

Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan  
2016-2036

**Sustainability Appraisal Scoping  
Report incorporating Strategic  
Environmental Assessment**

Final Report

March 2018

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report represents the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan. It is for consultation with the relevant statutory authorities and other interested stakeholders.

1.2 SEA is a requirement of the EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. It is implemented in England through the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004'.

1.3 The objective of the 'SEA Directive' is:

*'To provide for a high level of protection to the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of the plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development'* (Article 1, Appendix 1)

1.4 The requirement for an SEA emerges from Schedule 10, paragraph 8(2)(f) of the Localism Act which states that a draft Neighbourhood Development Order (or Plan) "meets the basic conditions if the making of the order does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations". In this case, the relevant EU obligations are represented by the SEA Directive.

1.5 This SEA is in accordance with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.

## The Scoping Report

1.6 The Scoping Report has been developed in accordance with government guidance for undertaking SEA in compliance with the SEA Directive.

1.7 According to the guidance, the complete process has five stages resulting in the Environmental Report, which should be implemented in turn. Each stage comprises a number of subsidiary tasks, some of which should be implemented alongside each other and lead to the development of a specific output. The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SEA of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan associated with it. Stage A explains the process used in this Scoping Report and is presented below in Table 1.1. While the table may infer a sequential process, in practice, stages A1 to A4 inform each other, e.g. one has to have an understanding of the environmental issues (A3) to assess the relevant plans, programmes (A1) and requirements for baseline data collection (A2).

1.8 Consultation on the scope of the SEA is required under the SEA Directive and the Scoping Report guidance detailed above. It is a requirement that the Scoping Report is sent to three statutory Consultation Bodies with environmental responsibilities, as listed:

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England

1.9 The consultation duly undertaken with these bodies sought to:

- ensure the methodology for the proposed SEA/SA is comprehensive to support the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan;
- provide an opinion on the suitability of the SEA/SA objectives;
- advise on the key sustainability issues as far as they relate to SEA/SA; and

- provide advice to ensure the baseline data is appropriate and sufficient.

**Table 1.1: Work Requirements for the Scoping Report**

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

1.10 Consultation was duly undertaken on the draft Scoping Report over a five-week period in February and March 2018 and a response was received from the Environment Agency. This is summarised in Table 1.2 below.

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

<b>Statutory body and response</b>	<b>How response has been dealt with</b>
<p><b>Environment Agency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The "Water" section in Chapter 3 should cite the "Anglian River basin management plans: 2015" as baseline data and a description of the sustainability issues for the local river network</li> <li>- The Soil and Geology section could also reference our maps for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones caused by diffuse pollution from agriculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This has been added in.</li> <li>- This has been added in.</li> </ul>

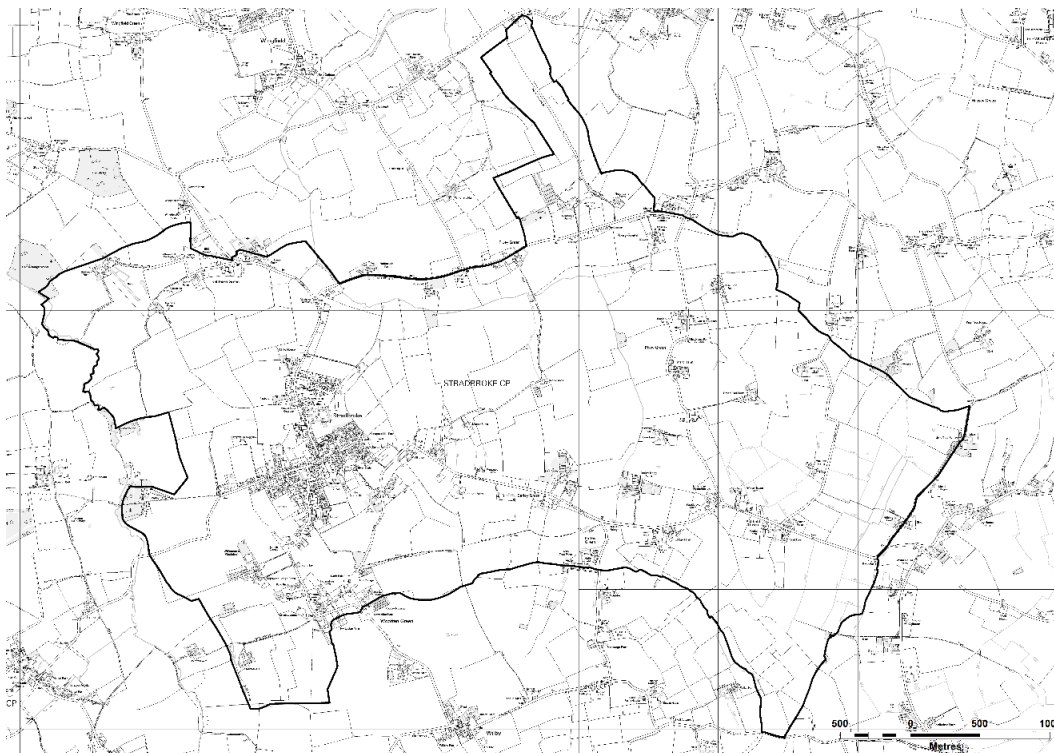
Statutory body and response	How response has been dealt with
<p><b>Historic England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are pleased to note the consideration of the historic environment in Section 3 of the Scoping Report, and consider that the maps provided are helpful. However, although it is difficult to disagree with paragraph 3.24, we suggest that this could be fleshed out to briefly identify the particular qualities that contribute to the parish and village’s character and appearance. We would refer you to Stradbroke’s Conservation Area Appraisal, which may be of use in providing this information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This has been added in.</li> </ul>

1.11 No response was received from Natural England.

## Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan

1.12 The Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan area is shown in Figure 1.1 and is contiguous with the parish boundary.

**Figure 1.1: Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan designated area**



1.13 The Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan is being developed through an extensive programme of engagement with the local community. The primary settlement in the parish is Stradbroke village with the majority of the population living within its limits. Therefore the focus of the plan has been on addressing the needs of the community that live within the village.

1.14 The Plan has been produced by a Neighbourhood Planning Committee including Parish Council members, working with community volunteers, and in partnership with Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council, AECOM, Navigus Planning and Locality.

- 1.15 The Plan provides a vision for the planning of sustainable growth across the parish up to 2036.
- 1.16 In order to deliver the vision for Stradbroke to be a key service centre village for residents and surrounding villages, the Plan sets out to meet a series of place and people-focused objectives:

### **Place**

- Infrastructure and services: support the community of Stradbroke with first rate infrastructure that includes an expanded range of utilities, improved highways, telecom and internet services.
- Built environment: allocate sites for development that retain the historic crossroads shape and character of the village and manage parking and traffic issues.
- Transport and movement: mitigate and manage critical highway pinch points and reduce travel by car or lorry within the village by improving internal connectivity and alternative travel options.
- Business: support local business growth and employment opportunities and actively seek further employment generating opportunities which directly contribute to the welfare of the community.
- Housing: ensure development respects the historical build pattern and style whilst also encouraging design for the future through innovation.
- Environment: promote community safety including issues of pollution, the green economy and protect and nurture green spaces and assets of community value.

### **People**

- Education: support the growing and changing needs of education for all ages and in particular, provide for the needs of the local primary and secondary schools.
  - Health: expand the range of health care services available to local residents, as well as addressing the residential and care needs of the community as it ages.
  - Sport and leisure: deliver facilities that promote leisure and recreation facilities for all ages and abilities.
  - Community: increase community self-sufficiency and resilience by expanding the retail base and range of village community services.
  - Housing: provide homes that meet the changing needs of Stradbroke in terms of affordability, size, type and tenure that will allow families and single people to settle, grow and continue to live in the village.
  - Transport: to achieve improved transport to services at distance, especially educational services for post-16 students.
- 1.17 The Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (adopted 2008) provides 15 objectives for the development plan, with its Focussed Review (adopted 2012) revising Strategic Objectives SO3 and SO6. However, these policies are dated and it is the emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan that will shape the strategic objectives over the plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan. Each of the objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.2 below and is assessed against the strategic objectives of the emerging Joint Local Plan to establish whether there are any conflicts.
- 1.18 The assessment in Table 1.3 is also relevant information informing Stage A1 of the SA Scoping process.

**Table 1.3: Objectives of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan compared to the strategic objectives of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk emerging Joint Local Plan**

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	Joint Local Plan Strategic Objectives
<p>Support the community of Stradbroke with first rate infrastructure that includes an expanded range of utilities, improved highways, telecom and internet services.</p> <p>Mitigate and manage critical highway pinch points and reduce travel by car or lorry within the village by improving internal connectivity and alternative travel options.</p> <p>To achieve improved transport to services at distance, especially educational services for post-16 students.</p> <p>Support the growing and changing needs of education for all ages and in particular, provide for the needs of the local primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Expand the range of health care services available to local residents, as well as addressing the residential and care needs of the community as it ages.</p>	<p>To enable provision of the necessary infrastructure to support residents, businesses, communities, the environment and individuals.</p> <p>To prioritise investment in strategic services and infrastructure, improving connectivity and service provision.</p>
<p>Promote community safety including issues of pollution, the green economy and protect and nurture green spaces and assets of community value.</p>	<p>To protect and enhance environmental assets (including landscapes, biodiversity, green spaces, air and water quality, and river corridors) for current and future generations.</p> <p>Ensure new development avoids areas of flood risk and reduce future flood risk where possible.</p>
<p>Allocate sites for development that retain the historic crossroads shape and character of the village and manage parking and traffic issues.</p> <p>Ensure development respects the historical build pattern and style whilst also encouraging design for the future through innovation.</p>	<p>To support communities to deliver plans and projects at the district and neighbourhood levels, specifically providing opportunities for the District Councils supporting communities on the development on neighbourhood plans.</p>
<p>Increase community self-sufficiency and resilience by expanding the retail base and range of village community services.</p> <p>Support local business growth and employment opportunities and actively seek further employment generating opportunities which directly contribute to the welfare of the community.</p> <p>Deliver facilities that promote leisure and recreation facilities for all ages and abilities.</p>	<p>Encourage development of employment sites and other business growth, of the right type, in the right place and encourage investment in skills and innovation in order to increase productivity.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	Joint Local Plan Strategic Objectives
Provide homes that meet the changing needs of Stradbroke in terms of affordability, size, type and tenure that will allow families and single people to settle, grow and continue to live in the village.	<p>Delivery of the right type of homes, of the right tenure in the right place meeting need.</p> <p>To seek to maintain a sustainable balance between housing and employment opportunities.</p>

## Approach to engagement

- 1.19 It is recognised that the approach to engagement is vital to a successful plan. The community of Stradbroke parish – including its residents and businesses – must be able to properly input into the ongoing process of developing the vision and objectives, considering options and then establishing the preferred set of options that make up the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.20 In order to develop the Neighbourhood Plan, a Neighbourhood Planning Committee was established which comprises Parish Council members and community volunteers. This team has put together a programme of engagement activities which has ensured that the community has the opportunity to input at every stage. This it has done using a range of methods:
- Using a Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan website (<https://www.stradbrokepc.org/neighbourhood-plan-documents>) as a central hub for information.
  - Using local newsletters and newspapers to notify people of upcoming events.
  - Running engagement events, mainly in the form of drop-in events for the community.
  - Discussion of Neighbourhood Plan matters in open forum at Parish Council meetings.
  - Regularly engaging with key stakeholders, including landowners.
  - Reporting back on the outcomes of key activities so that the community is able to understand the progress being made.
- 1.21 All policies and site allocations have been consulted on with the community and, subject to the assessments undertaken in the SA, ultimately it is their views – particularly through the Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation - which will shape the decisions made on the final wording of policies and the sites that are allocated, demonstrating that reasonable alternatives have been taken into consideration. In doing so, it is vital that the community understands that the Neighbourhood Plan must comply with the Basic Conditions and therefore there are certain factors which need to be taken into consideration when given their views on policies and sites. The Neighbourhood Planning Committee has used consultant support to advise on the best approach which has ensured that the community is fully informed when being asked to engage on a particular matter and shape its outcome.



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

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

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

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

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

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

### International context

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

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

## National and regional context

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

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
<b>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</b>		
<p>Planning should drive and support sustainable economic development. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• secure high quality design and good standard of amenity</li> <li>• take account of the different roles of areas, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside</li> <li>• support transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking account of flood risk and encourage the reuse of existing resources and encouraging the use of renewable resources.</li> <li>• contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed.</li> <li>• conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.</li> <li>• focus significant development in locations which are, or can be made sustainable.</li> </ul> <p>Paragraph 17: “...planning should conserve</p>	<p>Supports local and national targets with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). SA Objectives should reflect the core planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF. The Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible</li> <li>• contribute to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</li> </ul> <p>Plan should contribute to the conservation, and where appropriate, enhancement of the historic environment.</p> <p>The Plan should ensure that development does not have a detrimental impact on any</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
<p>heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.”</p> <p>Paragraph 132: “When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.</p>		<p>heritage assets and should seek to ensure that development actively conserves the asset.</p>
<b>1990 Town and Country Planning Act</b>		
<p>Section 66: Requires special regard for the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings.</p> <p>Section 72: Special attention to be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation</p>		<p>The NP must ensure that the listed buildings and their settings are not affected by proposed development.</p> <p>The NP should consider policies to preserve and enhance the character of conservation areas.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
areas.		
<b>The Waste (England &amp; Wales) Regulations 2011</b>		
To encourage/ensure waste arises/is dealt with further up the waste hierarchy. Divert waste disposal away from landfill.	Target of 50% of household waste to be recycled.	Plan must have regard to the amended waste hierarchy. Policies and objectives should where possible encourage waste to be re-used, recycled or have value / energy recovery. If possible the Plan should discourage landfilling of waste.
<b>UK Climate Change Act 2008</b>		
The Act introduced a statutory target for reducing carbon emissions.	Target of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 34% by 2020.	Planning can make a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by influencing the location, scale and character of development. The plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions and greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.
<b>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</b>		
Improve the management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses. To protect water supplies.	Local Authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood maps and plans. EA to prepare Local flood risk management strategies.	Plan should take account of flooding and water management issues and strategies and consider the inclusion of policies / objectives to reduce flood risks and other impacts on the water environment.
<b>Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011</b>		
Government-wide plan for action on climate change at domestic and international levels.	includes a range of sector-based plans and targets for low carbon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building</li> <li>• transport</li> <li>• industry</li> <li>• electricity</li> </ul> agriculture, land use, forestry and waste	The Plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions.
<b>Mainstreaming sustainable development 2011</b>		
This refreshed vision builds upon the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 SD strategy, recognising the needs of the economy, society and the natural environment, alongside the use of good governance and sound science.	Promises a new set of indicators from DEFRA that link initiatives and include wellbeing.	Plan should take account of climate change and promote sustainability through sustainable, low carbon and green economic growth.

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
<b>Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate, Defra 2010</b>		
Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.	Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.	Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.
<b>Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport, DfT 2013</b>		
The strategy considers what is necessary to ensure that people can be confident in choosing sustainable transport.	The strategy considers what is necessary to ensure that people can be confident in choosing sustainable transport.	The strategy considers what is necessary to ensure that people can be confident in choosing sustainable transport.
<b>The East of England Biodiversity Delivery Plan (East of England Biodiversity Forum)</b>		
Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the East of England to support and improve biodiversity.	Provides a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets through biodiversity opportunity areas and habitat and species targets.	The NP should consider objectives to protect and where possible, enhance biodiversity.
<b>Anglian river basin district River Basin Management Plan: 2015</b>		
Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the Anglian River Basin District and the actions that will address them.	By 2027, 82% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) will have at least 'good' status.	The NP needs to consider the impact of proposed development on water quality.

## County/local context

- 2.7 Suffolk County Council prepares statutory land use plans for waste and minerals policy. In March 2011, Suffolk County Council adopted a Waste Core Strategy which covers the period to 2026 and is the most up-to-date statement of the Authority's land-use planning policy for waste.
- 2.8 A key element of the plan is the aspiration to have ended the landfilling of untreated municipal, commercial and industrial wastes.

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

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
biodiversity as part of sustainable development.	during, and after, the construction phase of development.	
<b>Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment 2015</b>		
<p>Improve the quality of development coming forward in the countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide more detailed design guidance for new buildings, changes of use and smaller scale alternations.</li> <li>• To set out strategic policies on development and broad policies to protect the appearance and character of the landscape according to appropriate Landscape Character Assessment areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure developments fit in with their surroundings and help to retain and enhance the distinctive character of their area.</li> <li>• Understand different landscape characters and how the settlements within them relate to one another.</li> <li>• Safeguard ancient woodlands and hedges, particularly those of locally native species.</li> <li>• Safeguard the mosaic pattern of pasture, heath and woodlands.</li> <li>• Protect Parkland areas, Village Greens, Tyes and commons features.</li> <li>• Maintain and enhance the landscape and settlement pattern and retain a sense of separation between settlements.</li> <li>• Enhance meadows and woodlands cover.</li> <li>• Safeguard floodplains.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the ecological environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan should consider the character of developments and ensure they are of good and appropriate design quality according to the historical setting of the Parish. This should include measures to protect and enhance the surrounding area according to its Plateau Claylands designation.</p>
<b>Mid Suffolk Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)</b>		
Identifies all areas of flood risk within the district as well as what the level of risk is	Flood zone	The Plan needs to ensure that new development avoids areas identified at risk of flooding and that the existing level of flood risk within and outside Stradbroke is not exacerbated and, where possible, reduced.
<b>Suffolk County Council Landscape Typology Mapping</b>		
To map and record the value and variety of the Suffolk landscape.	No targets	The Plan should ensure that the development strategy is in keeping with the



Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
		local landscape typologies
<b>Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation – Suffolk County Council, 2009</b>		
To identify areas or units of land based on their key historic landscape attributes.		The Plan should ensure that areas of historic landscape character are preserved and enhanced.
<b>Babergh and Mid Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2017</b>		
To form the framework for the sustainability appraisal of the emerging Joint Local Plan by setting out sustainability objectives and indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing how the draft policies relate to other relevant plans and programmes.</li> <li>• Setting out the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics.</li> <li>• Identifying sustainability issues particular to the area.</li> <li>• Developing sustainability objectives against which the policies and strategic allocations may be assessed.</li> <li>• Assessing objectives against the identified sustainability objectives.</li> <li>• Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.</li> </ul>	The Plan should ensure that the scope of its sustainability objectives reflect and help to achieve the district-level objectives.
<b>Stradbroke Conservation Area Appraisal, 2011</b>		
To demonstrate 'quality of place', sufficient for the briefing of the Planning Officer when assessing proposed works in the area.	No specific targets or indicators	The Plan should take account of the assets which make up the historic environment within the Conservation Area.

## **District policy context**

- 2.9 Stradbroke is within Mid Suffolk district for planning purposes. The current adopted local plan consists of the 2008 Mid Suffolk Core Strategy, the 2012 Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Focussed Review and the saved policies from the 1998 Mid Suffolk Local Plan. This will be the case until they are superseded by adoption of the currently emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. Suffolk County Council's (SCC) 2011 Waste Core Strategy makes up the Development Plan.
- 2.10 The weight given to policies from the plans above will depend upon the degree to which they conform to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which in the event of any conflict will take precedence.
- 2.11 The emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan which was last in a period of consultation from 21 August to 10 November 2017<sup>1</sup>. This is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (as shown in the table above) and will eventually be supported by a Habitats Regulation Assessment (Appropriate Assessment). Table 1.3 of this Scoping Report considers the relationship between the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and those of the emerging Joint Local Plan and demonstrates that there is general conformity.
- 2.12 It should be noted that several other parishes in Mid Suffolk are developing neighbourhood plans, such as Eye and Wilby. As such, there could potentially be a residual effect on Stradbroke parish.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-consultation-document/>

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

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

**Table 3.1: Topics and their relevance to the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan**

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

3.3 The information was compiled from a wide range of information sources. Firstly information came from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and associated work conducted to support it. As part of the widespread consultation work to support the plan this has included feedback from a range of consultees. There are also a number of key reports relevant to the environment of the area and some of their key findings have been summarised here – they are referenced through the text, as are various data sources used to provide maps and statistics. This section presents topics relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan and while it seeks to be comprehensive only the key issues are included to keep the document manageable.

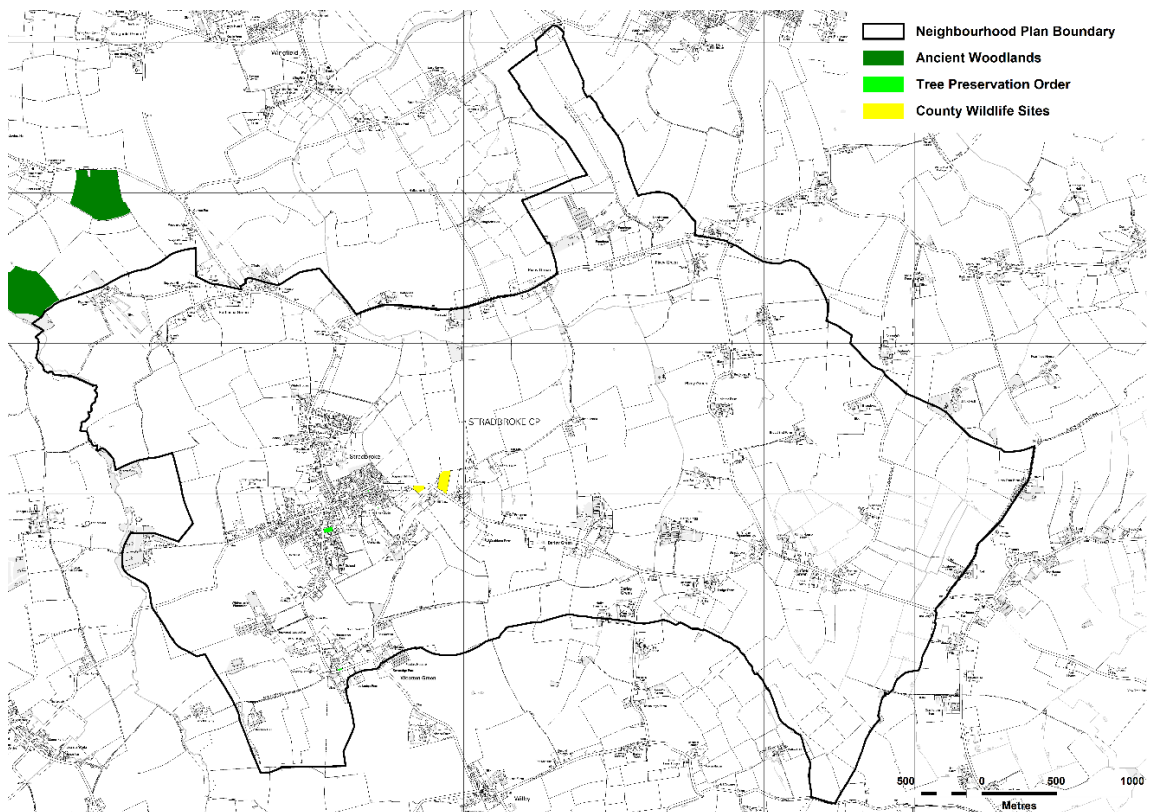
### Nature conservation and biodiversity

3.4 The only recognised biodiversity feature of significance in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are two County Wildlife Sites to the east of Stradbroke village. There is also a blanket Tree Preservation Area covering an area in the village.

3.5 Immediately adjacent to the north-western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are two ancient woodlands.

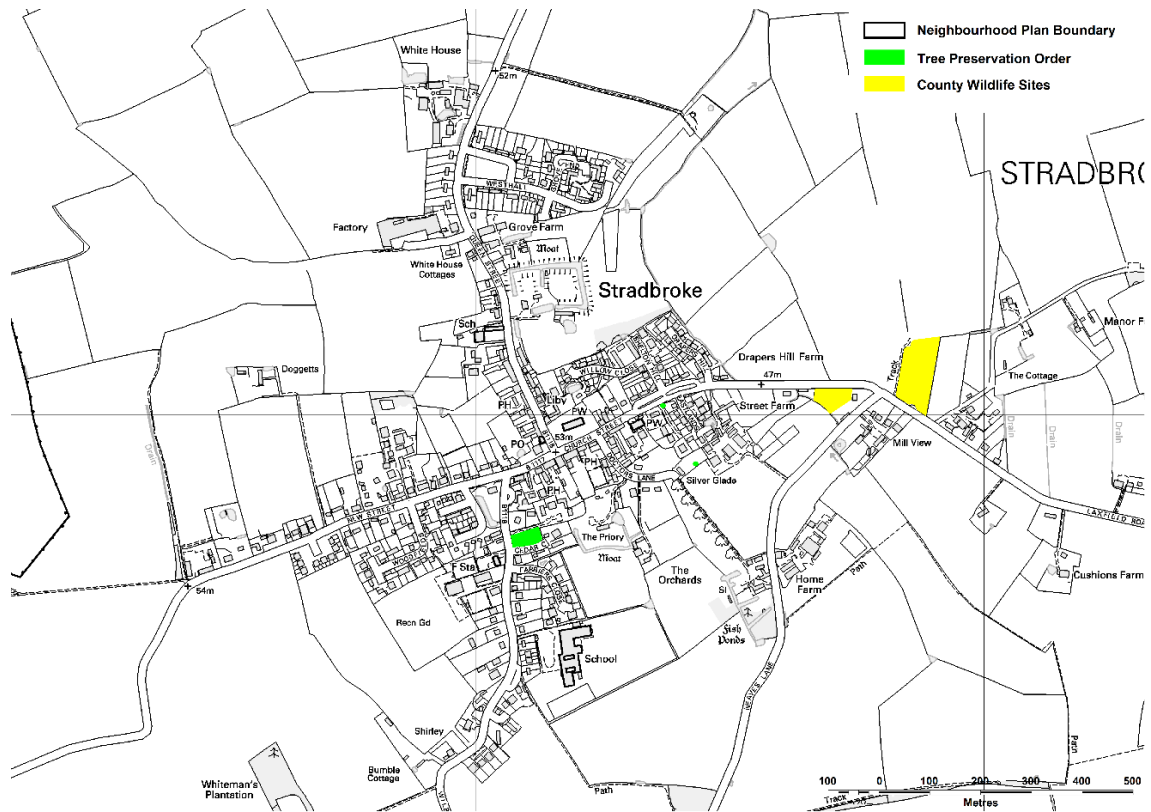
3.6 This is shown in Figure 3.1 and in more detail for the areas around Stradbroke village in Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.1: Key environmental features - parish**



Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

**Figure 3.2: Key environmental features – Stradbroke village**

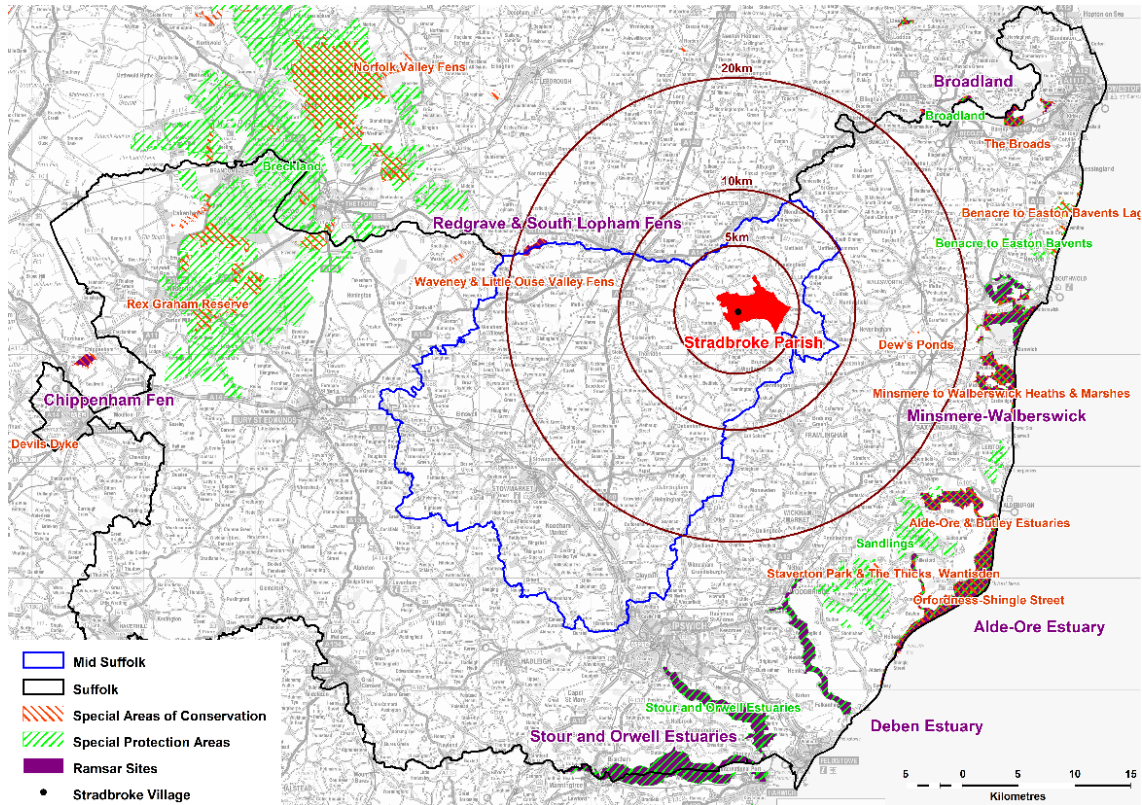


Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

## Species

- 3.7 Data from the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service identifies a number of protected species through the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This includes records of protected species at multiple points throughout Stradbroke village. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, it has not been possible to publish the mapping showing the locations of these protected species.
- 3.8 An important issue relating to housing development in Stradbroke is the potential adverse effects that the increased population could have on European designated sites. The Neighbourhood Plan Area is within the region of several Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and RAMSAR sites as seen in Figure 3.3. The Neighbourhood Plan Area is not within 10 kilometres of any of these sites.
- 3.9 A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report has been prepared which considers that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on any European designated sites. Therefore it is considered that a Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required. This is being consulted on with Natural England and Mid Suffolk District Council.

**Figure 3.3: Sites of European Importance**



## Landscape

- 3.10 Stradbroke is a predominantly rural parish. The Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance<sup>2</sup> identifies that the Neighbourhood Plan Area is on Plateau Claylands. This features very heavy clay soil, is very gently undulating or flat and is dissected by small streams. The overall appearance is of wide open views with small clusters of hedges, trees and houses.
- 3.11 The principle aims for the Plateau Claylands are to:
- maintain the distinctive settlement patterns, ensuring the sense of separation between settlements is maintained.
  - retain the rural character of the small settlements and conservation areas by avoiding the use of standardised and intrusive urban materials and features.
  - restore, maintain and enhance green and woodland areas.
  - design hedging for boundaries to reflect the local planting scheme to reduce visual impact on the distinctive character of the area.
  - maintain the character and condition of the landscape by requiring any major developments to enter into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for on- and off-site landscaping including enhancing field boundaries with local hedging and tree species.

<sup>2</sup> Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils (2015) *Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance*

## Air and Climate

- 3.12 Mid Suffolk District Council does not currently require continuous monitoring of air quality and the District has no designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.13 The only pollutant to be regularly monitored is nitrogen dioxide, which is monitored at 131 High Street, Needham Market as well as several points on the A14<sup>4</sup> which exceed the WHO guideline of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m<sup>3</sup>). These are well outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area therefore are unlikely to be significant.
- 3.14 As the global climate changes, an increasing prevalence of high-intensity weather events is expected to affect the environment of Suffolk, particularly as the county is in the driest area of the UK with 30% of its land below sea level. 2015 was both the hottest and wettest year on record with most of this rainfall recorded in December of that year<sup>5</sup>.

## Water

- 3.15 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is approximately six kilometres south of the River Waveney which forms much of the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. Several tributaries run through the Neighbourhood Plan Area, with two of these tributaries each lying approximately one mile from Stradbroke village on its north-east and west sides.
- 3.16 The areas immediately surrounding the tributaries to the west and north-east of the Neighbourhood Plan Area comprise flood risk zones 2 and 3 as seen in Figure 3.4. In addition, these areas are at risk of surface water flooding from both 1-in-30 year and 1-in-100 year events as seen in Figure 3.5.

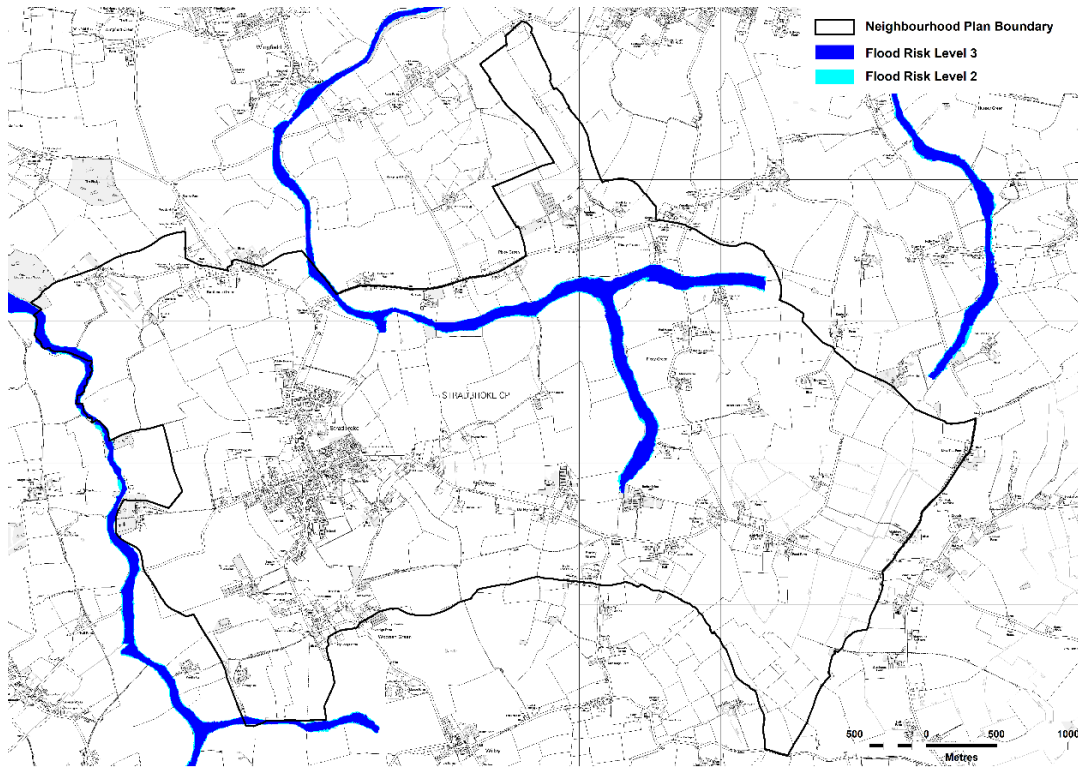
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<sup>3</sup> Defra(2017) *Air Quality Management Areas* <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/>

<sup>4</sup> Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/2016-Annual-Status-Report.pdf>)

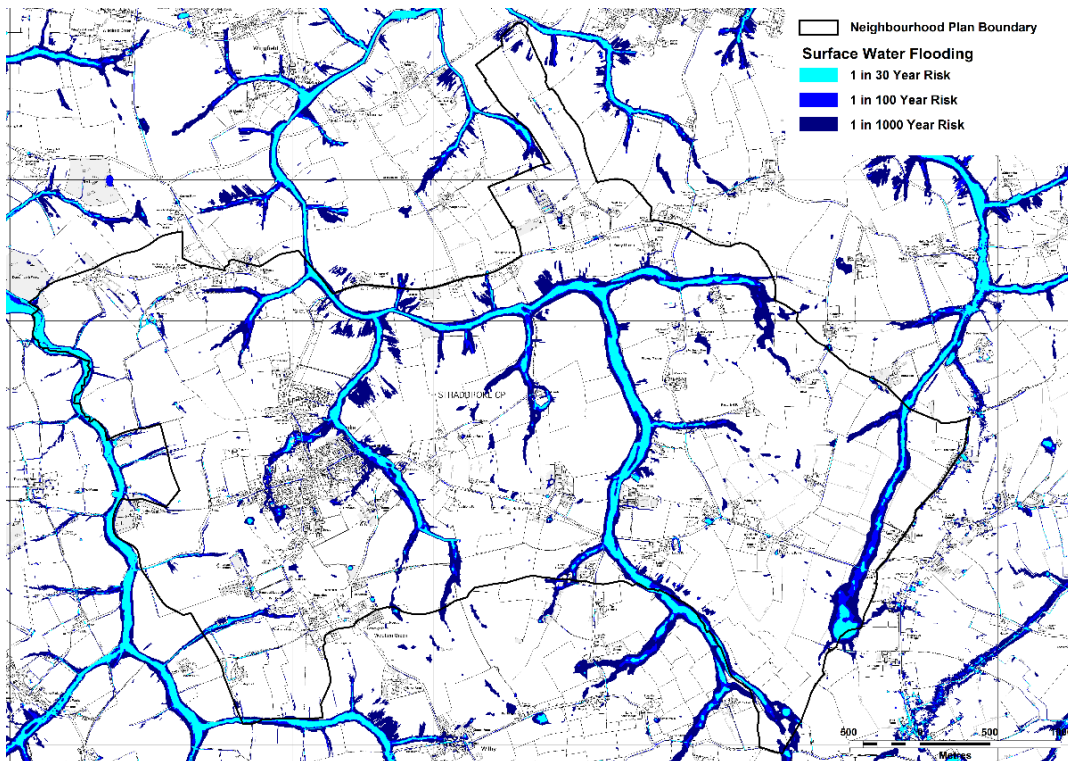
<sup>5</sup> <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SCCP/Climate-Change/Suffolk-Climate-Action-Plan-3.pdf>

**Figure 3.4: Fluvial flood risk**



Source: Environment Agency

**Figure 3.5: Surface water flood risk**



Source: Environment Agency

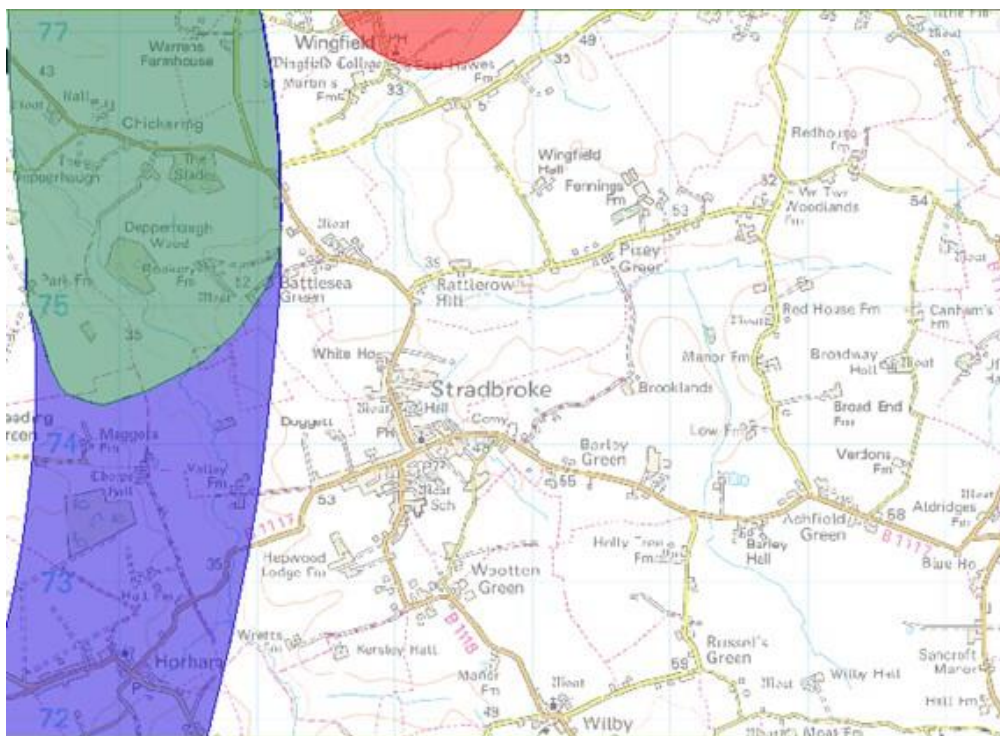


3.17 Surface water flooding has the potential to affect or be exacerbated by development, particularly where the tributary at the eastern and north-eastern areas of the main settlement runs adjacent to three sites proposed for allocation:

- Mill Lane (Policy STRAD18)
- Grove Farm (Policy STRAD19; planning permission granted)
- New Street (Policy STRAD15)

3.18 As shown in Figure 3.6, a small part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a Groundwater Source Protection Zone. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The risk of pollution is greater the closer the activity.

**Figure 3.6: Groundwater source protection zone**



Source: Environment Agency (red = inner zone, green = outer zone, purple = total catchment zone)

3.19 The whole of Stradbroke parish is a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) for surface waters.

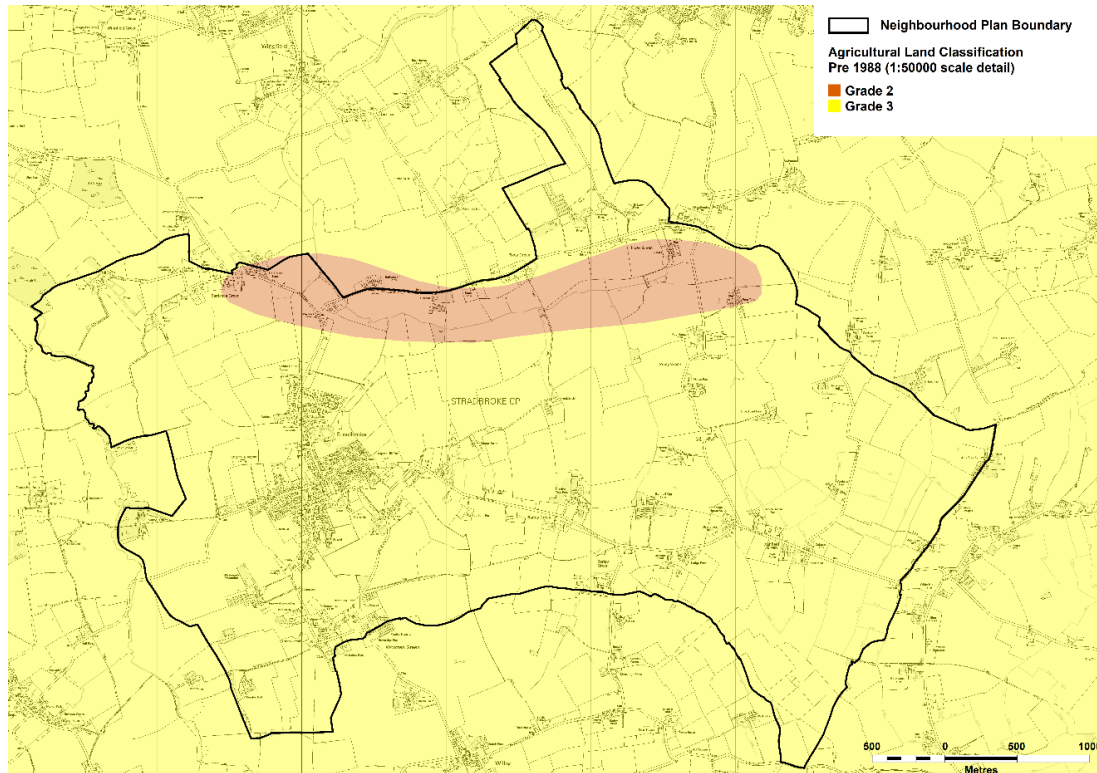
## Soil and Geology

3.20 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. Published by Natural England<sup>6</sup>, the ALC provides a classification in 5 grades using a number of criteria including climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, structure, texture, chemicals, stoniness). The scales ranges from 1 (high quality) to 5 – poorest.

<sup>6</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4424325>

- 3.21 The NPPF (paragraph 112) states that relevant planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality.
- 3.22 Stradbroke parish is located upon the High Suffolk Claylands. It is predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land (although it has not been possible to determine whether this is Grade 3a or Grade 3b), with a narrow belt of Grade 2 agricultural land in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, away from the main settlement. This is show in Figure 3.7.

**Figure 3.7: Agricultural Land Classification**



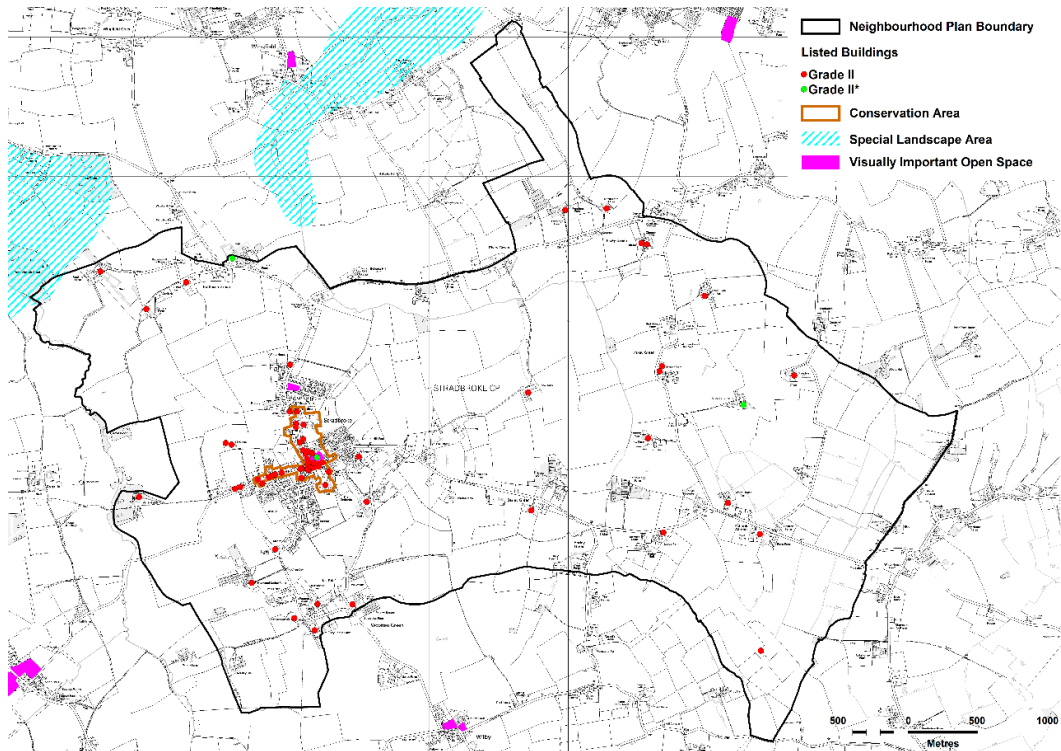
Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

- 3.23 This shows that the majority of agricultural land in the parish is Grade 3 (good to moderate), with some areas Grade 2 (very good).
- 3.24 There is no existing or historic landfill in or close to the area and no mining activity.

## Historic Environment

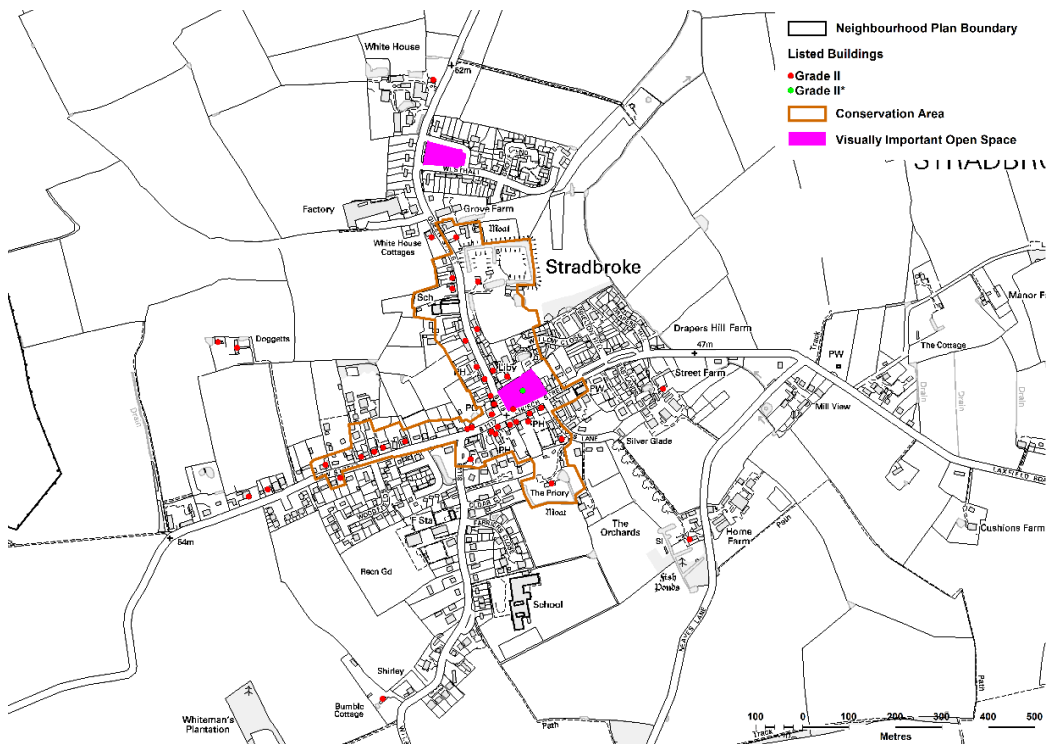
- 3.25 The historic environment of Stradbroke is considered to be of significant importance to the character of the village.
- 3.26 The Neighbourhood Plan Area has 69 listed buildings or structures, as shown at the parish level in Figure 3.8 and within the village in Figure 3.9. The split of these buildings is as follows:
- Grade I – 0
  - Grade II – 66
  - Grade II\* – 3

**Figure 3.8: Listed buildings in the parish**



Source: Historic England

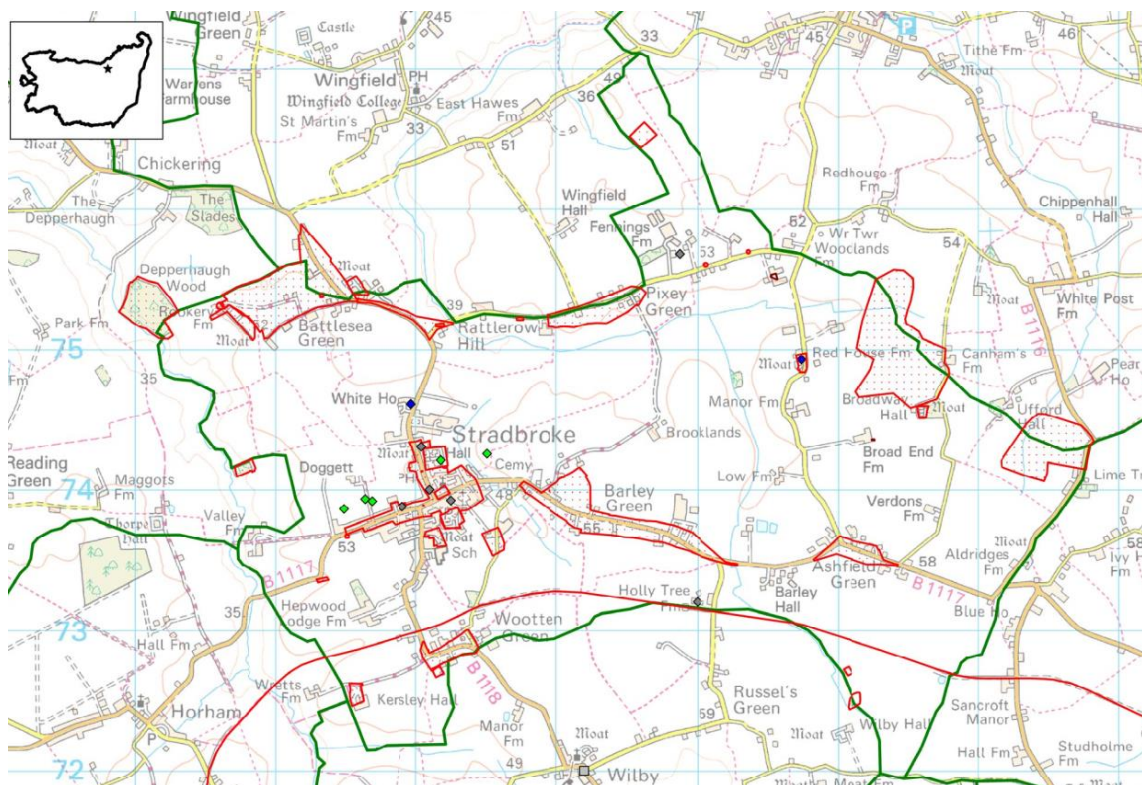
**Figure 3.9: Listed buildings in Stradbroke**



Source: Historic England

- 3.27 None of these buildings are on the register of Buildings at Risk. The three Grade II\* structures are the Parish of Stradbroke Church on the corner of Queen Street and Church Street; Broad End Farmhouse on Stradbroke Road; and Hill House Farmhouse on the B1118 in Battlesea Green. A small number of listed buildings are near the Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary.
- 3.28 The central 'crossroads' area of Stradbroke village is covered by a Conservation Area as shown in Figure 3.9 which seeks to protect its medieval character. The Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) notes that the most valued listed building in the Conservation Area is the church, graded II\*. The predominant materials are rendered timber frames (for buildings) with black glazed pantile roofs.
- 3.29 The CAA also notes that:
- "Local soft red brick can be found in the village, and many 19th Century buildings with slate roofs are of red brick construction but fronted with whites for effect. Many of these 19th Century buildings are not listed but contribute to Stradbroke's character and if identified could form the basis of a Local List."*
- 3.30 There is no Local List in existence at the present time.
- 3.31 As shown in Figure 3.10, there are 53 monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan Area on the Historic Environmental Record (HER). Stradbroke village contains a large proportion of these monuments and they play an important role in the historic character of the village.

**Figure 3.10: HER monuments**



Source: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

- 3.32 Several HER monuments are near Grove Farm, allocated itself in an outline record (SBK 049), Stradbroke Hall (SBK003), findspot of a 16<sup>th</sup> century jetton in the Hall (SBK 047); a medieval findspot near Drapers Hill Farm (MSF 18332); and a medieval moat (SBK004) and monument (SBK 021- MSF 1966) near the site allocated at STRAD16.

## Social and economic indicators

- 3.33 The 2011 Census recorded that the population of Stradbroke parish was 1,408 persons, living in 622 households. Since 2001, the population has grown by 187 persons, or 15.3%. Comparatively, the Mid Suffolk district population grew by 11.4%. Over the same period, the number of households grew by 117 in Stradbroke (23.2%) and by 4,910 in Mid Suffolk district (13.9%) This number will reflect the number of new houses built over the decade and also possibly the sub-division of existing properties into multiple households.
- 3.34 There has been a broad trend in the increase in population and number of households across the wider district but the rate of increase appears to be notably higher in Stradbroke.
- 3.35 Slow development growth has caused a lack of supply in the settlement, causing an upward pressure on house prices and rents. In October 2017, the average price of a terraced house in the IP21 postcode area (covering Stradbroke) was £170,625<sup>7</sup>. Based on a 95% mortgage, a couple would need a combined income of £54,700, or a single person an income of £46,300, to be able to buy such a property.
- 3.36 Table 3.2 shows the general health of the population. This shows that Stradbroke has health levels broadly similar to Mid Suffolk district and to the national average.

**Table 3.2: General health, 2011**

	Stradbroke parish	Mid Suffolk District	England
Very good health	45%	49%	46%
Good health	34%	35%	35%
Fair health	16%	13%	14%
Bad health	4%	3%	4%
Very bad health	1%	1%	1%

Source: 2011 Census

## Roads and transport

- 3.37 Stradbroke has a distinct staggered crossroads pattern. All roads in and out of the village go through the village centre. All of these roads are two-lane routes (i.e. one lane in each direction) and are therefore inappropriate for carrying significant volumes of traffic. Queen Street is the main route from the area towards Hoxne, Diss and onward to Norwich and Bury St Edmunds.
- 3.38 The roads in the centre of the town reflect its history and are often very small and therefore inappropriate for carrying anything other than a very low level of local traffic.
- 3.39 There is a pinch point on the road near the Primary School which regularly leads to traffic issues, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times. The opening of an anaerobic bio digester unit to the east of the village has created a significant increase in large agricultural vehicles travelling on this road which has increased the frequency of traffic gridlock outside of school times.
- 3.40 Stradbroke is not served by a train station. Public transport to a number of locations is poor, including Diss, Eye, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

## Infrastructure

- 3.41 Stradbroke has the following community infrastructure assets focused in Stradbroke village:

<sup>7</sup> Source: [www.home.co.uk](http://www.home.co.uk)

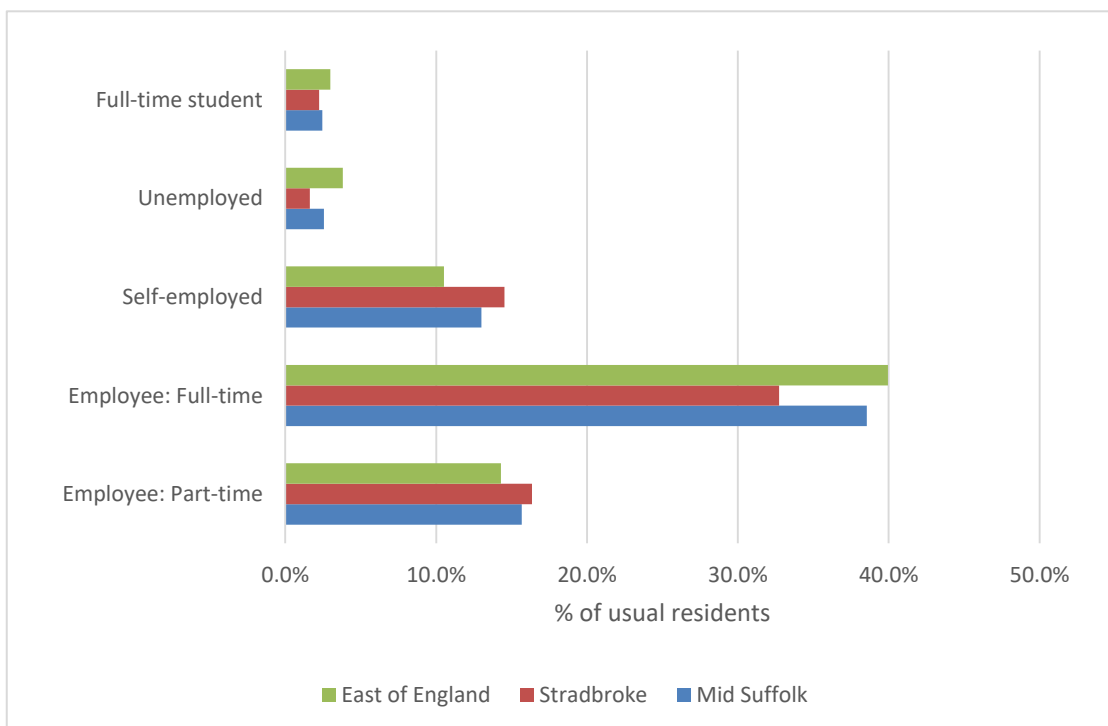
- A primary school
- A high school
- A GP surgery (shared with Fressingfield)
- Several places of worship
- Several recreational spaces used for formal and informal recreation, including playing fields
- A number of pubs and restaurants
- A range of shops
- Gardens and allotments

### Economic characteristics

3.42 Stradbroke’s levels of economic activity are below the district and regional figures, but with slightly lower unemployment. This reflects the high proportion of retirees. It also has a comparatively strong level of self-employed people without employees, suggesting a notable presence of small business.

3.43 This is shown in Figure 3.11.

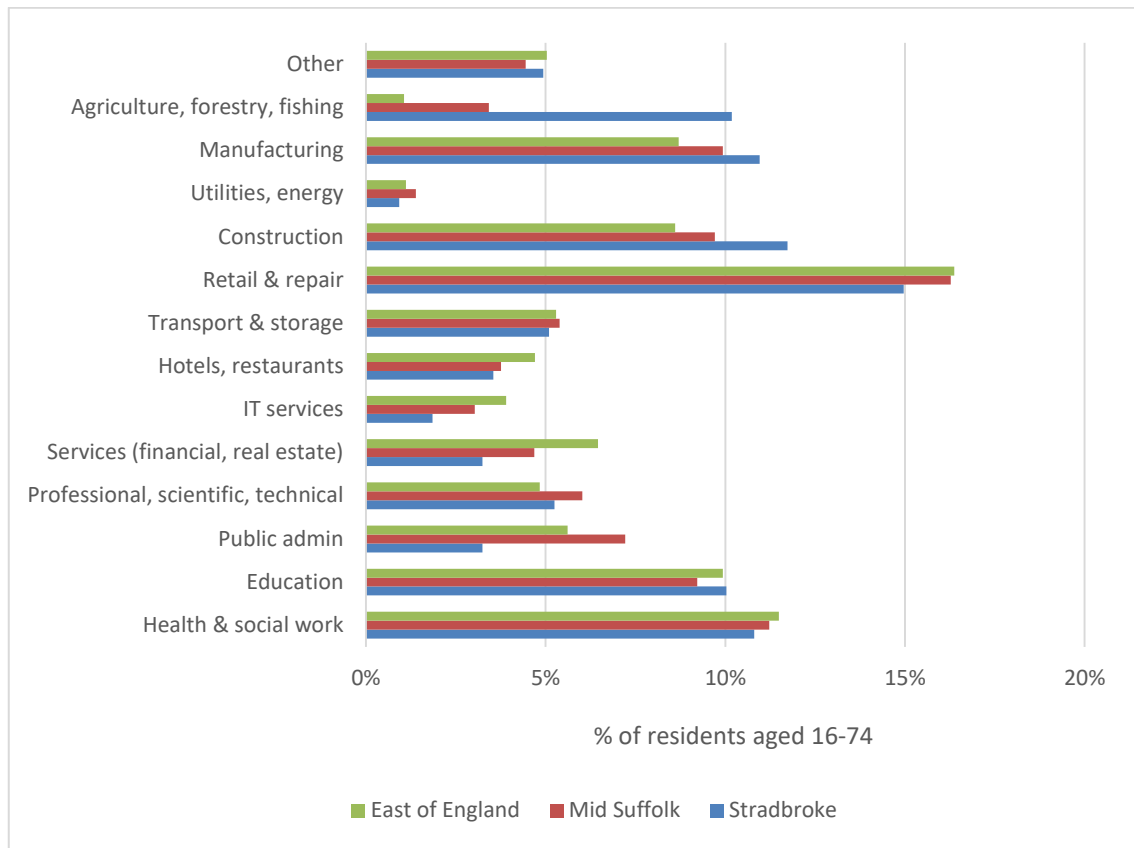
**Figure 3.11: Economic activity, 2011**



Source: 2011 Census

3.44 Stradbroke has historically been a working agricultural village and is comparatively strongly represented in the agriculture & forestry sector. Today it is also well represented by a variety of sectors including retail, construction, manufacturing, and education. This is shown in Figure 3.12. Stradbroke has traditionally been a working agricultural village, but today also provides employment in services in retail.

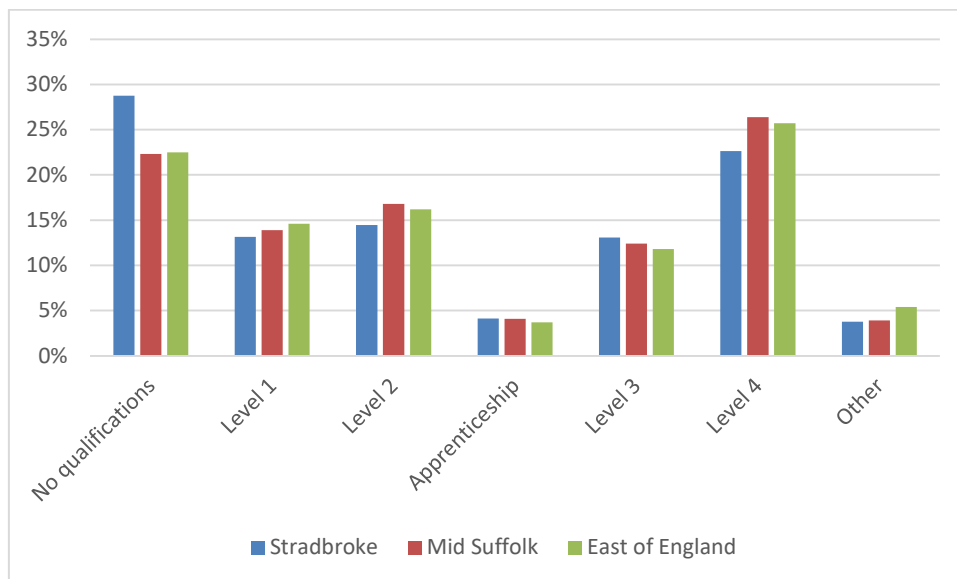
**Figure 3.12: Type of industry, 2011**



Source: 2011 Census

3.45 Figure 3.13 shows that Stradbroke has nearly 30% of the population have no qualifications, significantly higher than Mid Suffolk and the East and demonstrated in the higher levels of part-time employment. The proportion that have been educated to Level 4 is slightly lower than the district and region, but still significant at nearly 23%.

**Figure 3.13: Qualifications of residents aged 16 and over**



Source: 2011 Census

## 4 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

### SWOT analysis

4.1 Table 4.1 has been informed by the issues identified in the Neighbourhood Plan engagement events and consultation, and the baseline information collected in Section 3.

**Table 4.1: SWOT analysis of issues facing Stradbroke parish**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant heritage of the village (including the conservation area)</li> <li>• Centrally located to nearby villages and towns</li> <li>• Wide variety of community facilities (sport, allotments, leisure facilities)</li> <li>• Varied community infrastructure (pre-through secondary schools, doctor's surgery, fire station, library, post-office)</li> <li>• Rich agricultural landscape</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A significant distance from A12 and nearest railway station</li> <li>• Very limited bus services</li> <li>• Staggered crossroads shape creates traffic pinch points</li> <li>• Employment opportunities limited</li> <li>• Infrastructure struggling to cope with present population needs</li> <li>• Single convenience retail shop vulnerable to closure</li> <li>• Difficulty for young people to access further education</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To extend the service role provided for adjacent villages</li> <li>• To provide a fit-for-purpose pre-school and expand parking for primary school</li> <li>• To expand facilities for high school</li> <li>• To expand community playing fields</li> <li>• To increase the scale and range of employment</li> <li>• To enhance community cohesion</li> <li>• To alleviate traffic pressures at peak times and establish and protect cycle- and pedestrian pathways through the village</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population profile is skewed towards retired and elderly</li> <li>• Levels of service provision and infrastructure under severe pressure to cope with growing population demands</li> <li>• Sensitive settings, particularly at the edges of the village</li> <li>• Dominance of road transport causing problems of parking, volume and speed causing safety issues for pedestrians, cyclists and users of mobility scooters</li> </ul>



## Key issues

- 4.2 There are a number of sustainability issues and challenges facing the parish. While Stradbroke parish is a key a high quality environment to residents and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to manage and seek to resolve a series of issues over its lifetime if the parish is to continue to be successful while respecting its historic character and landscape setting.
- 4.3 In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan (and as a consequence a lack of vision and strategy for Stradbroke), there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the parish, as well as contributing to a reduction in the potential benefit to the community.

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

Challenges facing Stradbroke Parish	Effect of not having a neighbourhood plan
Problem of traffic speed, volume and weight and lack of pedestrian/cyclist safety at the village centre junctions	Residents lives will be further blighted and safety will be worsened by traffic movements
Scale of housing growth	Local Plan policies are strategic in nature but do require growth of Core Villages, therefore Stradbroke could be exposed to speculative applications for major housing
Lack of affordable housing for parish residents	No suitable sites for housing for local people would be delivered
Supporting an ageing population	Potential issues of care/support/transport and a lack of local homes suitable for the needs of older people
Inadequate and potentially reducing public transport options	Increased dependence on the private car and increasing isolation for those unable to afford a car
Support and flexibility for local businesses	The needs of businesses to grow and change may be restricted by current policies
Infrastructure improvements such as roads, crossings, parking, community facilities	Funding for infrastructure requirements may not arise and provision of community facilities may not keep up with growing demand
Pressures for development in countryside	Local Plan policies are strategic in nature but do require growth of Core Villages which could therefore be ad-hoc and unplanned
Loss of agricultural land to development	Could result in unnecessary loss of agricultural land due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications
Need to maintain and enhance the high quality natural environment, wildlife networks and biodiversity of the parish	Could result in unnecessary impacts on biodiversity due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications
Need to protect and enhance the historic buildings and environment of the parish	Could result in unnecessary impacts on heritage assets due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications

## 5 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK (STAGE A4)

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

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

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

**Table 5.1: Sustainability objectives and criteria for the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan**

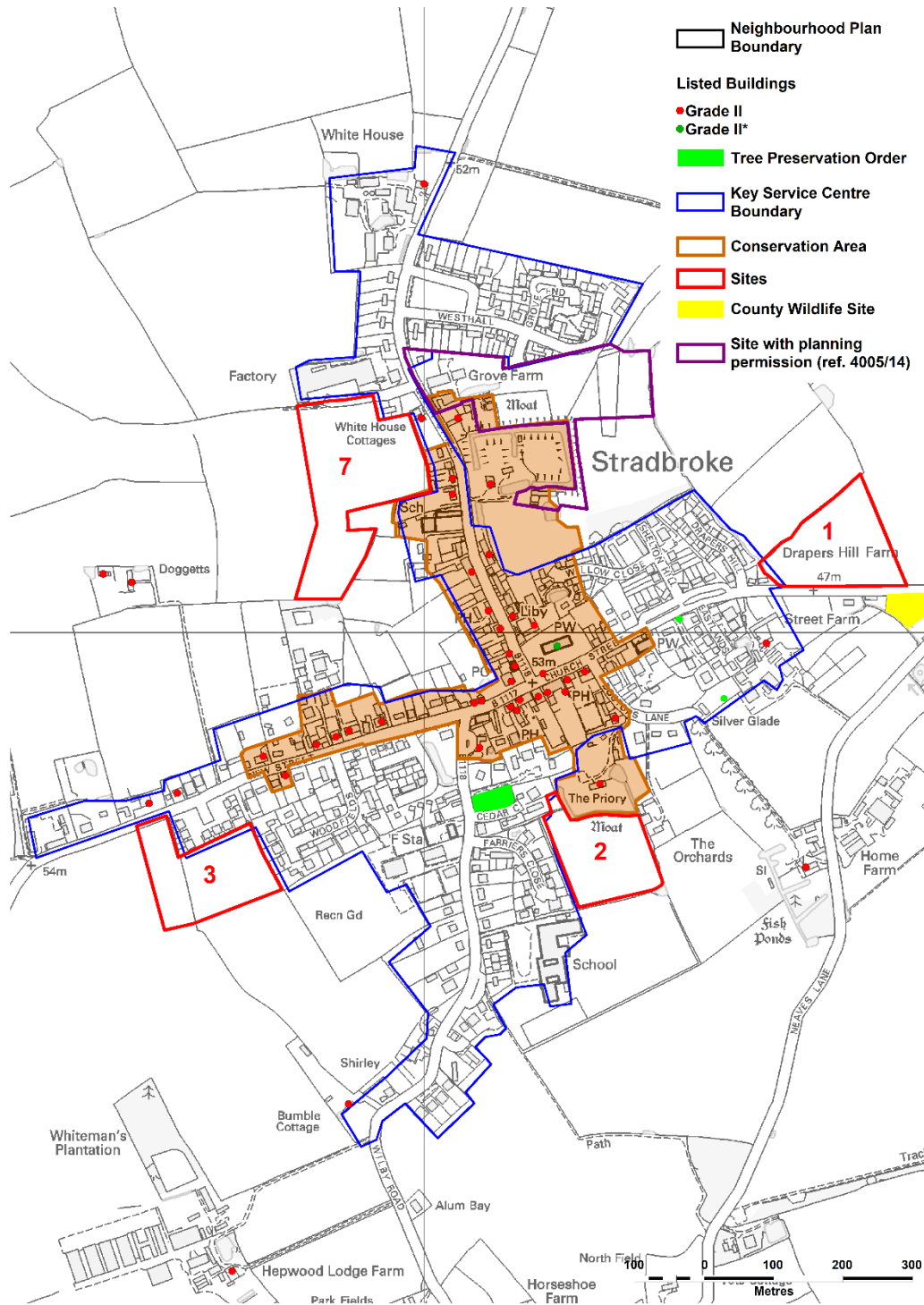
Sustainability theme	Objectives	Criteria
1/Env	To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Stradbroke in terms of its geology, landform, soils, biodiversity, water systems and climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change in area of priority habitats within the parish (data from Suffolk Biological Records Office)</li> <li>- Amount of agricultural land classification (ALC) land lost.</li> <li>- Number of developments in 'highly vulnerable' or 'more vulnerable' flood risk areas.</li> </ul>
2/Soc	To ensure that housing addresses the needs of the existing community of Stradbroke before addressing wider needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mix of housing built by dwelling size.</li> <li>- Number of affordable homes completed.</li> </ul>
3/Econ	To maximise the potential of existing employment/employers and support the need for new employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of existing businesses retained.</li> <li>- Number of new businesses in the parish.</li> <li>- Number of new jobs likely to be created.</li> <li>- Number of businesses and dwellings (for home workers) with access to superfast broadband.</li> </ul>
4/Econ	To protect and enhance the vitality of the retail provision within the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of shop units in the village</li> </ul>
5/Env	To protect the identity and local distinctiveness of Stradbroke by conserving and enhancing the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of listed buildings lost in built-up area.</li> <li>- Number of developments within or adjacent to a Conservation Area.</li> <li>- Number of trees with TPOs.</li> </ul>
6/Soc	To ensure that the community has a high quality and healthy lifestyle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Census figures on long term illness and general health.</li> </ul>

Sustainability theme	Objectives	Criteria
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number/area of green spaces within walking distance of homes.</li> <li>- Usage of formal green spaces within the parish.</li> <li>- Number of formal recreation facilities within walking distance of homes.</li> <li>- Number of homes experiencing unacceptable levels of noise.</li> </ul>
7/Soc	To ensure the provision of a range of community facilities that provide for the needs of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of community facilities within the parish.</li> </ul>
8/Soc	To improve safe and sustainable movement around the parish and to the village by a range of modes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Levels of traffic at key junctions in the village centre.</li> <li>- Number and distance of new footpaths/cyclepaths.</li> <li>- Speed data from police.</li> <li>- Accident data from police.</li> <li>- Number of safe crossing points serving the village centre.</li> </ul>
9/Soc	To ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distance the population of the parish live from key services.</li> <li>- Availability of regular public transport.</li> <li>- Speed of broadband services.</li> </ul>

## **6 ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY OF PLAN POLICIES AND SITE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 The sustainability appraisal objectives shown in Table 5.1 will be used to assess the sustainability of the plan policy options and of the site options. In respect of the sites, this appraisal will be undertaken on all of the sites submitted and the information presented to the community as part of the ongoing engagement process in order to understand which sites are the most sustainable and are best able to deliver against the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 In order to ensure a comprehensive approach, possible sites for development were gleaned from a Neighbourhood Plan Call-for-Sites process and from the MSDC Call-for-Sites.
- 6.3 The Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) draft of the Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate five sites, one of which already has the benefit of planning permission. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 6.1.

**Figure 6.1: Location of site allocations in first draft of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan**



6.4 The Sustainability Appraisal will test both the scale of development being proposed through the Plan and also the individual sites proposed for allocation. These will be tested against reasonable alternatives.

6.5 For each sustainability objective, the assessment will give a score in respect of the relevant criterion. The score will be made on the following scale:

- Strongly positive

- Slightly positive
- Neutral
- Slightly negative
- Strongly negative

6.6 A commentary will also be provided for each criterion on each site in order to provide more context to the 'five-point' assessment.

6.7 The same assessment will be used to address the plan policies against alternatives.

6.8 Table 6.1 below relates the sustainability objectives back to the key concerns and valued aspects of the parish that were raised by the community. These were identified by the community through the engagement process on the neighbourhood plan and informed the SWOT analysis in Section 4.

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

	1/Env – Countryside & Biodiversity	2/Soc - Housing	3/Econ - Commercial	4/Econ - Retail	5/Env - Heritage	6/Soc - Health	7/Soc - Community	8/Soc – Transport & Movement	10/Soc - Services
<b>VALUED ASPECTS</b>									
Countryside and landscape	√								
Heritage of village					√				
Range of community facilities						√	√		
Shops and services in village			√	√					√
<b>CONCERNS</b>									
Traffic speed/volume								√	
Cycling/walking						√		√	
Vulnerability of services			√	√		√			√
Suitability of housing mix for local needs		√							
Loss of rural character	√								
Local employment opportunities			√	√					

## **7 NEXT STEPS**

- 7.1 This Scoping Report will be subject to consultation for a 5-week period. Following the close of consultation, all comments will be considered and will help influence the draft SEA/SA Report.
- 7.2 As the Neighbourhood Plan is developed, the strategy, policies and site options will be tested against these sustainability objectives, to identify appropriate policies for inclusion in the Plan. All realistic policy options will be appraised against the Sustainability Framework set out in Section 5 of this report, in order to ensure that the policies chosen for the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan are the most sustainable, given all realistic alternatives.

