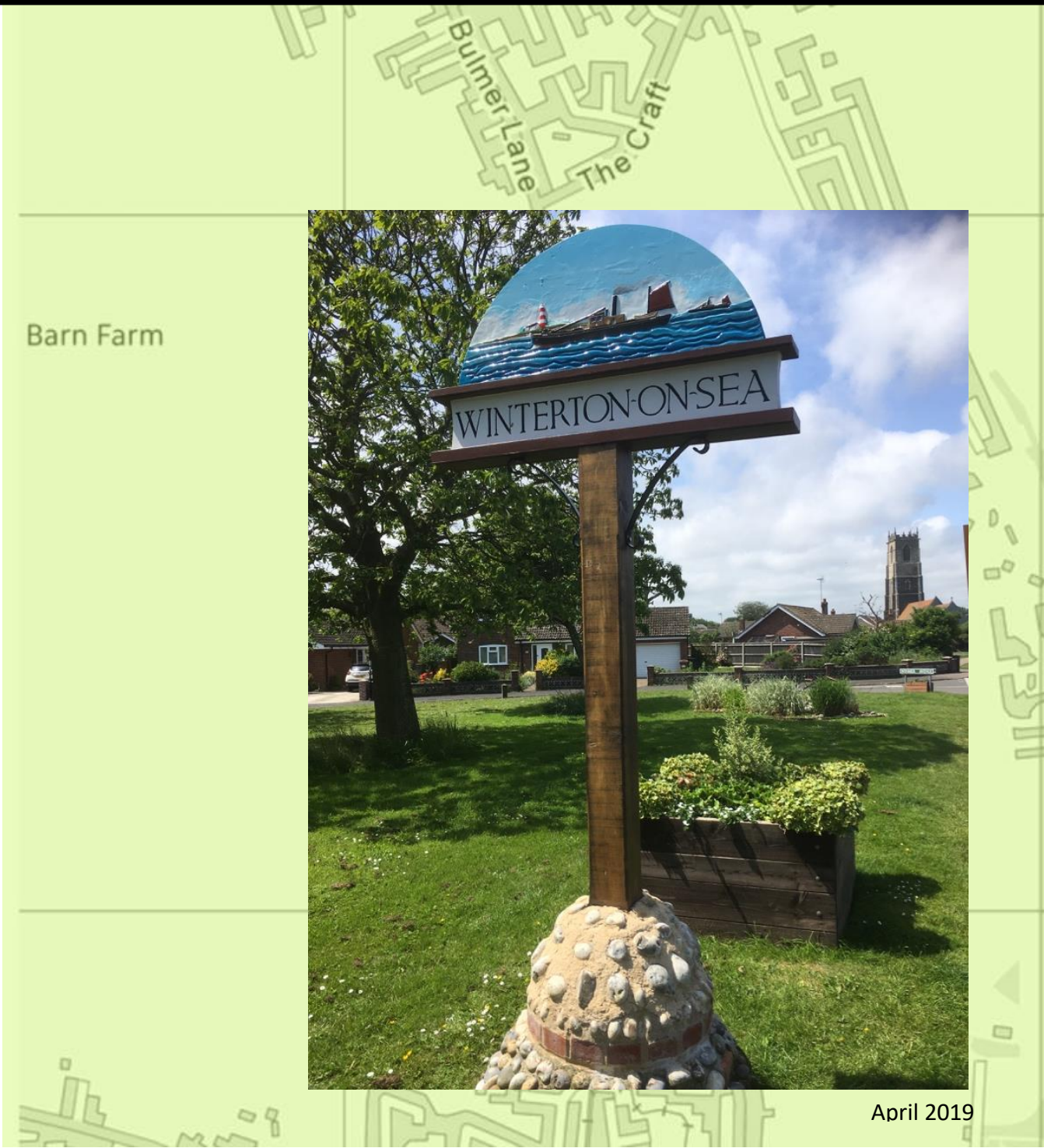




Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan

SEA/HRA Screening Assessment



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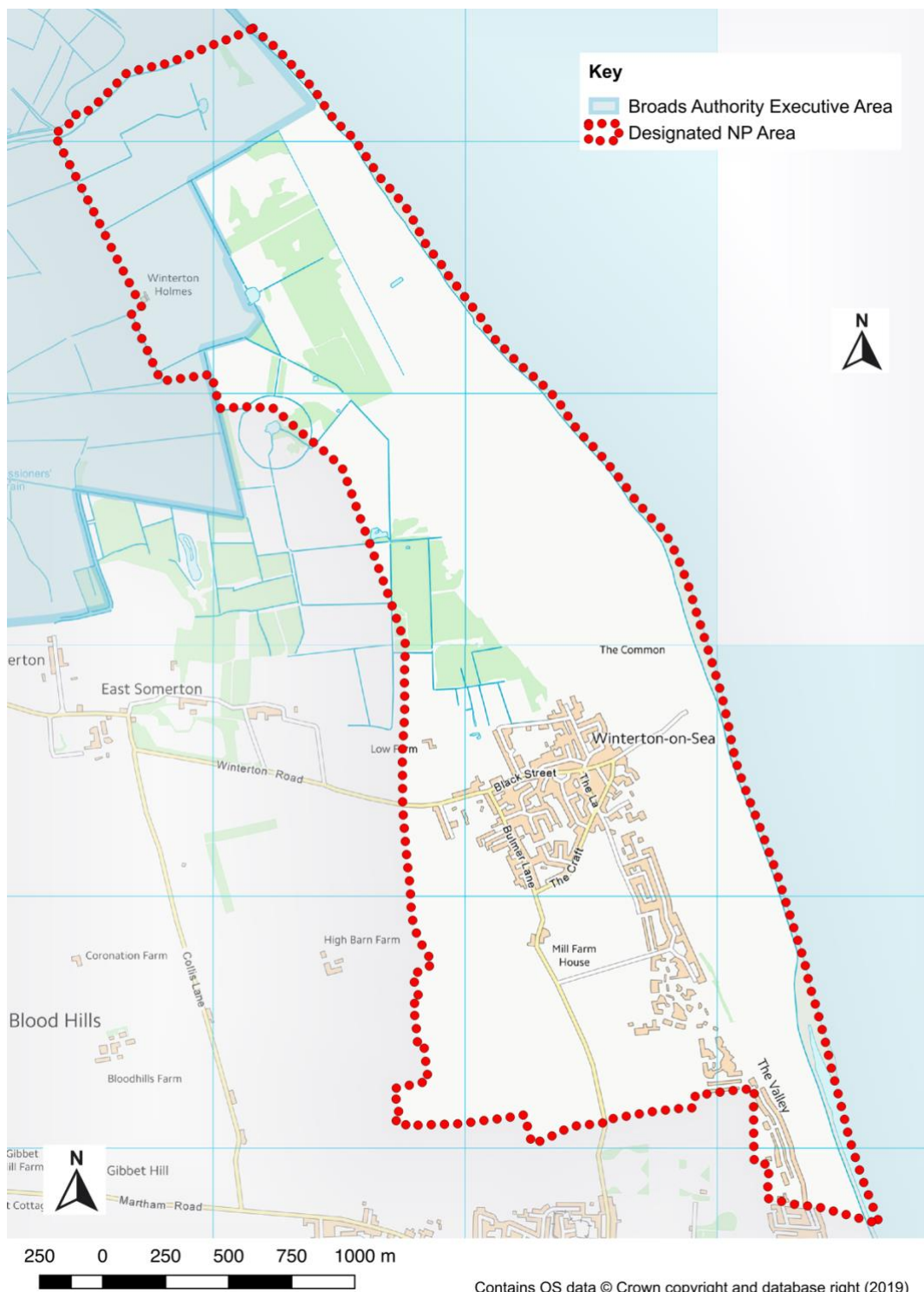
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1. Introduction

Neighbourhood Plan Area

The Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan Area has been designated to cover the entire parish.

Figure 1: Designated Area



Vision

Winterton-on-Sea is a thriving community and popular visitor destination, providing a range of local services and facilities. There is a good balance between the needs of residents and those visiting for the day or longer. It has the quiet, laid-back feel that is fitting for an old fishing village, with low traffic volumes and speeds away from the main roads.

The village has a good mix of housing, including homes for younger residents and families, which has been designed sensitively and reflects the local character.

The natural environment, including the sensitive dunes, is precious to the community and its condition and ecology has improved in recent years.

Objectives

- **Housing:** To support the provision of affordable housing so that Winterton-on-Sea is a place where people of all ages can live.
- **Sustainable services:** To support services, clubs and facilities that offer opportunities for enhancing the wellbeing of residents and encourages visitors to spend locally.
- **Infrastructure:** To provide the right infrastructure to ensure that visitors to the village do not place additional pressure on environmentally sensitive areas.
- **Recreation and accessibility:** To improve the walkability of the village and connections to the wider countryside and surrounding communities such as Hemsby.
- **Traffic and transport:** Seek opportunities to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic and parking in the village centre.
- **Environmental protection:** To protect, promote and enhance the sensitive landscape and habitats of the dunes and beach so that they are prioritised over future development.

Draft Planning Policies

The neighbourhood plan for Winterton-on-Sea contains policies that seek to deliver the vision, it does not identify or propose allocation of specific development sites within the parish. Below is a summary of key points from the draft policies.

Housing:

- Support for development proposals that meet local and strategic policies and meet criteria in relation to the settlement boundary
- Promote smaller unit housing and homes suitable for younger and older residents

- Support small scale rural or entry level exception sites for affordable housing outside the settlement boundary
- High quality design that complements the character and appearance of the parish
- Focus any new housing development on principal residence housing
- Support for tourist accommodation that encourages the local economy

Environment:

- Protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas such as the dunes
- Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land
- Development should preserve and enhance the character of Winterton-on-Sea's Conservation Areas, including the Historic Village Centre
- Requirement for Flood Risk Assessments and Surface Water Drainage Strategy

Community Assets

- Support for proposals that encourage sustainability of the village primary school
- Support for small scale business, subject to parking and traffic considerations
- Identification of 7 Local Green Spaces of community value for protection
- Investment in existing open space assets

Traffic and Transport

- Off road parking standards for new dwellings
- Support for public car parking proposals subject to no increase in traffic through the village centre.
- Encourages development that promotes safe and convenient walking within the parish.

2. Legislative Background

To be 'made' a Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain Basic Conditions. These include that making of the plan 'does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations'. One of these obligations is Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. This is often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes. The SEA Directive is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (the SEA Regulations) and it is these regulations that the plan will need to be compatible with. A key stage in the Neighbourhood Planning process is determining whether or not SEA is required.

As a general rule of thumb, SEA is more likely to be necessary if:

- A Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains sensitive environmental assets that may be affected by the policies or proposals
- The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects not already addressed through the Sustainability Appraisal of the relevant Local Plan.

Another key obligation is Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, often referred to as the Habitats Directive. Under the Habitats Directive an assessment referred to as an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken if the plan in question is likely to have a significant effect

on a European protected wildlife site. The SEA Directive requires that if a plan or programme requires an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive, then that plan or programme will also require an SEA.

3. Screening Process

Three steps will be followed for this screening process:

1. Preparation of a screening report – this report
2. Request a screening opinion from the consultation bodies in light of the report – Great Yarmouth Borough Council responsibility
3. In light of their responses, determine whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment (and therefore require an SEA) – Great Yarmouth Borough Council in discussion with Winterton-on-Sea Parish Council.

4. Assessment

SEA Screening Assessment

Policies set out in the draft Neighbourhood Plan have been used to undertake this screening assessment. If the conclusion of the screening exercise is that SEA is not required, any major changes to existing policies or introduction of new ones will be subject to further screening to ensure significant effects are not likely.

Figure 2: Impact of WoSNP on environmental characteristics of the area

Characteristic	Identification within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	Likely impact of Neighbourhood Plan
National Nature Reserve	Winterton Ness Dunes	Positive impact – WoSNP aims to protect the dunes, including a policy that supports positive conservation. More generally any development is required to deliver ecological gain.
Natura 2000 sites – SPAs & SACs	Winterton-Horsey Dunes are designated a Special Area of Conservation and the Greater Wash is designated a Special Protection Area	Positive impact – WoSNP aims to protect the dunes, including a policy that supports positive conservation. More generally any development is required to deliver ecological gain. The plan will have negligible additional recreational pressures.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI	Winterton Horsey Dunes	Positive impact – WoSNP contains a policy that specifically references the SSSI, recognising that this is already protected in national policy, but seeking to clarify local expectation. Policy aims to protect the dunes, including supporting positive conservation. More generally any development is required to deliver ecological gain. There are also policies to improve existing open spaces, including Public Rights of Way, which will divert some recreational activity away from the dunes.

Characteristic	Identification within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	Likely impact of Neighbourhood Plan
National Parks	The Broads has equivalent status	Positive impact – WoSNP aims to protect the dunes, including a policy that supports positive conservation. More generally any development is required to deliver ecological gain. The plan will have negligible additional recreational pressures.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Positive impact: WoSNP contains policy protecting the coast, including dunes and beach, including the requirement that development does not interrupt public views of the beach or dunes. There is an expectation that any development proposals deliver ecological gain.
World Heritage Sites	None	-
Scheduled Monuments	None	-
Locally designated nature conservation sites	There are 3 County Wildlife Sites in Winterton-on-Sea, 1 is parish council land and includes the allotments. The other 2 are woodland to the north of the settlement.	Positive impact: Whilst CWSs already have certain protections WoSNP contains policy that recognizes their importance and supports development proposals that incorporate significant and demonstrable conservation and/or habitat enhancement to improve their biodiversity.
Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat	This includes the Horsey-Winterton Dunes with features – foredunes, yellow dunes, dune grassland, slacks and dune heath and little terns.	Positive impact – WoSNP aims to protect the natural environment, seeking development that achieves a net ecological gain.
Nationally listed buildings	Winterton-on-Sea has 3 listed buildings – the church, memorial to Clement Trotter and the War Memorial. All of these are clustered in the older part of the village around the church.	Positive impact – WoSNP aims to protect and enhance the cultural heritage of the parish. The plan specifically identifies a Historic Village Centre, requiring any development sensitive and appropriate to this and the wider Conservation Areas.
Buildings at risk	None	-
Conservation area	Two within the NP area	Positive impact – the plan seeks to preserve the setting of the two conservation areas.
Flood Zone 3	There are areas of higher flood risk, particularly in the north of the settlement, as identified in the Borough Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.	Positive impact - WoSNP seeks to ensure that future development mitigates its own flood risk.
Areas with surface water flooding issues	Flood risk from surface water affects many parts of Winterton-on-Sea village, including the village centre.	Positive impact – WoSNP requires that proposals coming forward in areas of high, medium or low risk of surface water flood risk, or all developments of 5 or more properties will need a Surface Water Drainage Strategy.

Characteristic	Identification within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	Likely impact of Neighbourhood Plan
Air Quality Management Area	None in the vicinity.	-
The best and most versatile agricultural land	A small area of the WoSNP area to the south of the built-up area is classified as Grade 1 Agricultural Land	Positive impact: WoSNP seeks to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land, only permitting development where special circumstances can be demonstrated.
Source Protection Zones	None	-

Figure 3: Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment

Note that this assessment has been made based on criteria from Article 3.5 of the SEA Directive.

Criteria for determining likely significance of effects	Is the WoS Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a significant effect	Justification for decision
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	The WoSNP does not include any site-specific development proposals, however, it does contain policies that aim to manage development in the parish. These policies are in general conformity with the adopted and emerging Local Plan of Great Yarmouth Borough Council.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in the hierarchy.	No	Once 'made' the WoSNP will form part of the adopted Local Development Plan, setting a number of non-strategic policies that are in general conformity. It does however contain a rural exceptions policy that may permit development proposals exclusively for affordable housing on small sites that would not otherwise be appropriate for housing, subject to Housing Needs Assessment. This accords with national policy. Whilst this goes beyond the level of development permitted by the current Local Plan, it does so only within Winterton-on-Sea and not considered significant enough to trigger the requirement for SEA. Any individual environmental matters would be dealt with on a site by site basis.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations.	No	See Figure 2: Impact on Environmental Characteristics of the Area. Whilst impacts are identified, many of these are positive, and unlikely to be of a significant nature.

Criteria for determining likely significance of effects	Is the WoS Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a significant effect	Justification for decision
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	No	None identified.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.	No	WoSNP generally conforms with the Great Yarmouth Local Plan.
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	WoSNP does not contain any site-specific development proposals. It will however influence development, expecting it to have minimal impacts on the natural environment and heritage assets. The timeframe of the plan is to 2039.
The cumulative nature of effects.	No	WoSNP will not lead to any cumulative effects in combination with any existing or emerging plans. The emerging Local Plan for Great Yarmouth will be subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal, which will look at these matters in more detail.
The transboundary nature of the effects.	No	The nearby community of Rollesby is developing a Neighbourhood Plan and links with this have been considered when drafting the WoSNP. Other nearby communities, including Hemsby, have declared a neighbourhood plan area but are at a very early stage of development.
The risks to human health or the environment.	No	No risks to human health have been identified. Policies within the WoSNP seek to protect the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	No	Impacts of WoSNP will be confined to Winterton-on-Sea Parish and are unlikely to extend beyond this. The current population (mid-year estimate for 2016) is 1,295 so the plan will impact upon a relatively small population of people.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values of intensive land-use • The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognized national, 	No	See Figure 2. Some positive beneficial impacts are anticipated, but due to the low quantum of development anticipated in Winterton-on-Sea, it is not considered that impacts will be significant.

Criteria for determining likely significance of effects	Is the WoS Neighbourhood Plan likely to have a significant effect	Justification for decision
community or international protection status.		

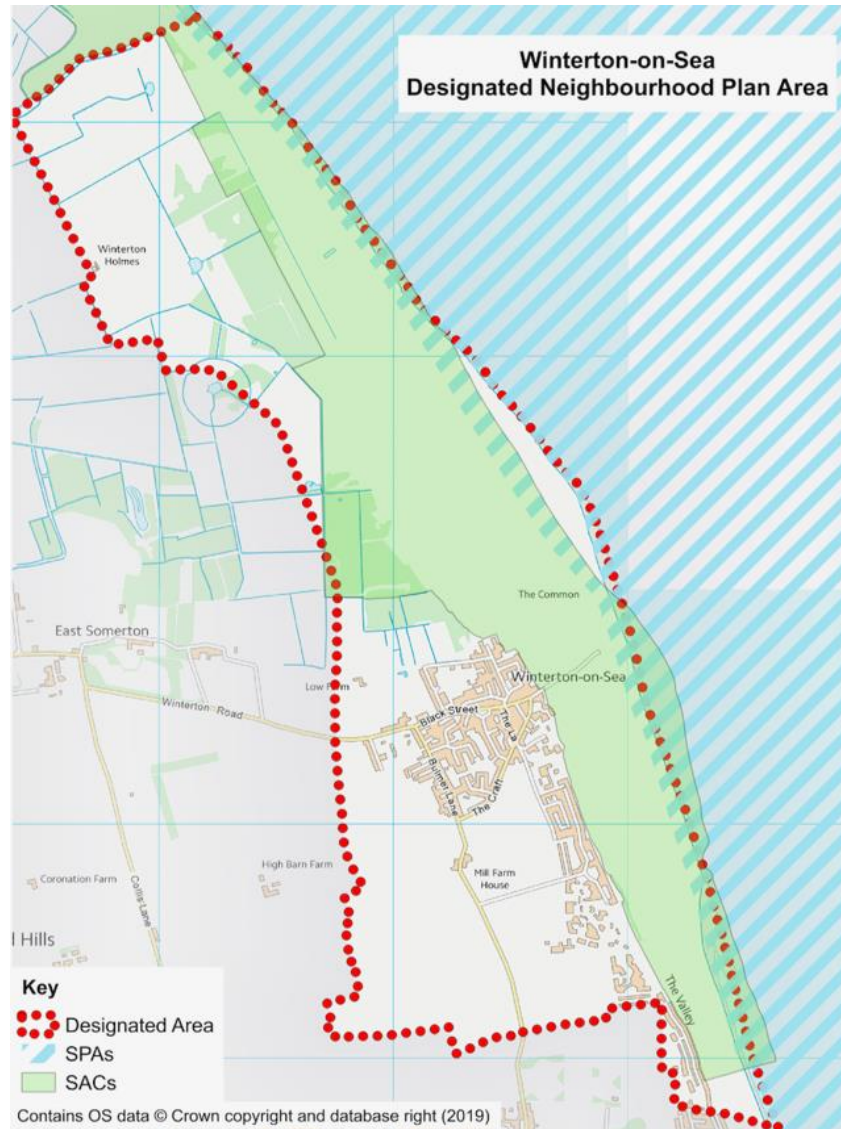
Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for designated European wildlife sites. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Sites, collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.

There are two designated European wildlife sites in the Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes:

- The Winterton-Horsey Dunes which is a Special Area of Conservation
- Great Yarmouth North Denes which is a Special Protection Area

Figure 4: European Sites within the WoSNP area



This screening assessment has also considered the impact on European sites within 15km of the neighbourhood plan area, as an in combination assessment area. These include:

Figure 5: European Sites within 15km of WoSNP area

Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas	Ramsar Sites
Winterton-Horsey Dunes	Broadland	Broadland
The Broads	The Greater Wash	Breydon Water
Haisborough, Hammond & Winterton	Outer Thames Estuary	
Southern North Sea	North Denes	

Figure 6: Impact of WoSNP Policies on European Sites

Policy	Significant Effect Likely	Comments
HO1: Settlement Boundary and Residential Development	No	This policy does not allocate land for development. It requires development proposals to meet national and local policy and criteria in relation to the settlement boundary. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effects on the identified European Sites.
HO2: Housing Mix	No	The policy does not allocate land for development. It requires that proposals provide a mix of housing types, especially smaller unit housing and homes for younger people. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effects on the identified European Sites.
HO3: Affordable Housing	No	The policy does not directly allocate land for development and aligns itself with the local plan policy. It allows for small scale exception site proposals situated up to 50m outside the development boundary. Although it supports development proposals within the plan area, these are strongly considered to be of a local scale and potential effects will need to be assessed by site-specific HRAs identifying any necessary mitigation measures. The Borough Council has an adopted Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy and guidance to address in-combination effects from increased recreational disturbance at the site-specific level.
HO4: Design	No	This policy does not directly allocate land for development, it focuses on controlling the design of new housing when it is brought forward within the plan area. Such development may have some effects on the identified sites, but it is anticipated that any development would be of a local scale and will be managed and mitigated through the planning application process. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effects on the identified European Sites.
HO5: Principal Residence Housing	No	This policy does not directly allocate land for development but requires any new housing to be restricted in perpetuity to ensure it is only occupied as a principal residence. Although it supports development proposals, these would be of a local scale

Policy	Significant Effect Likely	Comments
		and will be managed and mitigated through the planning application process. It is therefore considered that this policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
HO6: Tourist Accommodation	No	This policy does not allocate land for development but supports proposals for new tourist accommodation that encourages the local economy where such proposals are well related to the village or make use of existing buildings. Any such development proposals would be of a local scale and potential effects will need to be assessed by site-specific HRAs identifying any necessary mitigation measures. The Borough Council has an adopted Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy and guidance to address in-combination effects from increased recreational disturbance at the site-specific level.
E1: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	No	This policy does not allocate land for development and ensures that the protection and enhancement of identified environmental sites, including the dunes, is considered when development proposals are assessed. It supports proposals that will promote the preservation and restoration of the dunes and beach. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effects on the identified European Sites.
E2: High Grade Agricultural Land	No	This policy does not allocate land for development in the plan area. It seeks to protect high grade agricultural land from development by ensuring special conditions are taken into account when development proposals are considered. It is therefore considered to have no significant effected on the identified European Sites.
E3: Promoting Winterton-on-Sea's Heritage	No	This policy does not allocate land for development in the plan area. It ensures that the protection and enhancement of the landscape and character of Winterton-on-Sea is taken into account when considering development proposals. It is therefore considered to have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
E4: Flooding and Drainage	No	This policy does not allocate land for development. It requires any development proposals that should come forward to take into account flood risk and drainage. This policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
CA1: Winterton-on-Sea Primary School	No	This policy does not allocate land for development but has regard to improving the sustainability of Winterton-on-Sea's Primary School. It is considered to have no significant impact on identified European Sites.
CA2: Economic Development	No	This policy does not directly allocate land for development but encourages development proposals for small business that can demonstrate adequate parking provision and that there is not a material increase in traffic in the village centre, which is nearest the dunes. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.

Policy	Significant Effect Likely	Comments
CA3: Local Green Space	No	This policy does not allocate land for development. It ensures protection of 7 designated Local Green Spaces of community value within the parish. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
CA4: Investment in Open Space	No	This policy does not allocate land for development. It requires any development proposals to make a contribution towards the provision of high-quality open space. Any enhancement of green open space provision, particularly footways linking nearby settlements, could reduce existing recreational pressure, ie dog walking, on the Winterton-Horsey Dunes. The policy also supports the principle of open space contributions funding provision of a new public car park. This would be proposal specific and need to conform with Policy TR1, see below. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
TR1: Public Car Parking	No	This policy does not directly allocate land for development, but supports the continuation of existing car parking provision at the beach and supports additional provision of public car parking outside of the village centre. Additional car parking provision seeks to address known parking constraints within the parish, including congested parking along beach road and in the historic village centre. This could potentially lead to an increase in recreational pressure on the Winterton-Horse Dunes SAC, however this is considered to be limited as would be designed to address local on-street parking concerns, providing alternative free parking, rather than additional. Therefore, although there could be an impact, this is considered not to be significant.
TR2: Residential Car Parking	No	This policy does not allocate land for development, but ensures that off road vehicle parking is taken into account when development proposals are being considered. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effect on the identified European Sites.
TR3: Walking	No	This policy does not allocate land for development. It encourages development proposals to enhance and improve access to surrounding countryside, green infrastructure and village facilities, connecting with existing footpaths and footways. Such development and associated improvements to walking infrastructure could place additional recreational pressure on the Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC, though it could also help to confine people to the Public Rights of Way, rather than the dunes in general. Development proposals within the plan area would be of a local scale and will be managed and mitigated through the planning application process. It is therefore considered this policy will have no significant effects on the identified European Sites.

In combination effects

Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects. For the Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan the existing plans to be considered are Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan, which has been through rigorous assessment with regards to their impact on European Sites. The neighbourhood plan has been produced to be in strategic conformity with both of these documents. In addition, no sites have been allocated for development within the plan. Therefore considered there is likely to be no in combination effects as a result of the Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan.

It is concluded that the plan will not lead to a significant effect on the integrity of the European Sites identified above, and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

5. Conclusions

SEA Screening

On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in this document, the conclusion is that the Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood plan will not have significant environmental effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore does not need to be subject to a full SEA. Note the following reasons:

- WoSNP supports implementation of the Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan which has already been subject to SEA
- The WoSNP does not propose more development than is set out in the Great Yarmouth Borough Council Local Plan, though it is noted that the plan contains a policy that supports rural exception sites for affordable housing.
- The WoSNP represents a lower tier in the hierarchy of planning documents for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, and therefore has limited influence on other plans or programmes.
- The WoSNP seeks to avoid or minimise negative environmental impacts and has been assessed as having some positive impact on environmental characteristics in Winterton-on-Sea, though given the scale of likely development, these are not considered to be significant.

HRA Screening

The HRA Screening Assessment concludes that no significant effects are likely to occur with regards to the integrity of the Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC or Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA which fall within the plan area, or those European Sites that are located within 15km, due to the implementation of the plan. As such the plan does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

The main reason for these conclusions are:

- The WoSNP does not directly allocate any sites for development
- The development that is supported in the plan which may have some effect on the environment is determined to be local in scale and these local impacts will be addressed and mitigated at the planning application stage.

Next Stages

This document will now be subject to a consultation period with relevant stakeholders, and should they agree with the findings of the assessments in this report then no further work will be required with regard to SEA and HRA on the Winterton-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan.