

# **Horsford Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report**

*November 2017*



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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to determine whether the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) through a process known as SEA screening.

The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan has been commissioned by Horsford Parish Council and developed by a Steering Group of residents. A map showing the Neighbourhood Plan area for Horsford is in Appendix A. The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for 'pre-submission consultation' for the six-week period between 14 October and 25 November 2017.

The report provides details of the proposed Horsford Neighbourhood Plan and explains the legislative background to SEA screening, before providing an account of the SEA screening exercise for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan.

This report fulfils the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment and Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.

Broadland District Council advocates the Sustainability Appraisal process to check emerging policies and alternative options in Neighbourhood Plans, and to offer a useful form of demonstrating that sustainability has been considered within the process, as set out within the basic conditions. A Sustainability Appraisal for the draft Neighbourhood Plan has been produced. A Sustainability Appraisal looks at the possible economic, environmental and social impacts of an emerging plan and should result in a final plan which has the least negative impact possible in an area.

A scoping report for the Sustainability Appraisal for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and updated following consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England, Broadland District Council and Norfolk County Council in February/March 2017. The scoping report contains information on the environmental conditions that are used in this report to assess the need for an SEA.

### **1.1 The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan**

The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have developed the aims, vision, objectives and draft policies of the Neighbourhood Plan through extensive community consultation. The purposes of the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies are to build upon policy in the Local Plan and the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan specifically for the parish of Horsford.

The aims of the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan are to:

- Give a voice to residents to shape development.
- Integrate new Horsford developments within the existing village.

- Allow the village to grow sensitively, whilst retaining a village settlement and village feel.
- Retain access to locally important countryside for recreational use.
- Identify community needs for the use of developer contributions and other possible funds.

The vision of the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan is:

- By 2038 Horsford will be a flourishing rural village, within a short distance of Norwich. It will be a place where people can enjoy the surrounding woodland and countryside. It will have a range of high quality homes, and essential public services that meet the growing needs of the community. There will be thriving local businesses, quality modern services and relevant infrastructure. Horsford will be a sustainable place where people want to live and work into the future.

The objectives and draft policies in the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan are set out below.

**Objective 1: To provide opportunities for all parishioners to access community, cultural, leisure and sports activities within Horsford.**

**Policy COM1: Community meeting space**

The extension of a current community building or the provision of a new community centre is supported. Any new community meeting space should have pedestrian access, be linked to cycle ways and have good public parking provision.

A proposal for new community meeting space should not reduce the use of existing community facilities unless it is directly replacing them.

**Policy COM2: New outdoor recreation space**

All large developments should make generous provision for further formal and informal outdoor recreation space in Horsford, as follows:

- Informal, open, high quality green spaces which are linked to the wider natural environment, with a range of trees and plants, and which are accessible to the public.
- New landscaped areas with a range of play, exercise and leisure equipment for different age groups, seating, rubbish bins and pathways through.
- New outdoor sports facilities. There is particular support for football pitches, a skate park and an outdoor gym.

Formal recreation space should be located within a reasonable distance of main link roads, cycle and footpaths and public transport, as well as providing sufficient parking. There should also be good natural surveillance to ensure community safety.

**Policy COM3: Allotment**

Major developments should make available the provision of land and services for further allotments.

**Objective 2: To ensure sufficient provision of school and medical facilities within Horsford.**

**Policy COM4: Primary School**

The provision of additional educational facilities, either as new or expansion of existing facilities is supported. The merging of the two sites of Horsford Primary School onto one site will be supported.

**Policy COM5: Primary health care provision**

A planning application that seeks to expand primary health care provision will be supported. Expanded parking provision should be part of any application. There should also be improved cycle access and cycle storage.

**Objective 3: To provide high quality, diverse and affordable housing within Horsford.**

**Policy HOU1: Mixed Housing**

Across Horsford there should be the provision of mixed type and tenure of housing to meet the needs of the community. This should include the following:

- Starter homes.
- Family homes, with a range of garden sizes.
- Affordable housing, including social housing.
- Housing for older people and the disabled, suitable for independent living, located near village amenities.
- Homes suitable for downsizing.
- Supported housing (a range of housing types for people with support needs).
- Bungalows.
- The provision of housing specifically for the elderly or disabled will be particularly supported.

**Objective 4: To provide appropriate size, scale, density, design and layout, including mixed-use developments, which complement the character of Horsford.**

**Policy HOU2: Connectivity**

Where possible, developments should be laid out in a way that is simple to navigate and have good connectivity to other parts of Horsford. Main routes through developments and residential cul-de-sacs should incorporate efficient vehicle, cycle and pedestrian connections.

Routes must follow desire lines and clearly link potential destinations. Road crossings and changes in level must be kept to a minimum.

**Policy HOU3: High quality design**

Throughout the parish, development proposals should be of high quality design and should seek to demonstrate how they will respect and enhance the character of the local area. Regard should be given to the density, footprint and separation of buildings in the locality. New development should respect the character, height and massing of surrounding properties. Wherever possible, development should deliver enhancements to the landscape character.

To avoid estate development that is uniform in look, a range of render coatings and colours is encouraged across an estate.

**Objective 5: To provide and encourage safe walking, cycling and the use of public transport within and beyond Horsford parish.**

**Policy TRA1: Walkable and bikeable community**

Where appropriate, developments should contribute to an enhanced and joined up network of high quality footpaths, rights of way and cycle ways to improve access to village amenities and the countryside including to the Marriot's Way. This should also include:

- New footpaths, opening up local connections between housing and following natural desire lines between amenities.
- Footways within developments that are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs and pushchairs, in line with regulations.
- The provision of adequate crossing points (particularly on the Holt Road).
- New cycle paths within the village, providing access to schools, businesses, key services and facilities, and for commuting to Norwich city. The loss of existing footpaths and cycle paths will be resisted.
- Secure cycle storage on new developments, businesses and at village amenities.
- Planning applications for large developments, should identify the level of additional traffic that is likely to be generated, and the impact of this traffic on pedestrians, cyclists, road safety, and private and public parking within the parish. Measures to mitigate any impacts should be demonstrated.

**Policy TRA2: Public transport**

The infrastructure of significant developments should be built to accommodate a bus route, through the provision of sufficiently wide roads, bus-stopping lay-bys and designated private parking that does not affect the flow of traffic.

**Objective 6: To provide adequate private and public parking**

**Policy TRA3: Private parking**

New developments should be designed to minimise the visual impact of the car on the street scene. New developments should provide sufficient off-road parking through parking bays, drives and garages.

Proposals for all new homes to be built in Horsford should provide for one off-street parking space for each bedroom, up to four spaces. Visitor parking spaces should also be designed into developments.

**Policy TRA4: Public parking**

Schemes to improve public parking within the village will be supported. Provision must be made for sufficient off-road parking for non-residential uses, adjacent to schools, community facilities, amenities, shops and industrial units.

**Objective 7: To protect and enable access to the countryside, woods and green spaces within Horsford and the surrounding area.**

**Policy: ENV1 Woodland**

Development proposals that protect or enhance the natural environment and identify features of particular importance, will be supported. Of particular significance is St Faith's Common and the County Wildlife sites. Any new development proposal should demonstrate how it would protect, and where possible, enhance the current woodland (increasing biodiversity and recreational opportunities).

All development should be built at a sufficient distance from woodland so that the biodiversity and amenity value of the area is not adversely impacted.

**Policy: ENV2 New circular footpath**

Development proposals should seek to maintain and enhance the connectivity of all green corridors wherever possible to enable walking and cycling within the parish.

Improvement to the existing network of public rights of way will be supported by the creation of appropriate links. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the provision of a new circular footpath that joins up other footpaths within the parish. Of particular importance is access to heritage assets within the village.

**Policy: ENV3 Local Green Space**

Existing recreational space, including school playing fields and land used for outdoor sport and recreation should not be built on, except for buildings that would enhance sporting or recreational activities on the land. Proposals for the development of such buildings will be supported provided that their scale and design would be in keeping with the character of the location and that the impact on the amenity of surrounding properties would be acceptable.

The following areas are designated as Local Green Space for special protection:

- Horsford Recreation Ground (behind Horsford Village Hall).
- The Butterfly Mill green.
- The Pinelands green.
- Strip of land that has the village sign on it, a green gateway to the village.
- The Horsford Pits on Green Lane, Pyehurn Lane and Dog Lane.

**Policy ENV4: View and vistas**

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect views across the parish that are of particular community importance, which include:

- Green Lane Watering Pit towards the Cromer Road.
- From All Saints Church churchyard looking north.
- Along Green Lane looking northeast towards the rifle range and Horsford Woods.
- Between the footpath from Horsbeck Road across the meadows to Dog Lane.

Development within these views that is overly intrusive, unsightly or prominent will not be supported.

Views and vistas along streets and/or open spaces to the surrounding countryside should be created or kept within new developments, to ensure the rural feel and connection with the countryside is maintained.

**Objective 8: To improve and provide a high quality public realm in the village.**

**Policy ENV5: Trees and site boundaries**

Development proposals should seek to retain mature or significant trees, groups of trees or woodland, where appropriate. New developments should incorporate significant tree planting to retain the rural feel, improve biodiversity, extend amenity value and soak up rainwater.

Where site boundaries and entrances are adjacent to the countryside or near woodland, they should be soft, using trees and native hedgerows, giving a rural character to the development edge. New developments located at the village entrances should be enhanced with trees, shrubs and flower planting.

**Policy ENV6: Street lighting**

Street lighting should be restricted to main roads only. Side roads should only have low-level lighting for safety of residents. Developments that provide intelligent or adaptive street lighting will be supported. There should be no street lighting adjacent to woodland which may impact the biodiversity and amenity value of the woods.

**Objective 9: To provide sufficient land and buildings to support local economic development.**

**Policy BUS1: New business**

The Neighbourhood Plan supports planning applications for new businesses and employment that fit within the rural surroundings and which are appropriate both in scale and environmental impact. The provision of land for new starter units will be encouraged, enabling local employment. Any new business units should enhance pedestrian access, and be linked to cycle ways, be near a bus stop and have good parking provision.

Planning permission for development that enables home working will be encouraged, where it does not conflict with other Development Plan policies. Technology infrastructure (fast broadband and car charging points) must be incorporated into the design of residential developments and business units.

Proposals that seek to retain commercial premises in the parish will be supported. The loss of existing retail premises on Holt Road will be resisted, unless the current use is demonstrably no longer viable. More shops (particularly class A1), and more cafes (class A3) will be encouraged to locate within the parish, within easy access of housing.

**BUS2: New or expanded supermarket**

The provision of a new or expanded supermarket or convenience store is encouraged to meet the needs of the parish, and to reduce additional journeys out of the village. This should be in proportion to the size of the population, in an accessible location for walking and cycle, provide sufficient parking provision, and take advantage of the exiting public transport routes.

**Objective 10: To enable an economically attractive and viable village.**

**Policy BUS3: Attractive village centre**

Development proposals that respond positively to creating an attractive local townscape and enhance the village centre's aesthetic qualities will be supported.

## 2. Legislative Background

European Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment ('SEA Directive') introduces the need to undertake a strategic environmental assessment ('SEA') during the development of some plans and programmes. The main purpose of SEA, according to Article 1 of the SEA Directive, is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

The SEA Directive is transcribed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which establishes the requirement to undertake a sustainability appraisal (SA) for some documents used for planning purposes. The SA process incorporates the requirement for SEA, but typically has a broader scope and considers the social and economic issues in addition to the environmental effects.

The requirement to undertake an SA of supplementary planning documents (SPD) was removed by the Planning Act 2008. However, the need to establish whether the planning document requires an SEA, through the SEA Directive, remains.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive explain which plans and programmes require SEA. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance, suggests that an SPD will only require an SEA in exceptional circumstances, if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed through the preparation of the Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 amends the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2013 to provide clarification on the SEA related documents which must be submitted alongside neighbourhood planning proposals. Regulation 2(4) of the amendment regulations 2015 adds to the list of documents that a neighbourhood planning group must submit to a local planning authority with a proposal for a neighbourhood plan, which is presented in regulation 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report, should an SEA be required, or a statement of reasons why an environmental assessment is not required.

### 3. An overview of the screening assessment

Figure 1 below is taken from 'A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' and illustrates the process for screening a Neighbourhood Plan to ascertain whether a full SEA is required (Article numbers relate to European Directive 2001/42/EC).

The screening for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan is highlighted in orange. To carry out the screening process it is necessary to consider each of the criteria set out in Figure 1, this is done in Table 1 on the following page.

Table 2 addresses criteria 8 by considering if the Neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This is done by considering the Plan against the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in the Directive<sup>1</sup>. The criteria are listed in Table 2 of this document.

Once the process set out in Figure 1 has been completed, a screening outcome can be reached and the conclusion can be found in section 5.

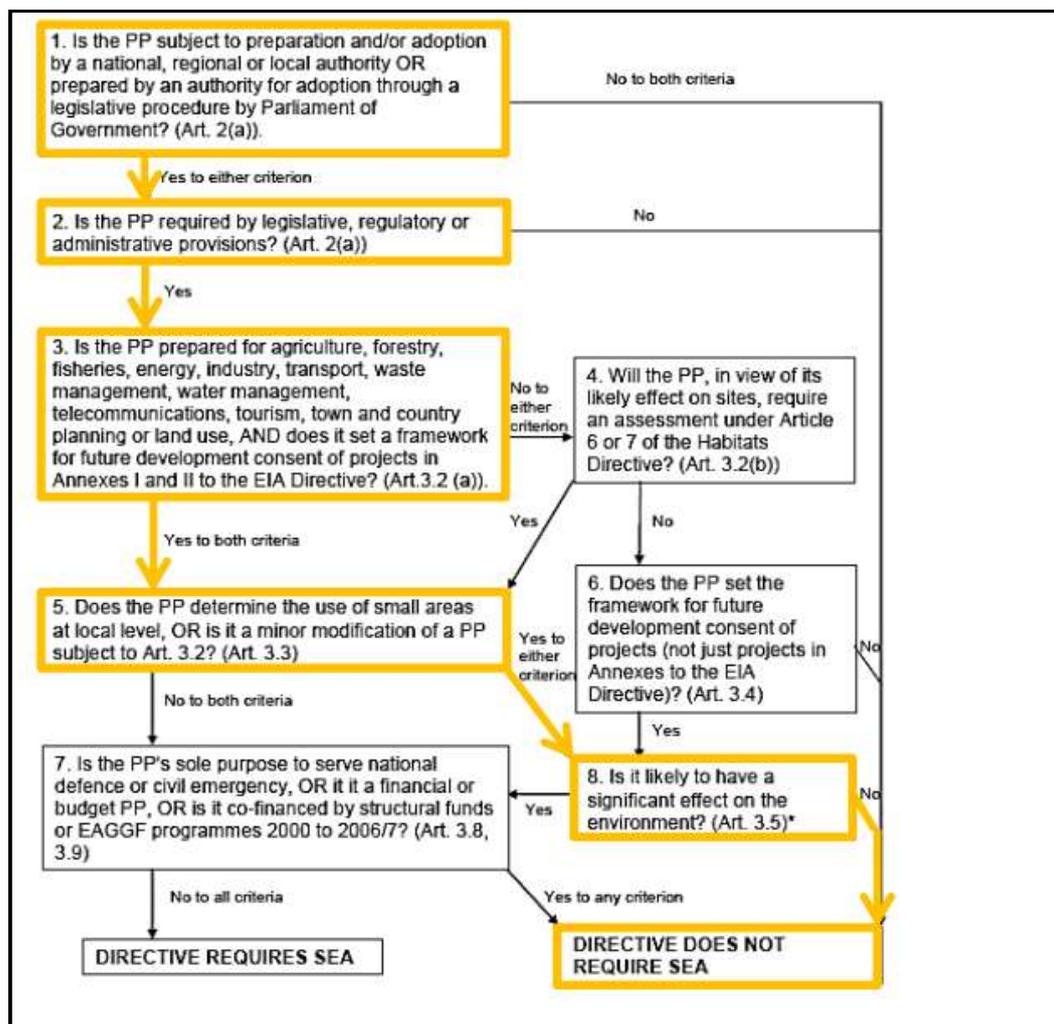


Figure 1 above: Application of the SEA Directive to Neighbourhood Plans.

<sup>1</sup> Article 3.5 of European Directive 2001

#### 4. The assessment of Horsford Neighbourhood Plan

Table 1 below assesses if the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The criteria in Table 1 are drawn from Figure 1 which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

**Table 1: Assessment of the Need for SEA for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan**

Assessment Criteria	Assessment	
1. Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a0))	<b>Yes</b>	The intention is for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan to be adopted by Broadland District Council through a legislative procedure.
2. Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	<b>Yes</b>	The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan would be a statutory document, prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.
3. Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIX Directive?	<b>Yes</b>	The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan is a document prepared for town and country planning purposes. It aims to support development for residential use to meet local needs and promote business use and new and extended recreation facilities.
5. Does the plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan or Programme subject to Art. 3.2?	<b>Yes</b>	The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan will determine the use of small areas at a local level.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment (Article 3.5)?	<b>No</b>	Justification is given for this decision in Table 2.

The final question in the SEA screening process for the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan was question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? In asking this question, the SEA Directive refers to Article 3.5, which states that the relevant criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive shall be considered when determining whether there are likely to be significant effects. Table 2 below, uses the criteria in Annex II to determine if the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA.

**Table 2: Determining the Likely Significant Effects of the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan on the Environment**

Criteria in Annex II of the SEA Directive	Assessment	Is there a Significant Environmental effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:		
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan supports development for residential use to meet local needs and for business use as well as promoting sustainable development by protecting and enhancing the environment, heritage assets and local green spaces and encouraging a walking and cycling network to reduce the need for travelling by car. The framework for development within the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan is set by the Broadland Local Plan and the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan, which give details of the location, size and nature of proposed development in this area. The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan builds upon this framework by providing some additional details of the nature of development and supplements the existing policy on a local scale only.</p>	<b>No</b>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the Broadland Local Plan and provide supplementary information on a local scale rather than influencing the overall direction of the Local Plan. The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan should not significantly influence other plans or programmes.</p>	<b>No</b>
<p>The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Any development which comes forward through the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to the environmental considerations of the Broadland Local Plan. These policies have been subject to</p>	<b>No</b>

	sustainability appraisal and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved. Policies within the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan should contribute to sustainable development particularly the Environmental policies that focus on protecting and enhancing woodland, protecting local green space, protecting views and vistas and retaining mature and significant trees.	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	The parish of Horsford contains eight County Wildlife Sites and a large area of woodland. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance these whilst enabling access to the countryside for recreation and enhancing the connectivity of all green corridors. The parish also has a number of heritage assets that should be protected by the Neighbourhood Plan.	<b>No</b>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the Local Plan and is therefore not directly relevant to the implementation of other European legislation.	<b>No</b>
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, to:</b>		
The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.	The overall impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan will be in accordance with the Local Plan and unlikely to have significant effect.	<b>No</b>
The cumulative nature of the effects.	The Neighbourhood Plan should not lead to significant cumulative effects.	<b>No</b>
The transboundary nature of the effects.	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an impact on neighbouring parishes. The parish is not near to the district or county boundary.	<b>No</b>
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to introduce significant risks to human health or the environment. The Neighbourhood Plan policies	<b>No</b>

	seek to increase recreational activity opportunities and protect and enhance the environment.	
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected.)	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the civil parish of Horsford, which has a resident population of 4163 (2011 Census). The Neighbourhood Plan policies are unlikely to have a significant impact on a wider geographical area or population.	<b>No</b>
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected by the plan due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spatial natural characteristics or cultural heritage</li> <li>- Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</li> <li>- Intensive land use</li> <li>- The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</li> </ul>	There are no international or national designations within Horsford parish. There are eight County Wildlife Sites. Horsford Woods are an important environmental asset to the parish. Eight heritage assets have been identified as having local importance and there are also seven Grade II listed buildings. The Horsford Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance the archaeological sites within Horsford Parish and the County Wildlife designations. The prospect of further development in Horsford provides the opportunity to protect and enhance the environmental assets and create new areas. The Neighbourhood Plan also designates areas as Local Green Space for special protection. The existing and emerging policies within the Local Plan also mitigate any significant impacts.	<b>No</b>

## 5. Screening Outcome

As a result of the findings in Table 1 and Table 2, it is concluded that the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and a full SEA is not required.

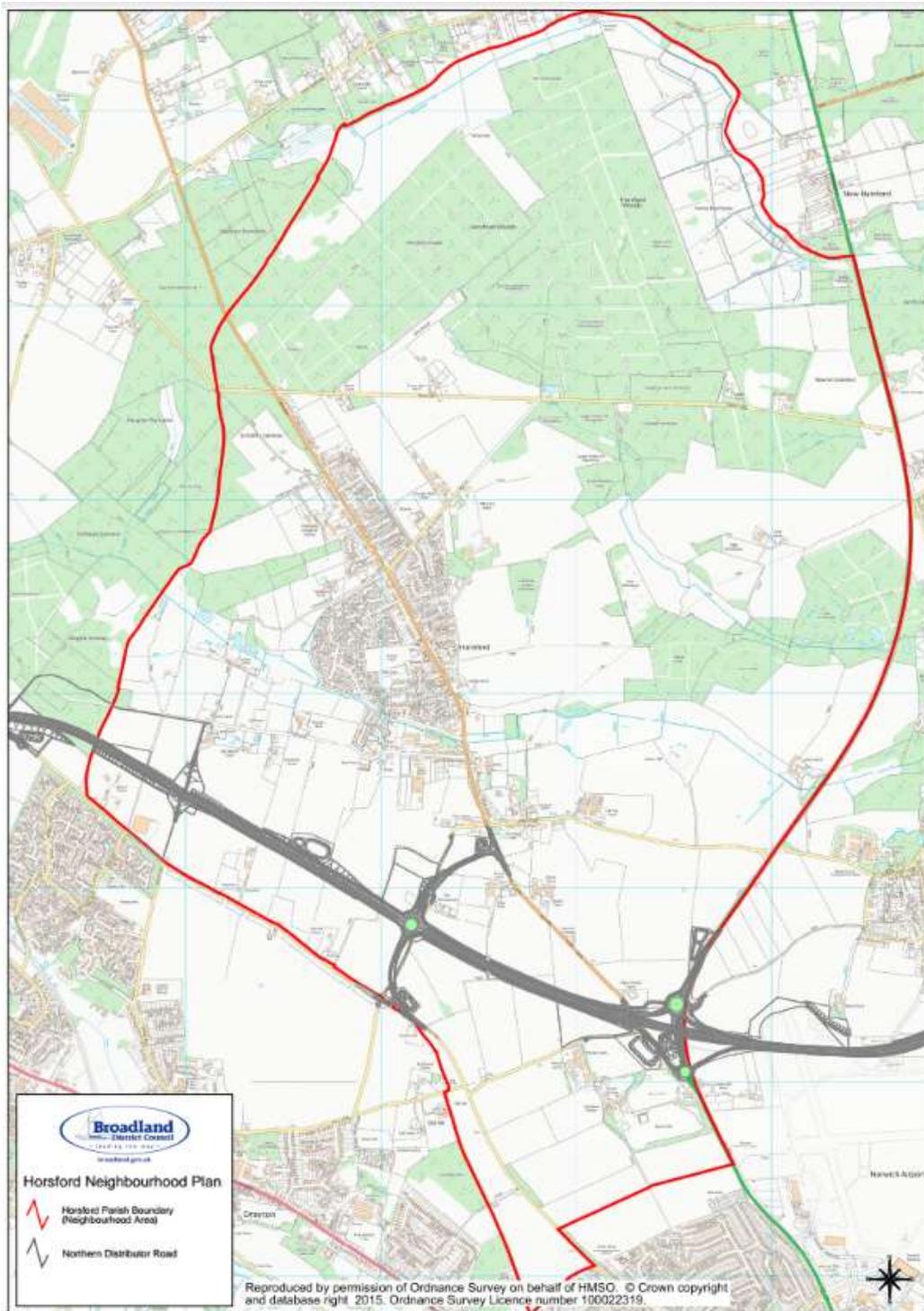
The three statutory consultation bodies, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency were consulted in November 2017 to see if they agree with the screening outcomes of this report, in accordance with regulation 9(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The Environment Agency and Natural England responded in agreement with the outcomes of this screening report. No response was received from Historic England. The responses are in Appendix B.

Although not required, a Sustainability Appraisal of the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan has been completed to assess the environmental, social and economic effects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan policies. Broadland District Council advocates the use Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are tested and assessed for their environmental, social and economic effects.

## Appendix A: A map showing the Horsford Neighbourhood Plan Area

Source: Broadland District Council

The red line denotes Horsford's Parish Boundary.



## Appendix B

### Responses from the Environment Agency and Natural England



Mr Richard Squires  
Broadland District Council  
Thorpe Lodge (1) Yarmouth Road  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR7 0DU

**Our ref:** AE/2017/122117/01-L01  
**Your ref:** \*  
**Date:** 11 October 2017

Dear Mr Squires

#### **SEASCREENING HORSFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

#### **HORSFORD NORWICH NORFOLK**

Thank you for consulting us on this matter. We support the conclusion that an assessment is not required. The matters within our remit can be addressed through the planning development management process and/or through the permitting and consenting legal requirements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Steel".

**Mr GRAHAM STEEL**  
**Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 02 03 02 58389  
Direct e-mail [graham.steel@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:graham.steel@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency  
Cobham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9JD.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)  
End

Date: 31 October 2017  
Our ref: 228347  
Your ref: Horsford Neighbourhood Plan



Richard Squires  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Squires

**Horsford Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Assessment**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 October 2017 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

**Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment**

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup>. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter or for any new consultations please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Salt  
Consultations Team