

Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Final Scoping Report

April 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan in Suffolk Coastal district. It is part of the suite of documents submitted to East Suffolk Council for Submission Stage (Regulation 16) Consultation.
- 1.2 Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term environmental, social and economic issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:
- Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.3 One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process.
- 1.4 The Plan can help to achieve sustainable development as it aims to ensure that development meets the needs of people living and working in the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Area, while at the same time helping to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are minimised. It is for this reason that a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken.
- 1.5 SEA is a requirement of the EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. It is implemented in England through the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004'. It aims to ensure that the environmental consequences of a proposed policy, plan or programme are assessed, and improvements and mitigation measures are incorporated into the plan at the earliest stage of decision making.
- 1.6 The objective of the 'SEA Directive' is:
- 'To provide for a high level of protection to the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of the plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development'* (Article 1, Appendix 1)
- 1.7 The requirement for an SEA emerges from Schedule 10, paragraph 8(2)(f) of the Localism Act which states that a draft Neighbourhood Development Order (or Plan) "meets the basic conditions if the making of the order does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations". In this case, the relevant EU obligations are represented by the SEA Directive.
- 1.8 This SEA is in accordance with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.

The Scoping Report

- 1.9 The Scoping Report has been developed in accordance with government guidance for undertaking SEA in compliance with the SEA Directive.
- 1.10 According to the guidance, the complete process has five stages resulting in the Environmental Report, which should be implemented in turn. Each stage comprises a number of subsidiary tasks, some of which should be implemented alongside each other and lead to the development of a specific output. The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SEA of the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan associated with it. Stage A explains the process used in this Scoping Report and is presented below in Table 1.1. While the table may infer a sequential process, in practice, stages A1 to A4 inform each other, e.g. one has to have an understanding of the environmental issues (A3) to assess the relevant plans, programmes (A1) and requirements for baseline data collection (A2).
- 1.11 Consultation on the scope of the SEA is required under the SEA Directive and the Scoping Report guidance detailed above. It is a requirement that the Scoping Report is sent to three statutory Consultation Bodies with environmental responsibilities, as listed:
- The Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
- 1.12 The consultation undertaken with these bodies sought to:
- ensure the methodology for the proposed SEA/SA is comprehensive to support the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan;
 - provide an opinion on the suitability of the SEA/SA objectives;
 - advise on the key sustainability issues as far as they relate to SEA/SA; and
 - provide advice to ensure the baseline data is appropriate and sufficient.

Table 1.1: Work Requirements for the Scoping Report

| Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Sub-Stage | | Tasks | Key Outputs |
| A1 | Identify links to other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives | Defines how the plan is affected by outside factors and suggests ideas for how any constraints can be addressed | Assessment of requirements of SEA/ Collection and evaluation of key datasets |
| A2 | Collect baseline/ environmental data | Provision of an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects prediction and monitoring | |
| A3 | Identify sustainability issues/problems | Used to focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent phases, including baseline information analysis, setting of the SEA Framework, prediction of effects and monitoring | Assessment of requirements of SEA |
| A4 | Developing the SEA framework | A process to enable the sustainability of plan to be appraised | SEA/SA framework consisting of Sustainability Objectives (Table 5.1) based upon National, Regional and Local issues. |
| A5 | Consulting on the scope of the SEA | Carried out with statutory bodies and other relevant organisations with social, environmental or economic responsibilities to ensure the appraisal covers the key sustainability issues | Revisions to Sustainability framework |

1.13 Consultation was duly undertaken on the draft Scoping Report over a five-week period in February and March 2018. The following responses were received:

Table 1.2: Responses received from statutory bodies on the draft Scoping Report

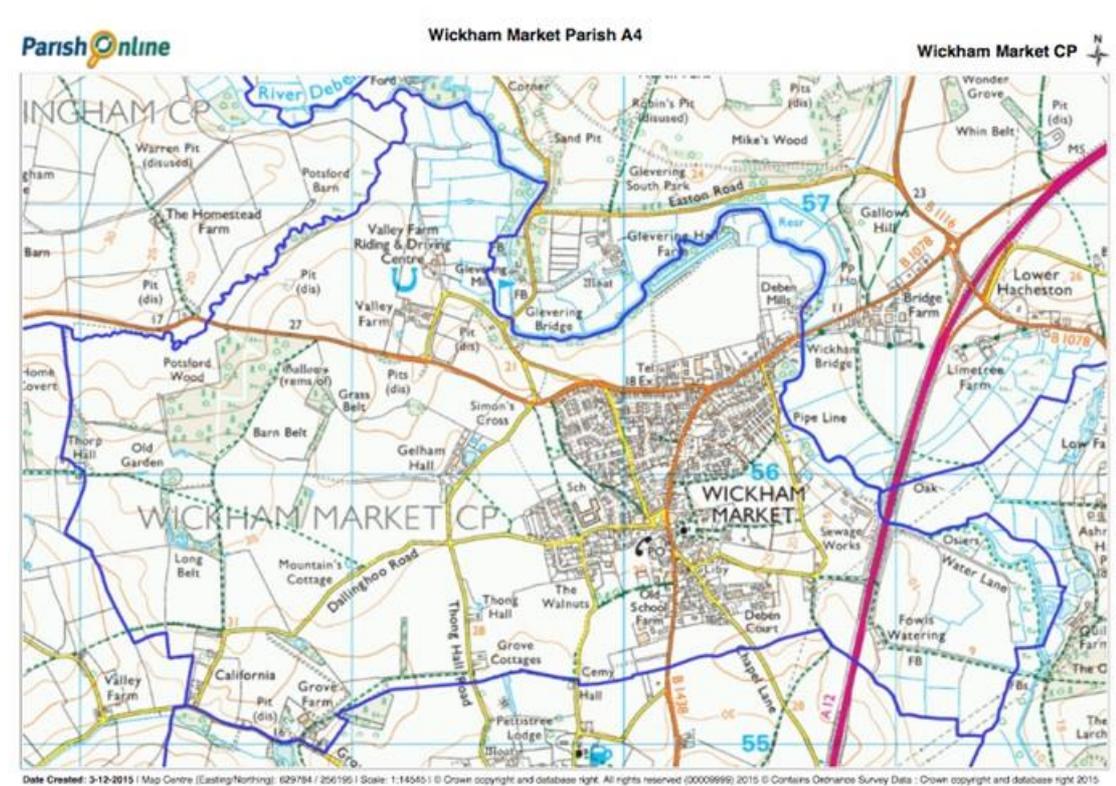
| Respondee | Representation | Response |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Environment Agency | Wickham Market is located within a Source Protection Zone 3, with small areas to the east in Source Protection Zones 1 and 2. The area is also located over a principal aquifer. The section entitled 'Water' may wish to make reference to this as these features will require future developments to put in place measures to protect the water environment. | Add to Section 3 |
| | Our maps show that part of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within Flood Zones 2 and 3, the medium and high probability zone respectively. For development proposed in these areas, it will be necessary for applications to pass the Sequential and Exception Tests and to be supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment (FRA), which can demonstrate that the 'development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall'. | Noted |

| Respondee | Representation | Response |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>The SEA should consider the likely impact of climate change future flood risk. Our guidance 'Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances' provides allowances for future sea level rise, wave height and wind speed to help planners, developers and their advisors to understand likely impact of climate change on coastal flood risk. It also provides peak river flow and peak rainfall intensity allowances to help planners understand likely impact of climate change on river and surface water flood risk.</p> | <p>Noted. The SEA has included strategic considerations of climate change, as established in the Local Plan, in its assessment framework.</p> |
| | <p>Development that proposes to dispose of foul water to the existing sewer network will increase the discharge loading from the receiving sewage treatment works which may have an adverse impact on the consented permit and subsequent water quality issues.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |
| <p>Historic England</p> | <p>We welcome the inclusion of Objective 6/Env, and we are pleased to note the consideration of the historic environment in Section 3 of the Scoping Report. The map showing Wickham Market and its designated heritage assets is useful. However, we would recommend that the heading is amended to 'Historic Environment' to reflect the terminology found in the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> | <p>Amendment made throughout</p> |
| | <p>We also consider that, while the provided Baseline Data includes information on above ground designated heritage assets, there is no mention of any below ground archaeology - either designated or non-designated - and we would therefore recommend that consideration of this is included.</p> | <p>Archaeological baseline information added to Section 3.</p> |
| | <p>If you have not already done so, we would recommend that you speak to the staff at Suffolk County Council who look after the Historic Environment Record and give advice on archaeological matters. They should be able to provide details of not only any designated heritage assets but also non designated locally-important buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. Some Historic Environment Records may be available to view on-line via the Heritage Gateway.</p> | <p>Noted. The buildings listed in the CAA which 'make a positive contribution' have been added to Section 3.</p> |
| <p>Natural England</p> | <p>No response received</p> | |

Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.14 The Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan area is shown in Figure 1.1 and is contiguous with the parish boundary.

Figure 1.1: Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan designated area



- 1.15 The Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan is being developed through working and engaging with the local community. A Vision and Objectives document was put together in November 2017 to focus on addressing the needs of the community in the built up area. In order to deliver its objectives, they have been sorted under particular themes:

1. Housing for all

By 2036 Wickham Market is likely to have to accept a number of new houses. We will find the best location/s and specify the type and style of housing that will meet the needs of our local community. We intend that any new housing will be energy efficient and where possible carbon neutral, have adequate parking and be sited so that any increase in traffic congestion is kept to a minimum.

2. An Inclusive and Caring Society

Wickham Market has a strong sense of community and local spirit. We wish to ensure that any future development will consider the impact on the community, its services and overall well-being. At all times consideration should be given to the local population and in particular to the less able and vulnerable amongst us.

3. A Viable Community

We wish to maintain the character of Wickham Market as a place with a strong sense of community and history. We aim to enhance local employment opportunities, in particular

providing support for start-up businesses. We wish to ensure the community can manage its future growth through appropriate infrastructure and services to meet the everyday needs of its population.

4. Maintaining the Green Environment

We intend that the village should remain rural, preserve its open landscape, its views and allotments and ensure that its heritage is protected. Our aim is to ensure that any development has adequate landscaping and green spaces and does not have a negative impact on our lanes, byways, footpaths and encircling green landscape.

5. An Attractive Village Centre

We will work to improve the vitality and viability of the village centre while retaining its unique rural and historic character. We will endeavour to improve the quality of the village centre by encouraging retention and support of existing retailers whilst also encouraging new enterprise to occupy available units. We will aim to improve the quality of the public areas by making them more pedestrian focused.

6. Traffic and Parking

We are concerned that at present narrow pavements and vehicle choke points make it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to safely move around the village. We will endeavour to improve traffic flows and pedestrian safety and we are aware that parking within the village continues to be a problem and will press for a plan that will give a village wide solution.

7. Better facilities and services

Community assets such as the play parks, pub and village hall need to be improved or re-provided. Mobile phone signals need to be strengthened and we wish to improve the sport, leisure and learning facilities to help create an environment for participation by all ages and abilities.

- 1.16 Under each of these themes, a series of objectives have been developed, as shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Themes and objectives of the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan

| | Aims/Objectives | Housing for all | An Inclusive and Caring Society | A Viable Community | Maintaining the Green Environment | An attractive village centre | Traffic and Parking | Better Facilities and Services |
|----|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | New development includes provision and management of suitable infrastructure. | y | | | y | | | |
| 2 | New developments are built with adequate parking. | y | | | | | | |
| 3 | New houses are energy efficient | y | | | | | | |
| 4 | Mix of housing to meet local needs | y | | | | | | |
| 5 | Provide greenspace, play space, and sports fields are provided in line with the Local Plan green infrastructure requirements for new development. | y | | | y | | | |
| 6 | New development is designed to reflect local character and include comprehensive schemes for landscape and ecological enhancement to ensure that the quality and character of the Parish is not compromised. | y | | | | | | |
| 7 | Provide additional sheltered housing. | y | | | | | | |
| 8 | Provide safe routes through the village, particularly for people with disabilities | | y | | | | | |
| 9 | Protect and enhance footpath and cycle linkages. | | y | | | | | |
| 10 | Provide improved village hall facilities | | y | | | | | y |
| 11 | Support the initiative to provide a village pub. | | y | | | | | y |
| 12 | Provide improved facilities for youth | | y | | | | | y |
| 13 | Ensure provision of adequate sport and leisure provision for all ages. | | y | | | | | y |
| 14 | Enhance the play area provision within the village. | | y | | | | | y |
| 15 | To retain and protect the current allotment provision. | | y | | y | | | |
| 16 | Make the public areas more pedestrian friendly. | | y | | | | | |
| 17 | Manage and protect the quiet rural lanes, bridleways and footpaths | | y | | y | | | |
| 18 | Provide adequate mobile phone signals throughout the village | | y | y | | | | |
| 19 | Support and maintain the regular market in the village centre | | | y | | y | | |
| 20 | Protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the village centre. | | | y | | | | |

Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan
Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating SEA)
Final Scoping Report

| Aims/Objectives | | Housing for all | An Inclusive and Caring Society | A Viable Community | Maintaining the Green Environment | An attractive village centre | Traffic and Parking | Better Facilities and Services |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 21 | To support proposals for new initiatives to bring new business to the village, in particular to occupy available units. | | | y | | | | |
| 22 | To support and protect premises and infrastructure to promote and protect local businesses and home workers. | | | y | | | | |
| 23 | Protect all the village heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) | | | y | | | | |
| 24 | Provide availability of fast broadband connection throughout the village | | | y | | | | y |
| 25 | Preserve the setting and quality of the Parish Cemetery and ensure adequate future provision. | | | | y | | | |
| 26 | Provide electric charging points for cars | | | | y | | | |
| 27 | Conserve, enhance and link natural spaces and their associated biodiversity | | | | y | | | |
| 28 | Create new green space such as meadows, woodland and orchards. | | | | y | | | |
| 29 | Protect all important trees | | | | y | | | |
| 30 | Enhance the parish treescape through planting new trees and hedgerows. | | | | y | | | |
| 31 | To extend the Conservation Area boundary in order to include important buildings and assets. | | | | | y | | |
| 32 | Preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area | | | | | Y | | |
| 33 | reduce traffic speeds and volume throughout the village | | | | | | y | |
| 34 | Provide adequate short term, long term and overspill parking facilities for workers and visitors to the core business centres. | | | | | | y | |
| 35 | Provide local and strategic traffic management to minimise adverse impact of movement of HGV/LGV | | | | | | y | |
| 36 | Minimise additional traffic through village choke points. | | | | | | y | |

1.17 In addition, the development of the Plan has involved the assessment of sites put forward through two different processes:

- A review of sites seen as having potential for development by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- Sites assessed by the Suffolk Coastal Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and the subsequent Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) as being available, suitable and achievable for development.
- Sites shown in the Issues and Options for the Suffolk Local Plan Review, Consultation – 18th August to 30th October 2017. This document shows all sites that have been put forward for development whether they have been dismissed as unsuitable or not.

1.18 This resulted in 21 sites being assessed within the Neighbourhood Area for housing and/or employment development. AECOM was commissioned to undertake an assessment of the sites. This assessment concluded that:

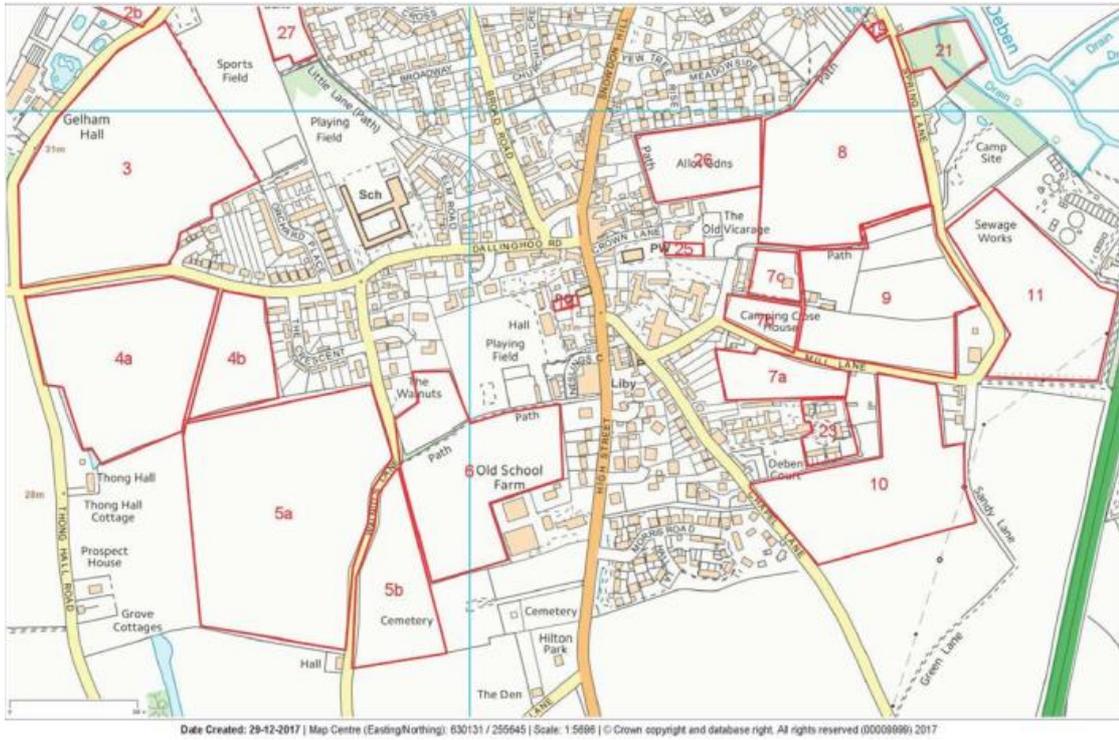
- Two sites would be appropriate for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan (site refs 5b/6 and 27);
- Two sites are potentially suitable for allocation but with significant constraints that would need to be resolved or mitigated prior to development (site refs 1b (part) and 18);
- Eighteen sites are not suitable for allocation due to insurmountable constraints site refs 1b (part), 2a, 3, 4a, 4b, 5a, 7c, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25 and 26).

1.19 The location of the sites considered is shown in Figures 1.2a and 1.2b.

Figure 1.2a: Location of sites considered for allocation in first draft of the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan - north



Figure 1.2b: Location of sites considered for allocation in first draft of the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan - south



Source: AECOM (2018) Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment Report

2 RELEVANT PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES (STAGE A1)

2.1 This section provides a summary review of the policy context relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan. Starting at the international level and working down in scale this covers the key policies that the Neighbourhood Plan should adhere to or consider. While it is common sense to ensure the Plan and SEA/SA reviews these requirements, it is also a requirement of the SEA Directive which states that the Environmental Report should include:

"an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes"

"the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

[Annex 1(a) and (e) of the SEA Directive]

2.2 Within this context it is stated in the NPPF that work for Neighbourhood Planning is proportionate with the scale and ambitions of the plan. We have therefore considered a range of relevant policies and plans for this assessment considering international, national, regional (East of England), and local (County and District) plans and policies.

International context

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|--|---|--|
| EU Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds Directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC) | | |
| To conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance by the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. This was designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats. | Identifies endangered habitats and species requiring protection and need for re-establishment of denuded biotopes. Protected areas should be created, maintained and managed. | Plans should take account relevant SPA and SAC sites. If negative impacts are anticipated appropriate assessments should be undertaken. Above protecting the integrity and interest of European sites, the NP should consider objectives to protect and if possible, enhance biodiversity. |
| EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | | |
| To expand the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve 'good status' for all waters by 2015. • Water management should be based on river basins and a 'combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards. | Prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, provide protection and improve ecological condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015 (or later | Plan should consider any significant hydrological / hydrogeological factors and ensure integration with existing catchment management plans. Plan should consider including objectives to protect and enhance water resources, quality and ecological function. |

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management should include the closer involvement of community. | <p>subject to specific criteria).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet the requirements of WFD protected areas promote sustainable use of water conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water progressively reduce or phase out pollutants that pose significant threats to the aquatic environment / groundwater help mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts. | |
| EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (2008/50/EC) | | |
| Establishes limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)/oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀). | | Establishes limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)/oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀). |
| EU Waste Directive (2008/98/EC) | | |
| Sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, recovery. It explains when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a secondary raw material (so called end-of-waste criteria), and how to distinguish between waste and by-products. | | |
| EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution | | |
| Establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them. It recommends that current legislation be modernised, be better focused on the most serious pollutants and that more is done to integrate environmental concerns into other policies and programmes. | Aims to cut the annual number of premature deaths from air pollution-related diseases by 40% by 2020 (using 2000 as the base year). | Establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them. It recommends that current legislation be modernised, be better focused on the most serious pollutants and that more is done to integrate environmental concerns into other policies and programmes. |

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|--|--|---|
| Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, European Commission 2010 | | |
| <p>The European strategy for achieving growth up to 2020 focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - smart growth, through the development of knowledge and innovation; - sustainable growth, based on a greener, more resource efficient economy; and - inclusive growth, aimed at strengthening employment, and social and territorial cohesion. | <p>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed.</p> <p>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D.</p> <p>The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right).</p> <p>The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree.</p> <p>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</p> | <p>The Plan needs to ensure that it has regard to the overarching objectives relating to economic growth.</p> |

National and regional context

- 2.3 In this section we summarise the most relevant regional and local plans and policies making the assumption that these include the relevant international and national sustainability objectives.
- 2.4 The Planning system is undergoing a period of change following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.
- 2.5 This has heralded significant changes including to the planning system and provides a greater emphasis on localism. European Regulations still apply as does much of the legacy planning guidance – until it is revised for the NPPF.
- 2.6 The NPPF stresses the importance of sustainability running as a 'golden thread' throughout plans and policies.

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|--|--|--|
| National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019) | | |
| <p>Achieving sustainable development means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an economic objective – 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; • 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 well-being; and • 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. | <p>Supports local and national targets with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.</p> | <p>Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). SA Objectives should reflect the core planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF. The Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible • contribute to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. <p>Plan should contribute to the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of the historic environment.</p> <p>The Plan should ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on any heritage assets and should seek to ensure that development actively conserves the asset.</p> |
| 1990 Town and Country Planning Act | | |
| <p>Section 66: Requires special regard for the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings.</p> <p>Section 72: Special attention to be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas.</p> | | <p>The NP must ensure that the listed buildings and their settings are not affected by proposed development.</p> <p>The NP should consider policies to preserve and enhance the character of conservation areas.</p> |
| The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 | | |
| <p>To encourage/ensure waste arises/is dealt with further up the waste hierarchy. Divert waste disposal away from landfill.</p> | <p>Target of 50% of household waste to be recycled.</p> | <p>Plan must have regard to the amended waste hierarchy. Policies and objectives should where possible encourage waste to be re-used, recycled or have value/energy recovery. If possible the Plan should discourage landfilling of waste.</p> |

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|---|--|--|
| UK Climate Change Act 2008 | | |
| The Act introduced a statutory target for reducing carbon emissions. | Target of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 34% by 2020. | Planning can make a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by influencing the location, scale and character of development. The plan should include policies/objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions and greater resilience to the impacts of climate change. |
| Flood and Water Management Act 2010 | | |
| Improve the management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses. To protect water supplies. | Local Authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood maps and plans. EA to prepare Local flood risk management strategies. | Plan should take account of flooding and water management issues and strategies and consider the inclusion of policies/objectives to reduce flood risks and other impacts on the water environment. |
| Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011 | | |
| Government-wide plan for action on climate change at domestic and international levels. | Includes a range of sector-based plans and targets for low carbon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building • transport • industry • electricity • agriculture, land use, forestry and waste | The Plan should include policies/objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions. |

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for NP and SEA |
|--|---|--|
| Mainstreaming sustainable development 2011 | | |
| This refreshed vision builds upon the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 SD strategy, recognising the needs of the economy, society and the natural environment, alongside the use of good governance and sound science. | Promises a new set of indicators from DEFRA that link initiatives and include wellbeing. | Plan should take account of climate change and promote sustainability through sustainable, low carbon and green economic growth. |
| Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate, Defra 2010 | | |
| Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change. | Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change. | Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change. |
| The East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan (East of England Biodiversity Forum) | | |
| Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the East of England to support and improve biodiversity. | Provides a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets through biodiversity opportunity areas and habitat and species targets. | The NP should consider objectives to protect and where possible, enhance biodiversity. |
| Anglian River Basin Management Plan | | |
| Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the Anglian River Basin District and the actions that will address them. | By 2015, 18% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element. By 2015, 23% of surface waters will be at good or better ecological status/potential and 33% of groundwater bodies will be at good status. In combination 23% of all water bodies will be at good status by 2015. At least 47% of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological status by 2015. | The NP needs to consider the impact of proposed development on water quality. |

County/local context

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal |
|---|---|---|
| Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 | | |
| To ensure that transport investment supports the economic and business growth strategies in the county. | Indicators include: congestion, mode of travel to work and school, cycling trips, accessibility, road traffic accidents, road and footway maintenance, street lighting, highway structures, road flooding, air quality and transport emissions. | The Plan should consider policies/objectives which contribute to transport sustainability. This should go beyond reducing carbon emissions to include economic growth, safety, pollution, traffic reduction and access to services. |
| Suffolk Waste Core Strategy 2011 | | |
| By 2026, the landfilling of untreated municipal, commercial & industrial wastes will have ceased and residual waste management processes will be fully operational, recovering value from wastes that cannot practicably be recycled or composted. | To only make provision for a declining amount of landfill over the plan period with 'zero waste to landfill' by 2026. | The Plan should consider how, within the context of a growing population in Wickham Market, waste generation can be minimised and it can be ensured that Wickham Market contributes towards the target of zero waste to landfill. |
| Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan | | |
| <p>Maintain and, where practicable, enhance the wildlife and habitats that provide the natural character and diversity of Suffolk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure lawful compliance towards biodiversity in planning decisions. • To promote best practice and provide support to planners on biodiversity issues. • To ensure the planning system contributes to the Natural Environment White Paper 2011 objective of no net loss of biodiversity as part of sustainable development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure development avoids adverse impacts on biodiversity • Where avoidance is not possible, mitigate residual impacts of developments. • Where mitigation is not possible, compensate for losses incurred during development. • Enhance developments for biodiversity. • Ensure biodiversity is taken into consideration during, and after, the construction phase of development. | Plan should consider policies/objectives to enhance (where possible) the wildlife and habitats that give rise to Suffolk's natural character and diversity. |
| Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009) | | |
| Identifies all areas of flood risk within the district as well as what the level of risk is | Flood zone | The Plan needs to ensure that new development avoids areas identified at risk of flooding and that the existing level of flood risk within and outside Wickham Market is not exacerbated and, where possible, reduced. |
| Suffolk County Council Landscape Typology Mapping | | |
| To map and record the value and variety of the Suffolk landscape. | No targets | Plan should ensure that the development strategy is in |

| Key objectives | Key targets/indicators | Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal |
|---|--|--|
| | | keeping with the local landscape typologies |
| Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan, 2013-18 | | |
| <p>The 2013–2033 Vision can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special wildlife, landscape, seascape and heritage qualities are conserved and meet the needs of people who live, work in and visit the AONB • Local communities are fully engaged in the care of the area • A high-quality landscape and infrastructure exists to support sustainable access, tourism and business | <p>A series of objectives under four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coast and estuaries • Land use and wildlife • Enjoying the area • Working together | <p>Plan should be consistent and take into account impact on the AONB</p> |
| Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation – Suffolk County Council, 2009 | | |
| <p>To identify areas or units of land based on their key historic landscape attributes.</p> | | <p>The Plan should ensure that areas of historic landscape character are preserved and enhanced.</p> |
| Wickham Market Conservation Area Appraisal – Supplementary Planning Document, Suffolk Coastal District Council, March 2016 | | |
| <p>To assess the key features of the Conservation Area and to provide a Conservation Area Management Plan</p> | <p>No targets</p> | <p>The Plan should ensure that policies which relate to planning applications that will come forward within the Conservation Area reflect the key issues in the Conservation Area Management Plan.</p> |

3 BASELINE DATA AND KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES (STAGES A2 & A3)

- 3.1 The SEA Regulations require that certain environmental topics are included within the environmental baseline collected to inform the SEA. The topics required by the SEA Regulations are shown in Table 3.1.
- 3.2 The SEA Scoping Report summarises the current state of the environment and also identifies key trends and pressures for the future. The information is categorised under topics, although it must be recognised that many of the topics are interlinked.

Table 3.1: Topics and their relevance to the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan

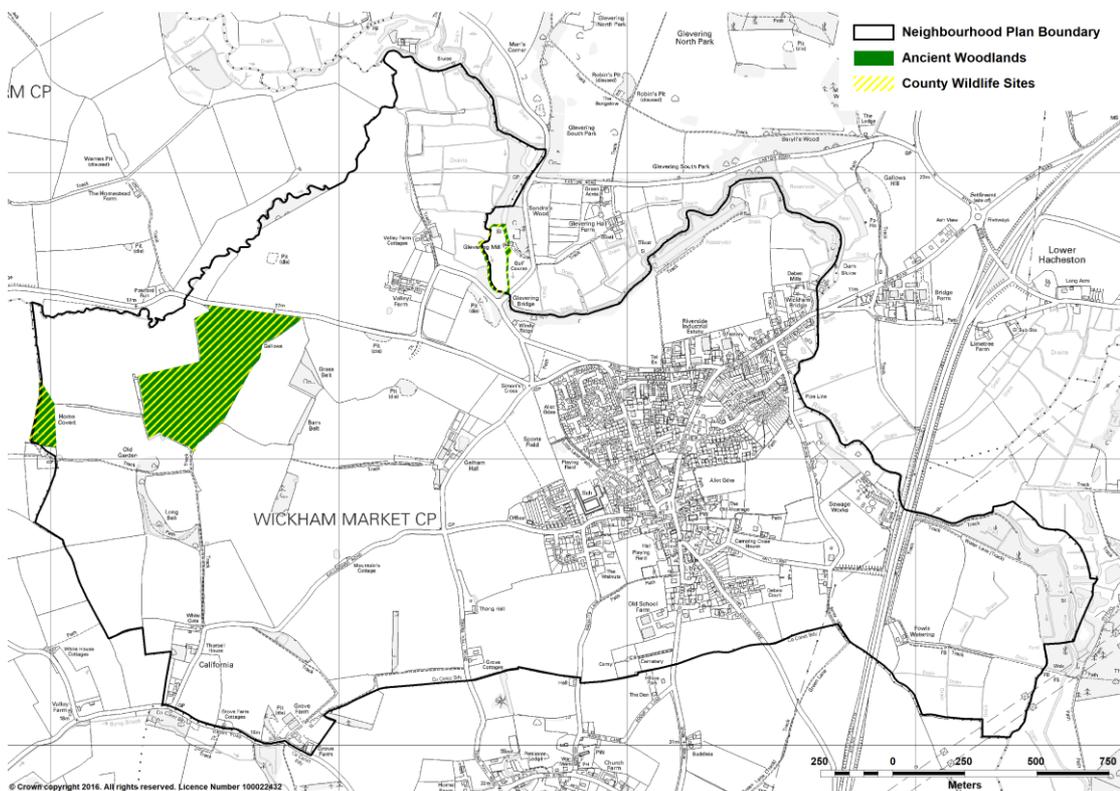
| Topic | Relevance to the Wickham Market NP |
|--------------------------|---|
| Nature conservation | Potential for new site allocations to impact on the habitats of species within areas of nature conservation value |
| Landscape | Potential for new site allocations to impact the landscape |
| Air and Climate | Potential for new site allocations to create pollution through additional congestion. |
| Water | Risk of flooding impacts on where people live and can impact on the economic prosperity of an area. The way in which water is drained off of land, including road and other hard surfaces, can be important to the level of flood risk experienced in an area. |
| Soils | Potential for site allocations and development to impact on best agricultural soils or important geological sites. |
| Historic Environment | Historic environment features can be vulnerable to damage and other impacts from neglect, decay or development pressures. |
| Human characteristics | Potential for the plan to impact on human health, particularly positively through improvements to walking, cycling routes, etc |
| Roads and transport | Development could impact on congestion on the road network and create pedestrian safety problems, particularly at key junctions in Wickham Market village centre |
| Infrastructure | Development could have an impact on the infrastructure necessary to keep society running smoothly |
| Economic characteristics | Development could impact on the ability of communities to function effectively (in their interaction with services) and on the economic prosperity of an area. |

3.3 The information has been compiled from a wide range of information sources. Firstly information has been provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council and other statutory bodies, including the Environment Agency. As part of the widespread consultation work to support the plan this has included feedback from a range of consultees. There are a number of key reports relevant to the environment of the area and some of their key findings have been summarised here – they are referenced through the text, as are various data sources used to provide maps and statistics. This section presents topics relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan and while it seeks to be comprehensive only the key issues are included to keep the document manageable.

Nature conservation and biodiversity

3.3. There are a few conservation areas within the parish, including Ancient Woodlands and County Wildlife Sites. The largest concentration is to the west of the Plan area and away from the village and built up area. Apart from this, the other areas of ancient woodland are outside the Plan area boundary. These features are shown in Figure 3.1 below.

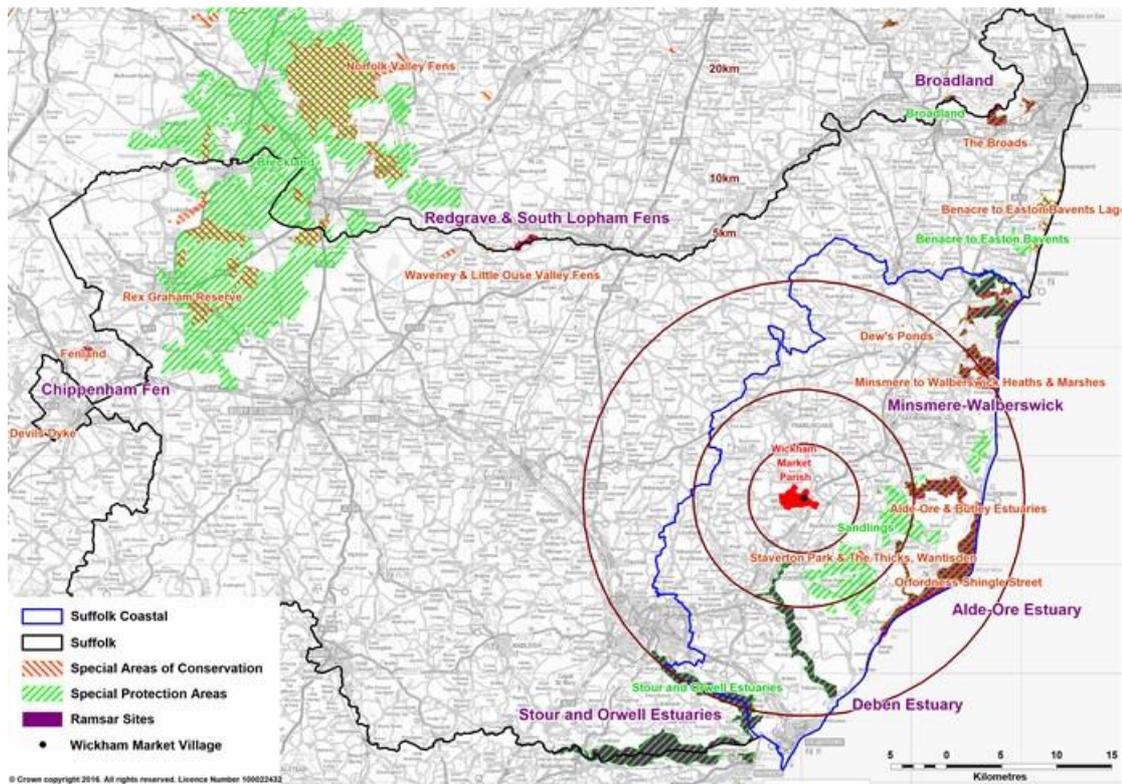
Figure 3.1: Key environmental features – parish



3.4. An area of traditional orchards was recorded along the western bank of the River Deben in the far west of the parish, close to Wickham Market village. However, local observations report that there is no longer any evidence of these orchards in this location.

3.5. Figure 3.2 shows the wider area of Suffolk and the conservation areas. The nearest ones are Sandlings, which is a Special Protection Area and the Stour and Orwell Estuaries, which are Special Protection Areas as well as Ramsar Sites. These are both within 10km of Wickham Market.

Figure 3.2: Wider environmental designations



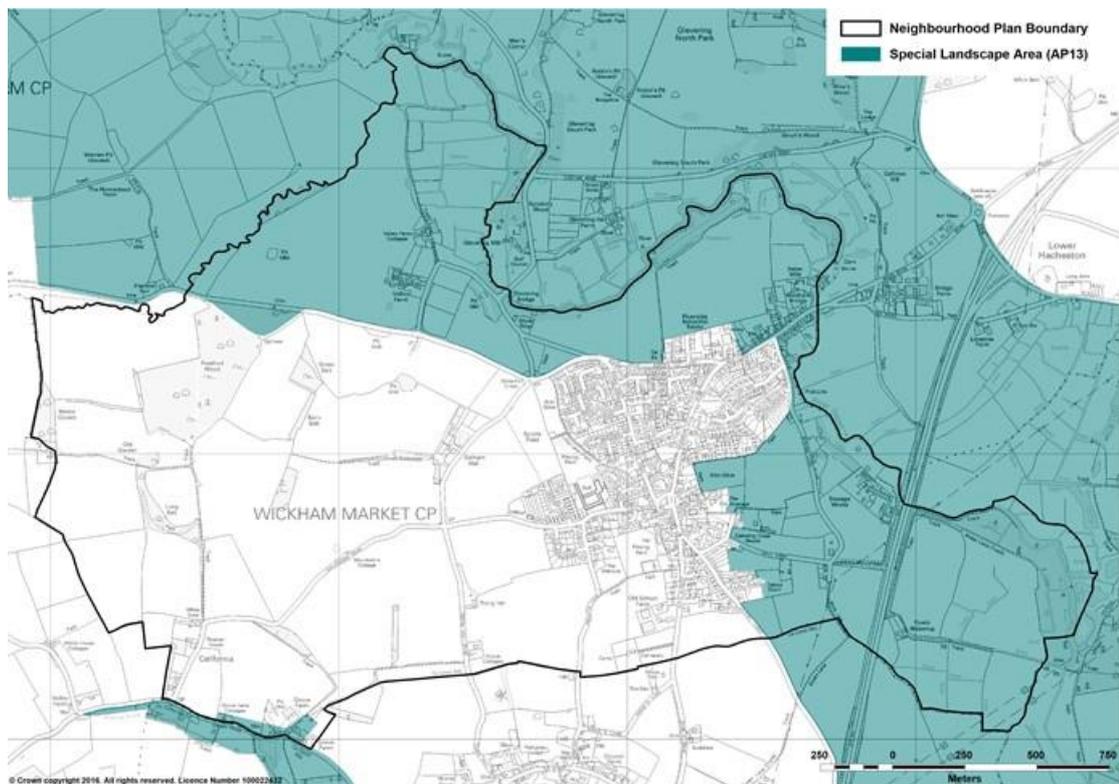
- 3.6. Information from the Suffolk Biodiversity Record Centre (2016) shows approximately 106 Protected Species Sightings. These are predominantly located in the built-up area of Wickham Market, with over half of these sightings in this area. Other than this, they are generally evenly distributed throughout the rest of the parish.
- 3.7. A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report has been prepared which considers that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on any European designated sites. Therefore it is considered that a Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required. This is being consulted on with Natural England and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Landscape

- 3.8. Wickham Market is a predominantly rural parish. The Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk) identifies the parish as being predominantly ancient rolling farmland. This is characterised by medium clay soils and blocks of ancient woodland (as shown in Figure 3.1) and has the following key characteristics:
- Rolling arable landscape of chalky clays and loams.
 - Dissected widely, and sometimes deeply, by river valleys.
 - Field pattern of ancient random enclosure. Regular fields associated with areas of heathland enclosure.
 - Hedges of hawthorn and elm with oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees.
 - Network of winding lanes and paths, often associated with hedges, create visual intimacy.

- Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads of mediaeval origin.
- 3.9. The assessment concludes that although there are some areas of extensive field amalgamation, overall the landscape is largely intact.
- 3.10. Figure 3.3 shows the Special Landscape Area in the parish. This mainly covers the north and east on the Plan Area. This is a non-statutory conservation designation used by local government to categorise sensitive landscapes that are protected from development.

Figure 3.3: Special Landscape Area



Air and Climate

- 3.11. There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the parish of Wickham Market. The nearest major AQMA is in Ipswich, which is approximately 20km from Wickham Market. This town declared above average levels of Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in 2006 and 2017. Nitrous dioxide results are the most significant and common pollutant in the UK, which result from emissions in road transport and can irritate lung airways to those who are sensitive to air pollutants.
- 3.12. The only pollutant to be regularly monitored is nitrogen dioxide, which is monitored at 131 High Street, Needham Market as well as several points on the A14¹ which exceed the WHO guideline of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m³). These are well outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area therefore are unlikely to be significant.

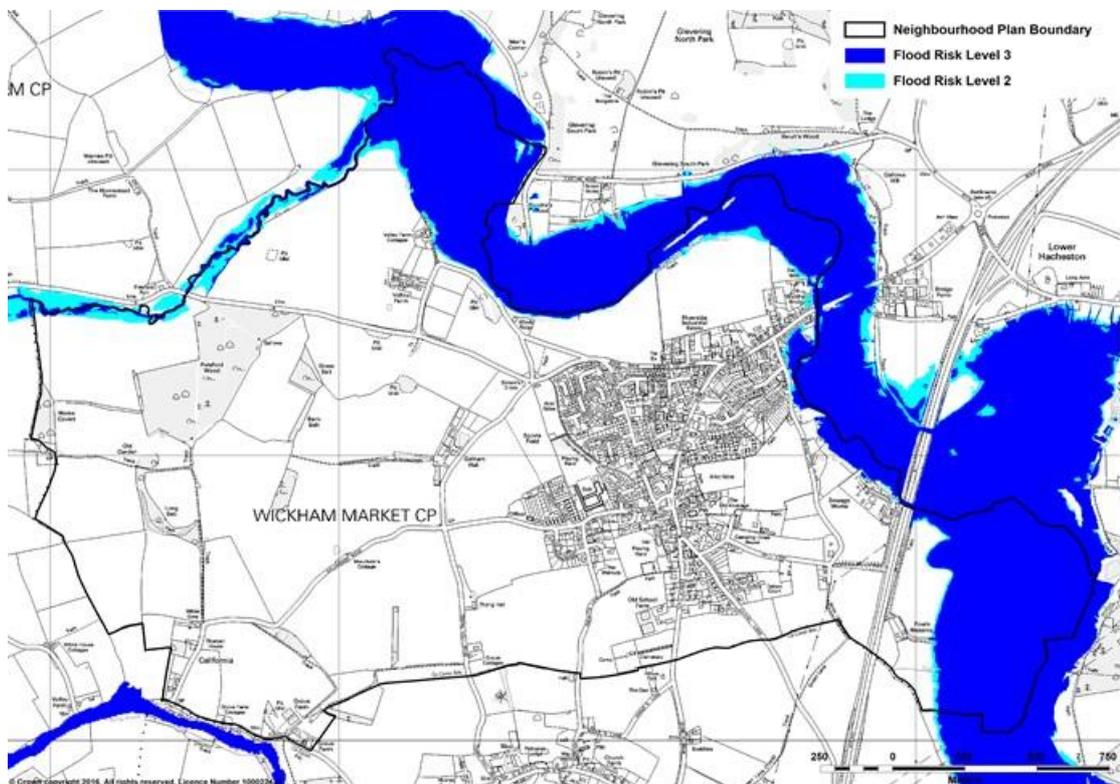
¹ Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/2016-Annual-Status-Report.pdf>)

- 3.13. As the global climate changes, an increasing prevalence of high-intensity weather events is expected to affect the environment of Suffolk, particularly as the county is in the driest area of the UK with 30% of its land below sea level. 2015 was both the hottest and wettest year on record with most of this rainfall recorded in December of that year².
- 3.14. As the global climate changes, an increasing prevalence of high-intensity weather events is expected to affect the environment of Suffolk, particularly as the county is in the driest area of the UK with 30% of its land below sea level. 2015 was both the hottest and wettest year on record with most of this rainfall recorded in December of that year³.

Water

- 3.15. North of the parish is within the flood catchment of the River Deben (from Brandeston Bridge to Melton). This could affect the north region of the built-up area of Wickham Market, which is associated with Flood Zone 2 and 3. This is shown in Figure 3.4 below.

Figure 3.4: Flood risk areas



- 3.16. In respect of groundwater and potential contamination, Wickham Market is located within a Source Protection Zone 3, with small areas to the east in Source Protection Zones 1 and 2. The area is also located over a principal aquifer.

Soil and Geology

- 3.17. The National Soils Map (NSRI 2001⁴) suggests that there are three soil types in the parish. The first is found to the south of the River Deben, which is 'freely draining slightly acid

² <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SCCP/Climate-Change/Suffolk-Climate-Action-Plan-3.pdf>

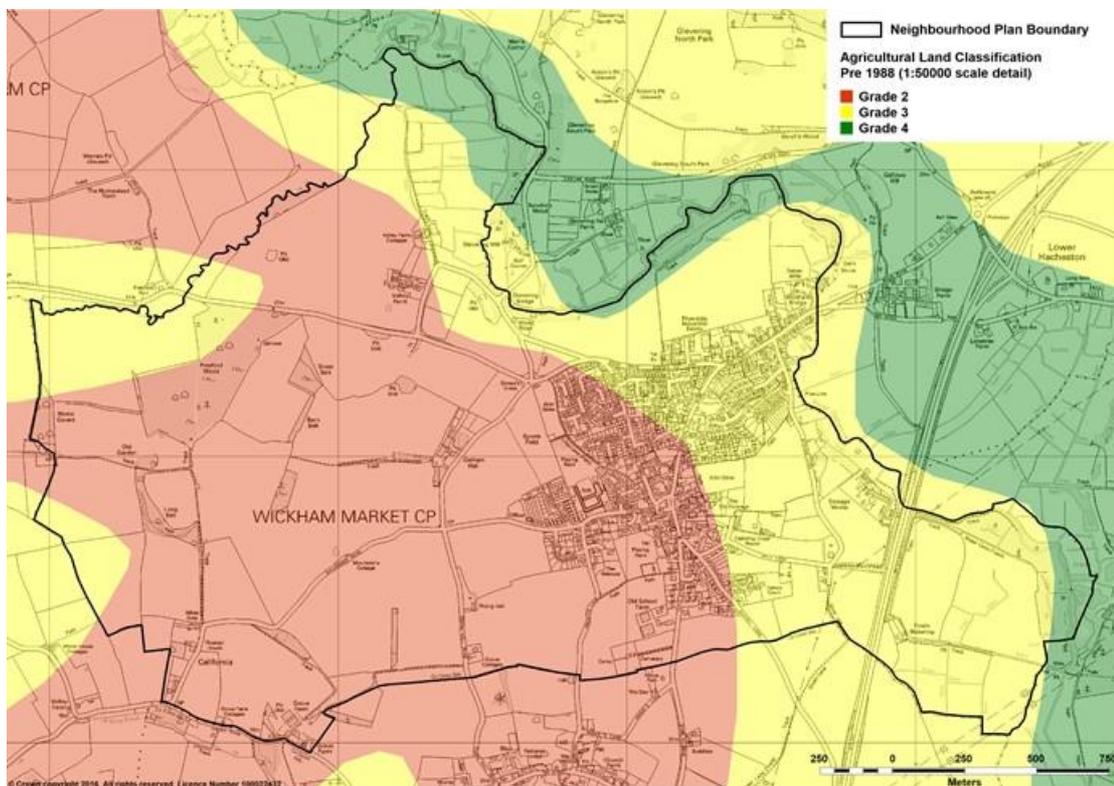
³ <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SCCP/Climate-Change/Suffolk-Climate-Action-Plan-3.pdf>

⁴ National Soil Resources Institute (2001). National Soil Map. Cranfield University.

sandy soils'. These have a sandy texture, arable landcover and are suitable for wide range of spring and autumn sown crops. Grasslands are more common here.

- 3.18. The second type of soil is found to the north of the river and further southwest of the built up area. This is 'slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage'. Fertility is higher here and this supports a wide range of pasture and woodland types.
- 3.19. Lastly, to the west of Wickham is 'slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils'. This is characterised by grassland and some arable woodland.
- 3.20. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. Published by Natural England⁵, the ALC provides a classification in 5 grades using a number of criteria including climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, structure, texture, chemicals, stoniness). The scales ranges from 1 (high quality) to 5 (poorest).
- 3.21. The NPPF (paragraph 112) states that relevant planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality. The ALC for Wickham Market is shown in Figure 3.5 below.
- 3.22. This shows that the majority of land in the west of the parish is Grade 2 (very good). The rest of the area is Grade 3 (good to moderate) with a little Grade 4 land (moderate).

Figure 3.5: Map of Agricultural Land Classification

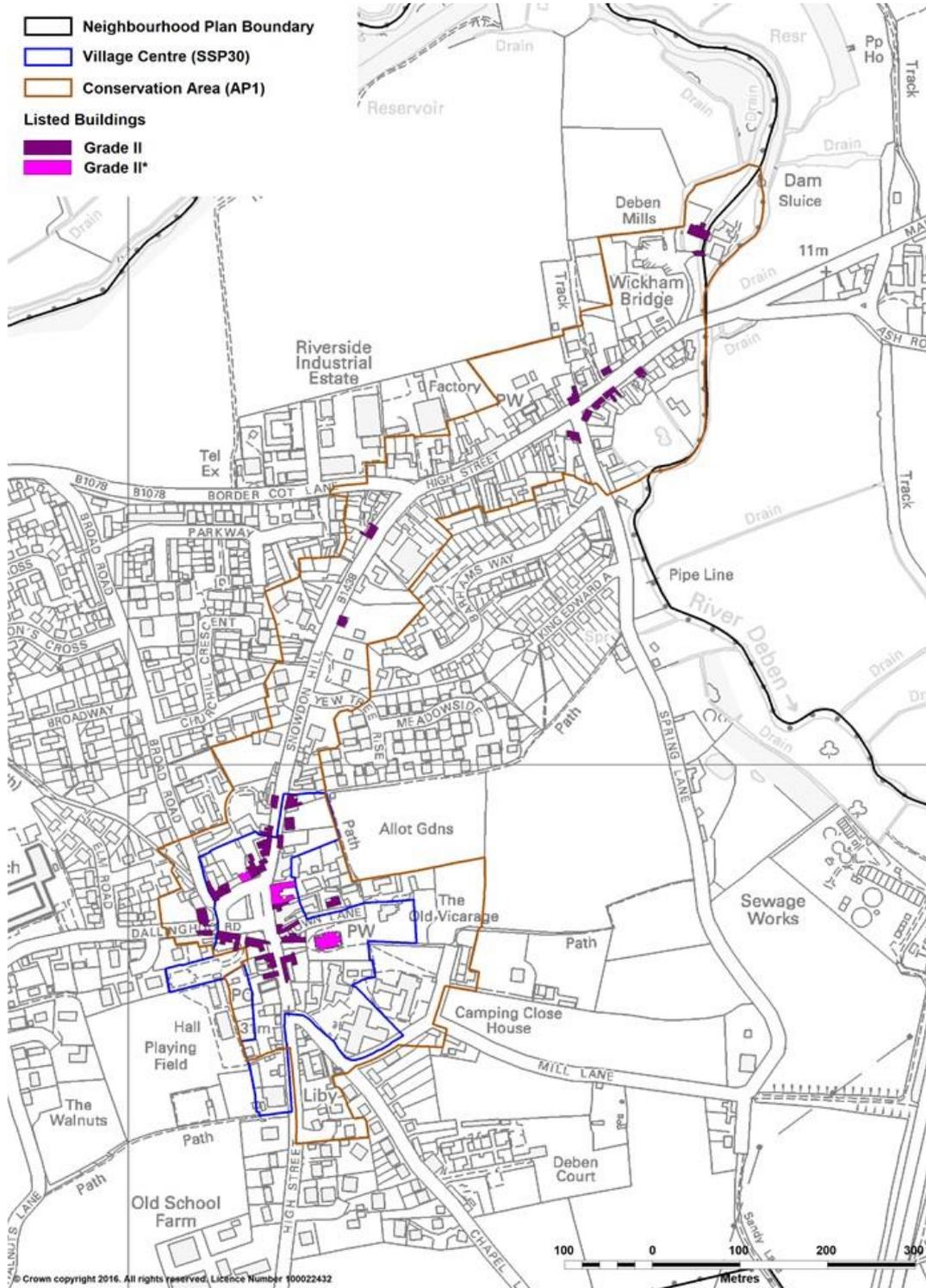


⁵ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4424325>

Historic Environment

3.23. Figure 3.6 below shows a zoomed in view of the built-up area of Wickham Market. In total, there are 40 listed buildings in the parish, with 35 in the Conservation Area shown. There are also 3 other listed buildings around Valley Farm to the west of the parish, and 2 in Gelham Hall that aren't shown on the map.

Figure 3.6: Listed buildings and Conservation Area in Wickham Market village

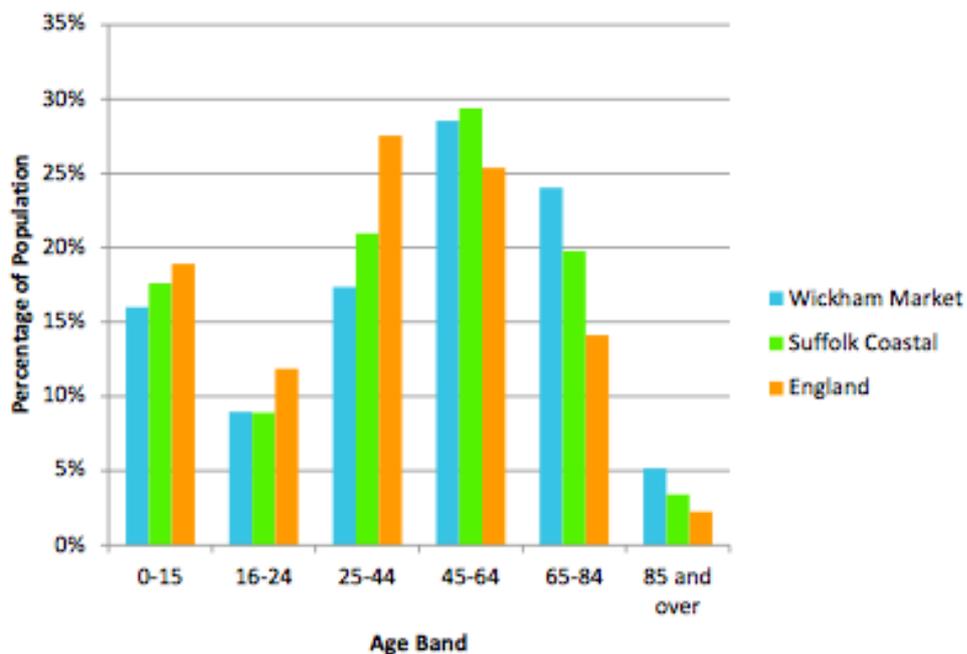


- 3.24. The protection of historic buildings and Conservation Area is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework in section 12 (Conserving and enhancing the historic environment⁰⁰²⁹). On a district and local level the identification and protection of the historic environment is done through the designation of Conservation Areas in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Core Strategy of the Local Plan contains an objective 'to maintain and enhance the quality of the distinctive natural and built environment'. Conservation Areas are defined as 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. These areas sustain the sense of local distinctiveness and which are an important aspect of the character and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside.
- 3.25. Three principle features separate the Conservation Area. There is the market square, known as The Hill, which is the heart of the village. Secondly, there is the church, churchyard and buildings around this to the south and east. Lastly, there is Snowdon Hill, High Street and Lower Street, which are north of the Hill.
- 3.26. The Wickham Market Conservation Area Appraisal 2016 identifies a number of 'unlisted buildings that make a positive contribution' to the Conservation Area. These are mainly located along the High Street/Snowdon Hill.
- 3.27. There are 36 records of known archaeological discoveries in Wickham Market (source: Suffolk Historic Environmental Record). A number these are located along the High Street/Snowdon Hill within the designated Conservation Area.

Social and economic indicators

- 3.28. The 2011 Census recorded that the population of Wickham Market was 2,126 persons. This has decreased from 2,204 persons (4%) in the last census in 2001. The average (mean) age of residents was 47.3 years, with the largest percentage of the population between the ages 45 and 59 (20.3%), as Figure 3.7 shows.

Figure 3.7: Population by age



Source: 2011 Census

- 3.29. In total there were 1,006 household spaces. This increased from 994 households in 2001, which equates to 1.2 households per year. Of these, 98.3% lived in households and 1.7% lived in communal establishments. Since the Census, approximately 115 new properties have been constructed.
- 3.30. The overall average property price is £231,658 in Wickham Market (source: Rightmove, 2017). This is relatively cheaper than other areas around it, such as Framlingham (£280,331) and Woodbridge (£378,512). Low house prices, as well as a decreasing population could suggest that access to housing is not a problem, and possibly indicative of a growing number of under-occupied dwellings.
- 3.31. Table 3.2 shows that the level of owner occupation in Wickham Market is significantly lower than the Suffolk Coastal average, yet slightly above the England average. The proportion of socially rented housing (rented from the Council or a Registered Social Landlord), by contrast, is much higher in Wickham Market than Suffolk Coastal and England as a whole. In Wickham Market there are proportionately fewer privately rented units than observed across local or national markets.

Table 3.2: Tenure (households), 2011

| | Wickham Market | Suffolk Coastal | England |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Owned | 64.7% | 73.2% | 63.3% |
| Shared ownership | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.8% |
| Social rented | 24.3% | 11.3% | 17.7% |
| Private rented | 9.0% | 13.6% | 16.8% |

Source: Census 2011

- 3.32. Table 3.3 below shows the information for the general health of the population. Wickham Market in comparison to Suffolk Coastal and United Kingdom. The figures are has lower levels of those who believe they have 'very good health' compared to Suffolk Coastal and the UK. Those in 'fair health' is significantly higher than the rest of the county and country.

Table 3.3: General Health, 2011

| | Wickham Market | Suffolk Coastal | United Kingdom |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Very good health | 40.5% | 46.2% | 47.1% |
| Good health | 36% | 35.5% | 34% |
| Fair health | 18% | 13.8% | 13.3% |
| Bad health | 4.3% | 0.04% | 4.3% |
| Very bad health | 0.01% | 0.01% | 1.3% |

Source: Census 2011

Roads and transport

- 3.33. Wickham Market village is 13 miles north-east of the county town of Ipswich and 5 miles north-east of Woodbridge. It has a railway station that is 2 miles east at Campsea Ashe.
- 3.34. The main road for access into the parish is off the A12 from multiple routes such as the B1438 and B1078. The B1078, which goes through the northern end of the village, is a well-used shortcut between the A14 to A12.

Infrastructure

3.35. Wickham Market has the following community infrastructure assets focused in the centre of the built-up area:

- A village hall
- Football pitches
- Skate park, basketball court, tennis court, bowls club
- 2 allotments
- Cemetery
- 3 play parks
- A primary school
- Medical centre and pharmacy
- A church that is 700 years old

3.36. However, the village lacks a pub.

Economic characteristics

3.37. Wickham Market's proportion of economically active population is lower than both the Suffolk Coastal and England's averages as shown in Table 3.4 below. This is because there are a significantly lower number of full time employees than Suffolk Coastal.

3.38. The percentage of residents who are economically inactive is therefore significantly lower than Suffolk Coastal and England. This is primarily because of the high proportion of retired residents in the parish (21.7%).

Table 3.4: Economic activity

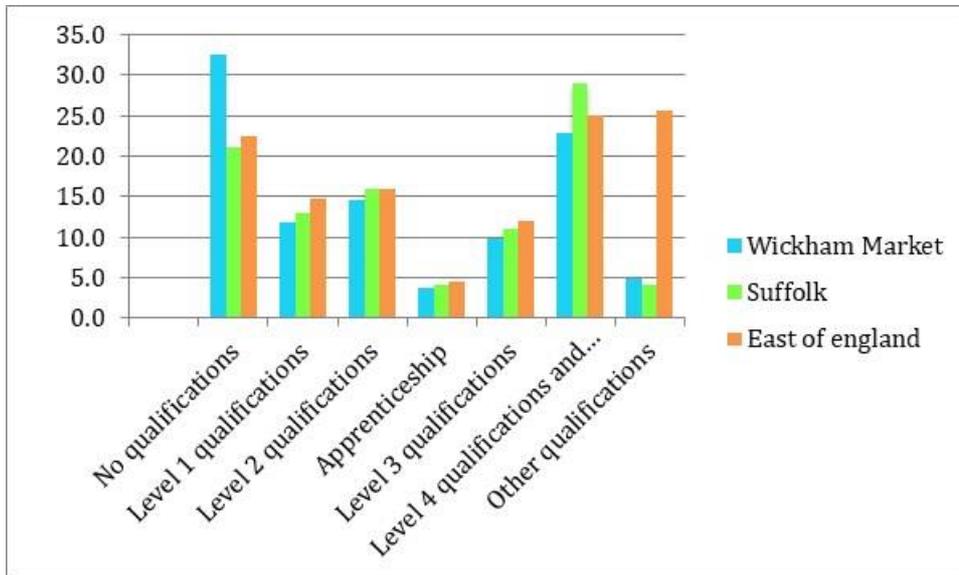
| | | Wickham Market | Suffolk Coastal | England |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Economically active | Total | 65.7% | 69.1% | 69.9% |
| | Employee: Full-time | 33.8% | 36.2% | 13.7% |
| | Employee: Part-time | 16.3% | 15.9% | 38.6% |
| | Self-employed | 9.6% | 11.8% | 9.8% |
| | Unemployed | 3.5% | 2.7% | 4.4% |
| | Full-time student | 2.5% | 2.4% | 3.4% |
| Economically Inactive | Total | 34.3% | 30.9% | 30.1% |
| | Retired | 21.7% | 19.4% | 13.7% |
| | Student | 3.4% | 3.2% | 5.8% |
| | Looking after home or family | 4.5% | 3.9% | 4.4% |
| | Long-term sick or disabled | 3.3% | 2.6% | 4.1% |
| | Other | 1.4% | 1.7% | 2.2% |

Source: 2011 Census

3.39. As Figure 3.8 shows, 32.5% of the population in Wickham Market have no qualifications. This is disproportionately higher than Suffolk and the rest of the East of England. The percentage of those who have are educated to a Level 4 or above (e.g. have a degree) is

22.8%, which although is the second highest proportion, it is still significantly lower than Suffolk and the rest of East of England.

Figure 3.8: Qualifications of Wickham Market working population



Source: 2011 Census

4 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 4.1 Table 4.1 has been informed by the issues identified in the baseline information collected in Section 3 and the Wickham Market Parish Plan findings (2016). (<http://www.wickhammarketnp.org/documents/key%20docs/WICKHAM%20MARKET%20PARISH%20PLAN%20Brief.pdf>).

Table 4.1: SWOT analysis of issues facing Wickham Market parish

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to countryside • Existing recreation facilities- football pitches, skate park, basketball court and tennis court • Primary school • Church • Medical facilities such as a centre, dentist, vets and a pharmacy • Views and landscape in and out of the village • Good provision of housing • Convenient parking • Wide variety of shops including hardware supplies, food, hairdressers, newsagents as well as places to eat • Library and resource centre • Relatively low property prices | <p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population • Decreasing population • Growing number of under occupied housing • Lack pubs in the centre • Low proportion of economically active population • Patchy mobile reception and poor broadband connection away from village centre • Increased risk of flooding around the river Deben • Inadequacy of sewage systems in place • Noise form A12 • Lack of facilities for youth |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and protect historical character and conservation area • Improve public transport • Reduce traffic/speeding • Promote recycling • Provide more employment locally • Improvements to bus timetable and reliability • Conversion of redundant buildings • Tourism – also 20 mins from the coast, Rackham Mill • Good retail opportunities • Make public areas more pedestrian friendly- improve footpaths | <p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further cuts to public transport • Increase in noise and pollution • Increased number of cars of the pavement • Dog fouling • Narrow/ poor condition of pavements • Infill of green spaces and loss of agricultural land • Loss of village atmosphere |

Key issues

- 4.2 There are a number of sustainability issues and challenges facing the parish. While Wickham Market parish offers a high quality environment to residents and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to manage and seek to resolve a series of issues over its lifetime if the parish is to continue to be successful while respecting its outstanding landscape setting.

- 4.3 In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan (and as a consequence, a lack of vision and strategy for Wickham Market), there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the parish, as well as contributing to a reduction in the potential benefit to the community.

Table 4.2: Challenges and impacts of not having a neighbourhood plan

| Challenges facing Wickham Market Parish | Effect of not having a neighbourhood plan |
|---|--|
| Problems with transport such as lack of sustainable options, safety/ safe crossings and limited parking infrastructure. | Increase in noise and pollution with reliance of private cars. Isolation of those who rely on public transport. Lack of adequate parking has led to many cars on the road. |
| No provision to allow local businesses and the economy in the centre. | No tourist infrastructure and few employment opportunities |
| Loss of countryside, green space, natural features and recreation space to new development | Loss of rural, open landscape, its views and allotments. |
| Flooding issues particularly at Rackham Mill | This is important as it may lead to access issues is continual flooding occurs |
| The preservation of important heritage assets | Loss of unique historical character. |
| Lack of affordable home provision for elderly | The type of housing needed to address local needs may not be delivered |
| Risks of high level of development due to large amounts of land being available | Could result in unnecessary impacts on important heritage assets due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications |
| Lack of a community and village feel | Sense of community and local spirit will diminish. Provision of services for well-being will lead to isolated and vulnerable residents |

5 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK (STAGE A4)

5.1 In order to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Neighbourhood Plan, it is necessary to identify sustainability objectives and indicators to enable an assessment to be made of the emerging options and allow for recommendations and mitigation measures to be proposed. The sustainability objectives have emerged through the following considerations:

- through the review of documents listed in Section 2
- as identified in the baseline section (Section 3)
- to help address sustainability issues known locally
- to help address the 'weaknesses' and mitigate the 'threats' outlined in the SWOT analysis (Section 4)

5.2 The proposed sustainability objectives and indicators (Sustainability Framework) for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan are as shown in Table 5.1 below:

Table 5.1: Sustainability objectives and criteria for the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan

| Sustainability theme | Objectives | Criteria |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1/Env | To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Wickham Market in terms of its geology, landform, soils, biodiversity, water systems and climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change in area of County Wildlife Sites within the parish - Change in area of ancient woodland in parish - Change in area of priority habitats within the parish (data from Suffolk Biological Records Office) - Change in area/grade of agricultural land classification (ALC) land lost. - Number of developments in 'highly vulnerable' or 'more vulnerable' flood risk areas. |
| 2/Env | To protect the landscape setting of Wickham Market through use of land with a low landscape impact and by focusing development on previously developed land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of/impact on views of value. - Number of planning applications granted in or affecting the Special Landscape Area. - Development on previously developed land. |
| 3/Soc | To ensure that housing addresses the needs of the existing community of Wickham Market before addressing wider needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of housing built by dwelling size. - Number of people with a local connection on the Housing Register that are newly housed. - Number of affordable homes completed. |
| 4/Econ | To maximise the potential of existing employment/employers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of existing businesses retained. |

| Sustainability theme | Objectives | Criteria |
|----------------------|--|---|
| | and support the need for new employment opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new businesses in the parish. - Number of local start-ups. - Number of new jobs likely to be created. - Number of businesses and dwellings (for home workers) with access to superfast broadband. |
| 5/Econ | To extend the range and scope of the retail experience within the town centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of shop units in the village centre - Number of vacant shop units in the village centre |
| 6/Env | To protect the identity and local distinctiveness of Wickham Market by conserving and enhancing the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of listed buildings lost. - Number of applications for listed building consent. - Number of developments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area. - Number of trees with TPOs. |
| 7/Soc | To ensure that the community has a high quality and healthy lifestyle. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census figures on long term illness and general health. - Number/area of green spaces within walking distance of homes. - Usage of formal green spaces within the parish. - Number of formal recreation facilities within walking distance of homes. - Number of homes experiencing unacceptable levels of noise. |
| 8/Soc | To ensure the provision of a range of community facilities that provide for the needs of the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of community facilities within the parish. |
| 9/Soc | To improve safe and sustainable movement around the parish and to the town centre by a range of modes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levels of traffic at key junctions in the town centre. - Number and distance of new footpaths/cyclepaths. - Speed data from police. - Accident data from police. - Number of safe crossing points serving the town centre. |
| 10/Soc | To ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, and schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distance the population of the parish live from key services. - Availability of regular public transport. - Number of shops in the town centre. - Speed of broadband services. |

6 ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY OF PLAN POLICIES AND SITE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The sustainability appraisal objectives shown in Table 5.1 will be used to assess the sustainability of the plan policy options and of the site options. In respect of the sites, this appraisal will be undertaken on all of those assessed in the AECOM study as either being suitably or having potential to accommodate sustainable development (see Figure 1.2). The information presented to the community as part of the ongoing engagement process in order to understand which sites are the most sustainable and are best able to deliver against the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 For each sustainability objective, the assessment will give a score in respect of the relevant criterion. The score will be made on the following scale:
- Strongly positive
 - Slightly positive
 - Neutral
 - Slightly negative
 - Strongly negative
- 6.3 A commentary will also be provided for each criterion on each site in order to provide more context to the 'five-point' assessment.
- 6.4 The same assessment will be used to address the plan policies against alternatives.
- 6.5 Table 6.1 below relates the sustainability objectives back to the key concerns and valued aspects of the parish that were raised by the community. These were identified by the community through the engagement process on the neighbourhood plan and informed the SWOT analysis in Section 4.

Table 6.1: Comparison of sustainability objectives with valued aspects and concerns raised by the community of Wickham Market

| | 1/Env – Countryside & Biodiversity | 2/Env – Landscape/Views | 3/Soc - Housing | 4/Econ - Commercial | 5/Econ - Retail | 6/Env – Historic Environment | 7/Soc - Health | 8/Soc - Community | 9/Soc – Transport & Movement | 10/Soc - Services |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| VALUED ASPECTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Countryside and landscape | √ | √ | | | | | | | | |
| Heritage of town | | | | | | √ | | | | |
| Range of community facilities | | | | | | | √ | √ | | |
| Shops and services in town centre | | | | √ | √ | | | | | √ |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| CONCERNS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traffic speed/volume | | | | | | | | | √ | |
| Public transport | | | | | | | | | √ | √ |
| Cycling/walking | | | | | | | √ | | √ | |
| Vulnerability of services | | | | √ | √ | | | | | √ |
| Lack of affordable housing | | | √ | | | | | | | |
| Housing mix not suitable for local needs | | | √ | | | | | | | |
| Loss of rural character | √ | √ | | | | | | | | |
| Local employment opportunities | | | | √ | √ | | | | | |

7 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 This final Scoping Report has been updated to reflect all comments made by statutory consultees. This has been used to inform the draft SEA/SA Report.
- 7.2 As the Neighbourhood Plan is developed, the strategy, policies and site options will be tested against these sustainability objectives, to identify appropriate policies for inclusion in the Plan. All realistic policy options will be appraised against the Sustainability Framework set out in Section 5 of this report, in order to ensure that the policies chosen for the Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan are the most sustainable, given all realistic alternatives.