

NORTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD LAN 2024-2031



BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT





Northam Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement

Contents

	Page
1 Legal Requirements	3
2 Background	4
3 Conformity to the National Planning Policy Framework	5
4 Conformity to the strategic policies of the Local Development Plan	10
5 Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development	15
6 Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	20
7 Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Human Rights Act	22
 Appendices	
Appendix 1 - Application for Designation for a Neighbourhood Area: Northam Neighbourhood Area Designation Notice	23
Appendix 2 - Responses from Statutory Agencies to Torridge District Council regarding SEA and HRA Screening	26
Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment	30



Basic Conditions Statement

1 Legal Requirements

1.1 This statement has been prepared by the Northam Town Council Planning and Development Committee to accompany its submission to Torrridge District Council of its Northam Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 15 (1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

1.2 The Northam Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared by the Northam Town Council, a qualifying body, for the area covering the designated Parish of Northam, as designated by Torrridge District Council on 7 August 2017.

1.3 The Northam Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereinafter Northam Neighbourhood Plan) relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) in the designated neighbourhood area from the period 2023 to 2031. It does not contain policies relating to excluded development as laid out in the regulations.

1.4 The following statement will address each of the four basic conditions required by the regulations and explains how the Northam Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirement of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

1.5 The four basic conditions are as follows:

- a) Has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State
- b) Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- c) Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area
- d) Is compatible with European Union and European Convention on Human Rights obligations



2 Background

2.1 In response to the powers given to Parish Councils in the Localism Act of 2011, Northam Town Council applied to Torrridge District Council for permission to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Torrridge District Council agreed (see Appendix 1: Application for Designation for a Neighbourhood Area: Northam; Neighbourhood Area Designation Notice Northam Neighbourhood Area), and Northam Town Council became the registered lead body for the preparation of the Plan.

2.2 Initially a steering group was set up under the leadership of Councillor Chris Leather, who was chiefly responsible for driving the project in its early years. Subsequently leadership of the steering group passed to Councillor David Chalmers in 2020, Councillor Laurence Shelley in 2021, and Councillor Peter Hames in 2022.

2.3 In 2019 the steering group was reconstituted as the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group, and from 2024 the Advisory Group reported to the Northam Town Council Planning and Development Committee.

2.4 The membership of these groups has varied over the years but the steering and advisory groups consisted of councillors and members of the public representing Northam, Westward Ho! and Appledore, (the three main settlements of the Parish of Northam). The public representatives were then co-opted onto the Planning and Development Committee. In addition many members of the community have continued to work on various aspects of the plan on a voluntary basis. The development of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan is detailed in Section 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.5 A Consultation Statement has been prepared which details the extent and scope of the consultations and contributions that have informed the preparation of the Plan. This Statement is based on information in the Record of Community Engagement in the evidence base for the Plan.

2.6 Northam Town Council is particularly grateful to Torrridge District Council for its generous support and guidance to the Steering and Advisory groups, and the Planning and Development Committee in the preparation of the document.



3 Conformity to the National Planning Policy Framework

3.1 The Northam Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of December 2024. It also has regard to the National Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) published by the Government in April 2014 and last updated in September 2020 in relation to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

3.2 Table 1 sets out a summary of how each Northam Neighbourhood Plan policy has regard to the NPPF and PPG. The paragraphs referred to in Table 1 are considered to be the most relevant to the policy and are not intended to be a comprehensive list of every possible paragraph.

Table 1: How each policy in the Northam Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) has regard to the NPPF

Section: Community

NNP policy titles	Relevant NPPF (and PPG) paragraphs	Comment on how NNP policy has regard for NPPF policy
CF1 Community Facilities	88 d), 98 a) and c), 135 f)	Safeguards accessible services and key facilities in and close to settlement centres. Plans to guard against any un-necessary loss of valued facilities and services. Protects social and recreation facilities for present and future generations.

Section: Housing and Development

a) Residential Development

NNP policy titles	Relevant NPPF (and PPG) paragraphs	Comment on how NNP policy has regard for NPPF policy
HO1 Size of Dwellings	63, 135 f) n.51 (PPG) Addressing the need for different types of housing,	Meets identified local need for adaptable and accessible housing; seeks to provide balanced housing market to

	Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722; Accessible and adaptable housing, Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 63-008-20190626	meet assessed local needs.
HO2 New Affordable Housing	63, 66 (PPG) Addressing the need for different types of housing, Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722; Affordable housing, Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 67-005-20190722	Seeks provision of affordable housing to meet identified local needs. Policy based on assessment and specification of type and tenure of affordable housing needed. Definition of socially rented accommodation conforms to conditions set out in NPPF glossary.
HO3 Residential Design and Amenity	131, 132, 135	Requires that residential design should provide private and public amenity space and respect the amenity of neighbouring residents.
TR1 Residential Parking Provision	112, 113	Requirement to provide adequate parking for residential developments.

b) Development, design and energy

DE1 Quality of Design	131, 132, 135, 162-164, 192 b) (PPG) Planning for well-designed places, Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001, Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001; Climate Change, Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 6-001-2014030	Supports national policies to achieve reduction in carbon emissions; requires that residential design should fit well with the environment; reflect local character; contribute to health and well-being; and promote recovery of priority species.
DE2 Renewable Energy	165, 168 (PPG) Developing a strategy for renewable and low carbon energy, Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 5-003-20140306	Supports national policies to achieve reduction in carbon emissions

Section: Environment and Heritage

NNP policy titles	Relevant NPPF (and PPG) paragraphs	Comment on how NNP policy has regard for NPPF policy
EN1 Local Green Spaces	96 c), 98 a), 153-160	Designates and safeguards

	(especially 153-154) (PPG) Local Green Space, Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306, Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-00920140306, Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306, Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306: Paragraphs: 01, 014, 015, 016	local green spaces to promote healthy and safe communities; conforms to national policies on Local Green Spaces.
EN1a) Open Space and Recreation	103, 104 (PPG) Open space, sports and recreation facilities, Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306	Identifies and protects existing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.
EN2 Protecting the Identity of Settlements	8b), 13. 30, 124, 198	Ensures open spaces to meet needs of present and future generations; Neighbourhood planning shapes delivery of local plan strategic policies and enables community to develop shared vision of area supported by robust consultation; ensures new development is appropriate to location.
EN3 Protecting Rural Character	124, 187, 189, 193 b), 198 b)	Protects setting of designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and setting of Northam Burrows Site of Special Scientific Interest. Supports national policies to protect the natural environment and valued landscapes; minimises impacts on and provides net gains for biodiversity; identifies and protects tranquil areas;
EN3a) Protecting Dark Skies and Reducing Light Pollution	198 c) (PPG) Light pollution, Paragraph: 001 Reference	Limits impact of light pollution on intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

	ID: 31-001-20191101, Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 31-002-20191101, Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 31-003-20191101 Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 31-005-2019110, Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 31-006-20191101	
EN4 Protecting Valued Views	187 a) and c)	Protects valued landscape and the natural environment in order to promote well-being; maintains character of the undeveloped coast.
HE1 Conservation of Heritage Assets	202-203, 207-210, 216 (PPG) Designated Heritage Assets, Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 18a-023-20190723; Non-designated Heritage Assets, Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723	Supports national policies for the protection of heritage assets that inform the history of the area, provides a link with the past and promotes well-being. Local listing provides evidential basis for balanced judgement required by NPPF 209. Non-Designated Heritage Assets included in Local List after thorough assessment using Historic Environment Record (HER) in accordance to Historic England listing criteria. Procedure conforms to PPG by following Historic England guidance and criteria and including up-to-date information from the HER. Policy clauses conform to NPPF and PPG by setting a positive approach to the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their appearance
EN5 Protection of Biodiversity	181 c); 186 d), 187, 192, 193 a) Green infrastructure, Paragraph: 004 Reference	Supports sustainable drainage systems. Supports national policies to maintain and enhance networks of habitat and green

	ID: 8-004-2019072, Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 8-006-20190721; Biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems, Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20240214	infrastructure; protects and increases biodiversity.
TR2 Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	89, 96 c), 109, 111 d), 117 a) to c) PPG Public rights of way and national trails, Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 37-004-20140306	Supports national policies promoting alternative travel to reduce carbon emissions.

Section: Economic Development

NNP policy titles	Relevant NPPF (and PPG) paragraphs	Comment on how NNP policy has regard for NPPF policy
ED1 Business	85; 89	Encourages and protects business to achieve a healthy, prosperous local economy.
TR3 Public Car Parking	113	Protects and supports existing and future public car parking provision. Ensures parking provision is convenient, safe and secure in order to underpin a functioning community and local economy.
ED2 Tourism Attractions and Accommodation	88	Supports national policies protecting and increasing tourism in sustainable locations, subject to protecting the environment.
HE2 Richmond Dock	85-87, 203, 208, 210, 212-215, 219	Protects significant designated heritage asset whilst enabling employment possibilities at strategic site necessary for maritime business activity.
ED3 Appledore Maritime Employment Zone	85-87	Supports retention and development of strategic sites necessary for maritime business activity.



4 Conformity to the Strategic Policies of the Local Development Plan

4.1 It is a requirement that a neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the relevant local strategic policies as set out in the development plan for the area. The Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning sets out what is meant by ‘general conformity’. When considering whether a policy is in general conformity, a qualifying body, independent examiner, or local planning authority, should consider the following:

- Whether the neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal supports and upholds the general principle that the strategic policy is concerned with;
- The degree, if any, of conflict between the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal and the strategic policy;
- Whether the draft neighbourhood plan policy provides an additional level of detail and/or a distinct local approach to that set out in the strategic policy without undermining that policy;
- The rationale for the approach taken in the draft neighbourhood plan or Order and the evidence to justify that approach.

4.2 The current development plan for the area is the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011 – 2031 adopted in October 2018. Table 2 sets out how each policy is in general conformity to the strategic policies of the North Devon and Torridge Plan 2011 – 2031.

Table 2: How Northam Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) policies conform to the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031

List of North Devon and Torridge Local Plan policies referenced in Table 2:

STRATEGIC POLICIES
Policy ST02: Mitigating Climate Change
Policy ST04: Improving the Quality of Development
Policy ST05: Sustainable Construction and Buildings
Policy ST06: Spatial Development Strategy for Northern Devon’s Sub-regional, Strategic and Main Centres
Policy ST09: Coast and Estuary Strategy
Policy ST10: Transport Strategy
Policy ST11: Delivering Employment and Economic Development
Policy ST12: Town and District Centres
Policy ST13: Sustainable Tourism
Policy ST14: Enhancing Environmental Assets

Policy ST15: Conserving Heritage Assets
Policy ST16: Delivering Renewable Energy and Heat
Policy ST17: A Balanced Local Housing Market
Policy ST18: Affordable Housing on Development Sites
Policy ST22: Community Services and Facilities
AREA/SITE SPECIFIC POLICIES
Policy NOR: Northam Spatial Vision and Development Strategy
Policy NOR01: Daddon Hill Farm
Policy NOR02: Site West of Buckleigh Road
Policy NOR05: Westward Ho! - Core Tourist Area
Policy NOR06: Westward Ho! - Tourism and Recreation Sites
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES
Policy DM01: Amenity Considerations
Policy DM02: Environmental Protection
Policy DM04: Design Principles
Policy DM05: Highways
Policy DM06: Parking Provision
Policy DM07: Historic Environment
Policy DM08: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy DM08A: Landscape and Seascape Character
Policy DM09: Safeguarding Green Infrastructure
Policy DM10: Green Infrastructure Provision
Policy DM12: Employment Development at Towns, Local Centres and Villages
Policy DM13: Safeguarding Employment Land
Policy DM14: Rural Economy
Policy DM15: Farm Diversification
Policy DM17: Tourism and Leisure Attractions
Policy DM18: Tourism Accommodation
Policy DM25: Residential Extensions and Ancillary Development

NNP Section, Policy and title	Relevant Local Plan Policy	COMMENT ON GENERAL CONFORMITY OF NNP POLICY TO LOCAL PLAN POLICIES
COMMUNITY		
CF1 Community Facilities	ST12, ST22, NOR i)	CF1 conforms to ST12 in seeking to secure future of community facilities for community benefit. Supports NOR i) in seeking provision of community facilities to support new development and established needs.
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT		
a) Residential Development		

HO1 Size of Dwellings	ST17	HO1 conforms to ST17 in seeking a balanced local housing market suitable for local needs, and provision of accessible and adaptable dwellings. HO1 provides an additional level of detail based on local evidence of housing needs.
HO2 New Affordable Housing	ST17, ST18	HO2 conforms to ST17 in seeking to address identified need for local affordable housing through provision of an appropriate tenure mix. HO2 conforms to ST18 , in seeking affordable housing provision as part of any market development. HO2 provides an additional level of detail based on local evidence of housing needs.
HO3 Residential Design and Amenity	ST04, DM01, DM04, DM25	HO3 conforms to the design principles of the Local Plan as set out in ST04 , DM01 , DM04 and DM25 , and setting out locally-focused standards.
TR1 Residential Parking Provision	DM06	TR1 conforms to DM06 , setting out locally-focused standards for an appropriate scale and mix of parking provision in new development, walking and cycling routes and access to public transport.
b) Development, Design and Energy		
DE1 Quality of Design	ST02, ST04, ST05, ST10, DM04	DE1 conforms to ST04 , in seeking high quality sustainable design that meets local aspirations. DE1 is in general conformity to paragraphs 13.28 and 13.29 of the Local Plan, which indicate that all development proposals should incorporate facilities for the storage and collection of waste. DE1 conforms to ST02 in seeking to mitigate climate change by supporting high standards of design and solar gain in new dwellings. It conforms to ST10 in seeking accessible public transport.
DE2 Renewable Energy	ST16	DE2 conforms to ST16 in seeking to support and guide proposals for sustainable renewable local energy generation.
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE		
EN1 Local Green Spaces	DM09, DM10	The Local Plan has no general Local Green Spaces policy. However EN1 conforms to DM09 in seeking protection of local open spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and nature conservation. EN1 conforms to Policy DM10 , which sets quantitative and accessibility standards for green infrastructure in relation to new development.
EN1a) Open Space and Recreation		The Local Plan has no general open spaces, sports and recreation policy. However Policy EN1a) conforms to NOR i) which seeks expansion of sports and recreation facilities in Northam Parish to support new development

		and to address established needs. EN1a) also conforms to DM09 , which seeks protection of local open spaces that offer opportunities for sport and recreation.
EN2 Protecting the Identity of Settlements	ST09, NOR h), DM09	EN2 is an area-specific policy that conforms to Policy NOR h) in seeking to resist coalescence between Northam and Appledore, and ST09 in seeking to maintain the separate identity of coastal settlements. EN2 provides local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area.
EN3 Protecting Rural Character	ST09, ST14, DM02, DM08a), DM09 NOR k)	EN3 is an area-specific policy that conforms to ST09 in seeking to maintain the unspoilt character of the undeveloped coast. EN3 provides local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area. EN3 also conforms to NOR k) and DM08a) in requiring new development to respect the landscape setting of the AONB (now North Devon National Landscape).
EN3a) Protecting Dark Skies and Reducing Light Pollution	DM08a), DMo2	EN3a) is an area-specific policy that conforms to DM08a) in seeking to safeguard local dark skies and reduce light pollution, and DM02 in supporting development where it does not result in unacceptable levels of light pollution. EN3a) provides local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area.
EN4 Protecting Valued Views	ST09, ST11, ST15, NOR k), DM08a)	EN4 is a policy that conforms to ST09 in seeking to maintain the unspoilt character and appearance of the undeveloped coast. EN4 provides local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area. EN4 also conforms to ST15 in supporting conservation of the historic environment, and DM08a) in requiring new development to respect the landscape setting of the AONB (now North Devon National Landscape).
HE1 Conservation of Heritage Assets	ST15, DM07	HE1 is a policy that conforms to ST15 and DM07 in seeking identification of non-designated heritage assets; evidence-based assessment of local non-designated heritage assets in accordance with national tests; conservation and enhancement of heritage assets; and increased access, education and appreciation of these assets. HE1 provides local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area.
EN5 Protection of Biodiversity	ST14, DM08.	EN5 is a policy that conforms to ST14 in seeking to conserve and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity. EN5 provides a local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area.
TR2 Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	ST02, ST10, NOR (j), NOR01, NOR02, DM05, DM06	TR2 conforms to ST10 in seeking development and enhancement of local walking and cycling routes. TR2 provides a local focus and value with an additional level of detail relevant to the area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
ED1 Business	ST06, ST09, ST11, DM12, DM14, DM15	ED1 conforms to ST11 in supporting sustainable growth in appropriate locations within the neighbourhood plan area.
TR3 Public Car Parking	-	TR3 seeks to protect local public car parking provision and provides additional information. Local Plan does not have a general policy to support or expand parking public parking, however some local policies do include provisions comparable to TR3 in relation to specific settlements (for example, (WIN (g) ; TET (d)); or in relation to site-specific regeneration policies, (for example SM04 (c) , NOR06, para 10.381).
Tourist Attractions and Accommodation	ST09, ST13, NOR f), NOR05, NOR06, DM08a), DM17, DM18	ED2 conforms to ST13 in seeking sustainable high quality tourism development that does not damage the natural and historic assets of the neighbourhood plan area. ED2 conforms to ST09 in seeking tourism development that does not detract from the undeveloped coast. ED2 provides a local focus and value to ST13 . Local Plan NOR g) is not referenced as proposed development has been completed.
HE2 Richmond Dock	NOR d), ST09, ST11, ST15, DM07, DM12, DM13	HE2 is a site-specific policy that supports ST09 in seeking sustainability of coastal communities and safeguarding riverside infrastructure for employment uses; HE2 conforms to NOR d) in supporting maritime-related development in Appledore. HE2 conforms to ST15 in seeking to conserve historic assets. HE2 provides local detail and value to both policies reflecting local aspirations and site constraints.
ED3 Appledore Employment Zone	NOR d), ST09, ST11, DM07, DM12, DM13	ED3 is an area-specific policy that conforms to ST09 in seeking sustainability of coastal communities and safeguarding riverside infrastructure for employment uses; ED3 conforms to NOR d) in supporting maritime-related development in Appledore. ED3 provides local detail and value to both policies reflecting local aspirations and site constraints.



5 Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development

5.1 One of the basic conditions applying to neighbourhood plan production is that it should contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the designated neighbourhood area.

5.2 The Government's approach towards sustainable development is set out in the NPPF. This is essentially about enabling growth for the current needs of the population and for future generations to come.

The NPPF describes three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions require the planning system to achieve a number of objectives:

- a) **an economic objective** – *to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
- b) **a social objective** – *to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- c) **an environmental objective** – *to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

5.3 The principle of sustainable development is embedded in Policy ST01: Principles of Sustainable Development of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. This states the Council's intention to work with applicants and local communities to find solutions to deliver development in a manner that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.

5.4 The principle of sustainable development is at the heart of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan and the plan-making process. The principle is expressed in the Plan's overarching general objective:

1 The Plan will achieve sustainable development by applying through its objectives and policies the three principles of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - that underpin the National Planning Policy Framework and the NDAT Local Plan.

Accordingly each of the four themes that structure the Plan's Vision, objectives and policies is fully consistent with the principle of sustainable development (paras 2.13-2.14). The four themes are:

- *Community - valued community facilities should be protected against loss to create sustainable and strong communities in each of the three main settlements of Northam Parish.*
- *Housing - sustainable housing development should include appropriate infrastructure and include the provision of genuinely affordable housing to meet local needs. Any development should provide adequate numbers of car parking spaces for residents and reduce the adverse environmental impacts of traffic congestion, carbon emissions and pollution caused by having to travel out of the area.*
- *Environment and heritage - the overarching priority must be that sustainable development should be delivered in a way that protects and enhances valued environmental assets including local green spaces, the coast, countryside and heritage assets, and resists the process of coalescence of settlements and the erosion of the rural character of the area between settlements.*
- *Business - sustainable economic development should benefit the local economy and create local employment opportunities.*

5.5 Table 3 below sets out an assessment of each individual policy of the Plan and how it impacts on each of the three strands of sustainability: social, economic and environmental.

Table 3: How each policy of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan impacts on each of the three strands of sustainability: social, economic and environmental

KEY

- NEUTRAL IMPACT

+ POSITIVE IMPACT

++ VERY POSITIVE IMPACT

NNP Section, Policy and title	Sustainability compatibility: ECONOMIC	Sustainability compatibility: SOCIAL	Sustainability compatibility: ENVIRONMENTAL	COMMENTS
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COMMUNITY				
CF1 Community Facilities	+	++	+	Valued community facilities enable activities that promote health, social and cultural well-being. Policy CF1 protects accessible services.
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT a) Residential development				
HO1 Size of Dwellings	+	++	-	Ensures suitable accommodation that meets needs of present and future needs of local population
HO2 New Affordable Housing	+	++	-	Maximises affordable housing. Ensures suitable accommodation that meets needs of present and future needs of local population
HO3 Residential Design and Amenity	+	++	+	Provides safe and well-designed built environment.
TR1 Residential Parking Provision	+	+	+	Provides safe and well-designed built environment. Enables move to low-carbon transport.
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT b) Development, design and energy				
DE1 Quality of Design	+	++	+	Provides safe and well-designed built environment. Minimises waste and pollution. Mitigates and adapts to climate change.
DE2 Renewable Energy	+	++	++	Supports move to low-carbon energy.
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE				
EN1 Local Green Spaces	+	++	++	Supports open spaces that reflect present and future needs. Supports health, social and cultural well-being.

EN1a) Open Space and Recreation	+	++	++	Supports open spaces that reflect present and future needs. Supports health, social and cultural well-being.
EN2 Protecting the Identity of Settlements	+	++	++	Protects and enhances natural environment. Supports health, social and cultural well-being. Protects sustainable tourism based on walking and countryside activities.
EN3 Protecting Rural Character	+	++	++	Protects and enhances natural environment. Supports health, social and cultural well-being. Protects sustainable tourism based on walking and countryside activities.
EN3a) Protecting Dark Skies and Reduce Light Pollution	+	++	++	Protects and enhances natural environment. Supports health, social and cultural well-being. Protects sustainable tourism based on walking and countryside activities.
EN4 Protecting Valued Views	+	++	++	Protects and enhances natural environment. Supports health, social and cultural well-being. Protects sustainable tourism based on walking and countryside activities.
HE1 Conservation of Heritage Assets	+	+	++	Conserves and enhances the historic environment. Supports cultural well-being. Protects sustainable heritage tourism.
EN5 Protection of Biodiversity	+	+	++	Protects and enhances natural environment. Improves biodiversity. Protects sustainable eco-tourism.
TR2 Cycle and Pedestrian Routes	+	++	++	Enables move to low-carbon transport. Supports informal recreation beneficial to physical and mental health.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT				
ED1 Business	++	+	+	Builds a strong, responsive and competitive economy by guiding development to sustainable locations.
TR3 Public Car Parking	+	+	-	Builds a strong, responsive and competitive economy by making business more accessible for visitors to a settlement.
ED2 Tourist Attractions and Accommodation	++	-	+	Builds a strong, responsive and competitive economy by guiding tourism development to sustainable locations that will not harm environmental tourism assets.
HE2 Richmond Dock	++	+	++	Builds a strong, responsive and competitive economy by guiding and supporting sustainable development in an accessible location. Protects and enhances the historic environment.
ED3 Appledore Maritime Employment Zone	++	+	-	Builds a strong, responsive and competitive economy by guiding and supporting sustainable development in an accessible location.



6 Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

6.1 As a 'local plan', the Neighbourhood Development Plan is required to take cognisance of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC Office.

6.2 In order to satisfy Directive 2001/42/EC, Torridge DC carried out a screening of the Plan to assess whether or not there was a need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

6.3 The Council's screening opinion confirmed that based on the scope of the policies in the plan that a SEA would not be required. Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England are statutory consultees for this process and concurred with the Council's decision. (The consultation took place between the 6th of January and 17th February 2023). The consultation responses for this screening of the Plan are set out in Appendix 2.

6.4 Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC seek to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species. A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Development Plan has the potential to result in a significant adverse impact on a European site (as defined in the Habitat Regulations 2017) alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

6.7 Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England were statutory consultees for the screening process for SEA and HRA. The consultation took place between the 6th of January and 17th February 2023. The conclusion based on the scope of the policies was that an HRA would not be required. The full responses of each statutory consultee are set out in Appendix 2 of this document.

6.8 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) set out a further basic condition for a Neighbourhood Development Plan in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This basic condition is as follows: the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.)

6.9 Northam Town Council consider, following the outcome of the HRA screening, that this basic condition has been met.



7 Compatibility with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Human Rights Act

7.1 A Neighbourhood Development Plan is required to take cognisance of the European Convention of Human Rights and to comply with the Human Rights Act 1998. The Human Rights Act contains a number of articles, which are potentially relevant to neighbourhood planning such as: the right to respect for private and family life; freedom of expression; and prohibition of discrimination.

7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken for the Northam Neighbourhood Plan. The EIA concluded that the Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act and the Equality Act 2010. (The EIA is set out in Appendix 3.)

7.3 The Northam Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (later the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group, and presently the Northam Town Council Planning and Development Committee) have been constantly mindful of the need to engage all sections of the local community and applied different consultation techniques accordingly.

7.4 Northam Town Council confirm that considerable emphasis has been placed throughout the consultation process to ensure that no sections of the community have been isolated or excluded from the Plan's preparation and non-statutory and statutory consultations have been undertaken in such a way that all sections of the local community have been given the opportunity to express their views.

7.5 These initiatives are documented in the accompanying Consultation Statement, and the Record of the Community Engagement, which forms part of the evidence base for the Plan. The Town Council are of the view that the Plan has been prepared to represent the views of the community as a whole.

7.6 In summary, the Plan is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, transposed into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. It has been prepared within the existing framework of statute, national planning policy and guidance, and district-level strategic planning policies. In accordance with established process, its preparation has included consultation with the local community, and it has been subject to independent examination. The policies within the Plan are considered to comply with the requirements of EU obligations in relation to Human Rights and an Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared to meet the legislative requirement.

**Appendix 1: Application for Designation for a Neighbourhood Area: Northam;
Neighbourhood Area Designation Notice**

- iii) The Town Council wishes to promote and ensure future development respects the landscape setting including the special landscape character and qualities of the adjoining Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- iv) The forthcoming new Local Plan illustrates the Authority's future aspiration of Northam, Appledore and Westward Ho! With some of the intentions quite considerable, it would be beneficial for the community to have an opportunity to contribute to change within their parish.

For the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act this letter is our statement.

Yours sincerely,
Maria


..... Consultant
Maria Bailey Planning
Director

On behalf of Northam Town Council



**NORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL OFFICES
WINDMILL LANE
NORTHAM
DEVON
EX39 1BY**

Town Clerk: Mrs Jane Mills MILCM
Telephone and Fax: 01237/474976
e-mail townclerk@northamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Rowland,

Re: Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012: Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area: Northam

Under the relevant legislation as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Northam Town Council, being a 'relevant body' as defined in Section 61(G) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, wishes to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

As required by Regulation 5 of the Regulations, this Application for Designation of a Neighbourhood Area is accompanied by the following:

- A map which identifies the area to which the area application relates
- A statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area
- A statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Act

We consider the defined area to be appropriate for designation for the following reasons:

- i) The area for which designation is sought covers the entire administrative area of Northam Civil Parish. See area outlined in red on the enclosed map.
- ii) The defined area has an existing sense of community amongst its three distinct settlements of; Northam, Appledore and Westward Ho! which the Town Council wishes to nurture and promote by creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to meet the present and future needs of residents, businesses and organisations in a way that conserves and enhances the environment whilst ensuring harmony amongst the community.

Lords of the Manor

The local Council for Appledore, Northam, Orchard Hill and Westward Ho!
Office open: Monday to Friday mornings

Trustees of the Common Right

Appendix 2 – Responses from statutory agencies to Torridge District Council regarding SEA and HRA screening

HISTORIC ENGLAND

Many thanks for your email of 6 January 2023, inviting us to comment on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion for the Northam Neighbourhood Plan.

Our role as a national statutory consultee for Neighbourhood Planning focuses mainly on ensuring there is no risk of undue harm to heritage assets. The most common way that risk of harm emerges in Neighbourhood Plans is when new, site-specific allocations for development are being made.

Where a neighbourhood plan recommends a site to be allocated for development, there is a risk that heritage assets may be harmed as a result of that development. Therefore, when such allocations are proposed, we look to see that they are supported by appropriate evidence to demonstrate conformity with national policy for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Such evidence ought to demonstrate that there is not the potential for significant environmental effects, in terms of harmful impact to heritage assets.

We note that the Northam Parish draft Neighbourhood Plan does not make specific site allocations for development. Furthermore, we cannot detect any obvious cause for concern in the suite of emerging policies. Given this, we concur with your opinion that a full SEA is not required on this occasion.

We have no further comments to make at this point in time. I hope that our response has been helpful. We intend to respond separately to the Regulation 14 pre submission consultation directly to the NP steering group. We look forward to having an opportunity to make further comments at the regulation 16 stage.

Kind Regards,

Alan

Alan Thompson | Historic Places Adviser

Historic England | South West 1st Floor Fermentation North | Finzels Reach | Hawkins Lane | Bristol | BS1 6WQ Direct Line: 0117 975 0715 | Mobile: 07548 642067 <https://historicengland.org.uk/southwest>

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Thank you for your consultation of 6th January 2023 providing us with the opportunity to comment in respect of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan SEA/HRA screening opinion.

In general we consider that it is unlikely that neighbourhood plans will result in any significant environmental effects unless the plan allocates or encourages development over that set out in the Local Plan. Otherwise we consider that any potential for environmental effects from growth in the parish should already have been addressed through the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which supported the adopted Local Plan.

Please note, this is a standard response. If you consider the plan will result in significant environmental effects please re-consult us.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Henderson-Smith

Sustainable Places Planning Specialist Environment Agency – Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Area

NATURAL ENGLAND

Date: 10 February 2023
Our ref: 417091
Your ref: Northam Neighbourhood Plan

Ms D Burgess
Torrridge District Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
dawn.burgess@torridge.gov.uk



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Burgess

Northam Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 07 January 2023.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team





Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment

1 Introduction

1.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

1.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is the systematic analysis of a policy or policies, in order to identify the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particular those with 'protected characteristics'. 'Protected characteristics' are defined in the Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. EIA assesses and records the likely differential and/or adverse impact of a policy on people from these different groups so that if a policy results in unfairness or discrimination then changes to eliminate or lessen the impact can be considered.

1.3 This document presents the results of the assessment of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that Northam Town Council is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard.

2 Aims of the Equality Analysis

2.1 The purpose of the analysis is to increase participation and inclusion, to change the culture of public decision-making and to nurture a more proactive approach to the promotion of equality and fairness at the heart of public policy. The aim in conducting the analysis is the promotion of fairness and equality of opportunity and thus it is the outcomes that are of primary concern.

2.2 The sections below consider the Vision and objectives of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan and then assess the impact of policies and proposals on groups with protected characteristics.

3 Methodology

3.1 An assessment has been made on whether the vision, and policies of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan have a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (insofar as data is available).

3.2 It is important to rate the impact of a policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

3.3 Each impact assessment on a group with protected characteristics is made in relative terms compared to the likely impact of the policy on the residents of Northam Parish without protected characteristics as:

- **Positive:** a positive impact or beneficial outcome.
- **Neutral:** neither positive impact nor negative outcome.
- **Negative:** a negative impact or outcome.

4 Baseline data

4.1 Data for Northam Parish is available for the following protected characteristics: age, disability, race, religious belief, sex. Data is not readily available for the following protected characteristics: gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation. The data sources for this document are the 2021 census and the 2023 Torrridge Ward Profiles for Appledore, Northam and Westward Ho! In some cases 2021 census data averages for Rural Market Towns Group members provide comparator national average figures. The Rural Market Towns Group comprises 170 rural local authorities distributed throughout England.

Northam parish population characteristics

Total Population: 12,278¹

Number of households, approximately 6,000²

Age: 12.5% of the population are children aged 15 or less (Torrridge average 14.4%); 51.4% are in the working age groups 16-64 (Torrridge average 57.2%; 36% are aged 65 plus (Torrridge average 28.4%).³ This means that the population has a slightly older profile than the average for Torrridge District. Amongst Rural Market Towns Group members on average 17.3% of the population are children aged 15 or less; 58.8% are in the working age groups 16-64; 23.8% are aged 65 plus.⁴ The population of Northam Parish therefore has a markedly older profile than the average of comparator rural market town communities in England.

¹ 2021 Census, Parish of Northam, Office of National Statistics (ONS).

² 2023 Torrridge Ward Profiles: Total households: Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

³ 2023 Torrridge Ward Profiles: Torrridge District; Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

⁴ Parish Census 2021 – Northam (Rural Market Towns Group).

⁵ 2023 Torrridge Ward Profiles: Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

Sex: 47.63% male; 52.37% female.⁵

Ethnic group: 98.1% are white; 1% are mixed/multiple ethnic groups; 0.8% are from other ethnic groups.⁶ The comparable average figures for Rural Market Towns Group members are 94.7% white; 1.6% mixed/multiple ethnic groups; 3.6% other ethnic groups.⁷

Religion: 51.5% Christian; 1% other religion; 40.5% do not have a religion; 1% other religions, 6.6% chose not to state their religion.⁸

Disability: In 2021 31.4% of the population reported at some degree of disability or a chronic physical or mental health condition (the comparable figure for Torridge District is 28.6%).⁹ The comparable average figure for Rural Market Towns Group members is 27%.¹⁰

Marriage and civil partnership: In 2021, 36% of households consisted of one person, 26.5% consisted of a couple who were married or a civil partnership, 6.5% were lone parents. The comparable figures for Torridge District were 30%, 30.9% and 8.1%. The figures indicate that a markedly higher percentage of single-person households in Northam Parish than in Torridge District as a whole.¹¹

Gender identification: although as noted there are no easily available figures for the Parish of Northam, 2021 census data for Torridge District indicate that 93.8% identify with their birth gender and all other gender identifications total 5.9%.¹² There is no evidence to suggest that the data for the Parish of Northam would be significantly different than the data for Torridge District as a whole.

Sexual orientation: although as noted there are no easily available figures for the Parish of Northam, 2021 census data for Torridge District indicates that 89.8% describe themselves as heterosexual, 1.3% as gay or lesbian and 0.9% as bi-sexual, (7.3% chose not to reply).¹³ As with gender identification, there is no evidence to suggest that the data for the Parish of Northam would be significantly different than the data for Torridge District as a whole.

⁶ 2023 Torridge Ward Profiles: Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

⁷ Parish Census 2021 – Northam (Rural Market Towns Group).

⁸ 2023 Torridge Ward Profiles: Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

⁹ 2023 Torridge Ward Profiles: Torridge District.

¹⁰ Parish Census 2021 – Northam (Rural Market Towns Group).

¹¹ 2023 Torridge Ward Profiles: Torridge District; Appledore, Northam, Westward Ho!

¹² 2021 Census, Torridge District, Office of National Statistics (ONS).

¹³ 2021 Census, Torridge District, Office of National Statistics (ONS).

5 Discussion of evidence

5.1 The data for Northam Parish is dominated by the older age profile of residents. In all probability this older profile helps to explain the increased frequency of disability, and chronic ill-health in the population of Northam Parish. It may very well also explain the higher proportion of single-person households in Northam Parish.

5.2 The number of people from minority ethnic and religious groups is relatively small. Northam Parish is also markedly less diverse in ethnic terms than the averages for comparator rural market towns in England. The data suggests that the largest groups with protected characteristics in the population are those affected by age and disability. These groups are likely to be over-lapping since some older people are affected by age-related disabilities.

5.3 In addition to age and disability, it is noted that planning policies are likely to impact most on groups with protected characteristics related to marriage/civil partnership and pregnancy/maternity. It is considered that these groups are more likely to move home and be impacted by policies relating to residential development.

6 Likely impact of the Vision and objectives of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan on residents with protected characteristics

6.1 It is considered that the Plan's Vision is appropriate for all residents including those with protected characteristics because the Vision sets conditions to enable everyone to get on well together, supporting those in the community that need support and helping the community to thrive.

6.2 Whilst the Plan's Vision is expected to have a positive impact on all sectors of the community, the impact is expected to be especially positive for children and young people of school age, people on low incomes, older people, people with disabilities and/or long-term health conditions. This is because these groups have little or no access to private transport and therefore depend on walking/cycling and public transport. Due to their relative limited access to private cars they will depend mainly on the shops, businesses and community facilities in Northam Parish for employment, shopping and leisure activities.

6.3 All the Plan's objectives seek to improve conditions and therefore offer benefits to all members of the community. In each case they also seek to create a fully inclusive environment and a vibrant community spirit based on mutual respect. This ethos is expected to be beneficial to groups with protected characteristics.

6.4 It is important to the community that Northam Parish continues to be a friendly, inclusive, desirable place to live. To this end, the process of community engagement (outlined in section 7 of this document) has identified four themes of importance. These

themes are set out in Section 4.9 of the Plan and they underpin the objectives set out in the Plan. The four themes are:

- **Community** - valued community facilities should be protected against closure to create sustainable and strong communities in each of the three main settlements of Northam Parish.
- **Housing** - sustainable housing development should include appropriate infrastructure and include the provision of genuinely affordable housing to meet local needs. Any development should provide adequate numbers of car parking spaces for residents and reduce the adverse environmental impacts of traffic congestion, carbon emissions and pollution caused by having to travel out of the area.
- **Environment and heritage** - the overarching priority must be that sustainable development should be delivered in a way that protects and enhances valued environmental assets including local green spaces, the coast, countryside and heritage assets, and resists the process of coalescence of settlements and the erosion of the rural character of the area between settlements.
- **Business and employment** - sustainable economic development should benefit the local economy and create local employment opportunities.

6.5 Each of these themes establishes how the Parish will deliver its Vision. The delivery of the Vision will be through both planning policies and community action.

6.6 All twenty-one policies in the Plan have been assessed and no areas of incompatibility have been identified.

7 Community consultation process

7.1 A detailed account of the consultation process is provided in the Consultation Statement submitted alongside the Northam Neighbourhood Plan. The aims of the neighbourhood plan consultation process are set out in the neighbourhood plan Community Engagement Strategy. In brief the aims of the consultation process were:

- To involve as many people as possible in the Plan's development from an early stage;
- To ensure that consultation took place at critical points in the process using a variety of consultation techniques;
- To ensure that consultation was meaningful, that people felt listened to and that their input was valued; and
- To keep people informed of the Plan's progress at regular intervals.

7.2 Throughout the preparation of the Plan the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Steering group (subsequently reconstituted as the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group)

sought to engage with as wide a range of people as possible and were mindful to ensure that people with no access to the Internet and/or limited mobility, and/or lack of transport were given the opportunity to take part in consultation activities. The individual actions and a report of the responses are detailed in the Consultation Statement, and in the Record of Community Consultation in the evidence base of the Plan.

7.3 In brief, early engagement was achieved through open meetings followed by a questionnaire sent to all addresses in the Parish of Northam in order to identify Community priorities and aspirations for the Plan.

- Following assessment of the questionnaire responses, focus groups sought to identify at this stage what was important to the community and what were the issues affecting the parish and its future sustainability. Draft policies were prepared by the focus groups and discussed by the steering group. The draft policies were presented and discussed at public meetings in each of the three settlements of Northam Parish.
- In addition, the successive versions of the draft Plan have been available online in the neighbourhood plan website and Northam Town Council websites and there had been an on-going online programme of engagement through Facebook posts.

7.4 The variety of methods used to publicise the Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation were:

- Questionnaire in *The Link* (magazine delivered to every address in the Parish). The questionnaire was also available to fill in online.
- Parish notice boards and poster displays.
- Use of social media such as Facebook
- Use of the Neighbourhood Plan and Town Council websites for all relevant information
- Hard copies of the Plan available on request
- Summary Plan produced and available on request
- Posters placed in key positions throughout the community
- Landowners, local charities and business owners were contacted, and invited to comment on the pre-submission Plan.
- Local interest groups were asked to contact their members, for example Appledore Residents' Association, Battle of Northam Association.
- Word of mouth – which circulates quickly in a small community.
- Afternoon/early evening drop-in sessions in each settlement. The sessions enabled residents to view an exhibition of the Plan's policies, and share their views with Northam town councillors and other members of the Advisory Group. The timing of and location of the sessions were designed to make them accessible for older people and people with disabilities or health issues.

8 Likely impact of Plan policies on residents with protected characteristics

8.1 The Plan aims to create benefits for everyone who lives, works, shops, or spends leisure time in the parish. This will be achieved by:

- Preserving and developing social, community and leisure facilities;
- Developing new housing, particularly affordable housing, with an emphasis on smaller units;
- Improving access to local services and facilities;
- Preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment;
- Improving/maintaining access to the countryside for all through footpath protection and creation in order to enhance opportunities for sustainable local travel and recreation.
- Supporting locally-based accessible small business, maritime and tourism-related business.

8.2 Groups with various protected characteristics will be affected in different ways by the Plan. The purpose of the analysis in section 8.3 is to identify how various groups will be affected by each policy to determine whether the proposals and policies in the Plan will adversely affect disproportionately those in the groups with protected characteristics.

8.3 (see next page)

8.4 The analysis in section 8.3 demonstrates that where the Plan has an impact on groups with protected characteristics, it is overwhelmingly a positive or neutral impact and not a negative one.

9 Conclusion

9.1 The Northam Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the community and a range of policies and proposals that will benefit many parts of the local community including groups with protected characteristics, older people, young people, mothers-to-be and young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility.

9.2 The Plan does not explicitly address the needs of racial or religious groups, transgender, gay or lesbian groups. However, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is assumed that these groups with protected characteristics will have equal access to the affordable and other housing provided under the Plan and to social, community, leisure and retail facilities supported by the Plan. The impact of policies on these groups is accordingly rated as neutral relative to the overall impact on the population as a whole.

9.3 The Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group does not consider that there are any negative equality impacts that arise from the policies or proposals contained within the Plan or that it raises any issues in relation to the Human Rights Act 1998 or the Equality Act 2010.

8.3 Table 1: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

GWPC = Group with protected characteristics

RWPC = all residents of Northam Parish without protected characteristics

1 COMMUNITY

CF1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	POSITIVE
7. Religion and belief	POSITIVE
8. Sex	POSITIVE
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: All community and recreational facilities in this policy are fully available and accessible to all GWPC's. Protection of local community facilities will provide a public and social space for GWPC's, accessible to those with limited mobility or limited access to transport.

2 HOUSING

HO1 SIZE OF DWELLINGS

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE

6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The increased provision of smaller and more accessible and adaptable dwellings will benefit older people and people with limited mobility. Smaller and more affordable dwellings are likely to prove especially beneficial to GWPC's 1, 2, 4, and 5.

HO2 NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: More affordable dwellings are likely to prove especially beneficial to GWPC's 1, 2, 4, and 5.

HO3 RESIDENTIAL DESIGN AND AMENITY

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The protection of residential amenity will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally, although vulnerable individuals within GWPC's may benefit especially from

protection of residential amenity. GWPC's 1, 2, 4 and 5 will benefit from more adaptable dwellings.

DE1 QUALITY OF DESIGN

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Good design will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1 and 2 will benefit from improved storage and refuse disposal.

DE2 RENEWABLE ENERGY

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Energy conservation and carbon reduction will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally.

TR1 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PROVISION

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil	NEUTRAL

partnership	
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Provision of adequate residential parking places is of equal benefit to the GWPC's and RWPC.

3 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

EN1 LOCAL GREEN SPACES

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Provision of space for recreation and/or community use will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1 and 2 with limited mobility/access to transport will benefit from availability of local recreation/community space.

EN1a) OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL

9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL
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NOTES: Provision of space for recreation and/or community use will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1 and 2 with limited mobility/access to transport will benefit from availability of local recreation/open space.

EN2 PROTECTING THE IDENTITY OF SETTLEMENTS

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Policy is consistent with development boundaries and principle of sustainable development. It seeks to protect community identity and is therefore equally beneficial to the GWPC's and RWPC.

EN3 PROTECTING RURAL CHARACTER

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Protection of rural character of area is of equal benefit to the GWPC's and RWPC. GWPC's 1 and 2 will benefit from provision of accessible public transport.

EN3a) PROTECTING DARK SKIES AND REDUCE LIGHT POLLUTION

GWPC	Impact
------	--------

1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Protection of dark skies area is of equal benefit to the GWPC's and RWPC. GWPC's 1 and 2 may benefit from improved sleep quality due to diminished light spill.

EN4 PROTECTING VALUED VIEWS

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The protection of valued views is of equal benefit to the GWPC's and RWPC. Viewpoints for valued views are mostly accessible for older people and people with limited mobility.

HE1 CONSERVATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL

6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The protection of heritage sites will offer benefits to all sections of the community in terms of community pride, a sense of belonging and educational opportunities. It will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally.

EN5 PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	NEUTRAL
2. Disability	NEUTRAL
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	NEUTRAL
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Biodiversity net gain is a planning requirement. It is of equal benefit to the GWPC's and RWPC.

TR2 CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The provision and enhancement of cycle and pedestrian routes will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1, 2, 5 with limited access to transport will benefit from accessible walking/cycling routes.

4 ECONOMIC

ED1 BUSINESS

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The expansion of local small business is expected to benefit GWPC's 4 and 5 and people with limited access to transport/limited mobility, especially GWPC's 1 and 2. Small-scale rural business opportunities will provide home-working opportunities for GWPC's 1, 2, 4, and 5.

TR3 PUBLIC CAR PARKING

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Protection of public car parking provision will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1, 2 and 5 with limited mobility, will benefit from availability of parking close to shops and services.

ED2 TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND ACCOMMODATION

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE

3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Local tourism-related jobs will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. GWPC's 1, 2 and 5 with limited mobility/access to transport will benefit from jobs closer to settlements.

HE2 RICHMOND DOCK

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	NEUTRAL
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL
7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: Protection of heritage assets and local amenity will benefit the GWPC's and RWPC equally. The possible provision of local small business jobs will benefit protected group 4 and people with limited access to transport/limited mobility, especially GWPC's 1, 2 and 5.

ED3 APPLIEDORE EMPLOYMENT ZONE

GWPC	Impact
1. Age	POSITIVE
2. Disability	POSITIVE
3. Gender reassignment	NEUTRAL
4. Marriage and civil partnership	POSITIVE
5. Pregnancy and maternity	POSITIVE
6. Race	NEUTRAL

7. Religion and belief	NEUTRAL
8. Sex	NEUTRAL
9. Sexual orientation	NEUTRAL

NOTES: The provision of local maritime-related jobs is expected to benefit GWPC 4 and people with limited access to transport/limited mobility, especially GWPC's 1, 2 and 5 (see Policy ED1).

