# Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement

To accompany the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan submission version, for examination

January 2025

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#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 When submitting a Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Authority (in this case South Norfolk Council), it is a requirement that the Plan be accompanied by a number of supporting documents. One of these is commonly referred to as the 'Basic Conditions Statement.' Only a Neighbourhood Plan that meets each of the basic conditions can be put to referendum and if successful, be used to assist in the determination of planning applications.
- 1.2 This Basic Conditions Statement is prepared for use by South Norfolk Council and the Independent Planning Examiner, to assist in making this assessment about the basic conditions.

# 2 Legal requirements

**Legal Requirements:** The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan is compliant with The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 38A (1) & (2) and 38B (a)-(c) (as amended).

**Qualifying Body:** The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body – Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish Council. Dickleburgh and Rushall Town Council was confirmed as a qualifying body by South Norfolk Council on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017, when the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan: The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan is a neighbourhood development plan. It relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

**The time period covered:** The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan states the time-period for which it is to have effect (from 2023-2042) a period of 19 years.

**Excluded Development:** The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan policies do not relate to excluded development. The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan does not deal with County Matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**Area of the Neighbourhood Plan:** The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to the Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish Council's

Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other Neighbourhood Plans in place relating to that Neighbourhood Area.

#### 3 Basic Conditions

- 3.1 Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraph 102 (1) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023) sets out a series of requirements that Neighbourhood Plans must meet. These 'basic conditions' are set out below:
- 3.2 A draft Plan meets the basic conditions if:
  - (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the plan (see Section 4 below).
  - (b) Having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order (applies in relation to a Listed Building only) insofar as the order grants planning permission for development that affects the building or its setting (not applicable in respect of the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan).
  - (c) Having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area it is appropriate to make the order (applies in relation to Conservation Areas only) insofar as the order grants planning permission for development in relation to buildings or land in the area (not applicable in respect of Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan).
  - (d) The making of the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development (see Section 5 below).
  - (e) The making of the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area). (see Section 4 below).

Note: The Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023, introduces a replacement Basic Condition to replace (e) above as follows, which is yet to be formally enacted but nevertheless has been considered by this statement:

e) (a) the making of the order/Plan would not have the effect of preventing development from taking place which

- (i) is proposed in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area), and
- (ii) if it took place, would provide housing
- (f) The making of the Plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations (see Section 6 below) and,
- (g) Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with, in connection with the proposal for the plan (see Section 7 below).
- 3.3 Where applicable each of these basic conditions is addressed in the following sections. For clarification it should be noted that b) and c) above are not applicable to the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan and refer to 'Neighbourhood Orders' only.

## 4 Compliance with Basic Conditions (a) and (e)

- 4.1 The following tables provide an appraisal of the extent to which the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policy and is in general conformity with strategic local policy.
- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Plan policies were drafted to be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework published in July 2021 and in December 2023. Table A below assesses the degree of regard that the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan policies have had to NPPF 2024 (Column B).
- 4.3 The adopted Development Plan for Dickleburgh and Rushall comprises a number of documents. The Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was adopted in 2014 and its plan period extends to 2026. This was subsequently superseded by the policies in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) which was adopted in March 2024.
- 4.4. In addition, South Norfolk Council has an adopted Development Management Policies Document (DMPD 2015) and a Site-Specific Allocations and Policies Document (SSAPD 2015).
- 4.5 Therefore the Policies contained within the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed for their conformity against the existing Development Plan the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) (Column C), the South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (Column D), the South Norfolk Site-Specific Allocations and Policies Document (Column E).

- 4.6 During the production of the Neighbourhood Plan, other policies for the area were under-going revision. South Norfolk has produced site specific policies affecting villages in the District; the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan (SNVCHAP) is still emerging with consultation undertaken in 2021 and 2023. The VCHAP is a Local Plan document which, once adopted, will become part of the Development Plan for South Norfolk. The plan will identify sites for housing in South Norfolk's villages and will allocate sites for the majority of the 'at least 1,200 new homes' that are to be delivered in the district's village clusters by 2038. The remaining sites are being allocated through the Neighbourhood Plans for Diss and District and Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan. South Norfolk Council carried out a consultation on alternative sites and focused changes, in relation to the emerging Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan (VCHAP) which ended in February 2024, the next consultation is expected in July-August 2024. However, because the VCHAP specifically excludes Dickleburgh and Rushall, the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan have not been assessed against the emerging policies in the VCHAP.
- 4.7 In summary, it is the view of the Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish Council (as the relevant Qualifying Body) that the appraisal demonstrates that the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan has had appropriate regard to and is in general conformity with, both national and strategic policy.

# Adopted Policy Documents – Table A

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR1: Heritage	This policy reflects NPPF paragraphs 207, 210 and 216, which outline the approach and weight that should be given to designated and non-designated heritage assets in determining planning applications.  Policy DR1 identifies the historic core of the settlement and sets out the criteria that should be taken into account for determining applications which would affect that area.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 3 – Environmental Protection and Enhancement, which requires development proposals to enhance the built and historic environment through avoiding harm to designated and nondesignated heritage assets and historic character including their setting unless taking into account their level of significance.	This policy is in conformity with Policy DM 4.10 of the DMPD – Heritage Assets, which ensures that new development must have appropriate regard to the significance and setting of heritage assets including Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	This policy is consistent with Section 5 Service Centres of the SSAPD. The text supporting the Dickleburgh and Rushall section provides a description of Dickleburgh and Rushall in terms of form, character, availability of services and the rationale for the 'Development boundary.'

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	Greater Norwich Local	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR2:	This policy is consistent with	This policy is consistent	There is no specific	The SSAPD does not
Archaeology	NPPF paragraph 205 which	with GNLP Policy 3 –	equivalent or	contain an
	reinforces the benefit of up to	Environmental	corresponding policy in	equivalent or
	date evidence about the	Protection and	the Adopted DMPD.	corresponding
	historic environment including	Enhancement, which		policy.
	unidentified heritage assets of	requires development		
	archaeological interest which	proposals to enhance		
	could be discovered in the	the built and historic		
	future.	environment through		
		avoiding harm to		
	Policy DR2 seeks to ensure that	designated and non-		
	any findings of archaeological	designated heritage		
	importance are	assets and historic		
	registered/recorded.	character including		
		their setting unless		
		taking into account their		
		level of significance.		

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	Greater Norwich Local	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR3: Views	This policy reflects NPPF	This policy is consistent	This policy is consistent	This policy is
and vistas	paragraph 187 b) which	with GNLP Policy 3 –	with Policy DM 4.5 of	consistent with
	recognises the intrinsic	Environmental	the DMPD which	Section 5 Service
	character and beauty of the	Protection and	requires that	Centres of the
	countryside.	Enhancement, which	development should	SSAPD. The text
		requires 'development	respect, conserve and	supporting the
	The policy identifies five	proposals to enhance	where possible,	Dickleburgh and
	important views that it is	the natural environment	enhance the landscape	Rushall section
	considered should be	whilst avoiding harm to	character of its	provides a
	protected from development	designated and non-	immediate and wider	description of
	that would have an adverse	designated assets of	environment.	Dickleburgh and
	impact upon the identified	the natural	Development proposals	Rushall in terms of
	view. Justification for the	environment.	that would cause	form character,
	identified views is included in		significant adverse	availability of
	the supporting text to the	Policy DR3 identifies	impact on the	services and the
	policy.	five important views	distinctive landscape	rationale for the
		that it is considered	characteristics of an	'Development
		should be protected	area will be refused.	boundary.'
		from development that		-
		would have an adverse		
		impact upon the		
		identified view.		

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	<b>Greater Norwich Local</b>	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	<b>Policies Document</b>
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR4:	This policy is consistent with	This policy is locally	This policy is consistent	This policy is
Settlement Gaps	paragraph 187 a) of the	specific and there is no	with Policy DM 4.5 of	consistent with
	framework which advocates	corresponding GNLP	the DMPD which	Section 5 Service
	'protecting and enhancing	policy.	requires that	Centres of the
	valued landscapes' and NPPF		development should	SSAPD. The text
	paragraph 180 b) which		respect, conserve and	supporting the
	recognises the intrinsic		where possible,	Dickleburgh and
	character and beauty of the		enhance the landscape	Rushall section
	countryside'.		character of its	provides a
			immediate and wider	description of
	The policy is also consistent		environment.	Dickleburgh and
	with NPPF paragraph 84 which		Development proposals	Rushall in terms of
	seeks to avoid the		that would cause	form character,
	development of isolated new		significant adverse	availability of
	homes within the countryside		impact on the	services and the
	unless specific circumstances		distinctive landscape	rationale for the
	apply.		characteristics of an	'Development
			area will be refused.	boundary.'
	Policy DR recognises the			
	importance and value of the			
	strategic gap in development			
	between Dickleburgh and			
	Dickleburgh Moor, and			
	Dickleburgh and Langmere.			

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR5: Local Gaps	This policy is consistent with NPPF paragraph 135 c) which refers to the importance of ensuring that developments are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting.  Policy DR5 identifies three small scale gaps within the main built up area which make a specific contribution to the character of the area and seeks to prevent development which would adversely affect this character.	This policy is locally specific and there is no corresponding GNLP policy.	There is no specific equivalent or corresponding policy in the Adopted DMPD.	This policy is consistent with Section 5 Service Centres of the SSAPD. The text supporting the Dickleburgh and Rushall section provides a description of Dickleburgh and Rushall in terms of form character, availability of services and the rationale for the 'Development boundary.'

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR6: Heritage ditches, hedges and verges	This policy is consistent with NPPF paragraph 202, which identifies heritage sites as including sites and buildings of local historic value and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.  Policy DR6 identifies a number of ditches, hedges and verges identified on the 1843 map of Dickleburgh and Rushall, which still exist today and are recognised as locally important in terms of their heritage and biodiversity value.	This policy is locally specific and there is no corresponding GNLP policy.	This policy is consistent with Policy 4.8 of the DMPD which promotes the retention and conservation of significant biodiversity features including trees and hedgerows	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR7: Design	This policy reflects NPPF Section 12 which indicates that the creation of high quality, sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to planning.  Policy DR7 is supported by a specific Housing Design and Character Guide which is consistent with the emphasis in NPPF paragraphs 132 and 133. The policy seeks to ensure that all new development should reflect the parish's local distinctiveness and character and seek to enhance its quality.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 2 – Sustainable Communities, which requires new development to create beautiful, well designed places, which respect the character of the local area and seek to enhance it through appropriate design.  Policy DR7 is informed by the specific Housing Design and Character Guide.	This policy is consistent with Policy DM 1.4 of the DMPD which seeks to promote high quality design and local distinctiveness and Policy DM 3.8 which sets out the deign principles that all development is subject to.	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

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The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	Greater Norwich Local	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR8: Local	This policy reflects NPPF para	This policy is consistent	This policy is consistent	The SSAPD does not
Housing Need	63, which advises that planning	with GNLP Policy 5 –	with Policy DM 3.1 and	contain an
	policies should reflect the	Homes, which requires	3.2 of the DMPD which	equivalent or
	needs of "those who require	proposals for housing to	seek to ensure that new	corresponding
	affordable housing, families	contribute to a variety of	housing should	policy.
	with children, older people	homes in terms of	contribute to a range of	
	(including those who require	tenure and cost. New	dwelling types and	
	retirement housing, housing	homes should provide	meet the needs of	
	with care and care homes)	for a good quality of life	different households	
	students, people with	in mixed and inclusive	including Affordable	
	disabilities, service families,	communities and major	Housing.	
	travellers, people, who rent	development proposals		
	their homes and people	should provide		
	wishing to commission or build	adaptable homes to		
	their own homes".	meet varied and		
		changing needs. The		
	Policy DR8 supports a range	GNLP policy provides		
	and mix of housing types	for a range of types of		
	including housing suitable for	housing including		
	older people and those with	affordable housing,		
	disabilities, including	specialist housing and		
	Bungalows, homes built to	self and custom build.		
	accessibility standards,			
	smaller homes, starter homes,			

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Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR8	Affordable Housing and	Policy DR8 also		
(continued)	custom build properties.	provides for a range of		
		house types and		
		tenures and is based on		
		community preferences		
		stated through		
		consultation.		
Policy DR9: Valued	This policy is consistent with	There is no specific	This policy is consistent	The SSAPD does not
<b>Community Assets</b>	the criteria set out in	GNLP policy that refers	with Policy 3.16 of the	contain an
	paragraph 98 which requires	to the protection of	DMPD which seeks to	equivalent or
	planning policies to plan to	existing community	protect existing	corresponding
	provide the social, recreational	facilities. Policy 4 of the	community facilities	policy.
	and cultural facilities and	GNLP – Strategic	through a criteria-based	
	services that the community	Infrastructure,	policy. The criteria	
	needs. In addition, planning	emphasises the need to	relate to viability,	
	policies should aim to "guard	support the timely	alternative provision	
	against the unnecessary loss of	delivery of	and consistency with	
	valued facilities and services,	infrastructure to	community led plans in	
	particularly where this would	support growth and	the area.	
	reduce the community's ability	Policy 2 Sustainable		
	to meet its day-to-day needs.	Communities promotes		
		an inclusive, resilient		
	Policy DR9 seeks to ensure that	and safe community		
	the existing community	through the provision of		

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Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	<b>Policies Document</b>
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR9	infrastructure in the parish is	facilities and services	See above	See above.
(continued)	retained and aims to resist the	commensurate with the		
	loss of community facilities	scale and type of the		
	unless it can be demonstrated	development; and the		
	that the need for the facility no	design and layout of		
	longer exists, is no longer	development.		
	viable or suitable alternative			
	provision exists elsewhere.			
Policy DR10: Parking	This policy is consistent with	This policy is consistent	This policy is consistent	The SSAPD does not
for the building of	NPPF paragraph 112 which	with GNLP Policy 2	with DM Policy 3.12	contain an
new houses or	sets out guidance for the	Sustainable	which ensures that	equivalent or
conversions	setting of local parking	Communities which	development should	corresponding
	standards for residential and	ensure safe, and	provide sufficient	policy.
	non-residential development.	convenient and	parking to avoid	
	Considerations should include	sustainable access for	highway safety	
	the type, mix and use of the	all, including by non-car	problems and to	
	development, the accessibility	modes, to on-site and	protect living and	
	of the development and the	local services and	working conditions	
	availability of public transport.	facilities including such	locally. In decision	
		as schools, health care,	making, consideration	
	Policy DR10 sets out standards	shops, recreation/	will be given to local	
	for parking in new	leisure/community/faith	parking / highway	
	developments based on size of	facilities and libraries;	conditions.	

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Policy DR10 (continued)	dwelling. Where new parking is required, the policy sets out criteria for designing attractive parking areas.	encourage walking, cycling and public transport through the layout of development; and integrate parking to avoid it dominating the streetscape or being a hazard.	See above	See above
Policy DR11: Water harvesting	There is no corresponding reference in the NPPF to the matters covered by this policy.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 2, which supports efficient water management and requires new housing development to meet Building Regulations water efficiency higher optional standard; and Non-housing development to meet the BREEAM "Very Good" water efficiency standard, or any equivalent successor.	The DMPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

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Policy DR12: Flooding and surface water drainage issues	This policy reflects NPPF paragraph 170 which encourages development to be directed away from areas of flood risk and should not increase flood risk elsewhere.  Policy DR12 contains specific support for the inclusion of SUDs within new developments to protect against flooding and pollution and also to provide biodiversity benefits.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 2 – Sustainable Communities, which seeks avoid locating inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding by applying the sequential and exceptions tests and ensuring that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Sustainable drainage systems should be incorporated unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate.	This policy is consistent with Policy 4.2 of the DMPD which seeks to ensure that sustainable drainage measures are fully integrated within design to manage any surface water arising from development proposals, and to minimise the risk of flooding on the development site and in the surrounding area.	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

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The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	Greater Norwich Local	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR13: Cordon	There is no corresponding	This is a locally specific	There is no specific	The SSAPD does not
Sanitaire	reference in the NPPF to the	policy and there is no	equivalent or	contain an
	matters covered by this policy.	equivalent in the GNLP.	corresponding policy in	equivalent or
			the Adopted DMPD.	corresponding
				policy.
Policy DR14: Carbon	This policy is consistent with	This policy is consistent	There is no specific	The SSAPD does not
offsetting for new	NPPF paragraph 165 which	with GNLP Policy 2 –	equivalent or	contain an
builds	requires plans to provide a	Sustainable	corresponding policy in	equivalent or
	positive strategy for energy	Communities, which	the Adopted DMPD.	corresponding
	from renewable and low	seeks to minimise		policy.
	carbon sources.	energy demand through		
		the design and		
	Policy DR14 provides support	orientation of		
	for the parish to move towards	development and		
	becoming a low carbon	maximise the use of		
	community and encourages	sustainable energy,		
	the inclusion of climate change	local energy networks		
	mitigation measures within	and battery storage to		
	new builds.	assist growth delivery.		
		This includes new		
		development to provide		
		a 19% reduction against		
		Part L of the 2013		
		Building Regulations		

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Poicy DR14 (continued)	See above	(amended 2016); and appropriate non-housing development of 500 square metres or above will meet the BREEAM "Very Good" energy efficiency standard, or any equivalent successor; except where a lower provision is justified because the requirement would make the development unviable.	See above	See above
Policy DR15: Local traffic Generation	This policy is consistent with NPPF para 116 which states that development should only be prevented on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 2 Sustainable Communities which ensure safe, and convenient and sustainable access for all, including by non-car modes, to on-site and	This policy is consistent with DM Policy 3.11, Road Safety and the free flow of traffic which seeks to ensure that new development will not be permitted that endangers highway safety or the	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

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Policy DR15 (continued)	Policy DR15 requires proposals over 3 dwellings and/or commercial development to quantify the level of traffic movement they are likely to generate and its cumulative effect on the traffic flow within the parish.  Mitigation measures should be put in place where there may be a detrimental impact on road safety, pedestrian movement, cycle safety, horse riders, parking and traffic flow.	local services and facilities including such as schools, health care, shops, recreation/ leisure/community/faith facilities and libraries; encourage walking, cycling and public transport through the layout of development; and integrate parking to avoid it dominating the streetscape or being a hazard.	satisfactory functioning of the highway network	See above.
Policy DR16: walking, cycling and horse-riding	This policy is consistent with paragraph 96 (c) of the NPPF which supports healthy lifestyles through encouraging walking and cycling and paragraph 108 (c) which promotes walking and cycling as a preferred transport option.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 2 Sustainable Communities which ensure safe, and convenient and sustainable access for all, including by non-car	This policy is consistent with Adopted DMPD Policy DM 3.10 Promotion of sustainable transport which requires that all development should	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

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Policy DR16 (continued)	Policy DR16 encourages the creation of new connections for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and encourages the use of other transport methods as alternatives to the private car.	modes, to on-site and local services and facilities including such as schools, health care, shops, recreation/ leisure/community/faith facilities and libraries; encourage walking, cycling and public transport through the layout of development; and integrate parking to avoid it dominating the streetscape or being a hazard.	support sustainable transport and development objectives, utilise all opportunities to integrate with local sustainable transport networks, be designed to reduce the need to travel and to maximise the use of sustainable forms of transport appropriate to the location.	See above
Policy DR17: Green corridors	This policy is consistent with paragraph 187 (d) of the NPPF which requires planning policies to minimise impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity. In addition, paragraph 192 (b) of the NPPF refers to the pursuit of	This policy is broadly consistent with Policy 2 Sustainable Communities which seeks to create and contribute to multifunctional green infrastructure links,	This policy is consistent with Policy 4.8 of the DMPD which promotes the retention and conservation of significant biodiversity features including trees and hedgerows.	The SSAPD does not contain an equivalent or corresponding policy.

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR17 (continued)	opportunities for measurable biodiversity net gains.  Policy DR17 provides support for biodiversity net gain in new developments including the creation of new ditches and hedges, protection of existing natural features, and improving connections for wildlife.	whether provided onsite or off-site, including through landscaping, street trees and other tree planting, to make best use of site characteristics and integrate into the surroundings, having regard to relevant taking account of local green infrastructure strategies and delivery plans.  This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 3 – Environmental Protection and enhancement which requires development proposals to enhance the natural environment whilst avoiding harm to designated and non-	See above	See above

Column A The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Column E South Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document 2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR17 (continued)	See above	designated assets of the natural environment. In addition, development will deliver net biodiversity gain through the provision of on-site or off-site natural features, creating new or enhancing existing green infrastructure networks that have regard to and help to achieve the local green infrastructure strategies. It should be demonstrated that the gain to biodiversity is a significant enhancement (at least a 10% gain) compared to the existing situation.	See above	See above

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E
The Dickleburgh and	National Planning Policy	<b>Greater Norwich Local</b>	South Norfolk	South Norfolk Site
Rushall	Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Development	Specific
Neighbourhood			Management Policies	Allocations and
Development			2015 (DMPD)	Policies Document
Plan Policy				2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR18: Local	This policy reflects NPPF paras	There is no specific	The DMPD contains	The SSAPD does not
Green Spaces	107-109 which advocates "The	GNLP policy that refers	Policy 4.4 which relates	contain an
	designation of land as Local	to local green spaces.	to locally important	equivalent or
	Green Space through local and		open spaces. The policy	corresponding
	neighbourhood plans allows		makes reference to a	policy.
	communities to identify and		number of specific	
	protect green areas of		spaces, however none	
	particular importance to		of these are within this	
	them".		Neighbourhood Plan	
			area.	
	Policy DR18 proposes seven			
	spaces proposed for protection			
	and identification as LGS.			
Policy DR19: Dark	This policy is consistent with	There is no equivalent	This policy is consistent	The SSAPD does not
Skies	NPPF paragraph 196 c) which	or corresponding policy	with DMPD Policy 3.13:	contain an
	refers to the desire to limit the	relating to light pollution	Amenity, noise and	equivalent or
	impact of light pollution from	of dark skies in the	quality of life which	corresponding
	artificial light on local amenity,	GNLP.	seeks to protect	policy.
	intrinsically dark landscapes,		residential amenity	
	and nature conservation.		against light pollution.	
	Policy DR19 seeks to limit the			
	impact of lighting from new			
	development on dark skies.			

Column A  The Dickleburgh and Rushall	Column B National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)	Column C Greater Norwich Local Plan 2024 (GNLP)	Column D South Norfolk Development	Column E  South Norfolk Site  Specific
Neighbourhood Development	Trainework 2024 (NFFF)	1 (0112024 (01421)	Management Policies 2015 (DMPD)	Allocations and Policies Document
Plan Policy			,	2015 (SSAPD)
Policy DR20: Allocation	This policy is consistent with NPPF paragraph 98 which indicates that Neighbourhood Plans can allocate sites and para 30 which states that Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than that set out in the strategic policies for the area.  The Neighbourhood Plan makes an allocation for 25 dwellings which is consistent with the adopted strategic policies for the parish.	This policy is consistent with GNLP Policy 1 which sets out the settlement hierarchy and indicates that further allocations will be made in the rural areas of South Norfolk.	This policy is consistent with Adopted DMPD Policy 1.3 which identifies the sustainable locations of new development. The policy requires that new development be located on Allocated Sites or within the development boundaries of Settlements of a scale proportionate to the level of growth planned in that location, and the role and function of the Settlement within which it is located, as	The SSAPD contains Policy DIC1 which allocates land for 20 dwellings north of Langmere Road and east of Limmer Avenue. This development is now complete.
			defined in the Local Plan.	

# Compliance with new Basic Condition e) a) i) and ii)

- 4.8 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act introduced a replacement Basic Condition:
  - e) a) the making of the order/Plan would not have the effect of preventing development from taking place which
  - (i) is proposed in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area), and
  - (ii) if it took place, would provide housing.
- 4.9 Under Policy 15 of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), Dickleburgh was identified as Service Village. The policy indicated that in each Service Village land will be allocated for small-scale housing development subject to form and character considerations. Small scale employment or service development appropriate to the scale and needs of the village and its immediate surroundings will be encouraged. Existing local shops and services will be protected. The South Norfolk Site Specifics Plan (SSAPDPD) made provision for 20 dwellings in the form of a housing allocation (Site DIC1) at Land north of Langmere Road and east of Limmer Avenue. This site has now been constructed.
- 4.10 The Adopted Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP), does not make specific recommendations in respect of Dickleburgh, but instead identifies that a separate Village Clusters Housing Allocation Plan (for South Norfolk )will be produced which will address the distribution of the approximately 1200 new homes planned for the South Norfolk rural villages. However, the VCHAP specifically excludes Dickleburgh and Rushall on the basis that the Neighbourhood Plan would address the need for a new housing site in the neighbourhood area. The Submission Version of the Neighbourhood Plan fulfils this expectation by including an allocation on a site of 5.33 hectares at land east of Chapel Farm for 25 new homes. The site was submitted during the Call for Sites process for the production of the GNLP and is known as GNLP0516.
- 4.11 In order to be compliant with the new Basic Condition, the policies of the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan should not prevent any allocations in the GNLP from coming forward. As outlined above the Neighbourhood Plan makes provision for 25 new dwellings, consistent with the expectations in the strategic policies contained in the GNLP. The Neighbourhood Plan therefore complies with this revised Basic Condition.

# 5. Compliance with Basic Condition d)

- 5.1 The NPPF 2023 states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. 

  The appraisal of the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan policies against NPPF policies presented above, demonstrates how polices in the Neighbourhood Plan comply with the NPPF and therefore deliver sustainable development.
- 5.2. The NPPF states that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives).

#### Economic, social, and environmental objectives

- 5.3 These objectives give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles as defined by the NPPF and set out below.
- 5.4 The objectives and policies contained within the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan contribute towards each of these three objectives and cumulatively contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. How they achieve this is summarised below. Unsurprisingly, there is a degree of crossover between policies and many contribute to more than one of the sustainable development objectives e.g. **DR7 Design** which contributes to both social and environmental objectives.
- 5.5 The plan has been formulated with Sustainable Development at its heart. The embedded theme of sustainability is reflected in the overarching vision for the plan, which reflects the three distinct strands of sustainability economic, environmental, and social.

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 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### Vision

#### **Vision statement**

The parish of Dickleburgh and Rushall will continue to be a vibrant rural parish with a strong sense of community with residents that feel valued.

The unique and historic landscape will be preserved. Development will be well designed to integrate with the existing housing and shall enhance and harmonise with the character of the parish, while protecting its local heritage, natural environment and rural nature.

Dickleburgh and Rushall will remain a caring and safe community in which the quality of life for current and future generations will flourish.

5.6 This table below helps to demonstrate the Plan's comprehensive contribution to sustainable development.

NPPF Sustainable	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall
Development	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
NPPF 2024	Housing:
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	Objective 1: To provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality housing in small-scale developments to meet local needs within a balanced housing market. <u>Transport</u> :
places, and at the right time to support growth, innovation, and improved productivity; and by	<b>Objective 4:</b> To future proof the housing infrastructure to support environmentally friendly transport.
identifying and co-ordinating the provision of infrastructure.	Policy DR9: Valued community assets. This policy identifies the existing community infrastructure in the parish and seeks to protect it from development that would result in its loss.
	Policy DR13: Cordon sanitaire. This policy identifies a cordon sanitaire of 400m around the existing sewage works within which new development cannot take place in order to protect the amenity of residents but also to enable the safe operation and maintenance of sewage infrastructure.
	<b>Policy DR15: Local traffic generation.</b> This policy seeks to ensure that where new development over 3 dwellings is permitted, that any necessary mitigatory
	and the political and any moderation of the garding

NPPF Sustainable Development	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
An economic objective (continued)	measures required to address additional traffic generation are put in place.  Policy DR20: Housing allocation. This policy allocates a site for 25 new dwellings in the Neighbourhood Area.
NPPF 2024 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 well-designed, beautiful, and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and	Housing: Objective 1: To provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality housing in small-scale developments to meet local needs within a balanced housing market.  Transport: Objective 1: Address the issue of significant numbers of lorries and HGVs travelling through areas of the parish judged to be hazardous and perilous to both pedestrians and the environment  Objective 2: Improve the safety of pedestrians and residents of the Parish.  Objective 3: Reduce traffic congestion in the Parish.  Environmental and Biodiversity Objective 2: To Protect and promote an increase of green footpaths, bridleways and cycleways to further enable public access to open countryside, green sites for community use and woodlands, including any new parish woodlands. And protect and enhance vistas and views of significance within the parish.  Policy DR1: Heritage. This policy seeks to conserve the historic assets of the parish, including listed and unlisted buildings and the conservation area. It sets out specific area of specific in the historic core of the settlement.  Policy DR2: Archaeology. As a consequence of the significant archaeological find in the parish, this policy requires proposals for new development to preserve any findings of archaeological importance and have them registered.

NPPF Sustainable Development	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
A social objective: (Continued)	Policy DR7: Design. This policy seeks to ensure that the design of all new development in Dickleburgh and Rushall parish should reflect the rural nature and add to the beautification of the locality. The policy is supported by the Housing Design and Character Guide.
	<b>Policy DR8: Local housing need.</b> This policy seeks to ensure that proposals for 10 new dwellings or more should provide for a range and mix of all housing sizes, in order to meet the needs of the parish.
	<b>Policy DR9: Valued community assets.</b> This policy identifies the existing community infrastructure in the parish and seeks to protect it from development that would result in its loss.
	Policy DR10: Parking for the building of new houses or conversions. This policy sets out the required number of parking spaces to be provided with different sizes of dwellings, encourages layouts to be designed for all forms of parking and supports the provision of electric charging points.
	Policy DR12: Flooding and surface water drainage issues. This policy seeks to ensure that new development does not exacerbate existing or create new drainage of localised flooding issues. It supports the use of sustainable drainage systems.
	Policy DR13: Cordon sanitaire. This policy identifies a cordon sanitaire of 400m around the existing sewage works within which new development cannot take place in order to protect the amenity of residents but also to enable the safe operation and maintenance of the sewage works.
	Policy DR14: carbon offsetting for new builds. This policy encourages developers to undertake certain climate change mitigation measures to work towards a low carbon community.

NPPF Sustainable	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall
Development	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
A social objective: (continued)	Policy DR16: Walking, cycling and horse riding. This policy encourages new developments to plan for the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders win their layouts and encourages new connections between development and the rest of the parish including community facilities and to link to neighbouring parishes.
	Policy DR18: Local Green Spaces. This policy identifies 7 proposed local green spaces for special protection due to their value to the community.
	Policy DR19: Dark skies. This policy encourages development proposals to take account of the parish's existing dark skies and seek to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light.
	Policy DR20: Housing Allocation. This policy allocates a site for 25 new dwellings which will add to the mix of housing available in the community. The allocation provides for starter homes, affordable housing, custom built homes and lifetimes homes.
NPPF 2024 An environmental role: to protect and enhance our natural, built, and historic	Housing Objective 2: To provide mixed-use development that complements the character and heritage of the rural villages of Dickleburgh and Rushall.
environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.	Transport: <b>Objective 4:</b> To future proof the housing infrastructure to support environmentally friendly transport.
	Environmental and Biodiversity  Objective 1: To put in place measures and policies that; ensure the protection and enhancement of all our natural habitats, including hedgerows, coppices, ditches and key natural environmental assets, in order to encourage an increase in biodiversity across the Parish and provide environments conducive to maintaining healthy populations of birds, bats and other fauna
	<b>Objective 2:</b> To Protect and promote an increase of green footpaths, bridleways and cycleways to

NPPF Sustainable	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall
Development	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
An environmental role: (continued)	further enable public access to open countryside, green sites for community use and woodlands, including any new Parish Woodlands. And protect and enhance vistas and views of significance within the Parish.
	<b>Objective 3:</b> To ensure the maintenance of distinct settlements and define clear settlement gaps to ensure the continuance of these distinct and separate settlements.
	Objective 4: To challenge environmental risk and promote carbon offsetting by supporting creative thinking and solutions that safeguard and enhance the natural environment. To promote, within the design/build of new developments, features such as; permeable driveways/hard standing, provision of green energy, green walls, green roofing, water harvesting and full utilisation of grey water solutions.
	Objective 5: Establish clean environment policies to address issues of pollution and promote well-being, and improved public health. This will include a 'beautification' policy as part of the approach to promote well-being by improving the overall visual enhancement and character of the Parish.
	<b>Policy DR3: Views and vistas.</b> This policy identifies 5 important local views, within which development should take account of the importance of that view.
	<b>Policy DR4: Settlement gaps.</b> This policy seeks to maintain the distinct settlements within the parish and identifies two specific settlement gaps which should be maintained.
	Policy DR5: Local gaps. This policy identifies a small number of local gaps between buildings which should remain undeveloped due to the contribution they make to eh overall character of the area.
	Policy DR6: Heritage ditches, hedges and verges. This policy identifies a number of heritage ditches,

NPPF Sustainable	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall
Development	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
	hedges and verges which are recognised locally for their heritage or biodiversity value.
	Policy DR7 Design. This policy seeks to ensure that the design of all new development in Dickleburgh and Rushall parish should reflect the rural nature and add to the beautification of the locality. The policy is supported by the Housing Design and Character Guide.
	<b>Policy DR11: Water harvesting.</b> This policy encourages the use of onsite grey water harvesting in new developments.
	Policy DR12: Flooding and surface water drainage issues. This policy seeks to ensure that new development does not exacerbate existing or create new drainage of localised flooding issues. It supports the use of sustainable drainage systems for biodiversity and water quality purposes.
	Policy DR14: Carbon offsetting for new builds. This policy encourages developers to undertake certain climate change mitigation measures to work towards a low carbon community.
	Policy DR16: Walking, cycling and horse riding. This policy encourages new developments to plan for the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders win their layouts and encourages new connections between development and the rest of the parish including community facilities and to link to neighbouring parishes.
	Policy DR17: Green corridors and biodiversity net gain. This policy identifies a number of existing green corridors which should be retained and enhanced. The policy also requires a 10% net gain in biodiversity from new developments and provides guidance on how that might be achieved.
	Policy DR18: Local Green Spaces. This policy identifies 7 proposed local green spaces for special protection due to their value to the community.

NPPF Sustainable Development	Contribution through The Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies
	Policy DR19: Dark skies. This policy encourages development proposals to take account of the
	parish's existing dark skies and seek to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light.

#### 6 Compatibility with Basic Condition f)

- 6.1 The statement below demonstrates how the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach and is compatible with all relevant EU obligations. The United Kingdom formally left the European Union on the 31<sup>st of</sup> January 2020, which was followed by an 11-month transition period that expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Basic Condition (f) of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012 requires that the making of a Neighbourhood Plan should not breach nor be incompatible with European Obligations. These include those relating to environmental matters such as Habitats and Species.
- 6.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) are required to be carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of any European Protected Wildlife Sites deemed to be within a relative proximity of the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan Area. There are no internationally or nationally designated sites within the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Area, however the majority of the Dickleburgh and Rushall parish and the nearest designated site Gawdyhall Big Wood Harleston SSSI is 3.6 kilometres away from the boundary of the neighbourhood area. Whilst IRZs for this SSSI, and others within the vicinity of the neighbourhood area, intersect the neighbourhood area, these only impact residential/ rural residential development of 50 units or more, which exceeds the 25 homes that the D&RNP are required to deliver over the plan period.
- 6.3 South Norfolk District Council recommends that the Screening processes in respect of both SEA and HRA be undertaken just prior to Pre-Submission stage. Screening Assessments were carried out by South Norfolk Council during November /December 2021 when the three Environmental Bodies were consulted.
- 6.4 The key question in the SEA screening process for the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan was whether the plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The relevant steps for determining this are set out in

Annex II of the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup>. As a result of the findings of the screening process it was that the Dickleburgh and Rushall Neighbourhood Plan would require full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) based largely on the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan was making a specific allocation for 25 dwellings, that was not included within the SEA scope of any other adopted planning documents.

- 6.5 Consultants AECOM were commissioned to undertake the SEA and produce the Environmental Report. The SEA was completed in January 2023 and informed the Pre-Submission Consultation which took place between March and May 2023. The SEA conclusions were as follows:
  - "Significant positive effects are only anticipated for the community wellbeing SEA topic. This is because the spatial strategy exceeds the identified local housing need, locating development close to existing services and facilities in Dickleburgh Village, whilst the D&RNP policy framework seeks to protect community assets and prioritises the wellbeing of residents.
  - Minor positive effects are considered likely for the biodiversity and geodiversity and landscape SEA topics. With respect to biodiversity and geodiversity, the policy framework seeks to protect priority species and habitats, enhance the biodiversity value of LGSs, and deliver at least 10% net gain amongst other things. With respect to landscape, the spatial strategy avoids significant impacts arising by locating development adjacent to the existing settlement, outside of the identified settlement and local gaps. Whilst the spatial strategy will lead to the loss of greenfield land, it is recognised that this is largely unavoidable. The policy framework strengthens the spatial strategy by mitigating any adverse impacts of development and protecting and enhancing the local landscape and villagescape.
  - **Broadly neutral effects** are concluded for the climate change SEA topic because, by recognising growth will occur with or without the D&RNP, the increase in the built footprint of the neighbourhood area and absolute emissions are not considered a consequence of the plan. On this basis, and alongside the avoidance of significant effects in relation to flood risk, no significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated.
  - Uncertainty is noted for the historic environment and land, soil and water resources SEA topics. With respect to the historic environment, the policy framework performs well and is considered likely to ensure that new development is in keeping with the character of Dickleburgh village. However, there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding the recent archaeological finds at Dickleburgh Moor. With respect to land, soil and water resources, whilst the allocated site will lead to the loss of greenfield land, it is recognised that this is largely unavoidable. The spatial strategy delivers development adjacent to the Dickleburgh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC)

- Stream, and whilst it is considered likely that this part of the site will not be developed, this cannot be confirmed at this stage.
- Finally, minor negative effects are anticipated for the transportation SEA topic. It is recognised that growth is anticipated in the neighbourhood area with or without the D&RNP, and therefore increases in vehicle use on local roads are an inevitable evolution of the baseline. In addition, the spatial strategy locates development close to local services and facilities and the bus stop in Dickleburgh village, and the policy framework seeks to mitigate adverse effects of new development, including traffic and congestion and road safety. However, given the limited services and facilities and public transport options available, residents will still likely rely on the private car to a considerable degree."
- 6.6 The SEA also considered the cumulative effect so the Neighbourhood Plan policies when taken in combination with those in other relevant planning documents and concluded as follows:

  "Alongside the provisions of the GNLP, VCHAP and NPPF, the D&RNP seeks to support housing delivery in line with forecasted needs over the plan period whilst avoiding significant negative effects in relation to the SEA topics explored above. In this respect, positive cumulative effects are anticipated."
- 6.7 The report recommendations were set out as follows:

  "Recommendations: As the D&RNP avoids any significant negative effects, no specific recommendations are made at this stage."
- 6.8 Following the conclusion of the Pre-submission consultation, a number of amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan were made. AECOM were asked to update the SEA report to ensure it was consistent with the amended Neighbourhood Plan. The amended Environmental Report was completed in December 2024. The SEA concluded as follows:
  - The only significant effects predicted likely in implementation of the DRNP are positive in nature and relate to the community wellbeing SEA theme. This reflects a positive spatial strategy that meets the identified housing need and ensures adequate connectivity, alongside the protection of key community facilities and resident health and wellbeing.
  - Minor negative effects are considered likely in relation to the SEA themes of landscape, historic environment, land, soil, and water resources, and transportation. The proposed DRNP policies provide mitigation that should minimise the identified potential for adverse impacts, and the residual effects largely reflect the inevitable loss of greenfield land neighbouring the conservation area and Dickleburgh Stream, and a likely increase in private car use in the neighbourhood area. Neutral effects are considered achievable in relation to the historic environment, though some uncertainty exists until precise development proposals are known.

- Minor positive effects are also concluded as likely in relation to biodiversity, and landscape, reflecting the wider policies provisions that identify and protect green corridors, promote biodiversity net gains in development, and propose settlement and local gaps where there is a preference for the land to remain undeveloped. This is also likely to lead to minor positive cumulative effects given that landscape and biodiversity effects extend the immediate neighbourhood area to provide benefits at a more regional scale.
- Neutral effects are predicted as most likely in relation to climate change where it is recognised that whilst mitigation will be required to avoid negative effects arising in future development of the neighbourhood area, the DRNP proposes multiple policies that seek to ensure such mitigation is delivered alongside development. The DRNP also proposes connected development and policies that seek to improve the sustainability performance of development. On this basis no significant deviations form baseline are anticipated.

#### **Human rights**

- 6.9 In addition the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. The accompanying Consultation Statement sets out the process followed in terms of community involvement. The Neighbourhood Plan is seeking to protect both non-designated heritage assets and local green spaces, some of which are in private ownership. Private owners have been notified of the contents of the plan and many have responded through the consultation processes.
- 6.10 It is therefore considered by the Parish Council, as the relevant Qualifying Body, that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the additional prescribed basic condition.

## 7 Compatibility with Basic Condition (g)

7.1 An additional basic condition is prescribed under Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as follows:

"The making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not likely to have any significant effect on a European Site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (2)) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 2007 (3)), (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects)".

- 7.2 The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is therefore to ensure the protection of European (Natura 2000) sites. These sites are designed to form an ecologically coherent network of designated sites across the whole of Europe. Referred to as 'European Designated Sites,' Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SAC).
- 7.3 Screening undertaken by South Norfolk Council in December 2021 concluded that a full Habitats Regulation Assessment was required for the Neighbourhood Plan. Consultants AECOM were commissioned by the Parish Council to undertake this work and the assessment was completed in May 2022. The Neighbourhood Area falls within 10km of two key nature conservation sites. These are:
  - Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC (approx. 9.9km to the west of the Parish and distributed across the authorities of Breckland and Mid Suffolk)
  - Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar (approx. 9.9km to the west of the Parish and distributed across the authorities of Breckland and Mid Suffolk).
- 7.4 The HRA considers environmental issues such as recreational pressure, water quantity level and flow, water quality and atmospheric pollution. The HRA advises for clarity, that the South Norfolk Local Plan requirement for financial contributions to delivery of the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreation Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS) is referenced in the Neighbourhood Plan with regard to housing growth generally and to the proposed allocated site SN0516 in particular.
- 7.5 The HRA is required to provide an 'In-Combination Assessment,' which is the requirement to assess the potential impacts of a Neighbourhood Plan incombination with growth in adjoining parishes. The HRA assessed the potential for the Neighbourhood Plan to result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE) and,

potentially, adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. An initial scoping exercise highlighted that two European sites within 10km of the parish required further consideration, including the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar. The potential impact pathways associated with development in the parish are recreational pressure (applicable to all European sites Norfolk), water quantity, level and flow, water quality and atmospheric pollution.

- 7.6 It was concluded that LSEs regarding the above impact pathways could be screened out from Appropriate Assessment, with the exception of recreational pressure on European sites across Norfolk. However, since there is already a county-wide mitigation strategy to address recreational pressure to which all net new housing much contribute, (GIRAMS) it was possible in the appropriate assessment to conclude that Dickleburgh & Rushall Neighbourhood Plan would not have an adverse effect on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 7.7 It is therefore considered by the Parish Council, as the relevant Qualifying Body, that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the additional prescribed basic condition.