

CARNFORTH TOWN COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2020 – 2031

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT
(INCLUDING AREA STATEMENT)

NOVEMBER 2021



CARNFORTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2020 – 2031

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT
(INCLUDING AREA STATEMENT)

Web: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/>

Email: clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org

Address: 46-48 Market St, Carnforth LA5 9LB

Telephone: 07846 256006

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. National Planning Policy	1
3. Sustainable Development	12
4. The Development Plan	17
5. Strategic Environment Assessment / HRA	24
6. Sustainability Appraisal	25
7. Conclusion	34
Appendix A: Neighbourhood Plan Designation Letter	35
Appendix B: SEA / HRA	38

1. Introduction

This document

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to accompany the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out how the Basic Conditions prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met. The Basic Conditions are:
- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan. The prescribed condition is that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or an offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habits Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.2 There are two further basic conditions but these only apply to the making of a Neighbourhood Development Order and are thus not considered relevant for this document.

Other supporting documents

- 1.3 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement (incorporating an Area Statement).
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan also makes use of evidence prepared by and on behalf of Lancaster City Council as part of the Local Plan process. These and other documents are referenced as appropriate in the Neighbourhood Plan and include:
- Carnforth Baseline Assessment.
 - Carnforth Housing Needs Assessment.
 - Carnforth Design Code.
 - Carnforth Local List.
 - Design Standards and Practices for Walking and Cycling in Carnforth.
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion.
 - Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion.

Key statements, including Area Statement

- 1.5 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and submitted to Lancaster City Council by Carnforth Town Council. The Town Council is the qualifying body and is entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for the Carnforth Town Council area.
- 1.6 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies that relate to development and the use of land within the neighbourhood area, as shown in Figure 1. The Neighbourhood Area was designated in April 2018 (see Appendix A). The boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area is the same as the Parish boundary.
- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. There are no other adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans which cover the neighbourhood area.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2020 to 2031. This is in line with the adopted Lancaster City Council Local plan, which has the same time horizon.
- 1.9 The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain any policies which relate to excluded development as defined by section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

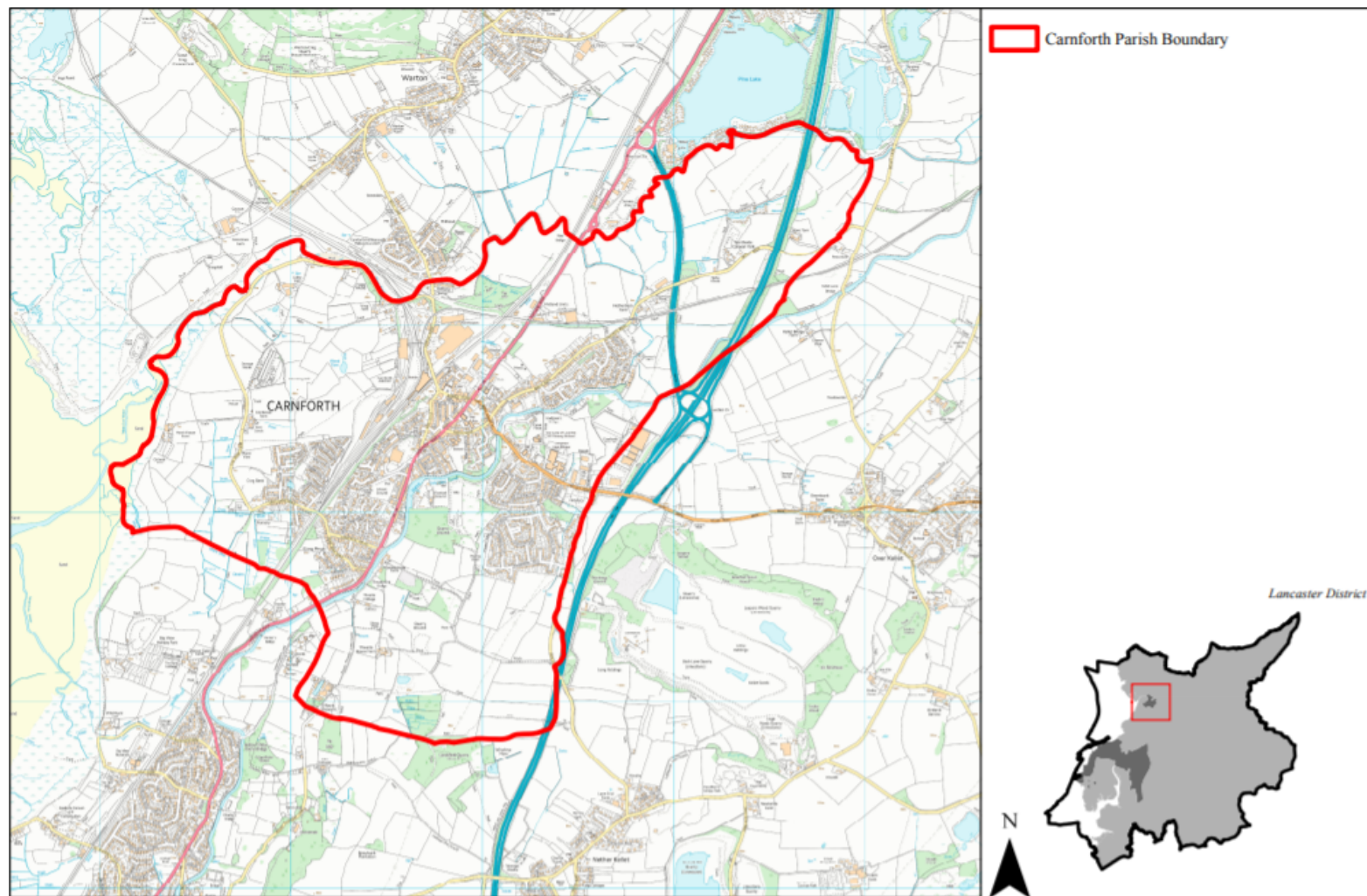


Figure 1: Carnforth Neighbourhood Area

2. National Planning Policy

Introduction

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan must show that it has regard to national policies contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the 2021 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (renamed as the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities from September 2021).
- 2.2 The NPPF states at paragraph 18 that neighbourhood plans should contain non-strategic policies. At paragraph 21 it states that strategic policies (in the Development Plan) provide a clear starting point for non-strategic policies and that strategic policies *'should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies'*.
- 2.3 The power of a neighbourhood plan is clearly set out in paragraph 30 of the NPPF, which states that *'once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area'*.
- 2.4 This section demonstrates that the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has regard to relevant goals within the 2021 NPPF in relation to:
- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
 - Building a strong, competitive economy
 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres
 - Promoting healthy and safe communities
 - Promoting sustainable transport
 - Supporting high quality communications
 - Making effective use of land
 - Achieving well-designed places
 - Protecting Green Belt land
 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

2.5 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has ten primary objectives. We summarise them in Table 1 below and identify which NPPF goals each objective addresses. The sections following this provide a summary of how policies in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan conform to the 2021 NPPF goals.

Table 1: Alignment of Carnforth NDP Objectives with NPPF

Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Relevant National Planning Policy Framework (2021) goals
OBJECTIVE 1: To ensure the character and significance of Carnforth's conservation area and heritage assets are protected, and to foster high-quality design which promotes architectural innovation and reinforces the distinct local character areas of Carnforth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieving well-designed places ○ Conserving and enhancing the historic environment ○ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
OBJECTIVE 2: To support initiatives that encourage tourism which will enhance the local economy and seek to retain and create local enterprises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building a strong, competitive economy ○ Ensuring the vitality of town centres
OBJECTIVE 3: To retain, enhance and provide new pedestrian and cycling facilities within Carnforth and the surrounding area, to provide seamless integration with the existing urban areas, public transport links and green spaces to encourage a reduction in vehicular travel, heavy vehicle movement and associated air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting healthy and safe communities ○ Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change ○ Achieving well-designed places ○ Making effective use of land ○ Promoting sustainable transport
OBJECTIVE 4: To support sustainable development which reflects housing needs and preferences of the local community—considering affordability, type and mix and the use of previously developed land. The size, density and design of these dwellings should reflect the character of Carnforth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making effective use of land ○ Delivering a sufficient supply of homes ○ Achieving well-designed places
OBJECTIVE 5: To support the growth of employment uses within Carnforth, including supporting diversification of employment types within Carnforth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building a strong, competitive economy ○ Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Relevant National Planning Policy Framework (2021) goals
OBJECTIVE 6: To protect and enhance existing habitats and green infrastructure networks through sensitive development and to encourage local habitat improvement and creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change ○ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
OBJECTIVE 7: To promote development that is responsive and resilient to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
OBJECTIVE 8: To promote, preserve and support opportunities for community events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting healthy and safe communities
OBJECTIVE 9: To ensure that the desired pedestrian access to all retail space in the Town Centre is given top priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring the vitality of town centre ○ Promoting healthy and safe communities ○ Building a strong, competitive economy ○ Promoting sustainable transport
OBJECTIVE 10: To ensure that the rich heritage assets of the town can be appreciated by residents and visitors with public access, better public realm and less traffic impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conserving and enhancing the historic environment ○ Promoting sustainable transport ○ Ensuring the vitality of town centres

Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

- 2.6 The Carnforth Plan maintains a positive attitude towards incremental housing development through Objective 4; *“To support sustainable development which reflects housing needs and preferences of the local community—considering affordability, type and mix and the use of previously developed land. The size, density and design of these dwellings should reflect the character of Carnforth”*.
- 2.7 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies that aim to deliver a sufficient supply of homes:

Policy CNDP H1: Housing	2021 NPPF ref. (para) - 60-80
Policy CNDP H2: Housing Mix	

- Through Local Plan policy H1 (Residential Development in Urban Areas), the Lancaster District Local Plan 2011-2031 allocates approximately 250

dwellings to the Carnforth Neighbourhood Area. These dwellings are part of the Strategic Growth Allocation SG11 - Lundsfield Quarry, South Carnforth. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any specific sites for development beyond that determined by the Local Plan. It does however, through **Policy CNDP H1: Housing**, support proposals for new housing located within the Urban Boundary of Carnforth which meet housing needs.

- **Policy CNDP H2: Housing Mix** supports the principle of delivering a sufficient supply of homes through its alignment with paragraph 62 of the NPPF by stipulating that provision should be made for a mix of housing that meets the needs of the community, based on the most-up-to-date evidence of housing need

Promoting healthy and safe communities

- 2.8 A number of policies (and projects) in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan promote healthy and safe communities:

Policy CNDP AM1: Active Travel	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 92-103
Policy CNDP EC2: Development adjacent to parks	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a): Cycle infrastructure</i>	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(c): Improving town-wide accessibility</i>	

- **Policy ME CNDP 1** promotes active travel by giving support to development proposals which incorporate improved and extended footpaths and cycle paths, that provide natural surveillance of public spaces and improve cycle facilities. This supports the aspirations laid out in para. 92 (b) of the NPPF which promotes safe places that are not undermined by fear of crime through the creation of high quality public space and legible pedestrian routes, both of which encourage continual use of public areas as well; and para. 92 (c) of the NPPF which calls for street layouts that encourage walking and cycling. **Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a)** and **AM(c)** support this policy, outlining aspirations to improve existing and develop new cycleways in Carnforth, as well as removing traffic from the central area in order to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. Both projects/aspirations align with para 92 (a) of the NPPF which promote street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods.

- **Policy CNDP EC2** states that where planning applications are submitted on land adjacent to parks and open spaces, they should be designed to respond positively to the space through the arrangement of buildings that front onto and overlook it, providing natural surveillance, and which help create new routes and entrances to the space as appropriate. This supports para. 97 (b) of the NPPF, which stipulates that planning policies should aim to produce attractive, well designed public spaces and pedestrian routes, which encourage active and continual use and are not undermined by the fear of crime.

Promoting sustainable transport

- 2.9 The following policies (and projects) in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan promote sustainable transport:

Policy CNDP AM1: Active Travel	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 104-113
Policy CNDP AM2: Charging points for electric vehicles	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a): Cycle infrastructure</i>	

- **Policy CNDP AM1** gives support to development proposals that incorporate improved and extended footpaths and cycle paths where appropriate. This supports the aspirations laid out in paragraph 106 (d) of the NPPF which notes that planning policies should “provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks with supporting facilities such as secure cycle parking”. Applications should also give “give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements within the scheme and neighbouring areas” as per paragraph 112 (a) of the NPPF. **Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a)** supports these aspirations by proposing a series of existing routes suitable for improvement and new routes suitable for development which the Town Council hopes to work with the City Council to explore opportunities.
- **Policy CNDP AM2** states that where it is appropriate for development to provide public parking, encouragement is given to a proportion of spaces being equipped to provided charging stations ready for immediate use by electric cars and vans. This aligns with the NPPF's aims of actively managing patterns of growth to support sustainable transport objectives by focusing development on sustainable locations and offering a genuine choice of transport modes which can help to improve air quality, as set out in paragraph 105 of the NPPF.

Making effective use of land

- 2.10 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies (and projects) to make effective use of land.

Policy CNDP HD3: Design	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 117-123
Policy CNDP H1: Housing	
Policy CNDP H2: Housing Mix	
Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP E(a): Remediation of disused tip adjacent to Midland Terrace</i>	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(b): Market Street and town centre public realm improvements</i>	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP E(b): Marina</i>	

- **Policies CNDP H1** and **CNDP H2** support the provision of a mix of housing that meets the needs of the community based on the most-up-to-date evidence. This aligns with paragraph 124 (a) of the NPPF which stipulates that decisions should take into account the identified need for housing and other forms of development.
- The NPPF also recognises that supporting the efficient use of land also means responding to the prevailing character and setting of an area (para 124 (d)) and of securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places (para 124 (e)). Para 125 then goes on to state that development should ‘*make optimal use of the potential of each site*’. This is reflected through **Policy CNDP HD3** which requires proposals to show how they ‘respond to the local character and built form expressed through scale and massing of development as well as use of materials and landscaping’.
- **Policy CNDP EC1** promotes development which are able to demonstrate a biodiversity net gain of 10%. This aligns with NPPF paragraph 120 (a) which notes that planning policies and decisions should take opportunities to achieve net environmental gains such as developments which enable new habitat creation.
- **Project/Aspiration CNDP E(a)**, **CNDP AM(b)** and **CNDP E(b)** all support paragraph 120 (d) of the NPPF which acknowledges that planning policies and

decisions should support the development of under-utilised land and buildings

Achieving well-designed places

- 2.11 This section of the NPPF stresses the importance of high quality design in buildings and places. A number of the policies in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan encourage high quality design. Para. 127 of the NPPF notes that plans should set out a clear design vision and expectations that are developed with local communities to reflect local aspirations. Policies that align with this in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan are:

Policy CNDP HD1: Conserving the historic environment	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 126-136
Policy CNDP HD2: Locally Designated Heritage Assets	
Policy CNDP HD3: Design	
Policy CNDP E3: Local Centre	
Policy CNDP E4: Shopfront design	
Policy CNDP AM1: Active travel	
Policy CNDP H2: Housing Mix	
Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character	
Policy CNDP EC2: Development adjacent to parks	
Policy CNDP EC4: Night Skies	

- **Policy CNDP HD1, Policy CNDP HD2, CNDP EC1, and CNDP EC4** all contribute effectively to para 127 (c) of the NPPF by being *‘sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting’*: HD1 through the conservation of Carnforth’s historic environment; HD2 through the protection of designated heritage assets; EC1 through the protection of important environmental sites and local character; and EC4 through the protection of night skies from excessive light pollution.

- **Policy CNDP EC2** encourages new development to provide for the natural surveillance of public spaces and a safe pedestrian environment, supporting crime prevention, thus also aligning with the goals of Para 130 (f) of the NPPF.
- Para. 130 (e) of the NPPF aims to optimise mixed development including green and public space to create attractive, distinctive places. **Policy CNDP EC1** supports this through by enforcing requirements for biodiversity net gain on development sites.
- **Policy CNDP E4, CNDP E4** and **CNDP EC4** require all proposals for new development in Carnforth to respond positively to local design characteristics and features, as set out in the Character Assessment. As per para. 127 (b) of the NPPF, both policies seek to ensure that new buildings are visually attractive as a result of layout and appropriate and effective landscaping.
- Paragraph 130 (B) of the NPPF expresses support for development that is visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping. **Policy CNDP H1** (Housing) and **CNDP AM1** (Active Travel) aligns with this aspiration by supporting new homes that are well integrated with the existing built form, and are laid out with good connections that encourage people to walk and cycle.

Protecting Green Belt land

- 2.12 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan sets out the following policies to protect Green Belt Land:

Policy CNDP H1: Housing	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 137-151
-------------------------	--------------------------------

- The Lancaster Local Plan comprehensively deals with green belt protection in the area and, as such, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan does not feature a specific policy relating to this issue. The plan does however, through **Policy CNDP H1**, note that residential development proposals will be looked favourably on where it is for an infill gap, or on previously developed land, within the continuity of existing buildings and where it is well integrated with the existing built form. This aligns with the NPPF in para. 137 which notes the ‘fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.’.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

- 2.13 The overall aim of the policies (and projects) outlined below is to align with the NPPF's agenda in para. 152 to support the transition to a low carbon future through the careful planning of development and movement:

Policy CNDP AM1: Active Travel	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 152-173
Policy CNDP AM2: Charging points for electric vehicles	
Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character	
Policy CNDP EC3: Sustainable Housing	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a): Cycle infrastructure</i>	
<i>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(b): Market Street and town centre public realm improvements</i>	

- **Policies CNDP AM1 and CNDP AM2, and project/aspirations CNDP AM(a) and CNDP AM(b)** conform to the NPPF's aims (paragraph 152) of supporting the transition to a low carbon future and contributing to reductions in greenhouse gases by reducing overdependence on cars. This is predominantly achieved by promoting alternatives, be it through the expansion of walking and cycling routes (and facilities), new public transport services or the provision of accessible electric charging points.
- **Policy CNDP EC1** also helps in moderating the impacts of over-development on climate change through the preservation of green infrastructure for community and public use. This aligns with paragraph 150 (a) of the NPPF whereby development is encouraged to be planned in a way that reduces climate vulnerability through the provision of green infrastructure.
- **Policy CNDP EC3** encourages development applications to demonstrate accordance with BREEAM and Passivhaus standards to help improve building resource efficiencies. In doing so, it aligns with aspirations set out in para 150 (b) of the NPPF which calls for new development to be planned in ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through design.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

- 2.14 This chapter of the NPPF promotes the positive impact that planning policies and decisions can have on natural environment, specifically through protection and enhancement of landscapes, biodiversity, character and soil quality. Relevant policies in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan are:

Policy CNDP HD3: Design	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 174-188
Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character	
Policy CNDP EC4: Dark Skies	

- **Policy CNDP EC1** notes that new development '*should conserve or enhance biodiversity in the Neighbourhood area, and aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain of 10%*'. In doing so, it builds upon the goals set out in Para. 173 (d) of the NPPF which says that '*planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity*'.
- **Policy CNDP HD3** can be seen to support this through considered design and development that is sympathetic to the surrounding environment and natural landscape. This supports para. 179 (b) of the NPPF that promotes the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats
- **Policy CNDP EC4** aligns with Para 15 (c) which call for development to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on dark landscapes and nature conservation.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

- 2.15 Paras. 189 and 190 of the NPPF promote the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets to ensure their enjoyment into the future. Relevant policies in the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan are:

Policy CNDP HD1: Conserving the historic environment	2021 NPPF ref. (para)- 189-208
Policy CNDP HD2: Locally Designated Heritage Assets	

Policy CNDP HD3: Design	
-------------------------	--

- Paragraph 190 of the NPPF explains that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. **Policy CNDP HD1** (Conserving the historic environment) and **Policy CNDP HD2** (Locally Designated Heritage Assets) both support the NPPFs aims by ensuring that development proposals preserve and enhance all statutory and non-statutory heritage assets. By preparing a local list of assets with historical importance to Carnforth, the plan raises the profile of said assets when the City Council is discussing and determining applications.
- **Policy CNDP HD3: Design** responds to the NPPF by directing new development proposals to the Carnforth Design Code and stipulating that proposals need to give careful consideration to any potential impacts brought by development on Carnforth's historic assets.

Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

- 2.16 The Carnforth NDP does not include policies which relate to this NPPF aim, therefore decisions on this matter will need to refer to the Lancaster City Local Plan and the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, as referenced in Appendix C of the Carnforth NDP.

3. Sustainable Development

Achieving sustainable development

- 3.1 The NPPF, at paragraph 7, states that the *'purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'*. Sustainable development is defined as *'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'* (paragraph 7).
- 3.2 The NPPF views sustainability as made up of three objectives: economic, social and environmental. These objectives are interdependent and should be pursued in mutually supportive ways. The objectives are:
- *Economic:* to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
 - *Social:* to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
 - *Environmental:* to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 3.3 The following tables (Tables 2 - 4) summarise how the objectives and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute toward sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF. This demonstrates that the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals.

Table 2: How the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to economic sustainability

Economic	
NPPF definition: 'Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy'	
Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support initiatives that encourage tourism which will enhance the local economy and seek to retain and create local enterprises. • To support sustainable development which reflects housing needs and preferences of the local community—considering affordability, type and mix and the use of previously developed land. The size, density and design of these dwellings should reflect the character of Carnforth. • To support the growth of employment uses within Carnforth, including supporting diversification of employment types within Carnforth.
Neighbourhood Plan Policies (and projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CNDP E1: Leisure and Tourism • Policy CNDP E2: Employment • Policy CNDP E3: Local Centre • Policy CNDP AM1: Active travel • Project/Aspiration CNDP E(a): Carnforth Gateways Public Realm Improvements • Project/Aspiration CNDP E(b): Marina • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a): Cycle infrastructure • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(b): Market Street and town centre public realm improvements • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(c): Improving town-wide accessibility
Commentary	<p>The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is committed to creating an environment in which businesses can thrive, with existing social and community facilities protected and proposals for new facilities supported. The Plan actively seeks to boost local employment opportunities, including supporting development that includes premises for start-ups and flexible workspaces.</p> <p>The Plan also aims to improve accessibility and connectivity within Carnforth through enhanced walking and cycling routes and the incorporation of public transport services to reduce car dependence.</p>

Table 3: How the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to social sustainability

Social	
NPPF definition: 'Support strong, vibrant and healthy communities'	
Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support initiatives that encourage tourism which will enhance the local economy and seek to retain and create local enterprises. • To retain, enhance and provide new pedestrian and cycling facilities within Carnforth and the surrounding area, to provide seamless integration with the existing urban areas, public transport links and green spaces to encourage a reduction in vehicular travel, heavy vehicle movement and associated air pollution. • To support sustainable development which reflects housing needs and preferences of the local community—considering affordability, type and mix and the use of previously developed land. The size, density and design of these dwellings should reflect the character of Carnforth. • To promote, preserve and support opportunities for community events • To ensure that the desired pedestrian access to all retail space in the Town Centre is given top priority. • To ensure that the rich heritage assets of the town can be appreciated by residents and visitors with public access, better public realm and less traffic impact.
Neighbourhood Plan Policies (and projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CNDP HD1: Conserving the historic environment • Policy CNDP HD2: Locally Designated Heritage Assets • Policy CNDP HD3: Design • Policy CNDP E1: Leisure and Tourism • Policy CNDP E3: Local Centre • Policy CNDP AM1: Active travel • Policy CNDP AM2: Charging points for electric vehicles • Policy CNDP H1: Housing • Policy CNDP H2: Housing Mix • Policy CNDP EC2: Development adjacent to parks • Policy CNDP EC3: Sustainable Housing • Project/Aspiration CNDP E(a): Carnforth Gateways Public Realm Improvements

Commentary	<p>The Plan encourages the provision of community facilities such as green infrastructure, retail, and flexible multi-use facilities. These facilities provide opportunities for community uses and increased social interaction. The Plan acknowledges that these facilities and active travel routes to connect them can contribute towards good placemaking and a healthier society.</p> <p>The plan also puts community safety at the heart of its policies, with dedicated projects intended to help deliver traffic and pedestrian safety measures as well as policies that provide natural surveillance of public spaces for the same purpose. Furthermore, throughout the Plan, policies encourage the enhancement and preservation of ‘character’ including the historic assets of the area.</p>
------------	---

Table 4: : How the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to environmental sustainability

Environmental	
NPPF definition: ‘Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment’	
Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the character and significance of Carnforth’s conservation area and heritage assets are protected, and to foster high-quality design which promotes architectural innovation and reinforces the distinct local character areas of Carnforth. • To retain, enhance and provide new pedestrian and cycling facilities within Carnforth and the surrounding area, to provide seamless integration with the existing urban areas, public transport links and green spaces to encourage a reduction in vehicular travel, heavy vehicle movement and associated air pollution • To protect and enhance existing habitats and green infrastructure networks through sensitive development and to encourage local habitat improvement and creation. • To promote development that is responsive and resilient to climate change. • To ensure that the desired pedestrian access to all retail space in the Town Centre is given top priority • To ensure that the rich heritage assets of the town can be appreciated by residents and visitors with public access, better public realm and less traffic impact.

Neighbourhood Plan Policies (and projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CNDP HD1: Conserving the historic environment • Policy CNDP HD2: Locally Designated Heritage Assets • Policy CNDP HD3: Design • Policy CNDP AM1: Active travel • Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character • Policy CNDP EC3: Sustainable Housing • Policy CNDP EC4: Dark Skies • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a): Cycle infrastructure • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(b): Market Street and town centre public realm improvements • Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(c): Improving town-wide accessibility
Commentary	<p>Throughout the Plan, consideration is given to the protection and enhancement of sites that hold significant environmental and historical value.</p> <p>Active Travel is encouraged through connected walking and cycling routes in an attempt to decrease car usage and thus mitigate climate change. Environmental sustainability is also encouraged in the design and construction of developments, as well as the promotion of electric vehicles charging ports. This aligns with NPPF objectives through helping to minimize pollution and mitigating climate change risks through the shift towards a low carbon economy and sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Policy CNDP EC1 contributes significantly to Carnforth's role in promoting environmentally sustainable development. It seeks to ensure development does not result in any significant loss of natural assets and aims to enhance the existing. Furthermore, it points developers towards the Defra biodiversity metric in order to encourage the provision of a 10% net-gain in biodiversity from development.</p>

4. The Development Plan

Status of the development plan

- 4.1 For Neighbourhood Plans to meet the Basic Conditions set out in the Neighbourhood Planning regulations they need to demonstrate general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan.
- 4.2 The NPPF establishes what should be covered by a strategic policy in a Local Plan. It states that such policies should provide a clear starting point for any non-strategic policies that are needed and should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies. It states that such policies should help to deliver²:
- Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure, and other commercial development;
 - Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - Community facilities (such as health and cultural infrastructure); and
 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaption.
- 4.3 For Carnforth, these are set out in the Lancaster City Council Local Plan 2020. The appendix to the Local Plan confirms that the strategic policies applicable to neighbourhood plans are:
- Strategic Policies SP1 to SP10
 - Delivery of Strategic Growth Policies SG1 to SG14
 - Policy EC1 – Established Employment Areas
 - Policy EC2 – Future Employment Growth
 - Policy TC1 – The Retail Hierarchy for Lancaster District
 - Policy TC3 – Future Retail Growth
 - Policy TC4 – Central Morecambe
 - Policy H1 – Residential Development in Urban Areas
 - Policy H2 – Housing Delivery in Rural Areas of the District

² See para 20, NPPF,
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

- Policy DOS8 – Morecambe Festival Market and Surrounding Area
- Policy SC2 – Local Green Spaces
- Policy EN4 – The North Lancashire Green Belt
- Policy EN7 – Environmentally Important Area

- 4.4 This was adopted in 2020 and covers the period through to 2031. The timeframe for the Neighbourhood Plan is aligned with the Local Plan.
- 4.5 Following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in January 2019 the Council has begun the process of re-visiting policies in its Local Plan to see how these might be updated in response to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 4.6 In addition to amendments to a handful of policies in the Local Plan, Lancaster City Council is also proposing a new policy: 'CC1 - Responding to Climate Change and Creating Environmental Sustainability'. This policy is designed to be an overarching strategic policy focused on tackling climate change in the Lancaster District and should be at the heart of all decisions.
- 4.7 This section of the Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan.

The Lancaster City Council Local Plan 2020-2031

- 4.8 Strategic policies in the Lancaster City Council Local Plan 2020 of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan are outlined below (Table 5), with a response to these provided demonstrating general conformity.

Table 5: Summary of conformity of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan with the Lancaster City Council Local Plan 2020

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
Policy SP1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	<p>The NDP reflects the Local Plan's commitment to achieving sustainable development. Policy CNDP EC1 seeks to ensure development does not result in any significant loss of natural assets and aims to enhance the existing.</p> <p>Policies WNP CNDP AM1 and CNDP AM2 encourage development proposals that enable active travel and provide better transport and e-vehicle charging and docking points</p> <p>Policy CNDP EC3 supports residential development proposals which demonstrate how resource efficiencies and climate change adaption measures are incorporated.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E2 seeks to provide diverse employment opportunities which cater to current and future local needs.</p>

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
Policy SP2: Lancaster District Settlement Hierarchy	<p>Policies CNDP H1 and CNDP H2 support the delivery of housing which is situated in sustainable locations and meets the identified housing needs of Carnforth.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E2 supports employment proposals which ensure that employment growth is encouraged and undertaken in such a way that responds to and enhances the qualities of Carnforth.</p>
Policy SP3: Development Strategy for Lancaster District	<p>Policies CNDP H1 and H2 support residential development which reflects local needs, is well designed, and is located in sustainable locations such as on previously developed land.</p> <p>Policies CNDP E2 and E3 seek to provide extended guidance on employment and business development for Carnforth's local area, with Policy CNDP E1 looking to support sustainable development that improves the quality and diversity of existing tourist facilities, attractions, accommodation and infrastructure.</p>
Policy SP4: Priorities for Sustainable Economic Growth	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to strengthen Lancaster's efforts of supporting sustainable economic growth. Policy CNDP E2 recognises the need to adapt to changing local employment needs, such as the demand for more flexible workspaces and small start-ups.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E1 supports sustainable development that improves the quality and diversity of existing tourist facilities, attractions, accommodation and infrastructure.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E3 supports sustainable economic growth by directing business and employment land use to sustainable locations. This Policy supports proposals for employment and business services which are sustainably within the Local Centre.</p>
Policy SP5: The Delivery of New Jobs	<p>The Local Plan recognises the need to deliver greater employment opportunities and investment in the district to support economic growth.</p> <p>The Carnforth NDP supports the local plan through Policy CNDP E2 which encourages opportunities which diversify the employment offer. The policy recognises a need for smaller business start-up units, flexible working spaces and improved digital capabilities were also identified as potential areas of opportunity to uplift business in Carnforth</p>
Policy SP6: The Delivery of New Homes	<p>The NDP supports the delivery of new homes. Policy CNDP H1 looks favourably on housing developments which are located in sustainable locations, reflect the local scale of</p>

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
	<p>density, respond to the Carnforth Design Code, and are well integrated into the existing built form.</p> <p>Policy CNDP H2 seeks to ensure that new residential developments are in line with the recommendations of the Carnforth Housing Needs Assessment, and which provide for the size, type and tenure of homes to meet local needs.</p>
<p>Policy SP7: Maintain Lancaster District's Unique Heritage</p>	<p>Policy CNDP HD1 and Policy CNDP HD2 ensure that development proposals preserve and enhance Carnforth's historic environment and assets. By preparing a local list of assets with historical importance to Carnforth, the plan raises the profile of said assets, ensuring the City Council responds to their setting when discussing and determining applications.</p> <p>Design principles set out in Policy CNDP HD3 ensure that future growth responds to local and historical context.</p>
<p>Policy SP8: Protecting the Natural Environment</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan contributes to the protection of the natural environment.</p> <p>Meanwhile Policy CNDP EC1 stipulates that development should conserve or enhance biodiversity in the Neighbourhood area, and aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain of 10%, as demonstrated through use of the most up-to-date version of the Defra biodiversity metric at the time of application.</p> <p>Policy CNDP AM1 and Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a) encourage active travel instead of car-use, reducing the generation of road traffic and helping limit air and noise pollution.</p> <p>Policy CNDP AM2 further seeks to prevent new development from contributing to unacceptable levels of air pollution by supporting the provision of e-vehicle charging and docking points</p>
<p>Policy SP9: Maintaining Strong and Vibrant Communities</p>	<p>Policy CNDP E3 seeks to ensure that Carnforth town centre remains a vibrant community hub by supporting proposals for new development in the central area that avoids significant adverse effects.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E2 encourages employment development that is able to meet the employment needs of the local community.</p> <p>Policies CNDP H1 and H2 allow for Carnforth's community to benefit from quality homes which cater to the need of the local community.</p>

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
	<p>Furthermore, Policies CNDP EC1 and EC2 ensure good accessibility to Carnforth's open spaces.</p> <p>Policy CNDP AM1 promotes the role of sustainable transport, mainly through encouraging cycling and walking instead of car use.</p>
Policy SP10: Improving Transport Connectivity	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to support growth across the area through a number of policies/projects that help deliver the required transport connectivity.</p> <p>Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a) identifies locations for new and improved cycling routes and Policy CNDP AM1 supports the delivery of proposals that encourage active travel instead of car-use,</p> <p>Policy CNDP AM2 supports development proposals that provide communal e-vehicle charging points for personal and shared-mobility solutions.</p> <p>Through Policy CNDP E2, encouragement is given to employment proposals that are supported with a Travel Plan, particularly those that provide accessibility via active transport modes.</p>
Policy SG11: Land at Lundsfield Quarry, South Carnforth	<p>The Lancaster District Local Plan 2011-2031 allocates approximately 250 dwellings to the Carnforth Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any specific sites for development beyond that determined by the Local Plan. It does however, through Policy CNDP H1, support proposals for new housing located within the Urban Boundary of Carnforth which meet housing needs.</p> <p>Though not allocated in the Local Plan, development of land adjacent to Scotland Road has progressed since receiving planning permission in 2019 for 213 dwellings with associated vehicular and cycle/pedestrian access to Scotland Road and cycle/ pedestrian access to Carnforth Brow/Netherbeck.</p>
Policy EC1: Established Employment Areas	<p>There are 5 sites within Carnforth listed as Established Employment Areas. The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policy CNDP E2 supports applications for employment uses in these established employment areas. In particular it supports applications within these areas for small start-up units and flexible working spaces are encouraged to meet the employment needs of the local community</p>
Policy EC2: Future Employment Growth	<p>Policy CNDP E2 seeks to support future employment growth in Carnforth.</p>

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
	<p>Within established employment areas, as explained above, applications for small start-up units and flexible working spaces are encouraged to meet the employment needs of the local community.</p> <p>Outside of the established employment areas, applications for employment uses should demonstrate that they are compatible with neighbouring uses and do not cause harm to residential amenity</p>
Policy TC1: The Retail Hierarchy for Lancaster District	<p>Carnforth is listed as a market town in the Lancaster Local Plan, this means that Carnforth is expected to 'maintain its role as a market town providing services both to the residents of the town and a wider rural hinterland in the North of District. It will enhance its role as a tourist destination drawing on its proximity to the AONB and its cultural heritage'.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E1 seeks to ensure that Carnforth remains and continues grow as a tourist destination. Policy CNDP EC1 supports this by ensuring that development does not detrimentally impact on Carnforth's environmental assets, and therefore does not reduce the potential for tourism.</p> <p>As a Market Town, the Local Plan does not identify a Primary Shopping Area within Carnforth. Through Policy CNDP E3, the Plan supports proposals which generate employment and develop local business/services through the extension, conversion or replacement of existing buildings or provision of new buildings.</p>
POLICY TC2: Town Centre Designations	<p>Policy TC2 from the Local Plan identifies a town centre boundary within Carnforth. Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan aligns with the local plan, through its implementation of Policy CNDP E3, which supports proposals which generate employment and develop local business/services through the extension, conversion or replacement of existing buildings or provision of new buildings within the Local Centre .</p>
Policy TC3: Future Retail Growth	<p>Policy TC3 of the Local Plan directs new retail growth to specific locations across the district. The Neighbourhood Plan does not include specific allocations of growth figures for retail and defers to the Local Plan in this respect. However, it does, at Policy CNDP E3, support proposals for new use class E development in Carnforth Town Centre, which will help maintain it role and functions</p>
Policy TC4: Central Morecambe	<p>This Local Plan policy refers to Central Morecambe and is not relevant to the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

Local Plan Policy	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan policy
Policy H1: Residential in Urban Areas	<p>Although no sites in Carnforth are designated to accommodate for residential development in urban areas, the Local Plan notes that there is a need to identify further, smaller-scale sites that will contribute towards meeting development needs and that there is a flexible portfolio of housing sites that can be delivered throughout the plan period.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policies CNDP H1 and H2, supports proposals for development within Carnforth's urban area and which reflects local needs, is well designed, and is located in sustainable locations</p>
Policy H2: Housing Delivery in Rural Areas of the District	<p>This Local Plan policy refers to smaller villages and settlements within the district and is not relevant to the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Policy DOS8: Former Thomas Graveson Site, Warton Road, Carnforth	<p>The land identified at the Former Thomas Graveson site on Warton Road, Carnforth, has been allocated to provide opportunities for recreation and environmental improvement.</p> <p>Policy CNDP EC1 aligns with the Local Plan in supporting appropriate proposals that enhance and regenerate the site and provide enhancements to the environmental value of this area and enhance biodiversity value</p>
Policy EN4: The North Lancashire Green Belt	<p>Policy CNDP EC1 ensure that development in Carnforth must clearly indicate how the impacts of development on landscape and biodiversity (including on the greenbelt) have been considered, with biodiversity net gain developed, as demonstrated through use of the Defra Biodiversity Metric.</p>
Policy EN7: Environmentally Important Areas	<p>Carnforth is surrounded by many areas of significant biodiversity and green infrastructure. To the south west is the North Lancashire Green Belt. The Green Belt contains sites of Special Scientific Interest, as well as nationally identified "environmentally important areas". The Carnforth coast, which abuts the west of the designated neighbourhood area, is a designated RAMSAR site and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</p> <p>Policy CNDP EC1 requires any development proposed within Carnforth will need to clearly indicate how the impacts of development on landscape and biodiversity have been considered, with biodiversity net gain developed, as demonstrated through use of the Defra Biodiversity Metric.</p>

5. Strategic Environment Assessment / HRA

- 5.1 In January 2021 the draft Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan was screened for SEA and HRA by Lancaster City Council in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 5.2 The SEA regulations require the responsible authority (Lancaster City Council) to determine whether or not a Plan is likely to have a significant environmental effect and therefore whether SEA is needed.
- 5.3 Initial SEA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan concluded that on the basis of limited policy protection for the natural environment the City Council was unable to conclude with certainty that it would not result in a significant environmental effect.
- 5.4 The screening recommended that additional wording be included within the Plan to ensure the protection of designated and other non-designated ecological and landscape assets.
- 5.5 At the same time as the SEA screening, January 2021, a HRA was prepared for the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan, the purpose of which was to determine whether significant effects on a Natura 2000 site could be ruled out on the basis of objective information and best scientific knowledge.
- 5.6 The HRA noted that the absence of a specific policy on the protection of the natural environment was an area of concern, but that in the presence of higher levels plans the City Council and the three statutory bodies concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan was unlikely to have a likely significant effect on designated sites either alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects
- 5.7 Based on the conclusions of the SEA and HRA screening reports, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan was updated to include a new / expanded policy and associated text (Policy CNDP EC1: Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character).
- 5.8 The updated version of the Plan was then 're-screened', and based on the inclusion of the additional policy, both the SEA and HRA reports concluded that the Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effect.
- 5.9 For comprehensiveness, copies of both SEA and HRA reports are included in Appendix B.

6. Sustainability Appraisal

'Light touch' appraisal

- 6.1 Although the SEA/ HRA Screening concluded that these were not required, a 'light touch' Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken proportionate with the Neighbourhood Plan. This reflects best practice and is based upon the Sustainability objectives prepared by Lancaster City Council for the purposes of the Lancaster Local Plan 2020-2031. The objectives and sub-objectives are listed in Table 6.
- 6.2 The appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan against these objectives is presented in Table 7. This demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan responds positively to the objectives and will thus help contribute to the delivery of sustainable development in Carnforth through its blend of policies that will deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

Table 6: Lancaster City Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Sub Objectives

SA Objective and Sub-Objectives
S1. To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime and reduce exposure to hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce levels of crime To reduce the fear of crime To reduce levels of anti-social behaviour To encourage safety by design To reduce exposure to environmental hazards To reduce exposure to noise disturbance
S2. To ensure there is housing to meet all needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure there is enough housing available to meet needs in all areas To increase the availability of affordable housing To ensure housing is decent To reduce fuel poverty
S3. To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce health inequalities amongst different groups in the community To improve access to health and social care services To promote healthy lifestyles To ensure there is access to greenspace, countryside, public spaces, rights of way, play areas and open coast for

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people to enjoy • To ensure there are cultural /social/ community facilities and activities for people to enjoy / participate in • To encourage the development of strong and cohesive communities
S4. To encourage lifelong learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain and increase levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society • To improve the provision of education and training facilities • To improve access to and involvement in Lifelong Learning opportunities • To improve access to environmental education
S5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure public transport services (bus and train) meet peoples' needs • To ensure highways infrastructure serves peoples' transportation needs (including for private vehicular travel, walking and cycling) • To ensure buildings and public spaces are readily accessible • To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport and reduce dependence on the private car • To improve access to cultural and leisure facilities • To maintain and improve access to essential services and facilities • To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities in rural areas
EC1. To encourage thriving local economies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To diversify employment opportunities • To increase employment opportunities • To encourage economic growth • To encourage inward investment • To ensure sufficient land, buildings and premises are available to accommodate for business start-up and growth • To ensure Infrastructure (including transportation) meets the needs of business • To encourage rural diversification
EC2. To ensure key economic drivers are strong
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town and village centres are strong and vibrant • The higher education sector is vibrant • The visitor economy is strong

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The knowledge economy is strengthened
EC3. To ensure the workforce meets local economic needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The labour supply meets local economic needs • People are educated, trained and skilled to meet local economic needs
EC4. To encourage economic inclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce levels of unemployment in the areas most at need • To improve physical accessibility to jobs for those in greatest need
EN1. To limit and adapt to climate change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce greenhouse gas emissions • To ensure existing buildings have optimal energy efficiencies • To ensure new development is low carbon / carbon neutral • To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport and reduce dependence on the private car • To reduce or manage flooding • To encourage the inclusion of flood mitigation measures such as SuDS • To ensure new developments are able to withstand extreme weather events
EN2. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the marine environment is clean and unpolluted • To ensure watercourses and impounded waters (including canals) are clean and unpolluted • To ensure groundwater is clean and unpolluted
EN3. To protect and enhance biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance designated sites of nature conservation importance • To protect and enhance wildlife especially rare and endangered species • To protect and enhance habitats and wildlife corridors • To provide opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces • To protect and enhance geodiversity.
EN4. To protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure places and views, whether urban or rural, are of distinctive character and quality • To ensure night skies are dark • To promote sensitive design in development
EN5. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure land not yet developed in the District is safeguarded for the future • To ensure the quantity and quality of soil resources and function is safeguarded for the future • To minimise consumption of the earth's finite primary materials • To ensure that contaminated land will be guarded against • To ensure that fossil fuel consumption is minimised • To encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate • To encourage sustainable use of water resources
EN6. To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase energy efficiency • To increase the use of renewable energy • To reduce the use of energy • To minimise the use of fossil fuels
EN7. To protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance historic buildings and sites • To protect and enhance historic landscape/townscape value
EN8. To protect and improve air quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and improve local air quality
EN9. To minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the proportion of waste recycling and re-use • To reduce the production of waste • To reduce the proportion of waste landfilled • To promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction

Table 7: Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan considered against Lancaster City Council Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Lancaster City SA Objective	Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Response
<p>S1. To reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime and reduce exposure to hazards</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan aligns with this ambition through Policy CNDP E3 which encourages planning applications located on land adjacent to parks and open spaces to be designed in such a way that they overlook the space, providing natural surveillance. Similarly, Policy CNDP AM1 seeks to ensure that all new development, wherever possible, provides natural surveillance of public spaces and creates a safe pedestrian environment.</p>
<p>S2. To ensure there is housing to meet all needs</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, but does include policies that help shape the nature of new growth.</p> <p>The NDP recognizes that growth will take place and puts in place a framework that seeks to ensure this is undertaken in such a way that responds to and enhances the qualities of Carnforth.</p> <p>Policy CNDP H1 looks favourably on housing developments where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development is for an infill gap, or on previously developed land, within the continuity of existing buildings. • The proposed development reflects the scale and density of existing development in the local area, as set out in the character areas identified in the Carnforth Design Code.. • The proposed development responds positively to the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Design Code. • The proposed development is well integrated with the existing built form <p>Policy CNDP H2 seeks to ensure that new residential developments are in line with the recommendations of the Carnforth Housing Needs Assessment, and which provide for the size, type and tenure of homes to meet local needs.</p>
<p>S3. To improve physical and mental health for all and reduce health inequalities</p>	<p>Policy CNDP EC4 recognises the role that dark night skies can have in terms of providing health and well-being benefits for residents. As such, it aims to ensure that where external lighting is required on development, it protects the night sky from light pollution.</p>

	<p>Policy CNDP AM1 seeks to improve physical health by promoting active travel within Carnforth. The policy supports development proposals that incorporate extended footpaths and cycle paths.</p> <p>Green spaces are proven to provide a number of physical and mental health benefits. Policy CNDP EC1 aim to protect these spaces from harmful development.</p>
S4. To encourage lifelong learning	<p>Policies with regard to encouraging lifelong learning are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Carnforth.</p>
S5. To improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is committed to improving sustainable access goods and services, with one of the key objectives of the Plan being 'To ensure that the desired pedestrian access to all retail space in the Town Centre is given top priority'.</p> <p>Policy CNDP AM1 aims to make active travel safe and accessible to all, and provide direct and convenient access to facilities within Carnforth. Project/Aspiration CNDP AM(a) identifies a proposed list of routes which would improve sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups.</p> <p>Alongside the Plan, research funded through 'DeCarbon8' has explored opportunities for maximising sustainable, active and healthy travel in Carnforth. These are reflected in the policies and projects in the Plan and will continue to be developed by the Town Council.</p>
EC1. To encourage thriving local economies	<p>Through Policy CNDP E2 (Employment), encouragement is given to opportunities that diversify the type of employment on offer in Carnforth. It also seeks to ensure that all proposals are supported with a Travel Plan, particularly those that provide accessibility via active transport modes. Finally, the policy also recognises the impact the pandemic has had on working habits, as such it supports applications which provide flexible working spaces.</p>
EC2. To ensure key economic drivers are strong	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policy CNDP E1 (Leisure and Tourism) and Policy CNDP E3 (Local Centre), seeks to ensure that Carnforth's key economic drivers are strong.</p> <p>Policy CNDP E1 supports the development of small-scale leisure and tourism facilities, as long as it reflects local character and is well connected to public transport.</p>

	<p>Meanwhile, Policy CNDP E3 aims to support Carnforth Town Centre through its encouragement of proposals which generate employment and develop local business/services through the extension, conversion or replacement of existing buildings or provision of new buildings.</p>
EC3. To ensure the workforce meets local economic needs	<p>Policy CNDP E2 (Employment) is focused on adapting to local economic needs. In reflection of changing work habits Policy CNDP E2 expresses support for the development of flexible work spaces and small start-up units which meet the employment needs of the local community.</p>
EC4. To encourage economic inclusion	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policy CNDP E2 (Employment) and Policy CNDP AM1 (Active Travel) seeks to improve accessibility of employment sites, with Policy CNDP E2 supporting Proposals that are supported with a Travel Plan and Policy CNDP AM1 looking to reduce the reliance on private vehicles.</p>
EN1. To limit and adapt to climate change	<p>Policies CNDP AM1 (Active Travel), CNDP AM2 (Charging points for electric vehicles) and Project/Aspirations CNDP AM(b) (Market Street and town centre public realm improvements) support the transition to a low carbon future and contribute to reductions in greenhouse gases by reducing over-dependence on cars. This is predominantly achieved by promoting alternatives, be it through the expansion of walking and cycling routes (and facilities), new public transport services or the provision of accessible electric charging points.</p> <p>Policies CNDP EC1 (Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character) helps in moderating the impacts of over-development on climate change through the preservation of green infrastructure for community and public use.</p> <p>Finally, Policy CNDP EC3 (Sustainable Housing) encourages housebuilders to register for assessment under the Home Quality Mark, which shows how source efficiencies and climate change adaptation measures will be incorporated through aspects such as the layout of the proposed development, orientation, massing, landscaping and building materials.</p>
EN2. To protect and enhance the quality of water features and resources	<p>Policy CNDP EC1 (Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character) aims to protect and enhance biodiversity in Carnforth. Significantly, this applies to The Carnforth coast, which abuts the west of the designated neighbourhood area. If any development was to be proposed here, it would need to consider the impacts on</p>

	the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB to the North and the designated areas of Urban Landscape Setting around the edge of the urban area.
EN3. To protect and enhance biodiversity	<p>Objective 6 of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is focused on protecting and enhancing the existing habitats and green infrastructure through sensitive development and encourage of local habitat improvement and creation.</p> <p>Policy CNDP EC1 (Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character) aims to protect and enhance biodiversity by ensuring proposals do not adversely affect any European designated sites, do not result in any significant loss of natural assets, and aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain of 10%.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policies CNDP EC1 (Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character) seeks to enhance the network of greenspace around Carnforth whilst also preserving the surrounding countryside.</p>
EN4. To protect and enhance landscape and townscape character and quality	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to preserve the setting and value of the landscape around Carnforth. Policy CNDP EC1 (Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character) seeks to ensure that new development references design guidance set out in the Carnforth Design Guide, which requires applications to demonstrate how they have responded to local landscape character and green infrastructure. The policy also acknowledges that the siting and spacing of development should reflect the landscape character and setting, allowing for the retention of long distance view of the surrounding countryside from the public realm, with trees and landscaping incorporated into the design.</p> <p>Similarly, Policy CNDP HD3 (Design) notes that development proposals should demonstrate how they respond to the local character and built form expressed through scale and massing of development as well as use of materials and landscaping.</p>
EN5. To ensure the sustainable use of natural resources	<p>Policies with regard to ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Carnforth.</p>
EN6. To increase energy efficiency and require the use of renewable energy sources	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policy CNDP EC3 (Sustainable Housing), seeks to ensure that new residential developments make use of the best available</p>

	sustainable design and technology in order to improve energy efficiency.
EN7. To protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets	<p>Policies CNDP HD1 (Conserving the historic environment) and CNDP HD3 (Design) supports proposals which can demonstrate that they respond to the local and historical context, including the conservation area and listed buildings.</p> <p>Policy CNDP HD2 (Locally designated heritage assets) prepares a local list of assets with historical importance to Carnforth in order to raise the profile of said assets amongst the City Council.</p>
EN8. To protect and improve air quality	The Neighbourhood Plan, through Policies CNDP AM1 (Active Travel) and CNDP AM2 (Charging points for electric vehicles) seeks to protect and improve Carnforth's air quality, mainly through efforts to reduce the reliance on petrol/diesel vehicles.
EN9. To minimise waste, increase re-use and recycling	Policies with regard to minimising waste and increasing recycling are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Carnforth.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 7.2 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan complies with the Basic Conditions, and, subject to any modifications recommended by the Examiner, should proceed to referendum.

Appendix A:

Neighbourhood Plan

Designation Letter

The determination letter issued by Lancaster City Council in regard to the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is copied overleaf.

Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation

Lancaster City Council formally accepted the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation on Wednesday 25 April 2018.

In accordance with Regulation 7(1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Council must publicise the following information about the designation to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the designation relates.

Name of the Neighbourhood Area

The name of the Neighbourhood Area is the Carnforth Neighbourhood Area.

A Map Identifying the Area Designated

Please see the accompanying map.

The Name of the Relevant Body who applied for the Designation

Carnforth Town Council is the relevant body that applied for the designation.

These details are published on the City Council's website at

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/community-rights/neighbourhood-planning>

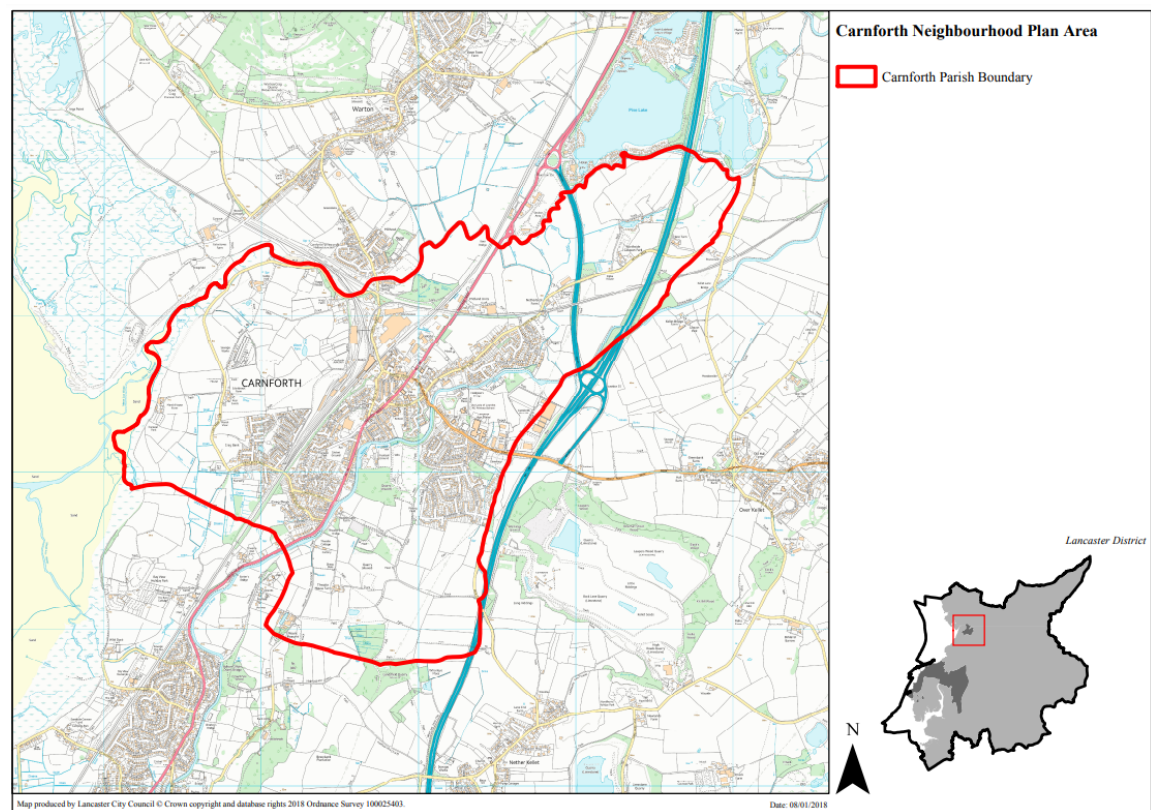
More information about Neighbourhood Planning can also be found via the City Council's website.

If you have any queries about this designation, or any other neighbourhood planning issues within the district, please contact the Planning and Housing Policy Team by:

- Email: planningpolicy@lancaster.gov.uk
- Phone: 01524 582383
- Post: Planning and Housing Policy Team, Lancaster City Council, PO Box 4, Lancaster Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster, LA1 1QR.

Maurice Brophy, Planning and Housing Policy Manager (8 May 2018)

Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan: Basic Conditions Statement
2020-2031



Appendix B: SEA / HRA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report and subsequent 're-Screening' undertaken of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is presented in this Appendix.

Equally, the Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRA) of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is also presented in this Appendix.

INITIAL SCREENING

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 25/01/21

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council has prepared this screening report to support Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in determining whether the contents of the proposed Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.2 The requirement to undertake environmental assessment of plans and programmes was established in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive), transposed into English law in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations SEA is required where a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The assessment provides the main mechanism for ensuring that the environmental implications of decisions are considered before decisions are made and should be an integral part of plan preparation where potential for significant effects on the environment have been identified.
- 1.3 Under its 'duty to support' Lancaster City Council has been requested to determine whether, based on the preparation of the 2021 Draft Version of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA.

2 Background

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities the opportunity to prepare planning documents for their area, enabling them to shape the future of where they live and giving them greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect them. Introduced under the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans provide a new tier of planning policy.
- 2.2 Planning policy for the district is established in the Lancaster District Local Plan. This currently consists of policies contained in the now adopted Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), the Development Management DPD, The Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD and the Morecambe Area Action Plan`.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood plan area for Carnforth was formally designated on the 25th April 2018. This confirmed the Parish Council's commitment to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and identified the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.4 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have prepared a Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document (January 2021)). Lancaster City Council have used this information to undertake initial SEA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3 SEA Screening

- 3.1 The SEA regulations require the responsible authority to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect and therefore whether SEA is needed. When determining whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, the SEA regulations require that the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations are considered. The City Council has undertaken this assessment for the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1- Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

SEA Requirement	Comments
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 has potential to determine the use of small areas at a local level, whether that is through the application of detailed criteria or the allocation of land.
b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Plan sits in a hierarchy and must be in conformity with strategic policies in the development plan. It is unlikely to influence other plans and programmes.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable development. Whilst it has a strong focus on the protection and conservation of heritage assets it is not considered to offer similar levels of protection for its environmental assets.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	There are no environmental problems relevant to this plan.
(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 Neighbourhood Plan has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation.
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 Neighbourhood Plan covers an 11-year plan period and seeks to create a vibrant and successful town. It aims to deliver sustainable patterns of development; specific allocations are not proposed.</p> <p>Whilst providing a strong historic focus similar levels of protection are not viewed to exist for the natural environment with the document silent in relation to biodiversity and landscape considerations. In the absence of this guidance it is difficult to conclude, even with limited amount of growth being promoted, that the</p>

	<p>plan will not have a significant environmental effect.</p> <p>In addition to this the plan should include reference as to how it will be monitored and how action will be taken if required. This is required to ensure compliance with the SEA requirements.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	<p>The absence of policy in relation to environmental protection make it difficult to conclude that the plan will not have a significant environmental effect</p> <p>It is noted that the Plan must be in conformity with the Lancaster District Local Plan. Whilst this will ensure the protection of environmental assets it is considered that greater reference to the protection of environmental assets could be made within the document.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with SEA regulations it is recommended that reference to the protection of the natural environment be included within the Plan. This will also need to consider the cumulative impacts of potential proposals.</p>
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	<p>There are no transboundary effects. The Plan applies to the Neighbourhood Plan only.</p>
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	<p>The Plan poses no risk to human health.</p>
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<p>Effects are considered to be limited to the Neighbourhood Plan area only.</p>
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to -</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>The absence of policy in relation to environmental protection make it difficult to conclude that the plan will not have a significant environmental effect</p> <p>It is noted that the Plan must be in conformity with the Lancaster District Local Plan. Whilst this will ensure the protection of environmental assets it is considered that greater reference to the protection of environmental assets could be made within the document.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with SEA regulations it is recommended that reference to the protection of the natural environment be included within the Plan. This will also need to consider the cumulative impacts of potential proposals.</p>

(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Plan area adjoins the Arnside and Silverdale AONB. There is potential for development within the plan area to impact directly and indirectly on the AONB. As presently worded the importance of this landscape is not adequately recognised within the plan.
--	--

4 Screening Outcome

- 4.3 Initial internal screening of the Neighbourhood Plan concludes that on the basis of limited policy protection for the natural environment the Council is unable to conclude with certainty that it would not result in a significant environmental effect.
- 4.4 In order to ensure compliance with the SEA regulations it is recommended that additional wording be included within the plan to ensure the protection of designated and other non-designated ecological and landscape assets. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the district wide Development Management Plan document.
- 4.5 It is also recommended that additional reference be made within the plan to the consideration of cumulative impacts when considering proposals and that a monitoring and implementation framework be included within the Plan to ensure that the effects of the plan are appropriately monitored and to identify what actions will be undertaken where implementation is not occurring as planned. Responsibility for actions should also be identified.
- 4.6 In the absence of further amendments it is recommended that the Plan be subject to SEA. This should commence with the scoping stage setting out the context for the assessment, objectives for on-going assessment and the establishment of the baseline and scope of the assessment. This will need to be prepared in consultation with the three SEA bodies of Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. It is recommended that you allow a five week period for this consultation.
- 4.7 Following this you will need to assess the Plan against the SEA objectives identified through the initial scoping work. This will allow you to determine the effects of the plan and the appropriateness of the strategy and policies proposed. If adverse effects are viewed to be likely appropriate mitigation measures should be considered and a view taken as to whether these are sufficient to reduce or eliminate these effects.
- 4.8 An Environmental Report should be prepared to detail the assessment process with this then made available for consultation at the same time as the draft Plan.
- 4.9 The views of the three SEA bodies have been sought in order to confirm whether this initial screening report is correct.

REVISED SCREENING

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 04/05/21

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council has prepared this screening report to support Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in determining whether the contents of the proposed Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.2 The requirement to undertake environmental assessment of plans and programmes was established in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive), transposed into English law in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations SEA is required where a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The assessment provides the main mechanism for ensuring that the environmental implications of decisions are considered before decisions are made and should be an integral part of plan preparation where potential for significant effects on the environment have been identified.
- 1.3 Under its 'duty to support' Lancaster City Council has been requested to determine whether, based on the preparation of the 2021 Draft Version of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA.

2 Background

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities the opportunity to prepare planning documents for their area, enabling them to shape the future of where they live and giving them greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect them. Introduced under the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans provide a new tier of planning policy.
- 2.2 Planning policy for the district is established in the Lancaster District Local Plan. This currently consists of policies contained in the now adopted Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), the Development Management DPD, The Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD and the Morecambe Area Action Plan`.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood plan area for Carnforth was formally designated on the 25th April 2018. This confirmed the Parish Council's commitment to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and identified the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.4 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have prepared a Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document (January 2021)). Lancaster City Council have used this information together with information on a new environmental policy to undertake initial SEA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3. SEA Screening

3.1 The SEA regulations require the responsible authority to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect and therefore whether SEA is needed. When determining whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA, the SEA regulations require that the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations are considered. The City Council has undertaken this assessment for the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1- Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

SEA Requirement	Comments
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 has potential to determine the use of small areas at a local level, whether that is through the application of detailed criteria or the allocation of land.
b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The Plan sits in a hierarchy and must be in conformity with strategic policies in the development plan. It is unlikely to influence other plans and programmes.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable development. The Plan has a strong focus on the protection and conservation of heritage assets. Following discussions with the Council the Neighbourhood Plan now contains a new policy 'Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character'. The inclusion of this policy is welcomed and will ensure that similar levels of protection for its environmental assets are now provided.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	There are no environmental problems relevant to this plan.
(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 Neighbourhood Plan has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation.
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 Neighbourhood Plan covers an 11-year plan period and seeks to create a vibrant and successful town. It aims to deliver sustainable patterns of development; specific allocations are not proposed.</p> <p>The Plan has a strong focus on the protection and conservation of heritage assets.</p>

	<p>Additional policy protection has been provided for the natural environment. On the basis of this policy together with the limited amount of growth being promoted the Council are satisfied that the plan will not have a significant environmental effect.</p> <p>It is recommended that the plan should include reference as to how it will be monitored and how action will be taken if required. This is required to ensure compliance with the SEA requirements.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	<p>Additional policy protection has been provided for the natural environment. On the basis of this policy together with the limited amount of growth being promoted the Council are satisfied that the plan will not have a significant environmental effect. Reference to the need to consider cumulative impacts has also been included.</p> <p>It is noted that the Plan must be in conformity with the Lancaster District Local Plan.</p>
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	<p>There are no transboundary effects. The Plan applies to the Neighbourhood Plan only.</p>
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	<p>The Plan poses no risk to human health.</p>
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	<p>Effects are considered to be limited to the Neighbourhood Plan area only.</p>
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to -</p> <p>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>Additional policy protection has been provided for the natural environment. On the basis of this policy together with the limited amount of growth being promoted the Council are satisfied that the plan will not have a significant environmental effect.</p> <p>It is noted that the Plan must be in conformity with the Lancaster District Local Plan.</p>
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	<p>The Plan area adjoins the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB. There is potential for development within the plan area to impact directly and indirectly on the AONB. A new policy has been provided which recognises the importance of the landscape and notes the need to reflect landscape character and setting. This together with policies in the adopted Local Plan will ensure the protection of areas of value.</p>

--	--

4. Screening Outcome

- 4.1 Following initial internal screening of the Neighbourhood Plan the plan now contains a new policy relating to the natural environment. The inclusion of this policy is welcomed. On this basis the City Council have concluded that the Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effect.
- 4.2 In order to ensure compliance with the SEA regulations it is recommended that a monitoring and implementation framework be included within the Plan to ensure that the effects of the plan are appropriately monitored and to identify what actions will be undertaken where implementation is not occurring as planned. Responsibility for actions should also be identified.
- 4.3 Subject to this inclusion the council is satisfied that the Plan is unlikely to result in significant effects.
- 4.4 The views of the three statutory bodies is requested before this can be confirmed.

INITIAL SCREENING

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening of Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan (26/01/21)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council has prepared this screening report to support Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in determining whether or not the contents of the proposed Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan are likely to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).
- 1.2 Habitats and species of international nature conservation importance have historically been protected by the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (The Habitats Directive). This was transposed into British law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2017. Following the UK's withdrawal from Europe a number of amendments have been made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) to ensure that they remain operable post January 2021. Most of these changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales.
- 1.3 The amended regulations continue to identify a national site network comprising protected sites previously identified as part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The national site network includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Ramsar sites whilst not included as part of the national site network remain protected in the same way as SACs and SPAs. Government policy statements have been issued making clear that they should be afforded the same level of protection afforded to SPAs and SACs.
- 1.4 Under the Regulations, an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a protected sites.
- 1.5 The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan or project, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans would have a significant adverse effect on a European site. If the screening concludes that a significant adverse effect is likely, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on site integrity.
- 1.6 There are three European site within the proposed neighbourhood boundary, a further 7 sites are noted to be within a 15km radius of the boundary and could potentially be affected by the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan. Further information on these designations is provided below.

2. HRA process

- 2.1 The requirements of the Habitats Regulations comprises four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening.

This is the stage which initially identifies the likely impacts upon a protected site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may have a significant effect on the integrity of the site's qualifying habitats and/or species. Where a significant effect is identified the assessment moves onto stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

This provides the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the protected site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any potential impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions.

This examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the protected site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.

Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.

In such circumstances it must be demonstrated that the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

3. Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities the opportunity to prepare planning documents for their area, enabling them to shape the future of where they live and giving them greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect them. Introduced under the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans provide a new tier of planning policy.
- 3.2 Planning policy for the district is established in the Lancaster District Local Plan. This currently consists of policies contained in the now adopted Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), the Development Management DPD, The Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD and the Morecambe Area Action Plan.
- 3.3 The Neighbourhood plan area for Carnforth was formally designated on the 25th April 2018. This confirmed the commitment to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and identified the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.4 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have prepared a Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document (January 2021)). Lancaster City Council have used this information to undertake initial HRA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.

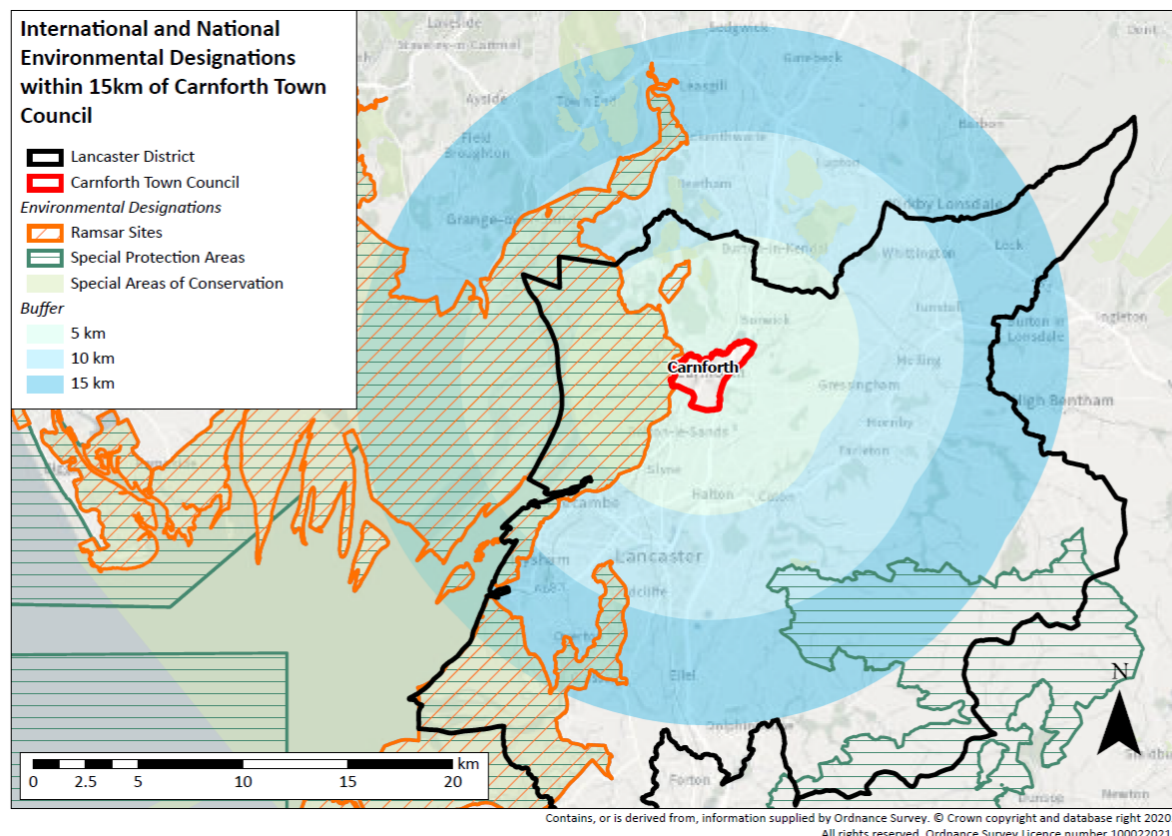
4. Relevant Protected Sites

- 4.1 There are a number of designated sites that could potentially be affected by the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan. This includes three sites within the boundary of the plan area as well as European sites which whilst outside of the boundary could potentially be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan. As a general rule of thumb best practice indicates that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project should be included within a HRA.

Table 1 – Summary of European Sites

Site Name	Identification Number	Distance from the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary (km)
Special Protection Areas		
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	8.1
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary
Leighton Moss	UK9005091	2.7
Special Areas of Conservation		
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	2.9
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods	UK0030106	7.9
River Kent	UK0030256	14.8
Witherslack Mosses	UK0030302	10.8
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary
RAMSAR sites		
Leighton Moss	UK11035	2.7
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

Figure 1 – International and national environmental designations within 15km of Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



- 4.2 Further details on the description and character of the designated sites is provided below (appendix 1). The conservation of objections for the designations are also provided in appendix 2. This information was obtained from Natural England's website and also informed by the wider Local Plan HRA assessment.

5. HRA Screening

- 5.1 The location of three European sites within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary together with the proximity of other European sites within 15km indicate that there could be potential for the plan, depending on its content, to have a significant adverse effect on a European site.
- 5.2 The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been screened for likely significant effects on European sites. During the HRA screening stage, the likely nature, magnitude, frequency, timing, duration, location and spatial extent of changes resulting from implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed. As part of this, mechanisms through which the plan could impact upon Designated sites were considered.
- 5.3 The main impact pathways could be:
- Physical loss of habitat/damage to habitat
 - Non-physical disturbance
 - Recreational pressure
 - Contamination
 - Biological disturbance
 - Loss of functionally linked land
 - Changes in water quality
- 5.4 The conclusions of the initial assessment are described in table 2 below.
- 5.5 Policies that were screened out were generally those that could not lead to a direct pathway to any of the identified designated sites. These were generally policies that looked to protect historic assets, promotion of sustainable transport and the design of new development.
- 5.6 Of the ten designated sites, four can be ruled out completely on the basis that there are not considered to be any potential impact pathways which are likely to give rise to significant effects on these sites. These are:
- Bowland Fells SPA
 - Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC
 - River Kent SAC
 - Withslack Mosses SAC

Table 2 – Initial screening assessment

Designated Site	Policy																		
	HD1	HD2	HD3	E1	E (a)	E9(b)	E2	E3	E4	AM 1	AM 2	AM (c)	H1	H2	E1	E(a)	E3	E2	E4
Bowland Fells SPA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Leighton Moss SPA	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay SAC	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
River Kent SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Witherslack Mosses SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay Ramsar	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Leighton Moss Ramsar	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N

5.7 Unlikely effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, Leighton Moss SPA, Morecambe Bay SAC, Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, Morecambe Bay Ramsar, Leighton Moss Ramsar cannot be ruled out at this stage.

5.8 Initial screening identified four policies that cannot be ruled out at this stage:

- Policy CNDP E1
- Policy CNDP E2
- Policy CNDP AM c)
- Policy CNDP H1

5.11 A more detailed assessed of the screened in policies is provided in table 3.

Table 3 – Detailed screening of policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Designated Site Potentially affected	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	Recommendation/Conclusion
Policy CNDP E1		<p>Policy CNDP E1 seeks to support sustainable development which improves the quality and diversity of existing tourist facilities, attractions, accommodation and infrastructure. Public realm improvements are identified as part of project/aspiration CND E (a) and a potential new Marina as part of project/aspiration CNDP E(b).</p> <p>Whilst this is supported it is recognised that there is potential for increased recreational pressure with the Plan with this policy specifically looking at opportunities to build on and enhance the tourist offer of the area as well as utilising the opportunities provided by Eden North.</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area there is limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations.</p> <p>There is potential for the plan to result in increased recreational pressure.</p> <p>It is noted that any new development within the Neighbourhood Plan area will need to be compliant with the wider Local Plan for the District, specifically Policy DM44 'The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity'.</p> <p>Whilst this is likely to mean that sufficient measures will be in place to avoid likely significant effects the absence of any reference to this is a concern.</p>	<p>The existence of higher level policies mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.</p> <p>It is however recommended that additional wording be included within the policy and wider Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the protection of the SPA and SAC and other non-designated ecological assets. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document or elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

Policy CNDP E2		<p>Policy CNDP E2 has the potential to increase employment development within the plan area outside of the existing employment allocations of the District wide Local Plan.</p> <p>Development has the potential to impact on the designated sites through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area there is limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations.</p> <p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area which should ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p> <p>There is however currently no wording within this Neighbourhood Plan relating to protection of Designated sites or non-designated ecological assets.</p>	<p>The existence of higher level policies mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.</p> <p>It is however recommended that additional wording be included within the policy and wider Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the protection of the SPA and SAC and other non-designated ecological assets. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document or elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Policy CNDP AM c)		<p>The policy sets out aspirations for improving town-wide accessibility with a number of potential projects identified all of which involve the construction of new roads.</p> <p>Development has the potential to impact on the designated site through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area there is limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations.</p>	<p>The existence of higher level policies mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.</p> <p>It is however recommended that additional wording be included within the policy and wider Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the protection of the</p>

		<p>activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site and potential increases in recreational pressure.</p>	<p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area which should ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p> <p>There is however currently no wording within this Neighbourhood Plan relating to protection of Designated sites or non-designated ecological assets.</p>	<p>SPA and SAC and other non-designated ecological assets. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document or elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Policy CNDP H1		<p>The Policy sets out the housing policy for the Plan area. No allocations are proposed with the policy relying on a criteria approach.</p> <p>New development has the potential to impact on the designated site through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>The policy seeks to restrict development to local needs and the existing built form of the settlements. No allocations are proposed.</p> <p>Whilst the Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area the absence of a specific policy within the Neighbourhood Plan is of concern.</p> <p>There is however currently no wording within this Policy relating to protection of Designated sites or non-designated ecological assets.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of implementation of this policy with very limited levels of development being promoted.</p> <p>It is however recommended that additional wording be included within the policy and wider Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the protection of the SPA and SAC and other non-designated ecological assets. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document or elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

6. Screening Conclusion

- 6.1 The HRA Screening Report of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has considered the potential implications for European designated sites within and near the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.
- 6.2 The document places a strong emphasis on the protection of the area's heritage and cultural assets. Similar levels of protection are not however provided to the natural environment. Whilst it is recognised that the Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area the absence of a specific policy within the Neighbourhood Plan is of concern.
- 6.3 The presence of higher levels plans has however meant that the Council has concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a likely significant effect on designated sites either alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 6.4 The views of the three statutory bodies is required to confirm this conclusion.

REVISED SCREENING

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening of Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan (04/05/21)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council has prepared this screening report to support Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in determining whether or not the contents of the proposed Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan are likely to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).
- 1.2 Habitats and species of international nature conservation importance have historically been protected by the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (The Habitats Directive). This was transposed into British law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species regulations 2017. Following the UK's withdrawal from Europe a number of amendments have been made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) to ensure that they remain operable post January 2021. Most of these changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales.
- 1.3 The amended regulations continue to identify a national site network comprising protected sites previously identified as part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The national site network includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Ramsar sites whilst not included as part of the national site network remain protected in the same way as SACs and SPAs. Government policy statements have been issued making clear that they should be afforded the same level of protection afforded to SPAs and SACs.
- 1.4 Under the Regulations, an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a protected sites.
- 1.5 The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan or project, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans would have a significant adverse effect on a European site. If the screening concludes that a significant adverse effect is likely, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on site integrity.
- 1.6 There are three European site within the proposed neighbourhood boundary, a further 7 sites are noted to be within a 15km radius of the boundary and could potentially be affected by the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan. Further information on these designations is provided below.

2. HRA process

- 2.1 The requirements of the Habitats Regulations comprises four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening.

This is the stage which initially identifies the likely impacts upon a protected site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may have a significant effect on the integrity of the site's qualifying habitats and/or species. Where a significant effect is identified the assessment moves onto stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

This provides the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the protected site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any potential impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions.

This examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the protected site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.

Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.

In such circumstances it must be demonstrated that the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

3. Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities the opportunity to prepare planning documents for their area, enabling them to shape the future of where they live and giving them greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect them. Introduced under the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans provide a new tier of planning policy.
- 3.2 Planning policy for the district is established in the Lancaster District Local Plan. This currently consists of policies contained in the now adopted Strategic Policies and Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), the Development Management DPD, The Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD and the Morecambe Area Action Plan.
- 3.3 The Neighbourhood plan area for Carnforth was formally designated on the 25th April 2018. This confirmed the commitment to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and identified the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.4 The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have prepared a Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document (January 2021)). Lancaster City Council have used this information together with a new environmental policy to undertake initial HRA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.

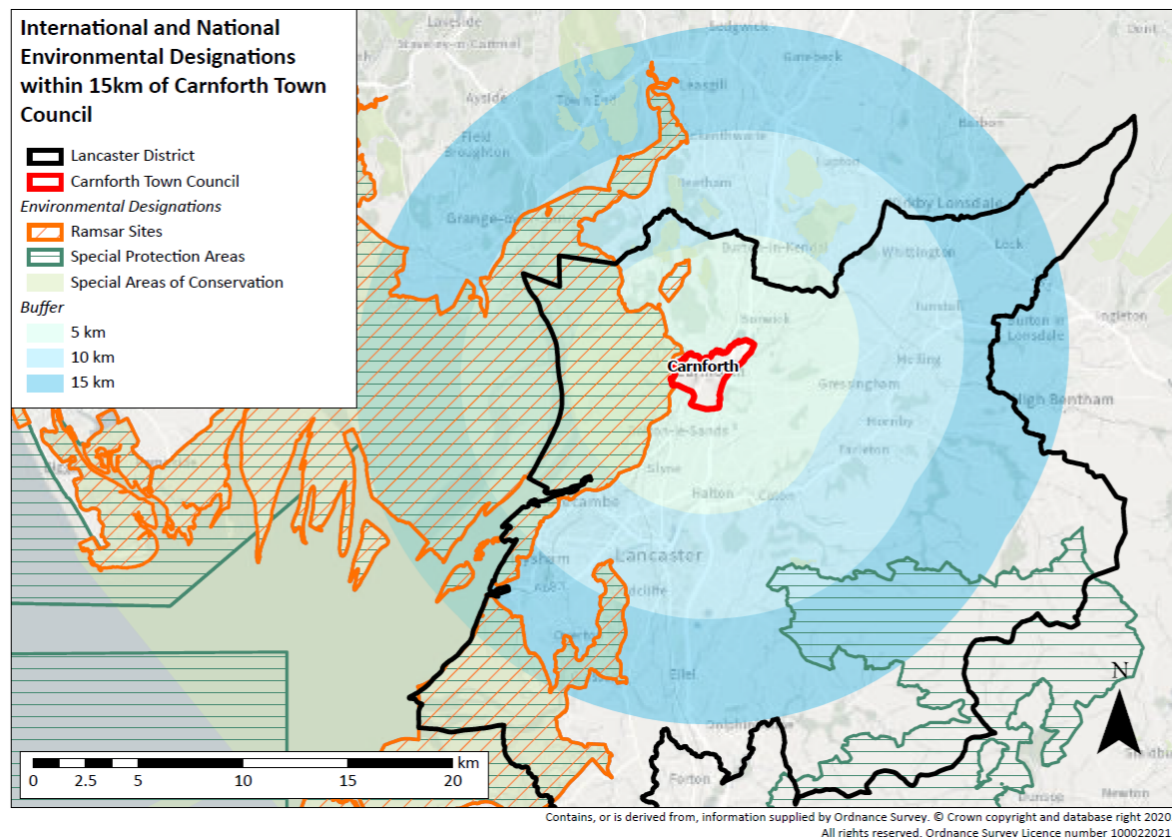
4. Relevant Protected Sites

- 4.1 There are a number of designated sites that could potentially be affected by the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan. This includes three sites within the boundary of the plan area as well as European sites which whilst outside of the boundary could potentially be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan. As a general rule of thumb best practice indicates that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project should be included within a HRA.

Table 1 – Summary of European Sites

Site Name	Identification Number	Distance from the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary (km)
Special Protection Areas		
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	8.1
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary
Leighton Moss	UK9005091	2.7
Special Areas of Conservation		
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	2.9
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods	UK0030106	7.9
River Kent	UK0030256	14.8
Witherslack Mosses	UK0030302	10.8
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary
RAMSAR sites		
Leighton Moss	UK11035	2.7
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Within the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

Figure 1 – International and national environmental designations within 15km of Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan Boundary



4.2 Further details on the description and character of the designated sites is provided below (appendix 1). The conservation of objections for the designations are also provided in appendix 2. This information was obtained from Natural England’s website and also informed by the wider Local Plan HRA assessment.

5. HRA Screening

5.1 The location of three European sites within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary together with the proximity of other European sites within 15km indicate that there could be potential for the plan, depending on its content, to have a significant adverse effect on a European site.

5.2 The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been screened for likely significant effects on European sites. During the HRA screening stage, the likely nature, magnitude, frequency, timing, duration, location and spatial extent of changes resulting from implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed. As part of this, mechanisms through which the plan could impact upon Designated sites were considered.

5.3 The main impact pathways could be:

- Physical loss of habitat/damage to habitat
- Non-physical disturbance
- Recreational pressure
- Contamination
- Biological disturbance
- Loss of functionally linked land

- Changes in water quality

5.4 The conclusions of the initial assessment are described in table 2 below.

5.5 Policies that were screened out were generally those that could not lead to a direct pathway to any of the identified designated sites. These were generally policies that looked to protect historic assets, promotion of sustainable transport and the design of new development.

5.6 Of the ten designated sites, four can be ruled out completely on the basis that there are not considered to be any potential impact pathways which are likely to give rise to significant effects on these sites. These are:

- Bowland Fells SPA
- Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC
- River Kent SAC
- Withslack Mosses SAC

Table 2 – Initial screening assessment

Designated Site	Policy																			
	HD1	HD2	HHD3	E1	E (a)	E9(b)	E2	E3	E4	AM1	AM2	AM (c)	H1	H2	E1	E(a)	E3	E2	E4	ENV1
Bowland Fells SPA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mnorecam be Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay SAC	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
River Kent SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Witherslack Mosses SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Morecambe Bay Ramsar	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Leighton Moss Ramsar	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

- 5.7 Unlikely effects on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA, Leighton Moss SPA, Morecambe Bay SAC, Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, Morecambe Bay Ramsar, Leighton Moss Ramsar cannot be ruled out at this stage.
- 5.8 Initial screening identified four policies that cannot be ruled out at this stage:
- Policy CNDP E1
 - Policy CNDP E2
 - Policy CNDP AM c)
 - Policy CNDP H1
- 5.11 A more detailed assessment of the screened in policies is provided in table 3.

Table 3 – Detailed screening of policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Designated Site Potentially affected	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	Recommendation/Conclusion
Policy CNDP E1		<p>Policy CNDP E1 seeks to support sustainable development which improves the quality and diversity of existing tourist facilities, attractions, accommodation and infrastructure. Public realm improvements are identified as part of project/aspiration CND E (a) and a potential new Marina as part of project/aspiration CNDP E(b).</p> <p>Whilst this is supported it is recognised that there is potential for increased recreational pressure with the Plan with this policy specifically looking at opportunities to build on and enhance the tourist offer of the area as well as utilising the opportunities provided by Eden North.</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area until the inclusion of new Policy ENV1 there was limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations. This has now been addressed.</p> <p>There is potential for the plan to result in increased recreational pressure.</p> <p>It is noted that any new development within the Neighbourhood Plan area will need to be compliant with the wider Local Plan for the District, specifically Policy DM44 ‘The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity’.</p> <p>This policy together with the new ENV1 policy should ensure that</p>	<p>The existence of higher level policies together with the new ENV1 policy mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.</p>

			there is no likely significant effects on designated sites.	
Policy CNDP E2		<p>Policy CNDP E2 has the potential to increase employment development within the plan area outside of the existing employment allocations of the District wide Local Plan.</p> <p>Development has the potential to impact on the designated sites through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area until the inclusion of new Policy ENV1 there was limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations. This has now been addressed.</p> <p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area which should ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p>	The existence of higher level policies together with the new ENV1 policy mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.
Poilcy CNDP AM c)		<p>The policy sets out aspirations for improving town-wide accessibility with a number of potential projects identified all of which involve the construction of new roads.</p> <p>Development has the potential to impact on the designated site through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in</p>	<p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area until the inclusion of new Policy ENV1 there was limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations. This has now been addressed.</p>	The existence of higher level policies together with the new ENV1 policy mean that no likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of the implementation of this policy.

		<p>water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site and potential increases in recreational pressure.</p>	<p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area which should ensure appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p>	
Policy CNDP H1		<p>The Policy sets out the housing policy for the Plan area. No allocations are proposed with the policy relying on a criteria approach.</p> <p>New development has the potential to impact on the designated site through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>The policy seeks to restrict development to local needs and the existing built form of the settlement. No allocations are proposed.</p> <p>Whilst the Plan has a strong focus on protecting the heritage and cultural assets of the area until the inclusion of new Policy ENV1 there was limited reference to the protection of environmental capital, specifically in relation to the proximity of the area to many significant environmental designations. This has now been addressed.</p>	<p>No likely significant effects on designated sites are predicted as a result of implementation of this policy with very limited levels of development being promoted.</p>

6. Screening Conclusion

- 6.1 The HRA Screening Report of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has considered the potential implications for European designated sites within and near the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.
- 6.2 The document places a strong emphasis on the protection of the area's heritage and cultural assets. Since initial screening a new environmental policy, policy ENV1 'Local Biodiversity, Landscape and Character' has been included. This policy together with the presence of higher levels plans has meant that the Council has concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a likely significant effect on designated sites either alone, or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 6.3 The views of the three statutory bodies is required to confirm this conclusion.

Carnforth Town Council

Neighbourhood Plan: 2020-2031

Basic Conditions Statement

(Including Area Statement)

November 2021

Carnforth Town Council

Web: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/>

Email: clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org

Address: 46-48 Market St, Carnforth LA5 9LB

Telephone: 07846 256006