

SCOPING REPORT and APPRAISAL OF OBJECTIVES
Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan



INTRODUCTION

This document is the scoping report for the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of the Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). It also contains the appraisal of the objectives of the Holton-Le-Clay NDP against Sustainability Objectives.

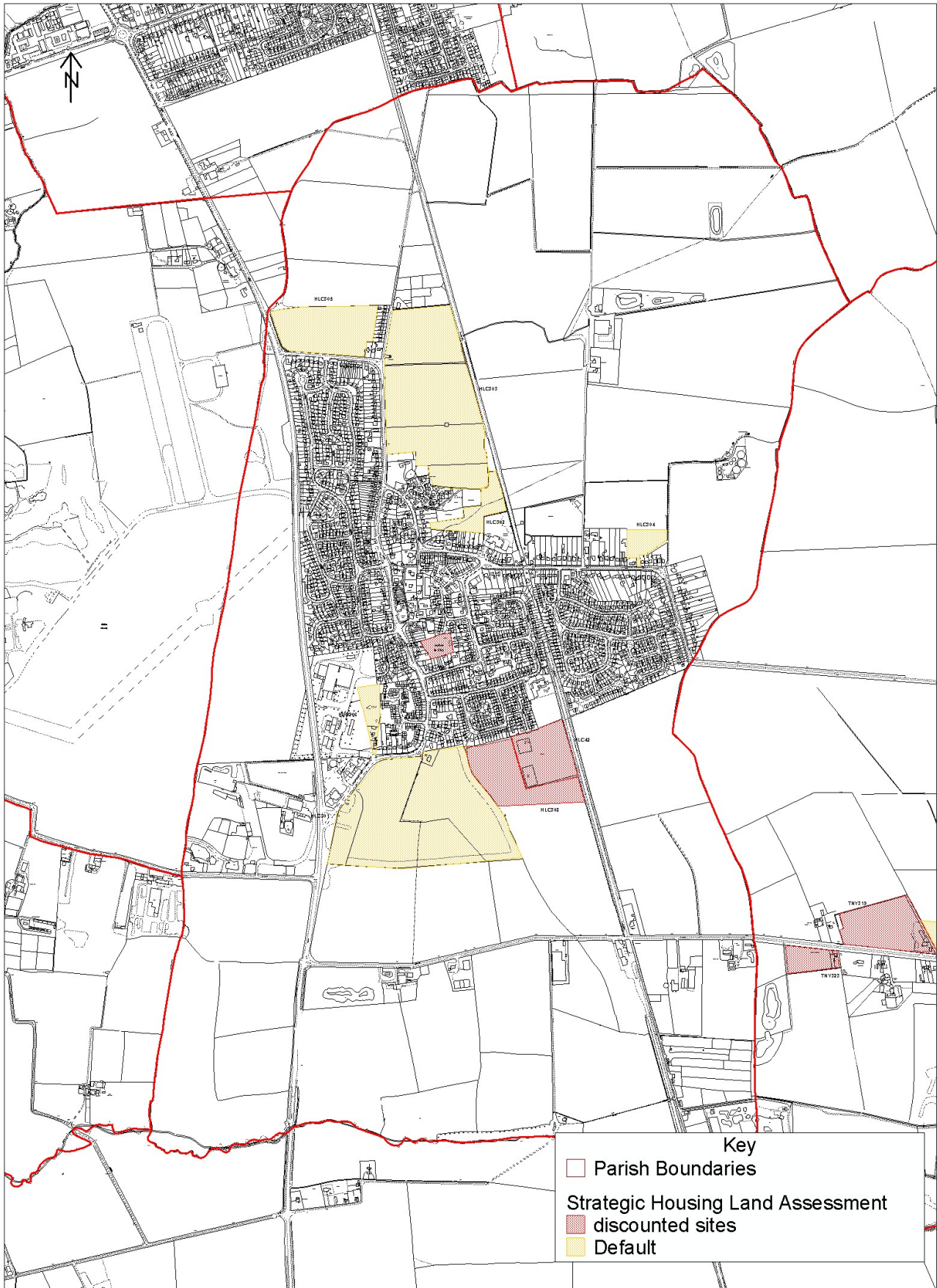
A Sustainability Appraisal tells the story of how a Plan has been prepared and shows how the potential economic, environmental and social impacts of the Plan have been considered and shows that these impacts have not been considered in isolation. It considers how any alternative policies and proposals have been considered and why the final options have been chosen.

This Scoping Report establishes a baseline against which the Holton-Le-Clay NDP is prepared. It is the initial stage in the evolution of the appraisal of the Plan.

The Holton-Le-Clay NDP must be in conformity with higher level planning policy, including the East Lindsey Draft Core Strategy. The Draft Core Strategy is subject to its own sustainability appraisal and this Scoping Report has been informed by information contained within the work on the East Lindsey Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal and its associated Scoping Report.

Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Plan was set up initially by East Lindsey District Council as a joint project with neighbouring Tetney Parish Council. As the process progressed Holton-Le-Clay focussed on the production of its own Plan.

Initially members of the Parish Council were the only people in the group but after advertising locally new members, who were members of the community but unconnected with the Parish Council, joined the team. As a voluntary group the activity of individuals has altered according to personal circumstances.

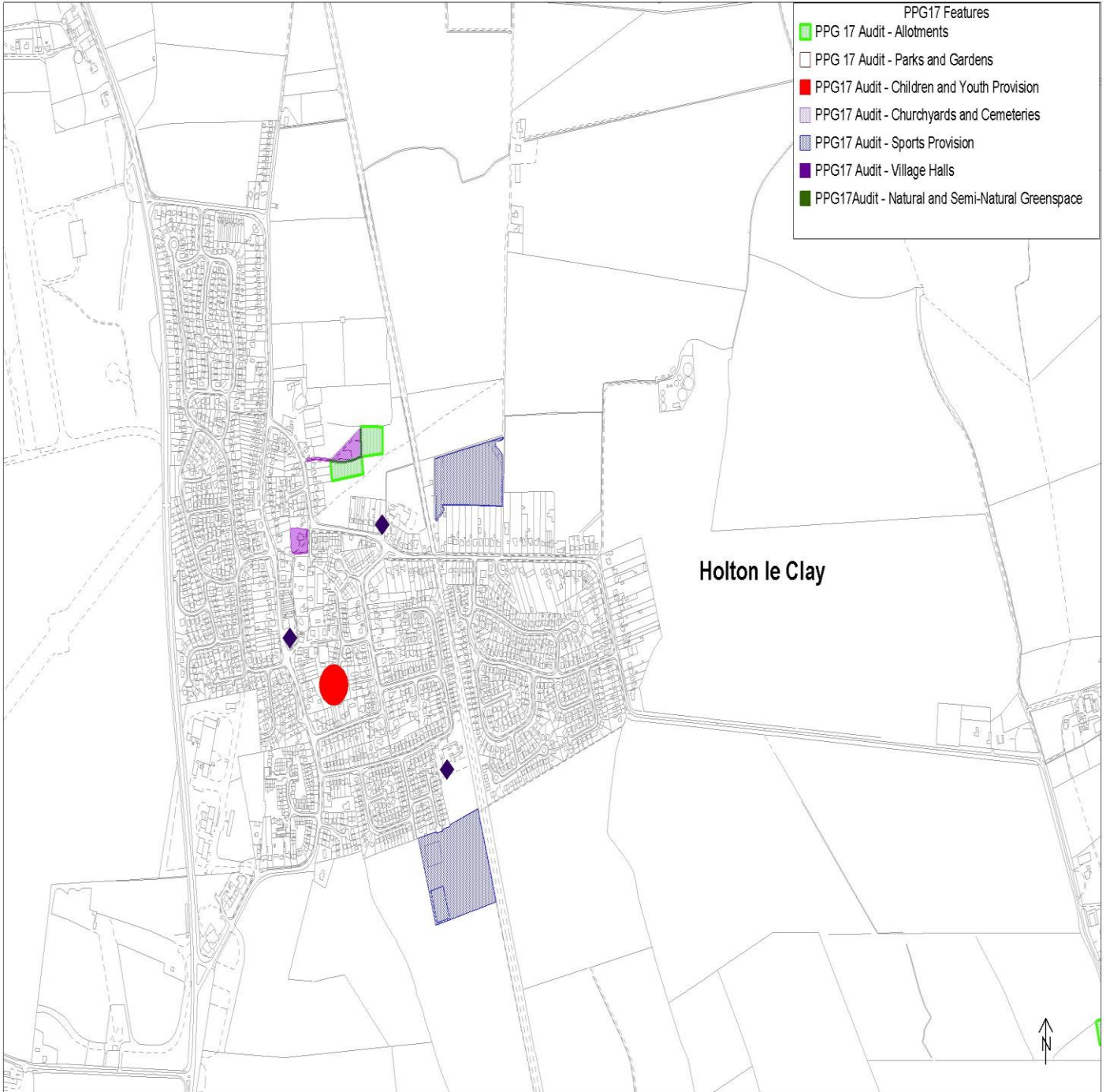


SHLAA - Holton le Clay

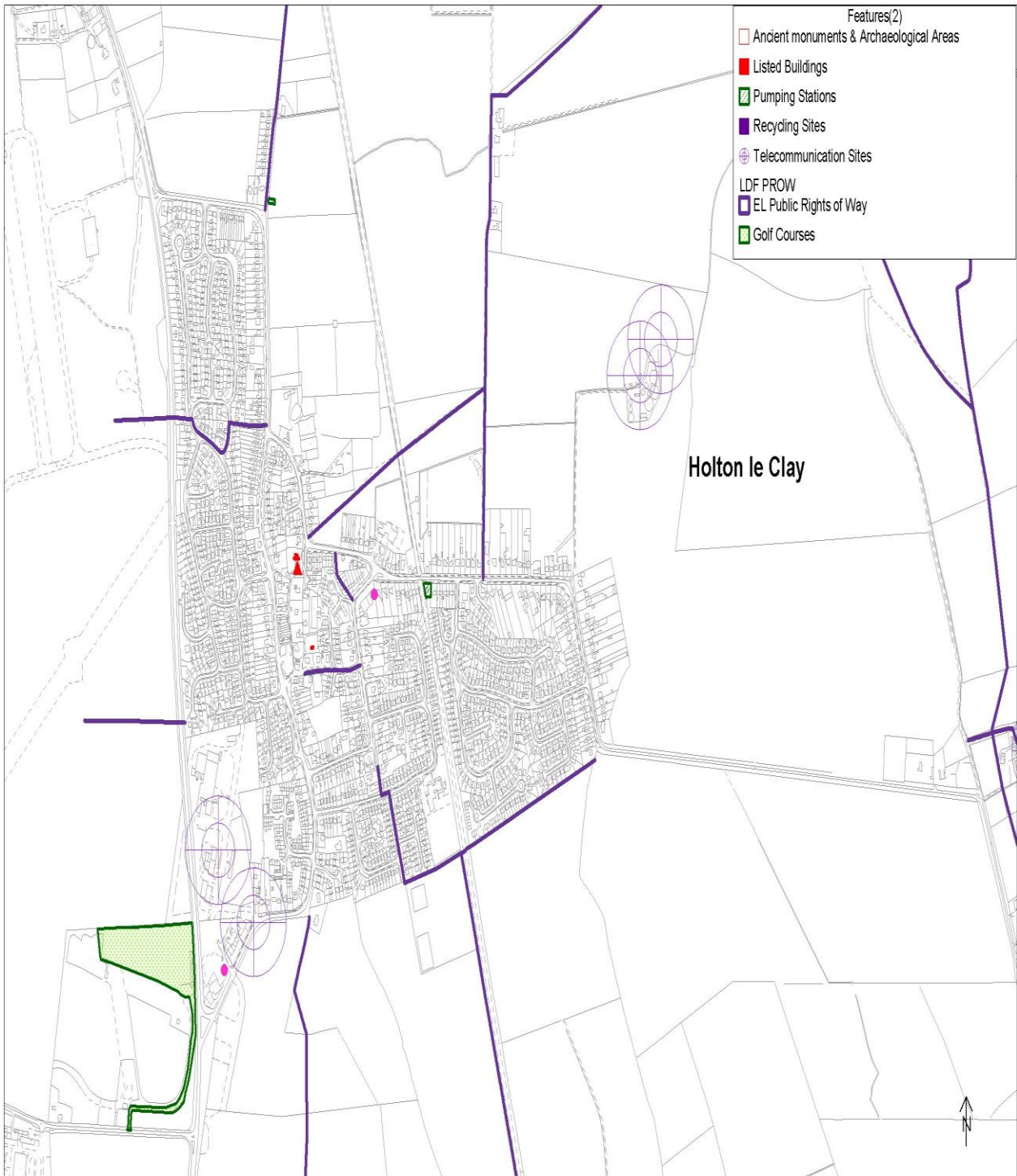
Map Reference TA2802

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Scale 1:15500



Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Area



This report was sent to English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England, along with East Lindsey District Council. The report has also been published on the Neighbourhood Plan website and is open to comment from anyone who is interested in the Plan. Comments made were then considered by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

APPRIASAL OF THE PLAN

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is prepared for all Spatial Plans and an SA is being prepared for the East Lindsey draft Core Strategy and subsequent documents although the Holton-Le-Clay NDP will be in conformity with the draft Core Strategy.

The Government has stated that a Sustainability Appraisal is not needed for NDPs, but has said that it must be demonstrated how the NDP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. East Lindsey District Council, who has been advising those preparing the Holton-Le-Clay NDP has recommend that a "light touch" SA would provide a good basis for assessing the sustainability of their Plan and to inform its preparation. The District Council has consulted the statutory consultees (English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England) on this suggested approach, and they have agreed that this would be an appropriate way to complement and expand on the appraisal of the District Council's Local Plan.

This document sets the framework for the SA and will look at how the objectives of the Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Plan meet, contribute towards and deliver the sustainability objectives for East Lindsey District Council and, if there are any conflicts, what mitigation can be introduced to minimise the impacts.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive, requires that a SEA is carried out for Plans and Programmes that (amongst other things) are prepared for town and country planning and/or which determine the use of small areas at a local level AND which are likely to have significant environmental effects.

What constitutes significant impact is a matter of judgement. However, at a local level, the environmental effects of a plan which sets policies for determining planning applications are likely to be considered significant.

It has now become standard practice, where a Sustainability Appraisal is being prepared as well, to incorporate the SEA within the SA. The table below shows how the two processes link together. In the rest of this document, where it refers to Sustainability Appraisal, this includes requirements for SEA.

	Plan Stage	SA Process	SEA Process
Community Involvement	Evidence Gathering	Stage A: Setting the context, the baseline and deciding on the scope	Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
	Preparation of draft Plan	Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing the effects	Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
		Stage C: Prepare SA report	Stage C: Prepare the Environmental Report
	Public Participation on draft Plan	Stage D: Consulting on the draft SA and SA report	Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report
	Consider Representations and finalise Plan	Consider Representations and finalise Plan	
	Adoption		
	Implementation, Monitoring and Review	Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan	Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan or programme on the environment

Habitat Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations 1994, as amended in 2006, require that all land use plans are subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to protect the integrity of sites protected, at a European level, for their nature conservation importance. The first requirement, called screening, is to test whether or not the plan is likely, on its own or in conjunction with other plans and proposals, to have significant effects on a site of European wildlife importance. If it is not likely to have significant effects, then the Assessment need go no further. The Council will help in the carrying out of this screening once more information is known about the policy and site options.

How is the Sustainability Appraisal Carried Out?

SA Stage A	
Stage A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes
Stage A2	Collecting baseline information
Stage A3	Identifying sustainability issues and problems
Stage A4	Developing the SA objectives and framework
Stage A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA
SA Stage B	
Stage B1	Testing the Plan's objectives against the SA framework
Stage B2	Developing the Plan's options
Stage B3	Predicting the effects of the draft Plan
Stage B4	Evaluating the effects of the draft Plan
Stage B5	Considering the ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
Stage B6	Proposing measures to monitor significant effects of implementing the Plan
SA Stage C	
Stage C1	Preparing SA report
SA Stage D	
Stage D1	Public participation on the SA report and the draft Plan
Stage D2	Assessing significant changes
Stage D3	Making decisions and providing information
SA Stage E	
Stage E1	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
Stage E2	Responding to adverse effects

As the table above shows, there are five formal stages to preparing a Sustainability Appraisal (A – E). The bulk of this document, referred to as the Scoping Report, is the first stage (highlighted in blue above). It should:

- Identify the Government and Council Planning Policies with which the plan has to be in conformity;
- Identify the characteristics of the community and what the community consider important;
- Identify the key issues of relevance to the community; and
- Present the objectives to be used for testing the Plan.

This document also includes the next phase of the Sustainability Appraisal, which is testing the objectives of the Plan (stage B1 – also highlighted in blue above) as it is felt, in the case of a Neighbourhood Plan, it is expedient to do this as one exercise.

KEY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (STAGE A1)

The SA needs to take into account the relationship between the NDP and the wider policy framework within which it sits. The SEA Regulations 2004 also require information on plans, programmes and other environmental protection objectives to be taken into consideration.

A SA has been applied to the East Lindsey Draft Core Strategy throughout its preparation. The Scoping Report for the East Lindsey Draft Core Strategy carried out a comprehensive exercise of assessing the higher-level Policies and Programmes that affected its preparation. The Holton-Le-clay Neighbourhood Development Plan is being prepared in conformity with the Draft Core Strategy, therefore, the East Lindsey Scoping Report also provides the context for the Holton-le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan. This scoping exercise therefore focuses on those Policies and Programme which have more direct relevance to the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Plans or Programmes and Key Objectives relevant to the Neighbourhood Development Plan

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - the NPPF contains a number of objectives that will help shape the NDP.

- The presumption in favour of development, including Neighbourhood Development Planning's role in this (paras 11 – 16);
- Core Planning Principles (para17);
- Building a strong, competitive economy (para 21);
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para28);
- Promoting sustainable transport (para 35 and 37);
- Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes (para 55);
- Good Design (para 58);
- Promoting healthy communities (para 69 – 76);
- Meeting the needs of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change (para 100);
- Conserving and Enhancing the natural environment (para 109);
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (para 126);
- Test of soundness of plans (para 182); and
- Neighbourhood Plans (para 183 – 185).

East Lindsey Draft Core Strategy

- Vision and Objectives;
- Delivering Affordable Housing (SP2 and 3);
- Design (SP5);
- Inland Employment (SP7);
- Diverse Economy, Town/Village Centres and Shopping (SP8);
- Inland Tourism and Leisure (SP9);
- Inland Flood Risk (SP10);
- Transport and Accessibility (SP12);
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation (SP13);
- Landscape (SP14);
- Green Infrastructure (SP15);
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity (SP16); and
- Infrastructure and Section 106 agreements (SP18).

East Lindsey District Council Economic Development Strategy 2006 - 2020

- Providing Premises and Infrastructure (page 9);
- Market Town Regeneration (page 13);
- Businesses in Small Communities (page 13);
- Enhancing the Visitor Product – Providing the Right Environment (page 16).

East Lindsey Housing Strategy 2013 – 2018

Council Priorities

- Enable the delivery of more affordable homes by working in partnership with housing providers and other key stakeholders;
- Improve the quality of housing;
- The prevention of homelessness;
- Provide support for vulnerable residents in the District.

East Lindsey Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012

Other Relevant Strategies

East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment – July 2009

Area I1 - Key Characteristics of Lincolnshire East of the Lincolnshire Wolds –

Gently undulating foothills to the Wolds rising from Tetney Lock to Skegness Coastal Outmarsh with views to Binbrook to Tetford Wolds Farmland and Little Cawthorpe to Skendleby Wolds Farmland.

Predominantly arable farmland with medium to large scale fields, some pasture with grazing sheep and cattle, bounded by ditches and dykes.

Meandering rivers and streams, and the Louth Canal contained by flood embankments, which flow from the Wolds eastwards to the coast.

Scattered blocks of mixed deciduous woodland throughout but more frequent around the south-western boundary.

Frequent scattered villages, hamlets, farmsteads and dwellings include a line of merging villages at the foot of the Wolds.

Traditional and distinctive historic market towns of Louth, Alford and Burgh le Marsh.

Scattered scheduled monuments and heritage features such as windmills and water mills, ridge and furrow fields, deserted medieval villages and disused railway tracks.

A distinctive and tranquil rural landscape with very few minor detractors.

A low lying, drained coastal plain. Mostly flat with some areas of gentle undulations. Some wide-open views and big skies. Some views enclosed by landform, embankments, sand dunes or trees.

Extensive network of drains, ditches and dykes with a strong geometric pattern in the northern and central parts of the area.

Rivers and the historic Louth Canal cross from the Lincolnshire Wolds in the west towards the coast.

Predominantly mixed agricultural land use with both arable and pasture, and some remnants of ridge and furrow.

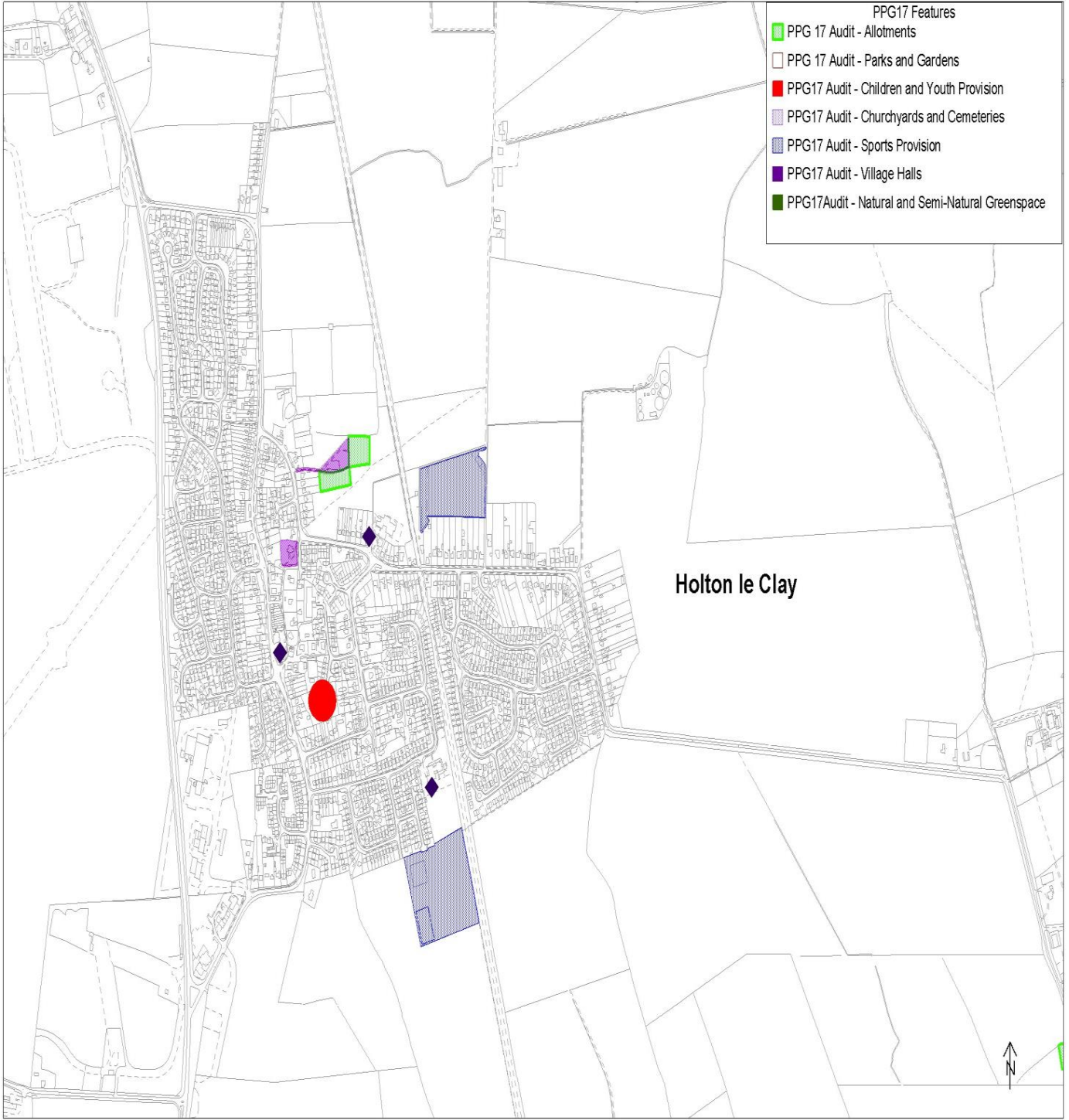
Several important coastal nature reserves with a high level of nature conservation designation with associated wildlife.

Sparsely scattered settlements set within mature ornamental trees and hedgerows.

A stretch of coastal resorts from Mablethorpe to Skegness with caravan parks, and new residential and commercial developments on their outskirts.

An extensive network of raised minor roads with a few larger A roads serving the coastal resorts.

A predominantly intact and distinctive rural landscape with some man-made influences including a gas terminal, an oil storage facility and several wind farms.



PROFILE OF Holton-Le-Clay (STAGE A2 AND A3)

This section sets the scene with regards to the characteristics of the community, what makes it uniquely Holton-Le-Clay. It also helps to establish the things that it is important to consider when assessing the sustainability appraisal (and strategic environmental assessment).

The SEA Regulations require a description of the baseline environment in the area in terms of:

- Nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna);
- Landscape and townscape;
- Heritage and archaeology;
- Material Assets (could include things like promoting sustainable use of natural resources; minimising, reusing and recycling waste; effective use of existing infrastructure);
- Human population;
- Human health;
- Soils and Geology;
- Water;
- Air Quality; and
- Climate Factors

This can be broadened out to encompass any other local issues of importance, community facilities, employment etc, which are all importance elements of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Key Characteristics of Holton-Le-Clay

Holton-le-Clay is predominately a semi-rural settlement of modern appearance. With the exception of a small area around the church, the village is generally characterised by generously proportioned streets with a variety of buildings dating from the mid to late twentieth century. Development reflect the semi-rural setting of the village in so far as the majority of dwellings are detached, semi-detached and bungalow homes with individual driveways allowing for high levels of car ownership.

As a result, the character of the village feels very open and green, whilst accommodating needs of the car.

Holton-le-Clay does not have a traditional 'village centre' such as that found in North Thoresby or Laceby. There is a sense of having arrived at the heart of the village when the buildings tend to come closer together as you approach the Church or pub along the Louth Road, giving the public realm a greater sense of enclosure and continuity. Holton le Clay does not have a High Street as such, the Church is focal point for the village, standing on its own spot of land surrounded by houses. The only similarity to this traditional settlement pattern is the short row of terraces adjacent to the Royal Oak and the old farm house on Church Lane, where the visitor gets a brief sense that the buildings are more dominant. The surrounding streets have a variety of dwellings, all of different appearance which add general interest to the street scene, essentially the village remains open and green and semi-rural in character.

In summary, Holton le Clay is a very peaceful semi-rural village with some attractive groups of trees, Louth Road and Tetney Lane being good examples.

Major assets of the village are the extensive green verges and private gardens - something which is very noticeable on Church Lane and Tetney Lane, where the number and variety of trees give a more arcadian character to the village and reinforces the sense that this is one of the principal streets/routes through the settlement.

Holton-Le-Clay

Holton-Le-Clay is a village to the north of the District of East Lindsey, is on the border of North East Lincolnshire. The Parish and village of Holton-Le-Clay, are 5 miles due south of Cleethorpes, and about 5 miles from the North Sea. The village is situated in open countryside, but has strong connections towards its neighbouring village communities.

Population

The population of Holton-Le-Clay as cited in the 2011 census was 3691 persons made up from 1583 households.

Access

The village is located in open countryside and bypassed by the A16 on the west side of the village. The A16 provides a good link to Grimsby and Cleethorpes to the north and Louth to the south west. Holton Road makes journeys to the neighbouring village of Tetney relatively easy. The Holton-Le-Clay not only has access to towns such as Grimsby and Louth, but also to its neighbouring villages and to the coastal resorts and tourist locations.

In the 2011 census, it was recorded 1500 people working outside of Holton-Le-Clay travel to work in a motor vehicle. The type of employment undertaken would indicate that residents mainly travel to work in Grimsby, Louth and beyond. (Office of National Statistics).

Schools

Holton-le-Clay has one primary school and one junior school. The infants school has a capacity for 150 pupils and the junior school a capacity for 148 pupils. The schools mainly serve the needs of Holton-le-Clay with very pupils from outside of the parish.

Local Services

The village has two public houses, the Royal Oak within the village and the Jug and Bottle which is situated on the A16. Holton-Le-Clay is serviced by two Coop stores, a convenience store, hair dressers, garage, two cafés / lounges, a fish and chip shop and a number of food takeaway businesses.

Historic Townscape Features.

There are several interesting townscape features around the centre of the village. The Grade II listed St Peters Church is located on a small area of rising ground with mature trees within the churchyard, which together form a local landmark in the view along Church Lane. The church has a chancel, nave, and an embattled tower with 3 bells. Tower, chancel and nave arch are of Saxon or of very early Norman date. It was repaired and partly rebuilt in 1850 by William Hay, and restored and repaired in 1868. Cox noted that it was "nearly rebuilt in brick in 1850, but the tower is one of the many Lincolnshire instances of late Saxon architecture" with an 11th-century tower and west window, Decorated bell-openings, a Norman font, and a 636 Paten cover. Within the churchyard is a 14th-century cross base and shaft.

Immediately adjacent to the site on Church lane there is a substantial gentry house with outbuildings set within a large plot on rising ground. This again stands out as an interesting and characterful feature of the townscape where the building and associated grounds have been purposefully sited to take advantage of the local topography and form a distinctive ensemble.

In a more prosaic setting, the small terrace of properties mid-way along Louth Road give an indication of the historic grain of the village. Of modest scale and appearance, the buildings nonetheless stand out as they are one of the few instances of a planned townscape where the built form defines the edge of the public realm.

Landscape designations

Within the East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment, Holton-Le-Clay falls within the landscape character type; II-Holton le Clay to Great Steeping Middle Marsh, where the low-lying landform has subtle variations. In some locations, it is flat with other areas offering a more undulating landscape. Towards the west, the land rises gradually forming the foothills to the Wolds where views remain mostly uncluttered and unimpeded leading to a landscape character sensitivity which is considered to be moderate to high. Holton-Le-Clay borders Tetney and Tetney Lock to Skegness Coastal Outmarsh which is regarded as having a sensitivity rating of moderate to high due to its overall intact and distinctive rural nature.

Green infrastructure

East Lindsey District Council has carried out an assessment of the availability of Green Infrastructure (GI) in its area as evidence for its Draft Core Strategy. There are no discrete nationally recognised standards for the provision on GI, but the most suitable available standards are those drawn up by Natural England. For ease of reference, the Council refers to the different tiers in these standards as follows: Community (every home should be within 300m of an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha); Local (at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km); Medium (at least one accessible 100ha site within 5km); Strategic (at least one 500ha site within 10km).

Holton-le-Clay has provision to meet Community tier via the 8-acre field and junior playing field. Local tier via the disused railway which links to public footpaths and the Medium tier via public footpaths to the west of the parish.

Employment Land

Holton-Le-Clay has the existing Peacefield Business Park bordering the A16. Located next to the business park is a brown field site which has been identified as having potential for rural industry / business.

Employment Opportunities

From information in the 2011 Census, Holton-Le-Clay has 2767 working aged people and 1893 that are economically active. Economical inactive people of working age number 874

Infrastructure

Electricity supply - The local electricity distribution networks in Holton-Le-Clay fall within the YEDL's licence area. A high-level review carried out in October 2009 concluded that the existing networks presently have a degree of spare capacity to handle potential future housing or employment land growth. Currently there are no plans to carry out any significant reinforcements to the electricity network.

Water Supply - At this stage, without the detailed locations volumes and timing of development, Anglian Water have been unable to define the investment that may be required in their assets to support any potential planned growth.

Foul water - Until firm proposals in terms of development volumes, locations and timings are presented, Anglian Water are unable to provide details of their wastewater infrastructure, which is impacted upon or required. Anglian Water has highlighted that at this stage that it should be assumed that additional local infrastructure will be required to serve growth.

Gas - Within East Lindsey there is an extensive gas infrastructure, though due to the reactive approach to reinforcement projects imposed by The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) information with regards to future improvements could not be ascertained without specific site details and likely loads being provided. National Grid however did bring it to the Councils attention that the 'only constraint on growth is the timescale to reinforce, and on a local level this should not be a problem, however the accumulative effect of a large number of loads may well overload the upstream systems and these reinforcements can cause delays. Therefore, any potential future growth will need to be phased.

Broadband - ADSL using a standard BT line, Satellite and 3G mobile broadband are all available within Holton-Le-Clay. The nearest BT exchange for Holton-Le-Clay is Waltham in North East Lincs. Hi Speed Fibre Optic Broad Band is available and provided by Virgin media.

Health care

Within the Holton le Clay is currently served by two GP surgeries, one within Holton-le-Clay and another within North Thoresby, which both currently employ 6 practitioners (Lincolnshire.nhs.uk).

Surrounding Villages

Holton-Le-Clay Parish Boundaries meet the parish boundaries of Tetney, North Thoresby in East Lindsey and Humberston, New Waltham and Waltham in North East Lincolnshire.

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES (STAGE A4)

The sustainability objectives are the key part of the Sustainability Appraisal. They provide the means to describe, analyse and compare the potential effects of the neighbourhood plan. While not specifically required by the SEA Directive, objectives are a recognised way of considering the effects of a plan and comparing the effects of alternatives.

Sustainability objectives are different in concept and purpose from the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, though there may be a degree of overlap. Sustainability objectives should be achievable, but should be more long term and aspirational in nature; whereas the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan should be achievable within the lifetime of the Plan. Sustainability objectives should address the full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, economic and environmental factors laid down by law or policy.

The Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group has chosen to use the Sustainability Objectives from the East Lindsey Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (see below). By using the same set of sustainability objectives as for the Draft Core Strategy, there is continuity between the policies of the Draft Core Strategy and the content of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which should help with conformity. Details of how these objectives were established can be found in the East Lindsey District Council's Scoping Report, which is available on East Lindsey District Council's website. The table also shows how the sustainability objectives link to the requirements of SEA.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective		SEA Topics
1	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas' biodiversity (native plants and animals) and geodiversity.	Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity
2	Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes and historic environment.	Landscape and Cultural Heritage
3	Protect natural resources from avoidable losses and pollution and minimise the impacts of unavoidable losses and pollution.	Air, Climatic Factors, Water, Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity, and Human Health
4	Avoid the risk of flooding (where possible) and fully mitigate against the impacts of flooding where it cannot be avoided.'	Cultural Heritage, Water, Climatic Factors, Population, Human Health, Material Assets
5	Promote viable and diverse economic growth that supports communities within the district.	Population and Human Health
6	Prioritise appropriate re-use of previously developed land and minimise the loss of the best agricultural land and greenfield sites.	Material Assets, Flora, Fauna, Biodiversity, and Soil
7	Improve accessibility to key services, facilities amenities and green	Population, Human Health and Climatic

	infrastructure including the promotion of sustainable modes of access.	Factors
8	Increase reuse and recycling rates and minimise the production of waste	Population and Landscape
9	Support inclusive, safe and vibrant communities.	Population and Human Health
10	Ensure that local housing needs are met.	Population and Material Assets
11	Increase energy efficiency and ensure appropriate sustainable design, construction and operation of new developments.	Population and Material Assets
12	Encourage and provide the facilities and infrastructure for healthy lifestyles	Population and Human Health
13	Positively plan for, and minimise the effects of, climate change.	All SEA topics

CONSULTING ON THE SCOPING REPORT (STAGE A5)

The final stage in preparing the Scoping Report is to subject the document to consultation. Legislation requires that the Environment Agency, English Heritage and English Nature and are consulted and given five weeks to respond. The legislation does not require full public consultation at this stage however, it suggests consideration of undertaking wider consultation with relevant groups.

Environment Agency, English Heritage and English Nature have all been contacted to ascertain their view with regard to the approach being taken in preparing this appraisal and all have agreed that it is appropriate and proportionate.

TESTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN'S OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK (STAGE B1)

The vision and objectives for the Holton-Le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan were drawn up as a result of consultation in the community and taking into account the requirements of other policies and programmes including NPPF and the ELDC emerging Local Plan. They have been assessed against the ELDC Sustainability Objectives by a panel from the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. Officers from East Lindsey District Council have acted as 'critical friends' through the process to provide an objective assessment of the outcomes emerging from the testing. They also performed a 'Health Check' of the draft plan to ensure conformity prior to the completion of the final proposals.

The Holton-le-Clay Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group therefore believes that the plan is representative of the views of the community and conforms with Local and National guidelines.