



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

August 2022

On behalf of Corby Glen Parish Council in relation to the Draft Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan

Date of assessment:	12/08/2022
Date/ version of neighbourhood development plan to which Screening Report applies:	Draft Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan 2022 -2036, dated April 2022

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Overview

Neighbourhood development plan (NDP) to which this Screening Report applies:

Corby Glen Council Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036

Version/ date of NDP to which this Screening Report applies:

Draft Corby Glen Council Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036 (dated April 2022)

Neighbourhood area to which the NDP applies:

Corby Glen Parish Council Neighbourhood Area

Parish council within the neighbourhood area:

Corby Glen (including Birkholme)

Acronyms

CGNP	Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan
ECJ	European Court of Justice
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
DPD	Development Plan Document
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
IGS	Local Green Space
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SKDC	South Kesteven District Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan (CGNP) includes the following settlements
 - Corby Glen (including Birkholme)
- 1.2. Neighbourhood Plans must meet the 'basic conditions' set out in 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This includes demonstrating that the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations such as:
 - **Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment** (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive), transposed into UK law by The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and
 - **Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora**, which was initially transposed into UK law by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 with various amendments consolidated by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.3. The purpose of this report is to undertake a screening exercise against various criteria to determine whether the Draft CGNP requires a full SEA and / or Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The screening exercise will therefore support the CGNP in satisfying the basic conditions and will be submitted as part of the evidence base which will accompany the plan.
- 1.4. In general terms, a Neighbourhood Plan may require full SEA following screening, where its policies and proposals are likely to result in significant effects on the environment, particularly where such effects have not already been considered and dealt with, such as through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating SEA) of a Local Plan.
- 1.5. In the context of neighbourhood planning, following screening, should a Neighbourhood Plan be deemed likely to result in a significant impact occurring on a protected European Sites as a result of the plan's implementation, the HRA proceeds to Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.6. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the nature conservation objectives of any European site designated for its nature conservation importance. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex I) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified under the European Council Directive "on the conservation of wild birds" (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of wild birds and their habitats.
- 1.7. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also expects candidate SACs, potential SPAs and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment. European sites are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network, or 'Natura 2000' sites.

2. Strategic Planning Context

- 2.1. The basic conditions require a Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan (i.e. the Local Plan) for the area. Through its strategic policies, the Local Plan effectively defines the parameters within which a Neighbourhood Plan may operate.
- 2.2. Throughout their preparation, Local Plans are subject to SEA (generally incorporated through a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and HRA. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, it is likely that many of the environmental effects of the plan will have already been considered through the Local Plan-making process.
- 2.3. National planning policy states that evidence should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment already undertaken. It is therefore relevant to consider the strategic policy context for the purpose of avoiding duplication and to identify environmental effects **not** already considered and addressed through the Local Plan-making process.

South Kesteven Local Plan 2011-2036

- 2.4. The adopted Development Plan for the district of South Kesteven is the South Kesteven Local Plan (SKLP) (adopted 30th January 2020), which defines strategic (and more locally specific) policies for the growth and regeneration of Grantham and the surrounding towns/villages.
- 2.5. The Local Plan directs the majority of new housing and employment development to Grantham (53%), followed by the other main towns in the district – Stamford (18%), Bourne (7%) and The Deepings (8%) with Larger Villages (10%) and Smaller Villages (4%) making up the rest of the districts development targets. Policy SP2: Settlement Hierarchy, sets out a settlement hierarchy for the whole of the South Kesteven area, to assist decisions on investment in services and facilities, and on the location and scale of development.
- 2.6. Within this hierarchy, Corby Glen is defined as a ‘Larger Village’. As a Larger Village, Policy SP2 states that in addition to allocations, development proposals which promote the role and function of the Larger Villages will be supported, where it does not compromise the settlement’s nature and character.
- 2.7. During its preparation, the Local Plan was subject to a full SA (incorporating SEA)¹ and HRA². These Local Plan assessments will be taken into account in reaching a screening opinion as to whether the CGNP requires a SEA and/or HRA

¹ <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26206>

² <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24947&p=0>

South Kesteven Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (April 2019)

- 2.8. South Kesteven's recent Habitats Regulations Assessment Report³ (HRA 2019) was prepared during the examination of the submitted Local Plan. The purpose of the HRA report was to set out the methodology, assessment and conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Stage 1 Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) of the submitted South Kesteven Local Plan. The HRA was carried out by SKDC in consultation with Natural England.
- 2.9. The HRA 2019 complies with the recent judgement of the Court of Justice for the European Union of 12th April 2018 (see paras 4.19 to 4.13), which ruled that mitigation measures incorporated into a project can no longer be taken into account at the screening stage⁴.
- 2.10. The following Natura 2000 sites were scoped into the HRA 2019 for consideration, prior to undertaking Stage 1 Screening:
- Baston Fen SAC
 - Grimsthorpe Park SAC
 - Rutland Water SPA, Ramsar
 - Barnack Hills & Holes SAC
- 2.11. The potential likely significant effects identified as a result of the Local Plan were:
- Physical loss and/or damage of habitat
 - Disturbance: recreational and visitor pressure
 - Disturbance: urbanisation
 - Changes in water levels
 - Changes in water quality
 - Changes in air quality
- 2.12. The HRA 2019 'screened out' Grimsthorpe Park SAC from the Stage 1 Screening in relation to all potential effects arising from the Local Plan. Therefore Grimsthorpe Park SAC was not considered any further in the HRA process. Grimsthorpe Park SAC is approximately 5.2km from Corby Glen & surrounding hamlets. Baston Fen SAC, Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar and Barnack Hills and Holes SAC were 'screened in' to the Stage 1 Screening and were considered further in the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. Corby Glen & surrounding hamlets are greater than 20km from these Natura 2000 sites.
- 2.13. The HRA 2019 concluded: *"Provided the recommendations made in this report are (where applicable) incorporated into the Local Plan, it is possible to conclude that the South Kesteven Local Plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and will not result in likely significant effects on any of the Natura 2000 sites identified, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects"*.
- 2.14. Through the Local Plan examination process, Natural England confirmed the HRA is legally compliant and agreed with the conclusions of the HRA that: *"the Local Plan policies would*

³ <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24947&p=0>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:62017CJ0323&qid=1527062354829&from=EN>

not be likely to have a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and no further assessment work is required".

3. Summary of the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan

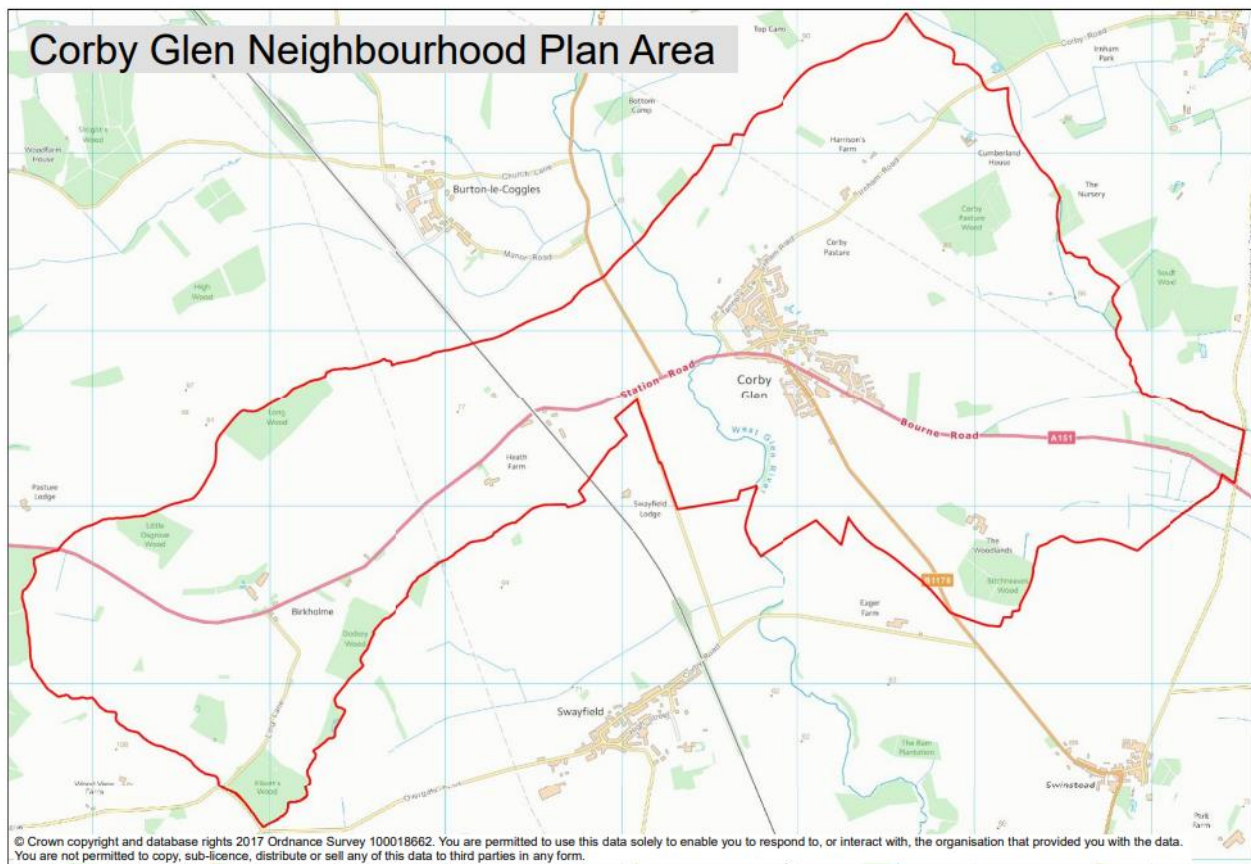
Overview of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1. The subject of this screening report is the Pre-Submission draft *Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2036* (dated April 2022) (CGNP), which is expected to be published for Regulation 16 consultation in autumn 2022.
- 3.2. The CGNP has been prepared by Corby Glen Parish Council, the ‘qualifying body’ for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The Corby Glen Neighbourhood Area was first designated by SKDC on 22nd January 2018 and follows the parish boundary. A map of the designated area is shown in **Map 3.1**.
- 3.3. The CGNP area includes the Parish of Corby Glen (including Birkholme)
- 3.4. The CGNP sets out a vision of what Corby will be like in 2036 as follows:
 - *To ensure that Corby Glen (including Birkholme) remains a thriving village which can meet the future needs of its residents, in terms of housing, economic growth and communal facilities.*
 - *To protect the architectural heritage, community assets and rural setting of the village, such that it provides an attractive, healthy and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit.*
- 3.5. The CGNP identifies six overarching objectives to achieve this vision:

Objective	Description
Objective 1	To maintain and enhance the amenities and services appropriate for a vibrant and sustainable large village
Objective 2	To ensure that future housing needs of the community are met through residential developments that are appropriate in location, size and character, and provide a range of housing types
Objective 3	To support business development (including the visitor economy)
Objective 4	To protect and enhance the built environment and open spaces of the village.
Objective 5	To protect the rural setting of Corby Glen and Birkholme, and maintain access to the surrounding countryside
Objective 6	To encourage sustainable development (in terms of carbon emission, resource use and impact on the natural environment)
Objective 7	To promote opportunities for a healthy lifestyle
Objective 8	To promote a safe environment within the village

3.6. In summary, to deliver these objectives the CGNP proposes 20 policies as follows; (see **Appendix 1** for a brief summary of each policy):

- Policy 1 – *Sustainable Development*
- Policy 2 – *Requirements for the Local Plan housing sites*
- Policy 3 – *Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size*
- Policy 4 – *House extensions and conversions*
- Policy 5 – *Landscape character and openness*
- Policy 6 – *Key Views*
- Policy 7 – *Designated Heritage assets*
- Policy 8 – *The Market Place*
- Policy 9 – *Local (non-designated) heritage assets*
- Policy 10 – *Archaeology*
- Policy 11 – *Open Space and Recreation*
- Policy 12 – *Proposed local greenspaces*
- Policy 13 – *Countryside management*
- Policy 14 – *Nature conservation/biodiversity*
- Policy 15 – *Community facilities/local services & location of new facilities*
- Policy 16 – *Community Halls*
- Policy 17 – *Local business and employment*
- Policy 18 – *Telecommunication & broadband*
- Policy 19 – *Transport & active travel*
- Policy 20 – *Countryside access/footpaths*



Map 3.1 Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan Area (including Birkholme)

Summary of Corby Glen Neighbourhood Area Characteristics

- 3.7. In order to determine the likely significant effects of the CGNP on the environment, it is important to consider the characteristics of the area likely to be affected. A range of sources of information have been used to gather this information, including DEFRA Magic Maps⁵, Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps for Planning⁶, Nomis⁷, South Kesteven Local Plan Inset Maps and the CGNPs own evidence base.
- 3.8. Corby Glen Parish is situated in the district of South Kesteven in England's East Midlands. It extends to approximately 1172 hectares (2896 acres) of attractive rolling countryside and includes the village of Corby Glen (including Birkholme). The total population of the CGNP area at the time of the 2011 Census was 1,017 people living in 440 households.
- 3.9. There are no internationally designated sites of nature conservation interest sites within the boundary of the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Area. The nearest Natura 2000 site is Grimsthorpe Park SAC, located approximately 5.2km from Corby Glen. This SAC consists of a former limestone quarry, which supports rich limestone flora and important orchid sites. The Grimsthorpe Park SAC is identified on **Map 3.25**.
- 3.10. In terms of nationally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the Neighbourhood Area, there are 6 Ancient Woodland designations shown on **Map 3.26**
- *Elliott's Wood*
 - *Herricho Wood*
 - *Dodsey Wood*
 - *Little Osgrove Wood*
 - *Long Wood (Partially replanted ancient woodland)*
 - *The Woodlands (replanted ancient woodland)*
- Although there are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the neighbourhood area, there are 2 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs), as defined by Natural England, that extend into the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan Area (see **Map 3.26**). IRZs reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which a SSSI has been notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts
- *The Hermitage*
 - *Swinstead Valley*
- 3.11. Old Park Wood Ancient Woodland and Hermitage SSSI lies immediately adjacent to the parish boundary to the North, and Twyford Wood Ancient Woodland lies immediately adjacent to the parish boundary to the west of the neighbourhood area.
- 3.12. There are locally designated sites of nature conservation interest within the Neighbourhood Area. A number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are shown on **Map 3.27**. These include the following;
- *New Wood*
 - *Woodlands Farm Meadow*
 - *Bitchneaves Wood*
 - *Dodsey Wood*

⁵ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁶ <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

⁷ www.nomisweb.co.uk

- *Herricho Wood*
- *Elliott's Wood*
- *Corby Glen Road Verge*

3.13. Adjacent to the Neighbourhood boundary area are the following LWS

- Twyfood Wood
- South Wood, Irnham
- Old Park Wood, Irnham
- Swinstead Road Verges

3.14. There are no designated Roadside Nature Reserves in Corby Glen including Corby Glen including Birkholme.

3.15. A Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken by South Kesteven District Council in 2007⁸. This indicates that the parish predominantly falls within the Kesteven Uplands Character area, which extends from Grantham in the north across a large part of the District to the south. The Kesteven Uplands character area is described as;

- a relatively unified, simple, medium-scale agricultural landscape with a high proportion of historic woodland;
- undulating landform around the Rivers Witham, East & West Glen and Welland;
- picturesque villages built of local limestone, with Collyweston slate roofs to the south, and pantiles to the north;
- high concentration of houses and parks, with farmland under estate management;
- a dispersed, nucleated settlement pattern with fields enclosed by hedgerows;
- modern human influences include airfields and the A1, Great North Road

3.16. The area predominantly falls within Agricultural Land Classification Grade 3 - good to moderate quality. The soil types are Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone, and Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils⁹.

3.17. From a historic environment perspective The CGNP area has one Conservation Area located within Corby Glen neighbourhood area, as shown on **Map 3.28**.

3.18. There are 3 Scheduled Monuments, as shown on **Map 3.29**. These include the following

- *Corby Glen Market Cross*
- *Corby Moated Mound*
- *Remains of Medieval Gatehouse*

3.19. There are 36 listed buildings within the CGNP area, 2 are grade I and the remaining are all grade II, their locations are shown on **Map 3.30**

3.20. There are no Air Quality Management Areas designated within the CGNP area.

3.21. In terms of the water environment, The River West Glen, a tributary of the River Glen, flows through the eastern part of the CGNP area. The overall waterbody clarification of the West Glen river, which flows through the CGNP area, is good.¹⁰

⁸ <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2117&p=0>

⁹ National Soil Map of England and Wales, accessed online at www.magic.defra.gov.uk

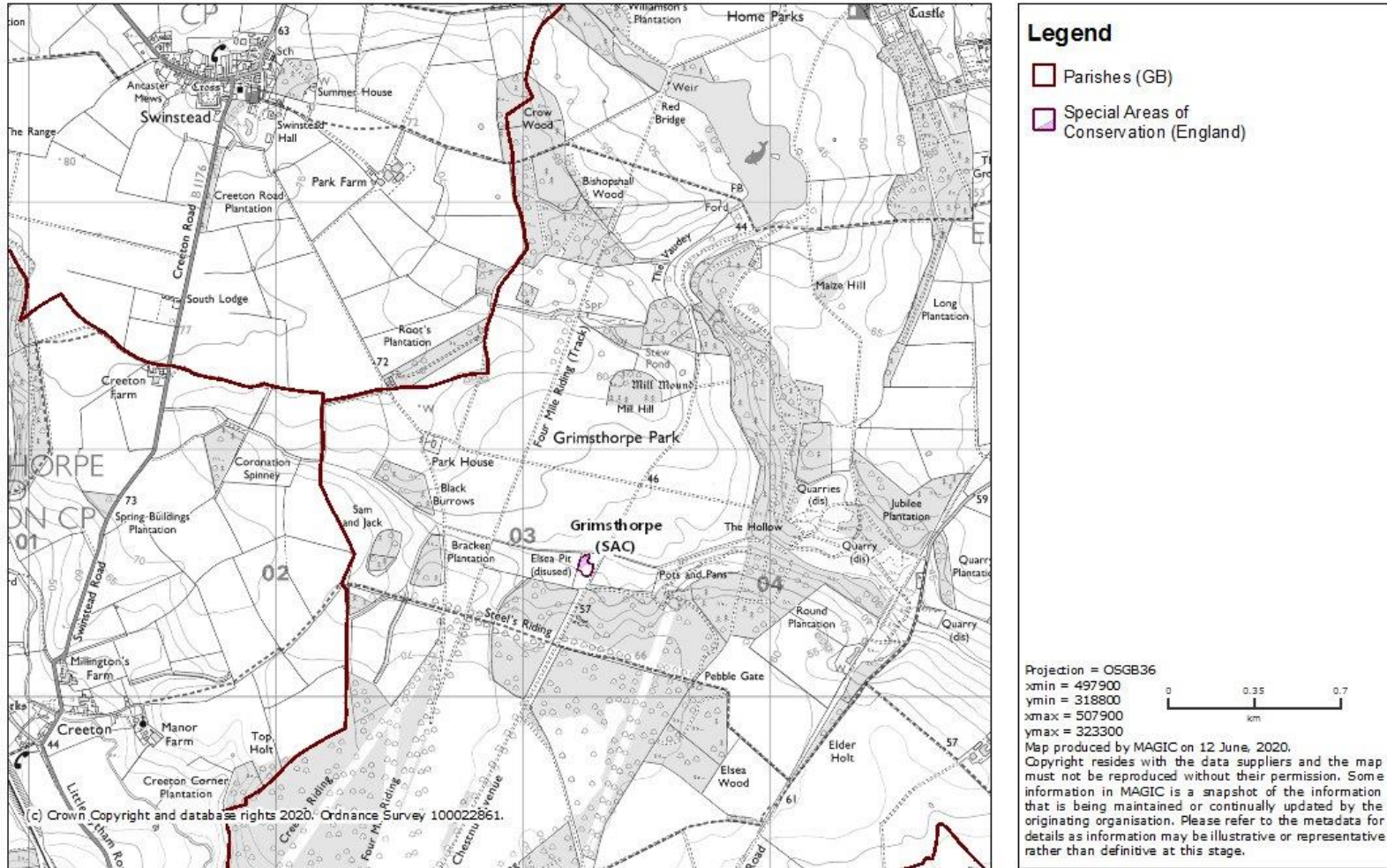
¹⁰ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB105031055480>

- 3.22. Flood risk in the CGNP area is confined to a small area either side of The River West Glen, which falls within Flood Zone 3, to the west of Corby Glen village (see **Map 3.31**). The majority of the area lies within Flood Zone 1 and therefore has a low probability of flooding.
- 3.23. The east of the area falls within Source Protection Zone 2 (Outer Protection), and the west of the area falls within zone 3 (Total Catchment)¹¹. Source Protection Zones are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites. Zone 2 is defined as a 400-day travel time of pollutant to source. This has a 250 or 500 metres minimum radius around the source depending on the amount of water taken. Zone 3 is defined as the total area needed to support the abstraction or discharge from the protected groundwater source.

¹¹ Source Protection Zones where, accessed online at www.magic.defra.gov.uk



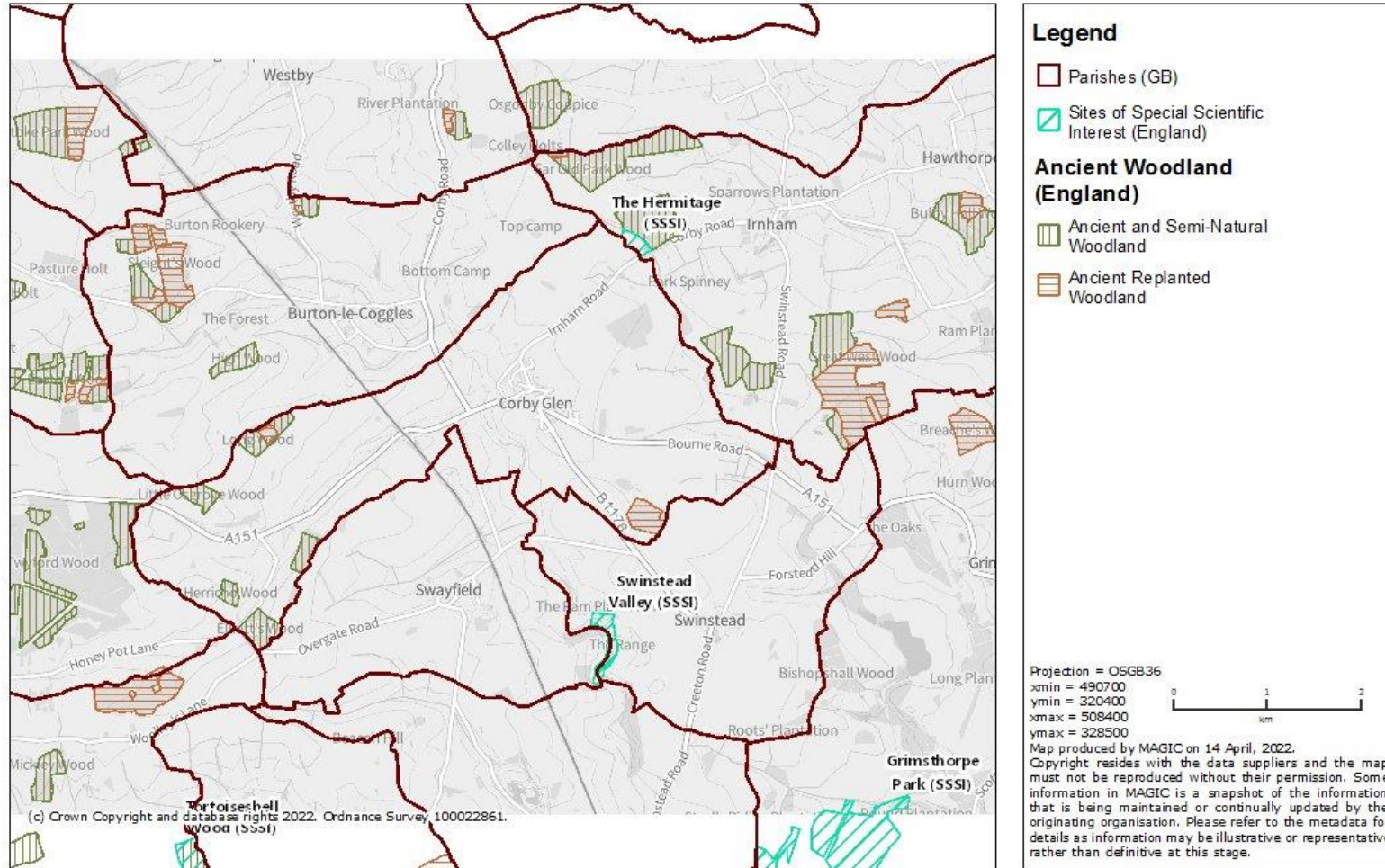
Grimthorpe SAC



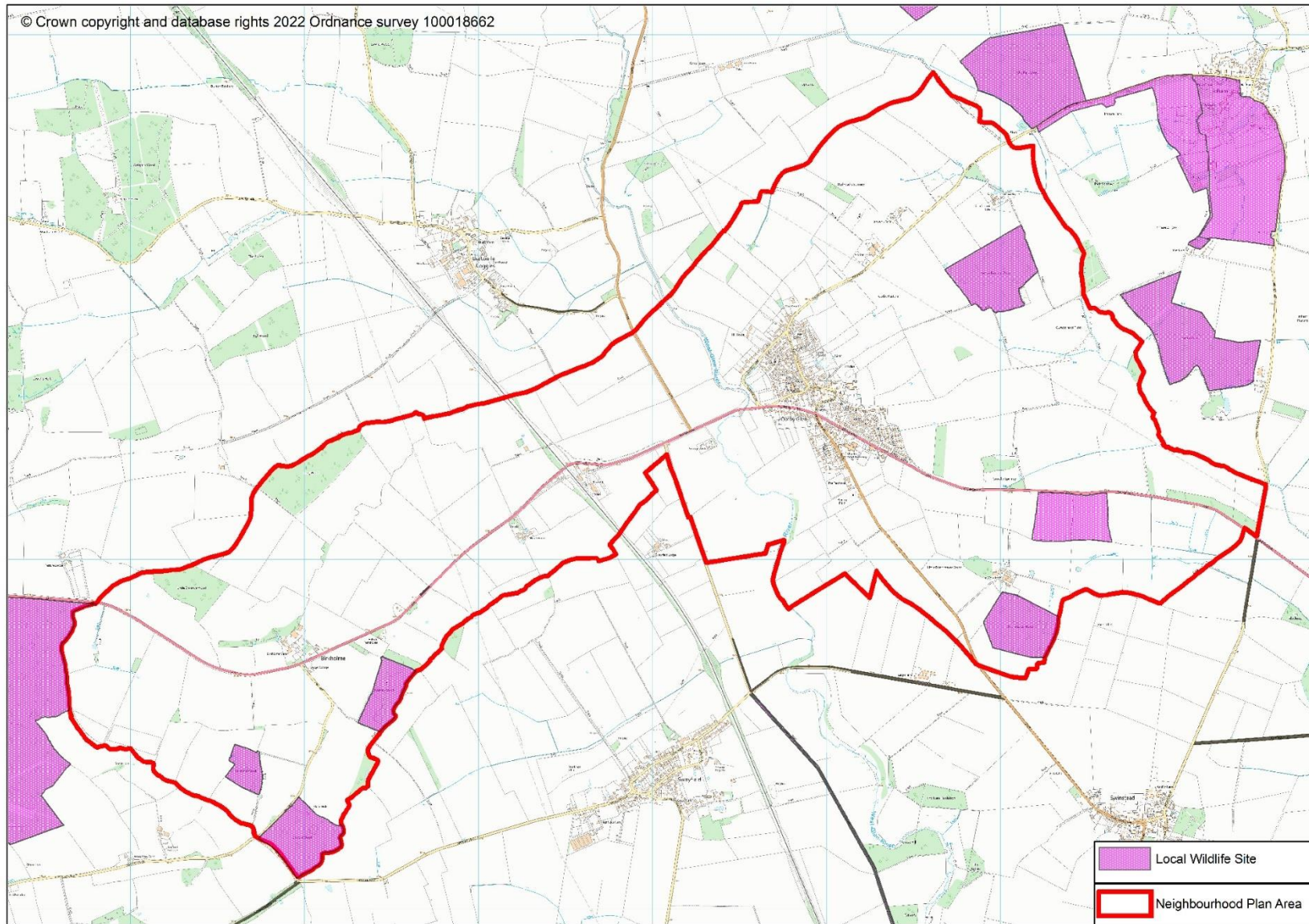
Map 3.25: Location of Grimthorpe Park SAC



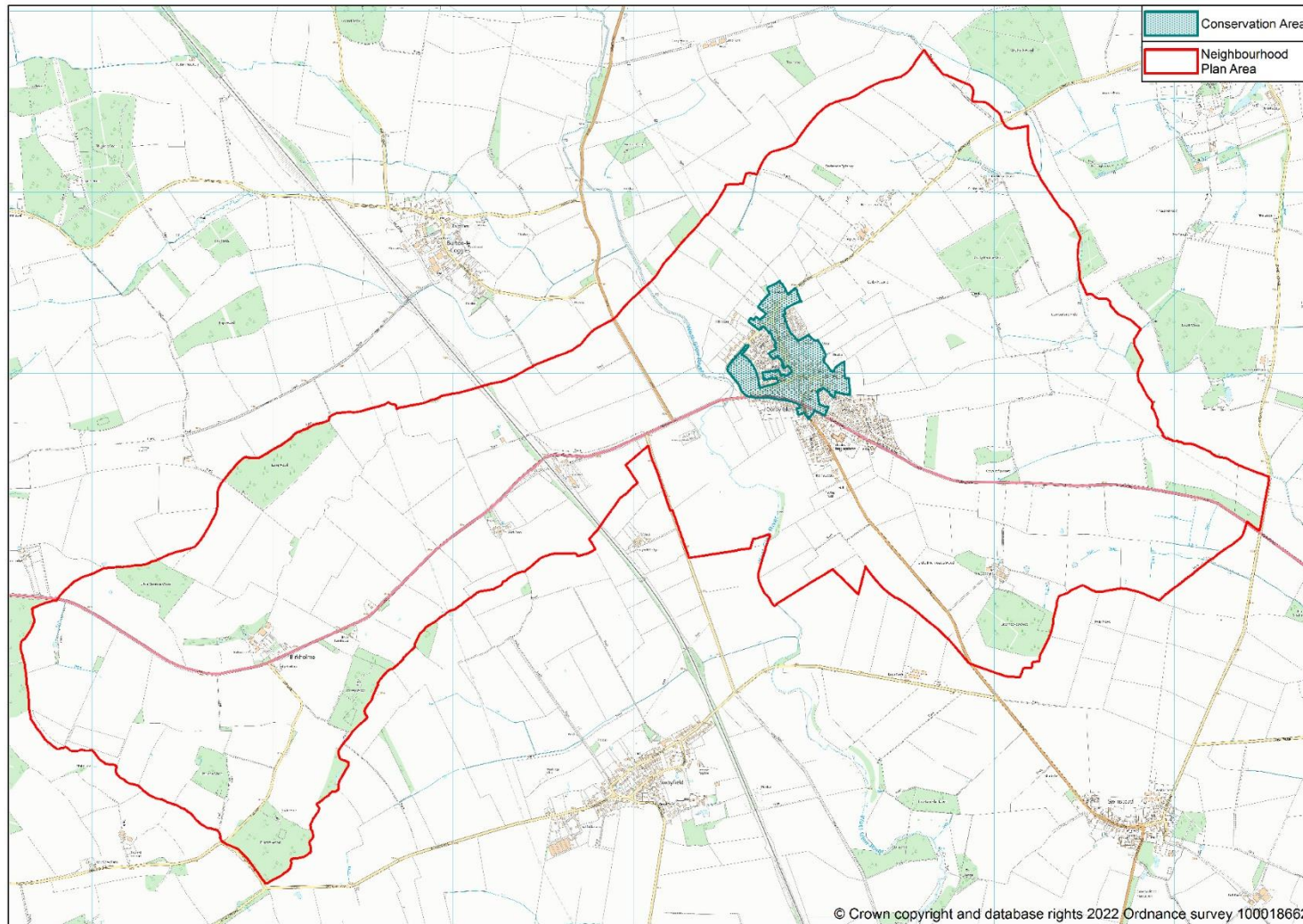
Sites of Nature Conservation Interest



Map 3.26: Nationally Designated sites of nature conservation interest within the Neighbourhood Area



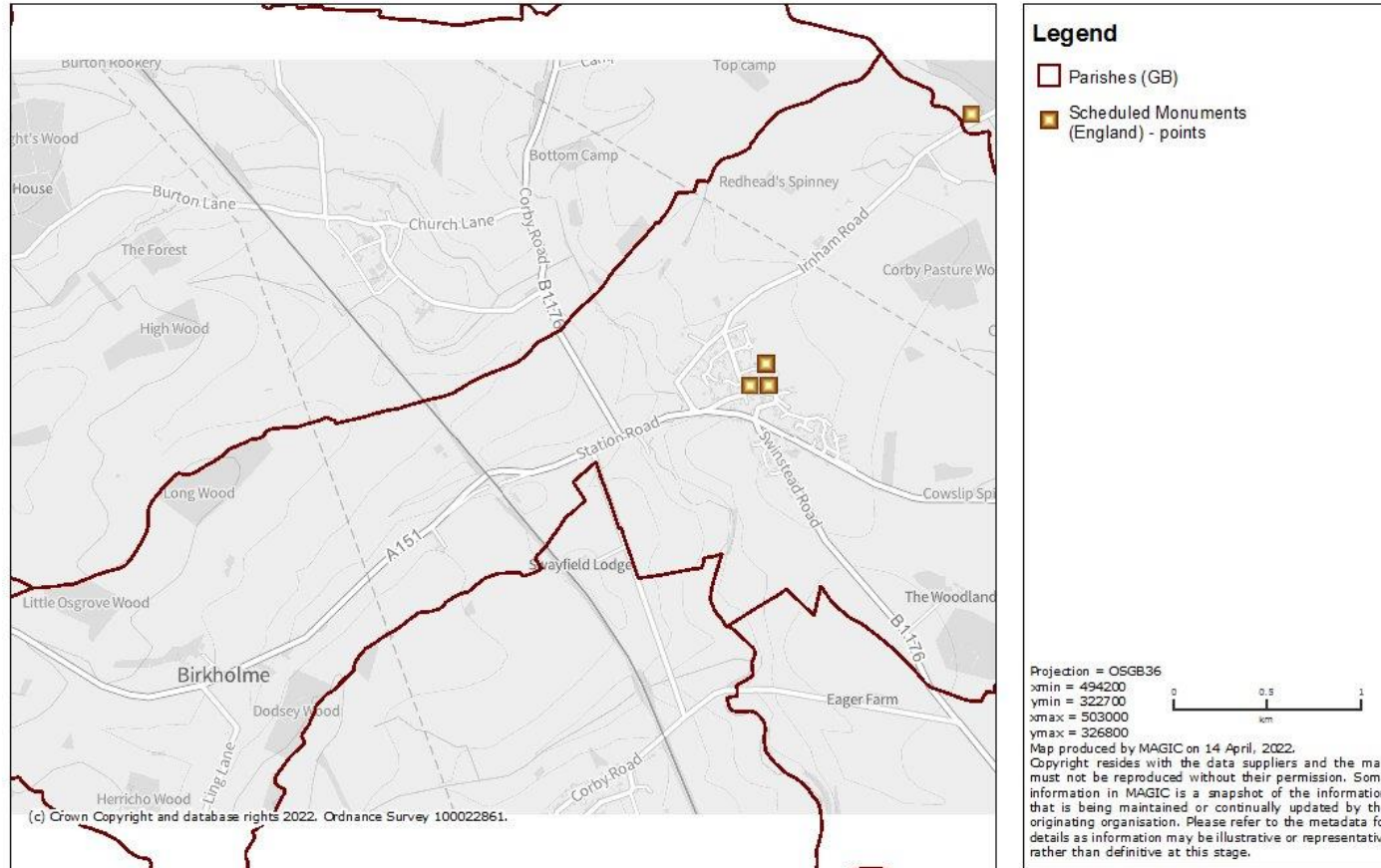
Map 3.27: Local Wildlife Sites within the Neighbourhood Area



Map 3.28: Local Conservation areas within the Neighbourhood Area



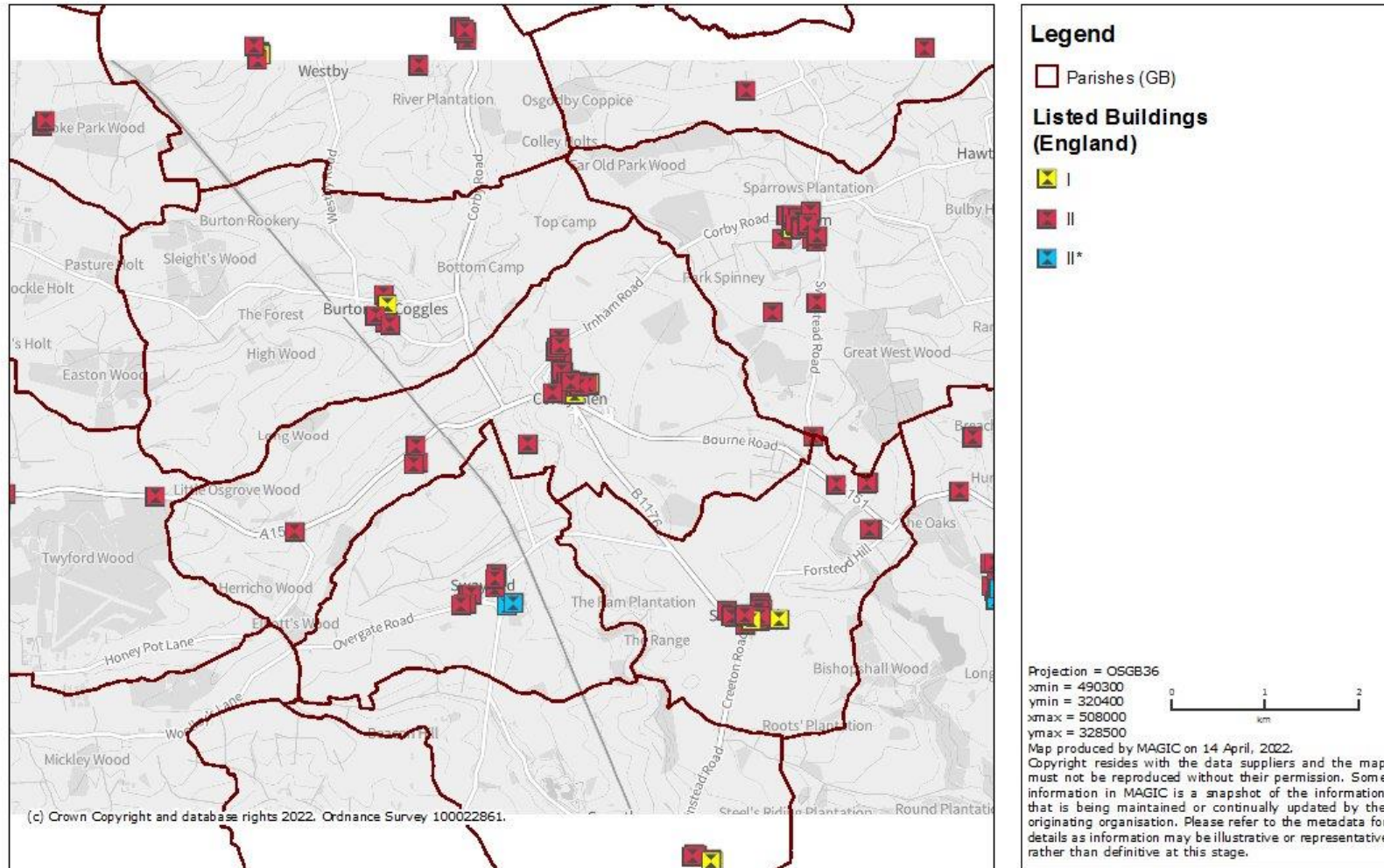
Historic Environment Features



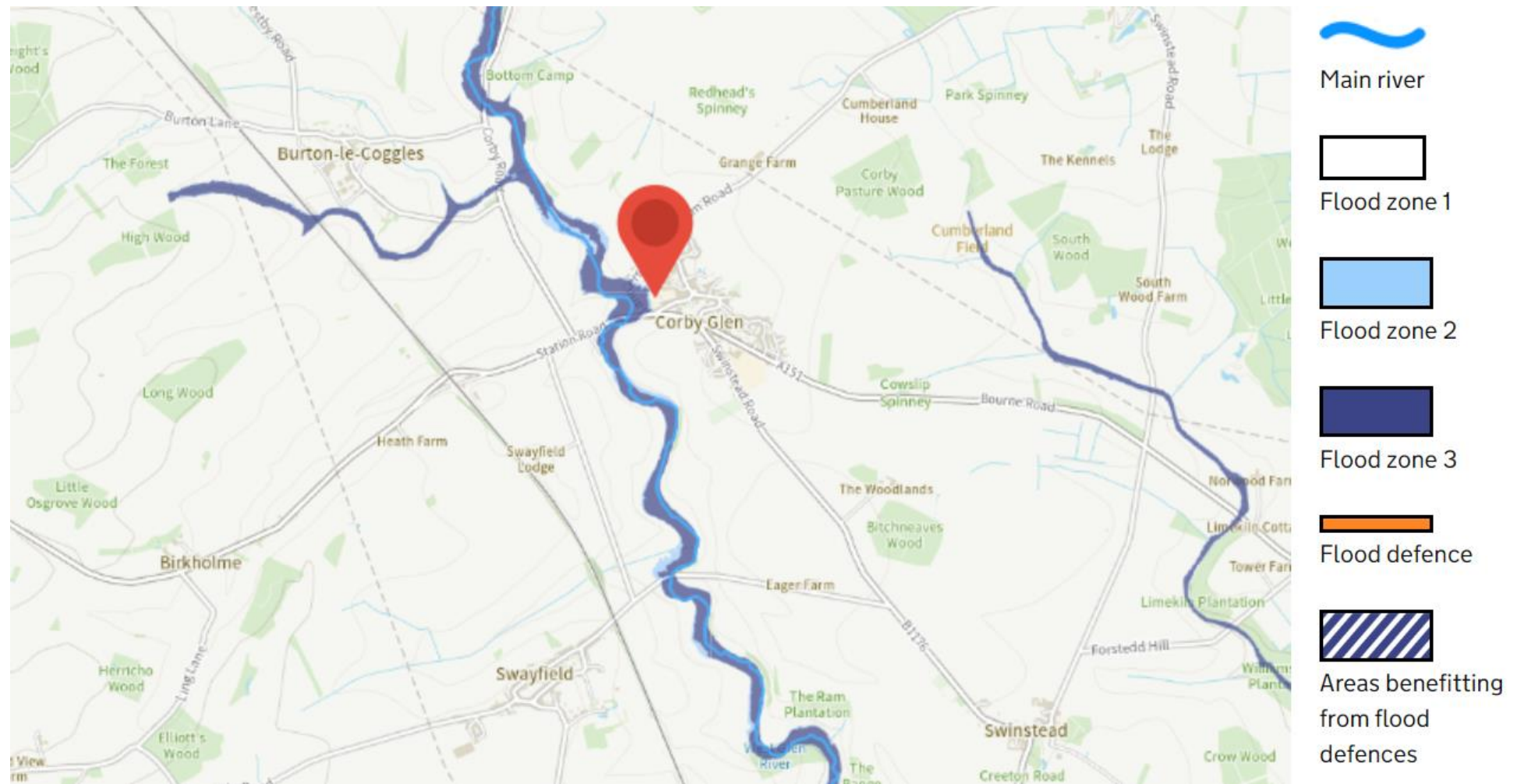
Map 3.29: Historic Environment features within the Neighbourhood Area



Listed Buildings



Map 3.30: Listed Buildings within the Neighbourhood Area



Map 3.31: Flood Risk within the Neighbourhood Area

4. Screening Methodology: Criteria for Assessing the Effects of Neighbourhood Plans

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.1. The Localism Act 2011 (Schedule 9) introduced neighbourhood planning into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The 1990 Act, as amended by Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011, requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) meet a set of basic conditions, one of which being that the making of the plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- 4.2. To ensure that a NDP meets this basic condition, a SEA may be required to determine the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan. The basis for Strategic Environmental legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC, which was initially transposed into domestic law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or 'SEA Regulations'. Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'¹² and paragraph 073 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 'Neighbourhood Planning' section¹³. Paragraph 073 of the Neighbourhood planning section advises that a Neighbourhood Plan should be screened early. Whether a Neighbourhood Plan proposal requires a SEA, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed within the plan.
- 4.3. Where a proposed plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or European offshore marine site (in relation to the Habitats Directive), this will also trigger the need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 of schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site. Paragraphs 2 to 5 go on to amend the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 so as to apply its provisions to neighbourhood development orders and plans. A Neighbourhood Plan's (or Neighbourhood Development Order) requirements for Appropriate Assessment are clarified further by the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018.
- 4.4. Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC details the criteria for determining whether plans are likely to have significant environmental effects. These criteria are outlined in **Figure 1**.

¹² Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf

¹³ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#basic-conditions-for-neighbourhood-plan-to-referendum>

- 4.5. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs produced a flow chart diagram¹⁴ which sets out the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The flow chart diagram is provided in **Figure 2**.
- 4.6. Section 5 provides firstly, a screening assessment of the CGNP, against the assessment criteria (in **Figure 1**) to identify the significance of effects which may arise as a result of the plan's implementation.
- 4.7. Secondly, Section 5 applies the SEA Directive to the draft CGNP, as per the flow chart in **Figure 2**, to determine if a full SEA is required.
- 4.8. In order to decide whether a SEA is required, the Council needs to consider the following:
- How the policies in the neighbourhood plan might affect the environment, community or economy;
 - Whether the policies are likely to adversely affect a "sensitive area", such as a Natura 2000 site (SAC, SPA, Ramsar) or a SSSI, NNR etc.;
 - Whether the policies propose a higher level of development than what is set out in the South Kesteven Local Plan and that has been assessed by the SA of that Plan;
 - Whether the implementation of the policies is likely to lead to new development;
 - Whether the cumulative impact of the policies taken together may give rise to a significant effect.
- 4.9. Please note that as the questions have been answered using the flow diagram, some of the questions may not be applicable as a result of previous answers: where this is the case, the response is stated as 'not applicable'.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

ECJ decision's effects on screening assessment

- 4.10. A decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) (People Over Wind & Sweetman vs. Coillte Teoranta) in April 2018 has had a significant impact on the HRA process for both Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans. In short, the ECJ ruled that in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out a full HRA of the implications of a plan, it is not appropriate to take account of the mitigation measures at the screening stage. Rather, consideration of mitigation will need to occur at the full Appropriate Assessment stage.
- 4.11. A consequence of the ECJ's decision is that mitigation measures set out in a plan cannot be used at the screening stage to conclude there will be 'no likely significant effects' on European Sites. Therefore if a Neighbourhood Plan includes measures to counter the plan's effects on European Sites these should, in effect, be ignored at the screening stage.
- 4.12. Previously, plan-making in the UK has followed case law as set out in Application of Hart DC vs. Secretary of the State for Communities and Local Government in 2008, which concluded that: 'anything which encourages the proponents of plans and projects to incorporate mitigation measures at the earliest possible stage in the evolution of their plan or project is surely to be encouraged.'
- 4.13. The government has acknowledged that the ECJ's ruling has caused uncertainty in preparing Neighbourhood Plans and could result in more plans requiring a full SEA or HRA. In December 2018, The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various

¹⁴ Department of the Environment, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)

Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018¹⁵ came into force, amending the basic conditions and allowing affected Neighbourhood Plans and Orders to proceed.

- 4.14. For the avoidance of doubt, this screening report has been undertaken in accordance with the ECJ's ruling, insofar that the effects of any mitigation measures set out in the policies of the CGNP on European Sites have not been considered.

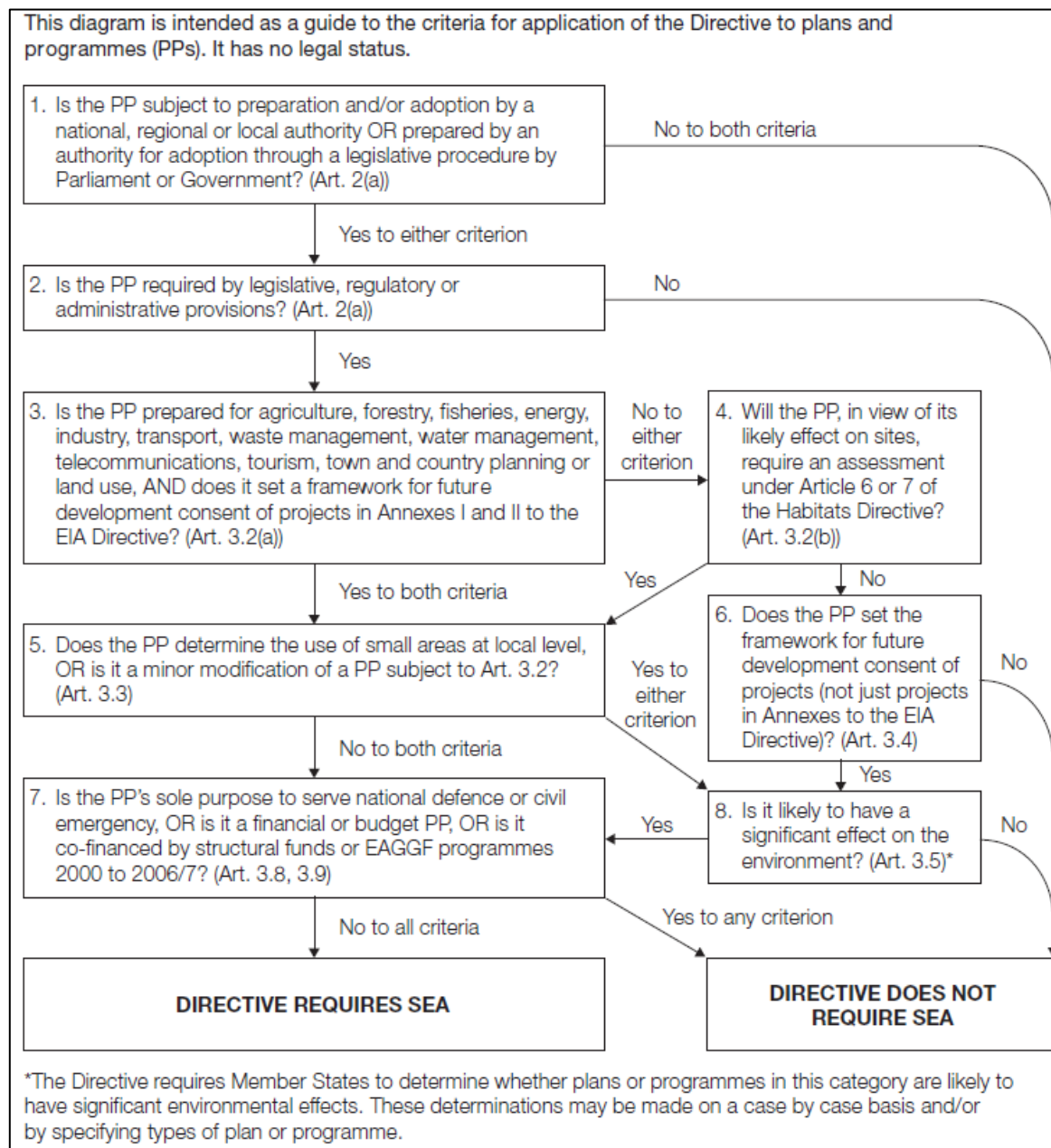
¹⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/1307/contents/made>

Figure 1: SEA Assessment CriteriaArticle 3, Scope

1. Member States shall determine whether plans or programmes referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 are likely to have significant environmental effects either through case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches. For this purpose Member States shall in all cases take into account relevant criteria set out in Annex II, in order to ensure that plans and programmes with likely significant effects on the environment are covered by this Directive.

Annex II Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - 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 degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - the cumulative nature of the effects;
 - the transboundary nature of the effects;
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;
 - intensive land-use;
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Figure 2: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes¹⁶

¹⁶ Annexes I and II of Directive 2011/92/EU (as referred to in Figure 2, question 3) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092&from=EN> (see <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-legalcontext.htm> for details of amendments). Articles 6 and 7 of the Habitats Directive (as referred to in Figure 2, question 4) available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN>.

5. SEA and HRA Screening Assessment of the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan.

Introduction

- 5.1. The 'responsible authority' in the case of SEA and the 'competent authority' in the case of HRA, must determine whether a plan or programme, in this case the CGNP, is likely to have a significant environmental effect with reference to specified criteria. The following section sets out an assessment of the CGNP against this criterion.
- 5.2. **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** consider the CGNP against the criteria from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Paragraphs **5.4** to **5.61** consider the likely environmental effects of the CGNP in relation to the topics set out in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive.
- 5.3. Paragraphs **5.62** to **5.65** consider the likely significant effects in relation to the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites.

Determination of likely significant environmental effects (SEA Screening)

- 5.4. As highlighted in paragraph **2.8**, the South Kesteven Local Plan was subject to SA (incorporating SEA), documented in a SA Report¹⁷ which fully considered the environmental, social and economic impacts of each of the policies and site allocations within the Plan. In the SA Report, the overall level of new housing and employment, development within "Larger Villages" was assessed in detail using the SA Framework. The framework found that due to larger villages across the district containing either grade 1 or grade 2 agricultural land, all development options could have the potential to lead to the loss of land classified as best and most versatile (BMV). However, the SA did not differentiate that any of the larger villages would be more effected that others and that the cumulative impacts of any potential development would be universal.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 5.5. As identified in paragraph **3.8** above, there are no internationally designated sites for nature conservation within the Neighbourhood Area
- 5.6. As identified in paragraph **3.9 & 3.10** above, there are designated sites for nature conservation within the Neighbourhood Area. This includes six Ancient Woodlands located within the boundary of the Parish and two SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) due to SSSIs which border the CGNP area (see **Map 3.26**). The IRZ identifies that any planning application for development other than residential should consult Natural England. However, the CGNP does not allocate any sites for development, and only supports small scale infill development of generally no more than 11 dwellings within the existing confines of the built-up area. Therefore, any negative impacts on these sites as a result of the CGNP are not expected.
- 5.7. As identified in paragraph **3.12** above, there are a number of LWS within the neighbourhood area, primarily consisting of verges and established woodland. Due to the CGNP not allocating any sites for development and only supporting small scale infill development of

¹⁷ <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24251&p=0>

generally no more than 11 dwellings within the existing confines of the built-up area of the village (see Policy CG3, Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size), it is expected that there will be no negative impacts on these LWS sites.

- 5.8. The CGNP includes an Objective relating to biodiversity. Objective 5 of the CGNP seeks to protect the rural setting of Corby Glen and Birkholme, and maintain access to the surrounding countryside. To deliver this Objective, there are a number of policies in the CGNP that seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and therefore should result in positive effects.
- 5.9. Policy CG 5.d *Landscape Character and Openness* – states that developments will be supported unless they adversely affect the landscape and habitat value of the valley of the West Glen river, or the designated woodlands of the local countryside.
- 5.10. Policy CG 11 *Open Space and recreation facilities* - designates open spaces and recreational facilities in order to protect them from inappropriate development.
- 5.11. Policy CG 12 *Proposed Local Green Spaces* – designates local green spaces and seeks to protect them from development except in very special circumstances.
- 5.12. Policy CG 13.b *Countryside Management* – states that development in the open countryside that is related to agriculture, forestry, equine, recreation, tourism, utility infrastructure and other rural uses will be supported provided they do not cause harm to sites of ecological value.
- 5.13. Policy CG 14 - *Nature conservation and biodiversity* - states that development proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on local wildlife sites, habitats and species networks have been considered. In addition proposals should incorporate appropriate measures to protect wildlife, habitats, enhance biodiversity and avoid fragmentation, by taking into account of the following principles:
- Any consequent loss of biodiversity should be minimised and mitigated by the creation of new habitats or the enhancement of existing ones;
 - Development proposals which would result in the loss or damage to protected trees and hedgerows will not be supported. Where the benefits of the proposal outweigh the harm caused a scheme for replacement trees, hedgerows or similar habitats should be incorporated within the development proposal;
 - Projects to enhance wildlife habitats & species and which respond positively to the Lincs. Biodiversity Action Plan & Natural Environment Strategy will be supported;
 - Tree planting and hedgerow creation aimed at providing a network of wildlife corridors across the Parish will be supported; and
 - Particular attention should be paid to any adverse impacts on roadside verges which have been identified as Roadside Nature Reserves or Local Wildlife Sites
- 5.14. Policy CG 18 *Telecommunications and Broadband* – states that developments to improve electronic communications will be supported providing adverse impacts on the environment can be mitigated.
- 5.15. Overall, it is expected that the CGNP will help to protect biodiversity, flora and fauna in the Neighbourhood Area and that significant impacts are unlikely, as the CGNP does not set

out an overall quantum of development or allocate specific land or sites for development above what is set out in the South Kesteven Local Plan.

Population and human health

- 5.16. Corby Glen had a relatively small population of 1,017 people at the time of the 2011 Census. Population growth is anticipated to rise once the results of the 2021 census are published, this is in addition to future housing growth planned within the Neighbourhood area (as identified within the SKDC Local Plan).
- 5.17. The CGNP recognises that the Corby Glen and Birkholme have a wide range of services and facilities. Currently within the village there is a nursery, primary school, a secondary school, a general store, mobile hairdressers, two cafes, two public houses with restaurants, 2 GP Surgery's (with a chemist), a garage, a fire station and place of worship. The village also contains a community hall, community centre, village green area and a children's play area.
- 5.18. Objective 1 of the CGNP seeks to maintain and enhance the amenities and services appropriate for a vibrant and sustainable large village.
- 5.19. In order to meet this objective, there are a number of policies within the CGNP that are likely to have a positive impact on population and human health.
- 5.20. Policy CG 1 *Sustainable development principles* - states that developments should provide for sustainable transport modes (e.g. walking & cycling) and they should be designed to minimise CO2 emissions and not unacceptably affect the amenity of nearby residents.
- 5.21. Policy CG 15 *Community facilities & local services* – the policy lists community facilities and amenities that will be protected in the parish as they are important for community cohesion and social sustainability.
- 5.22. Policy CG 16 *Community Halls* – states that improvements and extensions to identified community buildings will be supported in order to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities the community needs.
- 5.23. Policy CG 19 *Active Travel* – supports developments that would increase the local provision from pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Promoting these types of active travel may encourage residents to live more active lifestyles, with associated physical and mental health benefits.
- 5.24. Policy CG 20 *Countryside access and rights of way* – States that development proposals will be supported if they improve or extend the existing network of public footpaths and bridleways in and around the village, especially where the route allows greater access to services and facilities or the surrounding open countryside.
- 5.25. Overall, the CGNP is not likely to have a significant impact on human health, given the relatively small population that the CGNP applies to and the fact that no sites are allocated for development within the plan.

Soil, air and water

- 5.26. In terms of soil, the majority of the Neighbourhood Area is Grade 3 agricultural land.

- 5.27. Policy CG 3 – *Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size* - guides development to be within the built-up area of the villages which should help to protect agricultural land.
- 5.28. There are no air quality management areas within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore no current air quality issues are foreseen. Furthermore, Policy CG 1 *Sustainable development principles* – requires development proposals to demonstrate practicable efforts to achieve design and construction standards for sustainable development, to minimise CO2. Furthermore Policy CG 13 - *Countryside management* – states that development should not interrupt the “dark skies” quality within the district.
- 5.29. In terms of water, the River West Glen, a tributary of the River Glen, flows through the centre of the CGNP area, just west of Corby Glen village. Most of the NP area is situated in flood zone 1, with a small area around the River West Glen being flood zone 3. As the CGNP does not include specific allocations for development it is not anticipated to have any direct implications within the flood zone area. However, Policy CG 3.h – *Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size* states that developments must incorporate sustainable drainage features. This will ensure that any future development does not exacerbate flood risk and surface water run-off within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.30. Overall, it is anticipated that there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on soil, air or water as a result of implementing the CGNP.

Climatic factors

- 5.31. Climatic factors involve the consideration of a plan or programme in relation to climate change. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are closely interrelated and are closely linked to other environmental issues.
- 5.32. Policy RE1: Renewable Energy Generation, together with Appendix 3 Renewable Energy, of the South Kesteven Local Plan, sets out specific criteria to be used for development management purposes in the determination of planning applications for solar, biomass/anaerobic digestion and wind energy facilities. Policy EN5: Water Environment and Flood Risk Management, seeks to ensure that development does not place itself or others at increased risk of flooding and Policy EN4 looks to minimise pollution and where possible contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of air, land and water.
- 5.33. Policy CG 1 *Sustainable development principles* – of the CGNP requires development proposals to use practical design and construction standards to minimise CO2 emissions.
- 5.34. Policy CG 14 - *Nature conservation and biodiversity* - states that development sites need to demonstrate how any impacts towards habitats and species networks have been considered. It additionally requires appropriate measures to be put into place to protect wildlife, habitats, enhance biodiversity and avoid fragmentation. Tree planting and hedgerow creation aimed at providing a network of wildlife corridors are also encouraged through the policy to mitigate environmental impacts such as climate change.
- 5.35. Policy CG 19 *Transport and Active Travel* – supports development proposals that would increase local provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to discourage the use of vehicular transportation.

- 5.36. Additionally the CGNP has Community Aspiration 1 – *Development of walking routes, cycle routes and accessible access to village centre*, which encourages policies that enable use of active transport, as its beneficial for not just health and well-being, but also sustainability of the environment and transport.
- 5.37. Any future developments within the CGNP Area could lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with transport, with a greater number of car journeys as car ownership is generally higher in the NP area given the rural location.
- 5.38. Overall, it is considered unlikely that there would be any significant adverse impacts on climate change factors as a result of the CGNP & South Kesteven Local Plan providing appropriate mitigation. Additionally due to the fact that no sites are allocated for development in the Neighbourhood Plan and only small scale windfall development is likely to come forward over the plan period no fundamental climate issues are expected.

Material assets

- 5.39. The SEA Directive does not define what is meant by ‘material assets’ and it can be interpreted in a number of ways. This screening takes material assets to include a range of social, physical and environmental infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities, roads, railways, bus services, wastewater treatment works, flood defences, open space etc. Impacts on materials assets are likely to relate to a number of other SEA topics.
- 5.40. In the South Kesteven Local Plan, Policy ID1: Infrastructure for Growth, aims to ensure that *“there is, or will be, sufficient infrastructure capacity (including green infrastructure) to support and meet the essential infrastructure requirements arising from the proposed development.”*
- 5.41. The CGNP includes policies in regard to ‘material assets’, which look to address issues relating to community services and facilities, public footpaths and telecommunications infrastructure.
- 5.42. Policy CG 8 *Corby Glen Market Place* – states that proposals that affect the Corby Glen Market place will only be supported if they do not detract from the traditional character or adversely affect the setting and usage of the area.
- 5.43. Policy CG 11 *Open Space and recreation facilities* - designates open spaces and recreational facilities in order to protect them from inappropriate development
- 5.44. Policy CG 15 *Community Facilities & Local services* - aims to protect existing services and facilities and supports their improvement and expansion. It also supports the provision of new services and facilities, provided that the development does not have a significant harmful impact on the amenity of residents.
- 5.45. Policy CG 19 *Transport and Active Travel* - supports proposals for development that improve or extend the existing network of public footpaths and bridleways in and around the village, especially where it allows greater access to services and facilities or the surrounding open countryside.
- 5.46. It is considered unlikely that that the CGNP would have a significant adverse effect on material assets within the Neighbourhood Area.

Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 5.47. As identified, there are a large number of heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Area. The CGNP recognises the importance of cultural heritage. Objective 4 specifically seeks to “*To protect and enhance the built environment and open spaces of the village (includes: buildings and views within the conservation area, community spaces, designated ancient monuments, non-designated community assets)*”.
- 5.48. Policy EN6 of the South Kesteven Local Plan seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings in keeping with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, only granting permission where the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential harm. The policy also considers proposals which would conserve or enhance the significance of the assets favourably. Additionally proposals are also required to take conservation area appraisals into account, along with any effects on archaeological sites.
- 5.49. Policy CG 1 of the CGNP, *Sustainable development principles* - states that proposals for development should respect the local built, social, cultural, historic and natural heritage assets.
- 5.50. Policy CG 3 *Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size* - states that development should be appropriate to its surroundings, considering, the Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and Local Heritage Assets, in accordance with policies CG7, 8 & 9.
- 5.51. Policy CG 7 *Designated heritage assets* – combined with the current established criteria of SKDC policy EN6, seeks to preserve, enhance and contribute to the quality and character of designated heritage assets identified throughout the CGNP area.
- 5.52. Policy CG 9 *Local (non-designated) heritage assets and Positive Unlisted Buildings* – highlights a number of none designated Heritage Assets which form part of the character and identity of the CGNP parish area. The policy does not support the loss of, or substantial harm to these assets unless justification balancing the positive and adverse impacts is provided.
- 5.53. Policy CG 10 *Protecting and enhancing archaeological sites* – States that development proposals affecting Scheduled Monuments, other archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential should demonstrate they have taken into account the impact on above and below ground archaeological deposits. Additionally, the policy states that measures should be taken to minimise impacts of development upon the historic landscape character of the area.
- 5.54. Given that the CGNP does not allocate any sites for development, and taking into account the policies highlighted above, and in combination with policy EN6 of the SKDC Local Plan, it is considered unlikely that any future development that may come forward within the Neighbourhood Area would not adversely impact on these identified heritage assets and their setting.

Landscape

- 5.55. The CGNP neighbourhood area falls within the Kesteven Uplands National Character Area. A Landscape Character Assessment was undertaken by SKDC in 2007. This indicates that the parish predominantly falls within the Kesteven Uplands landscape character area.
- 5.56. Policy EN1 of the South Kesteven Local Plan states that development must be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes, of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration.
- 5.57. Majority of the CGNP area is open countryside, therefore Objective 5 of the CGNP looks to protect the rural setting of Corby Glen and Birkholme and maintain access to the surrounding countryside.
- 5.58. The CGNP includes a specific policy to ensure that any future development contributes to the local environment by respecting and enhancing, where appropriate, the landscape character of the area. Policy CG 5 *Landscape Character and Openness* – states that development should respect the distinct identity of Corby Glen, including Birkholme, in the attractive open landscape of the Kesteven Uplands.
- 5.59. In terms of development, Policy CG 3 *Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size* - states that developments should not adversely affect views of value or significance.
- 5.60. Policy CG 6 *Key Views* – establishes a number of key views into and out of the villages and open countryside within the CGNP area, which were deemed to be important/ special to the community. The policy supports development which enhances or improves key views, while also advocating that they should be respected and not be compromised by the location, scale and appearance of any new development.
- 5.61. Policy CG 12 *Proposed Local Green Spaces* – designates green spaces and recognises the importance of well used and valued community green spaces which help to define the landscape and character of the area.
- 5.62. Policy CG 13 *Countryside management* – states that development in the open countryside, related to agriculture, forestry, equine, recreation, tourism, utility infrastructure and other rural land uses, will be supported provided that it does not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape character and quality of the Kesteven Uplands.
- 5.63. The CGNP does not allocate sites for development above those in the South Kesteven Local Plan and therefore, with the policies outlined above, and in combination with policies in the South Kesteven Local Plan, it is considered unlikely that the CGNP would result in a significant impact on the local landscape.
- 5.64. **This SEA screening therefore considers the CGNP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment**

Determination of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (HRA Screening)

- 5.65. There are no Natura 2000 sites within the boundary of the CGNP area. The nearest Natura 2000 site, Grimsthorpe Park SAC, is located approximately 5.2km from the village of Corby

Glen. The other Natura 2000 sites screened into the HRA Report undertaken for the South Kesteven Local Plan in April 2019 are over 20km from the CGNP area. The HRA was carried out by SKDC as the competent authority, in consultation with Natural England. This HRA is considered relevant and appropriate in the context of this SEA/HRA screening assessment.

- 5.66. It is commonly recognised in HRA guidance that when considering the potential effects on Natura 2000 sites that distance itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. There are other factors that will influence the relative distance at which an impact can occur, such as the prevailing wind or river flow direction. Best practice is to use a 'source-pathway-receptor' model which focuses on whether there is a pathway from the **source** (the direct or indirect change occurring as a result of development) by which impacts from the Plan can affect the sensitivities of a Natura 2000 sites' environmental conditions. The **pathway** is the route or mechanism by which any likely significant effect would be manifest in the environment and would reach the **receptor** (the Natura 2000 site).
- 5.67. Using this approach and given the fact that the CGNP does not set out a quantum of development, nor allocate sites for development, it is possible to conclude that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on Grimsthorpe Park SAC located 5.2km away or the Natura 2000 sites located beyond 20km. Any effects would be so restricted in scale or remote from a Natura 2000 site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives of the site.
- 5.68. **Having regard to the nature of the policies in the CGNP and the safeguards in the adopted South Kesteven Local Plan, this HRA screening therefore considers that the CGNP is not likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination, with other plans and projects.**

SEA/HRA Assessment

- 5.69. **Figure 3** provides assessment of the CGNP against the SEA Directive criteria to identify likely *significant* effects on the environment:

Figure 3. 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;	<p>The CGNP has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and would, if adopted, form part of the statutory Development Plan and contribute to the framework for future development projects.</p> <p>The principle of development in the Neighbourhood Area, including the nature of development, location and scale, has already been determined by the South Kesteven Local Plan (January 2020) and is therefore largely beyond the influence of the CGNP. Any significant effects arising from the proposals in the Local Plan have already been identified through the SA and HRA of that plan.</p> <p>The CGNP would only apply to a small geographical area (The Neighbourhood Area) where a limited number of proposals are anticipated over the plan period, and any proposals are expected to be of a small/medium scale.</p>	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>The CGNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the South Kesteven Local Plan and the national planning policy as set out in the NPPF.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to the parish area only. The CGNP would therefore not strongly influence other plans and programmes higher up the spatial planning hierarchy.</p>	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>It is a basic condition that a Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The CGNP seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account. It includes the following policies which promote environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy CG 1 Sustainable Development Principles</i> • <i>Policy CG 3 Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size</i> • <i>Policy CG 5 Landscape character and openness</i> • <i>Policy CG 11 Open space and recreation</i> • <i>Policy CG 12 Proposed Local Greenspace</i> 	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy CG 13 Countryside management</i> • <i>Policy CG 14 Nature conservation/biodiversity</i> • <i>Policy CG 19 Transport and Active Travel</i> <p>There are no policies within the CGNP that allocate sites for development. Policy – CG 3 - <i>Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size</i> supports small/medium scale residential development within the built-up area of Corby Glen village. Policy CG 2 - <i>Requirements for the Local Plan housing sites</i> is limited to what is already established within policy SP5 of the SKDC Local Plan.</p> <p>Policies in the plan also seek to address social and economic matters, such as meeting housing need and the retention of local services and community facilities.</p> <p>These policies are compatible with the adopted South Kesteven Local Plan, which was subject to both SA/SEA and HRA throughout the plan making process</p>	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	There are no specific environmental problems relevant to the NP that have not been identified and assessed through the higher-level Local Plan and its accompanying SA/SEA.	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 content of the CGNP is not in conflict with any plans or programmes within the wider area for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.	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>This has been tested through the SA/SEA of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The CGNP does not allocate sites for development. The effects of the implementation of the CGNP are therefore uncertain to a certain extent, as they will depend on windfall sites that may come forward. However, such windfall sites are expected to be limited to small/medium scale, infill development, and sites no larger than 0.5 ha on the edge of existing settlements, therefore the effects are not likely to be significant and are expected to be minimal. It is likely that some policies may result in positive effects by helping to preserve and enhance the environmental features within the Neighbourhood Area</p> <p>See also paragraphs 5.4 to 5.64 above.</p>	No

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effects of implementing the CGNP, both between the policies within the CGNP and with other plans and programmes, are expected to be very limited as the plan does not identify a quantum of growth, nor allocate specific sites for development.	No
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The CGNP is not expected to give rise to any transboundary effects.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The CGNP is not anticipated to give rise to any significant environmental effects that would pose risk to human health or the environment.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	<p>The Corby Glen Neighbourhood includes the village of Corby Glen the hamlet of Birkholme and surrounding countryside which is principally in agricultural use. The population of the CGNP at the time of the 2011 Census was 1,017 people living in 440 households.</p> <p>The spatial extent of any effects of the implementation of the CGNP are expected to be limited to the immediate local area (i.e. the Neighbourhood Area), therefore the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects are expected to be limited.</p>	No
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	<p>As highlighted in paras 5.4 to 5.64, it is considered unlikely that the CGNP would adversely impact the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage of the Neighbourhood Area. The CGNP is not expected to exceed environmental quality standards or lead to intensive land use.</p> <p>The CGNP does not allocate any sites for development. Furthermore, the CGNP includes policies which promote environmental considerations and seek to provide greater protection for the character of the area. Therefore it is not considered that there will be any significant adverse impacts in terms of criteria (f)(i to iii).</p>	No
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	There are no protected areas or landscapes within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore the CGNP is unlikely to result in any significant adverse effects. Any effects of the CGNP on the landscape are expected to be positive and localised and are not likely to be significant.	No

5.70. **Figure 4** applies the SEA Directive criteria to the CGNP as per the flow chart in **Figure 2**, to determine the need for SEA and/or HRA.

Figure 4: Application of the SEA Directive to Ropsley and District Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria	Response: Yes/ No/ Not applicable	Details
1. Is the NDP 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	<p>The preparation and adoption of the CGNP is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Whilst the CGNP has been prepared by Corby Glen Parish Council it will be adopted by South Kesteven District Council as the local planning authority and will form part of the statutory development plan for South Kesteven.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 2</p>
2. Is the NDP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Yes	<p>Whilst the production of a Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional, it will, if made, form part of the statutory development plan for the South Kesteven District Council area. It is therefore important that this screening process considers the potential effects.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 3</p>
3. Is the NDP 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 – Town & Country Planning / land use; No - EIA Directive Annex I & II	<p>The CGNP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use, setting a framework for future development consents within the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>However, the NDP is unlikely to set a framework for consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 4.</p>
4. Will the NDP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	No	<p>See paras 5.65 to 5.68</p> <p>The CGNP does not set out a housing requirement figure, nor allocate specific sites for development.</p> <p>As the CGNP does not allocate sites and is not likely to increase the amount of growth which will take place in the CGNP area beyond that which is already set out in the South Kesteven Development Plan, an assessment under Articles 6 and 7 of the Habitats Directive is not required.</p> <p>GO TO STAGE 6</p>

5. Does the NDP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of an NDP subject to Art. 3.2?	No	Not applicable
6. Does the NDP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)?	Yes	Once 'made' the CGNP forms part of the Development Plan and will be used in the decision-making process on planning applications. It therefore sets the framework for future developments at a local level. GO TO STAGE 8
7. Is the NDP'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?	No	Not applicable
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	No	See paras 5.4 to 5.64 and Figure 3 . A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have a significant effect on the environment, dependent on the proposed policies within the NDP. This requires detailed assessment to determine. See paras 5.4 to 5.64 and Figure 3 which identify that no likely significant effects are expected to arise through implementation of the CGNP.
Outcome:	SEA not required	

6. Consultation with Statutory Bodies

6.1. The assessment in **Section 5** indicates that it is unlikely that there are any significant environmental effects arising from the CGNP (as submitted at the date of this assessment) and thus a SEA is not required. The relevant statutory consultation bodies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England, will be consulted on this SEA/HRA screening opinion based on the CGNP in its current form. The responses received during this consultation are summarised below, and will be available in full in **Appendix 2**

6.2. **Historic England**

SEA

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.

6.3. **Natural England**

SEA

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

HRA

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

6.4. **Environment Agency**

On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk

6.5. **Other (If Relevant)**

None Required.

7. Screening Outcome

- 7.1 Having reviewed the environmental characteristics of the CGNP area and the vision, objectives and policies against the criteria set out in **Section 5** of this report, SKDC consider it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the CGNP and thus the CGNP can be **screened out** for further SEA.
- 7.2 **Section 5** of this report also indicates that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on a designated Natura 2000 site arising from the implementation of the CGNP, and therefore further HRA assessment under the Habitats Regulations can be **screened out**.
- 7.3 The CGNP does not allocate any land or sites for development but provides guidance to be used to determine applications should they come forward. The policies in the CGNP generally accord with the adopted South Kesteven Local Plan, the potential environmental effects of which were duly assessed during the plan-making process through SA/SEA and HRA assessments.
- 7.4 A number of the CGNP policies are particularly environmentally conscientious and address environmental issues positively by seeking to improve the quality of new development to reduce its impacts on the environment. For example, the CGNP includes policies that: encourage active travel and travel by modes other than the car, seek to protect the surrounding landscape character and setting of the parish area, seek to preserve or enhance heritage assets and their settings, and seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and open green spaces.
- 7.5 To take an alternative approach, such as preparing evidence bespoke to the CGNP, would be disproportionate and result in unnecessary duplication. This would be contrary to national planning policy.
- 7.6 In the event that the objectives, aims and/or policies covered by the CGNP should change significantly during the plan-making process, this screening process will be reviewed.

Appendix 1: Summary of Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy Reference and Title	Brief Summary of Policy
<i>CG1 - Sustainable Development</i>	Establishes the overarching sustainable development principles for all developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
<i>CG2 - Requirements for the Local Plan housing sites</i>	Sets out criteria for the designated housing site in the SKDC Local Plan LV-H5.
<i>CG3 - Criteria for other new housing sites including design and size</i>	Sets out proposals for residential (and other) development within Corby Glen including Birkholme. Which are generally expected to be in conformity with the criteria set out in policy SP5 of the SKDC Local Plan.
<i>CG4 - House Extensions & Conversions</i>	Sets out the criteria for residential extensions and conversions throughout the CGNP area to ensure that, in addition to residential amenity, general design and local character is considered.
<i>CG5 - Landscape Character & Openness</i>	Ensures that development respects the distinct identity of Corby Glen including Birkholme, in the attractive open landscape of the Kesteven Uplands.
<i>CG6 - Key Views</i>	Ensures that the identified key views into and out of the villages and countryside is respected and not compromised by the location, scale and appearance of new development.
<i>CG7- Designated heritage assets</i>	Identifies local factors that must be addressed in addition to SKDC Local Plan Policy EN6, when addressing proposals affecting designated heritage assets, or their setting.
<i>CG8 - The Market Place</i>	This policy will only support proposals if they do not detract from the traditional setting or detract from the setting or usage of the Market Place.
<i>CG9 - Local (non-designated) heritage assets</i>	Identifies a number of local (non-designated) heritage assets. The policy also states that proposals affecting these assets should demonstrate how they would contribute to the conservation, preservation and enhancement of the architectural or historic interest of the building or structure in question.
<i>CG10 - Archaeology</i>	Identifies a number of criteria that should be taken into consideration for Development proposals affecting Scheduled Monuments,

Policy Reference and Title	Brief Summary of Policy
	other archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential.
CG11 - Open space and recreation	<p>The policy identifies 8 important open spaces.</p> <p>The policy seeks to protect open spaces, recreation facilities and school playing fields from development. Highlighting that development which enhances or improves existing sites will be supported, while highlighting that proposals which would reduce the quality or quantity of these facilities would only be supported if existing facilities are replaced at a better quality or quantity.</p>
CG12 - Proposed Local Green Spaces	<p>The policy identifies 5 Local Green Space Designations.</p> <p>The policy states that Development of these spaces will only be permitted in very special circumstances where harm to the Local Green Space, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.</p>
CG13 - Countryside management	<p>The policy states that Development in the open countryside, related to agriculture, forestry, equine, recreation, tourism, utility infrastructure and other rural land uses, will be supported provided that it does not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape, ecological value, heritage assets or intrinsic character beauty of the countryside.</p>
CG14 - Nature conservation/biodiversity	<p>The policy states that proposals impacting on biodiversity will be required to demonstrate how any potential impact on local wildlife sites, habitats and species networks has been considered. With Particular attention paid to any adverse impacts on Local Wildlife Sites</p> <p>In addition the policy supports projects to enhance wildlife/ species habitats and advocates tree planting and hedgerow creation.</p>
CG15 - Community facilities and services	<p>The policy identifies 5 Community facilities within the Parish which are to be protected from potential loss. This is unless; alternative provision is provided, or that there is no reasonable prospect of the facility being retained or economically viable</p>

Policy Reference and Title	Brief Summary of Policy
	The policy also supports the improvement and extension of these buildings, and the creation of new facilities.
CG16 – Community Halls	The policy identifies 2 community halls in the parish area that will be protected, and states that extensions and new facilities will be supported in compliance with other neighbourhood policies.
CG17 - Local businesses and employment	<p>The policy supports proposals for the development of new small business units, the expansion or diversification of existing small units and tourism related development. This is providing there is no significant adverse impact from traffic, parking and servicing, noise, smell, lighting, vibration, emissions or activities generated by the proposal upon the villages, surrounding countryside or landscape.</p> <p>The policy also states that relevant, opportunities should be taken to secure the re-use of vacant or redundant historic buildings (designated and non-designated).</p> <p>The policy also supports home working proposals where there is no unacceptably adverse impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties.</p>
CG18 - Telecommunications & broadband	The policy supports proposals for development that improve electronic communications such as superfast broadband and the mobile phone network providing any adverse impact on the environment can be adequately mitigated.
CG19 - Transport & active travel	The policy requires development proposals that would increase traffic locally or affect a location with a known highway safety problem should be supported by measures to address highway safety and avoid conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists through a Transport Assessment or Statement.
CG20 - Countryside Access and rights of Way	The policy also supports proposals that would increase local provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will be supported.

Appendix 2: Consultation Response From Statutory Bodies

Historic England



Mr Jake Horton
South Kesteven Distict Council
St Peters Hill
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG31 6PZ

████████████████████
Our ref: PL00787662

26 August 2022

Dear Mr Horton

CORBY GLEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA and HRA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. 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 the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

████████████████████

████████████████████



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Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Natural England

Date: 02 September 2022
Our ref: 403670
Your ref: none



Jake Horton
Planning Policy Officer
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CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Horton

Planning consultation: - SEA/HRA Screening Opinion Consultation - SKDC - Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for your consultation on the above document dated 12 August 2022 and received on 12 August 2022.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan.

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

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact [REDACTED] on 020 8026 0676. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Lead Planning Adviser

East Midlands Team

Page 1 of 1



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard

Environment Agency**Jake Horton**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 August 2022 10:08
To: Jake Horton
Subject: RE: SEA/HRA Screening Opinion Consultation - SKDC - Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan

Categories: Still Pending

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Jake

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report for the Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan.

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of flood zones 2 and 3 of the River West Glen. On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints.

Nevertheless we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] AssocRTPI
Sustainable Places – Planning Specialist | Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire
Environment Agency | Nene House, Pytchley Road Industrial Estate, Pytchley Lodge Road, Kettering, NN15 6JQ

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
Working days: Monday to Friday



Creating a better place
for people and wildlife



From: Jake Horton <Jake.Horton@southkesteven.gov.uk>

Other if Relevant

None Required.