

# Strategic Environment Assessment for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan

Environmental Report to accompany Regulation 14  
consultation on the Neighbourhood Development  
Plan

Stoke Golding Parish Council

October 2020

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## Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Position
V1	October 2020	Draft report for internal review	Alastair Peattie	Associate Director
V2	November 2020	QB Review	Mervyn Ward	-
V3	March 2021	Locality Review	John Wilkinson	-
V4	March 2021	Final Report	Alastair Peattie	Associate Director

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## Non-Technical Summary

### What is strategic environmental assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken to inform the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

NDP groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability / environmental objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the NDP and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the NDP and the quality of life of residents.

### What is the Stoke Golding NDP?

The Stoke Golding NDP presents a plan for the Stoke Golding parish area within the administrative area of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the period of 2020 to 2039. Prepared to be in conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan, it sets out a vision and a range of policies for the NDP area. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing, open space, recreation, accessibility and housing.

### Purpose of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report, which accompanies the current consultation on the Stoke Golding NDP, is the second document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (July 2020), which includes information about the NDP area's environment and community.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Stoke Golding NDP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Stoke Golding NDP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability / environmental issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the Stoke Golding NDP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Stoke Golding NDP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the Stoke Golding NDP;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Stoke Golding NDP; and
- Potential monitoring measures.

## Scoping

The scoping stage involves the collection of information relating to:

- the state of the environment in the plan area; *and*
- relevant objectives and targets set out within plans, policies and programmes.

This information allowed for a range of key issues to be identified, and to establish what topics should be the focus of the SEA. The scoping process led to the following topics being scoped in or out of the SEA. These topics then formed the basis of an SEA Framework, which is the basis for appraising the Plan (and reasonable alternatives).

- Air Quality - **SCOPED OUT**
- Biodiversity - **SCOPED IN**
- Climatic factors - **SCOPED OUT**
- Flood Risk - **SCOPED OUT**
- Historic Environment - **SCOPED IN**
- Landscape - **SCOPED IN**
- Waste - **SCOPED OUT**
- Minerals - **SCOPED OUT**
- Land and Soil Resources - **SCOPED OUT**
- Water Resources - **SCOPED OUT**
- Population and Housing - **SCOPED IN**
- Health and Wellbeing - **SCOPED IN**
- Transportation - **SCOPED OUT**

## Assessment of alternative approaches for the Stoke Golding NDP

Alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the housing growth targets and the location of housing to be delivered.

One alternative to housing growth would be to not allocate any sites. However, a key objective of the NDP is to influence the location and type of housing development that is secured in Stoke Golding. Therefore, this approach is considered to be unreasonable. A second alternative would be to pursue a high growth strategy. However, there is no evidence to justify substantially higher levels of housing growth and this housing target has been discussed and consulted upon with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council who have not raised any concerns on the housing figure. Therefore, this alternative is also considered to be unreasonable.

In regard to site allocations, the NDP proposes to allocate one site to meet the local housing needs, a housing reserve site to meet any additional housing need that may arise in the future. A number of site options were considered and appraised as part of a site assessment exercise by the Parish Council and against the SEA objectives. The site options are presented in the table below.

AECOM Ref	SHELAA Ref	Site Address	Gross Area (Hectares)	Indicative Capacity <sup>1</sup>	Source
Site 1	-	Mulberry Farm.	2.10ha	52	'Improvement Area' in Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal.
Site 2	-	White Swan.	0.55ha	14	Planning Application (19/01244/FUL)
Site 3	LPR51	Land opposite Ivy House Farm, High Street.	1.34ha	33	SHELAA (2018)
Site 4	AS542	Land rear of 58 High Street.	0.82ha	20	SHELAA (2018)

<sup>1</sup> The indicative housing capacity has been derived from the Hinckley and Bosworth SHELAA (2018). For sites not identified through the SHELAA, a capacity has been calculated based on 25dph in accordance with the SHELAA.

AECOM Ref	SHELAA Ref	Site Address	Gross Area (Hectares)	Indicative Capacity <sup>1</sup>	Source
Site 5	AS543	Land to the rear of 21-57 Roseway.	1.29ha	32	SHELAA (2018)
Site 6	LPR39	Land East of the Roseway.	2.91ha	55	SHELAA (2018)
Site 7	LPR1	West Side of Hinckley Road.	2.60ha	49	SHELAA (2018)
Site 8	AS534	Land South of Station Road between Wykin Lane and Higham Lane	5.94ha	111	SHELAA (2018)
Site 9	AS1028	Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane.	3.23ha	61	SHELAA (2018)
Site 10	AS537	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as AS537).	8.06ha	151	SHELAA (2018)
Site 11	LPR41	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as LPR41)	7.64ha	143	SHELAA (2018)
Site 12	AS539	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	0.70ha	17	SHELAA (2018)
Site 13	-	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	8.32ha	208	Enlargement of Site 12 by landowner.
Site 14	AS540	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Pine Close.	2.75ha	52	SHELAA (2018)
Site 15	AS541	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Stoke Fields Farm.	3.97ha	74	SHELAA (2018)
Site 16	-	Corner of Hinckley Road and Stoke Road.	3.80ha	95	Submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in a more recent but unpublished SHELAA.

Site 12 is considered to perform the best against the SEA objectives as the site is likely to have broadly positive effects on objectives other than Historic Environment for which a neutral effect is predicted. Similarly, Site 14 is also considered to perform well against the SEA objectives. Whilst the site does not fall within the built-up area of Stoke Golding, a proportionate development of the northern part of the site is likely to accord well with the existing built-up area with limited effects on landscape character and its openness.

Site 2 broadly performs well against the SEA objectives other than it being slightly distant to the local GP surgery and its potential to cause harm to the Registered Battlefield, Stoke Golding Conservation Area and other historic features from unsensitive development. However, within the western part of the site falling within the Registered Battlefield, the development capacity of the site without causing irreversible harm and thus significant negative effects on the Historic Environment is constrained to 0.2ha (5 dwellings).

Whilst Site 1 is prominent in the landscape and falls within a Registered Battlefield, the southern part of the site is developed and includes c.1950s agricultural buildings that are not considered to be in-keeping with the historic, built and landscape character. Therefore, whilst the allocation of the site as a whole could cause significant harm, a smaller site allocation covering the existing developed area of the site could result in enhancements to the character and setting of local historic features and the landscape character, making the site favourable against the SEA objectives.

Other site options are considered to perform less favourably against the SEA objectives.

The Parish Council seeks to allocate part of Site 1 for housing and part of Site 14 as a housing reserve site. Whilst Site 1 does not perform as well compared to other options against the SEA objectives, it has been proposed for allocation due to significant community support and its redevelopment presenting opportunities to enhance the built environment. Site 14 is proposed for



allocation as it has the next highest-ranking following Site 1 in the site assessment exercise undertaken by the Parish Council.

## Assessment of the current version of the Stoke Golding NDP

The draft Stoke Golding NDP has been appraised against each of the environmental objectives in the SEA Framework. In undertaking the appraisal, each of the policies in the NDP has been considered individually and collectively. A summary of the findings is presented below.

<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Historic Environment</i>	<i>Landscape</i>	<i>Population and Housing</i>	<i>Health and wellbeing</i>
Positive	Minor -ve	Neutral	Significant +ve	Minor +ve

The plan is broadly predicted to have positive effects, with significant positive effects predicted for Population and Housing as the NDP seeks to exceed the objectively assessed local housing needs and enhance local access to services and facilities.

With regards to the historic environment, the NDP is broadly focused on protecting heritage assets and therefore sustaining the existing baseline and does not set out a framework to enhance heritage assets or their significance.

## Mitigation

A number of recommendations were made to enhance the positive effects of the draft plan and mitigate any negatives. These are summarised below:

- Policy SG2 could be strengthened by requiring development proposals to be accompanied with a Heritage Statement including an appraisal of the likely impact of the design, materials, layout, scale, height and mass of the proposal on the Registered Battlefield, Stoke Golding Conservation Area, Grade I listed Church of St Margaret, Grade II listed The Birches and other designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting. The policy could further be strengthened by requiring development proposals to demonstrate how proposals would result in a net enhancement to the historic significance of heritage assets and their setting.
- Policies SG2 and SG3 could be strengthened by requiring development proposals to be supported with a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to provide an assessment of the landscape significance of the site and the likely impact of development. These policies could further be supported with a clause that requires development proposals to be sensitively accommodated within the landscape, with proposals not supported if potential impacts on landscape cannot be adequately mitigated through design and landscaping.
- Policies SG2 and SG3 could also be improved by requiring development proposals to demonstrate and achieve environmental net gain. It is further recommended that the policies include a clause for sustainable drainage systems to seek to maximise opportunities to support wildlife and biodiversity by creating suitable habitats.
- Policy SG3 could be further strengthened by requiring planting along the southern boundary to be native species and to be in accordance with the local landscape character.
- Policy SG5 (Housing Mix) could be strengthened by quantifying the size and type of housing mix that will be supported for new housing developments within the policy wording (including provision for custom and self-build units subject to local need). It is further recommended that the policy allows development proposals the option to deviate from the requirement set when supported with a housing needs assessment that demonstrates a local unmet need for the proposed housing mix. This should ensure the policy is flexible to changes in housing need in the long term.
- Policy SG5 (Housing Mix) states that 'Development proposals for 10 or more dwellings should address the need for smaller and/or low-cost homes'. This provides proposals with options to

either address the need for smaller homes or low-cost homes which results in potential positive effects not being realised. It is recommended that the policy wording is amended to remove the option for development to choose between the options. The policy should instead quantify any requirements for smaller homes and affordable housing (which should accord with any requirement set in Policy SG6).

- Policy SG10 (Public Rights of Way Network) could be improved by adding a clause that requires development to 'protect and/or enhance the value of the rights of way as a biodiversity corridor'.
- Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) could be strengthened to require development proposals to demonstrate and achieve environmental net gain, guided by the principles set out in the NPPF (2019) and the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (2018).
- Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) could be improved by affording protection to all known BAP Priority Habitats in the Stoke Golding NDP area including but not limited to the following: Traditional Orchards at Highfield Farm; Deciduous Woodland south of Pine Close Solar Farm; Deciduous Woodlands east of Stoke Road; Deciduous Woodland east of St Martin Academy; and Deciduous Woodland south of St George's Farm.
- Policy SG13 (Renewable Energy) could be strengthened and positive effects can be ensured by requiring development proposals for solar photovoltaic farms to not result in harm to important landscape features, to require all proposals to be accompanied with a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and by requiring the restoration of land to result in a net improvement in the landscape quality of the site, where feasible and appropriate.
- Policy SG13 (Renewable Energy) could further be strengthened by requiring all renewable energy proposals to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity. The policy could go further to suggest measures such as boundary hedge and tree planting and wildflower planting underneath and between panels on sites not proposed to be used for agriculture, subject to no adverse effects on landscape character.
- Policy SG14 (Features of Local Heritage Interest) should seek to afford greater protection to the identified features of local heritage interest by setting out a presumption against the loss or harm to the heritage asset unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development proposal significantly outweighs the harm caused. The policy should further require development proposals to achieve enhancements to the significance of these heritage assets including their setting.
- Policy SG15 (Design) could be improved by defining the area that is considered as the 'Historic Core'. It is further recommended that the protection afforded to the 'Historic Core' is extended to all development in the Conservation Areas and their settings.
- It is considered that the Stoke Golding NDP could be positively improved through a new policy or by revising Policy SG15 (Design) to support the protection and enhancement of heritage assets and features and their setting. The policy should require development proposals within or in proximity to the Stoke Golding Conservation Area and/or the Ashby Canal Conservation Area to demonstrate how it will positively conserve and enhance the unique characteristics of its location as identified in respective Conservation Area appraisals. For development proposals in or within the setting of the Registered Battlefield, these should demonstrate how they would conserve and where possible enhance the significance of the designation and its setting with reference to the Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward report<sup>2</sup> and any other evidence available.

It is recommended that the policy requires development proposals in the wider Parish to demonstrate how they will respect heritage assets and their setting and enhance the character of the area. The policy should set out a presumption against the loss or harm to any heritage asset unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development proposal significantly outweighs the harm caused. Significant harm or the loss of Listed buildings and the Schedule Monument should only be supported in wholly exceptional circumstances. The

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<sup>2</sup> Alison Farmer Associates / Leicestershire County Council (2013) Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward.



policy should further require development proposals to demonstrate enhancements to the significance of heritage assets including their setting.

It is also recommended that the policy requires development proposals that affect a heritage designation or its setting to be accompanied with a Heritage Statement to identify the heritage assets, provide a clear assessment of its significance, an appraisal of the likely impact of the proposal on the heritage assets and their setting and to justify the design approach undertaken including how opportunities for conserving and enhancing the heritage assets and their setting has been capitalised.

- Policy SG19 (Infrastructure) could be improved by setting out the scale of development that is expected to contribute towards new or improved infrastructure.
- Policy SG19 (Infrastructure) requires that 'contributions are governed by the provisions of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010'. Under CIL regulations, the only organisation authorised to levy is a local planning authority. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council do not currently have a CIL in place and do not currently intend to implement a CIL. Therefore, it is unclear how the CIL regulations could be applicable to the Stoke Golding NDP. It is recommended that the policy is amended to support contributions through alternative mechanisms such as through Section 106 agreements.
- Policy SG20 (Tourism) could be strengthened by requiring development proposals that fall outside of the settlement boundary for new tourism facilities associated with Bosworth Battlefield and Ashby Canal to be supported with a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The policy can further be strengthened by setting out a requirement for development proposals to not result in significant harm to landscape character.

It is considered that the above changes would help to improve the performance of the Plan.

## Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
A <b>significant positive effect</b> is predicted for population and housing as the Plan will contribute towards meeting local housing needs in accessible locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net housing completions per annum</li> <li>• Number of homes for older people</li> <li>• Affordable housing target achievement</li> </ul>

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. Stoke Golding Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the sustainable future growth of the parish. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Stoke Golding NDP on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1.1.2. The NDP is being prepared in the context of the adopted and emerging Local Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. Relevant documents of the adopted Local Plan consist of the **Core Strategy DPD**<sup>3</sup> (2009) and **Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD**<sup>4</sup> (2016).
- 1.1.3. The NDP will form part of the development plan for the Stoke Golding area in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, alongside the Local Plan. NDPs are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the Neighbourhood Planning process where appropriate.
- 1.1.4. The Key information relating to the Stoke Golding NDP is presented in the table below (**Table 1.1**).

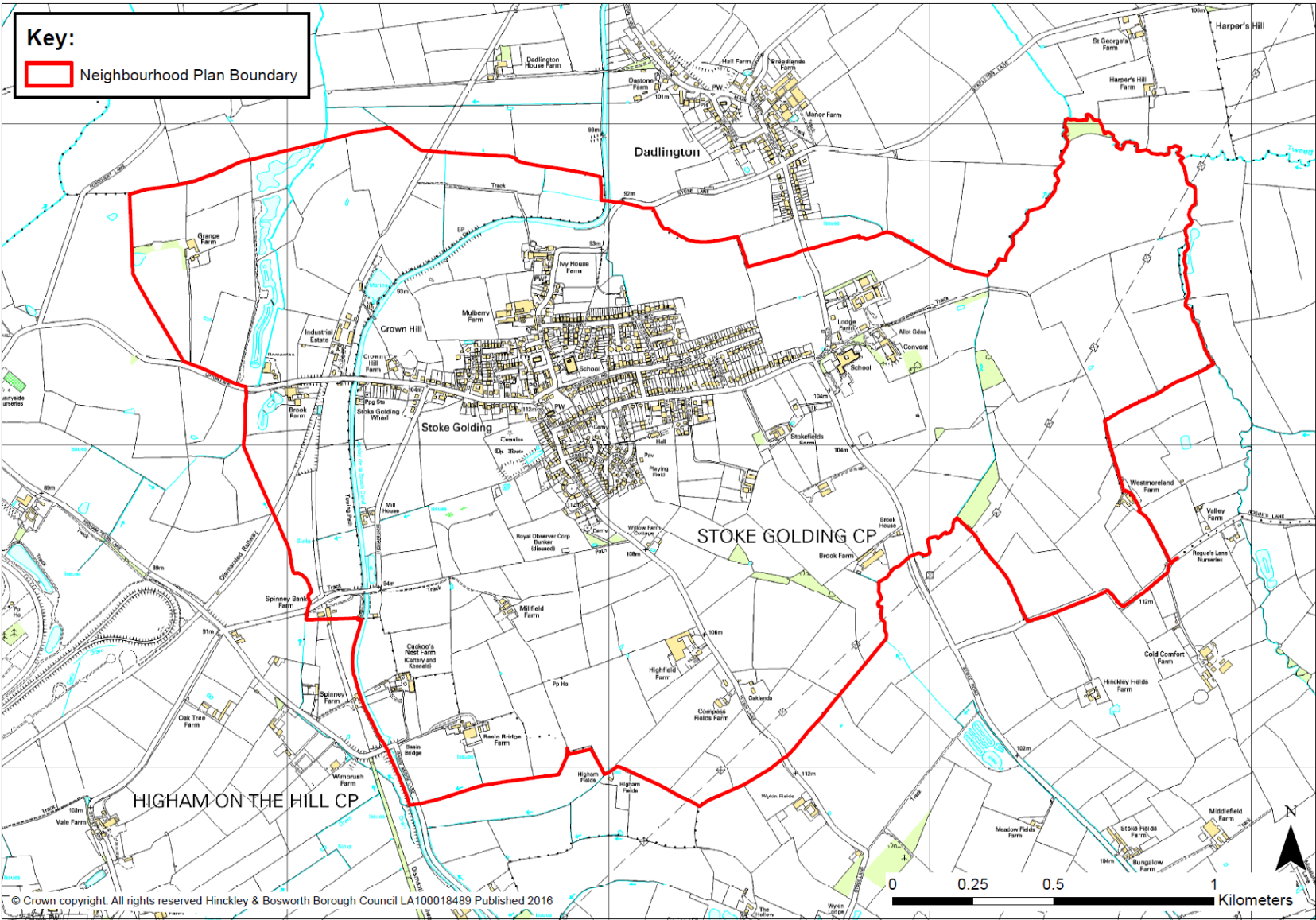
**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the NDP for Stoke Golding**

<b>Name of Responsible Authority</b>	Stoke Golding Parish Council
<b>Title of Plan</b>	Stoke Golding NDP
<b>Subject</b>	Neighbourhood Planning
<b>Purpose</b>	The Stoke Golding NDP is being prepared as a NDP under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the adopted and emerging Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Plans.
<b>Timescale</b>	To 2036
<b>Area covered by the plan</b>	The NDP area covers the whole of Stoke Golding Parish in Leicestershire together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill. The NDP area is shown in Figure 1.1.
<b>Summary of content</b>	The Stoke Golding NDP will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the NDP area.
<b>Plan contact point</b>	Mervyn Ward  Email address: mervyn.ward@btinternet.com

<sup>3</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009) Core Strategy DPD [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework/400/core\\_strategy](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework/400/core_strategy)

<sup>4</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2016) Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework/426/site\\_allocations\\_and\\_generic\\_development\\_control\\_policies-development\\_plan\\_document](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework/426/site_allocations_and_generic_development_control_policies-development_plan_document)

Figure 1.1: The Stoke Golding NDP Area



## 1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1. The Stoke Golding NDP was 'screened-in' as requiring an SEA. The Screening Report (2020) identifies potential for significant environmental effects to occur from the implementation of the NDP that have not been considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Review. Specifically, these environmental effects relate to the potential for significant effects on the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 and Stoke Golding Conservation Area from housing allocations.
- 1.2.2. SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the Stoke Golding NDP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.3. The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.2.4. The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.2.5. In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:
  - What is the scope of the SEA?
  - What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?
    - 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised for the plan.
  - What are the appraisal findings at this stage?
    - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
  - What happens next?
- 1.2.6. These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present 'the information to be provided within the report'. **Table 1.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

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<sup>5</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

## 1.3 Structure of this Environmental Report

- 1.3.1. This document is the Environmental Report for the Stoke Golding NDP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations.
- 1.3.2. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

**Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory<sup>6</sup> requirements**

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... <sup>7</sup>
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</li> </ul>
What is the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant environmental protection <b>objectives</b>, established at international or national level</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
<b>What's the scope of the SEA?</b>	What is the environmental 'baseline'?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan</li> <li>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
	What are the key issues & objectives?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key <b>problems/issues</b> and <b>objectives</b> that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment</li> </ul>
<b>What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the <b>alternatives</b> dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach)</li> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>alternatives</b></li> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of <b>alternatives</b> appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the assessment findings at this stage?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>the draft plan</b></li> <li>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing <b>the draft plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>What happens next?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next steps for plan making/SEA process.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

<sup>7</sup> NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.



## 1.4 Local Plan context for the Stoke Golding NDP

- 1.4.1. The Stoke Golding NDP area falls within borough of Hinckley and Bosworth. The adopted Local Plan relevant to the NDP area consists of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy DPD (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016). The adopted Local Plan is for the period of 2006-2026 and the Stoke Golding NDP has been prepared in the context of this plan. However, Hinckley and Bosworth have started a local plan review which is at the call for sites stage. The new local plan will be for the period of 2016-2036 and will supersede the current Local Plan once prepared and adopted.
- 1.4.2. The adopted Local Plan Core Strategy designates Stoke Golding as a 'Key Rural Centre'. Rural Centres are defined as '*villages that have populations over 1500 people, have a primary school, local shop, post office, GP, community/leisure facilities, employment and a 6 day a week bus service (hourly). Key Rural Centres that provide localised provision of facilities permit access by foot, cycle and local bus and can minimise car journeys not only for those people who are living in the Key Rural Centres, but also the rural villages and hamlets surrounding these centres*'.<sup>8</sup>
- 1.4.3. In terms of housing need and delivery, the Local Plan Core Strategy sets out a housing requirement of 60 homes for Stoke Golding between the period 2006-2026. The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD advises that '*the residual minimum housing requirement of Stoke Golding, as of 1 September 2014 has been met and as such no sites are required to be allocated for further residential development in Stoke Golding*'. Therefore, it is considered that Stoke Golding does not have an unmet housing need for the period 2006-2026.
- 1.4.4. The Stoke Golding NDP is being prepared for the period 2020 to 2039 to align with the plan period of the new Local Plan. The amount of homes required for Stoke Golding in the new Local Plan (2016-2036) has not yet been established. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018) sets out a growth strategy for the local enterprise partnership area and allocates a housing requirement of 454 homes per annum for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough in the period 2011-2036.
- 1.4.5. The annual housing requirement of 454 homes per annum between 2011-2036 is considered similar to the 450 homes per annum previously required for the Borough in the Local Plan Core Strategy for the period 2006-2026. Therefore, the Stoke Golding NDP sets a housing target of 60 homes for the NDP area over the period 2020-2039, which accords with the target previously set for the NDP area in the Local Plan Core Strategy (for the period 2006-2026). The Stoke Golding NDP outlines that a combination of committed and delivered developments since 2011 have met the outstanding housing need up to 2039 for Stoke Golding. Therefore, it is considered that Stoke Golding does not have an unmet housing need for the period 2020-2039.

## 1.5 Vision for the Stoke Golding Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 1.5.1. The vision statement for the Stoke Golding NDP, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

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“ Stoke Golding in 2036: A vibrant rural community set in attractive countryside with a strong sense of local identity. ”

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Stoke Golding NDP vision statement

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<sup>8</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (2006).

1.5.2. To support the Neighbourhood Plan's vision statement, the Stoke Golding NDP sets out a number of objectives, as follows:

- Strategic housing requirement is met in a way that reflects local needs;
- Improved local employment and tourism opportunities;
- Local services and facilities are protected and improved;
- The unique character and heritage of Stoke Golding is conserved;
- Important green spaces are protected;
- The character and beauty of the countryside and its natural environment are safeguarded; and
- Important views and valued landscapes are protected.

## 2. The Scope of the SEA

### 2.1 SEA Scoping Report

- 2.1.1. The SEA Regulations require that: “*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.<sup>9</sup> These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Stoke Golding NDP SEA for a 5 week period from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- 2.1.2. The purpose of scoping was to outline the key issues that the SEA should focus on through setting out:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the NDP;
  - Baseline data against which the NDP can be assessed;
  - The key sustainability / environmental issues for the NDP; and
  - An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the NDP can be assessed.
- 2.1.3. All statutory consultees provided a response to the Scoping Report. The comments made and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 2.1** below.

**Table 2.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report**

Statutory Consultees	How the response was considered and addressed
Environment Agency	No comment
Natural England	Natural England advised that the SSSI is particularly sensitive to residential dwellings of 100 or more dwellings outside of existing settlements. This has been considered in the appraisal.
Historic England	<p>Historic England advised that they expect the Strategic Environment Assessment to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets.</p> <p>They also expect the Environmental Assessment to consider the potential impacts on non-designated features of historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest, since these can also be of national importance and make an important contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of an area and its sense of place.</p> <p>This has been considered in the appraisal.</p>

<sup>9</sup> In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘*by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme*’.

## 2.2 Key sustainability / environmental issues

- 2.2.1. The full Scoping Report is attached as Appendix C to this report. This section sets out a summary of the key issues that were identified through scoping.
- 2.2.2. Drawing on the review of the policy context and baseline information, the SEA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability / environmental issues that should be a particular focus of SEA.
- 2.2.3. The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>10</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from the screening opinion and local knowledge).
- 2.2.4. The scoping process allowed for some sustainability topics to be 'scoped out'; as it was considered the Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on certain factors. Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England have not raised any concerns in regards the scoping out of any sustainability topics.
- 2.2.5. The following environmental themes present the sustainability / environmental issues identified at the scoping stage with their scoping outcome:

### Air quality

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the NDP area. Air quality in Stoke Golding parish is generally good, with no significant issues identified.
- Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase emissions and reduce air quality in the area; however, air pollution is at a low baseline so effects are unlikely to be significant given the magnitude of effects involved. Environment Agency have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

### Biodiversity

- The Kendall's Meadow SSSI is in close proximity to the NDP area.
- There are no NNR, LNR, SACs, SPAs, pSPAs or Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the NDP area.
- The NDP area contains Priority Habitat areas of Deciduous Woodland, Traditional Orchard, Lowland Meadows and Lowland Raised Bog.
- A Local Wildlife Site falls within the NDP area.

### SCOPED IN

### Climatic Factors

- The Plan is not going to set standards relating to energy efficiency or low carbon technology. The Plan is also not likely to lead to significant emissions above the baseline position. Statutory consultees have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

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<sup>10</sup> The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, **including on issues such as** biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

### Flood Risk

- The NDP area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although linear stretches of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs along water courses and bodies to the east and west. Areas that fall in Flood Zone 2 and 3 are not contiguous with the built settlement area of Stoke Golding and thus unlikely to support development that may have adverse effects on local flood risk.
- There is potential for surface water flooding to occur across the NDP area, although areas susceptible to this are scattered between areas with low risk and effects can be mitigated.
- The Environment Agency have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

### Historic Environment

- The NDP area contains a considerable number of heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Structures, a conservation area and a schedule monument, which could be affected by policies and proposals within the plan (either positively or negatively).
- An insensitive approach that does not seek to conserve and enhance heritage assets could result in the erosion of the townscape quality.

### SCOPED IN

### Landscape

- The landscape is predominantly gently rolling and low lying and has limited tree cover.
- Development Plan policies offer some protection to landscape assets and their settings but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.

### SCOPED IN

### Waste

- A range of kerbside waste and recycling services are provided by the Council. The Plan is unable to influence issues in relation to waste to a significant extent. Key issues relating to waste will be to ensure adequate access for waste collection, and storage that does not affect the street scene. The statutory consultees have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

### Minerals

- The NDP area does not fall within a Minerals Safeguarding Area or Consultation Areas. Therefore, the plan does not pose any sterilisation risk to mineral resources and it is unlikely that any resources can be recovered. The statutory consultees have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

### Land, Soil and Water Resources

- The NDP area consists of mainly Grade 3 agricultural land. There is also a sizable area of Grade 2 land. These are categorised as best and most versatile. However,

the total loss of land is unlikely to exceed 10ha (given the scale of growth likely to be involved in any site allocations), and so a significant effect upon soil resources is considered unlikely in any event.

- The Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal runs in a circular direction from the north to the south west of the NDP area.
- The NDP area falls within the S308 - River Trent Surface Waters NVZ. The scale of growth likely is not major and changes to land use would not be anticipated to increase nitrate pollution.
- The statutory consultees have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT

#### Population and Housing

- The population of Stoke Golding village has increased by 13.5% between 2011 and 2018.
- Net completion trends in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough currently exceed the local housing need but the trend over the last 5 years indicate a decline in housing delivery. Average house prices in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough are considerably lower than the national average and have decreased by 1.7% over the last year.
- Local housing need for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is identified as 457 dwellings per annum.

### SCOPED IN

#### Health and Wellbeing

- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough has a broadly healthy population with higher than national average life expectancy. The NDP area has lower than average levels of deprivation when compared to areas nationally and also across the borough.
- There are several health and recreational facilities within the NDP area.
- Increased population growth will require additional provision for health and recreational facilities. Additional provision could be delivered through developer contributions.

### SCOPED IN

#### Transportation

- The NDP area is served by a network of highways that connect it to nearby settlements and the national highway network. Stoke Golding does not have a railway station and has limited bus connectivity. Local residents in the NDP area are significantly more likely to travel by car than people nationally.
- New development is likely to improve the viability of public transport, but this is unlikely to be significant. The Plan is not likely to generate additional traffic and movement in the NDP area to an extent that would have significant effects.
- The statutory consultees have not raised any concerns on the scoping out of this objective.

### SCOPED OUT



## 2.3 SEA Framework

- 2.3.1. The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics.
- 2.3.2. The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which has been used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).
- 2.3.3. **Table 2.2** outlines the full SEA Framework, which focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can/will have in some areas.
- 2.3.4. These issues were then translated into an 'SEA Framework'. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

**Table 2.2: The SEA Framework for Stoke Golding NDP**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
<b>1. Biodiversity</b>  Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support connections between habitats in the Plan area?</li> <li>Avoid impacts on the Kendall's Meadow SSSI?</li> <li>Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the NDP area?</li> <li>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?</li> <li>Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the NDP area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Historic Environment</b>  Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>Contribute to better management of heritage assets?</li> <li>Avoid adverse effects on the Battle of Bosworth Registered Battlefield?</li> <li>Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
<b>3. Landscape</b>  Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets?</li> <li>Contribute to better management of landscape assets?</li> <li>Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?</li> <li>Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Population and Housing</b>  Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs?</li> <li>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?</li> <li>Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> <li>Enhance housing provision in existing communities?</li> </ul>

## **5. Health and Wellbeing**

Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote accessibility and availability to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all community groups?
- Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles?

### 3. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1. In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include:
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
  - The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.
- 3.1.2. The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Stoke Golding NDP has been informed by an assessment of alternative site options.

#### 3.2 Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken

- 3.2.1. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council formally designated the whole of Stoke Golding parish and some area beyond the parish boundary as an NDP area in June 2016.
- 3.2.2. Since designation, the NDP Steering Group have gathered a range of evidence and undertaken significant consultation with local communities and other key stakeholders to identify the issues and opportunities that need to be addressed in the NDP. This has included a site identification and assessment process.
- 3.2.3. The first step in the SEA process was the development of a Scoping Report, which was published for consultation in July 2020. The SEA process is being delivered by AECOM as part of the Locality Technical Support Programme.
- 3.2.4. AECOM has worked alongside the NDP steering group to identify and appraise any reasonable alternatives, to ensure that the SEA helps to inform the approaches and policies within the draft Plan.

#### 3.3 Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.3.1. A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the Stoke Golding NDP. The SEA Regulations<sup>11</sup> are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.
- 3.3.2. Alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the housing growth targets and the location of housing to be delivered. This section describes how the SEA process has informed the proposed development strategy for the NDP.

##### Housing growth targets

- 3.3.3. Overall housing numbers (targets) are primarily the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The Stoke Golding NDP is being prepared for the period 2020 to 2039 to align with the plan period of the new Local Plan. The amount of homes required for Stoke Golding in the new Local Plan (2016-2036) has not yet been established by the Local Planning Authority.
- 3.3.4. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018) sets out a growth strategy for the local enterprise partnership area and allocates a housing requirement of 454 homes per annum for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough in the period 2011-2036. The annual housing requirement of 454 homes per annum between 2011-2036 is considered similar to the 450

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<sup>11</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

homes per annum previously required for the Borough in the Local Plan Core Strategy for the period 2006-2026.

- 3.3.5. The Stoke Golding NDP therefore sets a housing target of 60 homes for the NDP area over the period 2020-2039, which accords with the target previously set for the NDP area in the Local Plan Core Strategy (for the period 2006-2026).
- 3.3.6. The Stoke Golding NDP outlines that a combination of committed and delivered developments since 2011 have met the outstanding housing need up to 2036 for the NDP area. Therefore, it is considered that Stoke Golding does not have an unmet housing need for the period 2020-2039.
- 3.3.7. Despite the identified housing need already being met during the Neighbourhood Plan period (2020-2039), the Parish Council is keen to continue meeting the challenge of housing delivery and as such seeks to allocate housing sites that will help to exceed these needs. The NDP therefore proposes a housing growth target of 25 dwellings for the period to 2036. This housing target has been discussed with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, but the Council has suggested that a reserve housing site is also allocated to meet any additional unmet housing need in the borough which cannot be met sustainably elsewhere in the borough.
- 3.3.8. One alternative to housing growth would be to not allocate any sites, and to rely upon existing commitments, windfall development and any site allocations made through the Local Plan process. However, a key objective of the NDP is to influence the location and type of housing development that is secured in Stoke Golding. Therefore, this approach is considered to be unreasonable.
- 3.3.9. A second alternative would be to pursue a higher growth strategy by allocating more housing through the NDP. Whilst this can provide a wider range of choice and flexibility in delivering additional housing, there is no evidence to justify higher levels of housing growth. The housing target of 25 homes has also been discussed with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, who have not raised any concerns on the housing figure. Therefore, this alternative is also considered to be unreasonable.
- 3.3.10. Taking the above into account, it is concluded that there are no reasonable alternatives to the level of growth proposed through the NDP at this stage.

#### Site Allocations

- 3.3.11. The Stoke Golding NDP proposes to allocate one site to meet the local housing needs, a housing reserve site to meet any additional housing need that may arise in the future. The NDP also seeks to safeguard an employment site, to afford greater protection to an employment designation in the Local Plan Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.
- 3.3.12. In order to identify potential site options for housing allocation the Parish Council firstly looked to the SHELAA (2018). The SHELAA includes 12 sites that fall within the NDP area. The Parish Council subsequently identified Site 1 (Mulberry Farm) as part of the site is identified as an 'Improvement Area' in the Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal<sup>12</sup>, Site 2 (White Swan) from a planning application and Site 16 (corner of Hinckley Road) as this site was submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in a more recent but unpublished SHELAA and thus does not feature in the SHELAA 2018. All landowners were contacted to confirm the availability of sites. At this point, Site 12 was considerably enlarged by the landowner (and assessed as Site 13). The 16 site options identified by the Parish Council are presented in **Table 3.1** and **Figure 3.1**.

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<sup>12</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2013) Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal.

**Table 3.1: Sites identified by the Parish Council and assessed as reasonable alternatives for the SEA**

AECOM Ref	SHELAA Ref	Site Address	Gross Area (Hectares)	Indicative Capacity <sup>13</sup>	Source
Site 1	-	Mulberry Farm.	2.10ha	52	'Improvement Area' in Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal.
Site 2	-	White Swan.	0.55ha	14	Planning Application (19/01244/FUL)
Site 3	LPR51	Land opposite Ivy House Farm, High Street.	1.34ha	33	SHELAA (2018)
Site 4	AS542	Land rear of 58 High Street.	0.82ha	20	SHELAA (2018)
Site 5	AS543	Land to the rear of 21-57 Roseway.	1.29ha	32	SHELAA (2018)
Site 6	LPR39	Land East of the Roseway.	2.91ha	55	SHELAA (2018)
Site 7	LPR1	West Side of Hinckley Road.	2.60ha	49	SHELAA (2018)
Site 8	AS534	Land South of Station Road between Wykin Lane and Higham Lane	5.94ha	111	SHELAA (2018)
Site 9	AS1028	Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane.	3.23ha	61	SHELAA (2018)
Site 10	AS537	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as AS537).	8.06ha	151	SHELAA (2018)
Site 11	LPR41	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as LPR41)	7.64ha	143	SHELAA (2018)
Site 12	AS539	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	0.70ha	17	SHELAA (2018)
Site 13	-	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	8.32ha	208	Enlargement of Site 12 by landowner.
Site 14	AS540	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Pine Close.	2.75ha	52	SHELAA (2018)
Site 15	AS541	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Stoke Fields Farm.	3.97ha	74	SHELAA (2018)
Site 16	-	Corner of Hinckley Road and Stoke Road.	3.80ha	95	Submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in a more recent but unpublished SHELAA.

3.3.13. The Parish Council subsequently devised a site assessment criteria by extracting and amending criteria from precedent examples of other adopted neighbourhood plans for the assessment of sites in the Stoke Golding NDP. The criteria consist of a RAG scoring system

<sup>13</sup> The indicative housing capacity has been derived from the Hinckley and Bosworth SHELAA (2018). For sites not identified through the SHELAA, a capacity has been calculated based on 25dph in accordance with the SHELAA.

to allow sites to be ranked to identify the most suitable options. This exercise identified the following sites as the most suitable options (ranked in the order of highest Green score):

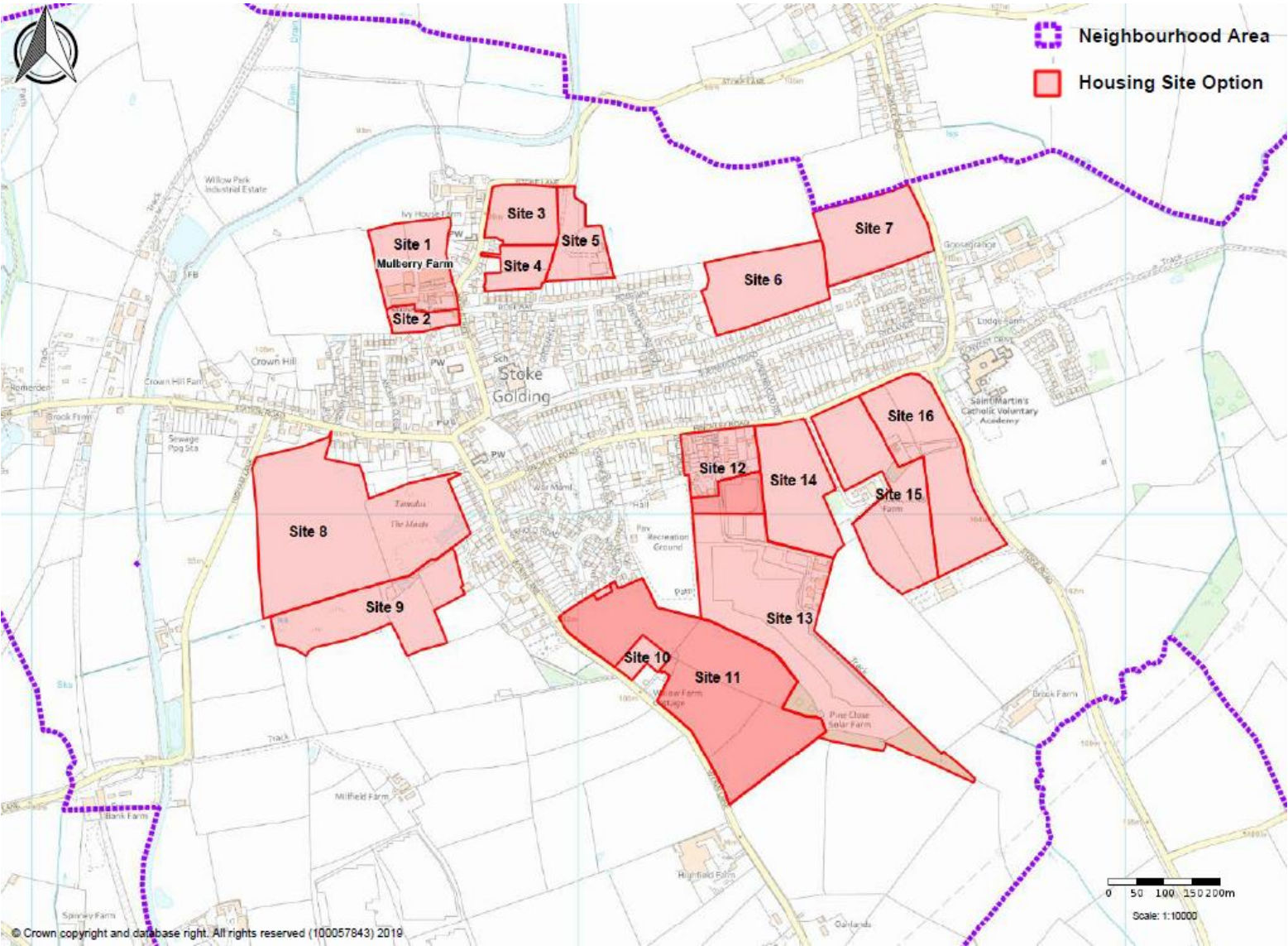
- 1 Site 2 (White Swan)
- 2 Site 1 (Mulberry Farm)
- 3 Site 14 (SHELAA AS540)

3.3.14. To support the consideration of the suitability of these sites, the SEA process has undertaken an appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the sixteen sites and potential effects that may arise as a result of housing development at these locations. In this context the sites have been considered in relation to the SEA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during SEA scoping (see Section 2.3) and the baseline information. The site appraisal criteria is set out in **Appendix A**.

3.3.15. **Table 3.2** below present a summary of this appraisal and provides an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the five SEA objectives. Detailed site assessment proformas are presented in **Appendix B**.



Figure 3.1: Sites identified by the Parish Council and assessed as reasonable alternatives for the SEA



**Table 3.2: Summary of SEA site appraisal findings**

SEA Site Assessment Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Biodiversity</b>																
Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.																
Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.																
<b>Historic Environment</b>																
Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.																
<b>Landscape</b>																
Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.																
Visibility of the site from public vantage points.																
<b>Population and Housing</b>																
Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.																
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>																
Proximity to green/ open space.																
Proximity to active transport network.																
Proximity to healthcare facility.																

	Positive
	Neutral
	Less Favourable
	Negative

### Biodiversity

- 3.3.16. The site options do not fall within an Impact Risk Zone that would trigger the requirement to consult Natural England for housing development of 25 units. Therefore, site options are not considered to have adverse effects on the Kendall Meadow SSSI.
- 3.3.17. All site options contain hedgerow, shrubs or trees that have potential to be of biodiversity value. Notably, Sites 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 16 are subdivided by rows of hedgerow and trees that likely provide important ecological connections between habitats, which can potentially be disturbed as a result of development. However, such effects can be avoided through sensitive design and through the allocation of a smaller area of the site that is proportionate to meet or partially meet the housing target.
- 3.3.18. The access to Site 9 is reliant on a narrow track that runs adjacent to a Traditional Orchard priority habitat. It is also likely that the development of Site 9 would require an improved access that could potentially infringe and result in the partial loss of the priority habitat. Sites 8 and 9 are adjacent to the Traditional Orchard priority habitat and therefore their development is likely to undermine ecological connectivity and could result in harm to the ecological importance of this habitat, although development also provides opportunities for these sites to create new habitats that could enhance its ecological significance.
- 3.3.19. Whilst Site 13 includes and Sites 10 and 11 are adjacent to an area of deciduous woodland, the priority habitat is to the south of Site 13 and south east of Sites 10 and 11. Therefore, development at a scale to meet the housing target in the northern part of the sites that relate to the built-up area could likely be accommodated with appropriate mitigation measures and distance to avoid any adverse effects on the woodland. Similarly, Site 7, 15 and 16 fall within 300m of priority habitats but are less likely to have adverse effects on these habitats due to built development and breakages in natural spaces between the site and the priority habitat.

### Historic Environment

- 3.3.20. The potential for development on site options to have impacts on heritage features and the distinct character of Stoke Golding varies significantly. Most site options are not predicted to have impacts on designated heritage assets, although many of these sites (Sites 7, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16) include historic Ridge and Furrow features that would be lost as a result of development. A number of site options also fall within the Stoke Golding Conservation Area or adjacent to listed or locally listed buildings. Whilst development on these sites have potential to cause harm, impacts on these heritage designations can likely be effectively avoided or mitigated through sensitive design.
- 3.3.21. The eastern part of Site 8 falls within the Hlaew and medieval farmstead Schedule Monument including its current access from Main Street. However, it is likely that an access to the site can be delivered off Higham Lane and sensitive proportionate development to the north of the site can avoid potential adverse effects on the Schedule Monument and its setting.
- 3.3.22. The north west of Stoke Golding parish falls within the falls within the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 area including Site 1 and the western part of Site 2. Site 1 contains a cluster of c.1950s agricultural buildings to the south that do not accord with the character of the Battlefield and presents an opportunity to enhance the character of the Registered Battlefield and its setting if developed sensitively to the agricultural context of the area. However, development on the northern part of the site would infringe onto the Registered Battlefield and subsequently cause irreversible harm to a sensitive part of the battlefield considered as the location of the final act of the battle where Henry VII was crowned.<sup>14</sup> Similarly, development on the western part of Site 2 would also result in irreversible harm through the loss of the Registered Battlefield, although development on the eastern part of the site is unlikely to result in significant adverse effects due to its enclosed character around built environment.

### Landscape

- 3.3.23. With limited opportunities for infilling in Stoke Golding, most site options are likely to result in some harm to the landscape character of the village through the extension of the built-up area and from visibility from public vantage points. Notably, development on Sites 3 and 9

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<sup>14</sup> Alison Farmer Associates / Leicestershire County Council (2013) Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward.

would involve gaps between development and the built-up area of Stoke Golding, which could make development appear as an intrusion into the countryside potentially causing significant harm to landscape character. Site 7 falls within an area of land that provides an important gap in the built-up area between Stoke Golding and Dadlington. Development on this site would result in the partial infilling of this gap and create a stronger sense of coalescence between these settlements, adversely affecting their built and landscape character.

- 3.3.24. On the contrary, Site 2 falls within the built-up area of Stoke Golding with built development to the north, east and south of the site. The site also has a strong definitive boundary to the west which restricts the visibility of the site from vantage points and ensures development does not appear as a significant change to the built and landscape character of the village.
- 3.3.25. Site 1 includes a cluster of agricultural buildings to the south which are adjacent to the built-up area of Stoke Golding and two fields with extensive views from the north and west. There is potential for the redevelopment of the 1950s agricultural buildings to enhance landscape character through sensitive development that is in-keeping with the character of the wider landscape (including the landscape character of the Registered Battlefield). However, development on the northern part of the site is likely to appear as an intrusion of built development into the countryside, would be prominent in the landscape and would infringe on the Registered Battlefield undermining its openness and historic landscape character.

#### Population and Housing

- 3.3.26. Stoke Golding is served by a key bus route to the south of the village along Station Road via Nuneaton, Main Street, Hinckley Road and Stoke Road towards Hinckley. Therefore, sites in the north west of Stoke Golding broadly have poorer access to transport, although most are within a walkable distance. These sites also score poorly for health facilities with the GP surgery being located to the south of Stoke Golding. Similarly, with Site 6 being accessed via Roseway to the west of the village, the site is poorly connected to transport, health and social facilities and green infrastructure. Otherwise, most site options are well located to meet community needs.

#### Health and Wellbeing

- 3.3.27. All site options broadly perform well in regard to the health and wellbeing objective. Stoke Golding is well served by green and open spaces and therefore all site options fall within 300m of at least one green and open space, except for Site 6 which falls within 500m of such spaces which is also considered to be reasonable. All sites other than Site 6 also benefit from good access to active transport networks including the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal for sites in the north west and a bridleway off Hinckley Road for sites to the south. Healthcare facilities in Stoke Golding consist of a GP surgery on Pine Close to the south of the village. Whilst site options to the north west of Stoke Golding score poorly for access to healthcare facilities, the site furthest (Site 5) to the GP surgery is approximately 1.1km whilst utilising the PROW off High Street, and therefore whilst not ideal it is still within a walkable distance.

#### Summary

- 3.3.28. Site 12 is considered to perform the best against the SEA objectives as the site is likely to have broadly positive effects on objectives other than Historic Environment for which a neutral effect is predicted. Similarly, Site 14 is also considered to perform well against the SEA objectives. Whilst the site does not fall within the built-up area of Stoke Golding, a proportionate development of the northern part of the site is likely to accord well with the existing built-up area with limited effects on landscape character and its openness.
- 3.3.29. Site 2 broadly performs well against the SEA objectives other than it being slightly distant to the local GP surgery and its potential to cause harm to the Registered Battlefield, Stoke Golding Conservation Area and other historic features from unsensitive development. However, within the western part of the site falling within the Registered Battlefield, the development capacity of the site without causing irreversible harm and thus significant negative effects on the Historic Environment is constrained to 0.2ha (5 dwellings).
- 3.3.30. Whilst Site 1 is prominent in the landscape and falls within a Registered Battlefield, the southern part of the site is developed and includes c.1950s agricultural buildings that are not considered to be in-keeping with the historic, built and landscape character. Therefore, whilst the allocation of the site as a whole could cause significant harm, a smaller site allocation

covering the existing developed area of the site could result in enhancements to the character and setting of local historic features and the landscape character, making the site favourable against the SEA objectives.

3.3.31. Other site options are considered to perform less favourably against the SEA objectives.

#### Outline reasons for the selection or rejection of site options

3.3.32. The Parish Council seeks to allocate the developed part of Site 1 for housing and part of Site 14 as a housing reserve site. Although it is noted that Site 1 does not perform as well compared to some other options against the SEA objectives. The site has been selected due to: overwhelming public support for its allocation during consultation; because the removal and redevelopment of farm buildings meets a key issue identified in a Household Survey to residents for new housing development to be on previously developed land; and because the site has been identified as an 'improvement area' in the Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal and thus its redevelopment presents opportunities for enhancements to the built environment.

3.3.33. The Parish Council initially intended to allocate the fields north of the cluster of agricultural buildings at Mulberry Farm as a reserve housing site. However, it was identified that allocating the fields could potentially cause significant harm to heritage designations, in particular the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485. Therefore, a small area of Site 14 that adjoins the built area of Stoke Golding has been proposed for allocation, as the site has the next highest-ranking following Site 1 in the site assessment exercise undertaken by the Parish Council.

3.3.34. Outline reasons for the selection or rejection of site options are set out in **Table 3.3** below.

**Table 3.3: Outline reasons for selection or rejection**

Ref	Location	Rationale
1	Mulberry Farm.	<p>This site is rated 2<sup>nd</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council but subsequently became the preferred site. The poultry farm is largely derelict and contains various farm buildings. Although the site lies within the Stoke Golding Conservation Area and the Registered Battlefield, the site is identified in the Conservation Area Management Plan as an 'improvement area'.</p> <p>The allocated housing site comprises the existing built-up area of the farm buildings. Redevelopment broadly reflect the local community's preference for new housing development to be focussed on smaller, previously developed sites.</p> <p>The site scores poorly for its walking distances to the doctors, village hall and the recreation ground which are on the other side of the village. This is offset by its proximity to the countryside.</p> <p>The initial site offered was too large and was divided into a main and reserve site. The reserve site was later determined to have very significant conservation issues and was replaced as reserve site by an alternative (Site 14).</p>
2	White Swan.	<p>This site is rated 1<sup>st</sup> with no red ratings in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. The site is considered to make good use of the land in the village and to not have impacts on the landscape. However, in the due diligence exercise undertaken (after the site assessment), serious concerns on the allocation of the site was raised by the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Conservation. Development to the rear of The White Swan PH would have an adverse impact on heritage assets, particularly the Battlefield, Conservation Area and the PH which is a local heritage feature.</p>



3	Land opposite Ivy House Farm, High Street.	This site is ranked 8 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside and have an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views. The site is also identified for protection in the Conservation Area Management Plan and contains Ridge and Furrow features. The site has poor access to recreation ground and other key services and facilities such as healthcare and village hall.
4	Land rear of 58 High Street.	This site is ranked 6 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside and have adverse impacts on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and the Conservation Area. The site has poor access to recreation ground and other key services and facilities such as healthcare and village hall. The site also had narrow and limited access onto High Street.
5	Land to the rear of 21-57 Roseway.	This site is ranked 7 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding. The site also has poor access to recreation ground and other key services and facilities such as healthcare and village hall. The site has no footpath linking the site to village. There is also concern over road traffic.
6	Land East of the Roseway.	The site is ranked 9 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. The site contains the best and most versatile Agricultural Land. The site capacity exceeds the housing provision required. The development of the site will result in the loss of Area of Separation between Stoke Golding and Dadlington. The site will have impacts on landscape and countryside. The site has poor access to the countryside and bus stop are more than 400m away. The site will also have impacts from additional traffic.
7	West Side of Hinckley Road.	The site is ranked 13 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. The site contains best and most versatile Agricultural Land. The site capacity exceeds the housing provision required. The development of the site will result in the loss of Area of Separation between Stoke Golding and Dadlington. The site will have impacts on landscape and countryside and contains Ridge and Furrow features. The site is remote from village centre and has poor access.
8	Land South of Station Road between Wykin Lane and Higham Lane	The site is ranked 11 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views. Adverse impact on setting of Ancient Monument. The site is also within the Conservation Area and the site capacity exceeds housing provision required. Development on the site will result in the loss of Ridge and Furrow features and have an impact on the countryside, particularly trees and hedgerows. The site has poor access to recreation ground and other key services and facilities such as healthcare and village hall.
9	Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane.	The site is ranked 15 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Sited in a field behind existing housing, development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views, as well as the outlook from the existing houses. The development of the site will result in the destruction of trees and hedgerows. The site capacity exceeds the housing provision required. The site consists of a field in open countryside not adjoining a road with no access to the village for cars or pedestrians. Adverse impact on neighbouring Ancient Monument.



10	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as AS537).	The site is ranked as 4 <sup>th</sup> equal in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views. Impact on trees and hedgerows. The site capacity exceeds housing provision. Bus stop are more than 400m away. The site has unsuitable access with traffic issues (entrance to cemetery). The site is also distant from village centre and facilities.
11	Land at Stoke Lane (labelled as LPR41)	The site is also ranked as 4 <sup>th</sup> equal in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views. Impact on trees and hedgerows. The site capacity exceeds housing provision. Bus stop is more than 400m away. The site has unsuitable access with traffic issues (entrance to cemetery). The site is also distant from village centre and facilities.
12	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	The majority of this site has already been developed. The Parish Council approached the landowner to consider the undeveloped part of the site. The site owner subsequently altered their SHELAA submission to cover a much larger area (Site 13). The undeveloped part of the site forms part of Site 13, which has been assessed by the Parish Council.
13	Land at and surrounding Pine Close.	The site is ranked 9 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. The site is in use as a solar farm. Development here would extend the built-up area deeply into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding and important local views. The site is intrusive for neighbouring housing. The site capacity very substantially exceeds housing provision required. The site has unsuitable access for both pedestrian and vehicle.
14	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Pine Close.	The site is ranked 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. After the White Swan site was discounted, this became the new reserve site. The capacity of the whole site exceeds what is required for the housing provision, but the site owners have agreed a division of the site so that only the front section facing onto Hinckley Road would be developed (allowing for approximately 25 homes). The site is away from the village Conservation Area and heritage assets. The impact on landscape setting is low. The site has good pedestrian and vehicle access.
15	Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Stoke Fields Farm.	The site is ranked 14 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development on this site would create a developed area extending deeply into the countryside. Landscape views and scenic setting would be lost. The site contains the best and most versatile Agricultural Land. Mature trees and hedgerows would likely be impacted. The site capacity substantially exceeds housing provision required. The site is isolated from the rest of the settlement having agricultural land to all boundaries except to Hinckley Road to the north. There is no footway to the Hinckley Road frontage. Development of the site will result in the loss of Ridge and Furrow features. The site has poor access to village centre and there is potential for impact on Public Right of Way.
16	Corner of Hinckley Road and Stoke Road.	The site is ranked 12 <sup>th</sup> in the site assessment undertaken by the Parish Council. Development here would extend the built-up area into the countryside with an adverse impact on the landscape setting of Stoke Golding. The site would use some of the best and most versatile land. The site is of ecological value. The northern part of the site comprises a Local Wildlife Site (Grassland) and species of Common mouse-ear can be found. The hedgerow along its eastern

boundary also comprises a Local Wildlife Site. The site may have heritage potential and includes Ridge & furrow features. The size of site substantially exceeds the housing provision required. The site is distant and isolated from the rest of the village. There is no footway to the Hinckley Road frontage. The site has poor access to village centre. Given the proximity to the school, the additional traffic from the site is a concern.

## 4. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1. The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Regulation 14 version of the Stoke Golding NDP.

### 4.2 Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

#### Stoke Golding NDP Policies

##### Housing

SG1 Housing Provision

SG2 Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street

SG3 Housing Reserve Site: Land at Stokesfield Farm

SG4 Infill Housing Development

SG5 Housing Mix

SG6 Affordable Housing

##### Countryside

SG7 Countryside

SG8 Areas of Separation

SG9 Green Infrastructure

SG10 Public Rights of Way Network

SG11 Locally Important Views

SG12 Ecology and Biodiversity

SG13 Renewable Energy

##### Heritage and Design

SG14 Features of Local Heritage Interest

SG15 Design

##### Local Green Spaces

SG16 Local Green Spaces

##### Services and Facilities

SG17 Community Services and Facilities

SG18 Village Centre

SG19 Infrastructure

##### Employment

SG20 Tourism

SG21 Willow Park Industrial Estate

SG22 Business Conversion of Rural Buildings

### 4.3 Approach to the appraisal

- 4.3.1. The appraisal is structured under each of the SEA Objectives that are set out in the SEA Framework.
- 4.3.2. For each Objective, 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.<sup>15</sup> So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and

<sup>15</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

- 4.3.3. Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately. The ability to predict effects accurately is limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

## 4.4 SEA Objective 1: Biodiversity

- 4.4.1. There are no internationally or nationally designated sites within the NDP area; however, Kendall's Meadow Site of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) is located approximately 450m north of the built extent of Stoke Golding. The NDP area does fall within the Kendall's Meadow SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for residential development, requiring Natural England to be consulted for development of 100 or more houses within and 50 or more outside the settlement. As the NDP area seeks to allocate significantly fewer homes, it is therefore considered that the Stoke Golding NDP will not lead to adverse effects on the nationally designated sites.
- 4.4.2. The NDP area contains locally designated sites and a variety of BAP Priority Habitats and Species. These include Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), deciduous woodland, lowland meadows, lowland raised bog and traditional orchards. The Stoke Golding NDP therefore sets out provisions to help limit potential effects of new development on biodiversity interest in the NDP area. Specifically, Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) identifies ecological-rich habitats and designates these as LWS. These include existing LWS but do not include all known BAP Priority Habitats in the NDP area. The policy further requires new development to 'maintain and enhance' the designated LWS and other ecological corridors and sets out priorities for enhancements including the conservation and creation of new BAP Priority Habitats, the creation of connections between habitats of biodiversity interest and tree planting.
- 4.4.3. The NPPF (2019) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by 'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks', with paragraph 32 outlining that local plans and spatial development strategies should demonstrate how opportunities for net gains have been addressed. An environmental net gain principle for development is also embedded within the goals and policies of the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan, which was published in January 2018. While Policy SG12 seeks to maintain and enhance existing ecological-rich habitats, it is considered that the policy could be improved to require biodiversity net-gain for all development proposals, reducing the potential for residual adverse effects on the local environment. Securing net gain can include measures such as connecting development sites to the other ecologically rich sites (including designated LWS), on-site habitat restoration and habitat re-creation.
- 4.4.4. The protection of biodiversity features is further supported by policy provisions which safeguard open spaces. For example, Policy SG16 (Local Green Spaces) designates eleven sites within the NDP area for their special character, recreational and amenity value, with development not permitted 'unless there are very special circumstances which outweigh the harm to the Local Green Space'. In this context, Policy SG9 (Green Infrastructure) protects the Green Infrastructure Network, Policy SG7 (Countryside) protects the countryside and Policy SG8 (Areas of Separation) restrict development on defined sites that form an area of separation between Stoke Golding and Dadlington. The protection of these natural and semi-natural spaces will strengthen locally important areas of biodiversity and aid connectivity through maintaining natural features and ecological corridors.
- 4.4.5. The enhancement of biodiversity features is supported in the plan by requiring new development where appropriate to make off-site financial contributions towards 'the provision of park, amenity greenspace, natural and semi-natural open space, facilities for young people and Green Infrastructure improvements' (Policy SG19: Infrastructure). Policy SG22 (Business Conversion of Rural Buildings) supports adaptation or extension of rural buildings where the 'building is surveyed for protected species and mitigation measures are approved where

necessary'. Such measures should help mitigate potential adverse effects on biodiversity, ecologically-rich habitats and protected species that could be harmed (directly and indirectly) as a result of development.

- 4.4.6. In terms of site allocations, both the Mulberry Farm housing site (Policy SG2) and the Stokesfield Farm housing reserve site (Policy SG3) do not fall within close proximity to sites and designations known to be of biodiversity or ecological significance. These sites are part bounded by established hedges and trees that may have significant ecological value and provide important ecological connectivity to the wider area. However, development is unlikely to result in adverse effects on these habitats as the policies require the retention of hedges and trees that bound these sites. Policy SG3 further requires development on the housing reserve site to implement a landscaping scheme including 'planting along the southern boundary of the site to provide a soft, landscaped edge between the development and the adjoining countryside'. The preservation of existing and planting of new hedges and trees should retain and potentially enhance ecological-rich habitats.
- 4.4.7. Policy SG2 and SG3 require development proposals for the housing site allocations to deliver sustainable drainage systems, but does not provide specific standards and opportunities for these to result in the enhancement of biodiversity. Therefore, this is considered to underpin the positive effects pre-established through such requirements in NPPF and the Local Plan. The Mulberry Farm housing site has a number of old agricultural buildings, some of which are in a poor physical condition and have potential to be supporting protected species. Policy SG2 requires development proposal for the housing site to be supported by an ecological survey including a survey of protected species. Whilst this requirement is pre-established, this policy should help ensure the likelihood and level of presence of protected species and other species onsite is understood from the offset which can support mitigation measures to be considered earlier within the design process.
- 4.4.8. Whilst the measures proposed in Policy SG3 for the housing reserve site have potential to result in an environmental net gain, as discussed previously with reference to Policy SG12, Policies SG2 and SG3 do not set out a principle for development to contribute to environmental net gain as stated within the NPPF and the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan. Therefore, it is unclear if the site allocations would result in enhancements to biodiversity and if potential positive effects on the baseline would be secured.
- 4.4.9. Policy 21 safeguards the Willow Park Industrial Estate for employment use. The site is well-contained and new development on the site is likely to consist of either the replacement of existing buildings or through further intensification on brownfield plots. Therefore, it is unlikely that safeguarding this site for employment would have adverse effect on biodiversity. Furthermore, the policy states 'expansion of existing businesses, together with new employment development within the site will be supported subject to the requirements of the other policies of the Plan'. The NDP sets out a number of measures to protect biodiversity features and important ecological habitats through policies including Policy SG12 should safeguard the dense hedges and trees along the boundary of the site that are likely to be of ecological significance.

#### Overall (cumulative) effects

- 4.4.10. It is considered that the Stoke Golding NDP is predicted to have a **positive effect** on Biodiversity. The NDP seeks to protect a number of natural and semi-natural spaces including green infrastructure and some sites known to be of ecological importance. The plan further sets out a number of protection measures to mitigate potential adverse effects of development on biodiversity (including for site allocations). However, cumulatively, the NDP does not significantly deviate from the baseline protection already afforded in Stoke Golding through statutory measures and national and local planning policy. Furthermore, key opportunities to achieve environmental net gain and to afford protection to all known local BAP Priority Habitats are missed. Therefore, whilst the plan should result in positive effects, these are not likely to be significant. Although, significant positive effects could potentially arise if the recommendations outlined above and in Section 4.10 of this report are adopted.

## 4.5 SEA Objective 2: Historic Environment

- 4.4.11. The NDP area has a rich historic environment, recognised through the diversity of features and areas which are nationally and locally designated for their heritage interest. This is reflected by policies which have a focus on conserving and protecting the significance of buildings, structures and features of architectural or historic interest and their settings. Policy SG15 (Design) seeks to achieve this by stating that 'only development that reflects the traditional character of Stoke Golding will be supported unless the development is of exceptional quality or innovative design'. The policy further requires development to 'protect important features such as jitties, traditional walls', 'protect Stoke Golding's historic street pattern', 'protect the setting of the canal and battlefield site, particularly through the integrity of farmsteads and dispersed built form on the main approaches to the village', and in the 'historic core' it should 'respond to the prevalent 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century styles which incorporate a range of domestic, industrial, agricultural and commercial influences'. The protection afforded to the heritage designations should conserve their historic importance in the long-term. However, this does not deviate significantly from the statutory protection already afforded to these designations and that provided in the Local Plan. Notably, the policy does not set out any measures to require enhancements to heritage designations and therefore potential opportunities to deliver positive effects are missed.
- 4.4.12. Policy SG14 (Features of Local Heritage Interest) identifies and designates thirty-one buildings and structures of local heritage interest and requires proposals to 'balance the need for, or public benefit of, the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent to which it will be harmed'. Identifying and protecting building and structures of local heritage interest should make positive contributions towards conserving the historic environment and local features of historic importance. However, as with Policy SG15, opportunities for more significant positive effects are missed as the policy does not seek any enhancements to these heritage assets, further the policy does not set a presumption in favour of their protection or require substantial public benefit to offset any harm or loss of the heritage asset.
- 4.4.13. Effects of development on the local historic environment and villagescape are likely to be further managed through the implementation of Policy SG11 (Locally Important Views) which seeks to protect important views across the parish including views of heritage assets and views that contribute towards the character of the built environment. The character of the built environment is further conserved by Policy SG8 (Areas of Separation) which seeks to restrict development on identified sites that could affect the open character between Stoke Golding and Dadlington, thus protecting the built character and setting of Stoke Golding. Policy SG22 (Business Conversion of Rural Buildings) seeks to ensure the re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for business use does not have 'a detrimental effect on the fabric, character and setting of historic buildings'. Policy SG20 (Tourism) supports development of new tourism facilities associated with Bosworth Battlefield and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal where they respect the character of the heritage assets. These measures positively respond to protecting the distinct character of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.
- 4.4.14. The quantum and distribution of growth proposed through a Neighbourhood Plan can be a key determinant of the nature of effects on a plan area's historic environment. It is important for new development not to detract from the vibrancy or cause harm to historic character, though there can also potentially be opportunities for new development to enhance historic character as well. The Stoke Golding NDP proposes distributing growth on two sites for housing and employment (and a reserve site for housing), adjacent to the existing built area but outside of the settlement boundary.
- 4.4.15. The Mulberry Farm housing site (Policy SG2) falls within the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 area and the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. The site is also within close proximity to the Ashby Canal Conservation Area, although it is unlikely to have any impact on its setting. The site falls within close proximity to two listed buildings (Grade I listed Church of St Margaret and Grade II listed The Birches) and a number of locally listed buildings.
- 4.4.16. In regard to the Registered Battlefield, a Conservation Plan<sup>16</sup> for the Registered Battlefield locates the site on 'Crown Hill', which is considered as the location of the final act of the battle

<sup>16</sup> Alison Farmer Associates / Leicestershire County Council (2013) Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward.



where Henry VII 'rallied at least some of his forces, in front of whom he was then crowned'. The Conservation Plan includes a landscape character assessment to assess the significance of a site with the character of the Battlefield. The site contains a cluster of c.1950s agricultural buildings that do not accord with the character of the Battlefield and presents an opportunity to enhance the character of the Registered Battlefield and its setting if developed sensitively to the agricultural context of the area. Similarly, a sensitive redevelopment of the site has potential to have positive effects on the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. The Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal<sup>17</sup> designates the site as an 'improvement area' and states that the cluster of c.1950s buildings 'badly detract from the general quality of the area' and have 'a detrimental impact on the setting of Crown Hill'.

- 4.4.17. Policy SG2 does not set out detailed measures to influence the design and character of new development on the site. However, the policy does require the design of development 'to enhance the character of Stoke Golding Conservation Area, the setting of Listed Buildings (particularly the neighbouring Grade II listed The Birches) and other heritage assets' and for 'every effort should be made to retain the traditional brick buildings at Mulberry Farm, unless removal is necessary to provide a safe and suitable access'. Therefore, the site allocation has potential to cause uncertain negative effects with potential to cause positive effects if developed sensitively. Requirements by the policy to retain the traditional brick buildings should help reduce potential adverse effects on the character of nearby listed and locally-listed buildings. Although, as the site is considered to fall within the setting of the Church of St Margaret and The Birches, there are potential for uncertain positive and negative effects on these designations.
- 4.4.18. The Mulberry Farm site falls within, and the Stokesfield Farm housing reserve site falls adjacent to, an area known to be of archaeological importance. Requirements in Policies SG2 and SG3 for development proposals to be accompanied with an archaeological assessment should better reveal the archaeological significance of the sites and support the mitigation of any potential adverse effects of development on archaeological interests. Otherwise, the Stokesfield Farm site does not contain and is not located close to a designated heritage asset. Therefore, it is not anticipated that development of the site would lead to adverse effects on the historic environment. Similarly, the safeguarding of Willow Park Industrial Estate (Policy SG21) for employment use in the NDP is not predicted to cause any significant effects on the historic environment, despite the site falling within the Registered Battlefield, as the site is pre-designated in the Local Plan and the policy does not set out any measures that would result in any significant (whether positive or negative) change to the pre-established baseline.

#### Overall (cumulative) effects

- 4.4.19. Overall, the NDP policies take a proactive approach in conserving the distinctive character and heritage interests of Stoke Golding. This is recognised through its focus on safeguarding protected features (both designated and non-designated) and their settings and ensuring that development respects the character of the existing townscape and surrounding countryside. However, the policies do not set out measures to secure net enhancements to heritage designations and features, and thus positive effects are limited to ensuring the current baseline is maintained.
- 4.4.20. The NDP allocates a site at Mulberry Farm for housing. Careful consideration will need to be given to heritage features (in particular the Registered Battlefield and Stoke Golding Conservation Area) in the design, scale and layout of any new development on the housing site allocation. However, the NDP policies are not considered to set out adequate mitigation measures to ensure new development does not result in harm to the heritage features. Therefore, **uncertain minor negative effects** are anticipated due to the sensitivity of the historic environment and the potential for the housing site allocation to adversely impact upon the Registered Battlefield and Stoke Golding Conservation Area. Although, these effects could be neutralised or result in positive effects through sensitive design. The likelihood for positive effects could be increased by implementing recommended policy changes discussed above and set out in Section 4.10.

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<sup>17</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2013) Stoke Golding Conservation Area Appraisal.



## 4.6 SEA Objective 3: Landscape

- 4.4.21. Stoke Golding parish does not fall within or in close proximity to any national landscape designations. The NDP area falls within two landscape character areas defined in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2017). The landscape character across most of the NDP area is known to consist of a broadly open landscape with distant views at higher points occasionally disturbed by trees, hedgerows and woodland. The Stoke Golding NDP seeks to protect locally important views through Policy SG11 (Locally Important Views) which identifies a number of highly characteristic views across the area and requires development to be 'located and designed in a way that is sensitive to the open landscape, with extensive vistas dominated by natural features that characterise the Neighbourhood Area'.
- 4.4.22. The protection of local landscape character and appearance is further supported through a number of policies that set out measures that directly or indirectly protect landscape character and sensitivity. Policy SG15 (Design) requires development to 'be in keeping with the scale, form and character of its surroundings', 'protect important features such as... hedgerows and trees' and 'take advantage of existing topography, landscape features (including water courses)'. This should help reduce impacts on landscape character through supporting sensitive design. However, the policy misses the opportunity to further minimise impacts on landscape character through requiring proposals to incorporate landscaping and screening to soften the effects of built development and which complements and enhances the character of the local area.
- 4.4.23. Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) affords protection to a number of sites that are considered to be of ecological importance and requires development 'to maintain and enhance these and other ecological corridors and landscape features (such as watercourses, hedgerows and treelines)'. The policy further sets out biodiversity enhancement priorities including 'conservation and creation of deciduous woodland and mesotrophic grassland', 'the use of traditional 'Midlands' style' hedge-laying to manage hedgerows' and tree planting to regenerate mature trees. This is predicted to have positive effects on landscape character as these measures will help sustain and strengthen the intrinsic features of the local landscape character.
- 4.4.24. Policy SG13 (Renewable Energy) seeks to ensure that the location of Solar PV farms are selected sensitively and considers the location around Stoke Golding to be unsuitable for wind turbines. Whilst this is positive in principle to protect landscape character. The policy could be strengthened and positive effects can be realised through measures that require development proposals to not cause harm to important landscape features, to require all proposals to be accompanied with a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and by requiring the restoration of land to result in a net improvement in the landscape quality of the site where feasible and appropriate.
- 4.4.25. The intrinsic qualities of the local landscape are afforded a level of protection through the Stoke Golding NDP policies which recognise the importance of open spaces (including natural and semi-natural spaces) both within and outside the built area. In this context, Policies SG7 (Countryside), SG8 (Areas of Separation), SG9 (Green Infrastructure), and SG16 (Local Green Space) designate and protect areas and features which contribute positively towards maintaining the rural character of the parish and are intrinsic to the landscape character. Notably, Policy SG8 protects the open landscape character between Stoke Golding and Dadlington and Policy SG16 designates eleven sites as Local Green Space and restricts development 'that would harm the openness or special character'. This provides a level of protection and support for improvements to the local landscape, with the potential for long term positive effects.
- 4.4.26. In terms of site allocations, the Mulberry Farm housing site consists of partly brownfield land with a number of agricultural buildings dating from the 1950s. There is built development to the north east and south of the housing site; however, the site extends significantly to the west and enjoys prominence in an elevated position with long distance views from Ashby-del-la-Zouch canal and various other vantage points. The housing site also falls within the Registered Battlefield and has significance as part of the wider location of the final act of the

battle where Henry VII was first crowned<sup>18</sup>. Policy SG2 seeks to minimise potential effects of development on the landscape by requiring the retention of the 'hedge along the western boundary of the site' and for the site layout to 'create a sensitive transition to the countryside to the west'. The site is broadly agricultural in character which is considered to be in accordance with the local landscape character. The insensitive redevelopment of the site could result in some harm to landscape character.

- 4.4.27. The Stokesfield Farm housing reserve site consists of greenfield land adjacent to the built area of Stoke Golding. The site consists of low hedges and trees along its north, east and west boundaries and open landscape to the east and south. Similar to the Mulberry Farm housing site, Policy SG3 requires the retention of the existing hedgerow and trees, affording protection to important existing landscape features. The unmanaged development of the site has potential to represent an uncapped intrusion of built development into the countryside, but such effects are mediated by measures set out in Policy SG3 that require the implementation of a landscaping scheme including the 'planting along the southern boundary of the site to provide a soft, landscaped edge between the development and the adjoining countryside'. The site currently has few landscape features and the introduction of planting to the south has potential to improve the landscape quality, subject to the quality and species introduced. To ensure positive effects, it is recommended that planning proposals are required to be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that demonstrates that the proposed planting accords with landscape character, uses native species and results in a net landscape gain.
- 4.4.28. The safeguarding of Willow Park Industrial Estate (Policy SG21) for employment use in the NDP is not anticipated to lead to adverse effects on the landscape given it is a developed brownfield site with limited opportunities for further intensification. Whilst the site is disconnected from the existing settlement and falls within open landscape and within the Registered Battlefield, the site is well-contained with strong natural boundaries that restrict views between the site and the open landscape whilst being in-keeping with its character. The redevelopment or intensification of the site has the potential to cause harm to the landscape character if boundary landscape features such as hedges and trees are not protected. However, the policy requires development onsite to be 'supported subject to the requirements of the other policies of the Plan'. Policy SG12 affords protection to landscape features such as hedgerows and treelines, which should protect landscape character.

#### Overall (cumulative) effects

- 4.4.29. Overall, it is considered that the Stoke Golding NDP provides a strong framework for the protection and enhancement of the local landscape, although policies could be strengthened to require development proposals with potential to have landscape impacts to be accompanied with a LVIA that demonstrates enhancements to landscape character. However, the proposed housing allocations may have some adverse impacts on landscape character, given the nature of sites. It is therefore considered that the NDP is likely to have residual **neutral effects** on landscape. However, improvements to policy to require development proposals with potential to have landscape impacts to be accompanied with a LVIA and to ensure proposed housing allocations do not have adverse impacts on landscape character could potentially result in a residual minor positive effect on landscape.

## 4.7 SEA Objective 4: Population and Housing

- 4.4.30. It is considered that Stoke Golding does not have an unmet housing need for the period 2020-2039. However, Policies SG1-3 of the NDP seeks to allocate 25 dwellings, which is over and above the housing need identified at the strategic level. This is with a view to 'meet the local need for smaller households with an emphasis on the provision of small and medium sized dwellings' and to help 'retain local services and community facilities such as local shops, cultural venues and public houses without overloading key infrastructure'. Given that this would exceed the locally objectively assessed housing needs significant positive effects are predicted for the housing objective. These effects are likely to be realised as the plan allocates a reserve site to ensure that the proposed housing growth is achieved (Policy SG3).

<sup>18</sup> Alison Farmer Associates / Leicestershire County Council (2013) Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward.

Policy SG4 (Infill Housing Development) further supports infill housing which should support windfall development in the long-term.

- 4.4.31. The accompanying housing policies support the delivery of affordable housing for local needs. In this respect, Policy SG6 (Affordable Housing) requires development of 10 or more homes (or an area of 0.5 hectares or more) to provide 40% affordable housing provision, where feasible. This should help support affordable housing delivery in the local area. Whilst the requirement is lower than that set in the Local Plan Core Strategy 2009 (40% affordable housing for developments of 4 dwellings or more, or 0.13 ha or more). The Local Plan policy is considered to be out-of-date as it does not comply with Paragraph 63 of the NPPF which states 'provision of affordable housing should not be sought for residential developments that are not major developments, other than in designated rural areas (where policies may set out a lower threshold of 5 units or fewer)'.
- 4.4.32. Policy SG6 further gives affordable housing priority 'to people with a local connection to Stoke Golding Parish (i.e. including living, working or with close family ties in the Parish)'. This is predicted to enhance housing provision within the existing community by improving local people and workers access to housing within the NDP area.
- 4.4.33. In terms of the delivery of a mix of housing, Policy SG5 (Housing Mix) requires new housing development to 'provide for a mix of housing types that will be informed by the above evidence of housing need unless more up-to-date housing need evidence indicates otherwise. Development proposals for 10 or more dwellings should address the need for smaller and/or low-cost housing'. The supporting text to the policy sets out the size of market and affordable housing required across Hinckley and Bosworth borough and states that Stoke Golding 'has a high proportion of older households suggesting a greater need for downsizer housing'. Whilst the policy seeks to encourage a mix of housing types, the policy wording is unclear on the type and size of housing required in the NDP area and is supported by evidence that is strategic and not necessarily reflective of need at the neighbourhood level, therefore the potential positive effects might not be realised through ensuring housing types and sizes to reflect local need and contribute towards widening choices.
- 4.4.34. The NDP sets out a number of measures to ensure it maintains Stoke Golding as an active and thriving place to live and to ensure existing and new communities have good access to local services and facilities. Notably, this is addressed through Policies SG16 - SG18 which proactively seek to protect and enhance the community offer, including through protecting community facilities, assets and green spaces. Policies SG19 - SG22 which support infrastructure delivery, tourism and employment growth in the NDP are likely to deliver long-term positive effects by supporting sustainable new communities through new employment opportunities, local services and facilities. Policies SG2 and SG3 allocate a housing site at Mulberry Farm and a reserve housing site at Stokesfield Farm. With the exception of health facility access to the housing site at Mulberry Farm, these allocations are in close proximity to a range of social and leisure, health and transport facilities, and green infrastructure.

#### Overall (cumulative) effects

- 4.4.35. Overall, the Stoke Golding NDP is predicted to have residual **long term significant positive effects** on population and housing. It is thought that the NDP will support the various needs of the local community, addressing local housing needs and enhancing the local access to services and facilities. Whilst unclear wording of policy on housing mix may somewhat undermine the delivery of a range of housing types and sizes, the NDP exceeds the objectively assessed housing need significantly and thus positive effects are predicted.

## 4.8 SEA Objective 5: Health and Wellbeing

- 4.5.1. The health and wellbeing objective aims to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in the NDP area. Health and wellbeing is influenced by a wide range of factors which will vary by local context, some of which are realistically beyond the scope of the Neighbourhood Planning process. However, in terms of factors such as maintaining an attractive living environment, encouraging and enabling modal shift to cycling and walking and providing or enhancing access to recreation facilities there are a range of potential opportunities to facilitate positive effects through planning.
- 4.5.2. A key aim of the NDP is to ensure Stoke Golding remains a vibrant community with a strong sense of local identity. The plan seeks to ensure this by exceeding the local objectively assessed housing need, which should enhance local wellbeing and sustain a vibrant community through good provision of housing. The NDP further sets out affordable housing requirements with priority 'given to people with a local connection to Stoke Golding Parish (i.e. including living, working or with close family ties in the Parish)'. Local affordable housing will help attract and retain younger residents which will help maintain the vitality and the sustainability of the village and will also help local workers find homes locally, overall having positive effects on health and wellbeing of local residents.
- 4.5.3. Maintaining a vibrant community with a strong sense of local identity is also a focus of Policy SG15 (Design) which requires developments to be in keeping with the scale, form and character of its surroundings, create distinct and locally inspired places and have attractive, well managed and safe spaces. The policy further requires development to ensure 'the amenities of residents in the area should not be significantly adversely affected, including by loss of daylight/sunlight, privacy, air quality, noise and light pollution'. Delivering well designed places will likely lead to positive mental health benefits to the users of the development and the area (residents and visitors alike) in the long-term. This will contribute positively to the satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood as a place to live, improving quality of life and providing a high-quality destination for visitors.
- 4.5.4. Policy SG7 (Countryside) seeks to preserve the countryside surrounding the built-up area of Stoke Golding parish, which forms an important natural environment that can be used for a range of recreational activities and to provide access to green space for the community. The designation of Local Green Spaces (LGS) (Policy 16) provides local protection to the natural environment within the built-up area of Stoke Golding. In principle, this will support the health and wellbeing of residents by enhancing access to valued open space and likely facilitate improvements in levels of physical activity and enhance social interaction between residents. However, this is broadly in accordance with the Local Plan (Site Allocations and Development Management DPD 2016) which also seeks to preserve the countryside, designates LGS and sets out measures to safeguard open space (both natural and non-natural), sports and recreational facilities. Therefore, the effects are not predicted to be significant as the policy does not deviate significantly from the established baseline. The exception to this is a localised positive effect through the designation of a new LGS on the corner of Station Road, High Street and Main Street which should enhance local provision.
- 4.5.5. Physical wellbeing is further promoted through the Stoke Golding NDP policies which support active lifestyles, encourage active forms of travel and improvements to the local recreational offer. In this context, Policy SG9 (Green Infrastructure) seeks to safeguard the Green Infrastructure Network and supports the creation of a pedestrian and cycle route along the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway. It further requires development in the vicinity of Willow Park Industrial Estate to create links along the former railway route. This should support active forms of travel to proposed employment growth at the industrial estate, as proposed in the NDP and the Local Plan. Further to this, Policy SG10 (Public Rights of Way Network) states that development 'wherever possible create new links to the network including footpaths, bridleways and cycleways'. Positive effects are therefore anticipated through allowing more people to take regular exercise leading to improvements in residents' physical and mental health, though effects are likely to be minor.
- 4.5.6. In terms of the wider community infrastructure offer, Policy SG17 (Community Services and Facilities) provides protection for seven types of local facilities (including schools, pubs, community halls and the GP) in the NDP area. These include additional facilities to those identified and protected in the Local Plan (Site Allocations and Development Management

DPD 2016), notably extending protection to pubs. Policy SG18 (Village Centre) supports the diversification of the Village Centre facility to include other community uses. This is predicted to safeguard the long-term viability of the community facility whilst supporting additional community services. Policy SG19 (Infrastructure) sets out a requirement for new development to make financial contributions towards local infrastructure improvements where appropriate. These policies will therefore support health and wellbeing through protecting and enhancing the community offer. Although, effects for Policy SG19 are uncertain as the policy does not set out clear measures on what types and scale of development would be required to make contributions towards new or improved infrastructure.

- 4.5.7. The housing site allocations have good access to health, social and leisure facilities, except for the Mulberry Farm site in terms of access to health facilities, which is approximately 830 meters from Pine Close Surgery. Overall, this is likely to result in long term positive effects in terms of residents' overall quality of life. The NDP further seeks to improve wellbeing through the site allocation policies (SG2 and SG3) by ensuring the residential amenity of existing nearby properties is protected and by protecting the amenity of future occupiers of development on these sites from noise and other impacts.

#### Overall (cumulative) effects

- 4.5.8. In light of the above, it is considered that the Stoke Golding NDP is likely to have a **long term minor positive effect** in relation to the health and wellbeing objective. The plan seeks to allocate additional housing to the objectively assessed local housing need on a site with good access to social and leisure facilities. The NDP further supports the protection of existing and the provision of new community infrastructure, promotes good design and supports physical wellbeing.

## 4.9 Conclusions at this current stage

### Summary of effects

- 4.9.1. This section summarises the overall effects of the Plan against each of the SEA Topics. It is important to differentiate between significant effects, which are predicted to lead to changes in the baseline position, and those effects that are broadly positive or negative, but are less likely to lead to substantial changes.
- 4.9.2. Table 4.1 summarises the overall effects of the policies within the draft NDP for each SEA topic. Overall, there will be positive effects across each SEA topic other than Historic Environment.

**Table 4.1: Summary of overall effects for each SEA Topic.**

<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Historic Environment</i>	<i>Landscape</i>	<i>Population and Housing</i>	<i>Health and wellbeing</i>
<b>Positive</b>	<b>Minor -ve</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Significant +ve</b>	<b>Minor +ve</b>

- 4.9.3. The plan is broadly predicted to have positive effects, with significant long-term positive effects likely for Population and Housing as the NDP seeks to exceed the objectively assessed local housing needs and enhance local access to services and facilities.
- 4.9.4. With regards to the historic environment, the NDP is broadly focused on protecting heritage assets and therefore sustaining the existing baseline and does not set out a framework to enhance heritage assets or their significance.



## 4.10 Recommendations

4.10.1. A number of recommendations have been identified to enhance the positive effects of the draft NDP and mitigate any negatives. These are summarised below:

- Policy SG2 could be strengthened by requiring development proposals to be accompanied with a Heritage Statement including an appraisal of the likely impact of the design, materials, layout, scale, height and mass of the proposal on the Registered Battlefield, Stoke Golding Conservation Area, Grade I listed Church of St Margaret, Grade II listed The Birches and other designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting. The policy could further be strengthened by requiring development proposals to demonstrate how proposals would result in a net enhancement to the historic significance of heritage assets and their setting.
- Policies SG2, SG3, SG13 and SG20 could be strengthened by requiring development proposals to be supported with a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to provide an assessment of the landscape significance of the site and the likely impact of development. These policies could further be supported with a clause that requires development proposals to be sensitively accommodated within the landscape, with proposals not supported if potential impacts on landscape cannot be adequately mitigated through design and landscaping. Policy SG13 could also be improved by requiring the restoration of land to result in a net improvement in the landscape quality of the site, where feasible and appropriate.
- Policies SG2 and SG3 could also be improved by requiring development proposals to demonstrate and achieve environmental net gain. It is further recommended that the policies include a clause for sustainable drainage systems to seek to maximise opportunities to support wildlife and biodiversity by creating suitable habitats.
- Policy SG3 could be further strengthened by requiring planting along the southern boundary to be native species and to be in accordance with the local landscape character.
- Policy SG5 (Housing Mix) could be strengthened by quantifying the size and type of housing mix that will be supported for new housing developments within the policy wording (including provision for custom and self-build units subject to local need). It is further recommended that the policy allows development proposals the option to deviate from the requirement set when supported with a housing needs assessment that demonstrates a local unmet need for the proposed housing mix. This should ensure the policy is flexible to changes in housing need in the long term.
- Policy SG5 (Housing Mix) states that 'Development proposals for 10 or more dwellings should address the need for smaller and/or low-cost homes'. This provides proposals with options to either address the need for smaller homes or low-cost homes which results in potential positive effects not being realised. It is recommended that the policy wording is amended to remove the option for development to choose between the options. The policy should instead quantify any requirements for smaller homes and affordable housing (which should accord with any requirement set in Policy SG6).
- Policy SG10 (Public Rights of Way Network) could be improved by adding a clause that requires development to 'protect and/or enhance the value of the rights of way as a biodiversity corridor'.
- Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) could be strengthened to require development proposals to demonstrate and achieve environmental net gain, guided by the principles set out in the NPPF (2019) and the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (2018).
- Policy SG12 (Ecology and Biodiversity) could be improved by affording protection to all known BAP Priority Habitats in the Stoke Golding NDP area including but not limited to the following: Traditional Orchards at Highfield Farm; Deciduous Woodland

south of Pine Close Solar Farm; Deciduous Woodlands east of Stoke Road; Deciduous Woodland east of St Martin Academy; and Deciduous Woodland south of St George's Farm.

- Policy SG13 (Renewable Energy) could further be strengthened by requiring all renewable energy proposals to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity. The policy could go further to suggest measures such as boundary hedge and tree planting and wildflower planting underneath and between panels on sites not proposed to be used for agriculture, subject to no adverse effects on landscape character.
- Policy SG14 (Features of Local Heritage Interest) should seek to afford greater protection to the identified features of local heritage interest by setting out a presumption against the loss or harm to the heritage asset unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development proposal significantly outweighs the harm caused. The policy should further require development proposals to achieve enhancements to the significance of these heritage assets including their setting.
- Policy SG15 (Design) could be improved by defining the area that is considered as the 'Historic Core'. It is further recommended that the protection afforded to the 'Historic Core' is extended to all development in the Conservation Areas and their settings.
- It is considered that the Stoke Golding NDP could be positively improved through a new policy or by revising Policy SG15 (Design) to support the protection and enhancement of heritage assets and features and their setting. The policy should require development proposals within or in proximity to the Stoke Golding Conservation Area and/or the Ashby Canal Conservation Area to demonstrate how it will positively conserve and enhance the unique characteristics of its location as identified in respective Conservation Area appraisals. For development proposals in or within the setting of the Registered Battlefield, these should demonstrate how they would conserve and where possible enhance the significance of the designation and its setting with reference to the Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward report<sup>19</sup> and any other evidence available.

It is recommended that the policy requires development proposals in the wider Parish to demonstrate how they will respect heritage assets and their setting and enhance the character of the area. The policy should set out a presumption against the loss or harm to any heritage asset unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefit of the development proposal significantly outweighs the harm caused. Significant harm or the loss of Listed buildings and the Schedule Monument should only be supported in wholly exceptional circumstances. The policy should further require development proposals to demonstrate enhancements to the significance of heritage assets including their setting.

It is also recommended that the policy requires development proposals that affect a heritage designation or its setting to be accompanied with a Heritage Statement to identify the heritage assets, provide a clear assessment of its significance, an appraisal of the likely impact of the proposal on the heritage assets and their setting and to justify the design approach undertaken including how opportunities for conserving and enhancing the heritage assets and their setting has been capitalised.

- Policy SG19 (Infrastructure) could be improved by setting out the scale of development that is expected to contribute towards new or improved infrastructure.
- Policy SG19 (Infrastructure) requires that 'contributions are governed by the provisions of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010'. Under CIL regulations, the only organisation authorised to levy is a local planning authority. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council do not currently have a CIL in place and do not currently intend to implement a CIL. Therefore, it is unclear how the CIL regulations could be

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<sup>19</sup> <sup>19</sup> Alison Farmer Associates / Leicestershire County Council (2013) Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward.



applicable to the Stoke Golding NDP. It is recommended that the policy is amended to support contributions through alternative mechanisms such as through Section 106 agreements.

4.10.2. It is considered that the above changes would help to improve the performance of the NDP.

4.10.3. A number of recommendations were made to the NDP at the scoping stage of the SEA. These are set out in the Scoping Report attached as Appendix C to this report.

## 4.11 Monitoring

4.11.1. There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

Significant effects	Monitoring measures
A <b>significant positive effect</b> is predicted for population and housing as the Plan will contribute towards meeting local housing needs in accessible locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Net housing completions per annum</li><li>• Number of homes for older people</li><li>• Affordable housing target achievement</li></ul>

## 5. What are the next steps?

- 5.1.1. A round of consultation (Regulation 14) will be undertaken on the draft Plan, and this will be accompanied by the Environmental Report.
- 5.1.2. Following consultation, the Stoke Golding NDP will then be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council), for its consideration with the Environmental Report.
- 5.1.3. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the Stoke Golding NDP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.
- 5.1.4. Subject to the Borough Council's agreement, the NDP will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with local policies.
- 5.1.5. The Examiner will be able to recommend that the Stoke Golding NDP is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should be refused. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will invite the Stoke Golding NDP Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated Environmental Report. Where the Examiner's Report recommends that the proposal is to be refused, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will do so.
- 5.1.6. Where the examination is favourable, the Stoke Golding NDP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
- 5.1.7. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council with a request it is 'made'. Once 'made', the Stoke Golding NDP will become part of the Development Plan for the borough.

## Appendix A - SEA Site Appraisal Criteria

SEA Objective	Criteria	Thresholds
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation Development falls within an Impact Risk Zone and would trigger the requirement to consult Natural England. Site falls within or adjacent to the Kendall Meadow SSSI (within 50m)
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area Between 50m and 300m of a designated area Site falls within or adjacent to a designated area (within 50m)
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development could protect and enhance heritage assets and/or have a positive effect on the historic environment including tacking heritage at risk or provides an opportunity to better reveal the significance of heritage assets. Neutral: no heritage assets or their settings are likely to be affected by the site allocation. Development could result in harm to the significance of heritage assets and/or their setting. It is likely that impacts can be avoided/mitigated. Development could result in harm to the significance of heritage assets and/or their setting. It is unlikely that impacts can be avoided/mitigated.
	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Within existing built-up area on previously developed land Within existing built-up area on greenfield land, or adjacent to built-up area on brownfield Outside of existing built-up area, or, adjacent to on greenfield land
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Not visible Visible from distant vantage points/to some extent/aligned with surrounding development Highly visible
	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	The development site is appropriately located (within 300m) in relation to transport, health or social facilities and green infrastructure to be suitable for intended use. The development site is appropriately located (within 300m) in relation to some transport, health or social facilities, and green infrastructure to be suitable for intended use. The development site is inappropriately located (within 300m) in relation to transport, health or social facilities and green infrastructure to be suitable for intended use.

<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b>  Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m Between 200m and 600m Over 600m
	Proximity to active transport network	Under 200m Between 200m and 600m Over 600m
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Under 300m Between 300m and 800m Over 800m

## Appendix B - SEA Site Appraisal Proformas

**Site Reference:** 1

**Location:** Mulberry Farm

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI. Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Not affected by SSSI designation >300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	The site falls within the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 and the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. The southern part of the site is developed and contains c.1950s agricultural buildings that are not considered to make a positive contribution to the character of the Registered Battlefield and Conservation Area and redevelopment through a sensitive design and layout has potential for positive effects. However, development in the northern part of the site would represent an encroachment on to the battlefield area, the character of which is currently open and undeveloped. This is also intrinsic to the character of the Conservation Area. The site also includes Ridge and Furrow features, is of archaeological interest and adjacent to a listed building. Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to the significance of heritage assets.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding. Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site falls within the built-up area and partly on previously developed land. Highly visible from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and vantage points to the north of Stoke Golding and Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (church and school) and green infrastructure (allotments and green space)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and	Proximity to green/ open space Proximity to active transport network	Under 200m of public space at St Margaret of Antioch Church and allotments. Within 200m of PROWs on the corner of High Street / Stoke Road.

accessibility to open space,  
facilities for recreation and  
health.

Proximity to healthcare  
facility

Over 800m from Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference: 2**

**Location:** White Swan

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Part of the site falls within the Registered Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485 with potential for development to result in encroachment onto the battlefield area. The site also falls within the Stoke Golding conservation area and contains a locally listed building. The site is known to have strong potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. Development has potential to cause irreversible harm to the character and significance of the Registered Battlefield and potential archaeological remains, although it is likely that impacts could be avoided/mitigated.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site falls within the built-up area and partly on previously developed land.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site broadly enclosed by built development. Limited visibility from vantage points to the west of the site.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of a Bus Stop (Station Road), community facilities (church and school) and green infrastructure (allotments and green space)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of public space at St Margaret of Antioch Church and allotments.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 200m of PROW.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 800m of Pine close surgery.



**Site Reference: 3**

**Location:** Land opposite Ivy House Farm, High Street

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI. Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Not affected by SSSI designation >300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to some Ridge and Furrow features presence on site. The site is known to be of archaeological interest. The site falls within the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. The site is also in close proximity to a listed building and a number of locally listed buildings. Although, it is likely that impacts on listed buildings can be avoided and mitigated.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding. Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield. Highly visible from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and vantage points to the north of Stoke Golding and Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (church and school) and green infrastructure (green space along Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space Proximity to active transport network Proximity to healthcare facility	Under 200m of public space along Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and allotments. Adjacent to PROWs and under 200m of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal. Over 800m from Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 4

**Location:** Land rear of 58 High Street

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	The site falls within the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. The site is also in close proximity to a listed building and a number of locally listed buildings. However, it is likely that impacts on these heritage designations can be avoided and mitigated.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site well-screened but visible to some extent from vantage points to the north and along Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (church and school) and green infrastructure (green space along Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of green space at St Margaret of Antioch Church and allotments.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 200m of PROWs on the corner of High Street and Stoke Road.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Over 800m from Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference: 5**

**Location:** Land to the rear of 21-57 Roseway

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	The site is adjacent to the Stoke Golding Conservation Area. Development can be sensitively designed to avoid potential affects on the heritage designation.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Highly visible from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and vantage points to the north of Stoke Golding and Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (church) and green infrastructure (green space along Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of green space along Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal.
	Proximity to active transport network	Under 200m of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal and PROWs.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Over 800m from Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 6

**Location:** Land East of the Roseway

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is unlikely to affect heritage assets or their settings.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site visible to some extent from vantage points along Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site inappropriately located in relation to transport, health/social facilities and green infrastructure.
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Within 500m of public space at St Margaret of Antioch Church and sports facilities at St Margaret CoE School.
	Proximity to active transport network	Over 600m from active transport network.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 700m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference: 7**

**Location:** West Side of Hinckley Road

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Approximately 250m of Deciduous Woodland along Convent Drive.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site well-screened but visible to some extent from vantage points to the north-east and east.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinkley Road), community facilities (school) and green infrastructure (bridleway)
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Within 300m of Ryelands Crescent play area.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 200m of bridleway.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 800m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 8

**Location:** Land South of Station Road between Wykin Lane and Higham Lane

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.  Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Not affected by SSSI designation  Site is adjacent to a Traditional Orchard.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to a schedule monument ( Hlaew and medieval farmstead). The site is also known to be of archaeological interest.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.  Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.  Site well-screened but visible from the north-west.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Main Street), community facilities (school, church and cemetery) and green infrastructure (green space).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space  Proximity to active transport network  Proximity to healthcare facility	Under 200m of Wykin Lane Amenity Green Space. Within 300m of public space at St Margaret of Antioch Church and allotments.  Within 200m of PROW.  Within 650m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference: 9**

**Location:** Tithe Farm, 12 Wykin Lane

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Site is adjacent to a Traditional Orchard.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site. The site is adjacent to a schedule monument and in close proximity to a listed building (underground monitoring post) but affects can likely be avoided through sensitive design.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site does not adjoin the built-up area
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Restricted views of site from the east but visible to some extent from vantage points along Higham Lane and PROW to the south.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Main Street and Hinkley Road), community facilities (church and cemetery) and green infrastructure (green space).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of Wykin Lane Amenity Green Space. Within 300m of Stoke Golding Park and allotments.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 200m of PROW.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 700m of Pine close surgery (if an access can be provided off Wykin Lane).



**Site Reference:** 10

**Location:** Land at Stoke Lane

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	The site is adjacent to Deciduous Woodland.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site highly visible from vantage points along Stoke Lane and to the west of the site.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (cemetery) and green infrastructure (Stoke Golding park).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to active transport network	Site adjacent to two PROWs and within 200m of path at Stoke Golding park.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 650m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 11

**Location:** Land at and surrounding Pine Close

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	The site is adjacent to Deciduous Woodland.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site highly visible from vantage points along Stoke Lane and to the west of the site.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of community facilities (cemetery) and green infrastructure (Stoke Golding park).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to active transport network	Site adjacent to two PROWs and within 200m of path at Stoke Golding park.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 650m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 12

**Location:** Land at and surrounding Pine Close

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is unlikely to affect heritage assets or their settings.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site falls within the built-up area and is predominantly brownfield. The developable area forms part greenfield and part used as a solar farm.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site broadly enclosed by built development. Limited visibility to the south.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinkley Road), community facilities (GP and cemetery) and green infrastructure (green space).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Under 200m of Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 200m of path at Stoke Golding Park and PROW.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Pine close surgery falls within the site boundary.

**Site Reference: 13**

**Location:** Land at and surrounding Pine Close

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	The site includes an area of Deciduous Woodland.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is unlikely to affect heritage assets or their settings.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and predominantly used as a solar farm.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site well-screened to the west but highly visible from vantage points to the east including Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinkley Road), community facilities (GP) and green infrastructure (green space).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Within 300m of Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to active transport network	Within 300m of path at Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Pine close surgery is adjacent to the site boundary.

**Site Reference: 14**

**Location:** Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Pine Close

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.	Not affected by SSSI designation
	Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	>300m of a designated area
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is unlikely to affect heritage assets or their settings.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield.
	Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Restricted visibility of the site from public vantage points.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinckley Road), community facilities (GP) and green infrastructure (green space).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space	Within 300m of Stoke Golding Park.
	Proximity to active transport network	Site is adjacent to a PROW.
	Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 300m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference: 15**

**Location:** Land south of Hinckley Road, adjacent to Stoke Fields Farm

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI. Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Not affected by SSSI designation Within 300m of Deciduous Woodland to the east and south of the site.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding. Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and greenfield. Site highly visible from vantage points to the south and along Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinckley Road), community facilities (school) and green infrastructure (bridleway).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space Proximity to active transport network Proximity to healthcare facility	Within 300m of sports facilities along Stoke Road. The site contains a PROW and is within 300m of a bridleway. Within 400m of Pine close surgery.

**Site Reference:** 16

**Location:** Corner of Hinckley Road and Stoke Road

SEA Objective	Criteria	SEA Score
<b>1. Biodiversity</b> Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	Proximity to the Kendall Meadow SSSI.  Proximity to a local wildlife sites, priority habitat, or site of wildlife significance.	Not affected by SSSI designation  Within 150m of Deciduous Woodland to the east of the site.
<b>2. Historic Environment</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	Potential for development to impact Stoke Golding's heritage assets and distinctive character.	Development is likely to cause irreversible harm to Ridge and Furrow features presence on site.
<b>3. Landscape</b> Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Relation to the built-up area of Stoke Golding.  Visibility of the site from public vantage points.	Site adjacent to the built-up area and predominantly greenfield.  Site highly visible from vantage points to the south and along Stoke Road.
<b>4. Population and Housing</b> Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Appropriateness of the site to meet the needs of the community and its intended uses.	Site within 300m of Bus Stops (Hinckley Road and Stoke Road), community facilities (school) and green infrastructure (bridleway and allotments).
<b>5. Health and Wellbeing</b> Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	Proximity to green/ open space  Proximity to active transport network  Proximity to healthcare facility	Adjacent to sports facilities along Stoke Road.  The site contains a PROW and is within 300m of a bridleway.  Within 500m of Pine close surgery.



## Appendix C - Scoping Report

# Stoke Golding NDP

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

Stoke Golding Parish Council

July 2020

## Quality information

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## Acronyms

(DEFRA)	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
(EA)	Environment Agency
(MHCLG)	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
(IMD)	Index of Multiple Deprivation
(LNR)	Local Nature Reserves
(LTP)	Local Transport Plan
(NNR)	National Nature Reserve
(NPPF)	National Planning Policy Framework
(ONS)	Office for National Statistics
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1. Stoke Golding Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the sustainable future growth of the parish. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Stoke Golding NDP on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1.1.2. The NDP is being prepared in the context of the adopted and emerging Local Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. Relevant documents of the adopted Local Plan consist of the **Core Strategy DPD<sup>1</sup>** (2009) and **Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD<sup>2</sup>** (2016).
- 1.1.3. The NDP will form part of the development plan for the Stoke Golding area in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, alongside the Local Plan. NDPs are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the Neighbourhood Planning process where appropriate.
- 1.1.4. The Key information relating to the Stoke Golding NDP is presented in the table below (Table 1-1).

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the NDP for Hickling**

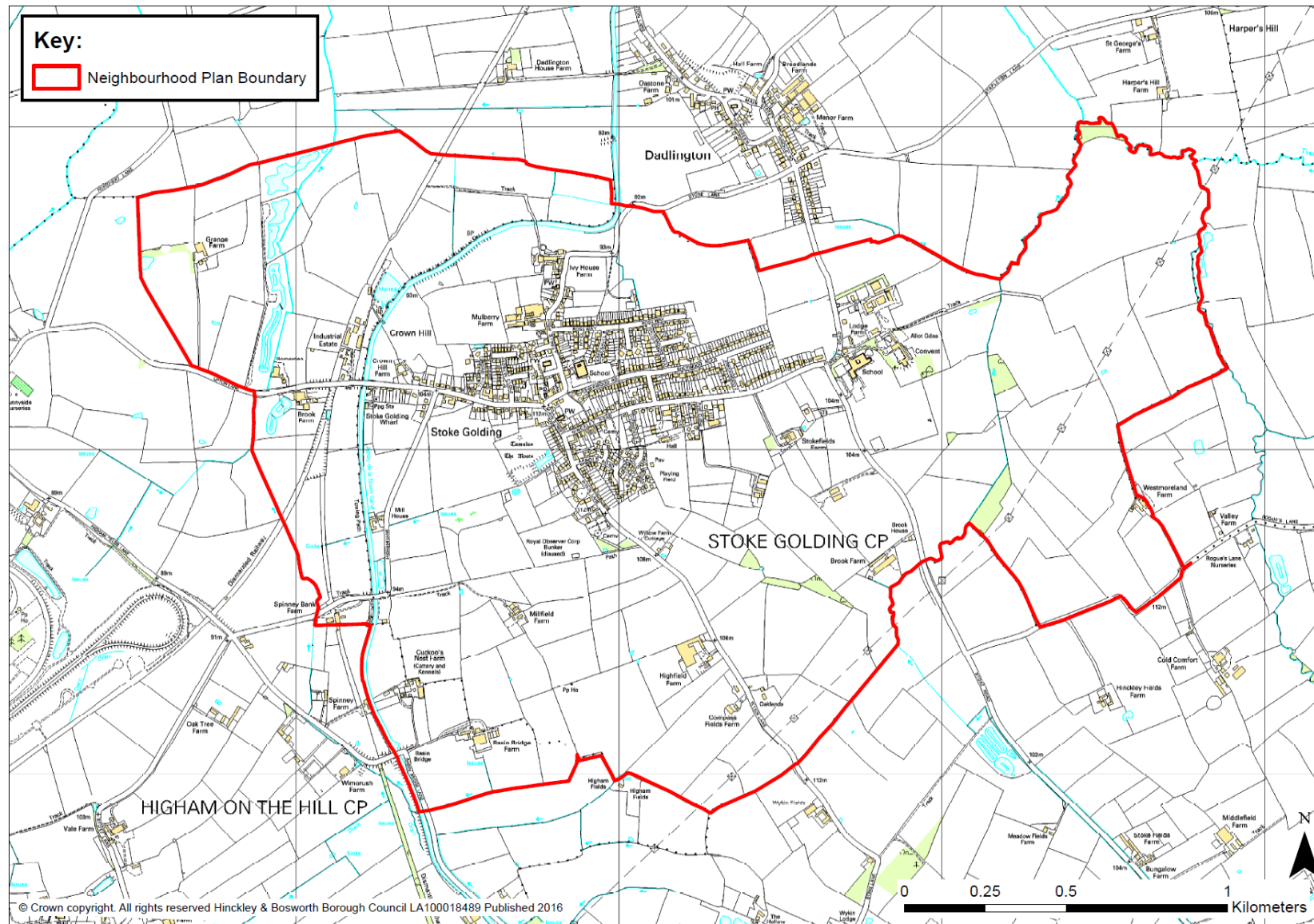
Name of Responsible Authority	Stoke Golding Parish Council
Title of Plan	Stoke Golding NDP
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	The Stoke Golding NDP is being prepared as a NDP under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the adopted and emerging Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Plans.
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	The NDP area covers the whole of Stoke Golding Parish in Leicestershire together with part of the neighbouring parish of Higham on the Hill. The NDP area is shown in Figure 1.1.
Summary of content	The Stoke Golding NDP will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the NDP area.
Plan contact point	Mervyn Ward  Email address: mervyn.ward@btinternet.com

<sup>1</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009) Core Strategy DPD [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework/400/core\\_strategy](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework/400/core_strategy)

<sup>2</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2016) Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local\\_development\\_framework/426/site\\_allocations\\_and\\_generic\\_development\\_control\\_policies-development\\_plan\\_document](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/856/local_development_framework/426/site_allocations_and_generic_development_control_policies-development_plan_document)



### Figure 1.1: The Stoke Golding NDP Area

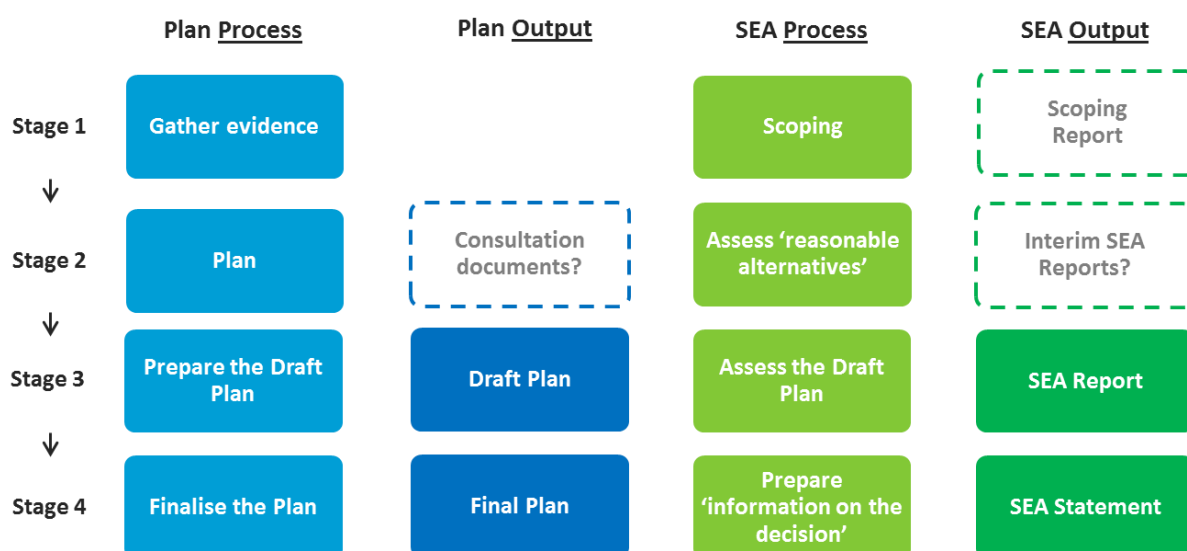




## 1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1. SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects.
- 1.2.2. The European Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>3</sup> requires certain plans to be subject to a SEA. This Directive is realised in the UK through Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations). These Regulations require an environmental assessment to be carried out on certain plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.2.3. SEA can be viewed as a four-stage process that produces a number of statutory and non-statutory outputs. As illustrated in Figure 1.2 below, 'Scoping' is a mandatory process under the SEA Directive, but the publication of a scoping report is a voluntary (but useful) output.

**Figure 1.2: SEA as a four step process**



## 1.3 Screening outcomes

- 1.3.1. A screening exercise has been undertaken which has determined that a SEA will be required. Responses were received from Historic England and Natural England as part of this process are summarised below:
- Historic England is of the view that a SEA is required as the Plan includes a site allocation which is located within Bosworth Battlefield near to Crown Hill, where Henry VII was crowned after defeating Richard III.
  - Natural England has advised that there is potential for significant effects on the Kendall's Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located to the north of the NDP area.
- 1.3.2. A response was not received from the Environment Agency.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

## 1.4 Introduction to scoping

- 1.4.1. One of the first stages in the SEA process is to establish what the key issues are that the appraisal should focus on. This is called 'scoping', and involves a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (a 'contextual review') and information about the current and future state of the environment, economy and social factors (the 'baseline'). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.
- 1.4.2. The Regulations<sup>4</sup> require that certain statutory bodies are consulted on the scope of a SEA. This can be done in a number of ways, but most often a Scoping Report is produced that presents the key information and a methodology for how future appraisals will be undertaken. Statutory Consultees have 5 weeks to comment on the scope of the appraisal. In England, the statutory consultees are Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.
- 1.4.3. Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- Defining the broader context for the Stoke Golding NDP and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
  - Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Stoke Golding NDP) in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
  - Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a focus of the SEA; and
  - Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

## 1.5 Scoping outcomes

- 1.5.1. The SEA Regulations aim to encourage proportionate assessment and therefore it is important to scope out issues where it is apparent that the Plan could not affect the topic area. In order to do this, an initial scoping sifting exercise has been undertaken. As a result, a number of SEA topic areas have been scoped-out without the need to establish a more detailed baseline position. For other topics, further detail was gathered through the scoping process, which led to additional topics being SCOPED OUT. Only Biodiversity, Historic Environment, Landscape, Population and Housing, and Health and Wellbeing have been identified for further assessment at the next stages of the SEA.
- 1.5.2. The relevant SEA topic areas and the reasons for the scoping decisions are set out in Table 1.2 below.

**Table 1.2: Scoping outcomes**

SEA topic area	Scoping Outcomes
Air Quality	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>
Biodiversity	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN</b> .
Climatic factors	The Plan is not going to set standards relating to energy efficiency or low carbon technology. The Plan is also not likely to lead to significant emissions above the baseline position. Therefore, this topic area can be <b>SCOPED OUT</b> .
Flood Risk	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>

<sup>4</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Historic Environment	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN</b> .
Landscape	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN</b> .
Waste	The Plan is unable to influence this to a significant extent and therefore this topic area can be <b>SCOPED OUT</b> . Key issues relating to waste will be to ensure adequate access for waste collection, and storage that does not affect the street scene.
Minerals	The NDP area does not fall within a Minerals Safeguarding Area or Consultation Areas. Therefore, the plan does not pose any sterilisation risk to mineral resources and it is unlikely that any resources can be recovered. Therefore, this topic area can be <b>SCOPED OUT</b> .
Land, Soil and Water Resources	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>
Population and Housing	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN</b> .
Health and Wellbeing	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently <b>SCOPED IN</b>
Transportation	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently <b>SCOPED OUT</b>

## 1.6 Structure of this Scoping Report

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

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

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

## 2. Air Quality

### Focus of theme:

- Sources of air pollution
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

### 2.1 Policy Context

- 2.1.1. The **Clean Air Strategy**<sup>5</sup> (2019) sets out the strategy for improving air quality, including goals to reduce exposure to toxic pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia, particulate matter, non-methane volatile organic compounds and sulphur dioxide. The strategy aims to reduce particulate matter emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 46% by 2030.
- 2.1.2. The **Air Quality Strategy**<sup>6</sup> (2007) establishes the policy framework for ambient air quality management and assessment in the UK. The primary objective is to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. The Strategy sets out the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and government policy on achieving these objectives.
- 2.1.3. The **National Planning Policy Framework**<sup>7</sup> (NPPF) (2019) outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.
- 2.1.4. The **Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance**<sup>8</sup> (2018) issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the National Air Quality Objectives apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year).
- 2.1.5. Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**'<sup>9</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan are relevant.
- 2.1.6. In terms of the local context, there are no major roadways, large industry or congestion issues in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and air quality is generally considered to be good. The Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) published in June 2019 found that the nitrogen dioxide levels did not exceed the national average and therefore an air quality management area in the borough was not put in place<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Defra (2019) Clean Air Strategy [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019>

<sup>6</sup> Defra (2007) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/approach/>

<sup>7</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>8</sup> Defra (2018) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance [online] available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-February-18-v1.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2019) 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report.

## 2.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

- 2.2.1. There are currently no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the NDP area or within the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. The nearest AQMAs (NO<sup>2</sup>) are located in the built area of Nuneaton, approximately 6.2km south west of the NDP area. There are also no diffusion tube monitoring locations within proximity to the NDP area which could provide some indication of the likely air quality in Stoke Golding parish.
- 2.2.2. According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Air Quality Annual Status Report<sup>11</sup> (2019), monitoring has shown that air quality is generally good and improving within the borough area. The report further states that net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions decreased by 38.2% (gross) against a base line year of 2009-10, mainly due to reduced electricity and transport related emissions.
- 2.2.3. The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough has 19 properties in Smoke Control Areas, meaning that the emissions from chimneys are controlled, e.g. through a requirement to use smokeless fuel or appliances that burn alternative fuels with lower emissions. This effort focuses on home and building heating systems. None of the properties are in the Stoke Golding NDP area.

### Summary of future baseline

- 2.2.4. Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist in Stoke Golding parish, new housing provision may create adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.
- 2.2.5. Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be around the village centre and along High Street and Hinckley Road.

## 2.3 Key headline issues

- 2.3.1. The key issues are as follows:
- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the NDP area. Air quality in Stoke Golding parish is generally good, with no significant issues identified.
  - Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase emissions and reduce air quality in the area; however, air pollution is at a low baseline so effects are unlikely to be significant given the magnitude of effects involved.

## 2.4 Scoping outcome

- 2.4.1. The NDP is intending to allocate housing sites and these are likely to generate more trips by car than would be the case in the absence of the Plan. There is potential to generate increased particulates and nitrogen dioxide.
- 2.4.2. However, there are no AQMAs in either the NDP area or in the wider Borough at present, and the scale of development is such that any effects are not likely to be significant. Therefore, due to the absence of significant and tangible air quality issues in the NDP area, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process. This means that the plan will not be assessed for its performance against air quality objectives (given that no significant issues or opportunities are expected to arise through the Stoke Golding NDP).

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<sup>11</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/5518/air\\_quality\\_annual\\_status\\_report\\_2018](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/5518/air_quality_annual_status_report_2018)

### 3. Biodiversity

#### Focus of theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats and species
- Geodiversity

#### 3.1 Policy Context

- 3.1.1. At the European level, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**<sup>12</sup> was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.
- 3.1.2. The European Commission Guidance on **Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment**<sup>13</sup> (2013) suggests that an SEA should focus on ensuring '*no-net-loss of biodiversity*' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of '*ecosystem services*' and the links between natural environment and economy.
- 3.1.3. The **NPPF** (2019) states that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment including helping to improve biodiversity, and using natural resources prudently. In support of this aim the framework states that plans should '*identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats*' and should also '*promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity*'.
- 3.1.4. The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**'<sup>14</sup> (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the protection and promotion of biodiversity are as follows:
- Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
  - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
  - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
  - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.
- 3.1.5. The **Biodiversity 2020 strategy**<sup>15</sup> (2011), published by the government, sets out objectives to deliver: a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, to put people at the heart of biodiversity policy, to reduce environmental pressures, an overall improvement in the status of species and prevention of further human-induced extinctions and improved public knowledge of biodiversity.

<sup>12</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5b1%5d.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> European Commission (2013) Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

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

<sup>15</sup> Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf)

- 3.1.6. The **Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan**<sup>16</sup> (2016) sets out a strategy to protect and enhance biodiversity in the region. It identifies and protects key habitats and species which are contained in the individual habitat and species action plans. These set out the importance of the species and habitat, identify their local status, threats to them and opportunities to help their recovery.
- 3.1.7. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy**<sup>17</sup> (2009) sets out requirements for development to protect and enhance biodiversity in the borough. This includes enhancing biodiversity through green infrastructure networks and implementing a national forest north east of the borough. The emerging new Local Plan will include policies that seek to achieve net gain in biodiversity / environment.

## 3.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

- 3.2.1. There are over 4,100 Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) in England, which covers around 8% of the country's land area. SSSIs are recognised as the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. The Kendall's Meadow SSSI falls in close proximity to the northern boundary of the NDP area.
- 3.2.2. The SSSI comprises an area of lowland grassland and forms a traditionally managed hay meadow with a high diversity and richness of plant life. It is probably the best representative of this grassland community type in the central Midlands area. At the time of the last survey in 2010, the SSSI was classed as being in 'favourable' condition.
- 3.2.3. Table 3.1 below shows the condition of the Kendall's Meadow SSSI in comparison to the national average. Figure 3.1 shows the spatial context of the SSSI and other biodiversity designations in relation to the NDP area.

**Table 3.1: SSSI condition (Source: Natural England<sup>18</sup>)**

Area	% area meeting PSA target	% area favourable	% area unfavourable recovering	% area unfavourable no change	% area unfavourable declining	% area destroyed / part destroyed
Kendall's Meadow SSSI	100%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
England	94.31	38.65	55.65	3.39	2.09	0.05

- 3.2.4. With the SSSI being fairly close to the NDP area, depending on the proximity and the scale of development, Natural England may be required to be consulted on the likely risks of development. For land covering the north and west parts of the built settlement of Stoke Golding, this includes any residential development of 100 or more houses within and 50 or more outside existing settlements.
- 3.2.5. There are a total of 225 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) across England. Their purpose is to help manage habitats, species and significant geology. Most reserves also offer the opportunity for the public to experience England's national heritage. There are no NNRs within the NDP area or its vicinity with the closest being the Charnwood Lodge NNR located approximately at a distance of 20km to the north east.

<sup>16</sup> Timms, S. (2016) Space for Wildlife: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan [online] available at: [https://www.lrw.org.uk/media/uploads/miscellaneous/space\\_for\\_wildlife\\_\\_llrbap\\_2016-26\\_part\\_1.pdf](https://www.lrw.org.uk/media/uploads/miscellaneous/space_for_wildlife__llrbap_2016-26_part_1.pdf)

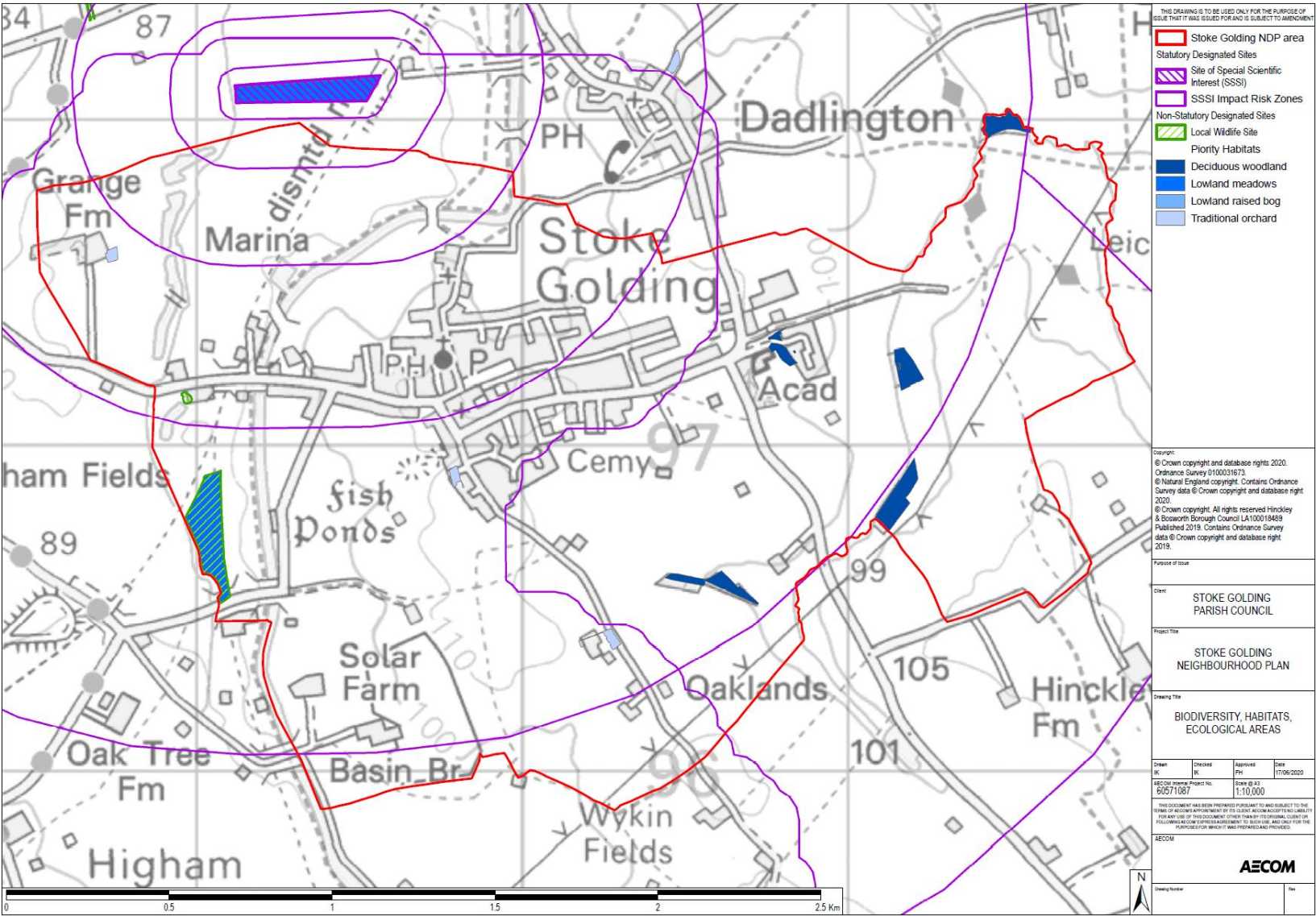
<sup>17</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2009) LDF: Core Strategy [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/core\\_strategy\\_adopted\\_document](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/core_strategy_adopted_document)

<sup>18</sup> Information in relation to the condition of SSSIs throughout the area has been taken from the Natural England website. Accessed from <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/default.aspx>



- 3.2.6. There are over 1,400 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) located throughout England. The purpose of LNRs is to provide the public with opportunities to study/learn about nature. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. There are no LNRs within the NDP area or its vicinity.
- 3.2.7. There are no designated European Sites for Nature Conservation within or in the immediate vicinity of the NDP area. There are also no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), possible SPAs or Ramsar sites within or in proximity to the NDP area.
- 3.2.8. The NDP area contains Priority Habitat areas of Deciduous Woodland, Traditional Orchard, Lowland Meadows and Lowland Raised Bog (see Figure 3.1). The NDP area contains a Local Wildlife Site, Meadow and Pond at Brook Farm.

Figure 3.1: Biodiversity Designations in Stoke Golding



### Summary of future baseline

- 3.2.9. Atmospheric pollution (such as acid precipitation and nitrogen deposition) and increased flood risk that may arise as a result of climate change, could pose a risk to the habitats and species present within the NDP area.
- 3.2.10. Increased development in the NDP area will place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land take for development and an increase in population. An increase in population is likely to lead to an increase in leisure and recreational pressure and increased demand for natural resources such as water. New development may lead to an increase in disturbance through human activity, loss of habitat, increased predation (e.g. from domestic pets), atmospheric, land and water-based pollution.
- 3.2.11. On the contrary, habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through higher level planning policy and whilst these areas face increasing pressures from future development, planning policy should safeguard the most valued areas and protect ecological networks.

## 3.3 Key headline issues

- 3.2.12. The key issues are as follows:

- The Kendall's Meadow SSSI is in close proximity to the NDP area.
- There are no NNR, LNR, SACs, SPAs, pSPAs or Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the NDP area.
- The NDP area contains Priority Habitat areas of Deciduous Woodland, Traditional Orchard, Lowland Meadows and Lowland Raised Bog.
- A Local Wildlife Site falls within the NDP area.

## 3.4 Scoping outcome

- 3.2.13. The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for localised effects at sites that could be identified for development. It will also be important to ensure that there are no significant effects upon the Kendall's Meadow SSSI. It will be important to ensure that species do not rely upon habitats outside of designated habitat areas. There may also be opportunities to enhance ecological networks also.

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

3.2.14. The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 3.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 3.2: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Biodiversity**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Avoid impacts on the Kendall's Meadow SSSI?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the NDP area?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the NDP area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>

## 4. Flood risk

### Focus of theme:

- Flood risk

### 4.1 Policy Context

- 4.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) states that the '*planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change*'. To achieve these aims new development should be planned to ensure appropriate adaptation measures are included (including green infrastructure). The Framework also seeks to direct development away from areas that are currently or likely in the future to be at highest risk of flooding. Where development is required in such areas, the '*development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere*'.
- 4.1.2. The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions include to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- 4.1.3. The **River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan**<sup>19</sup> (CFMP) was published in 2009, and acts as one of 77 CFMPs for England and Wales. The document provides an overview of the flood risk within the River Trent catchment area and sets out the preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50-100 years.
- 4.1.4. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy** (2009) aims to minimise flood risk as a result of development and increase investment in green infrastructure. Flood management will continue to be a policy area in the emerging Local Plan.

### 4.2 Baseline Summary

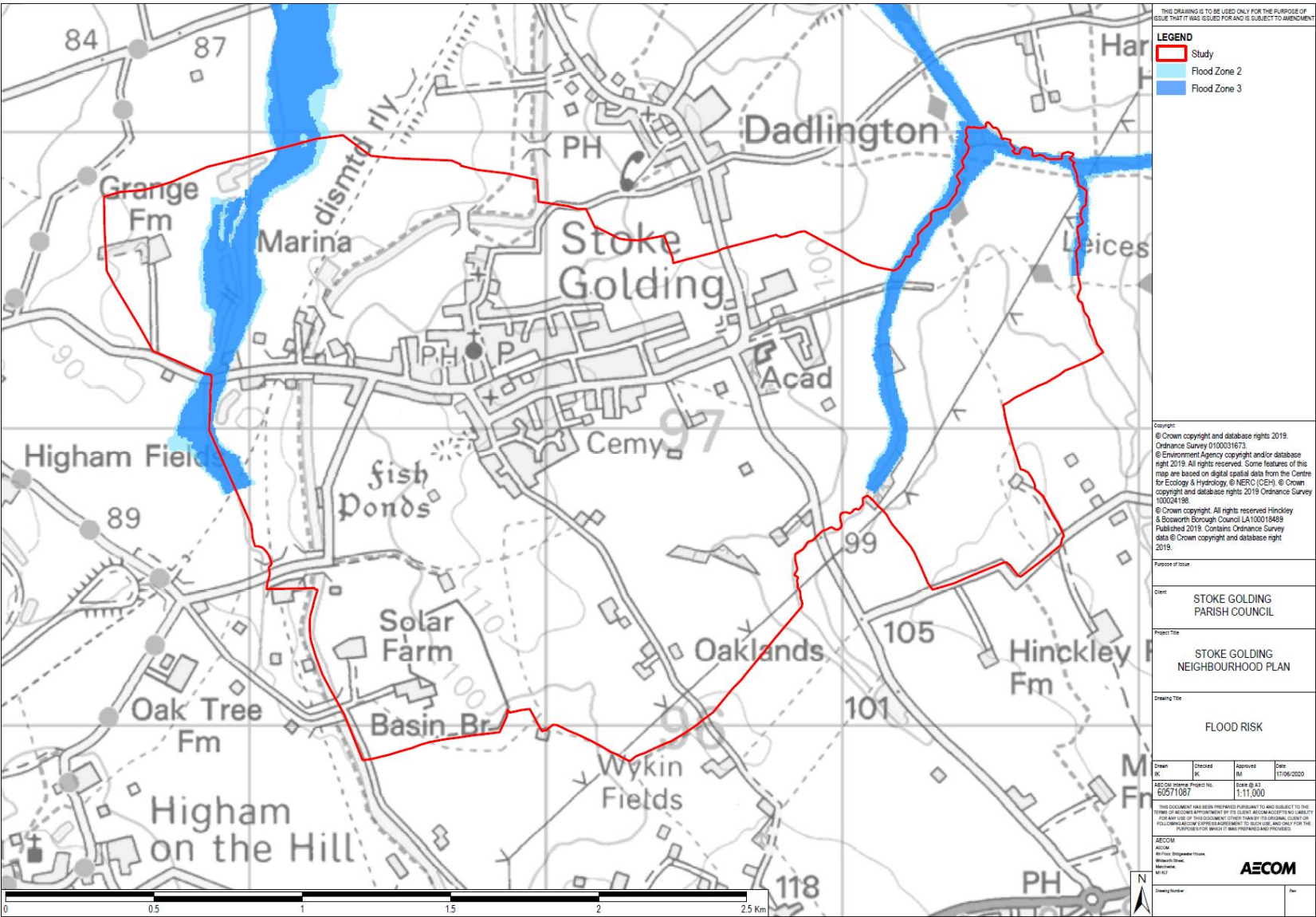
#### Summary of current baseline

- 4.1.5. Flood Zone 1 is defined as having a 'Low Probability' of flooding and incorporates areas where the annual probability of flooding is lower than 0.1% (a 1 in 1000 year flood event). Flood Zone 2 is defined as having a 'Medium Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of flooding between 0.1% and 1.0% for fluvial flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event) or 0.1% and 0.5% for tidal and coastal flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event). Flood Zone 3 is defined as having a 'High Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of beyond 1.0% for fluvial floods and beyond 0.5% for tidal and coastal floods.
- 4.1.6. As illustrated in Figure 4.1, most of the NDP area falls in Flood Zone 1, with the exception of linear areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 along water courses and bodies to the east and west of the built area of Stoke Golding.
- 4.1.7. Surface water flooding occurs when excess water runs off across the surface of the land. Several areas of high and medium surface water flood risk exist in the NDP area; however, these are dispersed with large areas of very low flood risk in between and broadly aligned to waterbodies.

<sup>19</sup> Environment Agency (2009) River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-trent-catchment-flood-management-plan>



Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk in the NDP area



### Summary of future baseline

- 4.1.8. Flood risk at any specific location may be influenced by local factors such as existing formal or informal flood defences and the capacity of existing drainage systems or road/rail culverts. The adoption of SUDs and introduction of Green Infrastructure within development schemes may reduce the speed of surface water run-off and have positive effects in terms of flood risk. Green Infrastructure presents opportunities to address multiple issues through multi-functional spaces.
- 4.1.9. Development in any instance has the potential to exacerbate flood risk within and in the vicinity of the NDP area by increasing the volume of surface water run-off, or by introducing areas of hard standing which could increase the speed of surface water run-off. The risk would be most increased if development were to locate in proximity of Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 areas, but this is unlikely due to these areas being broadly detached from the built area of Stoke Golding.

## 4.3 Key headline issues

- 4.1.10. The key issues are as follows:

- The NDP area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although linear stretches of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs along water courses and bodies to the east and west.
- There is potential for surface water flooding to occur across the NDP area, although areas susceptible to this are scattered between areas with low risk and effects can be mitigated.
- The likelihood of flooding from fluvial and non-fluvial sources is likely to be exacerbated by development in the NDP area. However, opportunities for mitigation exist in sustainable design and development of infrastructure.

## 4.4 Scoping outcome

- 4.1.11. Flood Risk has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA as the Plan is unlikely to adversely affect fluvial flooding as the NDP area is broadly within Flood Zone 1 and areas that falls in Flood Zones 2 and 3 are not contiguous with the built settlement area of Stoke Golding and thus unlikely to support development that may have adverse effects on local flood risk. Parts of the NDP area are at risk of surface water flooding, but these should be possible to avoid and mitigate effects through the application of SuDS and site layout.
- 4.1.12. The following recommendations are highlighted at this stage to help inform the Plan's development:
- Development should avoid Flood Zones 2 and 3 and should not increase the risk of fluvial flooding.
  - The plan should encourage the sustainable management of surface water run-off and drainage (where possible) through measures such as SuDS, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased either within the plan area or downstream.



## 5. Historic Environment

### Focus of theme:

- Designated and non-designated sites, areas and features;
- The setting of heritage assets; and
- Archaeological features.

### 5.1 Policy Context

- 5.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) sets out an environmental objective to contribute to protecting and enhancing the built and historic environment. The Framework provides a strategy to seek 'the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect'. It further states that heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- 5.1.2. Additionally, the **National Planning Policy Guidance** states that NDPs should include enough information, where relevant, 'about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale' and 'about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions'.
- 5.1.3. The Government's '**Statement on the Historic Environment for England**'<sup>20</sup> (2010) sets out their vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Also of note is the reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.
- 5.1.4. Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others.
- 5.1.5. **Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1** (2019)<sup>21</sup> outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:
- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
  - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 5.1.6. **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8** (2016)<sup>22</sup> provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on

<sup>20</sup> DDCMS (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

<sup>21</sup> Historic England (2019) Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1 [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>

<sup>22</sup> Historic England (2016) SA and SEA: Advice Note 8 [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.

- 5.1.7. **Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition)** (2017)<sup>23</sup> provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting.
- 5.1.8. **Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11** (2018)<sup>24</sup> outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.
- 5.1.9. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy** (2009) sets out a spatial objective for the safeguarding and enhancement of the Borough's distinctive built environment including its wider setting particularly that associated with Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and historic industries.

## 5.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

#### Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1. The NP area has a rich historical environment, containing numerous features, with many recognised through designations, including the statutory listed buildings which are nationally designated, and two conservation areas designated at the local level (see Figure 5.1).
- 5.2.2. The statutory listed buildings, that are of Grade I and Grade II, are broadly clustered in the conservation area and along High Street. This includes the Grade I listed Church of St Margaret. Exceptions include Grange Farmhouse and the Royal Observer Corps underground monitoring post that are not contiguous with the built area and the Stoke Golding War Memorial prominently placed in the Hinckley Road Cemetery.
- 5.2.3. A scheduled monument, Hlaew and medieval farmstead immediately south west of Park House covers a site off Main Street and borders the south west built extent of Stoke Golding village.
- 5.2.4. Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.
- 5.2.5. A registered battlefield, Battle of Bosworth (Field) 1485, covers the north west part of the NDP area. The Battle of Bosworth is considered to be of historic importance as it brought the Tudor dynasty to the throne and saw the last death of an English king in battle and is one of the earliest battles in England for which there is clear evidence of significant use of artillery.
- 5.2.6. There are no known locally listed buildings or heritage assets in the NDP area. 28 buildings are highlighted as locally important buildings for heritage in the conservation area appraisal. These are prominent and broadly along High Street and Station Road and include a number of homes, pubs and agricultural buildings. The Neighbourhood Plan area does not include any world heritage sites or registered parks and gardens.

<sup>23</sup> Historic England (2017) Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

<sup>24</sup> Historic England (2018) Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

#### Stoke Golding Conservation Area

- 5.2.7. The Conservation Area was declared in 2004 in response to the clear historic and architectural significance of the village centre that can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon period.
- 5.2.8. The character of the Conservation Area is primarily derived from the agricultural origins of the settlement. This can be identified through a number of former farmhouses and farm buildings within the area, strong visual links to the countryside and several very important green or hard surfaced spaces. The ancient street pattern with its unique twists and turns has added a further layer of local distinctiveness to the area.
- 5.2.9. The Conservation Area has an appraisal with a management plan to preserve and enhance its character. It requires all new development to take account of the established character of the area by being of appropriate scale and density and utilising appropriate materials so that the buildings will make a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area. It further sets out requirements and additional planning controls to ensure changes to buildings and new development is in-keeping with the character of the area.

#### Ashby Canal Conservation Area

- 5.2.10. The Conservation Area was designated in 1992. The Ashby Canal is of considerable industrial archaeological interest. Despite its inception at a time of immense industrial activity, the canal is noted for its visual charm, meandering peacefully for most of its length through the quiet pastoral landscape of Western Leicestershire with very limited hints of the coalmines and heavy industry that prompted its creation.
- 5.2.11. The Conservation Area has an appraisal and a management plan to preserve and enhance its character. It requires development to consider the impact on the openness and views of the canal and on the canal infrastructure.

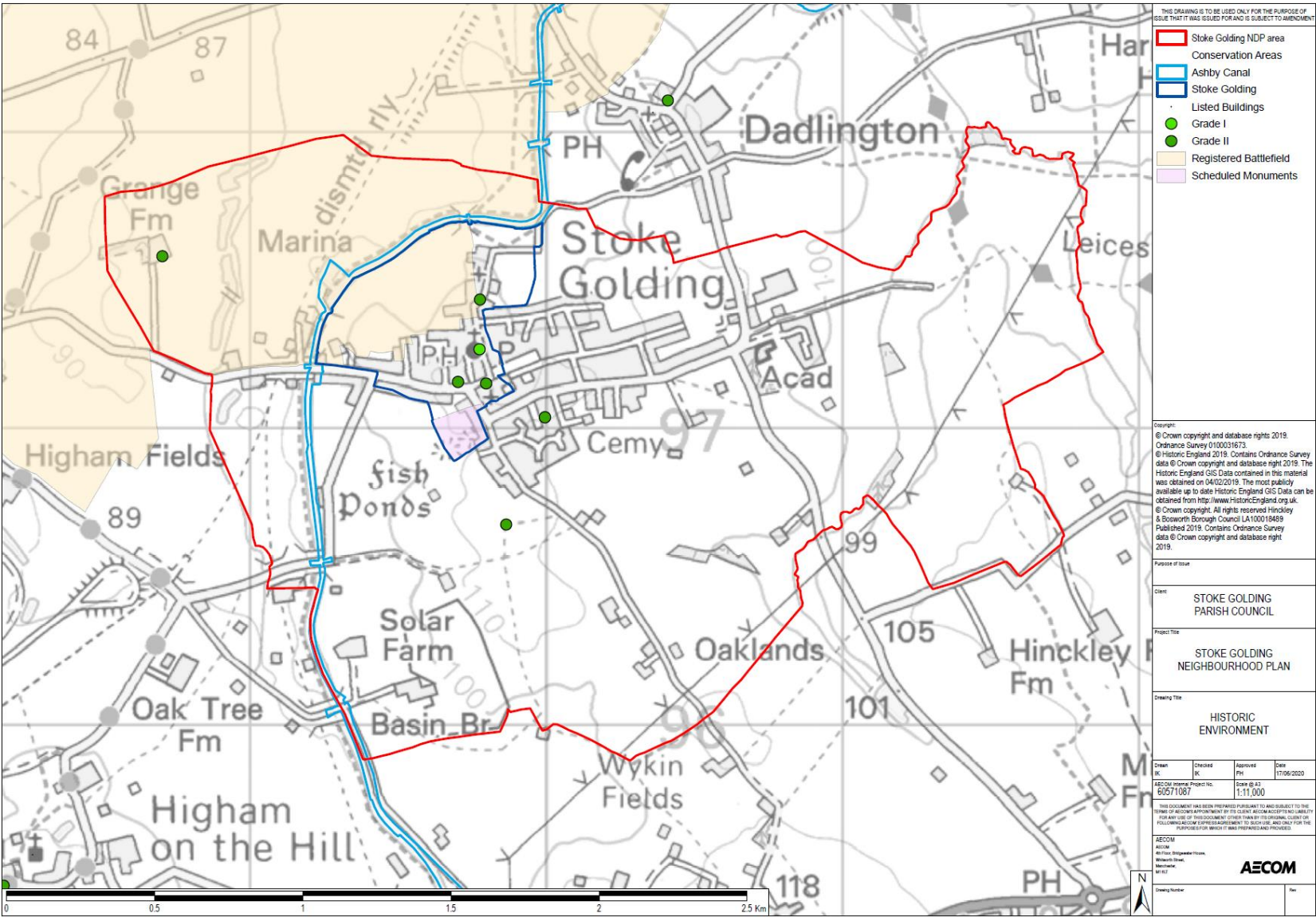
#### Heritage at Risk

- 5.2.12. Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights some of the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II\* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. There are no heritage assets identified in the Heritage at Risk Register within the NDP area. However, as the Register does not cover all Grade II listed buildings, buildings in conservation areas and non-designated heritage assets, it is likely that some locally significant heritage may be at risk.

#### Archaeology and other historic records

- 5.2.13. Several archaeological studies and watching briefs have been undertaken within the Plan area, with the following finding is noted:
- The remains of well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded by Cotswold Archaeology on land off Hinckley Road, Stoke Golding.
- 5.2.14. A search of the Historic Environment Record has been requested from the County Council, and the findings will help to inform the appraisal of the Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Figure 5.1: Histroic Environment Designations in Stoke Golding



## Summary of future baseline

- 5.2.15. New development in the NDP area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and upon the character of the townscape. This may incur negative effects, such as the adoption of unsympathetic design and material choice, or positive effects through targeted redevelopment of derelict and underused land and buildings.
- 5.2.16. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and the historic environment based policies within the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy will offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

## 5.3 Key headline issues

5.2.17. The key issues are as follows:

- The NDP area contains a considerable number of heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Structures, a conservation area and a schedule monument, which could be affected by policies and proposals within the plan (either positively or negatively).
- An unsensitive approach that does not seek to conserve and enhance heritage assets could result in the erosion of the townscape quality.

## 5.4 Scoping outcome

- 5.2.18. Historic Environment has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the setting of heritage assets and the character of the built and natural environment.

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

- 5.2.19. The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 5.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 5.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Historic Environment**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets?</li> <li>• Avoid adverse effects on the Battle of Bosworth registered battlefield?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>



## 6. Landscape

### Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality

### 6.1 Policy Context

- 6.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) includes recognition for the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital. Importantly, great weight is to be given to protecting and enhancing landscapes and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 6.1.2. The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character are as follows:
- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
  - Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.
- 6.1.3. There are 159 Character Areas that collectively form the **National Character Area Profiles**<sup>25</sup> (2015) each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. The Leicestershire Vales Character Areas cover the NDP area.
- 6.1.4. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment**<sup>26</sup> (2017) identifies areas of distinct landscape character across the Borough Council administrative area. These areas are described in detail with regard to geology, topography, soils, biodiversity, woodland, human and historic influences, landform, land use and built form. It further sets out general guidelines relevant to the whole borough but also specific guidelines for the management of each of the landscape character areas presented.
- 6.1.5. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Sensitivity Assessment**<sup>27</sup> (2017) provides context to identified key sensitivity areas in particular in relation to built development and its integration with the landscape.
- 6.1.6. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy** (2009) sets out a spatial objective for the enhancement and the protection of the Borough's distinctive landscapes, woodlands, geology, archaeological heritage and biodiversity and encourage its understanding, appreciation, maintenance and development.

<sup>25</sup> In-depth profiles are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>

<sup>26</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2017) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/308/landscape\\_character\\_assessment](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/308/landscape_character_assessment)

<sup>27</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2017) Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Sensitivity Assessment [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/1418/landscape\\_sensitivity\\_study](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/1418/landscape_sensitivity_study)

## 6.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

- 6.2.1. The NDP area lies within the Leicestershire Vales (94) National Character Area (NCA). The spatial context of the NCA is illustrated in Figure 6.1.
- 6.2.2. The Leicestershire Vales NCA is a large, relatively open, uniform landscape composed of low-lying clay vales interrupted by a range of varied river valleys. The land use is characterised by a mixture of pasture and arable agriculture that has developed on the neutral clay soils. Woodland character derived largely from spinneys and copses on the ridges and the more undulating land and from waterside and hedgerow trees and hedgerows. The density, height and pattern of hedgerows varies throughout.
- 6.2.3. The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment provides the most detailed assessment of the landscape character of the NDP area. The NDP area mainly falls within the Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland character area. The spatial context of the area is illustrated in Figure 6.2. Key characteristics include:
- Undulating arable and pasture farmland with gentle valleys sloping down to the Ashby Canal, Tweed River and associated tributaries.
  - Small to medium scale rectilinear field pattern divided by low hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees typical of parliamentary enclosure, with smaller pasture fields around settlements, creating a largely unified field pattern and providing continuity with the agricultural past.
  - Historic villages occupying higher ground with attractive red brick cottages fronting onto the road and connected by rural lanes with grass verges and well-maintained hedgerows.
  - Church spires and towers within villages in and around the character area form distinctive landmarks on the skyline.
  - Associations with the Battle of Bosworth, particularly at Crown Hill in Stoke Golding.
- 6.2.4. The Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Sensitivity Assessment sets out key sensitivities and values for the area to the west of Stoke Golding. These are as follows:
- Landform is flat to gently undulating and low lying. There are a number of scattered farms and fields bounded by low hedgerows and trees and water features, typical of the wider character of the area.
  - Dispersed settlement pattern of small historic villages in the wider character area.
  - Extensive views, flat and open character.

### Summary of future baseline

- 6.2.5. Existing Development Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings. However, depending on the scale of development, a lack of overall vision and framework could result in the delivery of different development styles, layouts and material choices. This could have a disruptive impact on the landscape through the lack of cohesive development. Insensitive development could also result in the loss of landscape features and visual impact. In contrary, sensitive development presents an opportunity to enhance the existing townscape character of Stoke Golding whilst respecting the key characteristics of the landscape.



Figure 6.1: National Character Areas covering Stoke Golding

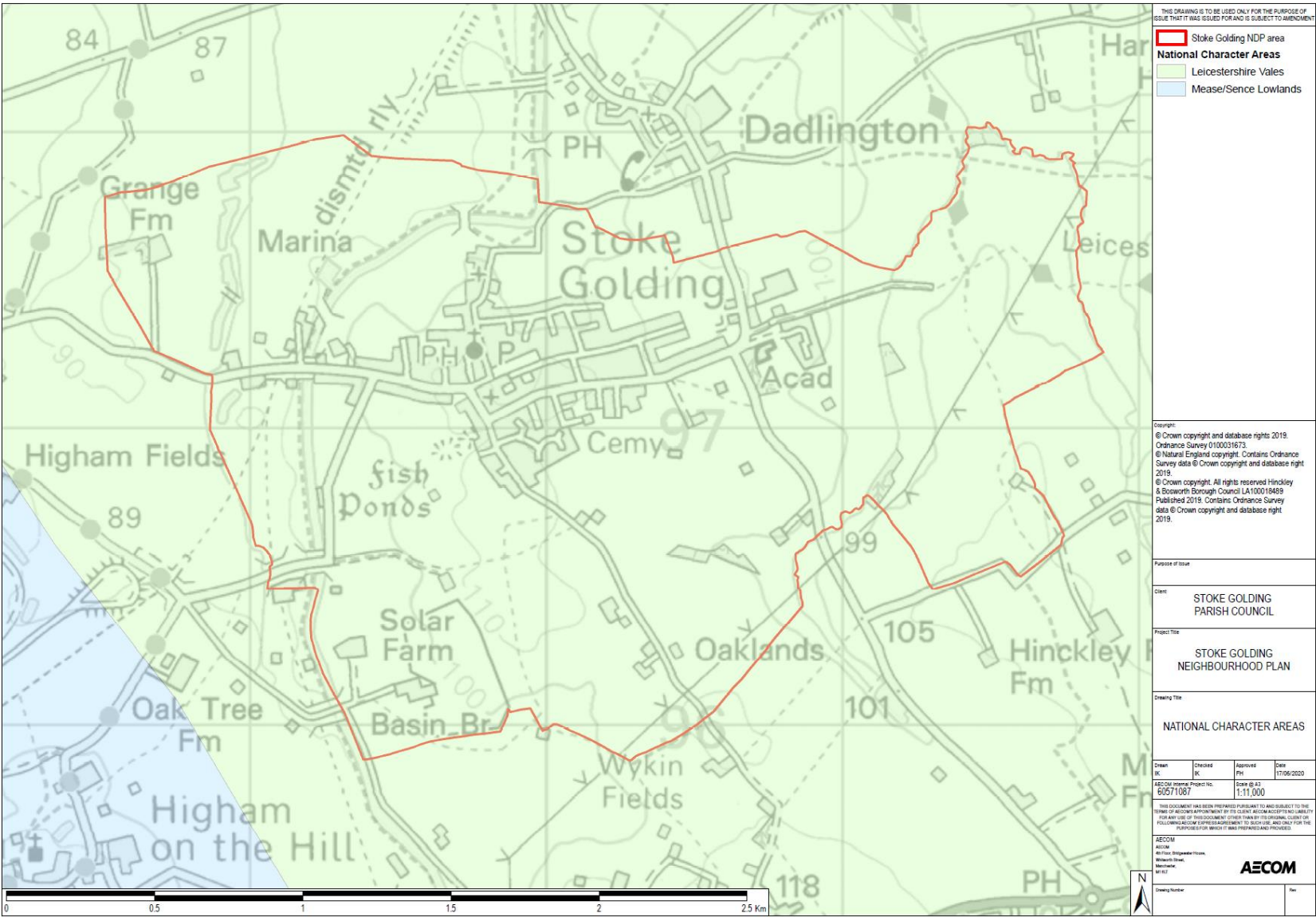
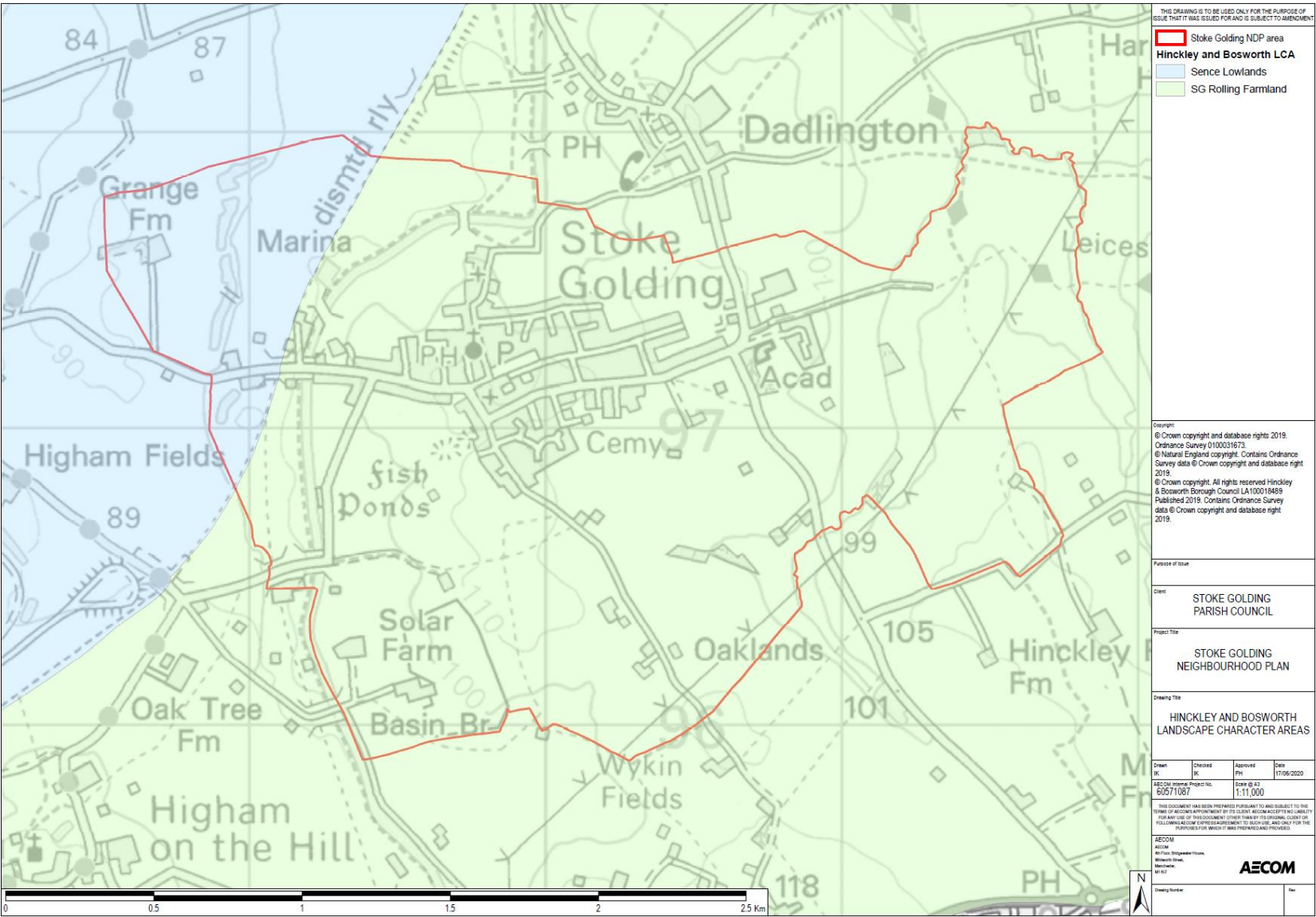


Figure 6.2: Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Areas covering Stoke Golding



## 6.3 Key headline issues

6.3.1. The key issues are as follows:

- The landscape is predominantly gently rolling and low lying and has limited tree cover.
- Existing Development Plan policies offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.

## 6.4 Scoping outcome

6.3.2. Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the character of landscapes, which also contributes to the rural setting of the village.

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

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

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

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

## 7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of theme:

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

### 7.1 Policy Context

- 7.1.1. The EU's **Soil Thematic Strategy**<sup>28</sup> (2006) presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity and food safety.
- 7.1.2. The **NPPF** (2019) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued soil and the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Policies should also prevent new and existing development from *'contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution'*.
- 7.1.3. The Framework further stresses the importance for development to have adequate provision for water supply and wastewater. It also asserts that development should not have any detrimental effects on water quality.
- 7.1.4. In **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England**<sup>29</sup> (2009), a vision is set out for the future of soils in the country. It suggests that changing demands on our soils need to be better understood and it must be ensured that appropriate consideration is given to soils in the planning process.
- 7.1.5. The **Future Water**<sup>30</sup> strategy (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 7.1.6. The Government's **'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'** (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes using and managing land sustainably by protecting the best agricultural land, improving soil health and restoring and protecting peatlands. This also includes respecting nature by using our water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a net environmental gain which can include water quality.
- 7.1.7. The **Leicester City and Leicestershire Strategic Water Cycle Study**<sup>31</sup> (2017) considers the potential water/ waste water and drainage infrastructure related constraints to future development in the region and concludes that development has the potential to cause a range of adverse environmental impact on the water environment and biodiversity features in the area and this should be appropriately assessed.

<sup>28</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Strategy [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm)

<sup>29</sup> Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Defra (2011) Future Water – The government's water strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

<sup>31</sup> JBA Consulting (2017) Leicester City and Leicestershire Strategic Water Cycle Study [online] available at: [https://www.llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk/download/pdf\\_document/2017s5956-Leicester-City-and-Leicestershire-Water-Cycle-Study-Final-v5.0.pdf](https://www.llestrategicgrowthplan.org.uk/download/pdf_document/2017s5956-Leicester-City-and-Leicestershire-Water-Cycle-Study-Final-v5.0.pdf)



- 7.1.8. The **Water Resources Management Plan**<sup>32</sup> (2019) by Severn Trent Water sets out how the organisation will ensure the sufficient supply of water over a 25 year period.

## 7.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

- 7.2.1. The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.
- 7.2.2. The NDP area consists of Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land (as illustrated in Figures 7.1 and 7.2 below). Although it is unclear whether the Grade 3 land is amongst the best and most versatile, most of the area does fall within this status.
- 7.2.3. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal runs in a circular direction from the north to the south west of the NDP area. Further west, there are a number of lakes and an unnamed stream. An unnamed stream also runs in the eastern part of the NDP area that flows into River Tweed.
- 7.2.4. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been designated by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area.
- 7.2.5. There are no such zones designated by the Environment Agency in the NDP area.
- 7.2.6. The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The NDP area falls within the S308 - River Trent Soar Surface Waters NVZ.

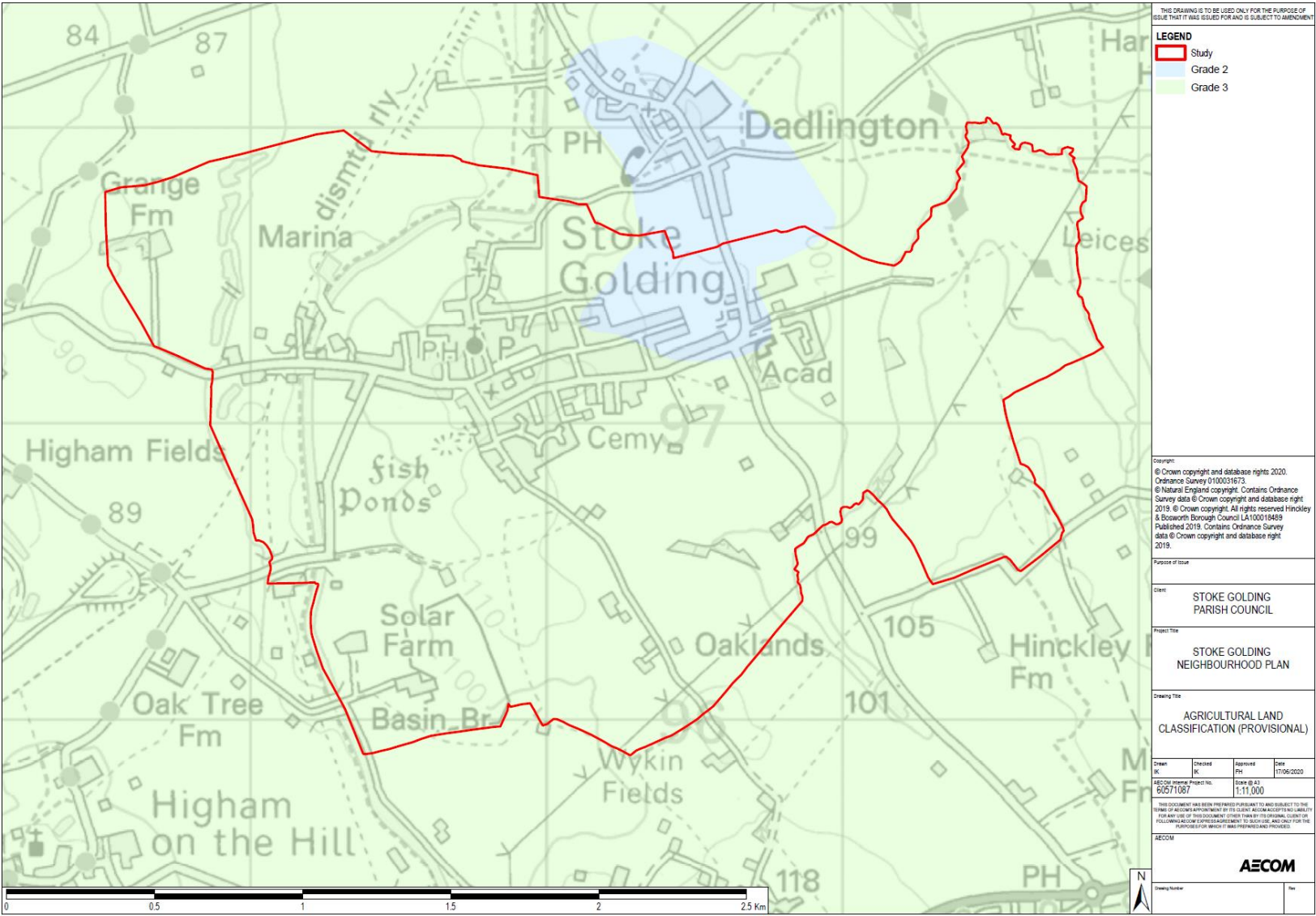
### Summary of future baseline

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

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<sup>32</sup> Severn Trent Water (2019) Water Resources Management Plan 2019 [online] available at: <https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/our-plans/severn-trent-water-resource-management-plan.pdf>

Figure 7.1: Indicative Agricultural Land Classification



## 7.3 Key headline issues

### 7.3.1. The key issues are as follows:

- The NDP area consists of mainly Grade 3 agricultural land. However, there is a sizable area of Grade 2 land. These are categorised as best and most versatile.
- The Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal runs in a circular direction from the north to the south west of the NDP area.
- The NDP area falls within the S308 - River Trent Surface Waters NVZ.
- Development could drastically change the land and soil quality and adversely affect water quality, but effects could be avoided.

## 7.4 Scoping outcome

- 7.4.1. The topic of 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on soil / agricultural land and water quality.
- 7.4.2. There are important soil resources in the Plan area that ought to be avoided as much as possible. However, the total loss of land is unlikely to exceed 10ha (given the scale of growth likely to be involved in any site allocations), and so a significant effect upon soil resources is considered unlikely in any event. For this reason, soil is scoped out of the SEA.
- 7.4.3. This does not mean that higher quality agricultural land should not be protected though, and such principles will need to be addressed through the site assessment process.
- 7.4.4. Despite the Plan area being covered by a nitrate vulnerable zone, it is considered unlikely that significant effects upon water quality would occur as a result of the Plan. The scale of growth is not major, and changes to land use would not be anticipated to increase nitrate pollution. With regards to waste water treatment and drainage, the scale of growth would not be expected to cause issues to existing and planned infrastructure, and so significant effects in this respect are also unlikely. Consequently, water quality has been scoped out of the SEA.



## 8. Population and Housing

### Focus of theme:

- Population size;
- Age structure;
- House prices and affordability; and
- Housing types and needs.

### 8.1 Policy Context

- 8.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to ‘*support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations*’. It further emphasises the need for homes to be of a size, type and tenure to meet needs of different social groups, with at least 10% of new homes to be provided for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.
- 8.1.2. In February 2017, the Government published a housing white paper entitled ‘**Fixing our broken housing market**’. This establishes the government’s plans to reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes in England through a series of four proposals. These including planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.
- 8.1.3. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Needs Study**<sup>33</sup> (2019) sets out the housing need in the borough including affordable housing need. The report concludes that an additional 457 dwelling per annum are required within the local plan area including 271 affordable units.
- 8.1.4. The **Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment**<sup>34</sup> (2017) provides a review of housing requirements in the Local Enterprise Partnership area including need in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough for the period 2011-2036.
- 8.1.5. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy** (2009) aims to support the growth of housing including affordable housing in the Borough. In regards to housing in village and countryside locations, such as Desford Parish, it supports housing ‘*within settlement boundaries that provides a mix of housing types and tenures*’.

### 8.2 Baseline Summary

#### Summary of current baseline

- 8.2.1. In 2018, the population of the Stoke Golding village built up area<sup>35</sup> was 1,923, having grown by 13.5% since 2011 (1,695)<sup>36</sup>. In comparison, Hinckley and Bosworth has seen a 7% increase in population since 2011.
- 8.2.2. Table 8.1 shows the age structure of the local population in comparison with the Borough and national averages. It is apparent that Stoke Golding village has a lower than average 0-14, 15-24 and 25-44 year old population compared to the borough and nationally. Stoke Golding village has a notably higher population over 45 year old. Both Stoke Golding village and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough have a higher than usual 65-84 year old population.

<sup>33</sup> JG Consulting (2019) Hinckley and Bosworth Housing Needs Study [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/6849/housing\\_needs\\_study\\_november\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/6849/housing_needs_study_november_2019.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> GL Hearn (2017) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment: Leicester & Leicestershire Authorities and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership.

<sup>35</sup> ONS Stoke Golding BUA area.

<sup>36</sup> ONS Population Estimates 2019.

**Table 8.1: Age Structure in 2018 (ONS Population Estimates)**

	Stoke Golding village built up area	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough	Great Britain
<b>0-14</b>	14%	16.7%	17.9%
<b>15-24</b>	8.2%	9.7%	11.8%
<b>25-44</b>	18.3%	23.6%	26.1%
<b>45-64</b>	33.2%	28.3%	25.8%
<b>65-84</b>	23.2%	19.2%	15.9%
<b>85+</b>	3%	2.6%	2.4%
<b>Total population</b>	1,923	112,400	64,553,900

- 8.2.3. With regards to housing delivery, Table 8.2 shows that over the last 5 years 556 dwellings were completed per annum on average; which is considerably higher than the target set out in the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy. A variation in delivery rates is also apparent with the highest number recorded in 2014/15 (752) and the lowest a year earlier in 2011/12 and 2012/13 (227). The recent trend in net completions suggests a gradual decline in housing delivery in the Borough since 2014.

**Table 8.2: Net Housing Completions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (Source: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council)**

	2010/11	2011/12	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Completions (net)</b>	227	373	752	585	556	423	464
<b>Housing requirements</b>	450 <sup>1</sup>	454 <sup>2</sup>	454	454	454	454	454
<b>Supply</b>	-223	-81	+298	+131	+102	-31	+10

<sup>1</sup> Annualised Borough Housing Requirement (2006-2011).

<sup>2</sup> Annualised Borough Housing Requirement (2011-2026).

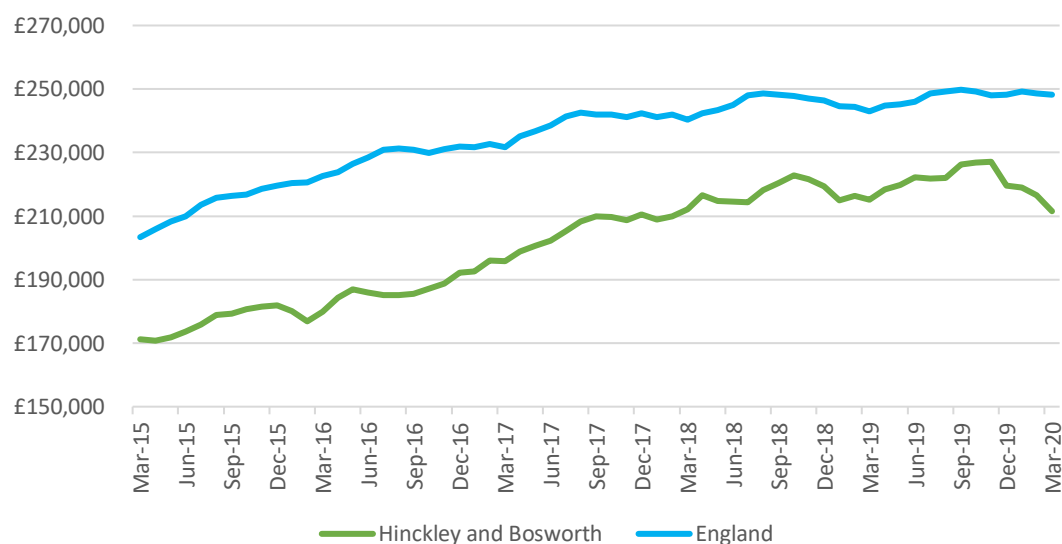
- 8.2.4. With regards to housing tenure, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough has a considerably higher number of owned households compared to the regional average and the rest of England (see Table 8.3). Subsequently there are significantly fewer households which were classified under socially rented and shared ownership.

**Table 8.3: Housing Tenure in 2011 (ONS Housing Tenure)**

	Hinckley and Bosworth (numbers)	(%)	East Midlands (%)	England (%)
<b>All Categories</b>	45,377	-	-	-
<b>Owned (Total)</b>	34,826	76.7%	67.2%	63.3%
<b>Shared Ownership</b>	267	0.59%	0.67%	0.8%
<b>Socially Rented</b>	4,685	10.3%	15.85%	17.7%
<b>Private Rented</b>	5,156	11.4%	14.9%	16.8%
<b>Living Rent Free</b>	443	0.98%	1.34%	1.3%

- 8.2.5. The average house price in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough in March 2020 (£211,430) showed a 1.7% decrease on March 2019 despite a trend of increasing house prices up to December 2019 (see Figure 8.1).
- 8.2.6. Average prices in Hinckley and Bosworth are significantly lower compared to the national average. The average house price in Stoke Golding village over the year to April 2020 was £253,226<sup>37</sup>.
- 8.2.7. The average detached house price in the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth in March 2020 was £299,044, which is a 1.7% decrease on March 2019 (£304,409). The average semi-detached house price was £190,401, and the average terrace was £155,136.

**Figure 8.1: Average house prices for all property types March 2015 to March 2020 (Source: UK HPI)**



<sup>37</sup> HM Land Registry house price data.

## Summary of future baseline

- 8.2.8. Population trends in the NDP area indicate an aging population. This is evident through the higher than average proportion of people aged over 45 years.
- 8.2.9. The Housing Needs Study (2019) for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council indicates that in light of the Standard Method introduced by the NPPF local housing need for the Borough as a whole is 457 dwellings per annum.

## 8.3 Key headline issues

8.2.10. The key issues are as follows:

- The population of Stoke Golding village has increased by 13.5% between 2011 and 2018.
- Net completion trends in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough currently exceed the local housing need but the trend over the last 5 years indicate a decline in housing delivery.
- Average house prices in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough are considerably lower than the national average and have decreased by 1.7% over the last year.
- Local housing need for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is identified as 457 dwellings per annum.

## 8.4 Scoping outcome

8.2.11. The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan will influence housing delivery and the delivery of other infrastructures and services that are required to deliver and sustain sustainable communities.

## 8.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Housing SEA theme?

8.2.12. The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 8.4 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 8.4: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Population and Housing**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?</li> <li>• Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> <li>• Enhance housing provision in existing communities?</li> </ul>

## 9. Health and Wellbeing

### Focus of theme:

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

### 9.1 Policy Context

- 9.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities... by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment'*. It also states that *'access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities'*.
- 9.1.2. The Framework further outlines that the planning system should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that are designed to promote social interactions, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- 9.1.3. Fair Society, Healthy Lives (**'The Marmot Review'**)<sup>38</sup> (2011) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'*.
- 9.1.4. The Government's **'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'** (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Relevant proposals include connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing by:
- Using green spaces including through mental health services.
  - Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
  - Greening our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.
  - Making 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.
- 9.1.5. The **Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**<sup>39</sup> (2017) identifies the main health and wellbeing challenges across the county and sets out 5 priorities to address the challenges. The priorities seek to enable locals to take control of their health and wellbeing; reduce disparities in health between people and places; ensure children can achieve their full health potential; help people identify health issues and to long term plan for their health; and promote mental health awareness and treatment.
- 9.1.6. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Core Strategy** (2009) sets out a spatial objective to *'develop healthier and stronger communities by improving access to, and the provision of, community, sports and cultural facilities, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes integrated with local public transport'*. The Plan further contains several policies that directly

<sup>38</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Leicestershire County Council (2017) Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy [online] available at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2016/10/11/Leics%20JHWS%202017-22v2.pdf>

relate to health and wellbeing. The emerging Local Plan will also seek to address health and wellbeing.

## 9.2 Baseline Summary

### Summary of current baseline

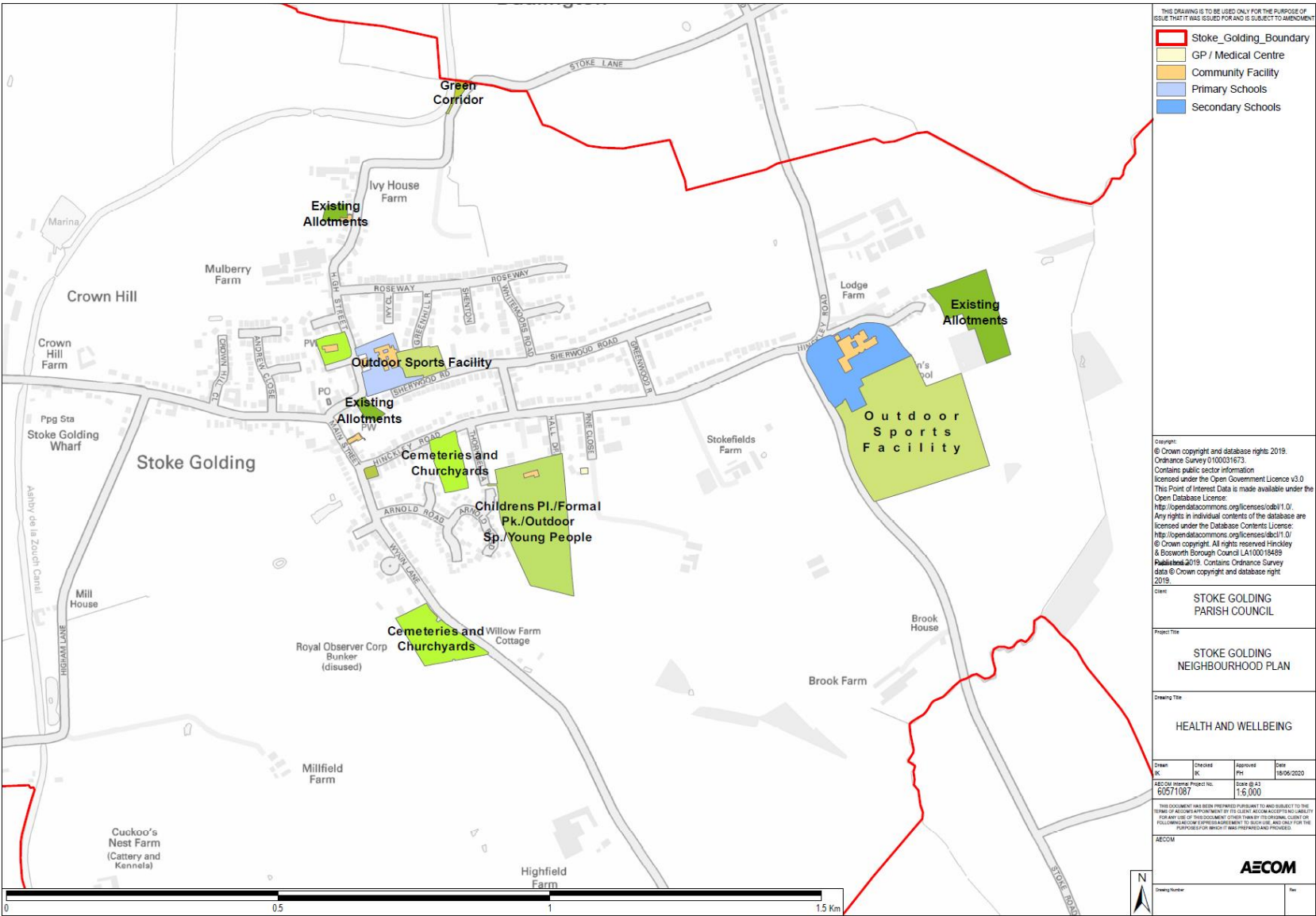
#### Health indicators

- 9.2.1. According to the Hinckley and Bosworth Health Profile 2019<sup>40</sup>, the health of people in the Borough is varied compared with the England average.
- The life expectancy for both males and females and the under 75 mortality rates is significantly better in the Borough than the regional and England averages.
  - In contrast, hip fractures in older people and breastfeeding initiation are worse than the England average.
  - People in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough are significantly less likely to self-harm or commit suicide than those across England and slightly less likely to be overweight.
- 9.2.2. The closest hospital, Hinckley and District Hospital, is approximately located 3.1 miles from Stoke Golding. The closest hospital with A&E departments is George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton located approximately 4.8 miles from Stoke Golding.
- 9.2.3. There is also a medical centre, Pine Close Surgery, located in the NDP area. Health and wellbeing facilities within the NDP area and beyond are illustrated in Figure 9.1 below.
- 9.2.4. Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on health by encouraging and facilitating outdoor activity. Stoke Golding includes several playing fields/ areas, green open spaces and a local wildlife site. Figure 9.1 illustrates the extent and location of green infrastructure and community facilities in Stoke Golding.

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<sup>40</sup> Public Health England (2019) Hinckley and Bosworth Local Authority Health Profile 2019 [online] available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

Figure 9.1: Health facilities, Community Infrastructure and Green Space





### Deprivation

9.2.5. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work.
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness / disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, including the quality of housing stock, air quality and road traffic incidents.

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

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

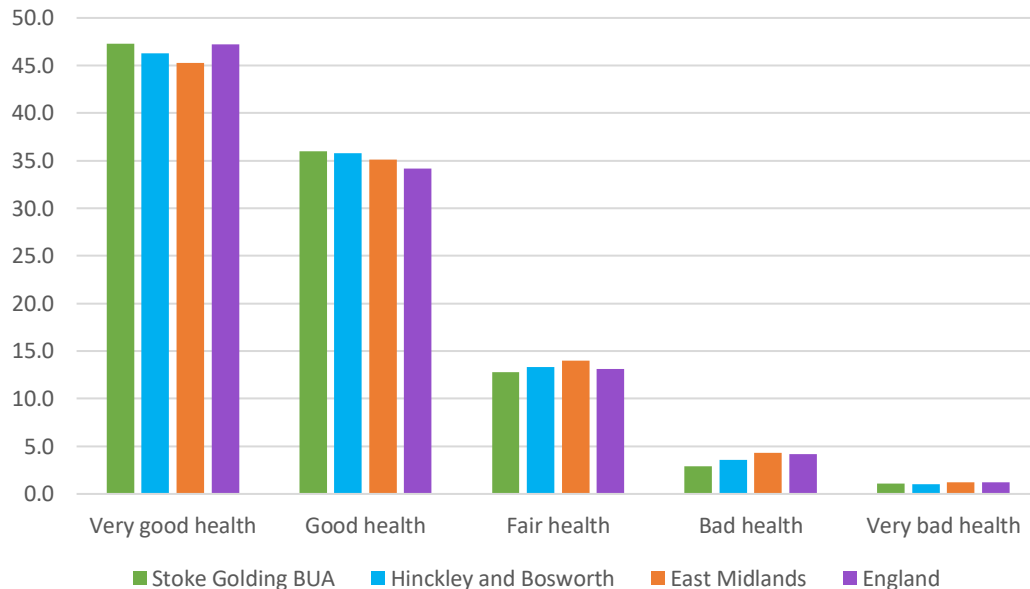
9.2.6. As illustrated in Figure 9.3 below, most of the NDP area falls within the 20% least deprived areas in England, with a slightly higher level of deprivation recorded to the west of the Plan area. As there is a strong correlation between deprivation and health, this corroborates the findings of the Health Profiles and suggests a higher than average level of health and wellbeing.



9.2.7. A self-assessment of health by residents in the NDP area indicates that most residents in Stoke Golding consider themselves to be in very good health (47.3%), followed by good health (36%), and that only 3.9% of residents consider their health to be bad or very bad.

9.2.8. These trends are similar to regional and national patterns with the exception being that Stoke Golding has a smaller proportion of residents that consider themselves to have fair health or bad health.

**Figure 9.4: Residents General Health (Census 2011: KS301EW)**



### Summary of future baseline

9.2.9. It is likely that with increased population growth there will be a higher demand for health, fitness and leisure facilities within Stoke Golding. This could support additional facilities but could equally add further strain to existing facilities in the local area.

## 9.3 Key headline issues

9.3.1. The key issues are as follows:

- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough has a broadly healthy population with higher than national average life expectancy.
- The NDP area has lower than average levels of deprivation when compared to areas nationally and also across the borough.
- There are several health and recreational facilities within the NDP area.
- Increased population growth will require additional provision for health and recreational facilities. Additional provision could be delivered through developer contributions.

## 9.4 Scoping outcome

- 9.4.1. The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA.
- 9.4.2. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate sites for housing which would increase demand for local health and recreational facilities but the scale of housing likely to come forward would have a negligible effect upon this and would not result in a significant change to the existing baseline. The Neighbourhood Plan area has relatively good provision of health, wellbeing and recreational facilities, but there are opportunities for further enhancement through the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan could help to secure additional provision and / or enhance links between existing areas. As such the SEA could help to address the extent to which improvements could be made (as well as the location).

## 9.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

- 9.5.1. The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 9.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 9.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Health and Wellbeing**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote accessibility and availability to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all community groups?</li> <li>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>Promote healthy and active lifestyles?</li> </ul>

## 10. Transportation

### Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Accessibility; and
- Travel to work.

### 10.1 Policy Context

- 10.1.1. The **NPPF** (2019) requires that *'transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making'*. The scale, location and density of development should reflect *'opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure'*. To help reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health the planning system should focus significant development *'on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes'*. The Framework also requires that planning policies support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to further help reduce the need to travel as well as the provision of high quality walking and cycling network.
- 10.1.2. The **Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3**<sup>41</sup> (2011) sets out the council's priorities, plans and strategies for managing, maintaining and improving all aspects of the local transport system over the 15 year period. The objectives of the LTP include supporting economic growth, improve road and transport safety, improving access to services, managing adverse impacts of transport on the environment and promoting healthier travel opportunities.
- 10.1.3. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy** (2009) aims to integrate development and transport provision and locate development where it is accessible to key services and facilities and a range of transport modes. It also encourages public transport, walking and cycle routes provision.
- 10.1.4. The **Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Consultation**<sup>42</sup> (2018) aims to direct development in locations where services and jobs are most accessible. It further states that existing road infrastructure in the Borough is good but the borough has poor access to public transport and invites people to comment on how transport infrastructure issues can be addressed.

### 10.2 Baseline Summary

#### Summary of current baseline

- 10.1.5. The NDP area is served by a network of highways that run through and connect Stoke Golding to nearby settlements. Stoke Golding is approximately 2.1 miles from the A5 which connects to the M42 to the north and M69 and M1 to the south providing good national highway access.
- 10.1.6. The NDP area is not served by rail links and the closest station is Hinckley to the south east. Hinckley station is frequently served by trains to Birmingham New Street, Cambridge and Leicester.
- 10.1.7. A limited bus service, route 66, provides an hourly service to Hinckley and Nuneaton from Stoke Golding village. The service operates between approximately 7am and 7pm and every other hour serves Dadlington. The spatial distribution of bus stops throughout the NDP area is illustrated in Figure 10.1.

<sup>41</sup> Leicestershire County Council (2011) Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 [online] available at: [https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/9/Local\\_transport\\_plan.pdf](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/9/Local_transport_plan.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (2018) Local Plan Review: Scope, Issues and Options Consultation [online] available at: [https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/1004/planning\\_policy\\_and\\_the\\_local\\_plan/1315/local\\_plan\\_review/3](https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy_and_the_local_plan/1315/local_plan_review/3)

10.1.8. There are several Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) surrounding and connecting within the NDP area (see Figure 10.1). These broadly extend along Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal and outwards from the built area of Stoke Golding village towards the outer settlements and countryside.

10.1.9. According to Census data, local residents in the NDP area are less likely to travel to work by sustainable modes of transport such as public transport (see Table 11.2) when compared with the national average. A greater proportion of people tend to work from home, which can be considered to be highly sustainable in that it avoids the need for transportation. However, this also highlights the poor local transport access to employment.

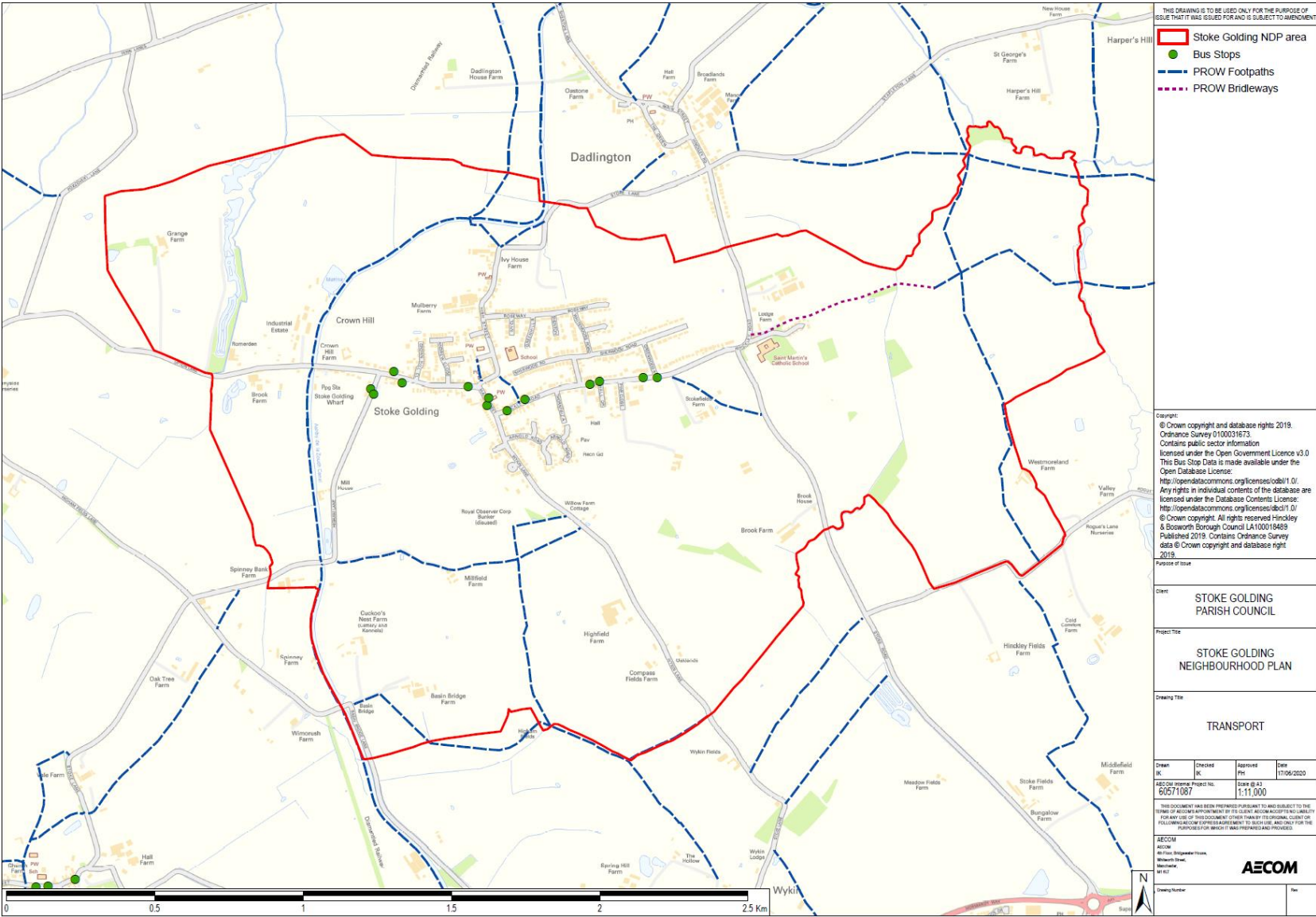
**Table 11.2: Methods of travel to work (Census 2011)**

	<b>Stoke Golding built up area</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Work mainly from home</b>	9.4%	5.4%	+4%
<b>Underground, metro, light rail or tram</b>	0%	3.9%	-3.9%
<b>Train</b>	1.9%	5.2%	-3.3%
<b>Bus, minibus or coach</b>	1.3%	7.3%	-6%
<b>Taxi</b>	0.2%	0.5%	-0.3%
<b>Motocycle, scooter or moped</b>	1.4%	0.8%	+0.6%
<b>Driving a car or a van</b>	73.9%	57.5%	+16.4%
<b>Passenger in a car or a van</b>	3.4%	5.1%	-1.7%
<b>Bicycle</b>	3%	2.9%	+0.1%
<b>On foot</b>	5.2%	10.7%	-5.5%
<b>Other</b>	0.4%	0.7%	-0.3%

10.1.10. Due to the rural nature of the NDP area and its vicinity, car parking and cycle infrastructure is limited.



Figure 10.1: Public Transport Connectivity and Public Rights of Ways





### Summary of future baseline

10.1.11. New development is likely to result in higher amounts of traffic along the local road network that connect Stoke Golding to nearby settlements and the A5. A greater local population and subsequent demand for public transport could provide opportunities to increase bus provision. However, Stoke Golding is unlikely to experience significant amounts of growth that would add significant congestion to the local road network or make major improvements to public transport provision viable.

## 10.3 Key headline issues

10.1.12. The key issues are as follows:

- The NDP area is served by a network of highways that connect it to nearby settlements and the national highway network.
- Stoke Golding does not have a railway station and has limited bus connectivity.
- Local residents in the NDP area are significantly more likely to travel by car than people nationally.
- New development is likely to increase traffic and improve the viability of public transport, but this is unlikely to be significant.

## 10.4 Scoping outcome

10.1.13. The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as policies and proposals in the Plan are not likely to generate additional traffic and movement in the Neighbourhood Plan area to an extent that would have significant effects.

10.1.14. It is recommended that the Plan seeks to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel including measures such as home and remote working and improving local public transport provision. This can improve local transportation options and improve sustainable transport provision. The Plan should further seek to ensure new development has adequate access, seeks to improve road safety and does not have adverse impacts on residents or the existing transport network.

# 11. The SEA Framework and Methodologies

## 11.1 The SEA Framework

- 11.1.1. The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 2-10).
- 11.1.2. The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Development Plan Document (and any reasonable alternatives).
- 11.1.3. Table 11.1 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The Framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can have in some areas.

**Table 11.1: The SEA Framework**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions ( Will the option/proposal help to: )
Protect, maintain and enhance the function and connectivity of biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support connections between habitats in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Avoid impacts on the Kendall's Meadow SSSI?</li> <li>• Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the NDP area?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the NDP area to the effects of climate change?</li> </ul>
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment of Stoke Golding.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of heritage assets?</li> <li>• Avoid adverse effects on the Battle of Bosworth registered battlefield?</li> <li>• Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets?</li> <li>• Contribute to better management of landscape assets?</li> <li>• Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?</li> <li>• Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?</li> </ul>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?</li> </ul>

- Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?
- Enhance housing provision in existing communities?

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Protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Stoke Golding by enhancing the quality and accessibility to open space, facilities for recreation and health.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote accessibility and availability to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all community groups?
  - Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?
  - Promote healthy and active lifestyles?
-

## 12. Next Steps

### 12.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

12.1.1. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a six-stage SEA process:

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

12.1.2. The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Plan. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back so that they can be considered when preparing the draft plan.

### 12.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

12.2.1. Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

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

12.2.3. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Ishaq Khan, Consultant, *AECOM Ltd, 4th Floor, Bridgewater House, Manchester, M1 6LT*

Email address: [Ishaq.Khan@aecom.com](mailto:Ishaq.Khan@aecom.com)

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

## 13. Glossary

**Agricultural Land** - Agricultural land is classified into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. A number of consistent criteria are used for assessment which include climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, texture, stoniness).

**Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)** – This is a measure of deprivation in England, for every local authority and super output area seven domains of deprivation are measured: (Income, Employment, Health deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime the Living Environment). This allows all 32,482 SOAs to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to each other. This information is then brought together into one overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

**LNR** – Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

**NNR** - Many of the finest sites in England for wildlife and geology are National Nature Reserves (NNR). There are currently 224 across the country and almost all are accessible and provide great opportunities for people to experience nature.

**Objective** – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends Option For the purposes of this guidance option is synonymous with ‘alternative’ in the SEA Directive Plan For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Development Plan Documents. Supplementary Planning Documents are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are required to have a sustainability appraisal.

**RAMSAR** – Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

**Locally Important Geological Sites** – LIGs are designated by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important designated sites for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected areas such as SSSIs.

**SAC** – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive

**Scheduled Monument** - A ‘nationally important’ archaeological site or historic building, which is given protection against unauthorised change.

**Scoping** – The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal.

**Screening** – The process of deciding whether a document requires a SA.

**SEA Directive** – European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

**SEA Regulations** – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law).

**SPA** – Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species.

**SSSI** – SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats - large wetlands teeming with waders and waterfowl, winding chalk

rivers, gorse and heather-clad heathlands, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote uplands moorland and peat bog.

**Super Output Area (SOA)** – SOAs are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Three layer of SOA have been devised: Lower Layer - Minimum population 1000; mean 1500. Built from groups of SOAs (typically 4 to 6) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs. Middle Layer - Minimum population 5000; mean 7200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs. Upper Layer - To be determined; minimum size c.25, 000.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** – Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** – Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

**Sustainability Issues** – The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.



