

North Claines Parish Council



North Claines Neighbourhood Plan

2015 - 2030

Basic Conditions
Statement

March 2016



North Claines
Parish Council

Contents

Page Nos.

1	Introduction	1
2	Basic Conditions Requirements	2
3	North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area and the North Claines Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee	4
4	The Neighbourhood Plan Proposal	5
5	General Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework	6
6	Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development	13
7	General Conformity with Strategic Policies Contained in the Development Plan for the Area	14
8	Compatibility with EU Legislation	17
9	Prescribed Conditions	18
10	Involvement of Local Community and Stakeholders	19
11	Conclusion	20

Figures

- 3.1 North Claines Neighbourhood Area

Appendices

- 2.1 North Claines Neighbourhood Area Designation Letter from Wychavon District Council 21 June 2013
- 2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion
- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning Committee: Terms of Reference
- 8.1 Equality Impact Assessment Schedule

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement has been produced to explain how the proposed North Claines Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. In particular, it explains how the basic conditions of Neighbourhood Planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have been met.

2 Basic Conditions Requirements

2.1 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the TCPA 1990 states that the examiner must consider the following (see Sub-Paragraph 1):

- (a) Whether the draft neighbourhood development order meets the basic conditions (see Sub-Paragraph 2),
- (b) Whether the draft order complies with the provision made by or under Sections 61E(2), 61J and 61L,
- (c) Whether any period specified under Section 61L(2)(b) or (5) is appropriate,
- (d) Whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft order relates, and
- (e) Such other matters as may be prescribed.

2.2 A draft order meets the basic conditions (Sub-Paragraph 2) if:

- (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the order,
- (b) Having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order,
- (c) Having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order,
- (d) The making of the order contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- (e) The making of the order 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),
- (f) The making of the order does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations, and
- (g) Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the order and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order.

2.3 The examiner is not to consider any matter that does not fall within Sub-Paragraph (1) (apart from considering whether the draft order is compatible with the Convention rights).

2.4 Sections 5 – 9 of this Statement set out how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions as required by Sub-Paragraph 1(a) [2.1(a) above] and Sub-Paragraph 2 (a – g) [2.2a – g above] of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B. The remainder of this section addresses the requirements under Sub-Paragraph 1(b), (d) and (e) of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B [2.2(b), (d) and (e) above].

Sub-Paragraph 1(b)

2.5 The provisions of 61E(2), 61J and 61L as amended by S38C(5)(b) is a reference to the provision of S38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. In relation to the provisions of S38A and S38B the following is submitted:

S38A: Meaning of Neighbourhood Development Plan

2.6 **Paragraph 1:** North Claines Parish Council (NCPC) is a qualifying body under the provisions of S61G of the Localism Act 2011 and is therefore entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own parish.

2.7 **Paragraph 2:** The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan (NCNP) expresses policies relating to the development and use of land within the Neighbourhood Plan Area (NPA) (ie. the parish of North Claines).

2.8 **Paragraphs 3 – 12:** These are matters relating to post-examination procedures which are not relevant at this stage.

S38B: Provision that may be made by Neighbourhood Development Plans

2.9 **Paragraph 1(a):** The period of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan is 2015 – 2030. This period aligns with the dates of the South Worcestershire Development Plan prepared and adopted by Wychavon District Council (WDC).

2.10 **Paragraph 1(b):** The NCNP does not include any provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure.

2.11 **Paragraph 1(c):** The NCNP does not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Area. It relates to the North Claines NPA as designated by WDC on 28 May 2013 (see Appendix 2.1).

2.12 **Paragraph 2:** There is no other neighbourhood plan in place or proposed in the NPA.

2.13 **Paragraph 3:** We do not consider there are any conflicts within the NCNP.

2.14 **Paragraph 4:** Refers to regulations that the Secretary of State can make relating to neighbourhood development plans. In this case this refers to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 637) which have been used to inform the process of making the NCNP. These Regulations set out:

- The process by which neighbourhood development plans are to be made and set out the consultation bodies for neighbourhood development plans.
- Neighbourhood development plans that are likely to have a significant effect on European Sites (habitats) must be subject to an appropriate assessment. Following a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping Exercise the NCNP has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This was subject to consultation at the Draft (Regulation 14) stage and has been updated to reflect amendments made to the NCNP from the draft to Submission version. A Habitat Regulations Assessment screening exercise was undertaken by WDC. This concluded that no sensitive habitats were likely to be affected by proposals and policies within the NCNP and therefore a HRA was not required (see Appendix 2.2).

2.15 **Paragraph 5:** Refers to the publication of the neighbourhood development plans once made by a local planning authority.

2.16 **Paragraph 6:** Clarifies what is excluded development.

Paragraph 1(d)

2.17 It is not considered that there is any reason or benefit for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated NPA.

Paragraph 1(e)

2.18 It is considered that there are no other prescribed matters relevant in this case.

3 North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area and the North Claines Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee

- 3.1 In July 2012 North Claines Parish Council resolved to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the parish. The Parish Council established a Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC) whose aim is to deliver the neighbourhood plan. The NPC's terms of reference is included at Appendix 3.1. The NPC consists of a minimum of two Parish Councillors and two others (Parish Councillors or residents) co-opted by the NPC.
- 3.2 The NPC has been responsible for carrying out research and analysis, consultation and engagement and the procurement and management of consultants. The NPC has also been responsible for recommending the sign-off of the NCNP and supporting documents to NCPC as part of its appraisal process.
- 3.3 The North Claines NPA was formally designated by Wychavon District Council 28 May 2013. The NPA is shown at Figure 3.1. The NPA's boundary is coterminous with the boundaries of North Claines parish.

4 The Neighbourhood Plan Proposal

4.1 A number of documents have been produced to support the NCNP and meet the 'Basic Conditions':

- **The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan:** This is the main document which includes policies and proposals developed by the community.
- **The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Key Diagram:** This is a larger scale plan of the Key Diagram found at Figure 5.1 in the Neighbourhood Plan document.
- **The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement:** A statement demonstrating how the NCNP and the process of its evolution meets the Basic Conditions requirements.
- **The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement:** A statement setting out how the community and other stakeholders have been involved in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- **The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report:** An assessment of how environmental considerations were taken into account in the preparation of the NCNP and how it promotes sustainable development objectives.

5 General Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework

Paragraph 2(a): A draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:

- (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in the guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan.

- 5.1 Paragraphs 183 – 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refers to neighbourhood planning and how it can be used to give *'communities direct power to develop a shared vision for the neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need'*.
- 5.2 This vision must be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area and as such neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Beyond these strategic elements, neighbourhood plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Policies within adopted neighbourhood plans take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that area where there may be a conflict.
- 5.3 Paragraphs 14 – 16 of the NPPF sets out the presumption in favour of sustainable development which is at the heart of national planning policy. For Neighbourhood Plans this means:
- Having plans that support the strategic needs set out in Local Plans.
 - Plan positively to support local development, shaping and directing development in their area.
- 5.4 The NPPF sets out 12 core land-use planning principles that should underpin plan-making. These are that planning should:
- 1 Be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area;
 - 2 Be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
 - 3 Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs;
 - 4 Seek to ensure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
 - 5 Take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and support thriving rural communities within it;
 - 6 Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate and encourage the re-use of existing resources and encourage the use of renewable resources;
 - 7 Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution;
 - 8 Encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
 - 9 Promote mixed use developments and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas recognising that some open land can perform many functions;
 - 10 Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance;

- 11 Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- 12 Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

5.5 These principles have been considered in the preparation of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan. The following paragraphs illustrate how the NCNP has reflected the key policy areas within the NPPF.

Building a Strong, Competitive Economy

5.6 Paragraph 19 of the NPPF states that 'the Government is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Planning should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Therefore significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system'.

5.7 The NCNP supports and encourages sustainable economic growth. It recognises that a significant number of residents travel out of the area for work. It seeks to increase employment opportunities and improve sustainable transport.

5.8 The NCNP sets out the following policies that aim to build a strong and competitive economy within the area:

- Policy NCRE2: Promoting Local Employment Growth
- Policy NCT2: Sustainable Transport Routes
- Policy NCT4: Fernhill Heath Rail-Halt Park and Ride facility.

5.9 These policies support the NCNP's objective of '*Creating opportunities to promote local employment through appropriate small scale development and conversion*' (Objective 3).

5.10 The NCNP's strategy, based on the limited existing opportunities and land use constraints, seeks to promote small scale local employment including rural diversification and homeworking.

Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres

5.11 Paragraph 23 of the NPPF recognises that town centres are the heart of their community and that policies should support their viability and vitality. Plans should define the extent of town centres and set policies that make clear which uses will be permitted. In addition, plans should allocate suitable sites to meet retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development needed in the town centre.

5.12 The NCNP sets out the following policy that aims to ensure the vitality of a local centre in the area.

- Policy NRCE1: Fernhill Heath Village

5.13 This policy supports the NCNP's objective of '*Creating, strengthening and supporting a Village Centre within Fernhill Heath to provide key services and facilities to meet some of the everyday needs*' (Objective 2).

5.14 The NCNP's strategy seeks to create and protect a Village Centre with facilities to meet some of the everyday days which will help to make Fernhill Heath and the wider area a more sustainable place to live, work and visit.

Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy

5.15 Paragraph 28 of the NPPF states that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. This should include supporting sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors and which respect the character of the countryside. Policies should also support the

sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings.

5.16 The NCNP sets out the following policy that aims to support a prosperous rural economy.

- Policy NCRE2: Promoting Local Employment Growth

5.17 This policy supports the NCNP's objective of '*Creating opportunities to promote local employment through appropriate small scale development and conversion*' (Objective 3).

5.18 As stated at Paragraph 5.10 the strategy seeks to promote local employment opportunities including rural diversification and homeworking.

Promoting Sustainable Transport

5.19 Paragraph 35 of the NPPF states that plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to (amongst others):

- give priority to pedestrians and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport systems.
- create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate, establishing home zones.
- consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.

5.20 Planning policies should aim for a balance of land uses within their area so that people can be encouraged to minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities (Paragraph 37).

5.21 Paragraph 40 states that authorities should seek to improve the quality of parking so that it is convenient, safe and secure.

5.22 The NCNP sets out the following policies that aim to promote sustainable transport:

- Policy NCT1: Transport and Development
- Policy NCT2: Sustainable Transport Routes
- Policy NCT3: Environmental Improvement Corridor
- Policy NCT4: Fernhill Heath Rail-Based Park and Ride Facility

5.23 These policies support the NCNP's objective of '*Strengthen and upgrade the transport infrastructure with improvements to public transport provision, cycling provision and to the road network where it provides benefits to safety, residential amenity and sustainable travel*' (Objective 5).

5.24 A key element of the NCNP's strategy is to promote improvements to transport infrastructure including the provision of a rail-halt park and ride station in Fernhill Heath. The strategy also seeks to ensure the proper integration of development and transport and provide a network of safe walking and cycling connections throughout the NPA.

Supporting High Quality Communications Infrastructure

5.25 NPPF Paragraphs 42 and 43 states that high quality communications infrastructure is essential to support economic growth. In preparing plans, authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband provided it is sympathetically designed and the need for new sites can be justified.

- 5.26 The NCNP does not include a specific policy on high quality communications infrastructure. However, the SWDP Policy 26 Telecommunications and Broadband' seeks to promote high quality communications infrastructure for all new development.
- 5.27 This SWDP policy will help to support the NCNP's objective of '*Strengthening and upgrading local infrastructure and services – physical, social and environmental – to meet the demand from new development*'(Objective 6). Objective 1 also seeks to ensure that new housing development integrates appropriately with existing infrastructure and utilities.
- 5.28 The provision of appropriate and adequate infrastructure is a key element of the NCNP's strategy to ensure that the NPA can accommodate new development in a sustainable manner.

Delivering a Wide Choice of High Quality Homes

- 5.29 The NPPF makes it clear that it is up to Local Planning Authorities to assess the housing needs in its housing market area and identify the housing land supply to meet that need within its Local Plan. It is up to Neighbourhood Plans to promote this (and not less) development and support (not undermine) the strategic policies of the Local Plan (Paragraph 184 NPPF).
- 5.30 The SWDP proposes through allocations a minimum of 370 new dwellings within the NPA over the period 2010 – 2030. The NCNP identifies these sites and additional sites including the allocation of land at Sling Lane/Old Drive. It also puts forward policies to allow additional housing providing that it meets other policy requirements such as good design, etc.
- 5.31 The NPPF also seeks to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. This includes the provision of affordable housing (Paragraph 50).
- 5.32 The NCNP sets out the following policies that aim to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes in the area:
- Policy NCH1A: New Residential Development
 - Policy NCH1B: Site Specific Requirements for Sling Lane/Old Drive allocation
 - Policy NCH2: New Housing and Infrastructure
 - Policy NCH3: Housing Mix.
- 5.33 These policies support the Neighbourhood Plan's objective of '*Ensuring future housing provision meets local housing need for both the market and social sector and new housing integrates appropriately within its setting and with existing infrastructure and utilities*' (Objective 1).
- 5.34 A key element of the NCNP's strategy is to ensure that new housing integrates into the NPA thereby maintaining its distinctive rural character and that it meets the identified need in both the market and social sectors. The strategy promotes higher levels of housing than the SWDP by allocating a site in a sustainable and accessible location.

Requiring Good Design

- 5.35 The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment and states at Paragraph 58 that '*Local and Neighbourhood Plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area.*' However, the NPPF is also clear that design policies should avoid unnecessary prescription or detail and should not stifle innovation.
- 5.36 The NCNP sets out the following policies that aim to deliver good quality and sustainable design for all new developments within the area:

- Policy NCD1: Development and Design Principles
- Policy NCD2: Detailed Design Elements
- Policy NCD3: Sustainable Design.

5.37 These policies support the NCNP's objectives of '*Ensuring new development is designed to retain and reflect the NPA's unique and distinctive characteristics and incorporate high levels of environmental sustainability*' (Objective 4).

Promoting Healthy Communities

5.38 The NPPF at Paragraph 70 recognises that planning policies should:

- Plan positively for the provision of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services;
- Ensure services and facilities are able to develop and modernise in a sustainable manner.

5.39 Paragraph 72 places great importance on ensuring that there is sufficient choice of school places including the need to create, expand or alter schools.

5.40 The NPPF also includes, under this theme, the provision and protection of open space. Paragraph 76 highlights that local communities should be able to, through Neighbourhood Plans, identify green areas for special protection designating them as Local Green Space.

5.41 The NCNP sets out the following policies that relate to promoting healthy communities within the area:

- Policy NCLE1: Connections with the Countryside
- Policy NCLE4: Green Space and Green Infrastructure
- Policy NCC1: Community Infrastructure
- Policy NCC2: Playing Field Provision
- Policy NCC3: Healthy Communities
- Policy NCT2 Sustainable Transport Routes.

5.42 These policies support the NCNP's objectives of '*Protecting and enhancing the NPA's local green nature conservation assets*' (Objective 8), '*strengthen and support opportunities to assess, utilise and enjoy the countryside within the NPA*' (Objective 9) and '*create safe, secure and low crime communities and protect and enhance health and wellbeing amongst the community*' (Objective 10).

5.43 A key element of the NCNP's strategy is to protect important greenspaces and provide, where possible new greenspace, both of which will have access by the local community. In addition, connections with the countryside will be protected and enhanced to provide greater opportunities for people to access. In addition, local community facilities will be protected and supported.

Protecting Green Belt Land

5.44 In terms of establishing Green Belt boundaries the NPPF states, at Paragraph 83, that these should be done through Local Plans and only altered in exceptional circumstances through the preparation or review of the Local Plan. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land predominantly open (Paragraph 79).

- 5.45 The NPPF maintains previous national policy on the protection of the Green Belt from inappropriate development (Paragraph 87). The NPPF lists a number of exceptions to this (Paragraph 89) including: limited affordable housing for local community needs, limited infilling or redevelopment of previously developed sites and facilities for outdoor sport and recreation. In all cases the development should not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt.
- 5.46 The NCNP does not include policies on the Green Belt and defers to the SWDP and the NPPF on this designation. Nevertheless, the NCNP's strategy recognises the existing Green Belt boundaries and seeks to ensure these are maintained.

Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

- 5.47 The NPPF recognises that planning plays a key role in helping shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gases, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change, and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure (Paragraph 93).
- 5.48 The NCNP sets out the following policies that seek to meet the challenges of climate, coastal and flooding change:
- Policy NCLE4: Green Space and Green Infrastructure
 - Policy NCD3: Sustainable Design.
- 5.49 These policies support the NCNP's objective of '*Ensuring new development is designed to incorporate high levels of environmental sustainability*' (Objective 4 [part]).

Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

- 5.50 The NPPF states at Paragraph 109 that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils.
 - Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services.
 - Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 5.51 A key objective of the NCNP is to '*Protecting and enhancing the NPA's nature conservation assets and local greenspaces*' (Objective 8). The NCNP contains two policies that support this objective and the NPPF policies:
- Policy NCLE4: Green Space and Green Infrastructure
 - Policy NCLE5: Local Nature Conservation Assets
 - Policy NCLE6: Trees and Woodland and Development.

Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

- 5.52 The NPPF sets out at Paragraph 126 that 'Local Planning Authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'. In developing this strategy, Local Planning Authorities should take account:
- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
 - The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;

- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

5.53 The NCNP sets out the following policies that relate to the area's historic environment:

- Policy NCLE2: Local Heritage Assets
- Policy NCLE3: Local Heritage Area.

5.54 These policies support the NCNP's objectives of '*Recognising the heritage assets within and adjacent to the NPA and ensure that new development protects and enriches the historic townscape and landscape*' (Objective 7).

5.55 The NCNP strategy seeks to recognise and protect buildings and structures of local historical value. It also seeks to recognise the area containing the original settlement of Fernhill Heath and establish policies to protect its special character.

Facilitating the Sustainable Use of Minerals

5.56 This is not a relevant topic for Neighbourhood Plans to deal with and therefore is not relevant.

6 Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development

- 6.1 The NPPF states at Paragraph 14 that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF and '*should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking*'.
- 6.2 There are three dimensions to sustainable development within the NPPF: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:
- **An economic role** – contributing to building a strong responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation, and by identifying and co-ordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
 - **A social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations, and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing, and
 - **An environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment, and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low-carbon economy.
- 6.3 The NCNP has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Report sets out how the SEA process was used to assist the preparation of the NCNP and has been produced in compliance with the SEA Regulations and as required by the SEA Directive.
- 6.4 The SEA has assessed the effects of individual policies and development allocations as well as the overall effects of the Plan, including cumulative effects. The assessment has identified that the NCNP has the potential for a significant positive effect by helping to meet the needs of current and future residents through supporting development in the SWDP and identifying further areas for growth as well as proposing the delivery of infrastructure improvements including a rail station. The assessment also found that whilst there is the potential for negative effects on the environment, mitigation provided through NCNP policies as well as higher level SWDP policies are sufficient to ensure that these will not be significant.
- 6.5 The NCNP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by:
- Planning positively for housing growth to meet the needs of present and future generations.
 - Strengthening and supporting the local economy, the visitor economy and retail provision.
 - Promoting sustainable transport.
 - Protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.
 - Promoting high quality and sustainable design.
 - Promoting healthy communities.

7 General Conformity with Strategic Policies Contained in the Development Plan for the Area

- 7.1 Neighbourhood plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted plan for the local area. Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 defines 'development plan' as the Development Plan Documents adopted for the area.
- 7.2 WDC adopted the South Worcestershire Development Plan on 24 February 2016. This Plan forms part of the statutory development plan and provides the spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the District up to 2030. This has followed an Examination into the submitted version of the SWDP, main modifications put forward by the three authorities and additional modifications put forward by the Planning Inspector. The NCNP has been prepared in the knowledge of the SWDP process and has regard to the emerging policies as the Local Plan has been going through the Examination and adoption process.
- 7.3 In addition to the South Worcester Development Plan, the statutory development plan also includes the saved policies within the County of Hereford and Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan (adopted 1992) and the Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire (adopted 2012). In relation to the latter two, neighbourhood plans do not have jurisdiction over waste or minerals and therefore there are no implications on one to the other.
- 7.4 Following the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, the strategic policies within the Wychavon District Local Plan are superseded and are no longer relevant.

South Worcestershire Development Plan

- 7.5 The North Claines Parish itself is not specifically mentioned within the SWDP. However, due to its location to the north of Worcester City it is identified as a suitable area to accommodate some of the City's future housing need. In addition Fernhill Heath is categorised as a Village 2 settlement where housing need for Wychavon District can be accommodated.
- 7.6 The key elements of the spatial strategy are the delivery of 28,400 dwellings, (11,500 dwellings in Wychavon which includes 900 dwellings for the Wider Worcester Area), 200ha of employment land provision (of which 120ha is within Wychavon) and 26,726 sq m net retail convenience and comparison retail floorspace (1,326 sq m of which is in Wychavon).
- 7.7 The SWDP seeks to maintain the general extent of the West Midlands Green Belt as the identified development can be met without Green Belt release.
- 7.8 According to the SWDP the Development Strategy is underpinned by the following strategic policies (Paragraph 89):
- SWDP1: Overarching Sustainable Development Principles
 - SWDP2: Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy
 - SWDP3: Employment, Housing, Retail Provision Requirements and Delivery
 - SWDP4: Moving Around South Worcestershire
 - SWDP5: Green Infrastructure
 - SWDP6: Historic Environment
 - SWDP7: Infrastructure

- 7.9 Policies SWDP8 – SWDP42 are considered to provide context and direction to development management decisions. Policies SWDP43 – SWDP61 provide specific site allocations and associated guidance. Policies SWDP62 and 63 provide guidance on implementation, management and monitoring of the plan.
- 7.10 **SWDP1: Overarching Sustainable Development Principles** – when considering development proposals the local authority will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Planning applications that accord with policies within the SWDP (and where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 7.11 Sustainable development is at the heart of the NCNP. Section 6 of this statement illustrates how the NCNP will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. A Strategic Environmental Assessment has been undertaken of the NCNP demonstrating how the principles of sustainable development have been considered in the making of the plan.
- 7.12 **SWDP2: Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy** – the development strategy and site allocations are based upon the following principles:
- i) Delivering employment sites and job creation
 - ii) Delivering housing to meet objectively assessed need
 - iii) Safeguard and (where possible) enhance the open countryside
 - iv) Encourage the effective re-use of brownfield land
 - v) Maintain the openness of the Green Belt
 - vi) Focus development on the urban areas.
- 7.13 The policy sets out a settlement hierarchy for windfall development with Fernhill Heath identified as a Category 2 Village. This category of village is identified for housing sites to address the need for housing and support local services and the encouragement of rural employment opportunities of an appropriate scale. Infill development within the defined development boundaries is acceptable in principle subject to the more detailed plan policies.
- 7.14 The policy supports development proposals that are promoted through neighbourhood planning mechanisms where these proposals do not compromise the delivery of the SWDP's strategic policies and proposals.
- 7.15 The NCNP supports the SWDP's development strategy and the delivery of its strategic policies and proposals.
- 7.16 **SWDP3: Employment, Housing and Retail Provision Requirement and Delivery** – the South Worcestershire Councils will plan, monitor and manage the delivery of employment, housing and retail development as follows:
- 280ha of employment land (120ha within Wychavon)
 - 28,400 dwellings (net) (11,500 within Wychavon)
 - 39,507 sq m net retail floorspace (1,326 sq m within Wychavon).
- 7.17 The delivery and availability of housing land will be monitored annually. Adjustments will be made in order to ensure the delivery of the overall South Worcestershire housing target.
- 7.18 The NCNP supports the delivery of housing to meet both Wychavon and the Wider Worcester Area. There is no employment land in the NPA. However, the NCNP supports local employment provision. The designation of a Local Centre in Fernhill Heath will assist, in a small way, the provision of land and premises for retail use.
- 7.19 **SWDP4: Moving Around South Worcestershire** – this policy addresses 'managing travel demand', 'providing alternative modes of travel', 'delivering transport infrastructure to support economic prosperity' and the requirements for transport assessments.

- 7.20 The NCNP supports this strategic policy. In particular the promotion of a rail-halt park and ride site (Policy NTC4) and Sustainable Transport Routes (Policy NCT2) can deliver transport infrastructure to support economic prosperity and provide alternative modes of travel.
- 7.21 **SWDP5: Green Infrastructure** – housing developments are required to contribute towards the provision, maintenance, improvement and connectivity of GI. The form and formation of GI will depend on local circumstances and the priorities within the Worcestershire GI Strategy.
- 7.22 The NCNP supports this strategic policy through Policy NCLE4: Green Space and Green Infrastructure.
- 7.23 **SWDP6: Historic Environment** – development proposals should conserve and enhance heritage assets including undesignated heritage assets.
- 7.24 **NCNP Policy NCLE2: Local Heritage Assets** – seeks to protect non-designated heritage assets within the NPA. Policy NCLE3: Local Heritage Area seeks to conserve and enhance the special historic core of Fernhill Heath.
- 7.25 **SWDP7: Infrastructure** – the South Worcestershire Councils will work closely with partners to bring forward the appropriate and proportionate infrastructure that is required to deliver the plan. Development will be required to provide or contribute towards the provision of necessary infrastructure to support it and should be provided in the appropriate phase.
- 7.26 The NCNP supports the need for the appropriate provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of new development.

8 Compatibility with EU Legislation

- 8.1 A screening process was carried out by Wychavon District Council to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required to support the NCNP. This Assessment is a requirement of the EU Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 8.2 In terms of the SEA Screening, the Opinion Report concluded that it is considered that there may be environmental effects arising from the NCNP and in particular in relation to the additional housing allocation at Sling Lane/Old Drive alongside the proposals for a new school and rail halt park and ride facility. Following consultation with the statutory environmental bodies it was considered that an SEA was required. An SEA was produced for the draft NCNP and was included in the Regulation 14 Consultation on the draft plan. It has been amended to reflect changes in the NCNP between the draft version and submission version.
- 8.3 Wychavon District Council has undertaken a HRA Screening of the NCNP. A copy of the Screening Opinion is provided at Appendix 2.2. This concludes that the plan should not have an adverse impact on sensitive habitats in the vicinity of the NPA and as such does not require an Appropriate Assessment. The HRA Screening Opinion has been submitted to Natural England for their comment. The response will be provided during the Regulation 16 consultation on the Submission NCNP.
- 8.4 The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not. 'Protected characteristics' are defined in the Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.5 Equality Impact Assessment is an analysis of a policy or policies, in order to identify the potential for an adverse impact on particular group or community, in particular those with a protected characteristic. It is a method of assessing and recording the likely differential and/or adverse impact of a policy on people from different groups so that if a policy results in unfairness or discrimination then changes to eliminate or lessen the impact be considered.
- 8.6 An assessment has been made on whether the NCNP has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available). Appendix 8.1 provides a schedule of potential impacts on 'protected characteristics'.
- 8.7 The NCNP, in terms of its preparation and content, has had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

9 Prescribed Conditions

9.1 There are no other prescribed matters.

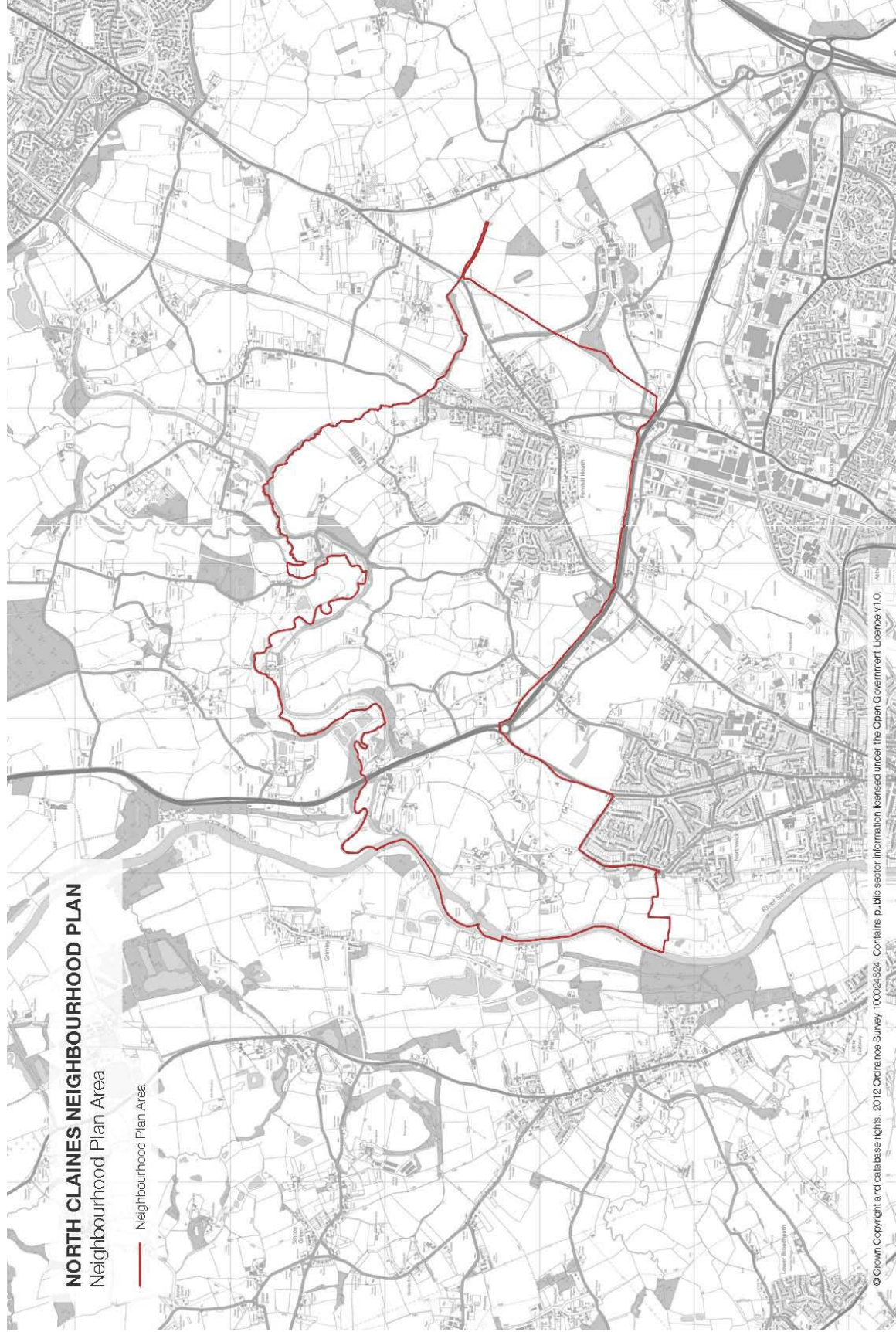
10 Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 10.1 The production of the NCNP has involved the participation and contribution of the local community and stakeholders from the initial stages. The management of producing the NCNP has been facilitated by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Committee which includes members of the local community working alongside Parish Councillors.
- 10.2 There have been a number of public engagement and consultation exercises carried out by the Parish Council to raise awareness of the NCNP and ascertain views on issues and proposals.
- 10.3 A Consultation Statement has been produced which provides the detail around the involvement of the local community and stakeholders in the development of the NCNP.

11 Conclusion

- 11.1 It is considered that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have been met within the NCNP.
- 11.2 There are no apparent conflicts between the policies contained within the NCNP and the policies within the NPPF and the policies within the South Worcestershire Development Plan.
- 11.3 The information within this Statement demonstrates general conformity with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). It is therefore respectfully suggested that the NCNP should proceed to referendum.

FIGURE 3.1
NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 2.1

**NORTH CLAINES NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION LETTER FROM
WDC**

21 JUNE 2013

Mrs Clare Skinner
Clerk to North Claines Parish Council
The Old Library Centre
65 Ombersley Street East
Droitwich Spa
Worcestershire WR9 8QS

PP147A

21 June 2013

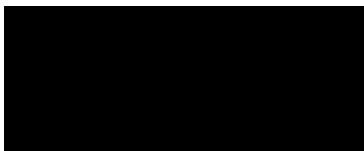
Dear Clare,

North Claines Neighbourhood Area Designation

I am pleased to be able to write and confirm that the Executive Board, at its meeting of 28 May 2013, approved the North Claines neighbourhood area designation. This means that the parish council can now formally progress with the preparation of its neighbourhood plan. The next stage required by the regulations is for the parish council to initially consult on a draft version of the plan, and then submit it to Wychavon for a further period of public consultation prior to examination.

As you know approval of the neighbourhood area also allows the parish council to draw on further funds as set out in the council's protocol for supporting neighbourhood planning, as well as bid for additional DCLG funds and practical support from 'Locality' affiliated organisations.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Ford

APPENDIX 2.2

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING OPINION

North Claines Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion



March 2016

1. Introduction to HRA

- 1.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. The relevant European wildlife site designations are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which together form part of the Natura 2000 network.
- 1.2 In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are also designated areas which, as a matter of government policy, are to be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites (although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations). European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 1.3 The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated sites. The first stage of this process is a screening exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Plan to have an impact.

2. Overview of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The North Claines Neighbourhood Plan process began in 2012 and has now progressed to draft Plan stage; the draft Plan consultation was held in November and December 2015. The draft Plan is made up of 22 policies on matters including housing, retail and employment, transport, landscape and environment, design and community. The draft Plan also allocates land for housing at Sling Lane/Old Drive and details aspirations for a new community hub building to include a school and a rail halt for a park and ride service.
- 2.2 Wychavon District Council undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion on the draft Plan in March 2015 which concluded that a full SEA was likely to be required, with this notion supported by the two of the three statutory consultees. A full SEA has since been undertaken.
- 2.3 With the submission of the Plan to Wychavon anticipated in the coming weeks, the Parish Council requested that a HRA screening be undertaken.

3. HRA Screening Assessment

- 3.1 There are no internationally designated wildlife sites located within the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan area. For the purposes of this screening assessment however, sites that fall within a 20km radius are considered. There are two sites identified with this range – Lyppard Grange SAC approximately 3.5km south and Bredon Hill SAC approximately 18km south-east of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 3.2 Lyppard Grange SAC is located on the eastern outskirts of Worcester situated amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. The site comprises two ponds in an area of grassland and scrub (public open space). The site provides habitat for Great Crested Newts *Triturus Cristatus*, which are dependent on both the existing terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and on the aquatic habitat (for breeding).
- 3.3 Bredon Hill SAC is an area of pasture woodland and ancient parkland situated approximately 4.5km south-west of Evesham. The site provides habitat for the Violet Click Beetle *Limoniscus Violaceus*, which develops in the decaying wood either of very large, old hollow beech trees (Windsor Forest) or ash trees (Worcestershire and Gloucestershire border sites). Currently the key site attributes which Natural England understands the species to require is related to the abundance and condition of the ancient trees on the designated site within which it develops.
- 3.4 The potential impact of development on both these sites was examined by a full HRA as part of the production of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). The HRA screening of the SWDP concluded that there was uncertainty with regard to the potential for significant effects on the two sites as a result of increased disturbance, in particular due to increased recreational activity. Concerns were raised specifically relating to the Lyppard Grange SAC and the potential impact of proposed development on water levels and quality.
- 3.5 As a result of the concerns raised, a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) was conducted (this can be viewed on the SWDP website – www.swdevelopmentplan.org). The AA concluded that the policies of the SWDP (including land allocations) were not likely to have adverse effects on the integrity of either Bredon Hill SAC or Lyppard Grange SAC. In addressing concerns relating to possible increased disturbance at the SACs, it was concluded that the location of the sites in relation to proposed developments and also the availability of more

suitable areas of open space for recreation in close proximity would keep potential impacts to a minimum. It was also considered that the policies of the SWDP would sufficiently mitigate the potential impact of proposed developments on the water environment, leading to minimal effect on the SAC sites.

- 3.6 The majority of the policies and land allocations featured in the North Claines draft Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with those outlined in the SWDP. With this and the SWDP AA in mind, it can be concluded that policies of the North Claines draft Neighbourhood Plan will have no negative impact on internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 3.7 However, the North Claines draft Neighbourhood Plan goes above and beyond the realm of the SWDP through the additional housing allocation at Sling Lane/Old Drive and the aspirations for a new community hub and rail halt, none of which would have been assessed in the AA for the SWDP. A more thorough screening of the potential impacts is therefore required and is conducted in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Assessment of possible impacts of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan on Lyppard Grange SAC

		LYPPARD GRANGE SAC						
	Direct Habitat Loss	Impact on Protected Species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Quantity	Recreational Pressures	Change In Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
North Claines Neighbourhood Plan likely to impact site?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Possible effects in combination of other Plans?	NONE IDENTIFIED							
Assessment of effects	<p>The Lyppard Grange SAC is situated approximately 3.5km (direct distance) from the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area. The distance between sites proposed for development in the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan and Lyppard Grange SAC means the resulting impact on the protected area is likely to be negligible (including in relation to habitat loss, impact on protected species, air quality and surrounding land use). It is also considered that any new development in the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area would not impact the Lyppard Grange SAC through increased disturbance by recreational use, as the site is a considerable travelling distance from the Plan Area and sufficient open space is available for recreation within the parish itself.</p> <p>With regards to potential impacts on hydrology, the HRA screening opinion conducted for the SWDP highlighted concerns that plan policies may potentially result in reduced water levels at Lyppard Grange SAC, which prompted a full AA to be conducted. This assessment however concluded that SWDP policies (when combined with outlined mitigation measures) will not have any adverse effects on the integrity of Lyppard Grange SAC (or indeed any other internationally designated wildlife sites in the plan area) through changes to water levels or water quality. Whilst the additional housing allocation and aspirations of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan were not included in this assessment, the scale of the potential proposed and their location in relation to the Lyppard Grange SAC means it is highly unlikely that there will be any impact on the SAC. It is therefore concluded that the additional development proposed by the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan will have no impact on Lyppard Grange SAC.</p>							

Table 2: Assessment of possible impacts of the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan on Bredon Hill SAC

		BREDON HILL SAC						
	Direct Habitat Loss	Impact on Protected Species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Water Quantity	Recreational Pressures	Change In Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
North Claines Neighbourhood Plan likely to impact site?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Possible effects in combination of other Plans?	NONE IDENTIFIED							
Assessment of effects	<p>The Bredon Hill SAC is situated approximately 18km (direct distance) from the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan Area. The significant distance between the Bredon Hill SAC and the NP area means any new development is extremely unlikely to have a direct impact on the SAC, including on habitats, species, air quality, water quality, water quantity, additional recreational uses, surrounding land uses or invasive species.</p>							

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Based on the information detailed in this report, including the background evidence and the assessments at Tables 1 and 2, it is concluded that the North Claines Neighbourhood Plan and the policies contained within are unlikely to have a negative impact on internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 4.2 As such, the recommendation is made that an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required. This recommendation is subject to consultation with Natural England, with this report and Natural England's response publicised once the submitted Plan is subject to consultation.

North Claines Draft Neighbourhood Plan
Habitats Regulations Assessment
Screening Opinion 2016

'Natura 2000 Sites' and
North Claines Neighbourhood Area

Legend

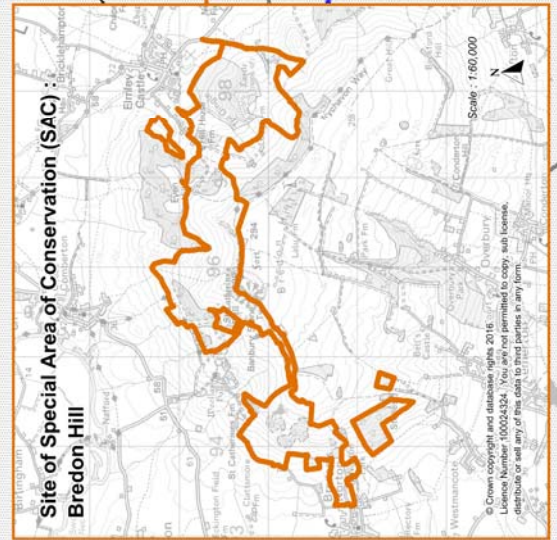
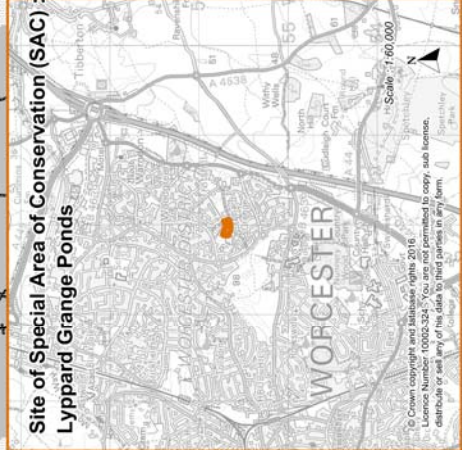
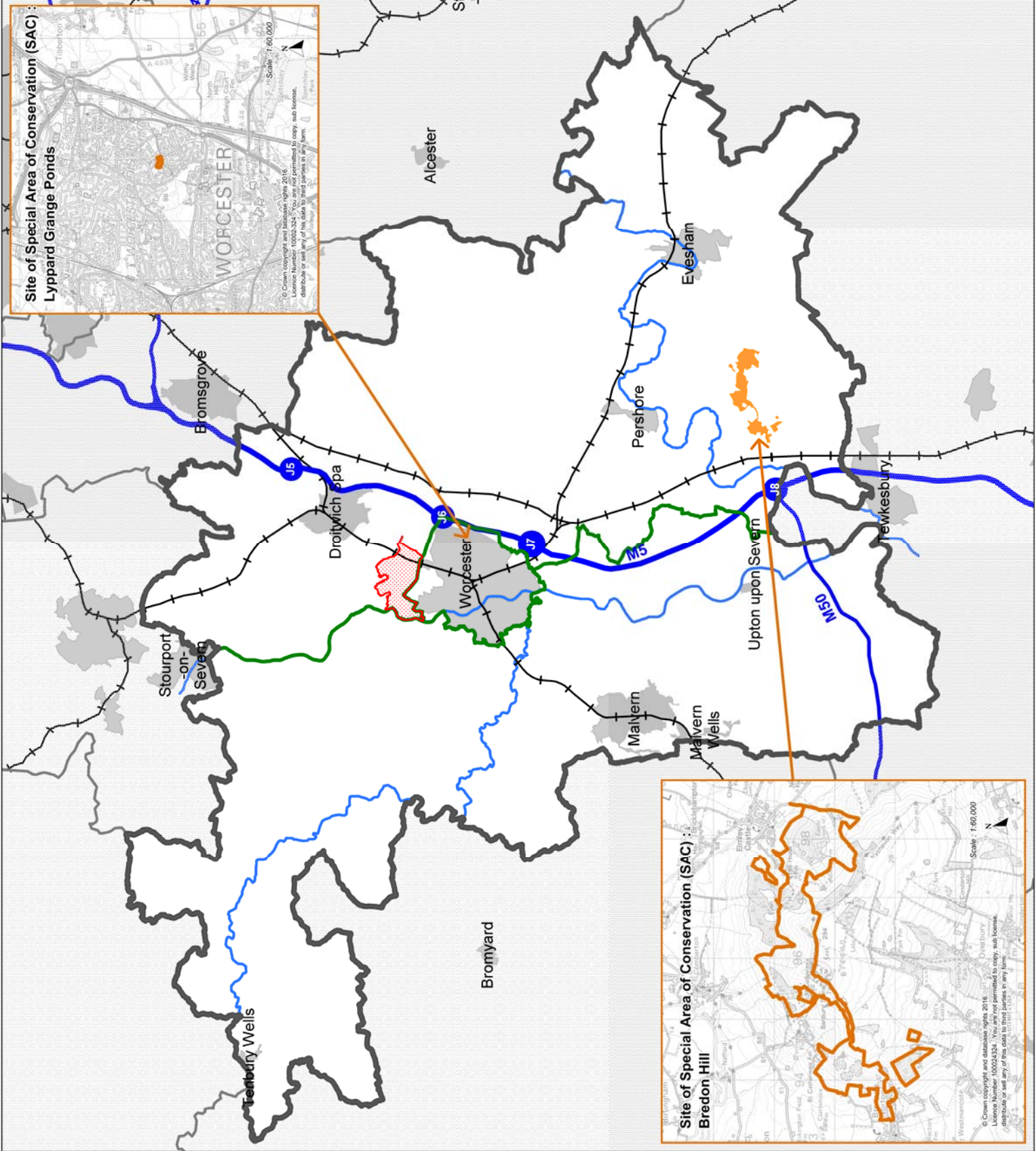
-  SWDP Area Boundary
-  District Council Boundary
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Motorway
-  Railway Line
-  River
-  North Claines Neighbourhood Area



Scale : Not to Scale @ A3

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March 2016

WYCHAVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value



APPENDIX 3.1

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Neighbourhood Planning Committee (NPC) Terms of Reference

1. Aim of the NPC

To deliver, within a given budget, a Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of North Claines Parish Council that properly reflects the wishes of the electorate (as defined in relevant legislation) and which meets criteria within the *Localism Act 2011, Section 9 – Neighbourhood Planning* & any other relevant and subsequent legislation

2. Purpose

1. In properly reflecting the wishes of the electorate the Committee will ensure the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan fall under the headings of ...

1. Residential Housing

- To formulate clear policies and guidance on relevant aspects of housing most appropriate for future development within the Parish

2. Economic & Business Development

- To identify & make appropriate provision for business and commercial developments to meet the needs of the local community and ensure the continued economic growth of the Parish

3. Environmental Sustainability

- To ensure that any residential, commercial or other developments within the Parish protect & where possible enhance the natural environment

4. Access to and opportunities within the Countryside

- To provide residents and those working within the Parish with opportunities to access, utilise and enjoy the natural environment including the protection and provision of public rights of way and recreation facilities,

5. Providing Services to the Community

- To identify & make appropriate provision for services to meet the needs of the local community

6. Promoting a Safe and Secure Place to Live and Work

- To work with the Police & community partners to ensure both the design of new & enhancement of existing developments reduces the opportunities for crime and ASB
2. Initial themes are not exhaustive and others may be added during the consultation period and the formulation of objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

3. Membership

A minimum of two (2) Councillors from North Claines Parish Council (NCPC) and a minimum of two (2) others (other NCPC Councillors or local residents) co-opted by the NPC

4. Quorum

Three (3) Members of the NPC

5. Authority

1. North Claines Parish Council Standing Orders – *Standing Order 16*
2. Localism Act 2011 - Schedule 9 - *Neighbourhood Planning*
3. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
4. National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

6. Conditions

1. North Claines Parish Council Standing (NCPC) Orders will apply to all matters relating to the meetings, actions and decisions of the NPC
2. The NPC will be elected from Councillors of NCPC on an annual basis at a meeting of the Parish Council
3. The first meeting of the NPC after election will be to elect a Chairperson
4. The NPC will meet as and when required, but no less than once per calendar month
5. Interim meetings of the NPC will take place on an informal basis & may be closed to the public & press
6. Formal meetings will be announced and the public & press invited as per NCPC Standing Orders

7. Members of the NPC will receive agenda, copies of minutes and other relevant documentation prior to Formal meetings
8. Once approved, minutes from each meeting will be presented to the next NCPC meeting for information & reference and made available to the public as per NCPC Standing Orders
9. Any decisions made at quorum meetings of the NPC will be presented to the NCPC for ratification
10. Unless the NCPC directs otherwise the NPC may arrange to devolve any of it's functions and work to sub-committee(s), Officers of the Council or other appropriate third-parties / individuals
11. Unless otherwise stated relevant documents can be authorised on behalf of the NCPC by members of the NP Committee and signed by the Chairperson of the NP on behalf of the NP Committee
12. The Committee has responsibility for managing the NP budget and all spending decisions ratified by the NCPC
13. Any proposed changes to budgeting and spending will be discussed with the NCPC and ratified before implementing
14. A review of the Terms of Reference will take place every 6-months from the date of this proposal and any subsequent changes provided to the NCPC for voting

7. Restrictions

1. Only members of the NPC may vote on agenda items
2. Where appropriate recommendations and other matters arising will be referred to the full NCPC for final decisions
3. Members of NCPC who are not members of the NPC may attend both informal & formal meetings in their capacity as a Councillor and will be allowed to speak on any agenda item with the agreement of the Chairperson, but will not be allowed to vote unless / until relevant matters are referred to the NCPC
4. Members of NCPC who are attending NPC meetings are subject to the same rules as Committee members regarding confidentiality & the requirements of the Codes of Conduct

APPENDIX 8.1

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

APPENDIX 8.1 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Protected Characteristic	Policies							Comments	
	Housing NCH1 – NCH3	Retail & Employment NCRE1 – NCRE2	Transport NCT1 – NCT4	Landscape & Environment NCLE1 – NCLE6	Design NCD1 – NCD3	Community NCC1 – NCC3			
Age	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Overall the NCNP provides a positive benefit to all age groups within the NPA.	
Disability	●	●	✓	✓	✓	✓		Overall the NCNP provides a positive benefit to persons who are disabled or who have limited mobility.	
Marriage & Civil Partnership	●	●	●	●	●	●		Overall the NCNP has a neutral impact on marriage and civil partnership.	
Gender Reassignment	●	●	●	●	●	●		Overall the NCNP has a neutral impact on persons having undergone or undergoing gender reassignment.	
Pregnancy & Maternity	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	✓		Overall the NCNP has a positive benefit to young families.	
Race	●	●	●	●	●	✓		Overall the NCNP has a minor positive benefit to people of all races.	
Religion or Belief	●	●	●	●	●	✓		Overall the NCNP has a minor positive benefit for people of all creed, religion, faiths and beliefs.	
Sex	●	●	●	●	●	●		Overall the NCNP has a neutral impact on gender. It does not benefit one gender over another.	
Sexual Orientation	●	●	●	●	●	●		Overall the NCNP has a neutral impact on sexual orientation.	
Comments	New housing in the NPA will give opportunities for young and old to live in the area, including those with or looking to start a family							✓ positive impact	
	These policies have a neutral impact on protected characteristics							● neutral impact	
	Policies on design will benefit people of all ages, the disabled, young families and can provide a safe environment for all							X negative impact	
	Policies on greenspace and countryside provide positive benefits for all ages, young families and those who are disabled or have limited mobility							●	Policies protecting community assets, providing playing fields and promoting health will be a positive benefit to all sections of the community
	These policies particularly in respect of the rail station and sustainable transport routes have a positive benefit for all ages, the disabled and young families							●	