

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Prepared by AECOM for Saham Toney Parish Council

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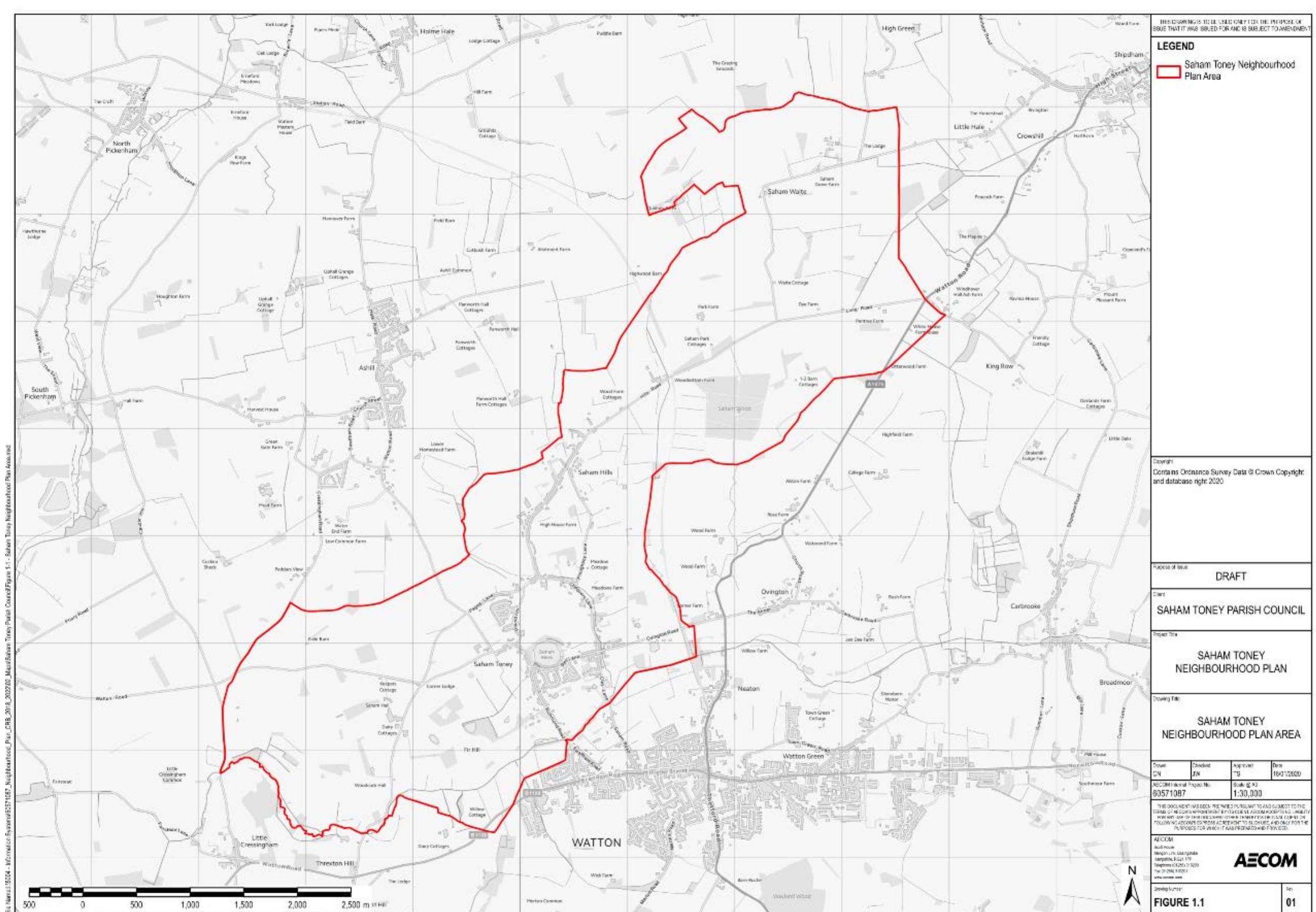
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Saham Toney's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Breckland Local Plan.
- 1.3 It is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Breckland Council in the third quarter of 2020.
- 1.4 Key information relating to the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Saham Toney Parish Council
Title of Plan	Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	<p>The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the Breckland Local Plan 2019.</p> <p>The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Saham Toney in Breckland (Figure 1.1).
Summary of content	The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Chris Blow, Neighbourhood Plan Work Group Leader stnp2036@gmail.com

Relationship of the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan with the Breckland Local Plan

- 1.5 The Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the adopted Breckland Local Plan (2019)¹. Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the district, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. The Local Plan seeks to give communities a solid framework within which appropriate community-led planning policy documents, including neighbourhood plans, can be brought forward. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Saham Toney, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 1.6 The Breckland Local Plan aims to set a spatial vision and strategy for the district, with clear economic, social and environmental objectives and to meet the needs of aspirations of Breckland's residents.
- 1.7 In the Breckland Local Plan, Saham Toney has been designated as one of seventeen 'Villages with Boundaries' meaning that the village has a designated settlement boundary. Policy HOU 04 (Villages with Boundaries) indicates that appropriate development will be allowed immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary, subject to being supported by other policies within the development plan and where all of the following criteria are satisfied:
- The development is of an appropriate scale and design to the settlement;
 - It would not lead to the number of dwellings in the settlement increasing by significantly more than 5% from the date of adoption of the Plan. The settlement refers to the number of buildings inside the defined settlement boundary;
 - The design contributes to preserving, and where possible enhancing, the historic nature and connectivity of communities; and
 - The development avoids coalescence of settlements.
- In addition, windfall development is allowed inside the settlement boundary.
- 1.8 Appendix 5 of the Breckland Local Plan indicates that the minimum number of dwellings to be built over the plan period to 2036 in Saham Toney is 33 (representing 5% growth of the number of dwellings in the settlement from the date of adoption of the Local Plan).
- 1.9 A Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA where it is likely to have significant environmental effects. In this respect, the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Breckland Council as requiring a SEA. The Neighbourhood Plan will allocate new development in the parish. This includes potentially environmentally sensitive locations, such as:
- Locations within SSSI impact risk zones for the Breckland Farm SSSI;
 - Locations within the Breckland Special Protection Area buffer zone;
 - Locations with sensitivity for the historic environment;
 - Locations at risk of flooding; and
 - Locations within sensitivity for landscape character.

¹ Breckland Council (2019) Breckland Local Plan. [online] available at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/adoption> [accessed 14/01/2020]

- 1.10 In light of this screening outcome, a SEA process is being undertaken to meet the specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

SEA Explained

- 1.11 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.
- 1.12 The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.13 SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.14 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
- i. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 - ii. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

This scoping report

- 1.15 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item 'i' above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

SEA 'Scoping' Explained

- 1.16 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- i. Defining the broader context for the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
 - ii. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
 - iii. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
 - iv. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

- 1.17 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps i-iv above have been presented under a series of key environmental themes, as follows:
- Air Quality
 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - Climatic Factors (including flood risk)
 - Landscape
 - Historic Environment
 - Land, Soil and Water Resources
 - Population and Community
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Transportation
- 1.18 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive². These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects. It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them.
- 1.19 Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under these nine themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives.
- 1.20 The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 10.

SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

- 1.21 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework.
- 1.22 The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 10.

² The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

Policy Context

2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- *'Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.'*
- *'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.'*
- *'New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution'.*

2.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'³ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

2.3 In terms of the local context, Breckland Council is required under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995) to monitor air quality across the District, report regularly to DEFRA, and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), benzene (C₆H₆) and particulates (PM₁₀). Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.

2.4 Policy COM 01 (Design), Policy COM 02 (Healthy Lifestyles) and Policy TR 01 (Sustainable Transport Network) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Air Quality SEA theme.

³ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 13/01/2020]

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

- 2.5 As of June 2019, there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Neighbourhood Plan area as highlighted in the 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report.⁴ The nearest AQMA is in Swaffham along A1065 Station Street. The AQMA was declared in 2017 for Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)⁵ and is approximately 10km north west of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.6 There are no recent or anticipated exceedances of national air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of Future Baseline

- 2.7 New housing and employment provision within the parish and the wider area, including through the Breckland Local Plan, has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂. However, this is unlikely to lead to exceedances of air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area given the low air pollutant baseline which currently exists along with the scale of development proposed in the area through Local Plan.

Key Sustainability Issues

- There are no exceedances or anticipated exceedances of national air quality objectives.
 - Traffic and congestion arising from planned new development within and surrounding the area have the potential to increase emissions; however, this is unlikely to lead to exceedances of air quality objectives within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.8 Due to the absence of air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.

⁴ Breckland Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report 2019 [online] available at: https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/13190/2019-Air-Quality-Annual-Status-Report-ASR-/pdf/ASR_Breckland_2019_Final.pdf?m=637116531681900000 [accessed 13/01/2020]

⁵ DEFRA (2019) UK AIR – Air Information Resources Interactive Map, [online] available at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps/> [accessed 23/01/2020]

3. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Focus of Theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Geological sites
- Habitats
- Species

Policy Context

- 3.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁶ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to *'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'*.
- 3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to *'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity.'*
 - *'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value [...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'*
 - *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'*
 - *'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*
 - a) *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
 - b) *Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.'*
- 3.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our

⁶ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf [accessed 13/01/2020]

⁷ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> [accessed 13/01/2020]

natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

3.4 Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*⁸.

3.5 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan⁹ sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:

- Using and managing land sustainably;
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

3.6 In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme.

3.7 At the local level, Policy ENV 02 (Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement), Policy ENV 03 (The Brecks Protected Habitats & Species), Policy ENV 06 (Trees, Hedgerows and Development) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

European and Nationally designated sites

3.8 There are no European designated sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located in close proximity to the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

⁸ DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services> [accessed 13/01/2020]

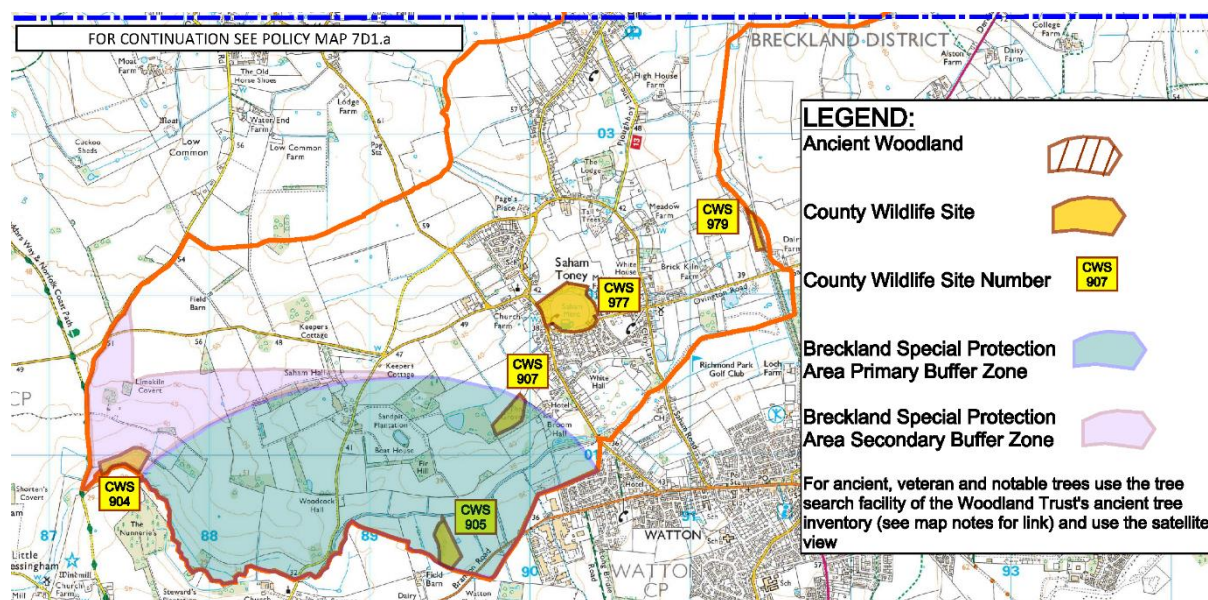
⁹ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 13/01/2020]

Breckland SPA

- 3.9 Breckland SPA is located approximately 365m from the southern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area and was classified as a SPA in September 2006¹⁰. Breckland SPA is described as:

'Breckland SPA lies on largely sandy soils of glacial origin. In the nineteenth century the area was termed a sandy waste, with small patches of arable cultivation that were soon abandoned. The continental climate, with low rainfall and free draining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Much of Breckland has been planted with conifers throughout the twentieth century, and in part of the site, arable farming is the predominant land use. The remnants of dry heath and grassland which have survived these recent changes support heathland breeding birds, where grazing by rabbits and sheep is sufficiently intensive to create short turf and open ground. These breeding birds have also adapted to live in forestry and arable habitats. Woodlark Lullula arborea and nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus breed in clear-fell and open heath areas, whilst stone curlews Burhinus oedicnemus establish nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring, as well as on Breckland grass-heath'.

A small part of the Breckland SPA 1500m primary and secondary buffer zones extend into the south-western most part of the Neighbourhood Plan area, as shown below.



Breckland SAC

- 3.10 Breckland SAC is located within Breckland SPA approximately 2.1km south of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is around 7,544 ha in size. Breckland SAC comprises of:

- Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (0.5%);
- Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (1%);
- Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (20%);
- Dry grassland, Steppes (59.4%);
- Improved grassland (0.2%);
- Other arable land (0.1%);
- Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (9%);

¹⁰ Natural England (2019) 'European Site Conservation Objectives for Breckland SPA', [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4572292419944448> [accessed 15/01/2020]

- Coniferous woodland (5%);
- Mixed woodland (4%);
- Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice (0.5%); and
- Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (0.3%).

3.11 Breckland SAC contains habitats including;

- Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands,
- Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation,
- European dry heaths and
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)

3.12 Breckland SAC is also home to Great crested newts¹¹.

Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

3.13 The Norfolk Valley Fens SAC is around 616 ha in size and is located approximately 2.3km from the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Norfolk Valley Fens SAC comprises of:

- Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5%);
- Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (25%);
- Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, *Phygrana* (30%);
- Dry grassland, Steppes (5%);
- Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (5%); and
- Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (30%).

3.14 The Norfolk Valley Fens SAC contains alkaline fens habitat¹².

Breckland Farm SSSI

3.15 Breckland Farm is located approximately 370m south of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Notified in November 2000, Breckland Farm SSSI is approximately 13,394 ha in size.

3.16 This site is notified for its internationally important population of stone curlew (*Burhinus oediconemus*). The citation statement for the SSSI states¹³:

'Breckland is characterised by its climate and soils. Breckland's climate is semi-continental, being the driest region of the British Isles and subject to great extremes of temperature. The soils are complex, but typically are very sandy free draining mixes of chalk, sand, silt, clay and flints. The predominant land use within the SSSI is arable. This is characterised by field scale vegetables and root crops, generally in rotation with cereals and outdoor pig units. Management for gamebirds is also a characteristic feature. Stone curlews nest from March each year in cultivated land which has plenty of bare ground and very short vegetation. Late sown spring crops such as sugar beet and vegetables are favoured. They also occupy set-aside where this has been rotated. Stone curlews are very sensitive to recreational disturbance and benefit from lack of recreational access on agricultural land; they are not usually affected by mechanised agricultural operations. Other habitats such as grassland are used for foraging. A

¹¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2019) 'Breckland', [online] available at: <https://sac.incc.gov.uk/site/UK0019865> [accessed 16/01/2020]

¹² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2019) 'Norfolk Valley Fens', [online] available at: <https://sac.incc.gov.uk/site/UK0012892> [accessed 16/01/2020]

¹³ Natural England (2019) Breckland Farm SSSI – Citation, [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/2000442.pdf> [accessed 23/01/2020]

restored mineral working also supports breeding stone curlews. Breckland Farmland SSSI is adjoined by a number of heathland SSSIs which also provide breeding and foraging habitat for stone curlew’.

- 3.17 The most recent conditions assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in ‘favourable’ condition.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones

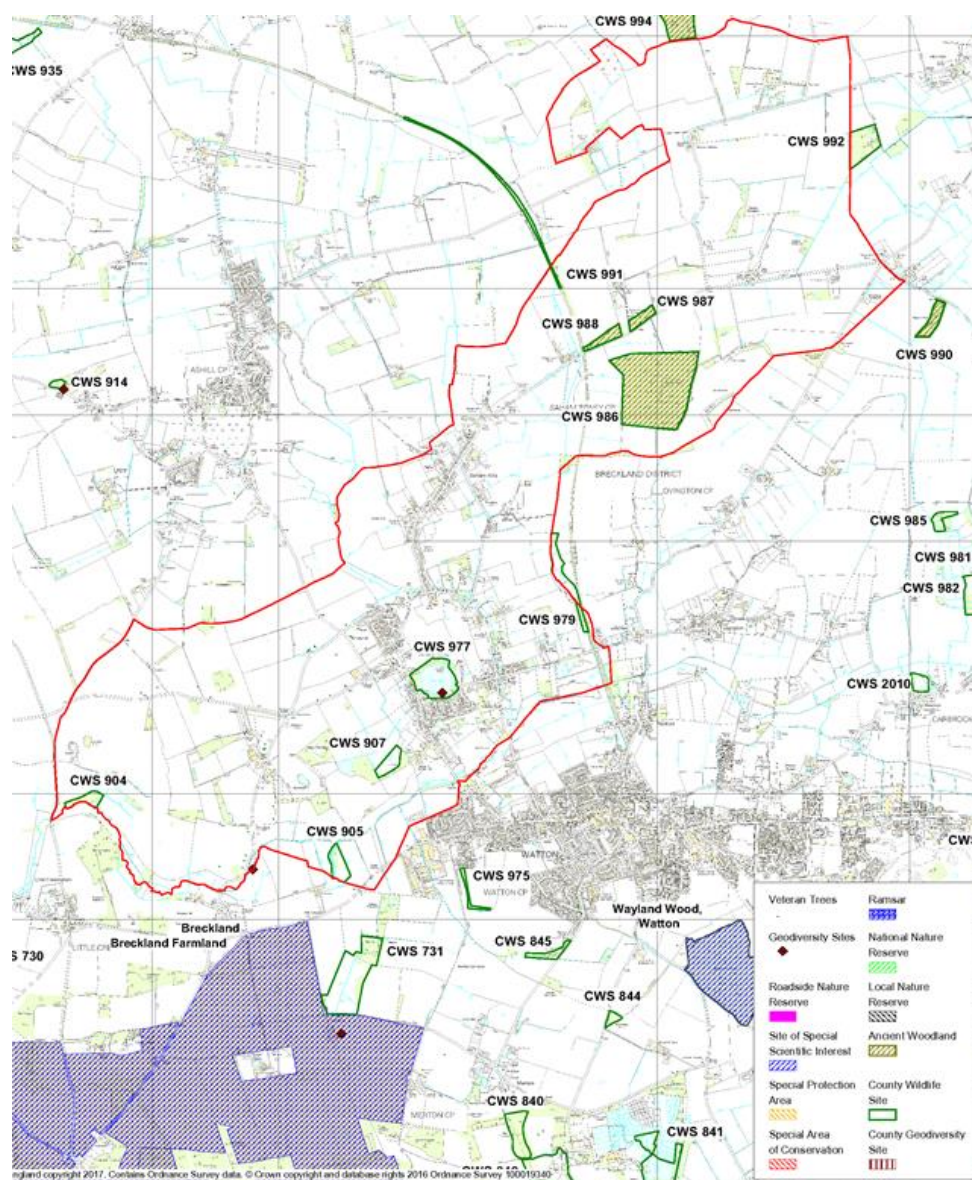
- 3.18 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.
- 3.19 The south western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area that surrounds Breckland Farm SSSI is within an SSSI IRZ for ‘Large non-residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where footprint exceeds 1ha’, ‘any residential development with a total net gain in residential units’ and ‘any residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas with a total net gain in residential units’. This includes the southern part of the built up area of Saham Toney. The centre of Saham Toney is in an SSSI IRZ for ‘residential development of 100 units or more’ and ‘any residential development of 100 or more houses outside existing settlements/ urban areas.’

Locally important sites

County Wildlife Sites

- 3.20 There are nine County Wildlife Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area and others which are adjacent or in close proximity, shown in **Figure 3.2** below.

Figure 3.2 County Wildlife Sites in Saham Toney¹⁴



¹⁴ Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan (2018) 'County Wildlife Sites, Ancient Woodland & Veteran Trees', [online] available at: <https://www.stnp2036.org/policy-maps.html> [accessed 15/01/2020]

Ancient woodland

- 3.21 There are two areas of ancient woodland present in the parish, located north of Hill Road in the north eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and one site of ancient replanted woodland (Saham Wood,) also located in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan. Their locations are shown on **Figure 3.2**.
- 3.22 There are also 15 private veteran trees, 13 public veteran trees, two private ancient trees and two public notable trees located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.¹⁵

Priority Habitats

- 3.23 There are a variety of BAP Priority Habitats located within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, predominantly areas of good quality semi-improved grassland (Non-Priority) and deciduous woodland.
- 3.24 **Figure 3.1** shows the designated wildlife sites and BAP priority habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of Future Baseline

- 3.25 Habitats and species are likely to continue to be offered protection through the higher-level planning framework, however; they will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area with the potential for negative effects on the wider ecological network. These pressures have the potential to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- 3.26 The Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, undesignated sites, and connections between designated sites and undesignated sites at a localised scale, and at an early stage of planning for future growth. This is particularly relevant in the siting of new small-scale housing development.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Breckland SPA lies approximately 365m from the southern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- A small part of the Breckland SPA 1500m primary and secondary buffer zones extend into the south-western most part of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Breckland SAC is located within Breckland SPA and lies 2.1km south of the Neighbourhood Plan area
- Breckland Farm SSSI approximately 370m south of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are nine County Wildlife Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area; along with BAP priority habitats, namely; good quality semi-improved grassland (non-priority) and deciduous woodland.

¹⁵ Woodland Trust (2020) 'Ancient Tree Inventory', [online] available at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/?v=1650535&ml=map&z=14&nwLat=52.60152501959945&nwLng=0.7188936451810024&seLat=52.553487276272946&seLng=0.9286638478177211> [accessed 03/02/2020]

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the status of the internationally, nationally and locally designated sites within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area including the Breckland SPA, the Breckland SAC and the Breckland Farm SSSI? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity? • Increase the resilience of ecological networks to the likely effects of climate change?

4. Climate Change

Focus of Theme

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaption
- Flood risk

Policy Context

- 4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a five-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It requires the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below¹⁶ :
- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
 - Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
 - Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
 - Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
 - Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
 - New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.
- 4.2 The UK Climate Change Act¹⁷ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.
- 4.3 The Climate Change Act includes the following:
- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
 - Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
 - The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

¹⁶ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> [accessed 13/01/2020]

¹⁷ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> [accessed 13/01/2020]

- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page 18.

4.4 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to *'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' and 'moving to a low carbon economy.'* *'The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'*
- *'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.'*
- *'Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.'*
- *'Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). 'Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'*

4.5 The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).²⁰

4.6 At the local level, Policy GEN 01 (Sustainable Development in Breckland), Policy HOU 06 (Principle of New Housing), Policy HOU 10 (Technical Design Standards for New Homes), Policy TR 01 (Sustainable Transport Network), Policy ENV 09 (Flood Risk & Surface Water Drainage), Policy ENV 10 (Renewable Energy Development) and Policy COM 02 (Healthy Lifestyles) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Climate Change SEA theme.

¹⁸ Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] available at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/> [accessed 13/01/2020]

¹⁹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> [accessed 13/01/2020]

²⁰ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Contribution to climate change

- 4.7 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Breckland has lower per capita emissions in comparison to Norfolk and England as a whole since 2005 (**Table 4.1**). Breckland has also seen a 33.7% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for Norfolk (34.1%) and England (37.6%).

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2016²¹

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Breckland				
2005	2.9	2.6	3.3	7.7
2006	2.9	2.6	3.2	7.6
2007	2.8	2.5	3.2	7.4
2008	2.4	2.4	3.1	6.9
2009	2.2	2.2	2.9	6.4
2010	2.4	2.4	2.9	6.7
2011	2.1	2.1	2.8	6.3
2012	2.3	2.2	2.8	6.1
2013	2.2	2.1	2.8	6.1
2014	2.3	1.8	2.8	5.8
2015	1.9	1.7	2.8	5.4
2016	1.7	1.6	2.9	5.1
Norfolk				
2005	3.2	3.2	2.5	8.4
2006	3.2	3.2	2.4	8.3
2007	3.1	3.1	2.3	8.1
2008	3.4	3.4	2.3	8.0
2009	3.0	3.0	2.2	7.6
2010	3.1	3.1	2.2	8.0

²¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2018) 2005 to 2016 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions – data tables [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016> [accessed 13/01/2020]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2011	3.0	3.0	2.1	7.2
2012	2.5	2.5	2.1	7.4
2013	2.4	2.4	2.2	7.2
2014	1.9	1.9	2.2	6.4
2015	3.2	3.2	2.5	6.2
2016	3.2	3.2	2.4	5.7
England				
2005	3.8	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.8	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.6	2.4	2.2	8.1
2008	3.5	2.4	2.1	7.8
2009	3.0	2.1	2.0	7.0
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.2
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.5
2012	2.9	2.1	1.9	6.8
2013	2.8	2.0	1.9	6.6
2014	2.4	1.7	1.9	5.9
2015	2.3	1.6	1.9	5.7
2016	2.0	1.5	1.9	5.3

Potential effects of climate change

- 4.8 Following the success of the UK Climate Projections released in 2009 (UKCP09), the Met Office recently released the UK Climate Projections for 2018 (UKCP18).²² UKCP18 provides the most up to date climate observations and projections out to 2100, using cutting-edge climate science. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.9 As highlighted by the research, the median estimate for effects of climate change on the East by 2040-2059 are as follows²³:
- Increases in mean summer temperature of 1.5-2.5°C, and mean winter temperature increases of 1-2°C; and
 - Decreases in mean summer precipitation of up to 30%, and increases in mean winter precipitation of up to 30%.
- 4.10 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:
- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
 - Increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
 - Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
 - Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
 - Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
 - Effects on water resources from climate change;
 - Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction;
 - Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
 - Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
 - A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
 - A need to upgrade flood defences;
 - Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
 - Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
 - Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
 - Deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
 - Changes to global supply chain;
 - Increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
 - An increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
 - Increased demand for air-conditioning;

²² Data released 26th November 2018 [online] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp> [accessed 13/01/2020]

²³ Met Office (2019) Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections [online] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps> [accessed 13/01/2020]

- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

Flood risk

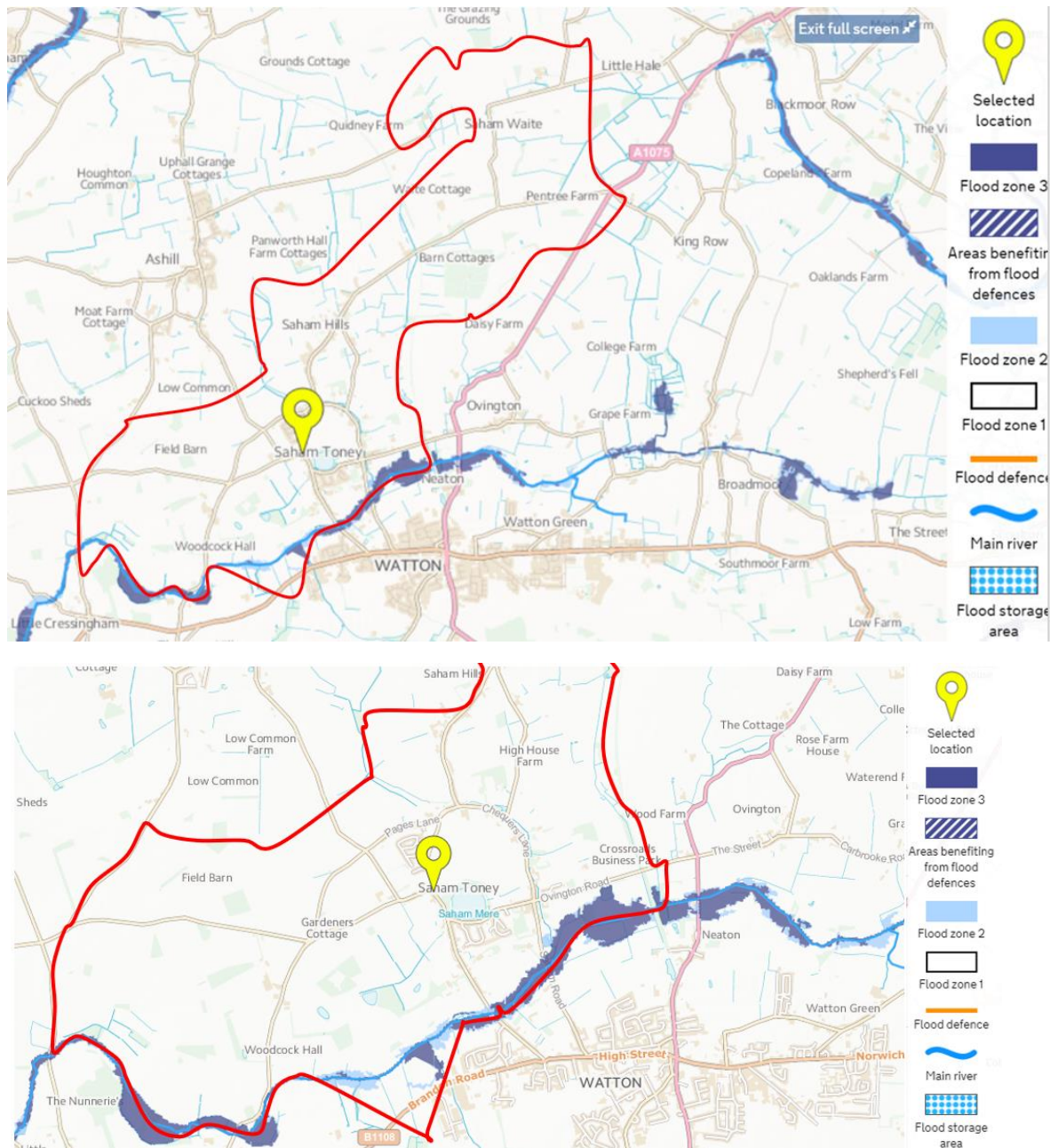


Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁴

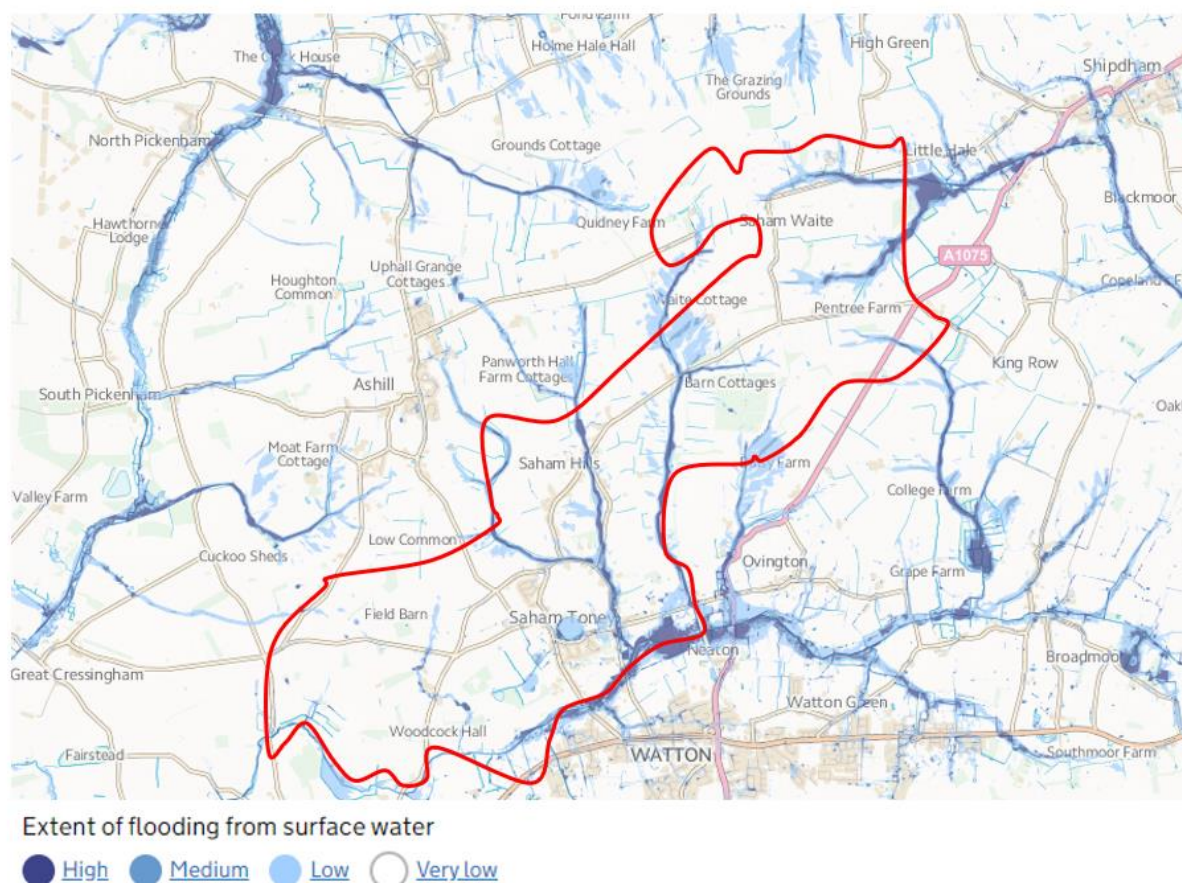
4.11 As shown in **Figure 4.1** and **Figure 4.2**, the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located in Flood Zone 1, showing that there is a <0.1% chance (1 in 1000) of river flooding in any given year. There are two small local watercourses including the Black Water and Watton Brook; both tributaries of the River Wissey located in the south and west of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The River Wissey is within the Cam and Ely Ouse catchment. There are areas of land surrounding

²⁴ GOV UK (2019): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] available at: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

the Watton Brook in the southern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area which are located in Flood Zone 3, and have a >1% of being flooded each year.

- 4.12 Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with sections of medium and high risk predominantly located in the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area, as depicted in **Figure 4.3**.
- 4.13 There have also been some local reports of surface water flooding in the centre of the built up area of Saham Toney. See **Figure 4.4**, which is taken from the Norfolk County Council report 'Flood Investigation Report into flooding in Watton and the surrounding area on 23 June 2016'. This report also identifies that 100 residential and 4 non-residential properties are at risk of surface water flooding in Saham Toney.
- 4.14 Completed in 2018, the Breckland Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017)²⁵ states:

'The floodplain directly south of Saham Toney in Watton, is undeveloped and therefore during a flood event water can be stored here rather than impacting the village (...) Surface water naturally drains away from the town of Watton and there are no records of groundwater flooding in the area.'



²⁵ Breckland Council (2017) 'Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment', [online] available at: https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/2874/Strategic-Flood-Risk-Assessment-SFRA-Level-1/pdf/Appendix_A_BDC_Level_1_SFRA_reduced_.pdf [accessed 15/01/2020]

Figure 4.3: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁶



Figure 4.4: Saham Toney Watercourse

Summary of Future Baseline

4.15 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

²⁶ GOV UK (2017): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available to access from: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

- 4.16 In terms of climate change contribution, per capita greenhouse gas emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies, including electric cars and buses. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Any increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area (including associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions in the parish.
- Breckland has lower per capita emissions in comparison to Norfolk and England as a whole since 2005.
- Breckland has seen a 33.7% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for Norfolk (34.1%) and England (37.6%)
- The areas at highest risk of fluvial flooding (Flood Zone 3) in the Neighbourhood Plan area are those adjacent to Watton Brook.
- Within Saham Toney, there are areas of land at medium and high risk of surface water flooding (also surrounding Watton Brook).
- Norfolk County Council's 2017 Flood Investigation Report into flooding in Watton and the surrounding area identifies 100 residential and 4 non-residential properties at risk of surface water flooding in Saham Toney.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?

-
- Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?
 - Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
-

5. Landscape

Focus of Theme

- Internationally and nationally protected landscapes
- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Visual amenity

Policy Context

5.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- *'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.'*
- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for *'conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.'*
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments *'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - i. *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils*
 - ii. *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*
 - iii. *remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'*

5.2 At the local level, Policy HOU 12 (Conversion of Buildings in the Countryside), ENV 04 (Open Space, Sport & Recreation) and ENV 05 (Protection and Enhancement of the Landscape) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Landscape SEA theme.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

National Character Areas

5.3 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of

these landscapes, providing a broad context to their character. The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the 'Mid Norfolk' NCA²⁷.

- 5.4 The Mid Norfolk NCA is a broadly flat, rural landscape which occupies the northern section of the East Anglian Plain. This is ancient countryside with a long-settled agricultural character, where arable land is enclosed by winding lanes and hedgerows, interspersed with woodland and heath and dissected by lush pastoral river valleys. Key characteristics of this NCA include:
- Broadly flat, glacial till plateau dissected by river valleys which create a more intricate landscape to the west of Norwich.
 - Chalk bedrock overlain by gravels, sands and glacial till left behind by the retreating ice of Anglian glaciations, and the resulting complexity of soils, determine natural vegetation patterns.
 - Underlying chalk aquifer; small, fast-flowing chalk streams and biodiversity-rich, wide, lush river valleys with wooded valley slopes, including the internationally important chalk-fed River Wensum.
 - Tranquil agricultural landscape with extensive areas of arable land, dominated by cereals with break-cropping of sugar beet and oilseed rape, and some pastures along valley floors.
 - Ancient countryside, much of it enclosed in the 14th century, with a sporadically rationalised patchwork field system, sinuous lanes and mixed hedges with hedgerow oaks.
 - Large number of 18th-century estates with their associated parkland, and a great density and stylistic variety of churches which are prominent features in the landscape.
 - A mix of villages and many isolated farmsteads within a complex minor road network, with a traditional pattern of market towns connected by main roads, and the city of Norwich providing a centre for cultural and economic activity.

Local Landscape Character

- 5.5 A Saham Toney Parish Landscape Character Assessment²⁸ was carried out in (2019) to update the Breckland Council Landscape Character Assessment (2007)²⁹ and provide greater detail relating to Saham Toney. It identifies a number of areas as having high landscape and/or visual sensitivity. This assessment splits the parish into five rural character areas and six village character areas and are summarised in **Table 5.1** and **Table 5.2** below. The rural character areas and village character areas can be viewed in **Figure 5.1** and **Figure 5.2**.

Table 5.1: Rural character areas identified by the Saham Toney Landscape Character Assessment

Rural character areas		
Area	Key characteristics	Opportunities and Management aims
RCA-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low lying, gently rolling valley bottom below the 40m contour along the Watton Brook. • Soils are seasonally wet, sands loams and peats with high water table. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition is fair but poor in places. Settlement creeping into the floodplain at Watton infringes on the natural character.

²⁷ Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile 84: Mid Norfolk (NE523)', [online] available at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4560839075954688> [accessed 15/01/2020]

²⁸ Lucy Batchelor-Wylam CMLI (2019) 'Saham Toney Parish Landscape Character Assessment', [online] available at:

https://www.stnp2036.org/uploads/1/1/2/2/112245343/saham_toney_landscapes_assessment_part_one_lca_final_january_2019.pdf [accessed 15/01/2020]

²⁹ Breckland Council (2007) Breckland Council Landscape Character Assessment' pg 43, [online] available at:

https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/2069/Landscape-Character-Assessment/pdf/Landscape_Character_Assessment_-_May_2007_Final2.pdf [accessed 15/01/2020]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use dominated by meadows, used for hay and grazing. • Forms of enclosure are gappy and scrubby hedges, and trees along ditches. • Visual experience is varied. Open within the valley bottom, trees edge the skyline on the upper valley sides to the north. More intimate where small field systems endure to the east side of the village. • Little settlement, which is instead is found on higher land, the exception being Ovington Road • Lack of public access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belts of dark green conifers planted to screen and enclose the water treatment plant close to the bridge appear out of place and have strong visual impact. These would be better replaced with species more suited to a river corridor. • Hedges in the valley bottom are sometimes in poor condition and would benefit from gapping up and managing more regularly, especially those with a high proportion of elm. • Retain quiet and tranquil character along Threxton Road. Retain backroads feel - development here is likely to be intrusive and inappropriate. Avoid utility or highways interventions that detract from the rural character. • Generally development is unlikely to be appropriate in this landscape owing to its sensitivity and value as traditionally managed riverside meadows, and because of its function as undeveloped gap with Watton.
RCA-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently sloping farmlands between 40 and 60m AOD with sandy, easily worked soils. • Arable estate farmlands, with a strongly rural and unified feel. Parkland provides setting for Saham Hall. • Wooded feel from frequent belts, plantations and small woodlands. No ancient woodlands. Oaks stud the field boundaries and parkland trees have skyline presence. • Straight sided large arable fields with network of narrow straight lanes. • No settlement other than the Hall and its associated cottages • Unified estate style with flint facing, brick quoins and ornate chimneys. Flint features in walls. • Sense of scenic well managed countryside. Quiet and tranquil feel. long views possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape is in good condition. Hedges here are in better condition than other landscapes where the influence of estate farming is not present. • Strongly wooded character is robust and this characteristic provides some capacity for development or land uses to be absorbed within it. However, the character of the area is very consistent so anything that departs from the settlement pattern or architectural forms would be noticeable. • Protect areas of parkland, and their individual features, for their important contribution to character. • Apart from the woodland, semi-natural habitats are otherwise absent as this fertile farmland is valuable and productive. • Plan for enhancements to biodiversity, perhaps

		<p>opportunities that might emerge through agrienvironmental scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek opportunities to create public access where it is consistent with other land management aims.
RCA-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat or very gently sloping. • Land use is entirely arable farmland (cereals). • Simple, open farmland dominates. No woodlands. Hedges sometimes present. Roadsides often un-hedged, or hedges present behind narrow verges. Ash trees in hedgerows. • Large open fields with straightened boundaries. • No settlement but views across open farmland to village edges of Ashill and Saham Toney are part of the visual experience. • Expansive views across large fields, under big skies. • No particular landmarks but poplar trees have skyline impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape is in moderate condition. Loss of hedgerows causes associated loss of historic character; absence of features showing time depth. • As the tree stock is limited and has a high percentage of ash - monitor for impact of Chalara dieback. Consider encouraging alternative species. • Semi-natural habitats are absent as this fertile farmland is valuable and productive. • Plan for enhancements to biodiversity, perhaps opportunities that might emerge through agrienvironmental schemes. Plan to increase the stock of trees and woodland in the landscape. Replace lost hedges. • Seek opportunities to create public access where it is consistent with other land management aims.
RCA-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently sloping valley side on the east side of the parish. • Land use is often pasture in the lower parts and arable farmland on the more elevated areas • Where there is a network of hedges and trees that creates an intimate feel. Opens out to long views when absent. • Finer grain to the landscape, smaller field sizes than seen elsewhere. Strong sense of time depth. • Settlement scattered along the west side of the area, often integrated within well vegetated settings but some stark edges. • Disused railway embankment is a strong linear feature in the east • Vernacular materials are red brick and render houses, large decorative chimneys. Pantile roofs, some black-coloured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape is in moderate condition. Some loss of hedgerows and associated loss of historic character. Plan for improvement to hedge network. • Semi-natural habitats are absent as this fertile farmland is valuable and productive. • Plan for enhancements to biodiversity, perhaps opportunities that might emerge through agri-environmental schemes. Plan to maintain the stock of trees and woodland in the landscape. • Seek opportunities to create public access along the disused railway line for recreation/tourism use, and radiating from the village edge through the farmlands.

RCA-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated plateau farmland in the far northeast of the parish • Land use is arable farmland with a well-managed feel. • Large woodland at Saham Wood (Ancient woodland) as well as regular plantations and coniferous shelter belts. • Regularised landscape with geometric feel to the grid of lanes, fields have straight boundaries • Settlement found in the form of scattered farms, some on the site of ancient manors and the location of medieval deer park • Vernacular materials are red brick and render houses with pantile roofs, some black glazed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape is in good condition. • Semi-natural habitats are absent as this fertile farmland is valuable and productive. Plan for enhancements to biodiversity, perhaps opportunities that might emerge through agri-environmental schemes. • Plan to maintain and increase the stock of trees and woodland in the landscape. Continue to replace lost hedges. • Careful treatment of vernacular barns under residential conversion, as they contribute to the agricultural character.
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Table 5.2: Village character areas identified by the Saham Toney Landscape Character Assessment

Village character areas	
Area	Key characteristics
VCA-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear development along Richmond Road, generally one plot deep. Plot depths vary. • Main road is busy and carries traffic from Watton to Ashill and other outlying villages • Historical dwellings are scattered, in small clusters along the Richmond Road. Now much infilled with substantial 20th additions, all generally following the ribbon pattern • No open space or public realm but opens out at junction with Bell Lane, and important node where adjoins space in front of St. George's. Important for orientation. • Trees west of the mere provide a strong green edge • Settlement edges are hard to experience from the highway but appear backed by well vegetated edges. • Glimpses of church tower heading north along Richmond Road provide a series of key views to this landmark
VCA-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern, compact, estate-type development dating from the 1980/90s. • Served by two estate roads - Amy's Close and Bellmere Way/Mere Close - each displaying a unified built form type. • Dwellings on Amy's Close have a particularly uniform appearance with little variation in house type or materials. • Curved estate roads - no through roads with no connectivity • Strong green edges of the Mere provide a well-defined edge, and provide containment, preventing views to the north. • No public open space within the estates but large area of open space adjacent at the village hall. • Mature trees play a role on the skylines along boundaries to the north and south, but trees within the estates are smaller scale and more suburban in character.

VCA-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slightly elevated and gently rolling landscape north of the Mere along Pound Hill between St. George's church and Page's Lane. • Shallow soils over chalk, adjoining land use is both arable and unenclosed pastures. • Comprises some older properties along Pound Hill, including the schoolhouse, but larger area is covered by unified 1970s bungalow estate development. • The tracts of open arable land provide extensive views and are key to sense of place. • Land bounding to the north provides separation between different clusters of settlement. • Notable views to tower of St George's church along southerly route on Pound Hill.
VCA-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat and gently rolling landscape associated with a small stream • Shallow soils over chalk, adjoining land use is both arable and unenclosed pastures. • Features an ancient manor at Pages Place indicating the long-settled nature of this area, as well as a number of attractive cottages displaying traditional vernacular finishes. • Low density dwellings along the southern end of Hills Road and along the north side of Chequers Lane. • Farmsteads are found at intervals along the southern side of Chequers Lane with large scale buildings and a sometimes commercial purpose and character, with associated visual intrusion. • The tract of open arable land to the west of Hills Road provides extensive views. • Rural feel maintained owing to little modern development and maturity of vegetated curtilages and edges which contribute positively to rural character.
VCA-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated fringes of the plateau, indented with small streams. Heavier land - clayey and loamy soils over chalky boulder clay. Poorly drained meadows along tributary stream. • Settlement pattern is strongly linear, gaps between historic scattered farmsteads and cottages since in filled with 20th century bungalows and houses. Important open space around Ploughboy Lane. • Built form type mixed - older cottages and occasional farmsteads within 20th century additions • No public open spaces, but footpath offers access to countryside from Coburg Lane. Undeveloped meadows adjacent to Ploughboy Lane contribute to character. • No landmarks as such, but Chapel is notable in the streetscape. • Contained visual experience often, longer views along streetscape where Hills Road straightens out and over countryside at either end of the cluster. • Ornamental garden frontages and boundary treatments create a suburban feel at points in the streetscape.
VCA-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well vegetated, small scale pastoral valley bottom landscape provides setting. Tree belts line small fields. • Low-lying village edge separated from Watton only by a narrow belt of undeveloped land. Golf course occupies much of the valley bottom. • Linear settlement pattern where older cottages and 1970/80s housing sit side by side. A recent small estate has been added at Labybird Lane. Farms and holdings west of Cley Lane. • Settlement edges well integrated with well vegetated landscape. Enclosure from hedges and tree belts creates sense of intimacy. Long views are not obtained. • A number of vernacular buildings are seen, small scale brick and flint cottages and a works building. Narrow plot frontages for older properties. • Mill tower is local landmark, but not easily seen in the landscape owing to well wooded nature. View from the west from Ovington Road.

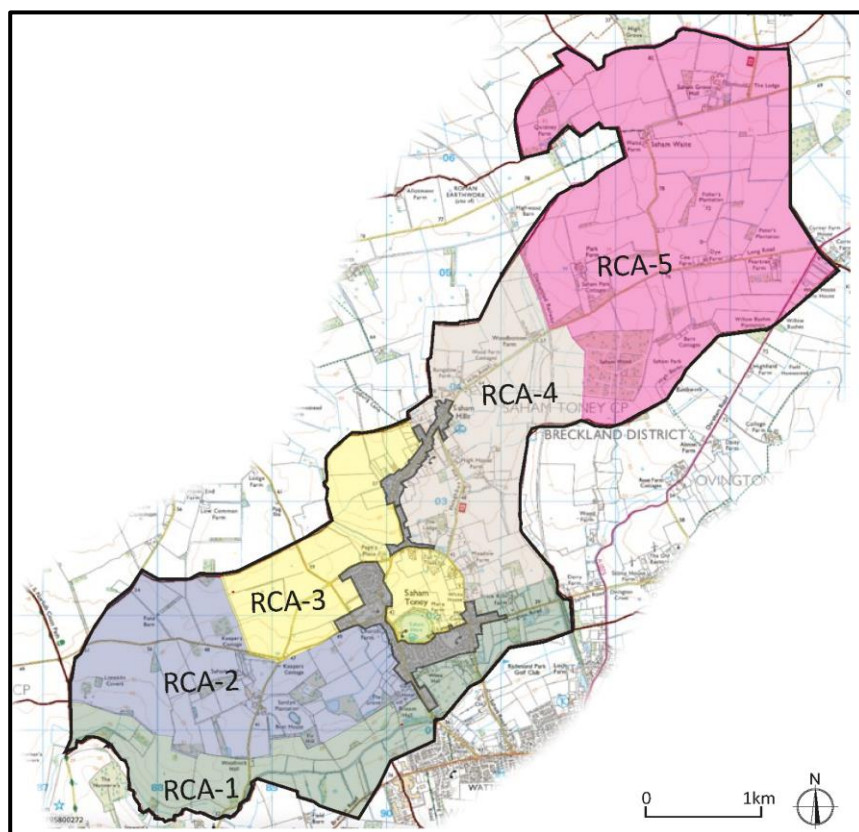


Figure 5.1 Rural character areas in Saham Toney

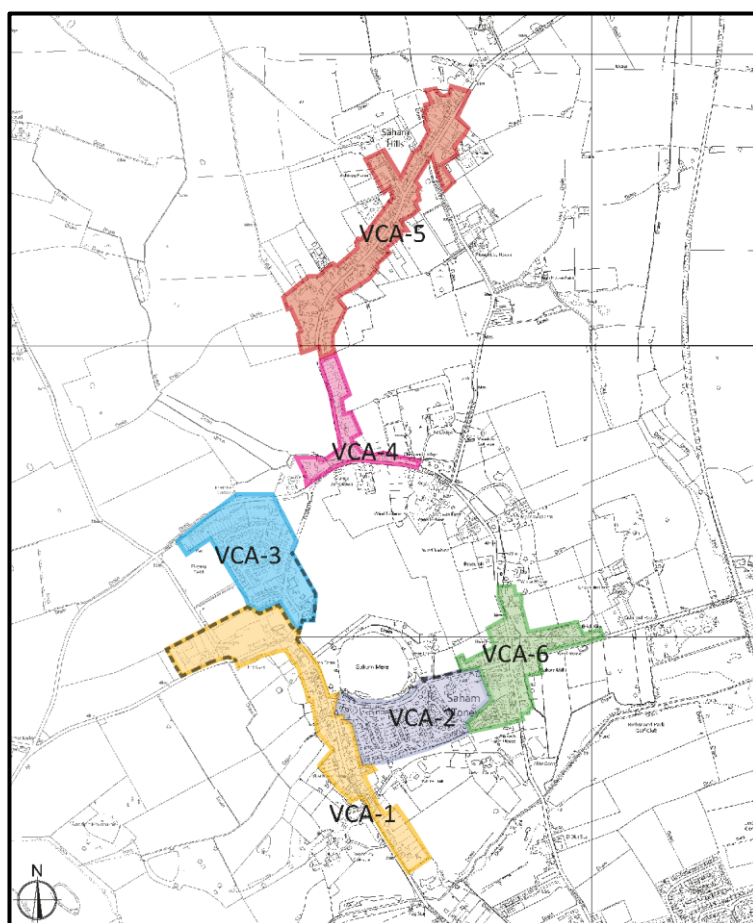


Figure 5.2 Village character areas in Saham Toney

Tree Preservation Orders

- 5.6 Implemented by local planning authorities, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value. When considering 'amenity'; the local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria³⁰:
- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public; and
 - Individual, collective and wider impact: considering the importance of the trees or woodlands in relation to their cultural or historic value, contribution to and relationship with the landscape and/or their contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.
- 5.7 In this context, Breckland Council have allocated multiple TPOs within the Neighbourhood Plan area, shown below in **Figure 5.3**, represented by the red and white circles.

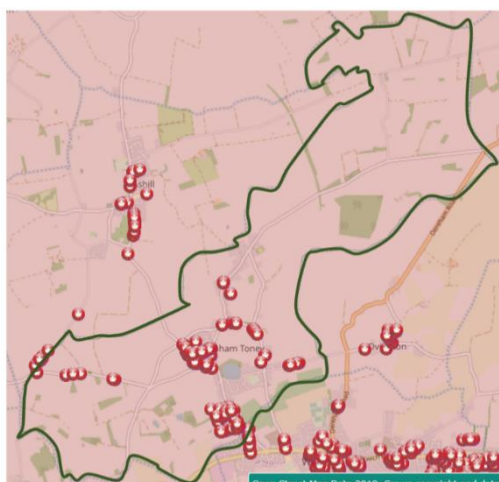


Figure 5.3 Tree Preservation Orders in Saham Toney³¹

Summary of Future Baseline

- 5.8 New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.
- 5.9 Inappropriate levels of development within the open countryside or in settlement fringe areas could negatively impact upon the landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character of Saham Toney.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the 'Mid Norfolk' NCA which has unique landscape characteristics.
- Saham Toney Parish Landscape Character Assessment splits the parish into five rural character areas and six village character areas and identifies a number of areas as having high landscape and/or visual sensitivity.
- The potential effects of development proposed through the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan may have implications for the overall character and appearance of landscape and townscape character Saham Toney in the future.

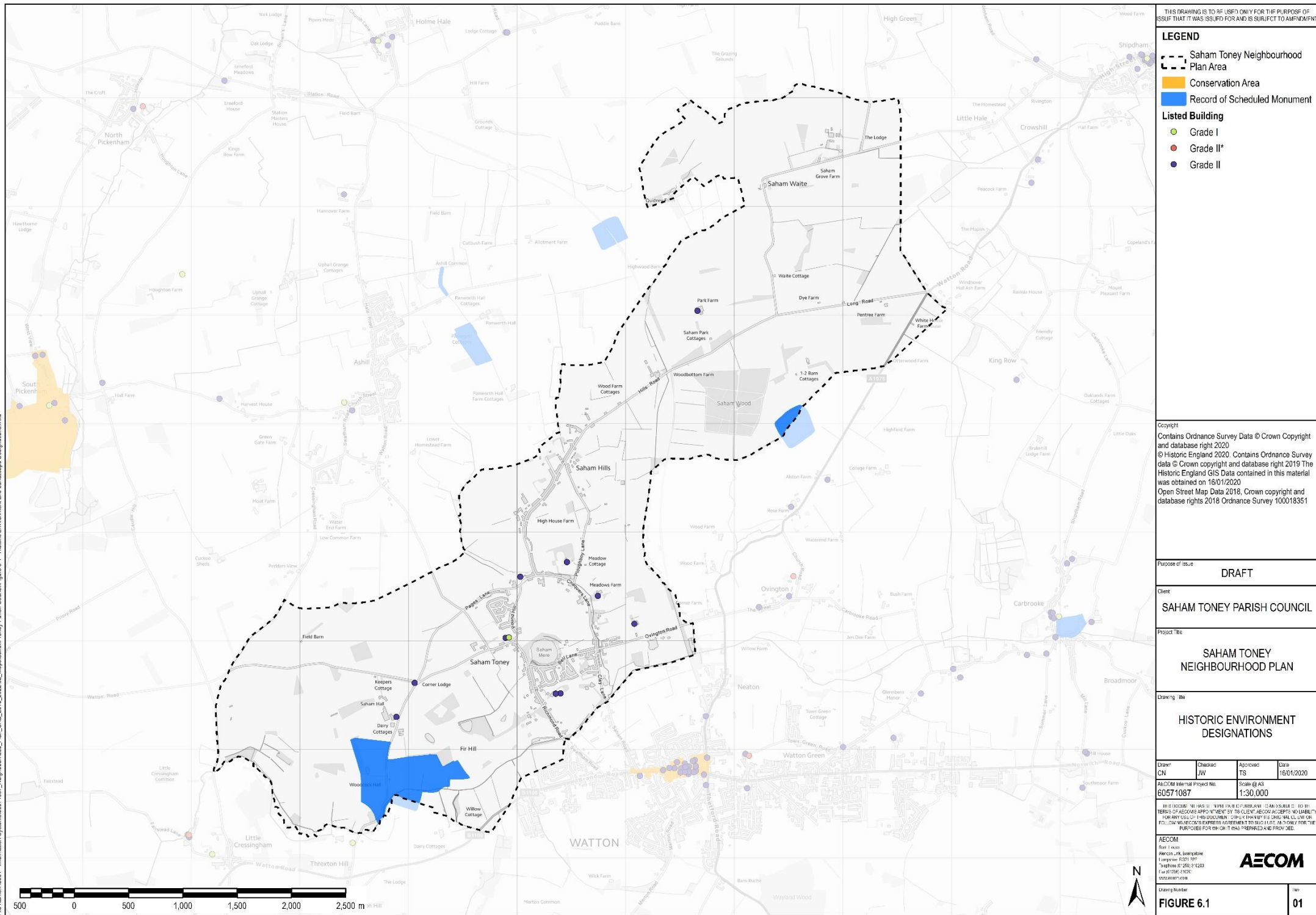
³⁰ GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Preservation Orders – General', [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas> last accessed [15/01/2020]

³¹ Breckland Council (2018) My Maps (Tree Preservation Order layer), [online] available at: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/mymaps> [accessed 23/01/2020]

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and townscape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area?• Conserve and enhance local diversity and character?• Ensure development is undertaken in conjunction with the opportunities and management aims outlined in the Saham Toney Parish Landscape Character Assessment for the relevant landscape character areas?

File Name: S101 - Information Systems\6571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CDB_2018_2022\02_Maps\Saham Toney Parish Council\Figure 6.1 - Historic Environment and Landscape Designations.mxd



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LEGEND

- Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Conservation Area
- Record of Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building**
 - Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II

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Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
SAHAM TONEY PARISH COUNCIL

Project Title
SAHAM TONEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS

Drawn CN	Checked JW	Approved TS	Date 16/01/2020
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6. Historic Environment

Focus of Theme

- Designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets
- Locally important heritage assets
- Historic character of the Neighbourhood Plan area

Policy Context

6.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an *'irreplaceable resource'* that should be conserved in a *'manner appropriate to their significance'*, taking account of *'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits'* of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Plans should set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- *'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 (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.'*

6.2 The policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

6.3 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England³² sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

6.4 Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others.

6.5 Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2016)³³ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

³² HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx [accessed 15/01/2020]

³³ Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1', [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
 - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 6.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)³⁴ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.
- 6.7 Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)³⁵ provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:
- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
 - Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 6.8 Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)³⁶ outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.
- 6.9 At the local level, Policy HOU 06 (Principle of New Housing), Policy ENV 07 (Designated Heritage Assets), Policy ENV 08 (Non-Designated Heritage Assets) and Policy COM 03 (Protection of Amenity) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Historic Environment SEA theme.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

- 6.10 **Figure 6.1** identifies the designated heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.11 Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.

³⁴ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

³⁵ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition', [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

³⁶ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment', [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

Listed Buildings

6.12 The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I and ten Grade II listed buildings. There are no Grade II* listed buildings in the Neighbourhood Plan.

6.13 The Grade I listed building is Church of St George located towards the centre of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

6.14 The Grade II listed buildings in the Neighbourhood Plan area are as follows:

- Saham Hall Farmhouse;
- Gardeners Cottage;
- Barn 30 Metres West of White Hall;
- White Hall;
- The Old Rectory;
- Brick Kiln Farmhouse;
- Meadow Farmhouse;
- The Lodge;
- Page's Place; and
- Park Farmhouse.

6.15 None of the listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan area are identified as 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register³⁷, but Page's Place is presently undergoing a major programme of restoration.

Scheduled Monuments

6.16 The Neighbourhood Plan area contains two scheduled monuments: 'Roman settlement at Woodcock Hall (located to the south west of the Neighbourhood Plan area) and High Banks' (located on the east boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area).³⁸

Conservation Area

6.17 Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest³⁹. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the conservation area and can be developed into a management plan.

6.18 There are no conservation area's located within Saham Toney. The nearest conservation area is located in Watton as outlined in **Figure 6.1**.

Locally Important Heritage Features

6.19 It should be noted that not all the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many

³⁷ Historic England (2019) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> [accessed 15/01/2020]

³⁸ Historic England (2019): 'Saham Toney', [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1004038> [accessed 15/01/2020]

³⁹ Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/> [accessed 20/09/19]

buildings and areas are of historic interest and are important by local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value for local people. The Neighbourhood Plan process is developing a list of locally important assets.

- 6.20 The Historic Environment Record (HER) is the principal record of the historic environment in Norfolk, going beyond the national heritage list to record many non-designated heritage assets. This is identified in both the NPPF and NPPG as an important information source for the historic environment that should be used in planning decisions.
- 6.21 Following a high-level review of the Historic Environmental Record (HER) for Norfolk (accessed via the Heritage Gateway)⁴⁰, there are 153 records within Saham Toney Parish including a variety of structures and archaeological finds such as: Roman roads, Roman stones, Roman forts, Neolithic flint implements, Neolithic flint axes and Medieval objects.
- 6.22 The figure below denotes the locations of the listings on the HER in association with Saham Toney village.

⁴⁰ Heritage Gateway (2019): Historic Environmental Record for Norfolk, [online] available at: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> [accessed 16/01/2020]

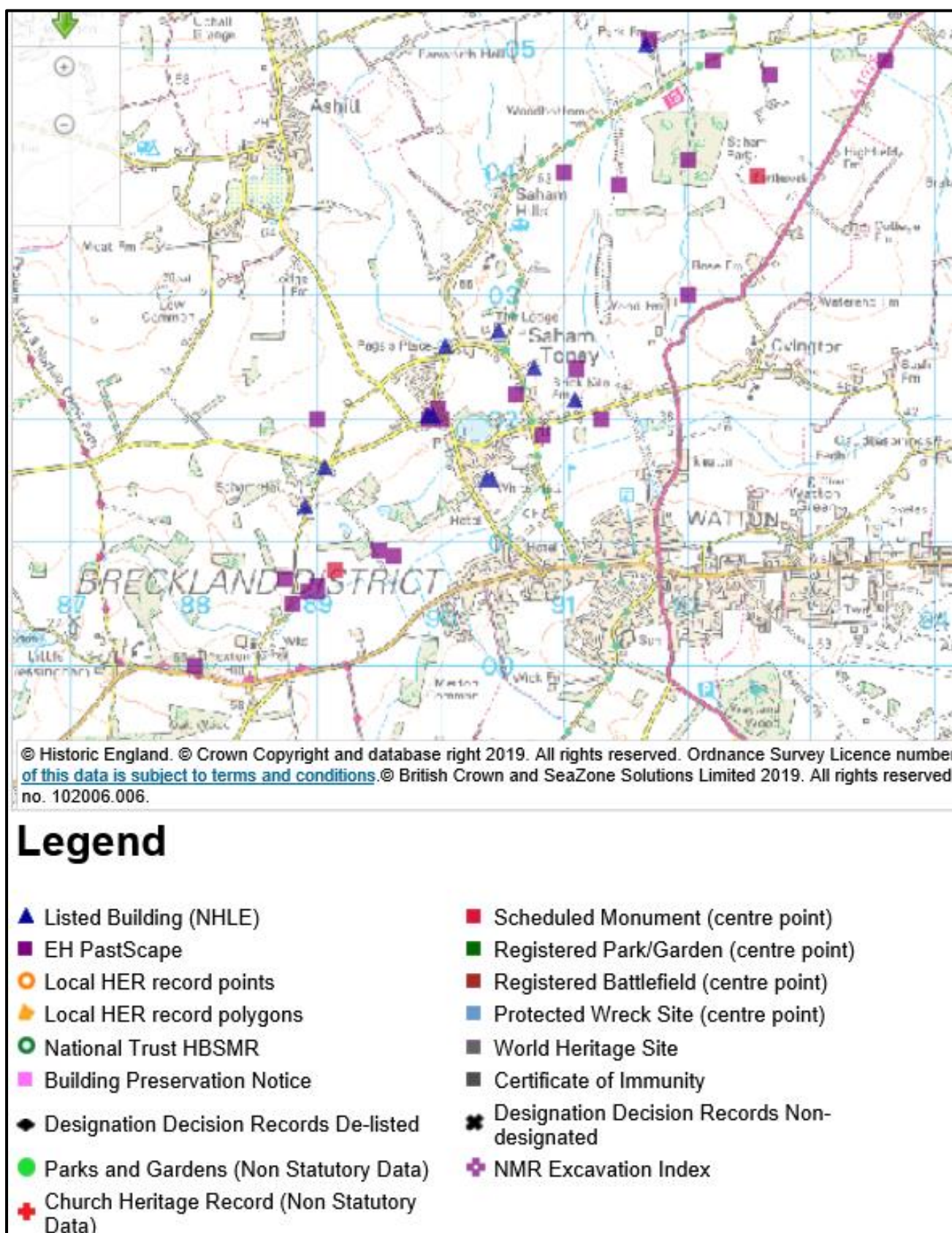


Figure 6.2: HER records present in the vicinity of Saham Toney⁴¹

⁴¹ Heritage Gateway (2019): Historic Environmental Record for Norfolk, [online] available at: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> [accessed 16/01/2020]

Summary of Future Baseline

- 6.23 New development in the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.
- 6.24 New development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I and ten Grade II nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.
- There are two scheduled monuments located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The Norfolk Historic Environment Record identifies Roman roads, Roman stones, Roman forts, Neolithic flint implements, Neolithic flint axes and Medieval objects within Saham Toney.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the Norfolk HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme

- Quality of agricultural land
- Water resources and water quality
- Mineral safeguarding areas

Policy Context

- 7.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁴² presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.
- 7.2 Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:
- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
 - Promote the sustainable use of water;
 - Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;
 - Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
 - Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.
- 7.3 Key messages from the NPPF include:
- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - i. *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and*
 - ii. *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.'*
 - Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
 - *'Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for*

⁴² European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.html [accessed 16/01/2020]

accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.'

- *'Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.'*
 - Planning policies and decisions should *'give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs'*, and *'promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.'*
 - Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
 - Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
 - The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.
- 7.4 Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.
- 7.5 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England⁴³, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁴⁴, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁴⁵ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.
- 7.6 In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁴⁶ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.
- 7.7 The National Waste Management Plan⁴⁷ provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive⁴⁸. This includes an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.
- 7.8 At the local level, Policy ENV 02 (Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement), Policy ENV 06 (Trees, Hedgerows and Development), Policy ENV 09 (Flood Risk & Surface Water Drainage) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.

⁴³ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁴⁴ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁴⁵ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁴⁶ DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁴⁷ DEFRA (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁴⁸ Directive 2008/98/EC

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Soil Resources

- 7.9 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into size grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. Sub-grade 3a is described in the agricultural land classification thus: "Good quality agricultural land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops." Sub-grade 3b is described as "moderate quality agricultural land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year." In this context, there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.
- 7.10 At the local level a detailed classification has not been undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan area. There is therefore a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset, supplemented by interpretation of the sub-grade definitions given in the agricultural land classification .
- 7.11 The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset⁴⁹ shows that the Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land with a section of Grade 4 agricultural land along the western boundary. Without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. It is also important to note that the national dataset is of very low resolution, and may not necessarily provide an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 7.12 Saham Toney Landscape Assessment Part One⁵⁰ classifies the soilscape of the Neighbourhood Plan area identifying that the Parish is a collection of:
- Soilscape 3: Shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone;
 - Soilscape 8: Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage;
 - Soilscape 10: Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils;
 - Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils; and
 - Soilscape 23: Loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface.

Water Resources

- 7.13 The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan area is the Watton Brook. Watton Brook is a tributary of the River Wissey. It flows west through Saham Toney and joins the complex river network of the tributaries of the Little Ouse.
- 7.14 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action

⁴⁹ Natural England (2018) Agricultural Land Classification map London and the South East (ALC007) [online] available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=5954148537204736> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁵⁰ Saham Toney Parish Council (2019) 'Landscape Assessment Part One', [online] available at: https://www.stnp2036.org/uploads/1/1/2/2/112245343/saham_toney_landscape_assessment_part_one_lca_final_january_2019.pdf [accessed 16/01/2020]

Programmes to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this regard the Neighbourhood Plan area is situated within the 'Ely Ouse and Cut-off channel' NVZ.

- 7.15 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The south eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is within SPZ2 (Outer Protection) with a small section in the south in SPZ3 (Total Catchment).

Water Quality

- 7.16 Saham Toney is located within the Anglian River Basin District, within the 'Cam and Ely Ouse' Management Catchment and the 'River Wissey' Operational Catchment. There are six water bodies within the Operational Catchment which include the 'Watton Brook' which flows through the south of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary.
- 7.17 Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer⁵¹ classifies Watton Brook⁵² as having a 'good' chemical status and 'moderate' ecological status. The overall classification for the waterbody in 2016 was 'moderate'. The reasons for not achieving good (RNAG) are primarily attributed to sewage discharge and poor nutrient management.

Summary of Future Baseline

- 7.18 Future development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider area.
- 7.19 In the absence of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification assessment for the majority of the Parish, it remains uncertain whether new development on greenfield land in the Neighbourhood Plan area will lead to losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

Key Sustainability Issues

- There is a lack of evidence to ascertain agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However national provisional quality datasets indicate that the majority of land within the Neighbourhood Plan area is Grade 3; as part of a precautionary principle it is noted that there is the potential for loss of high quality (Grade 3a 'best and most versatile') agricultural land.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the Ely Ouse and Cut-off channel Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- Watton Brook has an overall water quality classification of 'moderate'.

⁵¹ Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer', [online] available to access via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁵² Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer – Watton Brook', [online] available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB105033047870> [accessed 16/01/2020]

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise 3a agricultural land? Protect the integrity of mineral safeguarding areas?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect surface water resources?

8. Population and Community

Focus of Theme

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- Housing mix and affordability
- Education and skills

Policy Context

8.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies *'should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.'*
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a *'sufficient choice of school places'* and taking a *'proactive, positive and collaborative approach'* to bringing forward *'development that will widen choice in education'*.

- 8.2 The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁵³ warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.
- 8.3 At the local level, Policies from the Housing chapter, the Economy and Employment chapter and the Communities chapter from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Population and Community SEA theme.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Population

Table 8.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁵⁴

Date	Saham Toney	Breckland	East	England
2001	1,565	121,418	5,388,140	49,138,831
2011	1,507	130,491	5,846,965	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	-3.7%	+7.5%	+8.5%	+7.9%

- 8.4 As shown in **Table 8.1**, the population of Saham Toney decreased by 3.7% between 2001 and 2011, whereas Breckland, the East of England and England all increased in population.

Age Structure

Table 8.2: Age Structure (2011)⁵⁵

	Saham Toney	Breckland	East	England
0-15	13.7%	17.6%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	7.3%	10.1%	10.9%	11.9%
25-44	16.7%	23.5%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	22.3%	19.7%	19.8%	19.4%
60+	40.0%	29.1%	23.9%	22.3%
Total Population	1,507	130,491	5,846,965	53,012,456

⁵³ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁵⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

⁵⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

- 8.5 There is a significantly higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (40.0%) in comparison to the total for Breckland (29.1%), the East of England (23.9%) and England (22.3%), as shown in **Table 8.2**.
- 8.6 A lower proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (39.0%) in comparison to the totals for Breckland (43.2%), the East of England (46.3%) and England (46.9%).
- 8.7 Additionally, 21.0% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the younger age categories (0-15 and 16-24), lower than the proportions for Breckland (27.7%), the East of England (29.9%) and England (30.8%).

Household Deprivation

- 8.8 Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:
- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
 - **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
 - **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
 - **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Table 8.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁵⁶

	Saham Toney	Breckland	East	England
Household not deprived	41.1%	40.2%	44.8%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	33.7%	35.5%	33.0%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	21.4%	20.0%	17.9%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	3.5%	4.1%	4.0%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%

- 8.9 Based on the information presented in **Table 8.3**, a similar percentage of households are deprived in one or more dimensions within the Neighbourhood Plan area (58.9%) in comparison to the totals for Breckland (59.9%) and England (57.4%). However, this is greater than the East of England (55.2%). Out of the 58.9% of households which are deprived in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority are deprived in one or two dimensions, which is similar to the regional and national trends.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 8.10 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

⁵⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
 - **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
 - **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
 - **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
 - **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
 - **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 - a. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
 - b. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
 - **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
 - c. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 - d. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
 - Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
 1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
 2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.
- 8.11 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)⁵⁷ are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.
- 8.12 The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within two LSOAs: Breckland 008A and Breckland 008B. Breckland 008A LSOA is within the 50% least deprived neighbourhoods within England and Breckland 008B is within the 50% most deprived neighbourhoods within England.

⁵⁷ DCLG (2015): Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available at: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> [accessed 16/01/2020]

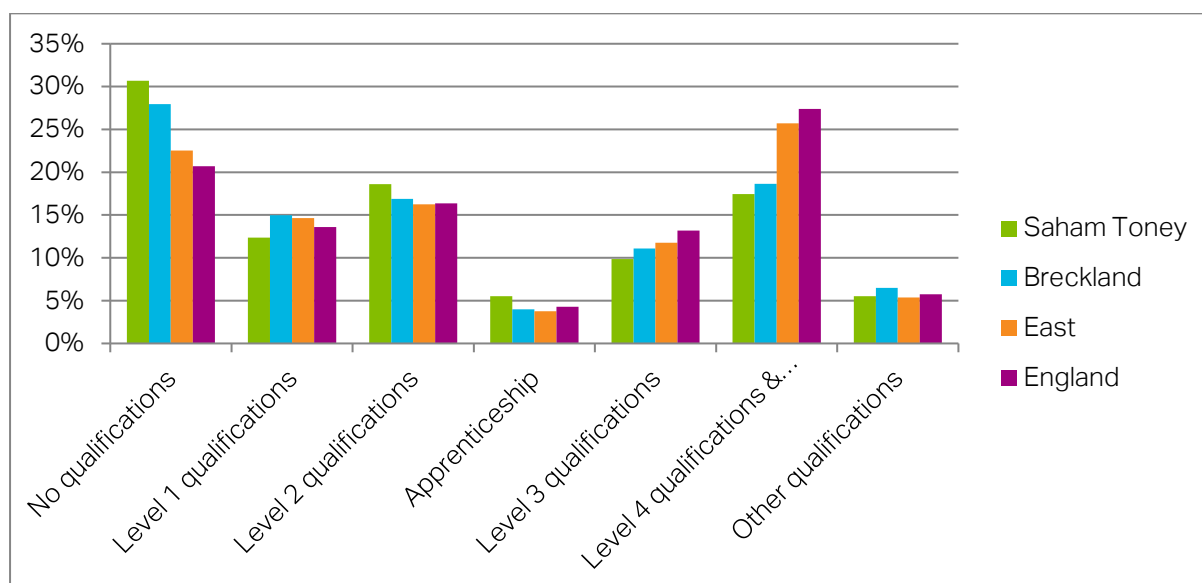
Housing Tenure



Figure 8.1: 'Tenure by Household' ⁵⁸

- 8.13 Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 77.4% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for Breckland (68.6%), the East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%).
- 8.14 A lower proportion of residents live within privately rented housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national figures.
- 8.15 A lower percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area live in rent-free accommodation or shared ownership accommodation in comparison to the regional and national trends shown in **Figure 8.1**.

Education



⁵⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

Figure 8.2: 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁵⁹

- 8.16 Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 8.2**, 30.7% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, higher than the totals for Breckland (28%), the East of England (22.5%) and England (20.7%).
- 8.17 Comparatively, 17.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have a Level 4 qualification or above, which broadly aligns to the total for Breckland (18.7%) but is lower than the totals for the East of England (25.7%) and England (27.4%).

Employment

- 8.18 Regarding employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents:
- Skilled trade occupations (18.4%); and
 - Elementary occupations (12.9%); and
 - Managers, directors, senior officials (12.6%).
- 8.19 Overall, 43.9% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, greater than the total for Breckland (39.1%), the East of England (34.0%) and England (33.3%). This is highlighted in **Figure 8.3** below.

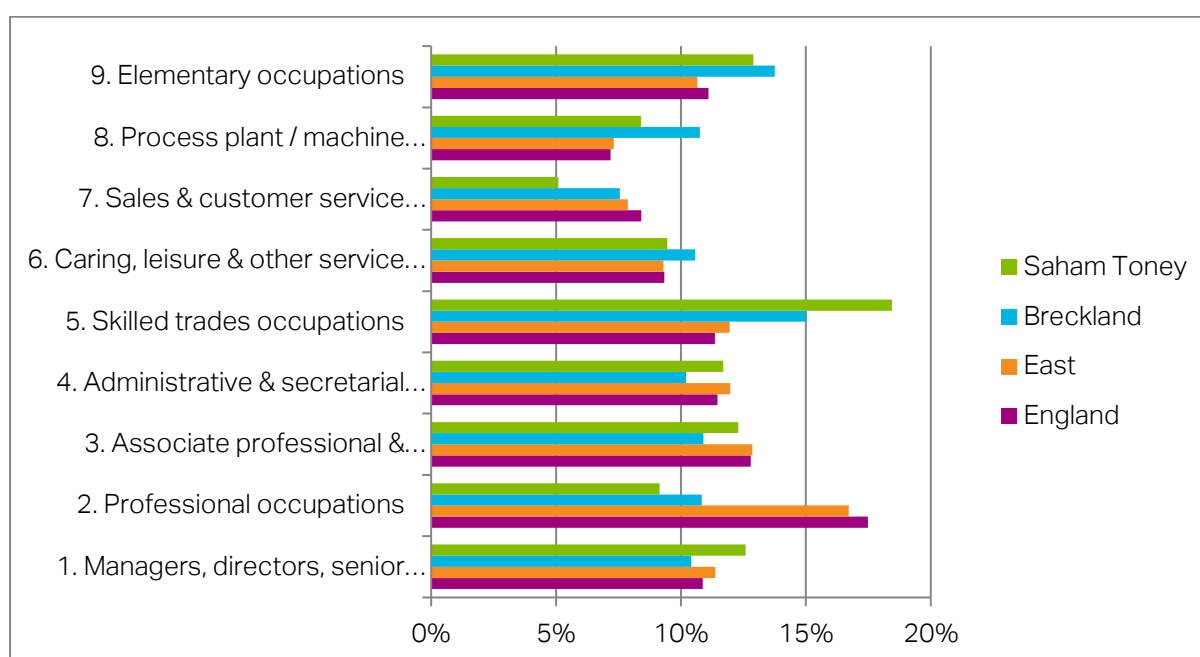


Figure 8.3: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment' ⁶⁰

Community Assets

- 8.20 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a number of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the parish's sense of identity. Such facilities include: one pub, one tea room, Broom Hall Country Hotel, Parkers C of E Primary School, St Georges Parish Church, Threxton All Saints Church, Saham Toney Cricket Club and Watton Football Club. A wide range of services and facilities are in Watton.

⁵⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

⁶⁰ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

Summary of Future Baseline

- 8.21 As the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area continues to age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community of the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst also placing additional pressures on existing services and facilities, including in Watton. The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Breckland Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The population of Saham Toney decreased by 3.7% between 2001 and 2011, whereas Breckland, the East of England and England all increased in population.
- Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (40.0%) in comparison to the total for Breckland (29.1%), the East of England (23.9%) and England (22.3%).
- The proportion of residents with the 60+ age category is likely to continue to increase.
- The two LSOA which covers the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the 50% least and 50% most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- 77.4% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for Breckland (68.6%), the East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%).
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has access to a range of local community facilities. A wide range of shops and services are available in Watton, which serve the needs of the local community.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional community infrastructure to meet existing and future deficits?
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and wellbeing

Policy Context

9.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.’*
- *‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.’*
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

9.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁶¹ (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

9.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

9.4 At the local level, Policy TR 01 (Sustainable Transport Network), Policy TR 02 (Transport Requirements), Policy COM 02 (Healthy Lifestyles) and Policy COM 04 (Community Facilities) from the Breckland Local Plan relate to the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme.

⁶¹ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf> [accessed 16/01/2020]

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Public Health Profile for Breckland

9.5 Published in November 2019 by Public Health England, the public health profile for Breckland outlines the following two key trends⁶²:

- Life expectancy is lower for both men and women in Breckland than the England average; and
- In Year 6, 17.4% of children are classified as obese, better than the average for England.

Health indicators and deprivation

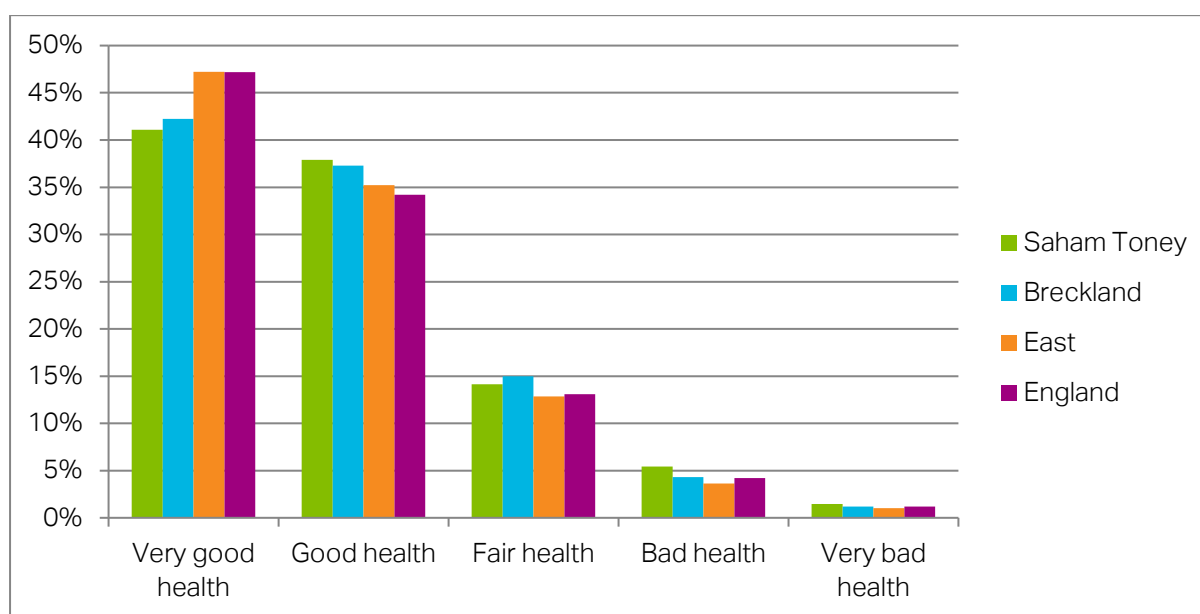


Figure 9.1: 'General Health'⁶³

9.6 Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 8. As highlighted in **Figure 9.1**, 79.0% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', similar to the total for Breckland (79.5%), but a lower than the totals for the East of England (82.5%) and England (81.4%).

9.7 Additionally, 6.9% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health', higher than the totals for Breckland (5.5%), the East of England (4.7%) and England (5.4%).

9.8 The total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' is greater than the totals for Breckland, the East of England and England, shown in **Table 9.1** below.

9.9 78.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area confirm that their activities are 'not limited'. This is lower than the totals for Breckland (80.3%), the East of England (83.3%) and England (82.4%).

⁶² Public Health England (2019) Local Authority Health Profile – Breckland, [online] available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profiles/2019/e07000143.html?area-name=breckland> [accessed 23-01-2020]

⁶³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

Table 9.1: Disability⁶⁴

	Saham Toney	Breckland	East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	9.8%	8.8%	7.4%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	12.0%	10.8%	9.3%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	78.2%	80.3%	83.3%	82.4%

Summary of Future Baseline

9.10 As the population continues to age, this has the potential to place pressures on existing services and facilities within the timeframe of the Neighbourhood Plan. This could negatively impact on the future vitality of the local community and economy.

9.11 Obesity is also seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The public health profile for Breckland outlines that life expectancy is lower for both men and women in Breckland than the England average.
- 79.0% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', similar to the totals for Breckland (79.5%), but a little lower than the East of England (82.5%) and England (81.4%).
- A higher proportion of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their activities are limited in some way compared to regional and national averages.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?

⁶⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

10. Transportation

Focus of Theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

Policy Context

10.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

10.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- *'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:*
 - i. *The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed*
 - ii. *Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised*
 - iii. *Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued*
 - iv. *The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account*
 - v. *Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.'*
- *'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.'*

10.3 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008.⁶⁵ Norfolk's Transport Plan for 2026⁶⁶ highlights Norfolk's transport vision as 'A transport system that allows residents and visitors a range of low carbon options to meet their transport needs and attracts and retains business investment in the county'. This will be achieved by:

- Making the best use of what we have to facilitate reliable journeys;

⁶⁵ Local Transport Act 2008 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/26/contents> [accessed 16/01/2020]

⁶⁶ Norfolk County Council (2011) Connecting Norfolk: Norfolk's Transport Plan for 2026 [online] available at: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/local-transport-plan> [accessed 16/01/2020]

- Reducing the need to travel;
 - Influencing others and ensuring transport is integrated into development plans;
 - Working with communities and our partners to seek new solutions and new ways of delivering; and
 - Lobbying for and pursuing improvements to Norfolk's strategic transport network.
- 10.4 At a local level Breckland Council published a Local Plan Examination document for the Transport policies TR 01 and TR 02 ⁶⁷ to compliment the Breckland Local Plan. This document considers how Breckland will be consistent with national policy in regard to a sustainable transport network. The document acknowledges that given that the District contains rural areas, including the Neighbourhood plan, travel by car will remain an essential option; however:
- 'Sustainable transport policy TR 01 seeks to widen the choice of travel opportunities using public transport, walking and cycling in order to achieve the mutually beneficial aims of reducing reliance on the private car and promoting active lifestyles'.*
- 10.5 At the local level, Policy HOU 02 (Level and Location of Growth), TR 01 (Sustainable Transport Network) and TR 02 (Transport Requirements) relate to the Transport SEA theme.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Rail network

- 10.6 There is no railway station located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest mainline railway station is Harling Road or Attleborough. Harling Road Rail station is approximately 14km south of the Neighbourhood Plan and Attleborough is approximately 14km east of the Neighbourhood Plan. Harling Road and Attleborough stations are both on the line which runs between Cambridge and Norwich. Saham Toney is also equal distance to Norwich station and Kings Lynn station which are both approximately 30km away. Journey times from both Kings Lynn station and Norwich station into London Kings Cross is approximately 110 minutes.

Bus network

- 10.7 Regarding the bus network, there is one daytime bus service which operates through Saham Toney. The 11 Konectbus route between Swaffham and Dereham runs through the western part of Saham Toney every hour on weekdays and every two hours on Saturdays, with no services running on Sundays. Additionally, the 6 Konnectbus provides a 7-day service from nearby Watton to Norwich. The route from Saham Toney into Dereham takes approximately 50 minutes and to Swaffham about 30 minutes.

Road network and congestion

- 10.8 The Neighbourhood Plan area is relatively well connected to the road network. The A1075 runs to the north east of the Neighbourhood Plan and can be accessed at Watton providing a route north to Dereham and south to Thetford. The B1108 also runs through Watton, providing a route east to Norwich and west to the A1065 which provides a route to Cambridge. Additionally, a network of country roads are also present in the Neighbourhood Plan area, providing local access routes to Watton.

Cycle and footpath network

⁶⁷ Breckland Council (2018) 'Breckland Local Plan Examination, Matter 17: Transport (Policies TR 01 and TR 02)' [online] available at: <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/media/8657/CS-17/pdf/CS.17.pdf?m=636577579134370000> [accessed 17/01/2020]

10.9 There is one National Cycle Network which runs through the Neighbourhood Plan area (Route 13 'Great Shelford to Waterbeach via Cambridge'). The route runs from the south to the north-east of the parish, proving a cycle route north to Dereham and south to Thetford.

10.10 There is also a local cycle route which passes through the Neighbourhood Plan area and has been identified on Route You.⁶⁸ This comprises a cycle route from Hoveton to Diss via Hunstanton.

10.11 There are no public rights of way network within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and a very limited number of footpaths connecting to the village centre.

Availability of cars and vans

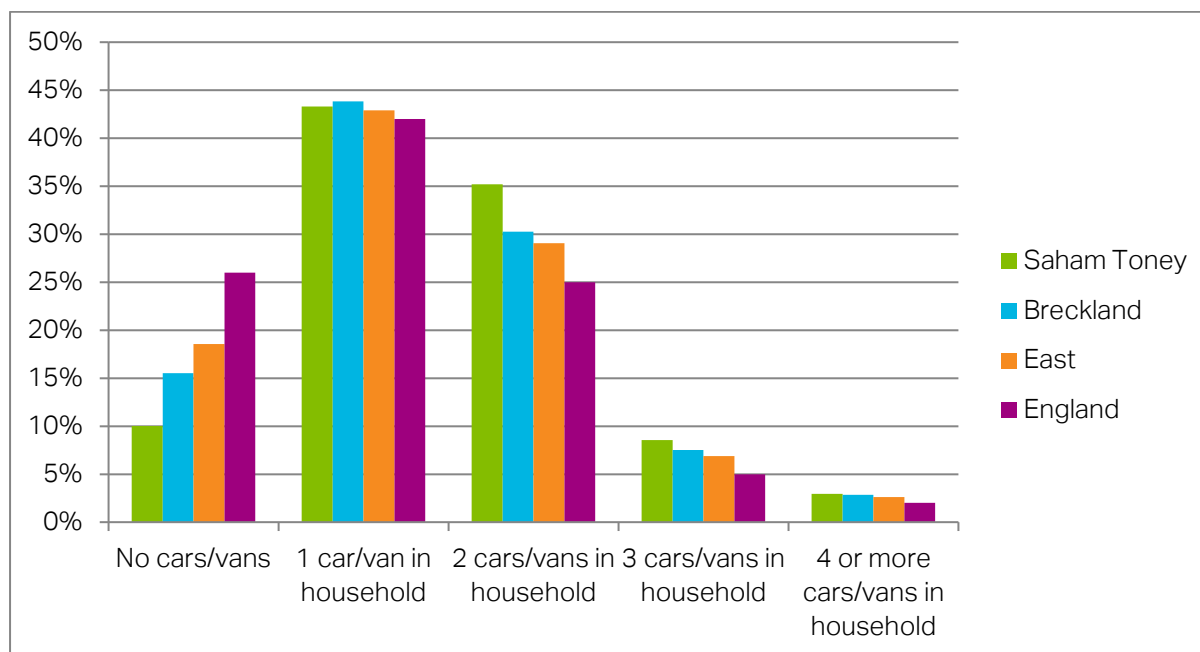


Figure 10.1: 'Car and van ownership' ⁶⁹

10.12 Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 10.1**, 90.0% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for Breckland (84.5%), the East of England (81.5%) and England (74.2%).

⁶⁸ Route You (2019) Saham Toney – Overview of all cycle routes [online] available at: <https://www.routeyou.com/en-gb/route/search/0/outdoor-route-search?q=saham+toney> [accessed 17/01/2020]

⁶⁹ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

Travel to work

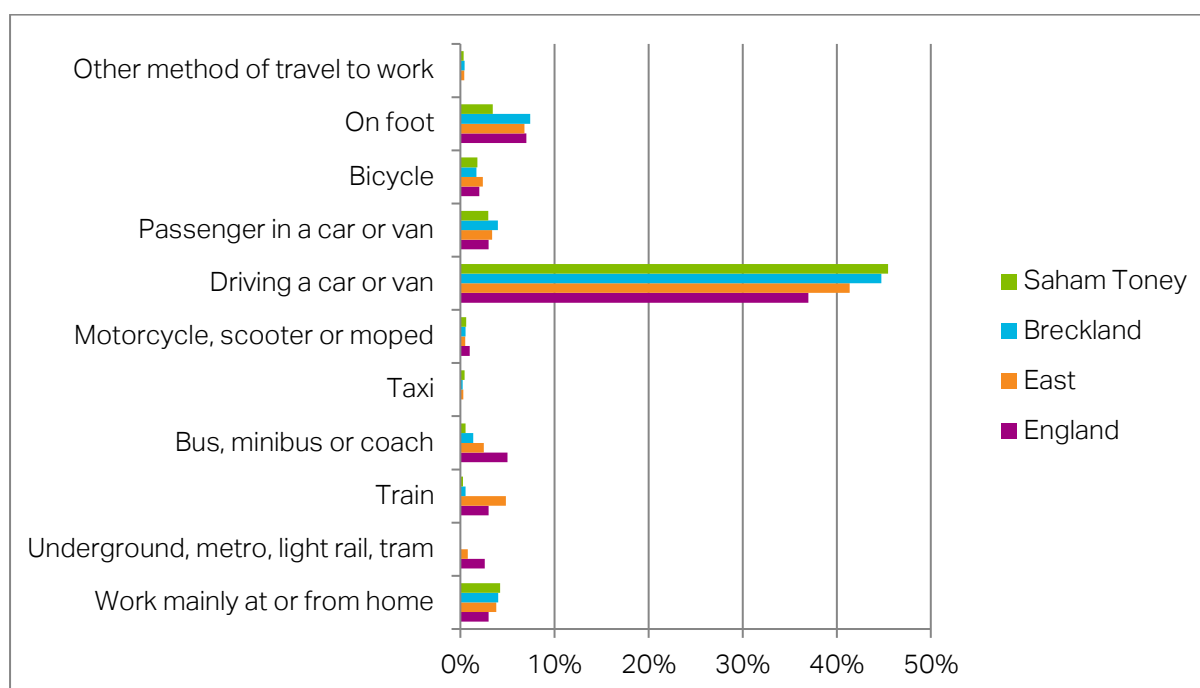


Figure 10.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁷⁰

10.13 As shown in **Figure 10.2**, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (45.5%) which is similar to the totals for Breckland (44.8%) and the East of England (41.4%), but higher than the total for England (37.0%).

10.14 4.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area either catch a train, bus, minibus, coach or walk to work. This is lower than the percentage for Breckland (9.3%), the East of England (14.1%) and England (15.0%).

Summary of Future Baseline

10.15 New development has the potential to increase traffic within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

10.16 Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the rural nature of the parish and the relatively poor connectivity of the Neighbourhood Plan area via public transport.

10.17 There will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

Key Sustainability Issues

- There are no railway stations located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest railway stations are Harling Road (south of the Neighbourhood Plan area) and Attleborough (east of the Neighbourhood Plan area), both approximately 14km from the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well linked to the surrounding road network, with access to the A1075 and the B1108.
- Residents have access to a limited network of footpaths and local cycle routes within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

⁷⁰ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

- New development taken forward through recent Local Plan allocations has the potential to increase traffic in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

11. Next Steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 11.1 The five stages of the SEA process⁷¹ are identified below. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process.
- i. Screening;
 - ii. Scoping;
 - iii. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
 - iv. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation;
 - v. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures concerning monitoring')
- 11.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the plan, including alternative spatial strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to Saham Toney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (the Neighbourhood Plan work group) so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 11.3 Once the draft plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be updated to reflect the findings of the SEA and consultation on the Environmental Report.
- 11.4 Following submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Breckland Council and consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan will be put forward for Independent Examination.

Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 11.5 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 11.6 The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees and to Norfolk County Council as a non-statutory consultee.
- 11.7 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report over a five week period, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.
- 11.8 The consultation period runs from 5th February 2020 to 11th March 2020. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Ryan Putt, AECOM
- Email address: ryan.putt@aecom.com
- 11.9 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁷¹ In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

