

Basic Conditions Statement

Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2036



Prepared by Planning With People on behalf of Bottesford Parish Council

28 November 2020

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Key Statements.....	3
3	Conformity with National and District Policy	5
4	Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development.....	14
5	Compatibility with EU Obligations	16
6	General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy	18
7	Conclusion.....	23
8	Appendix A Sustainability Matrix.....	24

Introduction

What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

- 1.1 The Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter the BPNP) has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Plan establishes a vision of the future for the Parish and sets out how that vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change.
- 1.2 The Plan relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012.

What is the Basic Conditions Statement?

- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the BPNP. Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans meets each of the following Basic Conditions¹:
 - I. has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan,
 - II. contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
 - III. is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
 - IV. does not breach and is otherwise compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations,
 - V. does not breach the requirements of chapter 8 part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017,
 - VI. having regard to all material considerations it is appropriate that it is made.
- 1.4 This document outlines how the BPNP meets all of the above Basic Conditions.

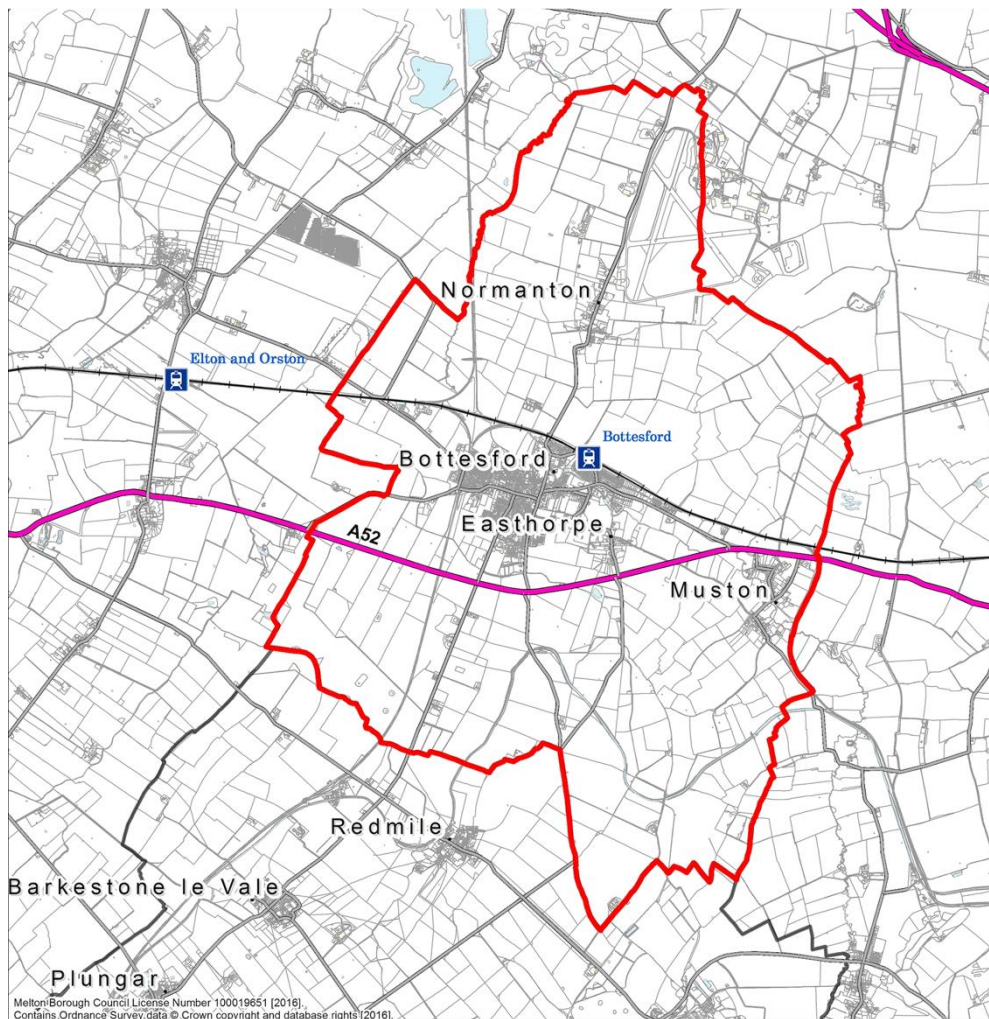
Key Statements

- 1.5 The Plan area covers the Parish of Bottesford. Bottesford Parish Council is the qualifying body responsible for the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan. The BPNP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Area is contiguous with the Parish boundary as shown on the map accompanying the neighbourhood designation application.
- 1.7 The BPNP Plan covers the period from 2020 to 2036 – this timeframe matches the adopted Melton Local Plan.

¹ See national planning practice guidance Paragraph: 065 Reference ID: 41-065-20140306

- 1.8 The Plan proposals do not deal with County matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'excluded development'.
- 1.9 The BPNP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is related to Bottesford Parish as designated by Melton Borough Council (hereafter MBC) on 6th November 2013 as shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Area



- 1.10 There are no other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Bottesford Parish Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.11 The Pre-Submission Draft BPNP was made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations from 30th July to 19th October 2020.

Conformity with National and District Policy

- 1.12 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)². (See Table 1) The NPPF provides a framework within which local communities can produce neighbourhood development plans for their area and sets out how planning should help achieve sustainable development (see paragraphs below relating to achieving sustainable development).
- 1.13 Paragraphs 28 – 30 and footnote 16 of the NPPF refers to Neighbourhood Plans requiring them to have regard to the policies in the NPPF and to be in general conformity with strategic policies in any Development Plan that covers the area. For Bottesford this is the Melton Local Plan adopted October 2018 and the BPNP has been prepared having regard to the strategic policies contained in MBCs Local Plan.
- 1.14 In accordance with National Planning Guidance, documents commissioned by MBC in preparation for a new Local Plan have been used to guide the Neighbourhood Plan policies. These are;
- a) Areas of Separation Study and Settlement Fringe Study 2015 Influence
 - b) Biodiversity and Geodiversity Study WYG 2016
 - c) Melton Borough Landscape and Historic Urban Character Assessment report ADAS 2006 and Update 2011
 - d) Melton and Rushcliffe Landscape Sensitivity Study: Wind Energy Development LUC 2014
 - e) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment GL Hearn 2017
 - f) Melton Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011
 - g) Housing Needs Study MBC August 2016
 - h) Conservation Area Appraisals prepared by MBC: Bottesford 1996, Easthorpe 1987, Normanton 1994
 - i) Open Space Study Knight Kavanagh and Page 2014

Table 1: Assessment of how each policy in the BPNP conforms to the NPPF

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
1	Sustainable Development and the Village Envelopes	7,8,11,12, 117	The NPPF enshrines sustainable development at the heart of planning. NPP 1 defines what sustainable development is in the context of Bottesford Parish and establishes Village Envelopes for the four settlements. This provides certainty in respect of the development boundaries to the villages and the need to protect valued open spaces and the open

² All references are to the NPPF 2019

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			countryside in accordance with the NPPF.
2	Protecting the Landscape Character	118,127,170	<p>The landscape character of the Parish and the topography, which allows for long views across the open countryside and across the Vale of Belvoir out of the villages, are attributes highly valued by the local community.</p> <p>The NPPF at para 127 requires planning policies to ensure that developments will <i>'function well and add to the overall quality of the area not just in the short term but over the life time of the development.'</i></p> <p>The NPPF at para 170 requires planning policies to <i>'contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes'</i>.</p> <p>NPP 2 defines the overall approach to protecting landscape character and provides a framework to show how the allocated sites and any infill development should be designed to minimise the impact on the landscape. NPP 2 is based on an understanding and evaluation of the defining characteristics of the Parish undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Bottesford Parish Design Code and the Streets and Trees Survey combines an assessment of landscape character with the historic landscape (in accordance with NPPF para 127c). Based on this detailed analysis NPP 2 provides a framework to identify and protect the valued landscape.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
3	Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	118, 170, 174	<p>The NPPF states that '<i>Planning policies should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment</i>'.</p> <p>NPP 3 identifies and protects designated nature conservation areas.</p> <p>The NPPF at para 118 states that planning policies should '<i>take opportunities to achieve net environmental gain</i>'. NPP 3 provides a clear policy framework to show how the impact on biodiversity of development will be assessed and how it can be mitigated. This is in accordance with NPPF paras 170 and 174.</p> <p>NPP 3 shows how (in the context of Bottesford Parish) development should result in a net biodiversity gain in accordance with NPPF para 170 d). NPP 2 references the role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies or equivalent up to date assessments.</p> <p>The importance of specific landscape features to biodiversity (the River Devon, and mature trees and hedgerows around the Parish for example) are identified.</p>
4	Designation of Local Green Space	99,100	<p>The NPPF encourages communities to identify green areas of particular importance. NPP 4 identifies areas of tranquillity and/or community value that will be protected from development. Appendix I provides a description and justification against the NPPF criteria.</p>
5	Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure	20, 150	<p>The NPPF requires strategic policies to make sufficient provision for green infrastructure and to maintain and enhance GI. It is also seen as an important component in promoting safe and healthy lives. NPP 5 requires</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			development proposals to protect GI and identifies the GI in the parish where enhancements would be the most beneficial.
6	Reducing the Risk of Flooding	155 to 165	<p>Flooding is one of the most pressing concerns for residents. Section 15 provides local evidence of the extent of flooding in recent years. NPP 6 sets out the requirement for SFRA and the need to use up to date local evidence and to ensure development does not cause more flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>The importance of SuDs and their potential to achieve net biodiversity gains is emphasised at NPP 6 (4) in accordance with best practice.</p> <p>The importance of restoring water courses and de-culverting is emphasised.</p>
7	Improving Connectivity	102 c), 104 d), 84, 91, 110	<p>The NPPF recognises the value of cycling and walking to provide health benefits and sustainable transport solutions.</p> <p>NPP 7 identifies local opportunities for making pedestrian/cycle movement safer and more appealing eg supporting the provision of a bridge over the A52, increasing access to the Grantham tow path and improving pedestrian safety within Bottesford village.</p>
8	Ensuring High Quality Design	124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 185 c	<p>In accordance with NPPF para 125 NPP 8 provides <i>‘a clear vision and expectations, so that applicants have ... certainty about what is likely to be acceptable... and how these will be tested’</i> .</p> <p>NPP 8 ensures that development <i>‘adds to the overall quality’</i> of the Parish. The policy is <i>‘sympathetic to local character</i></p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p><i>and history including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting</i> ' (para 127 c) as it is based on the Bottesford Design Code analysis.</p> <p>NPP 8 (3) allows flexibility for innovative and/or contemporary design where it adds to the overall quality.</p> <p>NPP 8 (4) encourages the use of the National Design Code and Building for Healthy Lives to provide a measure of the standard required. <i>'Being clear about design expectations and how these will be tested is essential for achieving [good design]'</i> (para 124).</p>
9	Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies	148, 149, 150, 151	<p>The NPPF sees the planning system as crucial in supporting the transition to a low carbon future to <i>'shape places in ways that minimise vulnerability and improve resilience'</i> (para 148). New development should be planned in ways that <i>'can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design'</i> (para 148).</p> <p>NPPF para 149 and footnote 48 provides that <i>'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.'</i> The amendments to the Climate Change Act 2008 have set a net zero target for UK carbon emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Para 149 says Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and that <i>'Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts'</i>.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p>The government is consulting on a new Future Homes Standard which would make changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings. The consultation paper provides that the Government ‘expect that an average home built to [the new standard] will have 75-80% less carbon emissions than one built to current energy efficiency requirements. ‘ It proposes ‘introducing in 2020 a meaningful but achievable uplift to energy efficiency standards as a stepping stone to the Future Home Standard’. The Governments preferred option for this 2020 uplift is a 31% reduction in carbon emissions compared to the current standard.</p> <p>NPP 9 is proactive and seeks to set standards that reflect more recent statements of government policy.</p> <p>NPP 9 encourages the use of materials, layout and orientation that will build resilience in the design of new development.</p> <p>The NPPF requires Local Authorities to support renewable and low carbon energy initiatives; the planning system should support this transition. NPP 9 provides a policy framework that sets out how the opportunities for supporting renewable energy can be balanced with the wider landscape sensitivity. NPP 9 provides a positive strategy to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy.</p>
10	A Mix of Housing Types	61	NPP 10 is based on the evidence from MBCs Housing Needs Study 2016, and the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment 2017 as well as an analysis of the existing

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p>housing stock and local knowledge of the houses required (including consultation feedback). NPP 10 addresses the need to provide housing to meet demonstrable local need. The NPPF supports policies that meet local housing need.</p> <p>NPP 10 (4) includes a requirement for smaller dwellings to be accessible and adaptable. This ensures future housing is flexible to meet the changing needs of an ageing population in accordance with NPPF para 61.</p>
11	Self Build and Custom Build Housing	61	<p>Para 61 of the NPPF notes that planning policies should meet the housing needs of different groups including people wishing to commission or build their own homes. Footnote 26 adds that ‘Under section 1 of the Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015, local authorities are required to keep a register of those seeking to acquire serviced plots in the area for their own self-build and custom house building. They are also subject to duties under sections 2 and 2A of the Act to have regard to this and to give enough suitable development permissions to meet the identified demand. Self and custom-build properties could provide market or affordable housing.’</p> <p>NPP 11 identifies the opportunities for supporting self build in the Parish either on infill plots or as part of the sites allocated in the Local Plan.</p>
12	Protecting Heritage Assets	184, 185, 189, 192	<p>The heritage of Bottesford Parish is a defining feature. The NPPF places great importance on the protection and enhancement of heritage assets and that <i>‘these assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a</i></p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p><i>manner appropriate to their significance</i>’.</p> <p>The BPNP sets out ‘<i>a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment</i>’ in accordance with NPPF para 185.</p> <p>NPP 12 reinforces national and Borough policy protecting the Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and their setting.</p> <p>NPP 12 also sets out a clear framework identifying buildings nominated as locally important heritage assets and setting out how a balanced judgment is required to assess the benefit of development on heritage assets versus an assessment of any harm.</p>
13	Supporting the Local Economy	80, 83, 84, 85d, 105 112	<p>The NPPF requires policies to ‘<i>create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt</i>’ supports ‘<i>the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings... sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside</i>’</p> <p>NPP 13 encourages the growth of local businesses and tourism in the parish so long as development does not harm the landscape character and protects existing employment sites from other uses.</p> <p>Para 112 of the NPPF states that planning policies should support the expansion of electronic communications and NPP 13 supports this – high quality broadband is essential for anyone operating a business from within the Parish.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p>NPP 13 also addresses the issues of parking and congestion within Bottesford village requiring future development on specific streets to provide off street parking – in accordance with NPPF para 105</p> <p>The NPPF states that planning policies should ‘<i>anticipate the needs of main town centre uses</i>’ and seeking car parking provision is an important element in supporting the economic vitality of the Bottesford village.</p> <p>Whilst Bottesford is not classed as a town its centre it provides services and facilities for a wide rural hinterland and NPP 13 supports opportunities to provide additional car parking for shoppers.</p>
14	Enhancing the Provision of Community Facilities	83	<p>The NPPF states that planning policies should enable ‘<i>the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.</i>’</p> <p>NPP 14 supports the need to protect and improve community facilities. The opportunity to have more allotments as part of BPT3 is supported and the need to improve the play park equipment flagged up.</p>
15-19	Policies for the development of sites allocated in the Local Plan	7,8,11,12, 117, 184, 185, 155 to 165	<p>Each site-specific policy seeks to encourage sustainable development as defined in the NPPF and the BPNP (NPP 1).</p> <p>NPP 15-19 sets a policy framework that provides specific criteria based on local knowledge to assist developers in</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy (NPP) No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
			<p>preparing planning applications that constitute sustainable development.</p> <p>The policies reflect the heritage value and landscape.</p> <p>Requirements relating to other site-specific issues (i.e. flooding) are also reflected in accordance with NPP 6 and the NPPF.</p>
20	Developer Contributions	34	<p>The NPPF requires that plans should set out the contributions expected from development. Whilst MBC is responsible for negotiating and agreeing these contributions NPP 20 sets out the expectation that local infrastructure will need to be improved to support the additional growth expected. This is based, in part, on local knowledge of the existing capacity.</p>

Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development

1.40 The NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three overarching objectives *‘which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives)’*.³ The BPNP recognises that this is a balancing act and the objectives of the Plan comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental objectives.

1.41 The **economic** goals relate to support for the local economy, the growth and expansion of existing businesses, the opportunity to increase tourism and the need to enhance the parking provision in Bottesford village to improve access to the services and facilities. The BPNP supports the expansion of local employment (and local employers) where the proposals do not cause harm to the heritage and landscape.

(See NPP 13)

1.42 The **social** goals are to maintain a thriving community, recognising that the community and its needs change over time. The BPNP defines what sustainable development means for Bottesford Parish and supports the development of houses built to a high design quality and of a type and tenure to meet local needs. The BPNP also recognises the value the community

³ NPPF para 8

place on the quality of the outdoors and identifies areas of community value as Local Green Spaces (LGS). The new Local Green Spaces in Bottesford Parish have a social value (for leisure and recreation) as well as for their tranquillity and/environmental value. The walking/cycling routes are community assets and improving connectivity, providing outdoor opportunities for meeting up with other people as well as improving health by increasing activity levels. Community facilities are vital to provide social space and these are protected. The improvements to local infrastructure necessary as a consequence of the growth of Bottesford will ensure the parish remains a pleasant place to live.

(See NPP 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15-19, 20.)

- 1.43 The BPNP has been prepared on the basis that local people can inform planning policy in their neighbourhood at the pre-application engagement stage (see the Key Principle). By enabling people to become more actively involved in the decision-making process⁴ the Neighbourhood Plan has assisted in building social capacity.
- 1.44 The **environmental** goals are to protect the natural and built environment. The Neighbourhood Plan polices ensure that proposals protect and where possible enhance valued landscapes and the heritage of the Parish. The BPNP provides locally specific policies based on the Bottesford Design Code to provide clarity to developers on what constitutes sustainable development. The identification of significant green gaps based on landscape analysis is an important part of this process to provide clarity to decision makers and developers about the sensitivity of these spaces within and adjoining the Village Envelopes.
- 1.45 The need to recognise and mitigate for flood risk and the vital importance of protecting the biodiversity of this rural parish are important environmental goals.
- 1.46 The BPNP reflects the urgent need to address climate change in all planning decisions and policies promote renewable energy, the need to increase walking and cycling, the use of low carbon transport and green construction materials and methods.

(See NPP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 6, 7, 9, 12, 15-19)

- 1.47 A sustainability matrix of the policies in the BPNP has been produced to assess the BPNP policies against sustainability criteria. - see Appendix A. The Sustainability Matrix concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan policies would mostly have a positive benefit and occasionally a neutral impact.
- 1.48 There is no legal requirement for neighbourhood plans to have a Sustainability Appraisal. It is considered that this Sustainability Matrix is adequate in showing how the Neighbourhood Plan policies will deliver sustainable development.

⁴ Supported by NPPF para 128

Compatibility with EU Obligations

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening

- 1.49 The environmental assessment of plans with a significant environmental impact is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 1.50 A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects on protected European Sites as a result of the Plan's implementation⁵.
- 1.51 A Screening Report was undertaken by MBC in September 2020⁶ to determine whether or not the BPNP (Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft) required a SEA and HRA. In accordance with regulations MBC consulted Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.
- 1.52 The consultee comments are set out below:

Part F – Consultee Comments

Natural England

We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Environment Agency

From the perspective of the remit of the EA we do not disagree with the conclusion that an SEA is not required. However we note that there a number of SSI's in relative close proximity of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, namely Debdale Meadow, Muston, and Muston Meadows and we therefore recommend that the views of Natural England are also sought.

Historic England

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

- 1.53 The screening outcome is set out below:

⁵ Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

⁶ See <https://bottesfordparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/supporting-docs>

Part G– Screening Outcome

Screening is required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (Legal Notice 497 of 2010). It is our view that:

- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(3) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is required because the PP falls under the scope of Regulation 4(4) of the Regulations and is likely to have significant environmental effects
- An SEA is not required because the PP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

- 1.54 With regard to the need for a Habitat Regulation Assessment, MBCs Screening Report concluded that *‘The Bottesford Neighbourhood Development Plan, whilst a document that (indirectly) delivers housing allocations, is limited in its scale and proposes modest development over a 16-years’ period. This growth, whilst predominantly on greenfield sites which may have a limited effect on local wildlife populations, it is too distant and modest to effect the Natura 2000 site in any demonstrable way.*
- 1.55 *The conclusion of this report therefore is that there is likely to be no demonstrable impact on Rutland Water at all, nor any other Natura 2000 site and as such there is no likely significant impact on Rutland Water or any other Natura 2000 sites. Therefore a full HRA assessment will not be required.’*
- 1.56 Natural England agreed with this conclusion.

Other EU obligations

- 1.57 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the **European Convention on Human Rights**. Whilst an Equality Impact Assessment Report has not been specifically prepared, great care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups.
- 1.58 The main issues for planning are the right to family life and in preventing discrimination. The BPNP makes positive contributions, such as protecting the heritage and landscape of the Parish, supporting the transition to a decarbonised economy and promoting housing to meet a wide range of local needs (in accordance with national and Borough policies). The population profile has revealed that there are not significant numbers of people who do not speak English (as a first language) and it has not been necessary to produce consultation material in other languages.
- 1.59 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. There was consultation and engagement early on in the process and residents were encouraged to participate throughout. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; responses have been

recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Statement of Consultation. The Consultation Statement has been prepared on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

Melton Borough Council Local Plan 2018

- 1.60 To meet the Basic Conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan is required to demonstrate general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (here the 2018 Local Plan). Para 1.8.5 helpfully notes that ‘**For the purpose of testing conformity of Neighbourhood Plans with the Local Plan, all policies included in the Local Plan up to and including Chapter 8 are regarded as strategic policies.** Whilst the remaining policies will be relevant for determining planning applications, they are not viewed as strategic policies for the purpose of testing Local Plan conformity.’⁷
- 1.61 The BPNP has been developed to be in general conformity with these strategic policies.
- 1.62 The Local Plan strategic policies provide detailed guidance on where new development can take place and sets out the factors that will be considered by MBC when considering all proposals for development.
- 1.63 Table 2 provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies.

Table 2: Assessment of how each policy in the BPNP is in general conformity with the Strategic Policies in Melton Borough Council’s Local Plan

Strategic Policies Local Plan	BPNP
<p>Policy SS1 Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development sets out the approach to sustainable development in accordance with the NPPF. Planning applications that accord with this Local Plan and policies in Neighbourhood Plans will be approved without delay.</p>	<p>NPP 1 is an over arching policy and requires a positive approach to sustainable development defining what it means for Bottesford Parish. Bottesford is a Service Centre, Easthorpe is a Rural Hub and Normanton and Muston are both Rural Settlements. NPP 1 is explicit about the scale of development and that this should be in accordance with Local Plan policy.</p>
<p>Policy SS2 Development Strategy – defines the settlement hierarchy for Melton with 65% of growth in the Melton Mowbray Main Urban Area but with 35% in Service Centres and Rural Hubs. And is clear that development in the open countryside</p>	<p>The previous 1999 Local Plan defined village envelopes ‘<i>to identify the area within which general presumption in favour of most forms of development will be applied subject to certain criteria and to identify the remaining areas within which generally protected policies will apply as appropriate to the countryside</i>’⁸ and the BPNP applies this approach</p>

⁷ See <https://www.meltonplan.co.uk>

⁸ See para 2.61 in the Overall Strategy 1999 Local Plan

Strategic Policies Local Plan	BPNP
<p>will be restricted to that which is necessary and appropriate. Policy SS2 notes 'The Council will support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and development proposals promoted through Neighbourhood Plans, provided that they are consistent with the strategic policies and proposals included within this Local Plan.'</p> <p>Policy SS3 Sustainable Communities unallocated sites</p>	<p>but is carefully worded to recognise there may be growth adjoining the village envelopes in Muston and Normanton where sites have not been allocated (in accordance with SS2 and SS3). This approach was also informed by the examiner's report on Ab Kettleby NP.</p>
<p>Policy SS6 Alternative Development Strategies and Local Plan Review</p> <p>Where there is a made Neighbourhood Plan, the review will be carried out in consultation with the NP 'qualifying bodies' and, where applicable, solutions prepared via the NP revision process.</p>	<p>Mostly relates to Local Plan matters but the principal of review is also part of the NP process and section 25 of the BPNP commits the Parish Council to Monitoring and Review. In accordance with NP Regulations the BPNP should be reviewed at least every 5 years.</p>
<p>Policy C1A Housing Allocations.</p>	<p>NP policies 15 to 19 support the delivery of the sites allocated in Policy C1A. Policies 15-19 provide a locally specific policy framework based on local analysis and evidence to ensure sustainable development of these sites.</p>
<p>Policy C2 Housing Mix</p>	<p>NPP 10 uses evidence to support the Local Plan (eg the HEDNA and the Housing Needs Report 2016) along with local knowledge of the housing stock and local evidence of demand for certain housing types and local demographics to provide a locally specific housing mix policy that is in accordance with policy C2.</p>
<p>Policy C4 Affordable Housing</p>	<p>NPP 10 seeks AH in accordance with the threshold set in Policy C4.</p>
<p>Policy C5 Affordable Housing through Rural Exception Sites</p>	<p>Given the growth in housing proposed as part of the site allocation process, and that planning applications were being secured for a greater number of houses than was indicated in the Local</p>

Strategic Policies Local Plan	BPNP
	Plan, the Parish Council did not think a lack of AH would be an issue for local residents over the plan period. The delivery of AH in the Parish will be monitored and this position can be reviewed as part of the BPNP review.
Policy C6 Gypsies and Travellers.	The PC considered the MBC approach was appropriate – no NP policy proposed.
Policy C7 Rural Services	NPP 14 is in accordance with MBCs approach – it is locally specific in referencing the community facilities that will be protected from non community uses and supports the provision of a new allotment to meet local need on BOT 3.
Policy C8 Self Build and Custom Build Housing	NPP 11 supports the need to allocate self build plots and recognises the opportunity provided by infill plots. The MBC policy requires 5% of plots to be for self build on site allocations of 100 dwellings. This was considered too high a threshold for Bottesford Parish as only one site would exceed 100 dwellings so NPP 11 has a threshold of 40 which was considered more appropriate. However in accordance with MBCs policy these only need to be available for 12 months plots and in all other respects NPP 11 is in accordance with Policy C8.
Policy C9 Healthy Communities	This Local Plan policy is addressed across a number of NP policies – see NPP 5 Enhancing Green infrastructure and NPP 4 Local Green Spaces, (relates to good quality accessible green space,) NPP 7 Improving Connectivity (safe convenient paths and cycleways) NPP 8 Ensuring High Quality Design (healthy homes) NPP 13 (a range of employment opportunities) NPP 9 Renewable Energy (good local air quality) NPP 20 (Development Contributions).
Policy EC2 Employment Growth in the Rural Area, EC3 Existing Employment Sites and EC4 Other Employment and Mixed-use Proposals, EC8 Sustainable Tourism	The community value the range of local businesses that exist in Bottesford. NPP 13 is in accordance with Local Plan policies – and supports the protection of existing employment sites identified in EC3 and the expansion of local businesses including those related to tourism (recognising the potential of the Vale of Belvoir as a tourist destination) so long as the design is appropriate to the rural landscape.

Strategic Policies Local Plan	BPNP
Policy EC7 Retail Development in the Borough	The community value the local shops and the range of shops in Bottesford serve the wider rural area. NPP 13 supports the identification of a car park for shoppers where possible and requires future development to provide off street parking to improve access to these shops.
Policy EN1 Landscape and EN4 Areas of Separation	<p>NPP 2 is in accordance with EN1. The NP uses MBC evidence (the Area of Separation Study) and additional local analysis (significant green gaps and key views, Bottesford Design Code) to demonstrate the value of the landscape character to show how open spaces between the settlements (including MBCs Areas of Separation) contribute to that character. In accordance with the last paragraph of EN1 the BPNP has used the MBC evidence to inform design guidance and the village envelopes.</p> <p>NPP 4 identifies additional Local Green Spaces that have community value and that should be protected.</p>
Policy EN2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The importance of enhancing biodiversity is established in NPP 1. NPP 3 is in accordance with EN2. It provides locally specific evidence to encourage improvements and in locations of importance to the local community eg the River Devon. The NP also draws on analysis in the Streets and Trees Survey and in a recent Friends of the Earth study to justify a tree planting programme. These requirements are repeated in the site specific policies (NPP 15-19) where appropriate.
Policy EN3 The Melton Green Infrastructure Network	NPP 5 identifies the Green Infrastructure in the Parish of Borough and local significance. The potential of the River Devon corridor is highlighted. NPP 5 seeks to safeguard and enhance the Green infrastructure in the Parish.
Policy EN5 Local Green Space	NPP 4 is based on local analysis and provides justification to designate more LGS in Bottesford Parish.
Policy EN6 Settlement Character	A central focus of the BPNP is protecting settlement character. The range of local studies from the Bottesford Design Code to the Streets and Trees Survey are intended to build up a comprehensive

Strategic Policies Local Plan	BPNP
	<p>picture of the settlements in the Parish to assist MBC in assessing the impact of planning applications on this character. NPP 1, 2, and 8 particularly provide a local and specific policy framework intended to protect the character of the settlements in accordance with EN6.</p>
<p>Policy EN8 Climate Change and Policy EN9 Ensuring Energy Efficient and Low Carbon Development, EN10 Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources</p>	<p>The NP uses the most recent government statements and advice from the Centre for Sustainable Energy to build on the Borough wide policy EN8 and EN9. NPP 9 seeks specific carbon reductions and adaptations to construction and encourages the use of renewable energy, based on best practice in other Local Plans and Neighbourhood plans.</p>
<p>EN 11 Minimizing the Risk of Flooding EN12 Sustainable Drainage Systems</p>	<p>Flooding is a significant issue in the Parish. Section 15 provides local evidence on the flooding issues and evidence that recent mitigation measures (e.g. sustainable drainage schemes for new development) have not been well designed. Section 15 reflects community concern that additional development and increasing incidence of flooding due to climate change will make the situation worse for existing residents. NPP 6 is in accordance with EN11 and requires solutions that provide multi benefits (including improved biodiversity, public amenity space). These requirements are repeated in the site-specific policies (NPP 15-19) where appropriate.</p>
<p>EN 13 Heritage Assets</p>	<p>NPP 12 is in accordance with EN13. The need to protect the heritage value of the plan area is established in NPP 1. NPP 12 supports the protection of all heritage assets including the Listed Buildings and the Conservation Areas from inappropriate development and nominates buildings and/or structures for local listing. The policy sets out a framework for the protection of these heritage assets in accordance with their heritage value.</p>

Conclusion

- 1.96 It is the view of the Bottesford Parish Council that the foregoing has shown that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to be met by the BPNP and all the policies therein.
- 1.97 The BPNP has appropriate regard to the NPPF, will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, is in conformity with the strategic policies contained in MBCs Local Plan and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 1.98 On that basis, it is respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the BPNP complies with Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix A Sustainability Matrix

Sustainability Matrix: BPNP Neighbourhood Plan

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
NPP 1 Sustainable Development and the Village Envelope	Positive impact Minimizes the impact of development on the environment by requiring development to be sustainable and defining what that means for Bottesford Parish. Defines the extent of the Village Envelopes so that the wider landscape character and natural environment is protected.	Positive impact Sets out clear guidelines for the location of new development. Ensures that the impact of new development avoids harm to the local character of Bottesford Parish as a place to live. Protecting the quality of the place will ensure the parish remains a desirable and economically attractive place to live/work.	Positive impact Sets out clear guidelines for sustainable development to provide assurance to existing and future generations that the attributes that make Bottesford Parish special will be protected as the Parish grows.
NPP 2 Protecting the Landscape Character	Positive impact Requires development to protect the local landscape, recognizes the importance of the sense of openness provided by significant green gaps and key views and that this is a defining characteristic.	Positive Impact The rurality of the Parish is an attribute that attracts people to live and work in the Parish.	Positive impact The quality of the landscape around the Parish is one of the most valuable attributes. This policy provides assurance that the quality and quantity of the landscape within and around the Parish will remain largely unchanged for the duration of the Plan period.
NPP 3 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	Positive impact Highlights the specific biodiversity quality of the Parish and requires development to make a net contribution to biodiversity. Identifying areas of nature conservation - supports a proactive approach to tree planting. Identifies	Neutral Impact	Positive impact The biodiversity around the Parish is a valuable attribute; residents cherish the quality and accessibility of nature. This policy provides assurance that the quality of the landscape and the areas of designated nature conservation (which are often areas of leisure

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
	specific actions that would enhance biodiversity in the Parish.		and recreation as well) will be protected for the duration of the Plan period.
NPP 4 Designation of Local Green Spaces	Positive Impact The designation of Local Green Spaces highlights the value of these spaces to local people and affords them additional protection from development. Their designation may result in additional funding to support improvements to their biodiversity and accessibility.	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact These local green spaces have been put forward by local people and are very important to them; their designation provides assurance that they will be protected from development for the duration of the Plan period. The focus on them may enable improved maintenance of them to enhance form and function.
NPP 5 Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure	Positive Impact Supports Local Plan Policy EN3 relating to major green infrastructure Highlights the green infrastructure of particular value in the Parish and supports improvements to the River Devon and the dismantled railway. Supports the provision of nature corridors as part of development proposals.	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Local people highly value the GI in the parish proposals that highlight its value and seek to enable it add to the sense of well being.
NPP 6 Reducing the Risk of Flooding	Positive Impact Development must not cause flooding elsewhere and must be addressed on site as part of a SuDs scheme. Development that increases the use of SuDs increases biodiversity and creates open spaces with multi-functional uses.	Positive Impact The economic cost of flooded homes and businesses is very high – ensuring the risk of flooding is reduced ensures the Parish remains economically vibrant.	Positive Impact The fear of flooding and its occurrence creates anxiety and distress. Development which reduces the likelihood of flooding improves well-being.
NPP 7 Improving Connectivity	Positive Impact Development that makes walking and cycling more attractive	Positive Impact Reducing car usage, creating walkable	Positive Impact Increasing opportunities to be physically active whilst getting out and

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
	reduces car usage and improves air quality.	neighbourhoods and providing improved access to the countryside makes an area a more attractive place to live.	about in the Parish will improve health and foster social cohesion as people get out of their cars and connect with each other.
NPP 8 Ensuring High Quality Design	Positive Impact NPP 8 minimizes the impact of development on the environment by setting out design guidelines that ensure development will blend with the existing built form and landscape and ensures that development will reinforce existing character.	Positive Impact Ensures that the development of the sites will be to a high standard that will have the support of the community	Positive Impact Ensures that new development integrates with the existing, creating high-quality buildings, streets and public spaces. Provides existing and future residents with confidence that future development will be of the highest design quality
NPP 9 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology	Positive Impact Reducing carbon and increasing renewable energy are major objectives to improve the environment and will minimize the harm to it of future growth. Proposals that improve air quality, use 'green' materials and low carbon technologies will benefit the environment.	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Given the scale of growth proposed in Bottesford Parish, the community want to ensure that the development is built to higher environmental standards to reduce carbon in its construction operation.
NPP 10 A Mix of Housing Types	Positive Impact The requirement to have some dwellings that are accessible and adaptable should enable people to live in one house longer and may reduce the need for purpose-built accommodation.	Positive Impact Seeks to address the need for smaller dwellings, reflecting community feedback and an understanding of the existing housing stock. Will create houses that are in demand by local people.	Positive Impact Seeks to provide new houses that will meet the local need for down sizing and for those looking to afford their first house. Accessible and adaptable homes will enable more people to remain living in communities where they have social connections.
NP 11 Self Build Housing Custom Build Housing	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Enabling a small amount of self build may enable people to build a	Positive Impact Encouraging self build was a community aspiration.

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
		home they they may otherwise be unable to afford.	
NPP 12 Protecting Heritage Assets	Positive Impact Protecting the historic environment is an important tenet of sustainable development, this policy identifies the suitable actions for any buildings on the At Risk Register and identifies buildings of local historic and/or architectural value. NPP 12 provides a policy framework to protect heritage assets in accordance with NPPF guidelines.	Positive Impact Protecting the historic environment maintains the quality of the Parish – ensuring Bottesford Parish remains an attractive economically vibrant place to live and work.	Positive Impact The community value the buildings and structures nominated for local listing; local input into this process contributes to the sense of pride in the place – the protection of the historic environment enhances the quality of the built environment for local people.
NPP 13 Supporting the Local Economy	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Encouraging the growth of local businesses will increase the opportunity for local businesses to start up or expand within the Parish and local employment will be created.	Positive Impact The policy will create the opportunity for additional local employment for residents who otherwise have to travel outside the Parish.
NPP 14 Enhancing the Provision of Community Facilities	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact A god range of community provision creates a more vibrant neighbourhood where people want to live and work.	Positive Impact Access to a range of indoor and outdoor community facilities is vital to foster a sense of community cohesion and well being in the Parish.
NPP 15-19 Site Specific Policies	Positive Impact The site-specific policies assist developers by drawing together all the local information and	Positive Impact The NP supports the development of the sites so long as the proposals are in accordance	Positive Impact The sites will provide housing to meet MBCs housing need.

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
	identify issues on the sites relating to flooding, landscape or biodiversity and set out how development can minimize the impact on the environment.	with the NP policies. This will reduce conflict with the community.	
NPP 20 Development Contributions	Positive Impact Ensures that, where necessary, development addresses identified issues relating to flooding.	Positive Impact Maximises the community gain of new development.	Positive Impact Ensures that the impact on local services and facilities is mitigated.