation Bodies must also be consulted on screening determinations on whether SEA is needed for plans or programmes under Article 3(5), i.e. those which may be excluded if they are not likely to have significant environmental effects. 	No targets or indicators	The Directive sets the basis for SEA as a whole and therefore indirectly covers all objectives.
EU Directive 2002/91/EC (2002) on the energy performance of buildings		
<p>The European Union Energy Performance of Buildings Directive was published in the Official Journal on the 4th January 2003. The overall objective of the Directive is to <i>promote the improvement of energy performance of buildings within the Community taking into account outdoor climate and local conditions as well as indoor climate requirements and cost effectiveness.</i></p>	<p>It aims to reduce the energy consumption of buildings by improving efficiency across the EU through the application of minimum requirements and energy use certification.</p>	<p>The Directive will help manage energy demand and thus reduce consumption. As a result, it should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure future energy security.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
The Directive highlights how the residential and tertiary sectors, the majority of which are based in buildings, accounts for 40% of EU energy consumption.		
EU (2006) Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy		
<p>In June 2001, the first European sustainable development strategy was agreed by EU Heads of State. The Strategy sets out how the EU can meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Strategy proposes headline objectives and lists seven key challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport; • Sustainable consumption and production; • Conservation and management of natural resources; • Public health; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; and • Global poverty. 	<p>The overall objectives in the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard the earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity, respect the limits of the planet's natural resources and ensure a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. Prevent and reduce environmental pollution and promote sustainable consumption and production to break the link between economic growth and environmental degradation; • Promote a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society with respect for fundamental rights and cultural diversity that creates equal opportunities and combats discrimination in all its forms; • Promote a prosperous, innovative, knowledge-rich, competitive and eco-efficient economy which provides high living standards and full and high-quality employment throughout the European Union; and • Encourage the establishment and defend the stability of democratic institutions across the world, based on peace, security and freedom. Actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments. 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan should be consistent with the objectives of the Strategy and in turn promote sustainable development.</p>
EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to provide a consistent approach to managing flood risk across Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach is based on a 6 year cycle of planning which includes the publication of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments, hazard and risk maps and flood risk management plans. The Directive is transposed into English law by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. 	<p>The SEA framework should consider objectives relating to flood risk.</p>
EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and previous Directives (96/62/EC; 99/30/EC; 2000/69/EC; and 2002/3/EC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive provides that most of existing legislation be merged into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) with no change to existing air quality objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes thresholds for pollutants. 	<p>The SEA framework should include objectives relating to air quality.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant objectives include: • Maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases; and • Maintain ambient-air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases with respect to sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead. 		
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies 181 endangered species and sub-species for which the Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas. • Makes it a legal requirement that EU countries make provision for the protection of birds. This includes the selection and designation of Special Protection Areas. 	Target Actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of protected areas; • Upkeep and management; and • Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. 	The SEA framework should consider objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity including wild birds.
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and subsequent amendments		
Directive seeks to conserve natural habitats. Conservation of natural habitats requires member states to identify special areas of conservation and to maintain, where necessary landscape features of importance to wildlife and flora. The amendments in 2007: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify the species protection regime to better reflect the Habitats Directive; • Provide a clear legal basis for surveillance and monitoring of European protected species (EPS); • Toughen the regime on trading EPS that are not native to the UK; and • Ensure that the requirement to carry out appropriate assessments on water abstraction consents and land use plans is explicit. 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework objectives should include priorities for the protection of landscape features for ecological benefit.
EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation		
The European Commission has adopted an ambitious new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy provides a framework for action over the next decade and covers the following key areas: • Conserving and restoring nature; 	There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The six targets cover: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity. 2. Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure. 	The SEA framework should include priorities protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services; • Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; • Combating invasive alien species; and • Addressing the global biodiversity crisis. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. More sustainable agriculture and forestry. 4. Better management of fish stocks. 5. Tighter controls on invasive alien species. 6. A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. 	
The Convention for the protection of the architectural heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)		
<p>The Convention for the protection of the architectural heritage of Europe is a legally binding instrument which set the framework for an accurate conservation approach within Europe.</p> <p>The following objectives are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the idea of solidarity and cooperation among European Parties, in relation to heritage conservation. • It includes principles of "conservation policies" within the framework of European cooperation. • Strengthen and promote policies for the conservation and development of cultural heritage in Europe. 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objectives relating to conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
The European Convention on the protection of archaeological heritage (Valetta Convention)		
This Convention aims to protect the European archaeological heritage as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objectives relating to conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) (2001) The Cancun Agreement		
Shared vision to keep global temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius, with objectives to be reviewed as to whether it needs to be strengthened in future on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include greenhouse gas emissions.
UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)		
The World Heritage Convention sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage. The States Parties are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objectives relating to conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.		
UNFCCC (1997) The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC		
The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC established the first policy that actively aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by industrialised countries.	Construction is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions due to the consumption of materials and use of energy. The Kyoto Protocol aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the UK by 12.5%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2008 – 2012.	The Kyoto Protocol is influential to achieving sustainable development as it encourages transition to a low carbon economy. Therefore it is an integral factor in planning documents.
UNFCCC (2016) The Paris Agreement		
The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include greenhouse gas emissions.
World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report)		
<p>The Brundtland Report is concerned with the world's economy and its environment. The objective is to provide an expanding and sustainable economy while protecting a sustainable environment. The Report was a call by the United Nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To propose long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development by the year 2000 and beyond; • To recommend ways concern for the environment may be translated into greater co-operation among countries of the global South and between countries at different stages of economical and social development and lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives 	The report issued a multitude of recommendations with the aim of attaining sustainable development and addressing the problems posed by a global economy that is intertwined with the environment.	The Brundtland Report provided the original definition of sustainable development. The cumulative effect of the SEA objectives seeks to achieve sustainable development.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>that take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment, and development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environment concerns; and • To help define shared perceptions of long-term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals for the world community. 		
National Plans and Programmes		
Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment		
<p>This report reaffirms the UK Governments need to continue to consider climate change a threat to the UK and forms a basis for the regions of the UK to create a climate change risk assessment. The report identifies the following likely effects of climate change on the UK: increased flooding, rise in milder winters and hotter summers which could have wider health impacts, water supply issues, loss of biodiversity and ecosystems especially in coastal regions and a loss in business productivity.</p>	No targets or indicators	<p>The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to climate change and reducing its causes and potential effects.</p>
Department for Culture, Media & Sport (2013) Scheduled Monuments and Nationally Important but Non-Scheduled Monuments		
<p>This policy statement sets out Government policy on the identification, protection, conservation and investigation of nationally important ancient monuments, under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. It includes principles relating to the selection of scheduled monuments and the determination of applications for scheduled monument consent.</p>	No targets or indicators	<p>The SEA framework should include specific objectives relating to cultural heritage</p>
National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG, 2019)		
<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in July 2018, and updated in February 2019, replaced the previous NPPF which was published in 2012.</p>	No targets or indicators	<p>The NPPF must be taken into account in preparing the neighbourhood plan. The neighbourhood plan should reflect the</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be seen as a 'golden thread' running through both plan making and decision taking. Local Planning Authorities should plan positively to seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making		presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide development locally.
National Planning Practice Guidance		
Planning Practice Guidance is designed to support the NPPF. It reflects the objectives of the NPPF which are not repeated here.	No targets or indicators	The Neighbourhood Plan and SEA framework should reflect the principles of the NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance.
National Planning Policy for Waste (DCLG, 2014)		
<p>This document sets out detailed waste planning policies for local authorities. States that planning authorities need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a proportionate evidence base in preparing Local Plans. • Identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste streams. • Identifying suitable sites and areas. 	The overall objective of the document is to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. Planning plays a pivotal role e.g. by ensuring the design and layout of new development and other infrastructure complements sustainable waste management.	The SEA framework should consider objectives which relate to re-use, recycle and reduce.
Written Statement on Sustainable Drainage Systems (DCLG, 2014)		
This statement sets out that it is the Government's expectation that sustainable drainage systems will be provided in new developments wherever this is appropriate.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should reflect the Government's commitment to sustainable drainage systems and include references to sustainable water usage and treatment.
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (DECC, 2009)		
<p>This Paper plots out how the UK will meet the cut in emissions set out in the budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020. The Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New money for a 'smart grid', and to help regions and local authorities prepare for and speed up planning decisions on renewable and low carbon energy whilst protecting legitimate environmental and local concerns; 	<p>Sets out a vision that by 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1.2 million people will be in green jobs; • 7 million homes will have benefited from whole house makeovers, and more than 1.5 million households will be supported to produce their own clean energy; • Around 40 percent of electricity will be from low-carbon sources, from renewables, nuclear and clean coal; 	The strategy covers a number of SEA objectives including climate change, energy and air quality; landscape; geology and biodiversity; and waste.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to significantly advance the offshore wind industry in the UK; • Funding to cement the UK's position as a global leader in wave and tidal energy; • Funding to explore areas of potential "hot rocks" to be used for geothermal energy; • Challenging 15 villages, towns or cities to be testbeds for piloting future green initiatives; • Support for anaerobic digestion; • Encouraging private funding for woodland creation; and • Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, and better capture of landfill emissions etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be importing half the amount of gas that we otherwise would; and • The average new car will emit 40% less carbon than now. 	
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA, 2007)		
<p>The Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; • Sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; • Introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles; and • Identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. 	<p>The Air Quality Strategy sets out objectives for a range of pollutants that have not been reproduced here due to space constraints.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of the Air Quality Strategy where there are likely to be issues relating to air quality</p>
Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (DEFRA, 2007)		
<p>Key aims for government intervention in trees, woods and forests are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to secure trees and woodlands for future generations; • to ensure resilience to climate change; • to protect and enhance natural resources; • to increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to our quality of life; • And to improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and products. <p>These aims will form the basis on which the Delivery plan will be developed by Natural England and the Forestry Commission England (FCE). The strategy provides a national policy direction, which can be incorporated alongside regional priorities within regional forestry frameworks.</p>	<p>Strategy aims to create 2,200 hectares of wet woodland in England by 2010.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should include reference to the protection and enhancement of trees, woods and forests, in turn ensuring resilience to climate change.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles, Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate (DEFRA, 2008)		
<p>The report sets out a number of broad principles and goals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing biodiversity • Conserve protected areas and other high quality habitats • Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate change • Use existing biodiversity legislation and international agreements • Conserve range and ecological variability of habitats and species 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include an objective/guide questions related to protecting existing habitats and species.
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)		
<p>The Strategy is underpinned by the following vision: By 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations. Achieving this vision will mean that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agricultural soils will be better managed and threats to them will be addressed; • soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change and in helping us to manage its impacts; • soils in urban areas will be valued during development, and construction practices will ensure vital soil functions can be maintained; and • Pollution of our soils is prevented, and our historic legacy of contaminated land is being dealt with. 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include an objective/guide question relating to the effects of policies/proposals on soils.
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services		
<p>The Strategy is designed to help to deliver the objectives set out in the Natural Environment White Paper.</p>	<p>The Strategy includes the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating 200,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats by 2020; • Securing 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition; • Encouraging more people to get involved in conservation by supporting wildlife gardening and outdoor learning programmes; and 	The SEA framework should include an objective/guide question that supports the vision emphasising biodiversity.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing a new designation for local green spaces to enable communities to protect places that are important to them. 	
Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (DEFRA 2011)		
The Natural Environment White paper sets out the Government's plans to ensure the natural environment is protected and fully integrated into society and economic growth.	<p>The White Paper sets out four key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Protecting and improving our natural environment; (ii) Growing a green economy; (iii) Reconnecting people and nature; and (iv) International and EU leadership, specifically to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security and to put the EU on a path towards environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens. 	The SEA framework should include an objective/guide question that supports the vision emphasising biodiversity.
UK Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework (DEFRA, 2012)		
<p>The Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set out a shared vision and priorities for UK- scale activities, in a framework jointly owned by the four countries, and to which their own strategies will contribute; To identify priority work at a UK level which will be needed to help deliver the Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy To facilitate the aggregation and collation of information on activity and outcomes across all countries of the UK, where the four countries agree this will bring benefits compared to individual country work; and To streamline governance arrangements for UK- scale activity. 	<p>The Framework sets out 20 new global 'Aichi targets' under 5 strategic goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society; Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems species and genetic diversity; Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. 	The SEA framework should ensure that the objectives of biodiversity conservation and enhancement are taken into consideration.
The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (DEFRA, 2013)		
<p>This Programme contains a mix of policies and actions to help adapt successfully to future weather conditions, by dealing with the risks and making the most of the opportunities. It sets out a number of objectives, including:</p>	The Programme identifies a number of actions although no formal targets are identified.	The SEA framework should include an objective/guide question relating to climate change adaptation.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a clear local planning framework to enable all participants in the planning system to deliver sustainable new development, including infrastructure that minimises vulnerability and provides resilience to the impacts of climate change; • To increase the resilience of homes and buildings by helping people and communities to understand what a changing climate could mean for them and to take action to become resilient to climate risks; and • To ensure infrastructure is located, planned, designed and maintained to be resilient to climate change, including increasingly extreme weather events. 		
Waste Management Plan for England (DEFRA, 2013)		
<p>Sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.</p> <p>The document includes measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage reduction and management of packaging waste; • Promote high quality recycling; and • Encourage separate collection of bio-waste. • Promote the re-use of products and preparing for re-use activities 	<p>The Plan seeks to ensure that by 2020 at least 50% of weight waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled and at least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste is subject to material recovery.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should consider opportunities to reduce waste and encourage recycling and composting</p>
A Simple Guide to Biodiversity 2020 and Progress Update (DEFRA, 2013)		
<p>An update to the above 'Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (Defra, 2011).</p>	<p>This update reaffirms the need to achieve the above priorities and states that progress is being made through people working to prevent the loss of biodiversity at all levels of government.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should consider an objective/guide questions related to improving biodiversity.</p>
Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (DEFRA, 2013)		
<p>The Policy Statement has the following three key objectives, in priority order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change; • Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature; and 	<p>To achieve the objectives, Defra will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Natural Capital Committee and the Office of National Statistics to develop a set of natural capital accounts for UK forestry and use this to develop a set of natural capital accounts for the Public Forest Estate; • Develop a woodland ecosystem market roadmap by summer 2013 to bring together actions by Government and our partners over the next 5 years to (a) build knowledge (b) develop wider networks of collaboration and expertise and 	<p>The SEA framework should seek to protect woodland and enhance its value where practicable.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding them to increase further their economic, social and environmental value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) implement mechanisms and projects to demonstrate good practice; and Work with other organisations and initiatives to support the further development of markets in forest carbon and other ecosystem services such as water and biodiversity 	
Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) in UK (DEFRA, 2017)		
This plan sets out how the Government will improve air quality in the UK by reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions in towns and cities. The air quality plans set out targeted local, regional and national measures across 37 zone plans (areas which have identified air quality issues with nitrogen dioxide), a UK overview document and a national list of measures. Measures relate to freight, rail, sustainable travel, low emission vehicles and cleaner transport fuels, among others.	No targets or indicators	The SEA should consider the effects of the WRMP on air quality.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (Environment Agency, 2011)		
The objective of this strategy is to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion and manage its consequences.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include an objective/guiding questions relating to mitigation of flooding and coastal erosion.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act 1979		
The Act defines sites that warrant protection as ancient monuments. They can be a Scheduled Ancient Monuments or <i>"any other monument which in the opinion of the Secretary of State is of public interest by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to it"</i> .	No targets identified.	The SEA framework should consider including objectives that protect and enhance the historic environment, including ancient monuments.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981		
The main UK legislation relating to the protection of named animal and plant species includes legislation relating to the UK network of nationally protected wildlife areas: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).	No targets identified.	The SEA framework should consider including objectives that protect and enhance the environment, including wildlife and natural features.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990		
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.	No targets identified.	The SEA framework should consider including objectives that protect and enhance the historic environment, including listed buildings and conservation areas.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000		
<p>This Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gives people greater freedom to explore open country on foot; • creates a duty for Highway Authorities and National Park Authorities to establish Local Access Forums; • provides a cut-off date of 1 January 2026 for the recording of certain rights of way on definitive maps and the extinguishment of those not so recorded by that date; • offers greater protection to wildlife and natural features, better protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and more effective enforcement of wildlife legislation; and • Protects Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty with legislation similar to that for National Parks. 	No targets identified.	The SEA framework should consider including objectives that protect and enhance the environment, including wildlife and natural features, and consider including objectives relating to access to walking and cycling.
Sustainable Energy Act 2003		
The Act aims to promote sustainable energy development and use and report on progress regarding cutting the UK's carbon emissions and reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty.	Specific targets are set by the Secretary of State as energy efficiency aims.	The Act requires the encouragement and reporting on the UK's attempts to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use. The SEA Framework should include objectives relating to climate change and energy use.
Securing the Future – the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)		
<p>The Strategy has 5 guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance. <p>Using sound science responsibly alongside 4 strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and • Sustainable communities. 	<p>The Strategy contains a new set of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development in the UK. Those most relevant at the district level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions; • Road freight (CO2 emissions and tonne km, tonnes and GDP); • Household waste (a) arisings (b) recycled or composted; and • Local environmental quality 	The SEA framework should reflect the guiding principles of the Strategy.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006		

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>The Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities; • Makes provision in connection with wildlife, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Parks and the Broads; • Amends the law relating to rights of way; • Makes provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council; and • Provides for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs and certain other functions; and for connected purposes. 	<p>The Act contains no formal targets.</p>	<p>SEA objectives must consider the importance of conserving biodiversity and landscape features as set out in the Act.</p>
The Climate Change Act 2008		
<p>This Act aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK; and • To demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally, signalling that the UK is committed to taking its share of responsibility for reducing global emissions in the context of developing negotiations on a post-2012 global agreement at Copenhagen. 	<p>The Act sets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally binding targets - greenhouse gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline. The 2020 target will be reviewed soon after Royal Assent to reflect the move to all greenhouse gases and the increase in the 2050 target to 80%. <p>Further, the Act provides for a carbon budgeting system which caps emissions over five year periods, with three budgets set at a time, to set out our trajectory to 2050.</p>	<p>The SEA framework must ensure that greenhouse gases are reduced or minimised and that energy use comes increasingly from renewable sources.</p>
The Planning Act 2008		
<p>Introduces a new system for nationally significant infrastructure planning, alongside further reforms to the Town and Country Planning system. A major component of this legislation is the introduction of an independent Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), to take decisions on major infrastructure projects (transport, energy, water and waste). To support decision-making, the IPC will refer to the Government's National Policy Statements (NPSs), which will provide a clear long-term strategic direction for nationally significant infrastructure development.</p>	<p>No key targets.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan and SEA framework should take into account any relevant National Policy Statements when published.</p>
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009		
<p>The Strategy sets out to:</p>	<p>A vision is set out in the document whereby by 2020:</p>	

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place the mechanisms to provide financial support for renewable electricity and heat worth around £30 billion between now and 2020; Drive delivery and clear away barriers; Increase investment in emerging technologies and pursue new sources of supply; and Create new opportunities for individuals, communities and business to harness renewable energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 30% of our electricity is generated from renewables; 12% of our heat is generated from renewables; and 10% of transport energy is generated from renewables. 	The SEA framework should include objectives which seek to provide support for renewable energy.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010		
This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England (2010)		
<p>The Vision of the Statement is <i>"that the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation."</i> This vision is supported by six aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Leadership: Ensure that relevant policy, guidance, and standards across Government emphasize our responsibility to manage England's historic environment for present and future generations; 2. Protective Framework: Ensure that all heritage assets are afforded an appropriate and effective level of protection, while allowing, where appropriate, for well managed and intelligent change; 3. Local Capacity: Encourage structures, skills and systems at a local level which: promote early consideration of the historic environment; ensure that local decision makers have access to the expertise they need; and provide sufficiently skilled people to execute proposed changes to heritage assets sensitively and sympathetically; 4. Public Involvement: Promote opportunities to place people and communities at the centre of the designation and management of their local historic environment and to make use of heritage as a focus for learning and community identity at all levels; 	No key targets.	The SEA framework should consider including objectives that protect and enhance the historic environment,

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>5. Direct Ownership: Ensure all heritage assets in public ownership meet appropriate standards of care and use while allowing, where appropriate, for well managed and intelligent change;</p> <p>6. Sustainable Future: Seek to promote the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and as part of its sustainable development agenda.</p>		
Flood and Water Management Act 2010		
The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 makes provisions about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion.	<p>Those key targets related to water resources, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To widen the list of uses of water that water companies can control during periods of water shortage, and enable Government to add to and remove uses from the list. • To encourage the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments. • To reduce 'bad debt' in the water industry by amending the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide a named customer and clarify who is responsible for paying the water bill. • To make it easier for water and sewerage companies to develop and implement social tariffs where companies consider there is a good cause to do so, and in light of guidance that will be issued by the Secretary of State following a full public consultation. 	The SEA framework should include criteria in relation to flood risk management.
Water for Life: White Paper (2011)		
<p><i>Water for Life</i> describes a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused, and in which water is valued as the precious and finite resource it is.</p> <p><i>Water for Life</i> includes several proposals for deregulating and simplifying legislation, to reduce burdens on business and stimulate growth. Ofwat's proposals for reducing its regulatory burdens complement these.</p>	No target or indicators	In order to ensure future water management is resilient SEA should consider resilience to climate change and should consider the human environment to ensure water companies remain customer focused.
UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)		

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<p>The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. It identifies the following objectives:</p> <p>Promote sustainable economic development;</p> <p>Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change;</p> <p>Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and</p> <p>Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.</p>	<p>No specific targets identified.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should reflect the objectives of the MPS.</p>
Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future (2011)		
<p>This sets out how the UK will achieve decarbonisation within the framework of energy policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the transition to a low carbon economy while maintaining energy security, and minimising costs to consumers, particularly those in poorer households. 	<p>No key targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEA needs to ensure that the plan is embracing the low carbon agenda and appropriate sustainability objectives are utilised to assess the plan's credentials in terms of a low carbon future and the impact it could have on climate change.
Water Act 2014		
<p>The provisions in the Act enable the delivery of Government's aims for a sustainable sector as set out in the Water White Paper in a way that this is workable and clear. This Act aims to make steps towards reducing regulatory burdens, promoting innovation and investment, giving choice and better service to customers and enabling more efficient use of scarce water resources.</p>	<p>There are no formal targets or indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEA Framework should consider objectives seeking to protect and improve the quality of inland and coastal waters.
Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions (England and Wales) 2015		
<p>The regulations implement provisions of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC), the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (Directive 2008/105/EC) and the priority substances amendment of these directives (Directive 2013/39/EU). This includes directions for the classification of surface water and groundwater bodies, monitoring requirements, standards for ecological and chemical status of surface waters, and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</p>	<p>No targets or indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEA should include objectives relating to water quality, water resources, sustainable water use, and biodiversity.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
Government Response to the Committee on Climate Change (2015)		
In June 2015 the Committee on Climate Change and the Adaptation Sub-Committee published the seventh progress report on Government's mitigation activity and the first statutory assessment of the National Adaptation Programme. This included five recommendations and it is those recommendations that are responded to within this response.	In June 2015 the Committee on Climate Change and the Adaptation Sub-Committee published the seventh progress report on Government's mitigation activity and the first statutory assessment of the National Adaptation Programme. This included five recommendations and it is those recommendations that are responded to within this response	In June 2015 the Committee on Climate Change and the Adaptation Sub-Committee published the seventh progress report on Government's mitigation activity and the first statutory assessment of the National Adaptation Programme. This included five recommendations and it is those recommendations that are responded to within this response
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017		
This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.	The SEA framework should include objectives which seek to conserve the natural environment.
Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes 1 to 3		
The purpose of these Good Practice Advice notes is to provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG).	No specific targets identified.	The SEA framework should include objectives relating to conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)		
<p>This report outlines the following aims that the UK Government hopes to achieve in the next 25 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean air; 2. Clean and plentiful water; 3. Thriving plants and wildlife; 4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought; 5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently; 6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment; 7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change; 8. Minimising waste; 9. Managing exposure to chemicals; 10. Enhancing biosecurity 	To ensure the UK's environmental state improves over the next 25 years.	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan should encourage and support sustainable development;</p> <p>The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions which relate to sustainable development, air quality, mineral resources and protecting natural assets.</p>

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
Regional Plans and Programmes		
Northumberland Region River Basin and Flood Management Plans 2009-2015 (updated 2015) (Environment Agency 2015)		
There are several river basin and flood management plans that exist in the Northumberland region. They all express a need for local watercourses to be protected and for new developments to be carefully sited and designed to ensure they are not at risk of or increase the risk of flooding.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to protecting Northumberland's water resources and current and future residents from flooding.
State of the Environment in the North East (Natural England, 2009)		
This report by Natural England outlines the many and varied habitats and species that live in the north east of England. The report states the importance of the north east's natural environment and green spaces and the important role management of the natural environment will have on reducing the impacts of climate change.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to protecting the natural and open spaces of Northumberland and habitat rich areas.
The North East Climate Change Adaptation Study (North East Climate Change Partnership, 2008)		
This study highlights the potential scale and wide ranging affects that climate change could have on the north east region in the future. Some of the potential affects predicted are increased flooding and the severity of flooding, wildfires, health effects of extreme weather patterns, infectious diseases and pests, weather related damage to infrastructure and buildings, and a potential loss of business productivity.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to climate change and reducing its causes and potential effects.
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Northumbrian Water, 2014)		
This Water Resource Management Plan outlines the water resources of Northumberland and tries to forecast how severe the demand for water will be in the future.	No targets or indicators	The SA framework should include objective/guide questions that relates to sustainable water resource management.
Sub-Regional Plans and Programmes		

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
Alnwick District Local Plan (Alnwick District Council, 1997) (as amended by Secretary of State's Direction 2007)		
<p>A considerable amount of the policies contained within the Alnwick District Local Plan are saved policies and are therefore still relevant. These policies broadly aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the rural environment, its character, landscape natural resources and important habitats and species whilst promoting sensitive use of the countryside; • Balance the need for new development alongside protecting the character and setting of the existing built environment, especially with regard to areas of special quality; • Ensure that the Alnwick district has sufficient housing to meet its current and future diverse needs and continue to address the housing imbalance found between the larger settlements and smaller, rural settlements of the district; • Continue to improve the level of infrastructure within the district; • Ensure that the district continues to grow economically and continue to grow the local tourism industry • Preserve and enhance local communities and ensure they have sufficient facilities and services for a good quality of life. 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to sustainable development, protecting the historic and natural environment, infrastructure, the creation of new housing and employment land and protecting and enhancing local communities.
Alnwick District Core Strategy (Alnwick District Council, 2007)		
<p>The Alnwick District Local Development Framework (LDF) outlines a number of challenges facing the Alnwick area over the next 15 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan outlines the issue of a declining young, economically active population alongside a rising aging, non-economically active population; • There is a need for new sustainable housing, services and employment opportunities across the region; • Continue to be a place tourists want to visit and ensure the areas natural and historical environment is protected; • Balance the need for new development alongside ensuring they are in areas that are easily accessible; and • A need to develop new community, educational and recreational facilities. 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to sustainable development, protecting the historic and natural environment, infrastructure and the creation of new housing and employment land.
Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan (Northumberland County Council, 2008)		

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>The Biodiversity Action Plan outlines several challenges facing the natural environment of Northumberland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure; • Development; • Habitat fragmentation; • Nutrient enrichment; • Unsuitable management; • Sterilisation of the 'wild' through over tidiness; • Invasive species; • Climate change; • Vandalism. <p>The Biodiversity Action Plan also enforces the need to protect Northumberland's important designated natural assets.</p>	<p>Maintain and even enhance Northumberland's current natural assets to ensure they can be enjoyed by residents and tourists.</p>	<p>The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to protecting the natural environment.</p>
Northumberland and North Tyneside Shoreline Management Plan 2 – Scottish Border to River Tyne (Northumberland County Council, 2009)		
<p>This plan outlines the following objectives that will allow for the management of the Northumberland and North Tyneside coast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an understanding of the coast, its behaviour and its values; • To define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, natural and historic environment within the SMP2 area over the next century; • To appraise different policy approaches and identify the preferred policies for managing those risks or creating opportunity for sustainable management; • To examine the consequences of implementing the preferred policies in terms of the objectives for management. • To set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies; • To inform others so that future land use and development of the shoreline can take due account of the risks and preferred SMP2 policies; • To comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations. 	<p>No targets or indicators</p>	<p>The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to protecting Northumberland's water resources (including the coast) and natural assets.</p>
Northumberland Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Northumberland County Council, 2010)		

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
This Strategic Flood Risk Assessment provides an overview of areas that are at risk of flooding and pinpoints the main sources of flooding throughout the district.	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to flooding, climate change and increasing the district's resilience to the potential effects of climate change.
Northumberland Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Final Report (Northumberland County Council, 2011)		
<p>The Northumberland Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment report outlines the following aims and objectives it has to aid in reducing Northumberland's risk of flooding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify partners with a role and interest in flood risk management and describe the methods for continued engagement; • Establish an organisational framework and data management systems for the collation, storage and maintenance of flood risk data; • Determine significant flood risk and identify Flood Risk Areas within Northumberland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describing significant historic flood events from local sources including the impacts of such events ▪ Describing the likely impacts of potential flood risk from local sources of flooding 	No targets or indicators	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to increasing the resilience of Northumberland to the effects of climate change and locating developments outside of areas at risk of flooding.
Northumberland Renewable, Low Carbon Energy Generation and Energy Efficiency Study (Northumberland County Council, 2011)		
This report outlines measures for Northumberland to continue to improve its carbon efficiency to ensure it becomes a 'low carbon' region.	Balance the need for new homes against the need to maintain low-zero carbon growth.	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to pollution, waste, renewable energy and sustainable development.
Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 (Northumberland County Council, 2014)		
<p>The Northumberland Coast AONB management plan is governed by a vision that looks beyond 2019 to 2034 and is:</p> <p><i>"A sense of remoteness and wildness is maintained, with wide open coastal and sea views, a naturally functioning coastline rich in wildlife, and a clear distinction between settlements and open countryside. The AONB is a living, working area with a celebrated history and culture, and a vibrant</i></p>	That the Northumberland Coast AONB is continued to be well managed to ensure it is in a stronger position in 2019 than it was in 2014.	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to these objectives and the vision, namely that new developments that could have any impacts upon the AONB are sustainable and protect or enhance the landscape and natural environment.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p><i>present in which social and economic wellbeing is successfully integrated with the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the area."</i></p> <p>The above vision will be achieved through achieving the following 3 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the special landscape, natural environment and cultural heritage of the Northumberland Coast AONB • The Northumberland Coast AONB remains as a living and thriving landscape • Celebrate and discover the Northumberland Coast AONB 		
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme (Northumberland County Council, 2014)		
This management scheme seeks to conserve and enhance the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast so that it can be enjoyed by visitors and residents for years to come and ensure this rich habitat is not lost.	That the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast natural assets are protected and where possible enhanced.	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to the protection of important natural and ecological areas and habitats.
Northumberland Strategic Partnership, The Heat is On: Strategic Framework for Climate Change Planning (2007)		
<p>This strategic partnership seeks to achieve the following aim: <i>"Encourage partners to put in place effective and timely measures at both corporate and community levels to address the causes and implications of climate change in Northumberland by mainstreaming climate change planning within their own core business."</i></p> <p>Northumberland is already feeling the effects of climate change with summers being hotter, less overall rainfall but with it being concentrated in the winter months, rising sea levels and more extreme types of weather.</p>	Increase Northumberland's resilience to climate change and its potential effects.	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to sustainable development, reducing waste and pollution, high quality design and developments being carefully sited to not be at risk of flooding.
Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment (Northumberland County Council, 2010)		
The Landscape Character Assessment looks at the character of the landscape, how nature has influenced it, what it has looked like historically and what things make it distinctive. The study is divided into two parts.	Maintain and enhance the properties most valued in the landscape.	The SEA framework should include objective/guide questions that relate to landscape and local distinctiveness.

Key Objectives relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Key targets and indicators relevant to Neighbourhood Plan	Commentary (how the SEA Framework should incorporate the document's requirements)
<p>Part A - Landscape Classification Part A provides an understanding of the 44 different character types and the 108 landscape character areas. The map and associated descriptions provide a background to understanding landscape and its local distinctiveness, and provide a baseline against which change can be assessed.</p> <p>Part B - The Changing Landscape Part B sets out principles for each landscape character type. The principles seek to maintain and enhance the properties most valued in the landscape.</p>		

Appendix B: SEA Framework for the Assessment

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Biodiversity Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the European designated sites of significance within the neighbourhood area? • Support the status of SSSIs located wholly or partly within the neighbourhood area? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate Change Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Climate Change Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the neighbourhood area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the neighbourhood area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape and Historic Environment Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the landscape in the neighbourhood area? • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Ensure the efficient use of land	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Support the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste? • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Land, Soil and Water Resources Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption?
Population and Community	Will the option/proposal help to:

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of a range of high-quality, accessible community facilities? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?
Population and Human Health Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Population and Human Health Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the neighbourhood area to work locally	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enhance the viability of small local businesses? • Support the diversity of local businesses and the economy? • Support employment opportunities which enable residents to work from home?
Population and Human Health Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the neighbourhood area	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Population and Human Health Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

Appendix C

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA Framework

Table 1: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA Framework

SEA Themes and Objectives													
Transportation	Human Health			Population and Community	Land, Soil and Water Resources			Landscape and Historic Environment	Climate Change	Biodiversity and Geodiversity			
	11	10	9		8	7	6				5	4	3
	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Area	Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the Neighbourhood Area to work locally	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	Ensure the efficient use of land	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	
					</								

SEA Themes and Objectives												
Transportation	Human Health			Population and Community	Land, Soil and Water Resources			Landscape and Historic Environment	Climate Change		Biodiversity and Geodiversity	
12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Area	Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the Neighbourhood Area to work locally	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	Ensure the efficient use of land	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	
✓	0	0	0	0	0	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Policy 5: Settlement boundaries for Embleton Village and Christon Bank
-	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	✓	0	0	0	Policy 6: Development affecting Embleton Village Conservation Area
0	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	✓	0	✓	✓	Policy 7: Local Green Spaces
-	0	0	-	-	0	-	0	✓✓	0	0	0	Policy 8: Non-designated heritage assets
✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	Policy 9: Business, employment and tourism

SEA Themes and Objectives																
Transportation	12	11	10	9	Population and Community	8	7	Land, Soil and Water Resources	6	5	Landscape and Historic Environment	4	3	2	1	Biodiversity and Geodiversity
	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Area	Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the Neighbourhood Area to work locally	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	Ensure the efficient use of land	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features				
Policy 10: Principal residence housing	✓	✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	-	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0
Policy 11: Affordable housing contributions	0	✓	0	✓✓	✓	0	-	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy 12: Rural exception sites and community led housing	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	-	-	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0
Policy 13: Change of use from holiday accommodation to principal residence housing	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	-	✓	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0
Policy 14: Assets of community value and community facilities	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix D

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan objectives against the SEA Framework

Table 2: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan objectives against the SEA Framework

	SEA Objectives											
	Transportation	Human Health	Population and Community	Land, Soil and Water Resources	Landscape and Historic Environment	Climate Change	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	12	11	10	9	8
	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Area	Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the Neighbourhood Area to work locally	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	Ensure the efficient use of land	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features
Neighbourhood Plan Objectives												
Objective 1: Sustainable development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓
Objective 2: Sense of place	0	✓	0	0	✓	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0
Objective 3: Local economy	0	✓	✓	0	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective 4: Housing	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

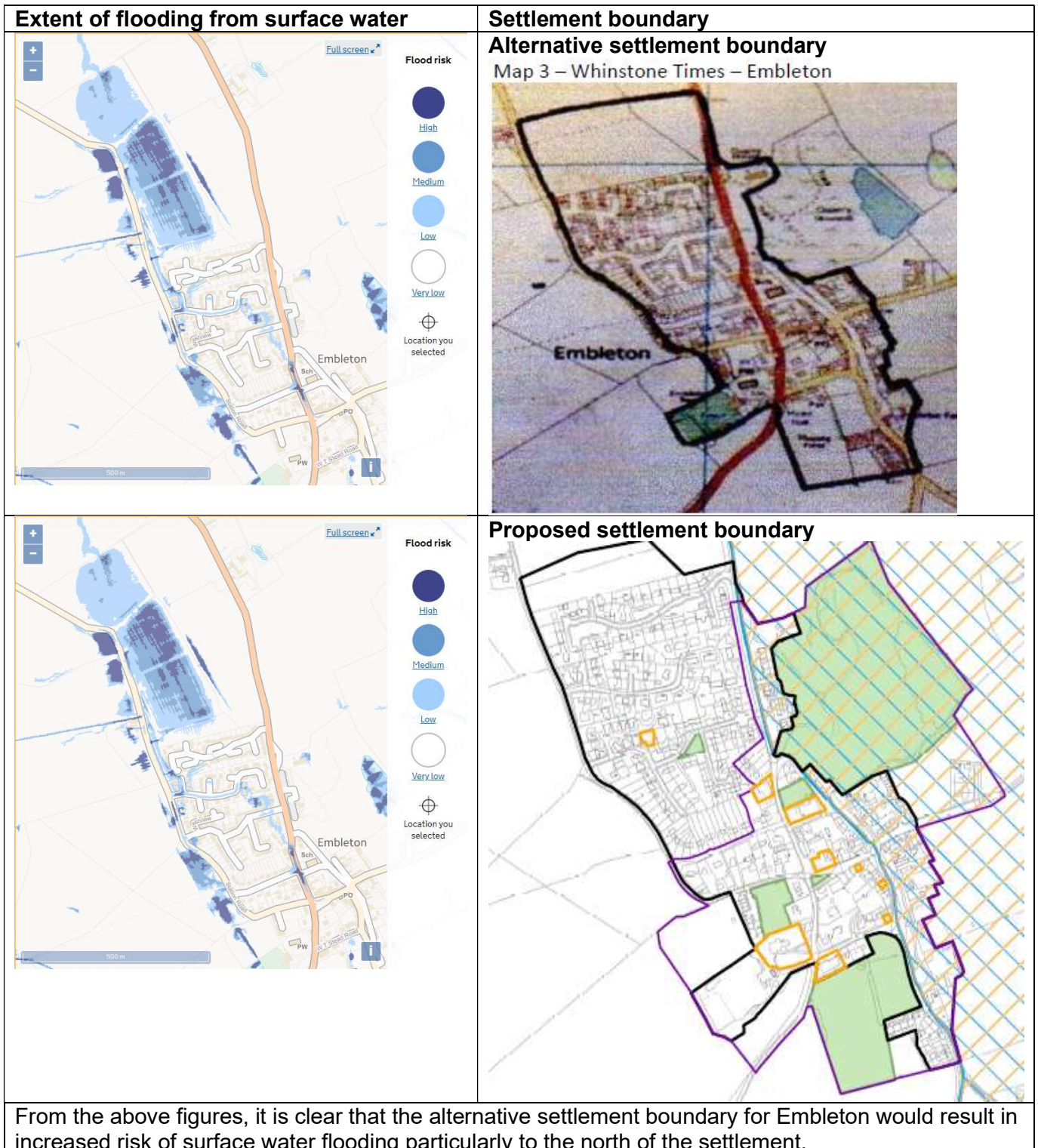
SEA Objectives											
Transportation	12	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	0								
Human Health	11	Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Area	✓								
	10	Support a vibrant, mixed economy which enables residents of the Neighbourhood Area to work locally	✓								
	9	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	0								
Population and Community	8	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	✓								
Land, Soil and Water Resources	7	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	0								
	6	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	0								
	5	Ensure the efficient use of land	0								
Landscape and Historic Environment	4	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	0								
Climate Change	3	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	0								
	2	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	0								
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	1	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	✓								
			Objective 5: Community facilities								

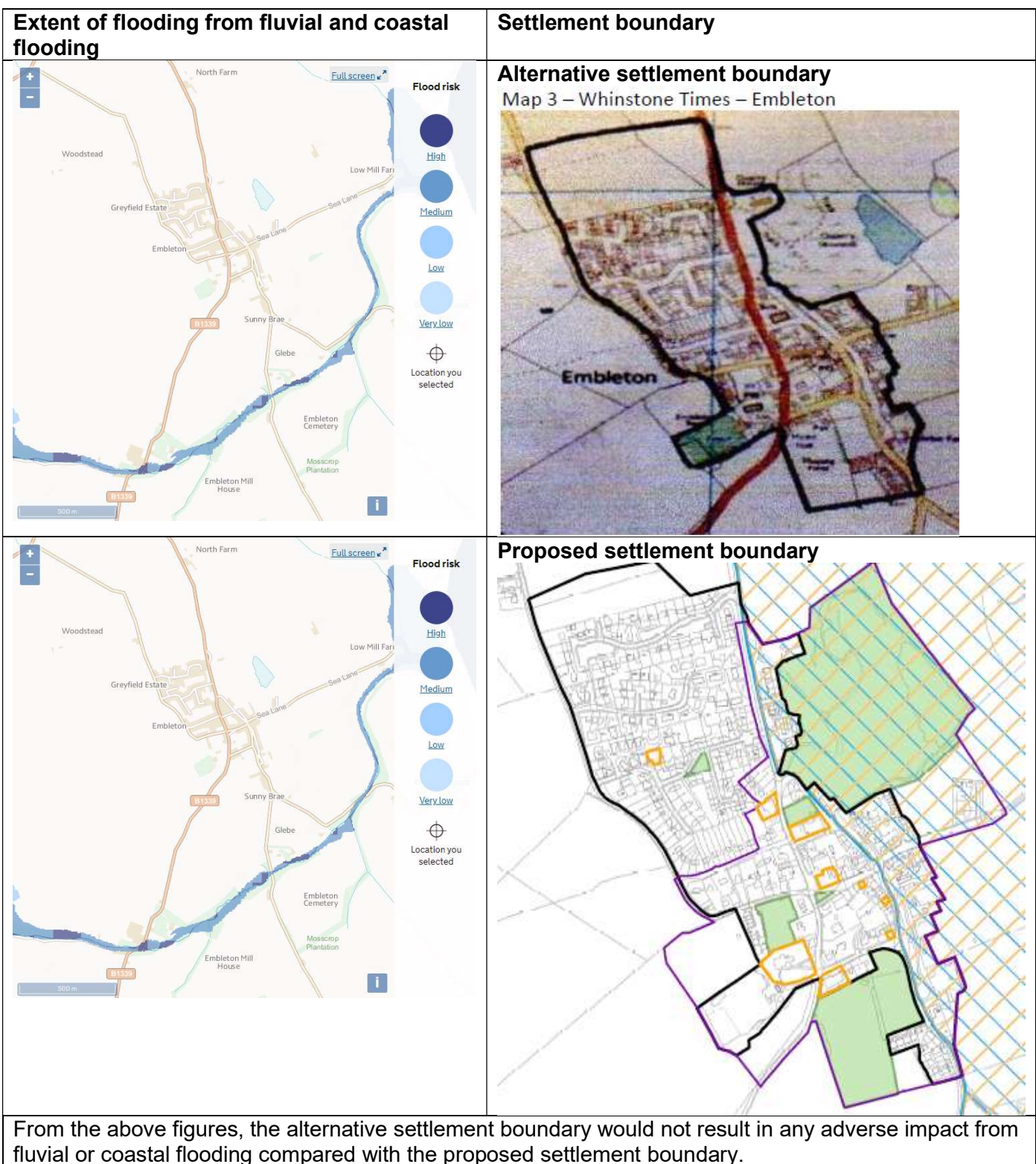
Appendix E

Alternative Settlement Boundaries – Impact on Flood Risk

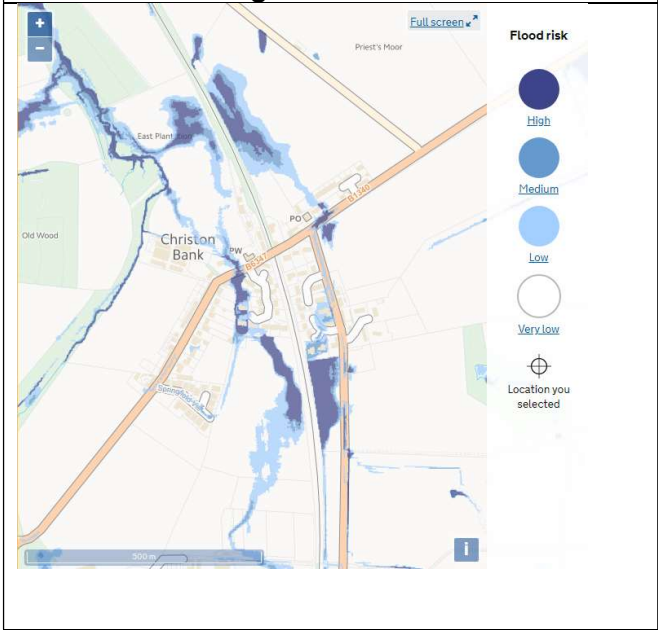
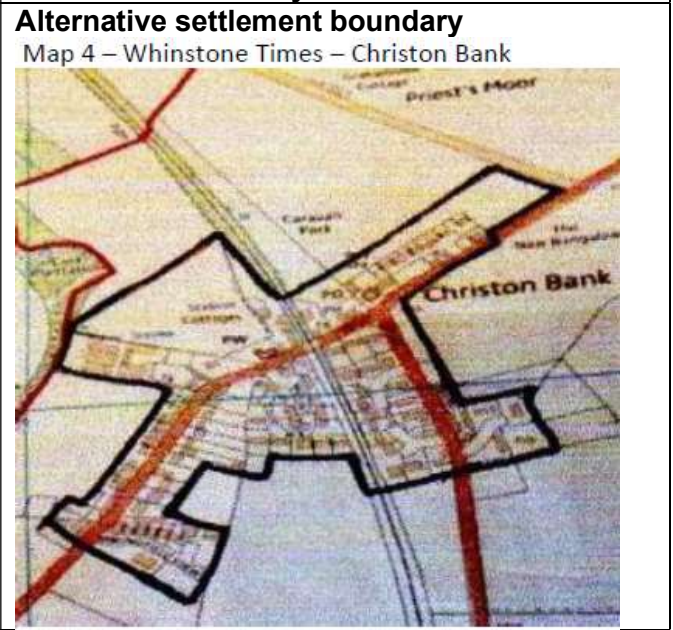
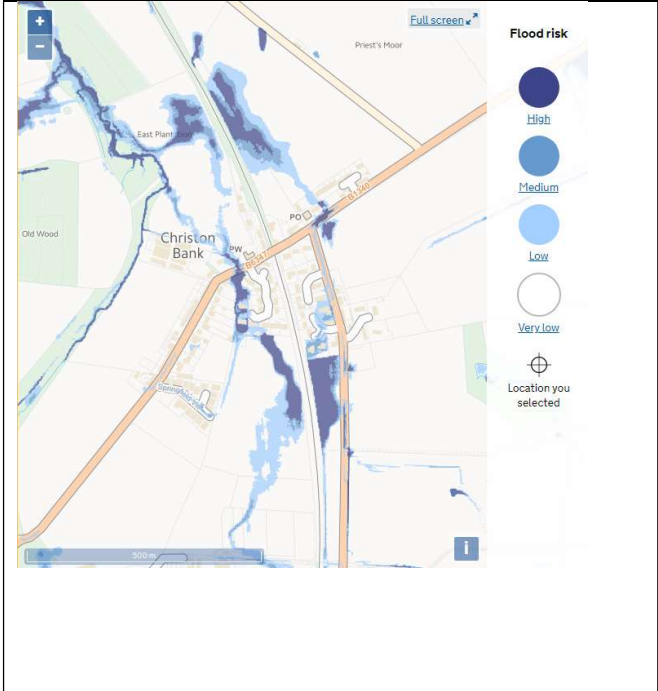
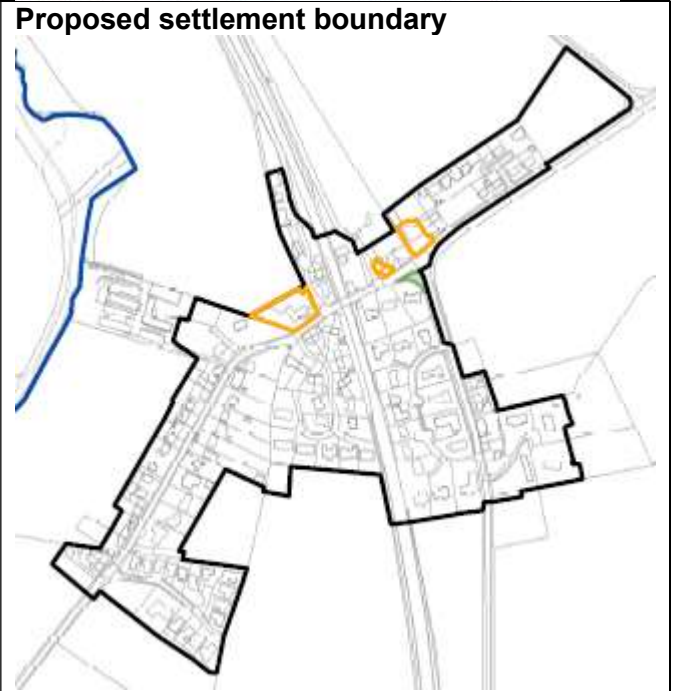
FLOOD RISK

Embleton

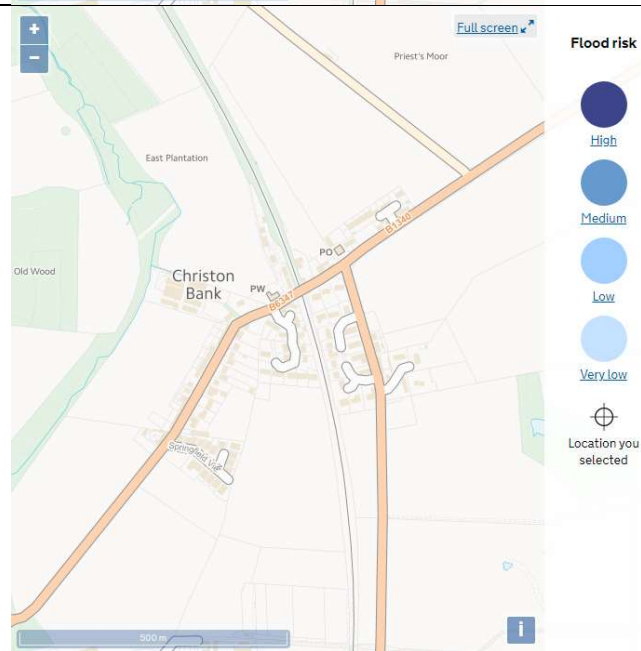
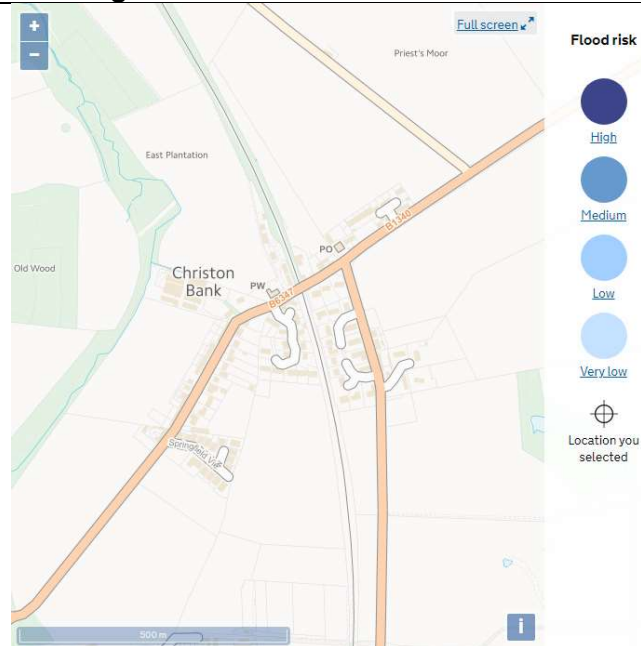




Christon Bank

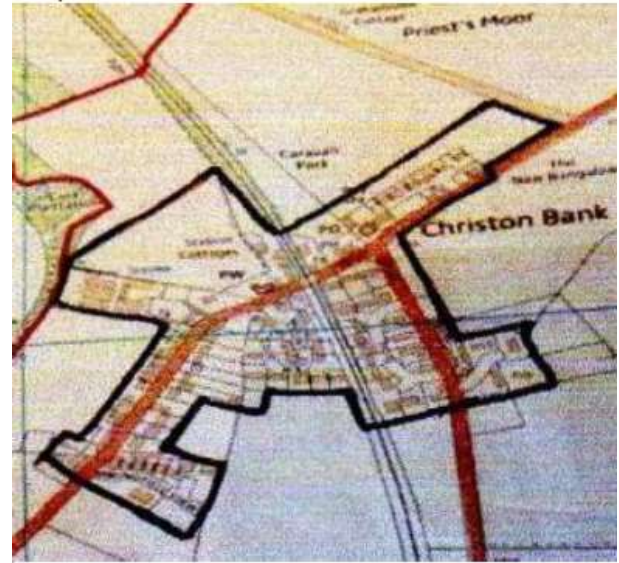
Extent of flooding from surface water	Settlement boundary
	<p>Alternative settlement boundary Map 4 – Whinstone Times – Christon Bank</p> 
	<p>Proposed settlement boundary</p> 
<p>While the alternative settlement boundary does include some land which is at a higher risk of flooding from surface water, the settlement itself already contains some areas which are at risk from surface water flooding. This is unlikely to be exacerbated to any significant extent by the alternative settlement boundary.</p>	

Extent of flooding from fluvial and coastal flooding

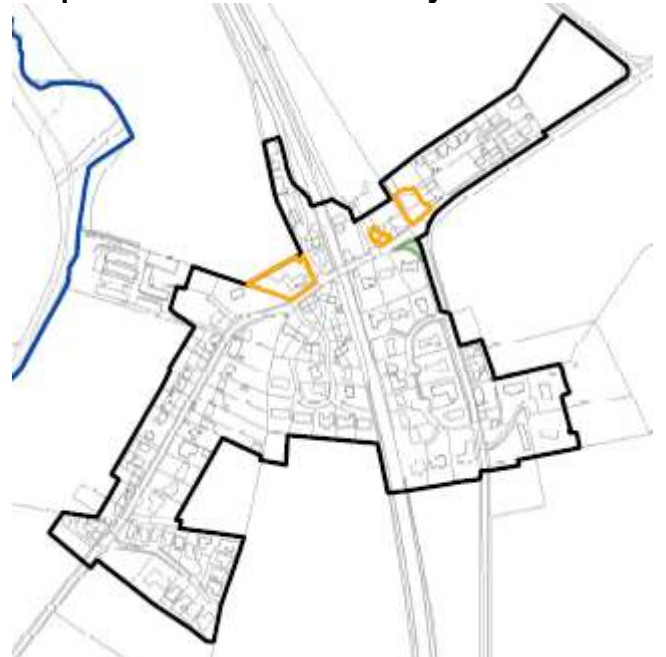


Settlement boundary

Alternative settlement boundary Map 4 – Whinstone Times – Christon Bank



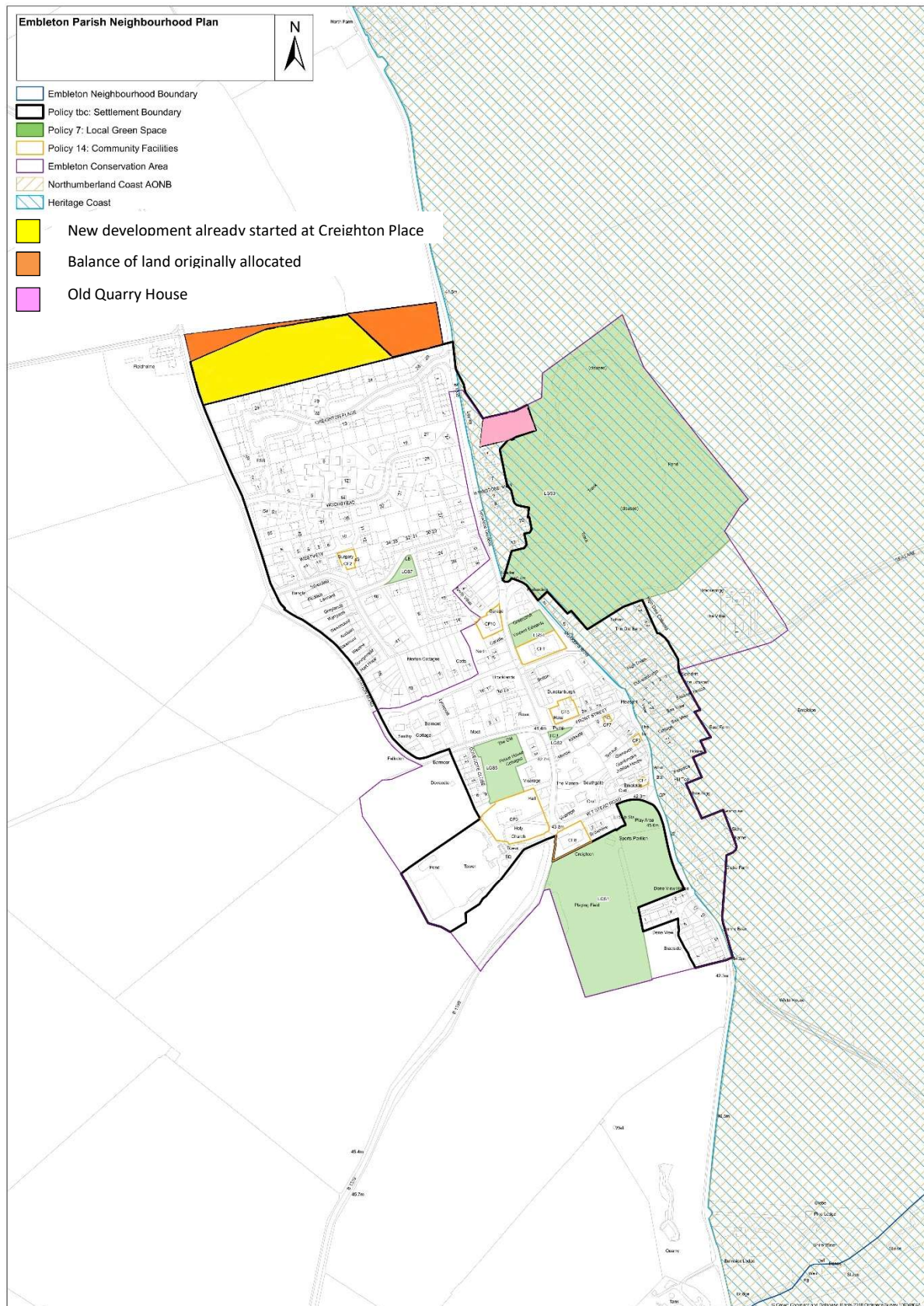
Proposed settlement boundary



As shown above, Christon Bank is not at risk from fluvial or coastal flooding. The alternative and proposed settlement boundaries are therefore not considered to have an effect.

Appendix F

Alternative Option Site Allocations



Appendix G

SEA Scoping Report responses from consultation bodies



Historic England

Mr Rob Naples
Northumberland County Council
Communities & Infrastructure
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191-2691232

Our ref: PL00523482

29 April 2019

Dear Mr Naples

**Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004: Regulation 9
Embleton Neighbourhood Plan: SEA Scoping Report, April 2019**

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the above Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

We have no detailed comment to make on the scoping report. We draw your attention to our guidance on the SEA process (Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8, 2016), pages 6-10 of which deal with the scoping stage. We recommend you ensure these have been followed for the historic environment element of the report.

We trust our comments are taken into consideration. We reserve the right to review our opinion should the plan change materially in its content and direction. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries relating to our comments or would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Jules Brown
Historic Places Adviser
jules.brown@historicengland.org.uk



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF
Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Rob Naples
Northumberland County Council
Planning Strategy
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Our ref: NA/2009/103757/OR-
17/PO1-L01
Your ref:

Date: 11 June 2019

Dear Rob

**Embleton Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the above Neighbourhood Plan consultation. We have reviewed the consultation document and with respect to matters within our remit, we have the following comments/advice to offer:

SEA Objectives

We welcome and support the SEA objectives identified within the scoping report.

Climate change

It should be noted that on 26 November 2018 the UKCP18 climate change projections were published. UKCP18 is the official source of information on how the climate of the UK may change over the rest of this century. The UKCP18 projections replace the UKCP09 projections and are the 'official' national climate change projections for the UK.

The allowances in 'Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' (published Feb 2016) are still the best national representation of how climate change is likely to affect flood risk for:

- peak river flow
- peak rainfall intensity

Research that is due to be published in 2019 may result in changes to these allowances. The new climate change allowances should be reflected within the SEA scoping report.

Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk



creating a better place



Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Mo
Planning Technical Specialist - Sustainable Places

Direct dial 020847 46524

Direct e-mail lucy.mo@environment-agency.gov.uk

Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk



Date: 17 June 2019
Our ref: 280930
Your ref: Embleton NP Scoping Report



Mr. Rob Naples
Planning Policy
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE63 2ER

Customer Services
Hombeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Naples,

Planning consultation: Consultation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report
Location: Embleton Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 18 April 2019 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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

In our review of the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping report, we wish to make the following comments:

Survey data of recreational visitors to the Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar highlight that a high percentage of visitors reside within a 10km buffer zone of the coast, with this part of the coastline offering significant opportunity for access to the aforementioned designated sites. Appropriate mitigation may take the form of various schemes and provisions and the developer should liaise with the LPA on how to address the issue of mitigation as and where appropriate. Details of a strategy to mitigate against recreational disturbance needs to be submitted within the context of this application.

It should be identified that any increase in housing numbers will have a Likely Significant Effect on the special interest features of designated sites, presented through recreational disturbance. Therefore the SEA scoping document should reinforce the requirements to mitigate against recreational disturbance through Northumberland County Council's Coastal mitigation Service (CMS) which seeks to promote a strategic approach in countering negative effects through recreational disturbance.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Michael Miller on 0208 225 6263. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Michael Miller
Lead Sustainable Development Advisor