

# **Saxilby with Ingleby**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **SEA SCREENING OPINION**

**January 2025**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Only a Neighbourhood Plan that meets the basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. One of the basic conditions is that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, obligations as set out in its relevant Directives including 2001/42/EC, 79/409/EEC, 92/43/EEC, and 2009/147/EC. These Directives necessitate that a Neighbourhood Plan be screened to determine whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 1.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.
- 1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. An HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.
- 1.4 This screening report determines whether the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or HRA. The report's sections are:
  1. Introduction
  2. Overview of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan
  3. SEA screening assessment
  4. SEA screening conclusion
  5. HRA screening assessment
  6. HRA screening conclusion
  7. Overall screening conclusions
  8. Consultation Responses (Environment Agency, Historic England & Natural England)
  9. Determination Statement (West Lindsey District Council)
- 1.5 This screening report will be submitted to West Lindsey District Council by Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council who are the qualifying body for the review of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment was undertaken on the post-Regulation 14 Draft Version (submission) of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.6 The Screening Report was prepared in the context of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan adopted in April 2023 which covers the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan area and whose policies were the subject of separate SEA and HRAs. The purpose of this screening report is to assess the policies of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan only.

## **2. Overview of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan**

- 2.1 Whether the review Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA and/or a HRA is dependent on what is being proposed by the plan itself. The review of the existing plan has a vision with objectives and contains a set of locally specific planning policies and guidance for the area.
- 2.2 Saxilby with Ingleby is identified as a 'medium village' in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and lies in the district of West Lindsey just to the North of Lincoln. The Neighbourhood Plan has 12 planning policies, which are:
- POLICY 1: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE DEVELOPED FOOTPRINT OF SAXILBY
  - POLICY 2: COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT WL/SAXI/004 LAND OFF SYKES LANE, SAXILBY
  - POLICY 3: DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT
  - POLICY 4: AFFORDABLE HOUSING
  - POLICY 5: PROTECTING THE WIDER HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
  - POLICY 6: COMMUNITY FACILITIES
  - POLICY 7: SAXILBY BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE PARKS
  - POLICY 8: SMALL SCALE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
  - POLICY 9: CLIMATE CHANGE
  - POLICY 10: SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
  - POLICY 11: TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
  - POLICY 12: SAXILBY WATERFRONT REGENERATION AREA
  - POLICY 13: PROTECTING LOCAL BIODIVERSITY
  - POLICY 14: DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE FOSSDYKE CANAL GREEN CORRIDOR
  - POLICY 15: OPEN SPACES, SPORTS FACILITIES AND RECREATION FACILITIES
  - POLICY 16: DESIGNATED LOCAL GREEN SPACES
  - POLICY 17: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
  - POLICY 18: ROAD CAPACITY, SAFETY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has criteria-based policies on: residential development, design and new housing. The proposed housing sites within the plan are those allocated within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. Focusing on character, it

contains policies on local character and Local Green Spaces. Further policies cover issues such as development, landscape and the historic environment. Existing constraints and designations in the plan area include:

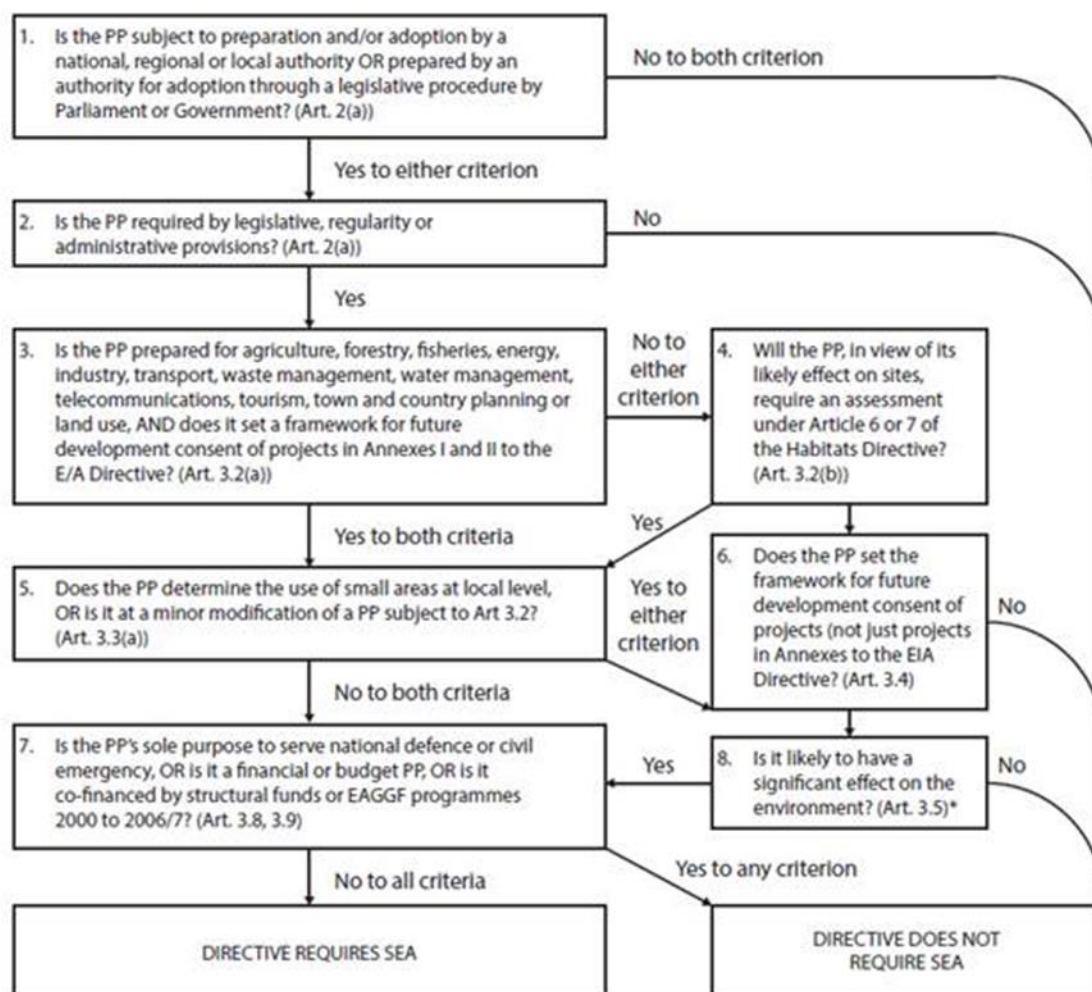
- Design codes
- Heritage Assets
- Conservation Area
- Environmental sites
- Local Green Spaces

2.4 The only environmental site of significance is The Humber Estuary European Site which is outside the plan area and located more than 25km away from the proposed development sites identified within the Neighbourhood plan.

### **3. SEA Screening Assessment**

3.1 Figure 1 below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The findings of the screening are given in Tables 1 to 4 which examine specifically the likely significant effect of the plan on the environment.

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application on the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



\* The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans

**Table 1: Assessment of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan against Figure 1**

<u>Criteria/Stage</u>	<u>Response:</u> <u>Yes/ No/</u> <u>Not</u> <u>applicable</u>	<u>Details</u>
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes	Neighbourhood Plans are made by a 'qualifying body' (e.g. parish/town council) under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. A Neighbourhood Plan is subject to an examination and referendum. If it receives 50% or more 'yes' votes cast at referendum, it will be 'made' by West Lindsey District Council as the local planning authority. GO TO STAGE 2
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	Communities have a right to be able to produce a neighbourhood plan but they are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce one. GO TO STAGE 3
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?	Yes	The plan is being prepared for 'town and country planning and land use...' (Article 3(2) and, once adopted, will be part of the planning policy framework determining future development within the Neighbourhood Area. Developments that fall within Annex I are 'excluded' developments for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)). It is not anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive. GO TO STAGE 5
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No	See screening assessment for HRA in Section 5 and 6 of this report.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan	Yes	Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the land use framework

determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan subject to Article 3.2?		<p>for the area and will help to determine the use of areas of land at a local level. The plan recognises and supports the designation of local green spaces. It seeks to protect and enhance community facilities. It recognises its rural character highlighting the key features and attributes to guide the design of new development in the area.</p> <p>The plan is not a minor modification of a previous Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 6</p>
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for the consent of any future development projects in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 8</p>
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7?	N/A	The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	<p>See Table 2: Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment. Also see Tables 3 and 4 for detailed assessments by neighbourhood plan policy and environmental receptors respectively. Sections 5 and 6 of this report assess any likely significant effects on European sites</p>
Outcome	SEA not required. See Tables 2,3,4 and sections 4 and 7.	



**Table 2: Stage 8 of Table 1 Assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment**

SEA Directive criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment	Likely significant environmental effect?
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to-		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The neighbourhood plan will set a policy framework for the determination of planning applications for future development projects within the Designated Neighbourhood Area. Once made, the plan will form part of the operative Development Plan.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The plan must be in general conformity with the operative Development Plan, i.e. the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (adopted April 2023) and national planning policy, i.e. National Planning Policy Framework. It does not have any influence over other plans. Once made, the plan will form part of the planning policy framework for the designated Neighbourhood Area and will be used in conjunction with the CLLP and other relevant policy and material considerations to determine planning applications.	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The achievement of sustainable development is one of the basic conditions that the plan must meet. This review draft plan includes policy themes regarding the built and natural environment and, in particular, the provision of local green spaces, renewable energy and design codes for proposed allocated sites within the Neighbourhood Area.	No
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the plan.  Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.	No

(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The plan is not directly relevant to the implementation of any European legislation.	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to-		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	<p>The plan policies are designed to expect any new development to contribute to the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Area and minimise environmental impacts within the plan Area where possible. The designation of local green spaces should create positive environmental outcomes. The plan also provides a policy framework for local renewable energy and low carbon development.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	<p>The effects of the plan need to be considered alongside the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan. The plan is required to be in general conformity with this plan which was subject to full SEA and HRA assessments. These concluded that either the implementation of the Local Plan would not result in any likely significant environmental effects or sufficient mitigation measures were in place to address any effects. The plan is in general conformity with the CLLP.</p> <p>The plan policies provide for protection of the character and setting of the balancing ponds, biodiversity, green spaces and the protection of trees. The plan is focussed on providing for the future sustainability of the village, and as such has the principles of sustainability at its core.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The proposals within the plan are unlikely to have a significant impact	No

	beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary.	
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	<p>There are no significant risks anticipated, and it is considered that the plan will enhance human health and the environment. Health and safety mitigation measures will be dealt with on a procedural basis by prospective applicants.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The potential for any environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. The proposed housing site allocations will fall within Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council boundaries.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</p> <p>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</p> <p>(iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>The plan promotes the protection of the built and natural environment.</p> <p>One draft policy actively seeks to ensure that development responds to the existing surrounding character.</p> <p>Any effects of the plan are expected to be positive on these characteristics.</p> <p>The plan is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies within the plan seek to provide greater protection to the specific rural character of the area, as well as encouraging new developments to be in keeping with historically and culturally important design characteristics. As such there are unlikely to be any intensive land-use concerns.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	It is not considered that the policies in the plan will adversely affect any areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. These	No

	<p>sites are towards the Lincolnshire Wolds, Coast and Humber Estuary.</p> <p>Also see assessment Tables 3 and 4.</p>	
<b>Table 3: Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by neighbourhood plan policy</b>		
Plan policy with summary		Assessment- Likely significant effect?
POLICY 1: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE DEVELOPED FOOTPRINT OF SAXILBY		Policy 1 aims to add more detail criteria on in-fill sites through the character assessment. Simultaneously, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure. This policy supports delivery of CLLP S3, S4 and S5
POLICY 2: COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT WL/SAXI/004 LAND OFF SYKES LANE, SAXILBY		Policy 2 aims to add more detail criteria to the allocated site at Sykes Lane. This policy supports delivery of CLLP S3, S4 and S5.
POLICY 3: DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT		This policy provides a positive framework for decision-making, as required by the NPPF. Locally, the concept of character relates to the need for sensitive design such that developments reflect the character of surroundings; meeting environmental, social, and economic objectives are met.
POLICY 4: AFFORDABLE HOUSING		Policy 4 seeks to provide more local emphasis on the type of housing needed within the community. This is responding to local consultation and complements CLLP Policies S22 and S23.
POLICY 5: PROTECTING THE WIDER HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT		Policy 5 seeks to minimise the impact from new development on the Historic Environment. Part of the village is designated a Conservation Area and the Policy supports Policy S57 in the CLLP.
POLICY 6: COMMUNITY FACILITIES		Policy 6 seeks to provide more detail in relation to the impact of future alterations to existing community facilities in the area.
POLICY 7: SAXILBY BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE PARKS		Policy 7 seeks to support the expansion of the employment and business parks which are protected within the CLLP.

POLICY 8: SMALL SCALE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	Policy 8 seeks to support the sensitive expansion of existing employment opportunities. This is inline with the CLLP and the NPPF.
POLICY 9: CLIMATE CHANGE	Policy 9 seeks to support the adaption and mitigation of climate change within the parish.
POLICY 10: SMALL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT	Policy 10 seeks to support appropriate scale of renewable energy uses.
POLICY 11: TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	Policy 11 seeks to support the diversification of tourism related development uses. It will also support the regeneration of the waterfront and create local employment.
POLICY 12: SAXILBY WATERFRONT REGENERATION AREA	Policy 12 seeks to support the regeneration of the waterfront to make it more attractive and environmentally friendly in the future.
POLICY 13: PROTECTING LOCAL BIODIVERSITY	Policy 13 seeks to protect and enhance local biodiversity through the identification of the Parishes Green Infrastructure. It is also reflective of National Policy and the requirement for development to make a net-gain in biodiversity and Policies S59-S61 in the CLLP.
POLICY 14: DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE FOSSDYKE CANAL GREEN CORRIDOR	Policy 14 seeks to protect and enhance local biodiversity through the identification of the Parish's Green Infrastructure. It is also reflective of National Policy and the requirement for development to make a net-gain in biodiversity and Policies S59-S61 in the CLLP.
POLICY 15: OPEN SPACES, SPORTS FACILITIES AND RECREATION FACILITIES	At the heart of all future developments this policy supports strongly the sustainability requirements of NPPF Chapter 15 as articulated in CLLP Policy S64 by protecting valued green spaces from development.
POLICY 16: DESIGNATED LOCAL GREEN SPACES	At the heart of all future developments this policy supports strongly the sustainability requirements of NPPF Chapter 15 as articulated in CLLP Policy S64 by protecting valued green spaces from development.

POLICY 17: PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY	Policy 17 seeks to retain and enhance the Parishes existing public rights of way.
POLICY 18: ROAD CAPACITY, SAFETY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL	Policy 18 seeks to improve the existing traffic congestion and support the move towards using active travel modes and sustainable transport infrastructure.

**Table 4: Detailed assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment by environmental receptors as recognised in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive (2004)**

Environmental receptor	Assessment- Likely significant effect?
Air quality Plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk by, air pollution.	Policies 1,2,3,9 and 10 seek to reduce the impact of development on air quality by supporting the use of electric vehicles and sustainable construction.
Biodiversity Plans should identify important biological features and work to protect and enhance these.	The scale development is proposed in the plan is aligned to the CLLP and has already been determined that this is unlikely to have a significant impact on existing environmental assets. To enhance biodiversity in the area the plan is proposing to designate local green spaces through Policy 16. The plan has also provided design codes for the proposed housing allocations in policy 2
Landscape Development should seek to promote or reinforce local distinctive landscape features.	Policy 3 of the lan encourages design in keeping with local development style and the features of local character areas as defined by the character assessment.
Material Assets These refer to physical infrastructure including social infrastructure, transport infrastructure, water, and energy infrastructure.	The existing infrastructure in the plan area and nearby appears to have the capacity to meet the likely demands as determined by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.
Population Plans should encourage development that adds to the overall quality of the area, establishes a strong sense of place, is visually attractive, and contributes to safe and accessible environments.	Policy 11 will ensure that development of these sites will be in keeping with local character features and be in easy reach of existing facilities and also suitably linked to existing road and footpath networks.
Health	Policy 3, 13, 14 and 18 seek to protect existing It supports the designation of

Plans should promote healthy communities by emphasising the value of social and recreational facilities including open space and recreational facilities.	local green spaces and footpaths and cycleways through Policy .
Natural resources Plans should protect and enhance soils particularly best and most versatile agricultural land. The plan should, where relevant, recognise the need for a sufficient supply of minerals and making best use of these finite resources.	Policy 1 and 2 seeks to minimise new development outside the existing developed footprint of the village and the proposed allocated sites. All development is therefore concentrated either on previously developed sites or on greenfield sites that will have the least impact to the countryside and to high-grade agricultural land.
Climate change Plans should try to reduce our contribution to, and better prepare for the effects of, climate change.	Policy 9 recognises that every effort in new constructions should not add to the existing flood risk and should conform to the national government's policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Water New and existing development should not contribute to or be put at risk from water pollution.	It is understood that the plan's proposals are unlikely to contaminate any nearby water bodies or affect water supply or impact on any groundwater source protection zones that may exist in the plan area.

#### 4. SEA Screening Conclusion

- 4.1 As a result of the evaluations carried out in Tables 2, 3 and 4 it is considered that it is unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise as a result of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, the assessment within Table 1 concludes that an SEA is not required when judged against the application of the SEA Directive criteria.
- 4.2 No sensitive natural or heritage assets will be significantly affected by policies contained in the plan. The plan's policies are in general conformity with those within the CLLP. The plan only promotes site allocations in line with the strategic Local Plan. It is not near or in a national or international designated area or contravenes significant elements of the CLLP.

## **5. HRA Screening Assessment**

- 5.1 The HRA involves an assessment of any plan or project to establish if it has potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA will consider if the proposals in the neighbourhood plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites are:
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- 5.2 In addition to SPA and SAC sites, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government Policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites.
- 5.3 The initial screening stage of the HRA process determines if there are any likely significant effects possible as a result of the implementation of the plan and if an appropriate assessment is needed. This stage should provide a description of the plan's policies (see Table 3) and an identification of the Natura 2000 sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.
- 5.4 As a general 'rule of thumb' it is identified that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan boundary should be included within a HRA. However, there are no European sites within 15km of the Saxilby with Ingleby neighbourhood plan boundary nor are there any sites within the Central Lincolnshire Area.
- 5.5 The neighbourhood plan also needs to be screened for the likelihood of combined effects with other plans and projects. For the purpose of this HRA, other plans and projects would include: national plans; local plans; neighbourhood plans; water resource management plans; catchment flood management plans; catchment abstraction management strategies; and river basin management plans. However, as there are no European Sites affected by the Neighbourhood Plan it is not necessary to then screen the plan for likelihood of its combined effects with these identified other plans and projects.

## **6. HRA Screening Conclusion**

- 6.1 None of the policies in the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site whether alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Consequently, the plan is not considered to require further assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (Art. 3.2(b)).



## **7. Overall Screening Conclusions**

- 7.1 A SEA and HRA screening report exercise has been undertaken for the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan. The assessments have concluded that the neighbourhood plan is unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects or have significant effects on a European site. Accordingly, it is considered that a SEA or HRA assessment is not required for the neighbourhood plan.
- 7.2 It is important to note that this screening opinion is based on the post draft regulation 14 version of the Saxilby with Ingleby Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, if the content of the neighbourhood plan should materially change then the SEA/HRA screening process will need to be re-assessed and updated.
- 7.3 It is a requirement of the screening process to consult certain consultation bodies when forming a view on whether a SEA and/or HRA are required and they are: Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England.