Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan 2016 - 2026 (2023 Update)

Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council

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This report describes work commissioned by Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council by an instruction dated 6th October 2023. The Client’s representative for the contract was Pat Hasting of Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council. Sheena Peat of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Abbreviations

EC European Community

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

LNR Local Nature Reserve

NNR National Nature Reserve

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

ODPM Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

PCC Preston City Council

SAC Special Area of Conservation

SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment

SPA Special Protection Area for birds

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest

Definitions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition |
| National Landscapes | National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) were formally designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. They protect areas of the countryside of high scenic quality that cannot be selected for National Park status because of their lack of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Natural England is responsible for designating National Landscapes and advising the Government and others on how they should be protected and managed. |
| Design Code | The design requirements which set the principles for new development in an area in a simple and concise way. This should be prepared by all local planning authorities in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. |
| Development Plan | The local, regional and national plan which sets out the vision and framework for future development of an area, addressing need and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating, and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places. It is essential that plans are in place and kept up to date as it is a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be made in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. |
| Listed Building | A building is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting. These are listed under the following three grades:   * Grade I: buildings of exceptional interest. * Grade II\*: particularly important buildings of more than special interest. * Grade II: buildings that are of special interest. |
| Local Nature Reserve | Statutory designation under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. These can be declared by Parish and Town Council, but these must be delegated to by principle local authority. |
| Local Wildlife Site | Areas of land which are especially important for their wildlife. |
| National Character Area | A natural subdivision of England based on a unique sense of place. The Character Area framework is used to describe and shape objectives for the countryside, its planning and management. |
| National Planning Policy Framework | The national framework which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied to safeguard sustainable, economic, and environmental development. |
| National Nature Reserve | Reserves established to protect some of our most important habitats, species, and geology, and to provide outdoor laboratories for research. |
| Neighbourhood Plan | A planning document created by a parish (or town council or a neighbourhood forum) which sets out a vision for the neighbourhood area and contains policies for the development and use of land in the area. If approved by a majority vote of the local community the neighbourhood plan will then form part of the statutory development plan. |
| Special Protection Area | Protected areas for birds in the UK, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation Regulations 2010. |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest | A conservation designation legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These sites are selected for wildlife and natural features in England. |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment | A decision support process which aims to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives. |

Executive Summary

Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council is currently in the process of updating its Neighbourhood Plan for the neighbourhood area of Broughton-in-Amounderness, within the administrative area of Preston City Council in Lancashire. The updated Neighbourhood Plan will bring the policies in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), provide an updated baseline of developments in the plan area, and produce a Design Code to guide quality development in the area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process undertaken to assess the potential effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The first stage of the SEA process is to determine whether a SEA is required. This is known as the screening stage.

This report presents the findings of the SEA screening to determine whether an SEA of the updated Neighbourhood Plan is required. It has been determined that due to the nature, scale and location of the policies within the plan the updated Neighbourhood Plan will not require an SEA.

# Introduction

Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council is currently in the process of updating its Neighbourhood Plan for the neighbourhood area of Broughton-in-Amounderness, within the administrative area of Preston Local Council in Lancashire. Under the Localism Act, the Parish Council can produce a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out policies to guide development in the area and specify preferred areas for development. The previous Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2018 and forms part of the Development Plan.

The updated Neighbourhood Plan will bring the policies in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), provide a revised baseline for developments in the plan area, and produce a Design Code to guide quality development in the area. Furthermore, the 2021 Census has shown an increase in population from 1,731 in 2011 to 2,471 in 2021.

The completion of the new 'James Towers Way' Bypass will likely increase the popularity of Broughton as a place to live and work. This removed the bulk of traffic, and associated noise and emissions, from the village centre and was followed by landscaping, traffic calming of the area, and the development of the Toll Bar Cottage Community Meeting rooms and café within the village centre.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process undertaken to assess the potential effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Screening is the first stage in the SEA process.

The primary aim of this Screening Report is to identify whether the updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Council Directive 2001/42/EC. This Screening Report considers the purpose and likely contents of the updated Neighbourhood Plan and whether there is a need to conduct a full SEA.

The first Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Neighbourhood Plan was screened against the SEA Directive, and it was concluded that it did not require a SEA or give rise to likely significant effects on European Sites due to the nature, scale, and location of the policies within the plan. It was concluded that adverse impacts are not likely on any of the sensitive environmental receptors within or around the Broughton-in-Amounderness neighbourhood area, including the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar.

# Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan

The existing Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2018, setting out a vision for the neighbourhood area. It forms part of the Development Plan and planning applications within the plan area must be considered against the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The current plan is more than five years old and there have been two additional business and employment site allocations since the adoption of the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan, as well as the completion of developments listed in the previous plan. No additional housing sites have been brought forward in the updated Neighbourhood Plan. Housing approvals and allocations will together represent an increase in housing and population within Broughton Parish in the Neighbourhood Plan period from 2024 to 2036.

An update is primarily required to include the new baseline of developments in the neighbourhood area, bring the policies in line with the NPPF, and publish a Design Code to guide quality development.

The Neighbourhood Plan update is the basis of this SEA Screening exercise.

## The Neighbourhood Plan Area

The plan area is located approximately 6.5km north of Preston city centre. It is bound to the south by Fulwood town and west by the West Coast Mainline railway. The northern and eastern boundaries cut across open countryside, running along Dean Brook and Blundel Brook.

The area is primarily accessed by Garstang Road, which runs north south and links to Lancaster and Garstang in the north, and Preston in the south. The recently completed Broughton Bypass offers a north south link through the Neighbourhood Area, alleviating traffic along Garstang Road, which passes through Broughton Village. The B5269 (Woodplumpton Lane / Whittingham Lane) is the primary east-west road through the area, historically linking Ribchester and Fleetwood.

The area contains several Public Rights of Way (PRoW) through the open countryside, as well as a section of the Guild Wheel cycle route. The Guild Wheel runs along the eastern edge of the A6 (Garstang Road) and along D’Urton Lane, linking the area to the northern outskirts of Preston. Launched in 2012, the Guild Wheel encircles the city of Preston as a designated route for cyclists and pedestrians.

Broughton-in-Amounderness is divided into three distinct areas as shown in Figure 2‑1 and Figure 03 of the Design Code (AECOM, 2024). The recent changes seen in these areas are described below.

A map of a city

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Figure 2‑1: Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan area.

### Broughton Village

This area has radically changed since the previous Neighbourhood Plan due to the completion of the bypass; village realm works; and the developments to the East of the M6, off Woodplumpton Lane and in the village centre. The area of separation to the south (and covered by Policy EN4 of the Preston Local Plan) was encroached on after Enquiry in early 2018, which allowed two developments. The development in the area designated in the 2018 neighbourhood plan behind the pinfold cottage has been completed and the area of Whittingham Lane has been granted planning permission. The third area designated has now been incorporated into the garden of the property.

The now completed 'James Towers Way' connects from the A6 north of the village, bypasses the village to the east, crossing the B5269 and re connecting to the A6 south of the village. This has reduced traffic pressure in Broughton village and along Garstang Road.

### Broughton Parish South

The Preston Local Plan (adopted in 2015) contained the North West Preston Development Area, which designates sites for housing development and takes in much of the Parish south of the M65. The adopted supplementary planning document the North West Preston Masterplan provides an outline and guidance for development. Many of the sites have been built out with more still to be completed. Elsewhere, within this area to the north of the M55 and to the south of the church hamlet off D'urton Lane, around 30 dwellings have been added in the last ten years.

### Broughton Parish East

This area to the east of the M6 is made up of rural countryside, the Fernyhalgh Catholic Church, pre-school, and farm plus seven other farms bordered by Haighton and Whittingham Parishes. There has been small scale development of the barns in the area, but it remains a rural area bisected by footpaths.

## Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

The main objectives of the updated Neighbourhood Plan remain similar to the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan. These are:

1. RURAL SETTING: To retain Broughton Village’s rural setting and enhance its identity as a distinct settlement and community physically separate from Preston’s Urban Area.
2. DEVELOPMENT: To ensure that any new development is of an appropriate, nature, location, scale and design, and in the case of Broughton Village is in keeping with and does not undermine the character, rural setting and environmental quality of the village (including through the impact of associated vehicle traffic).
3. HOUSING: To ensure the location, scale, and form of future housing development takes full account of local needs, has adequate infrastructure, is of a good design and helps establish a balanced and active local community.
4. BUSINESSES / EMPLOYMENT: To support businesses to thrive and grow, supporting the development of small new businesses, home working and the retail and service opportunities in the new developments. Working with the providers of broadband to make sure the whole village can all benefit from good coverage.
5. FACILITIES & LOCAL CENTRE: To secure a significantly enhanced range and quality of local services and community facilities within the heart of Broughton Village and creating other focal/meeting points for the local community.
6. ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE: To improve the quality of both the natural and built environment; ensuring that heritage assets (designated and non-designated) are identified, conserved, and enhanced.
7. LEISURE AND RECREATION: To enhance opportunities for and participation in sport and informal leisure and recreation by the development & improvement of local facilities.
8. HEALTH & WELL BEING: To promote health and wellbeing; by safeguarding and enhancing the Guild Wheel and local footpath network and ensure that improvements in air quality post bypass are maintained. To protect these routes from any development that would be to the detriment of the enjoyment and benefits they provide, particularly in providing access to and enjoyment of open countryside areas.
9. NEW COMMUNITIES: To integrate successfully the major new housing developments on the southern and eastern edges of the plan area; and to further develop and encourage pedestrian and cycle access between these areas, key plan area facilities and the local centre.
10. OPEN COUNTRYSIDE: To safeguard and enhance the special character and identity of the open countryside areas.

# Legislative Regime

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEA is the term used to describe the environmental assessment applied to plans and programmes in accordance with the European Council Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or 'SEA Regulations', were originally transposed from the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) into English Law, prior to the UK's departure from the EU. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 now apply to this work. These Regulations require an SEA to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect.

The SEA Regulations form the basis by which all SEAs are carried out to assess the effects and impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Detailed practical guidance on these Regulations can be found in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Government (now Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) publication - A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005). This document provides advice on the screening and scoping of SEA along with information regarding the requirements of the Environmental Report which represents the output of the SEA process. It has been used as the basis for undertaking this Screening Report, in conjunction with the SEA Regulations.

It is a basic condition when producing a Neighbourhood Plan that EU obligation, as incorporated into UK law, is met; this includes those of the SEA Directive. In some limited circumstances, where a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a SEA (Planning Practice Guidance, 2015). Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should therefore be assessed to determine if they are likely to have significant environmental effects (i.e., through a screening assessment as contained within this report).

For example, a Neighbourhood Plan may require an SEA where:

* sites are allocated for development.
* the plan 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.

If significant environmental impacts are triggered by the implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered prudent to advise that a SEA is required. As such, it is important to determine whether there would be significant environmental impacts as per the SEA Directive.

# Assessment Screening Process

## SEA Screening Methodology

The following section details the application of the SEA Regulations to plans and programmes and demonstrates the screening process based on the flowchart presented in A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive which is reproduced in Figure 4-1 below (ODPM, 2005).A flowchart of a diagram

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Figure 4‑1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes (Source: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM, 2005).

The requirements of Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive were then applied specifically in relation to the updated Neighbourhood Plan area to determine if the plan could have a significant effect on the environment.

Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive describes and sets out the scope of application of the Directive. It makes SEA mandatory for plans or programmes that are likely to have significant effects on sites designated under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). This includes Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

Paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Directive requires that the full criteria identified in Annex II are taken into account when considering the environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and their significance. These criteria are set out below:

The characteristics of plans or programmes, having regard, in particular, to:

* The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.
* The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes, including those in hierarchy.
* The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.
* Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.
* The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g., plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

The characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to:

* The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects.
* The cumulative nature of the effects.
* The transboundary nature of the effects.
* The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents).
* The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).
* The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; Intensive Land-use.
* The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised National, Community or International protection status.

These criteria and characteristics are developed further in the following section and are presented with reason and comment in the context of the Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan.

# Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan Screening Assessment

### Screening assessment

The assessment shown in Table 4-1 below forms the initial screening for the updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan against the established SEA screening criteria, as determined within the Practical Guide.

Table 5‑1: Screening requirement for the SEA for the updated Neighbourhood Plan.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stage and Question | Answer | Explanation |
| 1. Is the plan and programme (PP) subject to the preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional, or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a)) | Yes (proceed to Q2) | The Localism Act 2011 allows for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. Once it has successfully gone through all the relevant statutory preparation stages a Local Planning Authority has an obligation to adopt or 'make' a Neighbourhood Plan and it then becomes part of the statutory development plan for the relevant Local Authority area. Consequently, Neighbourhood Planning is directed by/ through a legislative procedure. |
| 2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a)) | No (Yes when 'made' so proceed to Q3) | The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is not mandatory; a Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum can choose whether to undertake preparation of such a plan. However, if the relevant body decides to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, that Town/ Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum is required to follow the set regulatory and administrative procedures.  It will also form part of the Development Plan when adopted or 'made' by the Local Planning Authority and it is important to determine whether significant environmental effects are likely and whether further assessment is required. |
| 3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a)) | Yes, to both criteria (proceed to Q5) | The updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies to guide development in the area as well as a Design Code (AECOM, 2024) which sets the expectation for quality build development in the plan area. Once adopted by the Local Planning Authority it will form part of the Local Plan and is therefore prepared for Town and Country planning and land use and sets a framework for future development consent. |
| 4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b)) | N/A | Not applicable as criterion to Q3 answered "Yes". However, potential significant impacts on the European sites are addressed in Table 4-2. |
| 5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3) | Yes (proceed to Q8) | The updated Neighbourhood Plan aims to bring the policies from the adopted Neighbourhood Plan in line with the NPPF. The scope of the adopted Neighbourhood Plan covers:  - Protection of the natural environment.  - Housing provision for local people to 2026 and preserving the character and heritage of the village.  - Community services and infrastructure maintenance and improvement  - Enhancing and supporting the local economy.  Most policies related to specific, small areas of the village itself; it can therefore be considered as determining the use of small areas at a local level only. It is not a minor modification. |
| 6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? Art. 3.4) | N/A | Not applicable; however, the updated Neighbourhood Plan does allocate sites for future housing development within the neighbourhood area of Broughton. This is not considered to have a significant environmental impact due to the small-scale developments proposed, however, the developments will together represent an increase in housing. Nonetheless, the inclusion of policies to protect green spaces, village character and the environment will ensure there is no significant environmental impact upon the neighbourhood area. |
| 7. Is the PP’s sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9) | N/A (as Q5 answered "Yes' to either criterion) | The updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan is not prepared for any of the purposes in Part 7. |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5) | No (see Table 4-2 and Appendix A) | The updated Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant effect on the environment. See Appendix A for the assessment of the significant effect of the updated Neighbourhood Plan on the environment. |

### Assessment of significant environmental effect

Table 5-2 is an assessment of the updated Neighbourhood Plan's significance of effect on the environment.

Table 5‑2: SEA Screening Process - Specific Requirements of Article 3.5.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SEA Directive (Annex II) | Explanation | Likely significant impact? |
| Characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan | | |
| The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources | The updated Neighbourhood Plan upholds the visions set out in the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan, which provided a blueprint for development consistent with the needs and expressed opinions of residents within the neighbourhood area. This includes protection of the environment, housing provision for local people which preserves the village's character and heritage, enhancing and supporting the local economy, and providing community facilities and improvement to infrastructure.  The completion of the new 'James Towers Way' village bypass which travels round the east of Broughton village, makes Broughton an attractive residential location. Therefore, the updated Neighbourhood Plan and associated Design Code (AECOM, 2024) seeks to facilitate proposed housing developments that are in-keeping with the character and setting of the village.  To achieve this, the policies were developed within six specific areas: natural environment, housing, business and employment, community facilities and activity, built environment and heritage, and access and infrastructure. Once adopted, the updated Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan and planning applications within the plan area must be determined in accordance with it. Therefore, the policy wording from the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan has been updated in the updated Neighbourhood Plan to align with the NPPF's 2023 updates. Design Codes A focus on character and identity with the aim 'For development to accurately reflect Broughton’s rural character and heritage, through the use of context driven and place-specific character features' (AECOM, 2024). | No |
| The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy | The updated Neighbourhood Plan covers a small, defined neighbourhood area within the context of the Preston City Council area. The Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Preston Local Plan, the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and National Planning Policy Framework. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan. | No |
| The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development | Throughout the plan, integration of environmental considerations is important, and this is demonstrated through the Objectives and Parish Actions in the plan. There are also policies concerned with environmental protection and enhancement, thereby promoting sustainable development, for example:   * NE2 concerns the visual impact of development and minimising adverse impacts through landscape screening and tree planting. * Policies AI1, AI2, and AI3 concern reducing heavy good traffic in the village, enhance the Guild Way pedestrian / cycle route and providing off-street parking. | No |
| Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme | Appendix A presents the potential environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan grouped into the SEA ‘topics’ suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive. | No |
| The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g., plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection) | The Neighbourhood Plan does not have policies specifically related to waste management. Neither does the Neighbourhood Plan have policies relating to water protection, but Policy NE3 does state that sustainable drainage schemes must be used for developments. Strategies relating to waste disposal or water protection will mostly be dealt with by the Preston Local Plan, the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and Core Strategy and have been integral to development of this Neighbourhood Plan. | No |
| Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: | | |
| The probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the effects | Changes that may occur from the implementation of the updated Neighbourhood Plan will likely operate over the long-term, but the impacts are expected to be positive by maximising the positive environmental effects and minimising or avoiding negative impacts. Objectives of the Design Code (AECOM, 2024) include ensuring future development coheres with and enhances the unique character of the area and that to protect the 'green gaps' in Broughton and surrounding area. Design Code C concerns the size, scale and layout of development in the plan area to ensure development is delivered in line with local best practice, this includes specifications on building height, frontages, spaces between dwellings, and gardens.  The Neighbourhood Plan addresses specific local development management issues, complementing the higher-level strategic policy framework already established through the emerging Preston Local Plan, the Central Lancashire Core Strategy, and National Planning Policy Framework. | No |
| The cumulative nature of the effects | The development of new residential sites within the Broughton-in-Amounderness neighbourhood area along with residential developments elsewhere in the wider area have the potential to cumulatively have an adverse impact on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar, along with the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), through increased visitor pressures.  However, given the wording of the policies and the measures promoted within them, the distance to the SPA / Ramsar / SSSIs / LNRs, the nature of the developments, and the management already in place in several of the sites, no adverse impacts on these designated sites would arise, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. | No |
| The transboundary nature of the effects | Neighbourhood Plans are required to relate to discrete administrative areas. By definition, "transboundary" issues are "strategic" matters; therefore, beyond the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. Nonetheless, in relation to the potential transboundary impacts from the updated Neighbourhood Plan, other plans and policies in adjacent local authorities and neighbourhoods can be considered, in particular the local plans and development frameworks (or emerging plans) from Preston Local Plan and Central Lancashire Core Strategy. These contain policies within them to help protect sensitive environmental receptors. Neighbourhoods surrounding Broughton-in-Amounderness are currently undergoing the procedure to develop a neighbourhood plan or have adopted a neighbourhood plan. These would take into consideration the policies within Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan. It is expected that appropriate mitigation measures would be identified through the relevant SEAs for these plans.  Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar is approximately 8.3km from the Neighbourhood plan area. Adverse transboundary effects are not anticipated. The updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy to designate and protect Local Green Spaces within the neighbourhood area: NE1 states three Local Green Spaces that will be protected), which will create alternative areas to reduce pressures on existing sites thereby minimising any indirect adverse impacts of the proposed residential developments and increased recreational pressures.  No significant transboundary effects of the policies contained within the Broughton-in-Amounderness updated Neighbourhood Plan are anticipated given that they focus on small-scale areas within the neighbourhood area itself. | No |
| The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents) | No significant risks to human health are anticipated through the implementation of the Broughton-in-Amounderness updated Neighbourhood Plan, as identified in Appendix A. | No |
| The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) | The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Parish of Broughton-in-Amounderness only and sets out planning policies which can be used to influence further planning applications within the Parish. Most of the policies within the plan relate to the village of Broughton itself. However, the new 'James Towers Way' bypass, travelling around the east of Broughton Village, makes Broughton a more desirable place to live, work and visit. The 2021 Census identified 2,471 residents in 956 properties, which is an increase of approximately 200 dwellings compared to the 2011 Census. This figure, based on the March 2023 electoral role, had risen to 1,027 with the completion of further development. Policies within both the updated Neighbourhood Plan and Preston Local Plan will ensure these developments will not have any significant environmental impacts. The updated plan has policies relating to limiting areas of potential development, maintaining the quality of the public realm, and the sustainable management of access and infrastructure (e.g., NE1 Local Green Space and AI1 Heavy Goods Traffic).  Consequently, the magnitude and spatial extent of the Neighbourhood Plan is limited and will not have significant environmental effects. | No |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:   * Special natural characteristics of cultural heritage. * Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values. * Intensive land-use. | The Broughton-in-Amounderness neighbourhood area is in proximity to sensitive environmental receptors, including:   * Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar * Beeston Brook Pasture SSSI * Darwen River Section SSSI * Rough Hey Wood SSSI * Newton Marsh SSSI * Ribble Estuary SSSI * Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods SSSI * Fishwick Bottoms LNR * Preston Junction LNR * Pope Lane and Boilton Wood LNR * Fishwick Bottoms LNR * Grange Valley LNR * Longton Brickcroft LNR * Ribble Marshes National Nature Reserve (NNR) * Forest of Bowland National Landscape * Rural Landscape Character * Broughton listed buildings.   The policies and actions of the updated Neighbourhood Plan include the protection of green space, landscape, community assets, and heritage. There is the potential for impacts on the environmental quality and heritage of the area, however, due to the location and the distance of the neighbourhood area to these sites, it is considered that these potential impacts will not be significant. | No |
| The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status | It is not anticipated that the Broughton-in-Amounderness updated Neighbourhood Plan will adversely impact on the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar, the surrounding SSSIs, LNRs, and NNR, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape and / or other areas / landscapes of community importance, as detailed above. Furthermore, the policies include the protection of green space, landscape, community assets and heritage and it is likely that the Neighbourhood Plan will be positive by maximising the positive environmental effects of development and minimising or avoiding negative impacts. | No |

# Conclusion

Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan is voluntary and is prepared under the Localism Act 2011, and in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. It is the responsibility of Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council, following the referendum on 18th October 2018 where Preston City Council made the Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for the area. The Neighbourhood Plan will be updated to bring the policies in line with National Policy and will help to inform decision making for proposed developments in the area.

As detailed in this screening report, it is considered that the updated Broughton-in-Amounderness Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

# Consultation

Broughton-in-Amounderness Parish Council is required to consult with the three statutory environmental consultees: Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England at this screening stage. The bodies will be consulted for their opinions and comments on the conclusion of this report, with any comments incorporated into subsequent stages of the SEA.

##### Assessment of potential environmental effects

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SEA Topic | Likely effect? Y/N | Description of effect | Effect likely to be significant in the context of SEA? |
| Biodiversity, flora and fauna (Including biodiversity habitats and species, biodiversity sites, areas of geological interest) | Y | Without mitigation and enhancement measures, new allocations in Broughton Parish have the potential to lead to effects on biodiversity, including through loss of habitat, disturbance, effects on ecological connections and indirect effects such as from impacts on water quality and quantity. | There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) present within the Neighbourhood Area.  There are no nature conservation areas within the plan area. The main ‘sensitive areas' are the six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), one National Nature Reserve (NNR) and six Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in proximity to the plan area. The closest of these is Fishwick Bottoms LNR which is made up of multiple sites, the closest of which is approximately 650m south of the plan area boundary.  New developments will be required to demonstrate Biodiversity Net Gain under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).  Effects on biodiversity are unlikely to be significant. |
| Population (Including residents’ quality of life, accessibility to services and facilities, deprivation and similar) | Y | The policy approach in the Neighbourhood plan is likely to benefit the residents of Broughton-in-Amounderness. It seeks to prevent the loss of community facilities, increase public green spaces and parks, and improve village parking. | Residents will likely benefit from the neighbourhood plan; however, it is not deemed that these impacts will be significant when considering them against the SEA Directive. |
| Human Health (Incorporating residents’ health and wellbeing) | Y | The Neighbourhood Plan promotes healthier lifestyles, supporting accessibility and increased community facilities. The Neighbourhood Plan vision is for an attractive pedestrian/cycle friendly public realm which offers food air quality.  Direct impacts from the plan on human health from noise quality, air quality and light pollution issues may arise, including from new development areas. The Plan seeks to protect the health and wellbeing of residents from these impacts. | Residents will likely see wellbeing benefits from the neighbourhood plan; however, it is not deemed that these impacts will be significant when considering them against the SEA Directive. |
| Soil (Including agricultural land, soil erosion, soil quality) | N | There are four main areas of rural countryside, with scattered farmsteads and hamlets. These areas are Grade 3 Agricultural Land (good to moderate quality).  The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to limit development outside of the Broughton settlement boundaries. | Effects on the soils resource are unlikely to be significant wit development focused on the strategic development locations or within Broughton village, away from the areas of agricultural land. |
| Water (Including water quality and availability) | Y | The Broughton Parish updated Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to a small-scale increase in water demand in the Neighbourhood Area through supporting the delivery of new housing provision.  The neighbourhood plan supports the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems. | Potential effects on water availability will be limited by the relatively small-scale of proposals likely to be facilitated by the Neighbourhood Plan. Effects unlikely to be significant. |
| Air (including Air Quality) | Y | Whilst new development areas in the Neighbourhood Area may lead to increased traffic flows and congestion, this is unlikely to lead to marked effects on air quality. The new bypass has directed traffic, and the associated pollution, away from the village centre. | There is one AQMA within the Neighbourhood Area. This is AQMA No.3 which was declared for Nitrogen dioxide NO2. incorporating part of Garstang Road, Broughton, Preston. However, the Air Quality Annual Status Report published in November 2023 recommended this AQMA was revoked as no exceedances of any air quality objectives have been recorded and the AQMA has been in compliance for the last 5 years.  The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maintain improved air quality post-bypass construction alongside the safeguarding of the local footpath network and Guild Wheel route. |
| Climatic Factors (Including relating to climate change mitigation (limiting greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the anticipated effects of climate change, including flood risk) | Y | Design Codes D related to sustainability and green infrastructure to delivery multifunctional green assets and integrate sustainable technologies into exisiting and new developments in the Neighbourhood area. Further details on future-proofing housing and delivering energy efficient homes are detailed in the Design Code (AECOM, 2024).  Statutory requirements (including the requirements of the NPPF) will ensure that flood risk is addressed in new development proposals. | Due to the localised nature of the Neighbourhood Plan, the magnitude of climatic effects is unlikely to be significant when considering the SEA Directive. |
| Material Assets (Including minerals resources, waste considerations) | Y | The Broughton Parish updated Neighbourhood Plan may lead to small increases in the Neighbourhood Area’s waste management requirements through supporting the delivery of new housing. No mineral sites or resources are likely to be affected as a result of the Broughton Parish updated Neighbourhood Plan.  Any development proposed within Mineral Safeguarding Areas within the neighbourhood plan area would need to comply with Policy M2 of the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Joint Local Plan (JAC, 2013). | Potential increase in waste because of new development from the Neighbourhood Plan will be managed through statutory waste management requirements.  It is unlikely that there would be significant effects on mineral resources in the context of the SEA Directive. |
| Cultural Heritage (Including historic environment, cultural heritage, historic settings) | Y | The housing allocation proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have effects on the fabric and setting of historic environment assets. | Whilst the plan area does contain several heritage assets, particularly in Broughton village, the Neighbourhood Plan includes an Objective to ensure that heritage assets are identified, conserved and enhanced. The Neighbourhood Plan includes the Heritage Register, established by Preston City Council in 2018, of historic assets. These are to be protected due to their significance to the historic setting of the town under General Policy HE of the updated Neighbourhood Plan.  In terms of listed buildings, Policy NE1 identifies areas with presumption against development which would reduce their character or openness. This included land south of the Parish Church which is Grade II Listed. Part of this land was granted consent to build a mosque in 2023; however, the remainder of this land will continue to provide separation from the main urban area of Preston and will protect the setting of the Church. |
| Landscape (Including landscape and townscape quality) | Y | Direct effects from the Broughton Parish updated Neighbourhood Plan on landscape and townscape character have the potential to take place from the housing allocations taken forward through the plan.  The southeast of Broughton-in-Amounderness is a designated 'Area of Separation' under Policy EN4 of the Preston City Council Local Plan. This provides protection of the character and identity of settlements to maintain openness of the countryside and the quality of the settlements. This was encroached upon when, after Enquiry, two developments were Granted. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to support the existing residents by linking them through footpaths, amenities and community activities to the village centre. | There are no 'sensitive areas' in relation to landscape quality within the BCP boundary.  There are no large woodland areas within the plan area, however, there are several trees protect by Tree Preservation Orders[[1]](#footnote-1).  The new Policy RES3 in the updated Neighbourhood Plan and associated AECOM Design Code (AECOM, 2024) seeks to guide development in a way that protects the landscape and historic character of the neighbourhood plan area.  Overall, the updated neighbourhood plan continues to focus on promoting the local landscape character, particularly the rural characteristics (such as the sense of enclosure to fields, and individual and grouped mature trees), and key features of importance. Potential effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. |

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1. <https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/1133/Tree-preservation-orders-TPOs> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)