



PLAN-IT X
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SERVICES

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

January 2021

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Adopted July 2016) and the saved policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted 1996);
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031(2016) and the saved policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (1996);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

- 1.4 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Ringstead Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Ringstead. On 24 November 2017 East Northamptonshire Council received an application from Ringstead Parish Council to designate the whole of the Ringstead parish area as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. In accordance with Regulation 6, East Northamptonshire Council, on behalf of the relevant body (Ringstead Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory processes to enable designation of the Ringstead parish area as a Neighbourhood Area. Accordingly, on 4 December 2017 East Northamptonshire Council formally designated the whole of Ringstead parish as a Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with Regulation 7.
- 1.7 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Ringstead and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 1.9 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2011 to 2031 as does the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 which was adopted July 2016.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Ringstead: Location

- 1.11 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Development Plan Area comprises the Parish of Ringstead which amounts to 815 hectares. The parish is a rural area with a population of 1,461 and 616 homes (Census 2011). The only settlement is Ringstead village located approximately 24km north-east of Northampton and 1.5km north of Raunds. The village lies to the east of the River Nene and north of the A45.

- 1.12 Ringstead has a good range of services and facilities, including shops, public house, a Social Club, post office and primary school. These are important for the overall viability of the community.

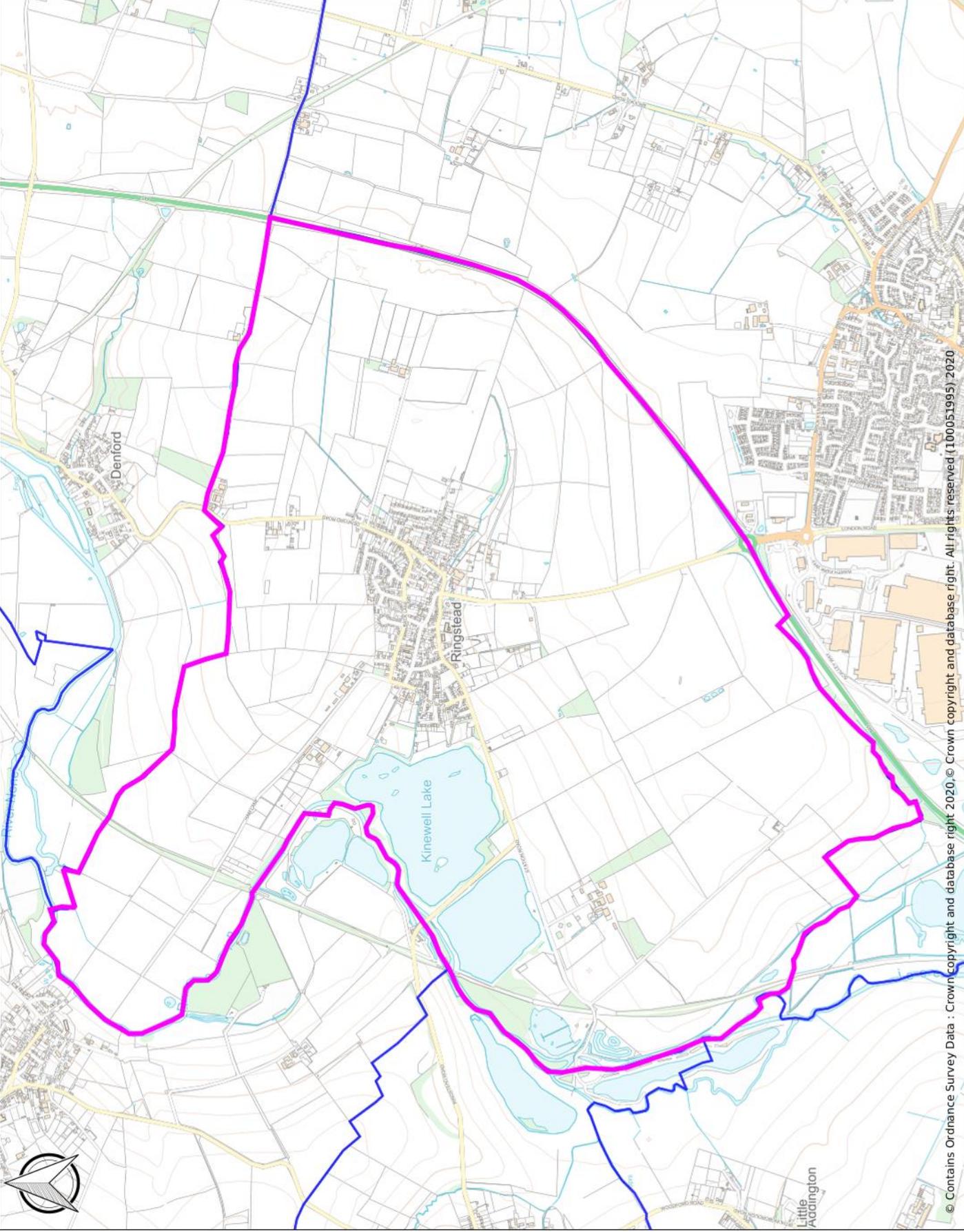
Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Ringstead Parish Council, supported by the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.

Author:

Date: 10/12/2020

0 100 200 400m
Scale: 1:45734



Neighbourhood Area



Parish



2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- 2.5 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (August 2015) is also of relevance with respect to Policy R20.
- 2.6 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Brownfield Land Registers;
 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Land Affected by Contamination;
 - Natural Environment;

- Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
- Housing for Older and Disabled People;
- Housing Needs of Different Groups;
- Plan-making;
- Planning Obligations;
- Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking

2.7 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R1: Features of Local Heritage Interest - The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of Features of Local Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Paragraphs 185, 189, 197</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>R2: Development that reflects the distinctive and traditional character of Ringstead will be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 124, 125,127, 130</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and the character of Ringstead.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R3: Eco Design: Seeks to ensure proposals incorporate new energy technologies, rainwater harvesting, water efficiency measures and vehicle electric charging points.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 148, 149, 151</p>	<p>Why is it important for planning to consider climate change? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 6-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can the challenges of climate change be addressed through the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 6-003-20140612)</p> <p>How can local planning authorities support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 6-008-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to meet the challenge of climate change and increase the use of renewable energy.</p>

<p>R4: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within Ringstead which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances</p>	<p>Paragraphs 99-101</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p> <p>What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306)</p> <p>What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space?</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 2: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation. The full reasons for designation are included in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.</p>
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		<p>(Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306)</p> <p>How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306)</p> <p>How big can a Local Green Space be? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306)</p> <p>Is there a minimum area? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306)</p> <p>What about public access? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306)</p> <p>What about public rights of way? (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>Does land need to be in public ownership? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306)</p> <p>Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306)</p>	
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Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>Who will manage Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306)</p> <p>Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306)</p>	
<p>R5: Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 91, 92</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>

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<p>R6: Village Hall – Support the development of a new Village Hall on alternative site to the existing, subject to connectivity and accessibility, the provision of community services and facilities, appropriate design and scale, amenity, and adequate parking.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 91, 92, 102 and 127</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>The policy plans positively for the provision of community facilities, subject to a satisfactory impact on amenity and the character of the area.</p>
<p>R7: Infrastructure – Seeks new development to support the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for education and recreation provision, improved Village Hall, and community infrastructure improvements. The viability of development will be taken into account.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 56, 83, 91, 92 and 94</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education?</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for contributions from development are deliverable? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system?</p>	

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		(Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)	
R8: New development should provide satisfactory parking, servicing and manoeuvring arrangements. Seeks to control the impact on on-street parking levels in a number of identified streets.	Paragraphs 102 and 105	<p>Why establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 54-001-20141010)</p> <p>What key issues should be considered in developing the transport evidence base to support the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 54-003-20141010)</p>	This policy supports the management of traffic issues and seeks to set parking standards taking into account local circumstances and to minimise the need for on-street parking.
R9: Countryside - Protects the Countryside and development will be limited in this location to that which requires a rural location. Policy provides a list of suitable development.	Paragraphs 78 79, 83, 84, 91, 92 151, 170	How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)	National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.
R10: Locally Important Views – Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape. The potential to enhance	Paragraphs 20, 170, 185	How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)	This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>the landscape should be considered where possible. Sensitivity should be paid to a number of identified views.</p>			
<p>R11: Ringstead Area of Separation – Protects the defined Area of Separation. New development or buildings which would adversely affect its open character, or character and setting of Ringstead village will not be supported. Any development proposal within an Area of Separation must address its impact on the setting of Ringstead Village, the objective of separation and the character of the area.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 125 130, 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area.</p>
<p>R12: Public Rights of Way Network - Development should protect the Rights</p>	<p>Paragraph 98</p>	<p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy supports the protection and enhancement of public rights of way and</p>

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<p>of Way and wherever possible create new links to the footpath and cycleways network. Footpath link improvements are also encouraged.</p>		<p>What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p>	<p>supports opportunities to provide better facilities for users.</p>

<p>R13: SPA Mitigation Strategy – Seeks financial contributions, from residential development in the SPA, to mitigate any adverse impact of development.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174, 175, 176, 177</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>How can protected and priority species be considered in planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 8-016-20190721)</p> <p>What questions are important in applying policy to avoid, mitigate or compensate for significant harm to biodiversity? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 8-019-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework seeks the conservation, restoration and enhancement of SPAs and planning permission should be refused where development cannot be adequately mitigated against and would result in significant harm to the SPA. Neighbourhood Plan policy supports this approach.</p>
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Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How does biodiversity net gain fit with the mitigation hierarchy? (Paragraph: 024 Reference ID: 8-024-20190721)</p>	
<p>R14: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain. Here the priority will be for River Nene corridor. Under certain circumstances ecological surveys will need to be submitted.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174, 175</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R15: Trees and Hedges – Policy seeks to resist development that damages trees, ancient trees and hedgerows. Supports their retention and replacement where necessary.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 127, 170, 175</p>	<p>How can I find out whether an area is 'ancient woodland'? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 8-021-20140306)</p> <p>How can I find out whether trees that could be affected by a development proposal are 'aged or veteran' trees? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20140306)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment. Development resulting in the loss of ancient trees will not be supported. It also seeks to ensure development is sympathetic to local character including the surrounding landscape setting.</p>
<p>R16: Providing for Housing – Identifies how housing will be provided for in the district, namely in the form of a housing allocation and development within the settlement boundary. The policy also identifies the limited forms of housing development that will be allowed outside of the settlement boundary.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 69, 77, 79 117, 127, 148</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that respects the character of the locality. The Neighbourhood Plan defines the Limits to Development which takes into account the character and built form of Ringstead. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. The limited forms of housing development allowed outside the settlement boundary, including exceptions, brownfield land, buildings of innovative design, the sub division of dwellings and rural worker accommodation is in conformity with the NPPF.</p>

<p>R17: Land at Dodson and Horrell: Identifies the development of land at Dodson and Horrell for around 36 dwelling and the housing type to be provided. It also stipulates the form of access, cycle/footway links, the required landscaping scheme and the need for a Ecological Assessment Survey. Trees and hedgerows are to be retained and reinforced. Development should respect the distinctive and traditional character of Ringstead, contamination issues should be addressed, appropriate surface water and foul water drainage strategies should be devised alongside a sustainable drainage system.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 67, 68, 110, 118, 119, 127,148,157, 163,170,174,175, 178, 179</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p> <p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306)</p> <p>What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p> <p>How can the character of landscapes be assessed to inform plan-making and planning decisions? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 8-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system?</p>	<p>This policy seeks the re-use of previously developed land to meet a local housing need, whilst seeking appropriate remediation of any land contamination that maybe present. It plans positively for new homes whilst protecting the character of the area including environmental features.</p> <p>The policy also has regard to a range of other issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework including the provision of sustainable links and flooding.</p>
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	<p>(Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>Why should local planning authorities be concerned about land contamination? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 33-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is the role of planning when dealing with land which may be contaminated? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 33-002-20190722)</p> <p>When is contamination likely to be present? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 33-003-20190722)</p> <p>Are concerns about land contamination relevant to neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 33-004-20190722)</p> <p>What is the general planning approach to development and flood risk? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p>	
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Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R18: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings - This policy identifies the circumstances the re-use and adaptation of redundant or disused buildings will be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 77, 79, 117, 127, 130, 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy supports the re-use of redundant or disused buildings, encourages the use of high-quality design and the protection of protected species.</p>
<p>R19: Brownfield Land – This policy supports the redevelopment of previously development land within or adjoining the settlement boundary for housing unless the site is identified as being of high environmental value.</p>	<p>Paragraph 117, 118, 121</p>	<p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to make the effective use of land whilst safeguarding the environment and takes a positive approach to the re-use of previously developed land.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R20: Housing Mix - Seeks a mix of housing to meet the needs of older households and/or the need for smaller, low-cost homes for sale.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R21: Affordable Housing – Affordable housing should take the form of affordable routes to home ownership, where priority is given to those with local needs, affordable homes are provided in perpetuity and affordability has regard to local house prices and incomes.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>

Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>R22: Gypsies and Travellers – Identifies the circumstance the intensification of the Hilltop Gypsy and Traveller Site will be supported. Regard will be had to accommodation needs, the safeguarding of plots, amenity, highway safety, landscaping, design, community safety and community cohesion, and the provision of commercial activity. However the extension of the site will not be supported.</p>	<p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites – Paragraphs 11, 13, 14 & 19</p>	<p>Not relevant.</p>	<p>This policy provides criteria to guide gypsy and traveller development and seeks to ensure that development is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.</p>

<p>R23: Blackthorn Marina – The marina will be safeguarded for water-based leisure uses. Development of additional boatyard facilities will only be permitted when in accordance with the Masterplan and has regard to appropriate consultation, design, flood risk, landscape, accessibility, the SPA and scheduled monument.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 83, 102, 104 125, 127, 148, 149, 163, 170, 174, 175, 185, 189, 190</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>Planning and flood risk (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p> <p>What is "flood risk"? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 7-002-20140306)</p> <p>Taking flood risk into account in the preparation of Local Plans (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 7-004-20140306)</p> <p>Why establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 54-001-20141010)</p>	<p>This policy facilitates sustainable rural economic development whilst minimising the impact on the environment, including flooding issues, the SPA and the historic environment.</p>
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Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How can protected and priority species be considered in planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 8-016-20190721)</p> <p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p>	
<p>R24: Business Conversion of rural buildings - This policy identifies the circumstances the re-use and adaptation of redundant and extension of rural buildings for business use will be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraph 83</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas.</p>

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; 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 wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – 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.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs, including the needs of older households, the need for smaller homes and gypsy and traveller accommodation. Affordable housing to be provided in perpetuity and priority will be given to those with a local connection to Ringstead Parish when affordable housing is allocated.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local businesses and employment, including the safeguarding and expansion of existing business establishments. Supports sustainable economic growth including through the business conversion of rural buildings. Seeks the protection, improvement and enhancement of community services and facilities, supporting the viability of the community, as well as the provision of new facilities.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The village of Ringstead has a good range of service and facilities and an ambition of the plan is to protect the viability of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, Rights of Way, local green spaces and Rights of Way, and provision of footpath links and cycle ways as well as community and recreational facilities. Provides opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports infill housing development within the defined Ringstead Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth and the provision of rural worker accommodation.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Ringstead Limits to Development, the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and the setting of Ringstead Village.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Safeguards Rights of Way and seeks the creation of new footpath links. Supports the conversion and re-use and adaptation of existing buildings. Seeks to prevent and reduce flood risk and seeks the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, Locally Important Views, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity. Safeguarding of the Special Protection Area.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy ((Adopted July 2016) and the saved policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted July 1996).
- 4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the saved policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted 1996).
- 4.3 East Northamptonshire Council have commenced preparation of a new District-wide Local Plan Part 2 and consulted on its draft policies and text in November 2018. It will not be adopted until summer 2021 at the earliest. It is also likely that a review of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy will be commenced from 2021/22. The Parish Council will continue to work with the appropriate authority to ensure production of a complementary Neighbourhood Plan and acknowledge that it may need to be reviewed to ensure it is in conformity.

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031

- 4.4 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.
- | | |
|------------|--|
| Policy 1: | Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development |
| Policy 2: | Historic Environment |
| Policy 3: | Landscape Character |
| Policy 4: | Biodiversity and Geodiversity |
| Policy 5: | Water Environment, Resources and Flood Risk Management |
| Policy 6: | Development on Brownfield Land and Land Affected by Contamination. |
| Policy 7: | Community Services and Facilities |
| Policy 8: | North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles |
| Policy 9: | Sustainable Buildings |
| Policy 10: | Provision of Infrastructure |
| Policy 11: | The Network of Urban and Rural Areas |

- Policy 13: Rural Exceptions
- Policy 19: The Delivery of Green Infrastructure
- Policy 20: The Nene and Ise Valleys
- Policy 25: Rural Economic Development and Diversification
- Policy 26: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- Policy 28: Housing Requirements
- Policy 29: Distribution of New Homes
- Policy 30: Housing Mix and Tenure
- Policy 31: Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Show People

4.5 Policy 1 is the overarching Joint Core Strategy and takes a proactive approach to delivering sustainable development within the context of North Northamptonshire (the Local Plan area). This is a theme that runs throughout the Joint Core Strategy and reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It is considered that this theme runs throughout the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan and this is demonstrated in the Basic Condition Statement. It is therefore considered to be in conformity with Policy 1 of the Joint Core Strategy.

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
R1: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy 2	Supports the conservation and enhancement of the area's heritage assets.
R2: Design	Policy 8	Requires new development to reflect the distinctive and traditional character of Ringstead.
R3: Eco Design	Policy 9	Supports measures to ensure resource and energy efficiency, water efficiency and a reduction in carbon emissions.
R4: Local Green Spaces	Policy 3	The Neighbourhood Plan has identified these areas for their recreation and amenity value, based on local evidence Protects Ringstead's unique and distinctive character

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
R5: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 7	<p>Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Ringstead</p> <p>Facilities will be safeguarded unless it can be demonstrated they are no longer viable, are no longer needed by the community, are not needed by any other community use or the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded</p>
R6: Village Hall	Policy 7, Policy 8	<p>Provides a community service to meet local need.</p> <p>Ensures high quality development.</p>
R7: Infrastructure	Policy 10	<p>Development is to be supported by the appropriate infrastructure requirements and policy facilitates the pooling of contributions.</p> <p>Allows for infrastructure requirements/contributions to be applied flexibly should there be viability issues so that development is not inhibited unnecessarily</p>
R8: Parking	Not applicable	Not applicable
R9: The Countryside	Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 25, Policy 26, Policy 31	<p>Seeks to protect and retain the character and role of the countryside as defined in the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>Supports agricultural and forestry enterprises and other appropriate rural businesses.</p> <p>Supports opportunities for diversification including re-use of buildings, new tourism,</p>

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		<p>recreation and renewable energy activities.</p> <p>Supports appropriate forms of housing.</p>
R10: Locally Important Views	Policy 3	<p>Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its setting and where possible enhance its distinctive qualities.</p> <p>Safeguard and where possible, enhance important views and vistas.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of important view where particularly sensitivity should be shown</p>
R11: Area of Separation	Policy 3, Policy 11	<p>Identifies and protects an 'Area of Separation' that contributes to the setting of Ringstead and the transition from the settlement to countryside.</p> <p>Protects the character of Ringstead.</p> <p>Maintains and protects the separate identities of Ringstead and Raunds, by preventing their coalescence.</p>
R12: Public Rights of Way Network	Policy 19	<p>Supports improvements to green infrastructure corridors that in particular improve access between settlements and their surrounding countryside.</p>
R13: SPA Mitigation Strategy	Policy 4	<p>Protection of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site.</p> <p>Development to take account of the SPA Supplementary Planning Document: Mitigation Strategy and residential development to contribute</p>

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		towards the implementation of this strategy.
R14: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy 4	<p>Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats.</p> <p>Seeks to protect these features and ensure new development does not harm these features.</p> <p>New development should conserve and enhance these features.</p> <p>Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.</p>
R15: Trees and Hedges	Policy 3	Provides for landscape mitigation and seeks the retention of existing landscape features such as trees and hedgerows.
R16: Providing for Housing	Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 28, Policy 29	<p>Supports the provision of housing and the location of development as contained within the Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan defines a village boundary and also identifies a housing site adjoining Ringstead to help meet locally identified needs</p> <p>Levels of growth suitable for the level of services and facilities in Ringstead.</p> <p>Allows small scale infill development.</p> <p>Identifies appropriate forms of development within rural areas, e.g. dwellings for rural workers, dwellings of exceptional quality or design</p>
R17: Land at Dodson and Horrell	Policy 3, Policy 4, Policy 5, Policy 8, Policy 9, Policy 11,	Supports housing provision in accordance with the spatial

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
	Policy 26, Policy 29, Policy 30	<p>strategy of the Joint Core Strategy</p> <p>Provides for a housing mix to meet local need.</p> <p>Seeks satisfactory means of access.</p> <p>Seeks biodiversity improvements and submission of appropriate Ecological Assessment Survey.</p> <p>Seeks the retention and reinforcement of trees and hedges</p> <p>Development to reflect the distinctive and traditional character of Ringstead.</p> <p>Incorporate renewable energy technologies, water efficiency measures and electric charging points.</p>
R18: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	Not applicable	Not applicable
R19: Brownfield Land	Policy 4, Policy 6	Supports the redevelopment of brownfield land whilst recognising they may have ecological potential.
R20: Housing Mix	Policy 30	<p>Provides for a mix of housing types and reflects the mix contained in the Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>Identifies specific requirements for Ringstead to meet local need and address identified gaps in house types.</p>
R21: Affordable Housing	Policy 13	Affordable units will remain available and affordable in perpetuity to meet local needs.
R22: Gypsies and Travellers	Policy 31	Supports the intensification of existing sites, if supported by

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		evidence of need, and safeguards existing provision, subject to amenity consideration, highway issues and landscape provision.
R23: Blackthorn Marina	Policy 20	Supports the principle of leisure activities within the Nene Valley whilst protecting the SPA and amenity.
R24: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy 25	Supports rural diversification and the appropriate re-use of rural buildings.

The East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted 1996)

- 4.6 The East Northamptonshire Local Plan was adopted in 1996. Many policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan were replaced by the new Joint Core Strategy Policies, with effect from 14 July 2016. Those 'saved' policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan that were not replaced form, along with the Joint Core Strategy policies, form the statutory Local Plan for East Northamptonshire. Where there is not a relevant saved policy as it has been replaced by policies in the Joint Core Strategy it is noted in the table below that the East Northamptonshire Local Plan is not applicable.
- 4.7 The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.
- 4.8 The remaining relevant East Northamptonshire Local Plan policies are:

Policy AG4: The Re-use and Adaptation of Buildings in the Countryside

Policy RL4: Children's Play Areas

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	The East Northamptonshire Local Plan	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the East Northamptonshire Local Plan
R1: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Not applicable	Not applicable
R2: Design	Not applicable	Not applicable
R3: Eco Design	Not applicable	Not applicable
R4: Local Green Spaces	Not applicable	Not applicable

Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Policy	The East Northamptonshire Local Plan	Explanation of Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the East Northamptonshire Local Plan
R5: Community Services and Facilities	Not applicable	Not applicable
R6: Village Hall	Not applicable	Not applicable
R7: Infrastructure	Policy RL4	Supports developer contributions for children's play areas. Including financial contributions where appropriate.
R8: Parking	Not applicable	Not applicable
R9: The Countryside	Policy AG4	Supports appropriate development in the countryside, including for tourism and employment development as well as rural worker accommodation.
R10: Locally Important Views	Not applicable	Not applicable
R11: Ringstead Area of Separation	Not applicable	Not applicable
R12: Public Rights of Way Network	Not applicable	Not applicable
R13: SPA Mitigation Strategy	Not applicable	Not applicable
R14: Ecology and Biodiversity	Not applicable	Not applicable
R15: Trees and Hedges	Not applicable	Not applicable
R16: Providing for Housing	Not applicable	Not applicable
R17: Land at Dodson and Horrell	Not applicable	Not applicable
R18: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy AG4	Supports the adaptation of redundant or dis-used rural buildings.
R19: Brownfield Land	Not applicable	Not applicable
R20: Housing Mix	Not applicable	Not applicable
R21: Affordable Housing	Not applicable	Not applicable
R22: Gypsies and Travellers	Not applicable	Not applicable
R23: Blackthorn Marina	Not applicable	Not applicable
R24: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy AG4	Supports the conversion of rural buildings for employment development.

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan (April 2020) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.

5.3 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Historic England – For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a SEA is not likely to be required.
- Natural England – This advice replaces Natural England letter dated 09 March 2020. Natural England agrees with the conclusion of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement, February 2020 and agrees with the

conclusion of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan Screening Report, February 2020.

- Environment Agency – Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, there are no areas of fluvial flood risk or watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. Therefore, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints or other environmental sensitivities of interest to us. The Lead Local Flood Authority's Surface Water Management Plan will indicate if there are any critical drainage areas from local sources of flood risk (e.g. surface water, groundwater and sewerage) which coincide with the neighbourhood plan area.
- Wildlife Trust – No Comments received.

5.4 The outcome of this assessment concludes that there is the potential for the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan to have significant effects on biodiversity and the Neighbourhood Plan would also likely to have an impact on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, namely the Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA. Therefore, it is considered that the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken.

5.5 In light of this conclusion, AECOM has produced an independent SEA in support of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA concludes that the potential effects arising from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, are predominantly positive and neutral, assuming the assessment's recommendations are suitable adopted. As a consequence, appropriate changes have been made to policy wording and supporting text in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

5.6 AECOM also undertook a Habitat Regulations Assessment (August 2020) separately to inform of the potential effect of the Neighbourhood Plan on European Sites. The assessment recognises that the allocation of housing at 'Land at Dodson and Horrell' could impact upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/RAMSAR and undertook an assessment of this. It consequently recommended safeguarding policy wording be added to the Neighbourhood Plan and that these inclusions would provide a sufficient policy framework to ensure that no detrimental effect would occur on the integrity of the European Site within the catchment of Ringstead.

5.7 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water

Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:

- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
- having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.

6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Ringstead for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 1461 people living in Ringstead Parish, 50.5% were Male and 49.5% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

17.6% of the population was 0-15 years old and 16.7% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

2.9% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%. In addition, 0.3% of the population of Ringstead identified as being Gypsy or Irish Traveller,

65% of the population was Christian and 1.2% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

8.3% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 9.9% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

57.8% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is comparable than the national picture, as is the proportion of 0-15 year olds.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of Christians is higher to the national average, whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

Key Issues and Policies of the Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Ringstead that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

- Maintaining the character of the village
- Improving or retaining local services and facilities
- Traffic management and on-street parking
- Protecting the countryside

- Protecting green areas in the village
- Conserving local heritage
- Maintaining tranquillity
- Meeting local housing needs
- Improving footpath links
- More employment opportunities for local people

These issues are reflected in the Vision for the Ringstead Parish Neighbourhood Plan;



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 24 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy R20 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households and the need for smaller homes.

Policy R4 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. Furthermore, Policy R7 seeks infrastructure improvement including the provision of children's play area equipment. Policy R12 seeks the protection of Rights of Way and create new links to the network including footpaths and cycleways.

Policy R5 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Ringstead. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a post office, convenience store, primary school, village hall, social

club, recreation ground and public house. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact. In addition, Policy R7 seeks infrastructure improvements for the primary school recreation ground, the village hall and other community infrastructure facilities.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy R20) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy R20 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy R12 seeks the creation of footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Policy R17 requires a safe pedestrian access between the housing allocation and village services and facilities, and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy R2, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision, such as the village halls and the social club (Policies R5, R6 and R7). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic as Policy R22 supports additional gypsy and traveller accommodation to meet identified needs.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities and their potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision (Policies R5 and R6), including the Village Hall with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy R2, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and those with young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility, and gypsies and travellers, and travelling showpeople.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. There is also the potential to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the Ringstead

Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.