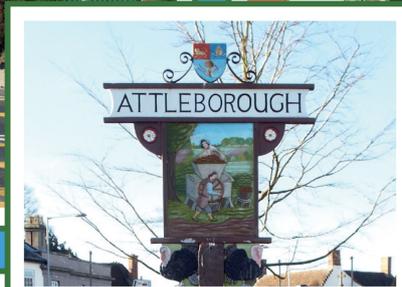


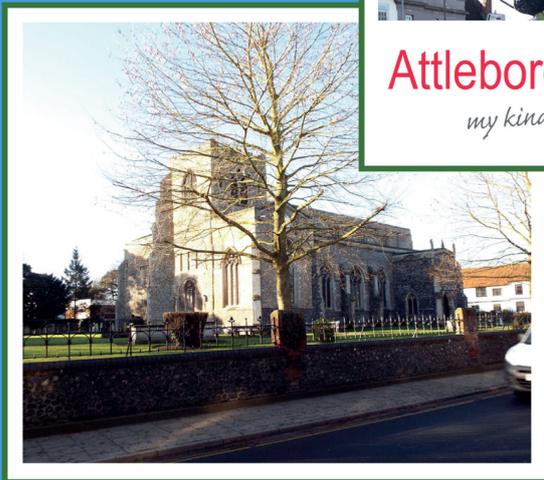
Attleborough

Neighbourhood Plan

2016 - 2036



Attleborough
my kind of town



**Sustainability Assessment & Strategic
Environmental Assessment Draft
Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Draft
Regulation 14**



**Sustainability Assessment &
Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Scoping Report
Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan Draft Regulation 14
July 2016**

**Part 1: SA
Part 2: SEA Scoping Report**

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Sustainability Assessment & SEA Scoping Report draft

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Throughout the document you will find reference to organisations, groups, policies and other documents. These will be identifiable as abbreviated in the following table:

AHG	Attleborough Heritage Group
ANP	Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan
ANPSG	Attleborough NP Steering Group
ATC	Attleborough Town Council
BC	Breckland Council
LGA	Local Government Association
NCC	Norfolk County Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SUE	Strategic Urban Extension



1. Introduction

1.1 This report forms the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Reg 14 Consultation Draft Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a development plan document used by Breckland District Council (SODC) and will cover a number of issues relating to the development of Attleborough in the future. One of the key functions will be for the Plan to allocate land, both for a new health care facility, and for a minimum of 8 hectares of employment land, as a green business and enterprise park.

1.2 The purpose of SA is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are considered throughout the plan making process and that the final Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan has considered all aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability in its production.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC) known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which applies to plans with significant environmental effects (SEA Regulations). Throughout this document where sustainability appraisal is referred to the requirements of SEA Directive have been incorporated.

2. Who are the consultation bodies?

2.1 Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 defines certain organisations with environmental responsibilities as consultation bodies. In England the environmental assessment consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. European directives, incorporated into UK law, may apply to a draft neighbourhood plan or Order. Where they do apply a qualifying body must make sure that it also complies with any specific publicity and consultation requirements set out in the relevant legislation. The local planning authority should provide advice on this.

The legislation that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood planning is:

- the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended)
- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)
- the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (as amended))



It may be appropriate, and in some cases a requirement, that the statutory environmental bodies English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England be consulted. For example, a draft neighbourhood plan proposal must be assessed to determine whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects. The environmental assessment consultation bodies must be consulted as part of this process.

List of consultees

- Anglian Water – www.anglianwater.co.uk
- Defra - <http://www.airquality.co.uk>
- Historic England – www.english-heritage.org.uk
- Environment Agency – www.environment-agency.gov.uk Local Authority
- Natural England – www.naturalengland.org.uk

3. What should the environmental report accompanying the draft neighbourhood plan cover?

3.1 Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 sets out the requirements of an environmental report, which is a core output of any strategic environmental assessment. An environmental report for the purpose of the regulations must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the neighbourhood plan policies and of the reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the neighbourhood plan. The environmental report must clearly show how these requirements have been met.

3.2 The environmental report must include a non-technical summary of the information within the main report. The summary should be prepared with a range of readers in mind, and provide a clear, accessible overview of the process and findings.



4. Non-Technical Summary

4.1 The Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan has been tested against the sustainability objectives – economic, social and environmental, used for assessing The Breckand Local Plan, so they are consistent. The sustainability objectives can be read in Appendix 1.

4.2 We test the Core Objectives of the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan against these objectives, and the Core Objectives are highly sustainable.

4.3 We then test each individual policy against the same sustainability objectives. The majority of the aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan also emerge as highly sustainable. Individual site policy can only be sustainable in their detail, which will depend on applicants following the policies in this Plan and in national policy.

4.4 We want an additional area of land allocated for future firms to locate in Attleborough, and existing firms to expand into. This is economically sustainable, socially sustainable as people can have local jobs, and environmentally sustainable as it will reduce commuting journey distances.

4.5 We suggest using land on London Road near the A11 so business traffic does not need to clog up the town roads. The site would be boosted with new landscape, hedges and trees, will have high quality design so it attracts high technology businesses to cluster, and will use the existing nearby pub and hotel facilities for social and business interaction.

4.6 Local businesses fully support the plan. The only comment from the Statutory Consultees to the Screening Opinion is to ask to confirm the size of the site so its impact can be measured. The Policy requests at least 10 hectares so jobs and homes can be in a broad balance, but the total site is some 17 hectares, allowing for very generous landscaping. In principle there appear to be no environmental reasons not to allocate this land provided the policies are applied to its development from a sustainability perspective.



5. The different stages in the SA process and how they relate to the stages in the Plan production

Stage A: Setting context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

A1 Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives

A2 Collecting baseline information

A3 Identifying sustainability issues and problems

A4 Developing the SA framework

A5 Consulting on the scope of the SA (the ‘Scoping Report’)

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

B1 Testing the NP objectives against the SA framework

B2 Developing the NP options

B3 predicting the effects of the draft NP

B4 Evaluating the effects of the draft NP

B5 considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

B6 Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the NP.

Stage C: Preparing the SA report

C1 Preparing the SA report (**this report**)

Stage D: Consulting on the draft NP and Sustainability Appraisal report

D1 Public participation on the SA report and the draft NP

D2 Making changes.



Part 1: The Sustainability Assessment of the draft Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan

6. Background

6.1 The framework of Sustainability Objectives used for the emerging Breckland Local Plan is used to test the compatibility of the ANP objectives in terms of sustainability. The Sustainability Objectives used for the emerging Breckland Local Plan have been used rather than starting afresh. These SA objectives have been through of a consultation process. They are set out in Appendix 1 of this document.

The framework is then also used to test the options for growth, site allocation and also to appraise the Plan as a whole. The framework is relevant for Attleborough.

6.2 The vision for the Attleborough Neighbourhood Plan is that Attleborough will strengthen itself as an enterprising, sustainable, attractive and prosperous Market Town within East Anglia.

It will be:

- A successful centre of a vibrant employment area
- New and expanding community facilities, schools and sports venues will be available
- New housing of mixed tenure and incorporating sustainable design and construction
- Movement and access through integrated safe and well designed walking cycling and public transport routes
- Environment and green spaces enhanced and protected, with new green spaces and habitats
- High quality design protecting the heritage, incorporating renewable energy and resources, and delivered through innovative partnership working

The vision will be delivered through a set of core objectives that have helped to shape and guide the policies within the Plan.



6.3 The core objectives are:

Movement & connections

- CO 1 To view the town as one development area, with strong links and connections to its hinterland and beyond.
- CO 5 To integrate the new housing to facilities into the town with the necessary footpath and cycle ways, and to address the outstanding traffic congestion in the town centre, to become an exemplar of sustainable transport within the region.

Working and shopping

- CO 3 To identify new employment land which can be developed and to encourage new industry to the town in order to provide a wide range of employment opportunities.
- CO 4 To promote the integration of businesses and Attleborough Academy Norfolk as partners in reducing the local employability skills gap.

Housing

- CO 6 To provide housing which meets the needs of all, with a range of housing including affordable, ‘older living’ developments and housing types which will encourage entrepreneurs and professional people to live in the community.

Health, Leisure and wellbeing

- CO 7 To provide excellent health and community facilities within the town, including a single integrated health and social care facility.
- CO 8 To provide excellent new and improved sport and leisure facilities for the community, working with Attleborough Academy Norfolk and sport and community clubs and organisations.

Design, Heritage & Environment

- CO 9 To promote all new buildings to incorporate the highest standards of design, new build methodology, materials and energy saving techniques.
- CO 10 To protect and enhance the natural environment, including additional high quality open space.
- CO 11 To promote and enhance the offer of the town to investors, developers and visitors by building on its heritage and attractions.



6.4 As part of the SA process the core objectives of the Plan were tested against the framework of Sustainability Objectives used for the emerging Breckland Local Plan to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are imbedded from the beginning of the project.

Objective 7 Protect, conserve, enhance and expand biodiversity and promote and conserve geodiversity - objectives neutral/ negative outweigh positive, but the way to implement a policy to conserve geodiversity in the context of this site needs more explanation from Breckland Council. Could be examined as one of the guiding principles on treating landform where roads and foundations penetrate land?

All ANP approved development will include an opportunity to improve biodiversity through policy in the ANP under Objective CO10 and in the BC emerging LP.

Objective 12 Reduce and prevent crime – this would be implemented through the policy under design objective CO9, as well as through BC development policy to design out crime, working with local police who know the area.

6.5 Sustainability Appraisal of Core Objectives using same SEA/SA Topic headings as for the emerging Local Plan Policies for Breckland Table on next page.

Key to assessment tables

Green: positive impact

Amber: These impacts are a type that could go either way depending on site design and would be addressed in the design of proposals, to minimise adverse impacts and to mitigate them.

Red: negative irreversible land loss unavoidable as some greenfield land is required for development