

Scoping Report

Harworth & Bircotes

Neighbourhood Development

Plan

Harworth & Bircotes Town Council
2015 - 2028



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This sustainability appraisal scoping report has been produced in order to comply with European directive 2001/42/EC concerning Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). All land-use plans likely to have effects upon the environment are required to undergo this SEA process. The report also includes assessments of social and economic criteria alongside the environmental, which widens it to a full sustainability appraisal (SA). The report is therefore a requirement of legislation, whilst the Neighbourhood Plan itself is intended to secure the future of Harworth & Bircotes.
- 1.2 This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being used in the preparatory stage of plan production for two reasons. Firstly, undertaking the legally recognised process of SA/SEA will ensure that work will not be abortive. Secondly, the SA is widely regarded as best practice for producing balanced plans and represents a logical method of preparation.
- 1.3 This element of the SA is the 'Scoping Report' which formalises the plan's objectives as well as the framework against which all future decisions must be tested. The framework is established by identifying the baseline situation alongside existing issues. The relationship with other plans and programmes is also assessed to ensure compatibility and that there is no duplication.

Methodology

- 1.4 The SA and SEA Screening of the Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) will follow the process advocated in the published government guidance: "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents," issued in November 2005 and "A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive," issued in September 2005. This guidance suggests the five stage (A-E) approach to SA shown in **Table 1**.
- 1.5 The main stages of the Harworth & Bircotes (H&B) Plan SA are set out in the table below. It will be adapted accordingly to make it suitable for a Neighbourhood Plan. This Scoping report covers tasks in Stage A as set out in **Table 1** on the following page.

Table 1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process

SA Stage A	
Stage A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes
Stage A2	Collecting baseline information
Stage A3	Identifying sustainability issues and problems
Stage A4	Developing the SA objectives and framework
Stage A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA
SA Stage B	
Stage B1	Testing the Plan's objectives against the SA framework
Stage B2	Developing the Plan's options
Stage B3	Predicting the effects of the draft Plan
Stage B4	Evaluating the effects of the draft Plan
Stage B5	Considering the ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
Stage B6	Proposing measures to monitor significant effects of implementing the Plan
SA Stage C	
Stage C1	Preparing SA report
SA Stage D	
Stage D1	Public participation on the SA report and the draft Plan
Stage D2	Assessing significant changes
Stage D3	Making decisions and providing information
SA Stage E	
Stage E1	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
Stage E2	Responding to adverse effects

Who has carried out this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?

- 1.6 This SA of the H&B Neighbourhood Development Plan has been conducted and produced by Bassetlaw District Council working in conjunction with H&B Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 1.7 The H&B Neighbourhood Plan is in the earlier stages of pre-production and as such specific decisions are yet to be agreed and tested. The Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Development Plan is being prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Plan will establish a Vision of the future of the area and sets out how that Vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development up to 2028.

2 Links with other Plans and Strategies (Stage A1)

2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of BDC Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. Accordingly the plans and programmes outlined below are the relevant documents set out in the SA Scoping Report produced by Bassetlaw District Council for their Local Plan, together with those of direct relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan for Harworth & Bircotes.

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):** The NPPF is a single document that contains guidance on all aspects of Planning Policy setting out the Government's support for sustainable development across the United Kingdom. It also sets out the requirements of Neighbourhood Plans and their relationship with Local Plans.
- **BDC Core Strategy & Development Management Policies:** This document published in December 2011 provides an overview of the development and growth to occur in the District up to the year 2028, comprising the first part of the Local Plan. Policy CS4 of this document focuses specifically on Harworth & Bircotes which is defined as the 'Main Regeneration Settlement' in the District, CS4 outlines what proposals for housing and economic development must address to be deemed acceptable.

The Core Strategy also contains Development Management Policies that are used by Planning Officers at BDC when determine planning applications, these are more focussed on specific areas, such as: Design, Green Infrastructure and Flooding/Drainage.

This document was produced utilising a significant amount of supporting documents and studies undertaken that act as its evidence base. These documents are therefore also of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan and can be viewed by using the following link, <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/everything-else/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/background-studies.aspx>

- **BDC Preferred Site Allocations:** This document compliments the Core Strategy and acts as the second part of the Local Plan, delivering the needed development and growth in the District that delivers the aims of the Core Strategy. The Preferred Site Allocations document details what sites are viewed by the Council as being most appropriate for development over the Local Plan period up to 2028. The consultation period on thus Plan ended on the 31st March 2014.
- **Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SMHA) 2014:** The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) published 2014 is a report that outlines the level of and type of housing that is required to be constructed across Bassetlaw District

up to the year 2031. Figures are produced for the whole North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area, which Bassetlaw District forms a part of.

The SHMA's purpose is to act as a guideline for the formulation of housing targets for each district within the Housing Market Area up to the year 2031. It proposes that within Bassetlaw, the targeted housing completion per annum figure should be between 435-500 homes per annum. This figure is substantially higher than that currently being used within Bassetlaw District Council's Local Plan, which stands at providing 350 new homes per annum throughout the plan period up to 2028.

The SHMA also identifies that the Housing Market Area currently is experiencing a high demand for downsizing properties, as a high level of households are under occupied and the area is experiencing an ageing population. The SHMA, utilising population forecasts, suggests that this demand for properties suitable for downsizing will increase further and therefore reemphasises the need to provide additional market and affordable housing of a smaller size, particularly 1 and 2 bedroom properties.

- **Affordable Housing SPD:** The Updated Affordable Housing SPD was approved for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 10th January 2014. This document provides guidance on determining whether or not a development proposal must provide a contribution to the provision of affordable housing. This document forms part of the Local Plan.
- **Residential Parking Standards SPD:** This Supplementary Planning Document came into effect on 6 June 2012; it forms part of the Local Plan. It has been produced to expand upon Policy DM13: Sustainable Transport in the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD. It sets out the approach that the Council expects developers to take when establishing parking requirements for new residential development proposals.
- **Residential Design SPD:** This document was approved for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by on the 3rd December 2013. The Residential Design SPD: identifies the standards of design expected by the four local authorities, provides direction on the principles of good design within residential developments; and provides information and guidance on the design process.

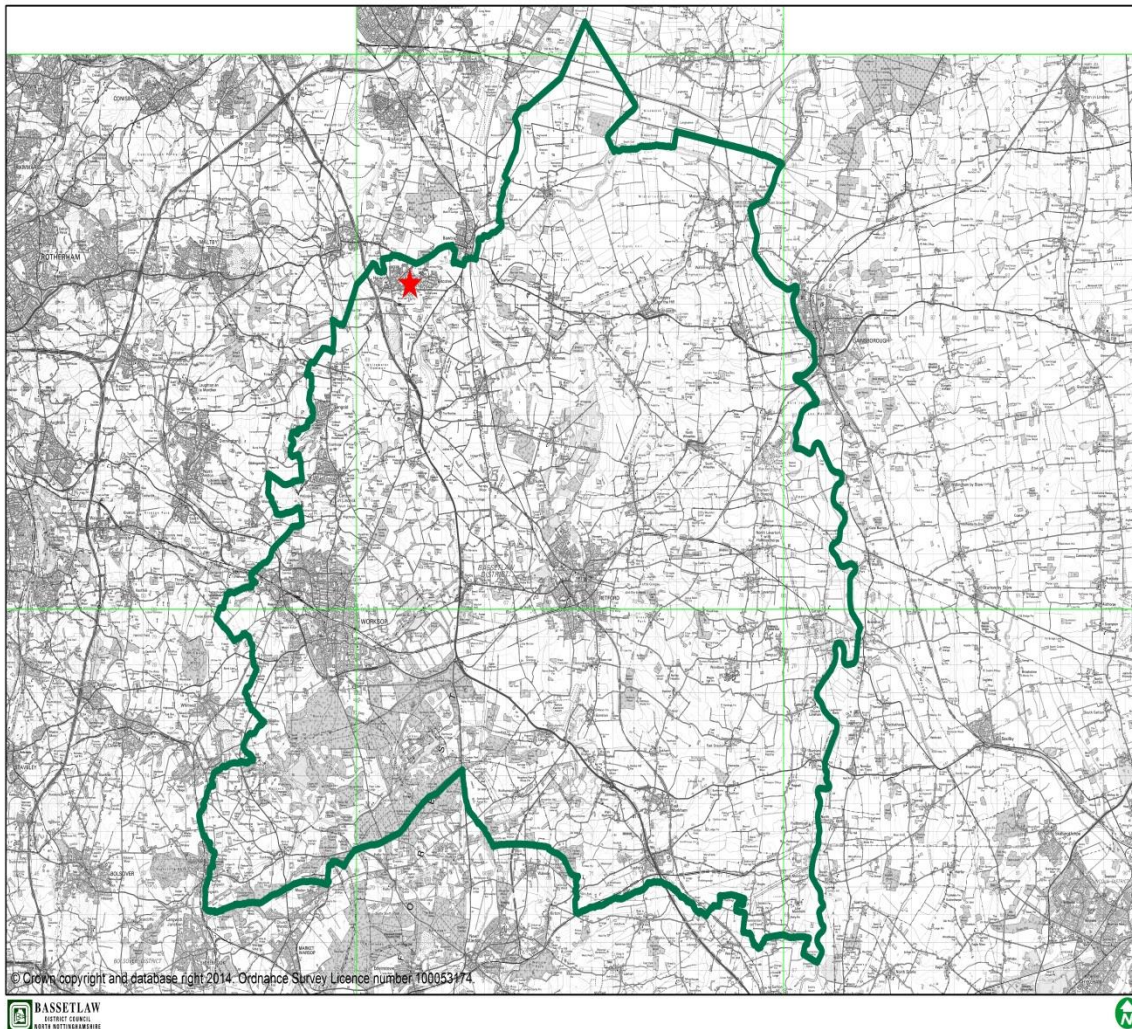
3 Current State of the natural, social and economic environment (Stage A2)

- 3.1 The following part of the document provides a snapshot of the current social, environmental and economic status within the Harworth & Bircotes area. Evidence is mostly drawn from the Census data, Office of National Statistics and information produced by Bassetlaw District Council. In addition to this, evidence that accompanied recent planning applications in the area has been utilised together with information gathered by various members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- 3.2 The themes included in the below approach have been identified from the other Plans and Strategies in Section 2 of this document, as well as the suggestions in the SEA directive itself.
- 1.1 The baseline information provided on each theme in this section covers the Stage A2 of this Scoping report, also provided in this section is the implications for the Plan with regards to any data provided for each theme, therefore also covering Stage A3 of the SA process.

General Information

- 3.3 Harworth & Bircotes is located in the north west of Bassetlaw District as visible in **Figure 1** on the following page, approximately 9 miles north of the sub-regional centre of Worksop (pop 44,349). The town is well situated in relation to the two larger urban settlements of Sheffield, approximately 22 miles to the west and Doncaster, approximately 10 miles to the north. As well as the second largest settlement in the Bassetlaw District of Retford (pop 22,350) located 11 miles to the south-east.

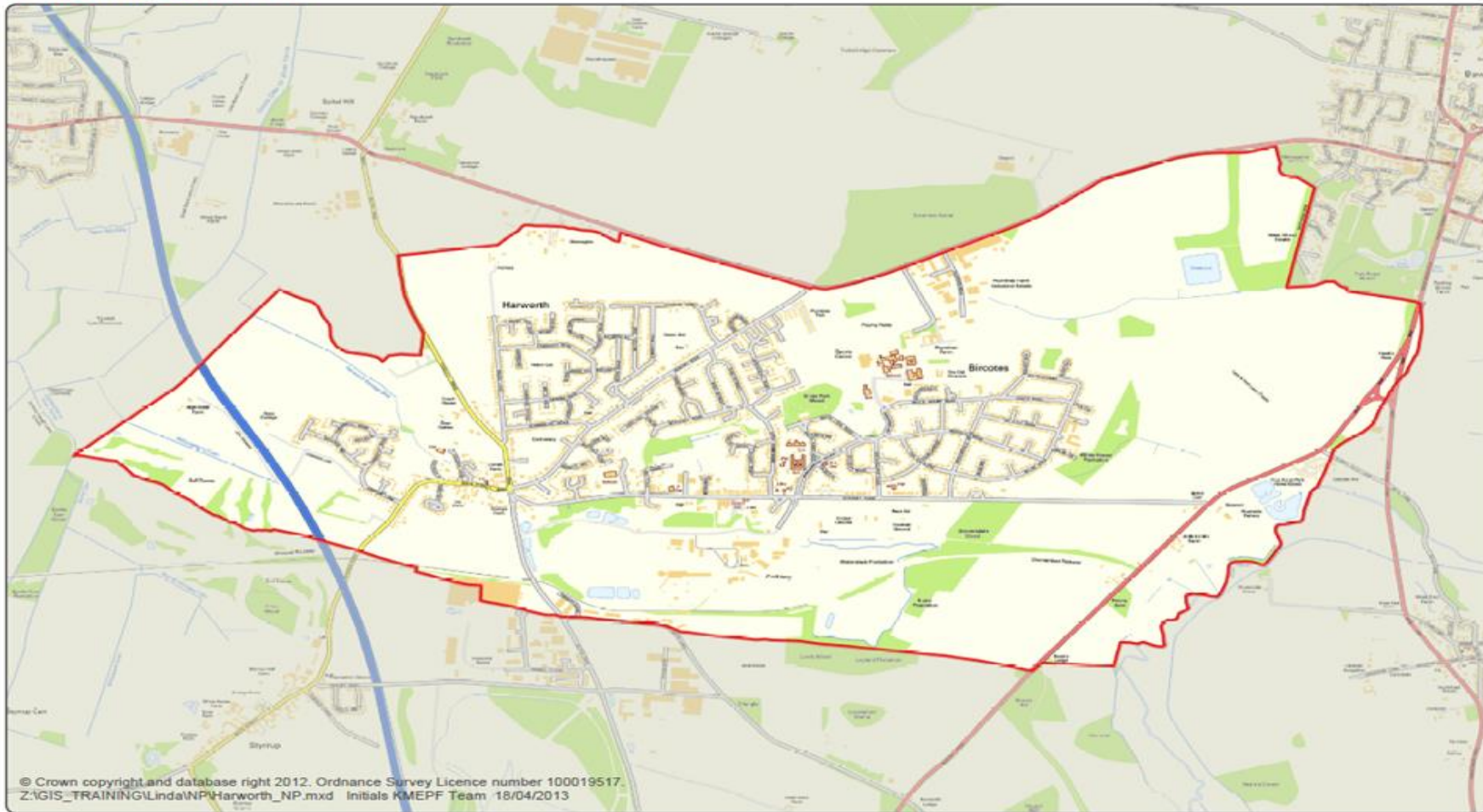
Figure 1: Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Area in Bassetlaw



- 3.4 The Plan area for the Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the Harworth & Bircotes Ward area, sharing its boundaries. The Plan area comprises mostly residential land uses but also comprises some employment, leisure and open space uses, as well as possessing a substantially large brownfield site on the site of Harworth Colliery. These boundaries of the Plan area are visible in **Figure 2** on the following page.
- 3.5 This brownfield site dominates the south side of the Plan area, and is separated from the majority of the built landscape of the area to the north by Scrooby Road which runs horizontally through the plan area. Harworth comprises the majority of the area to the west of Bawtry Road with everything to the east of this comprising Bircotes.

Figure 2: Harworth & Bircotes Designated Neighbourhood Area

Harworth Neighbourhood Plan



Roads

- 3.6 The main focal point for Harworth & Bircotes is Scrooby Road running east to west acting as a centre for the town containing many facilities such as; the Town Hall and Medical Centre, as well as the majority of the retail and shopping opportunities. Scrooby Road separates the majority of the town's residential dwellings to the north, except those in Old Harworth to the west, from the industrial units and Harworth Colliery to the south.
- 3.7 The town is well serviced in terms of physical infrastructure, being bordered by three A roads providing access to the larger urban settlements of Worksop, Sheffield and Doncaster, these are the A1 to the west of the town, A631 to the north and the A614 to the east.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

The Harworth & Bircotes NDP must look to promote and support development and growth in the areas that support the role of the town as an important provider of facilities and services for the local population. In addition to this, as Harworth & Bircotes is identified as a 'Main Regeneration Settlement', the Plan must consider that the town will experience significant development and growth directed down from Bassetlaw District Council and plan to accommodate this.

The town is well served with regards to local and strategic road access. The A1 can be accessed in less than 5 minutes, the M18 in approximately 12 minutes and the M1 in approximately 20 minutes. The Plan could therefore utilise these links in promoting the town as a well-connected location.

An essential part in ensuring Harworth & Bircotes continues to support the local population and reinforce its role as a Main Regeneration Settlement is ensuring important community assets and retail sites in the town centre are identified and protected, these community assets involve things such as the following;

- Schools
- Town Hall
- Medical Centre
- Leisure Facilities
- Public Houses

Social Environment¹

Demographics

- 3.8 The demographics of Harworth & Bircotes are an important factor to consider in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. As the age structure of the population plays an important role in determining what development is required within the Ward, such as; the type of housing, what kind of local facilities are needed and also what employment opportunities the Plan should potentially support. Some key points in relation to the demographics of Harworth & Bircotes, obtained from the most recent available data are provided below.

Total Population

- 3.9 The total population of Harworth & Bircotes is approximately 7,948; this has increased roughly 6% from levels recorded in 2001. The total population of the town is now close to levels recorded in 1981 at 7,949, despite these levels decreasing in 1991 and again in 2001.

Levels of Young People

- 3.10 Harworth & Bircotes has experienced a slight decline in levels of the population aged 14 and under in recent times, this age group currently comprises approximately 18.6% of the total population, compared to approximately 20.6% in 2001.

Working Age

- 3.11 The majority of the population in Harworth & Bircotes are aged between 15 and 64 with this group comprising approximately 63.4% of the total population. Within this section, the most dominant age group is the 45 to 64 group, this encompassing approximately 25.6% of Harworth & Bircotes total population. The levels of people aged between 30 and 44 has decreased significantly from level recorded in 2001, from approximately 23.1% to 19.1% of the current total population.

Levels of Older Residents

- 3.12 Recent data suggests that Harworth & Bircotes has a growing older population; residents aged 65 and over currently comprise approximately 18% of the town's total population, this figure increasing from approximately 15.9% in 2001. However in relation to the District of Bassetlaw with a figure of approximately 22.2% the levels of older residents is slightly lower.

¹ All data used is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

This data on the demographics of Harworth & Bircotes has several implications for the Neighbourhood Plan. Firstly the data analysed above suggests that the population of Harworth & Bircotes is ageing, as it has experienced increasing levels of older residents in recent years, in addition to the age group 45 to 64 currently representing the largest group within Harworth & Bircotes.

This information must be taken into account by the Neighbourhood Plan and should inform decisions made in relation to policies aimed at the provision of facilities, services and housing within the town. With emphasis needed for such that will support the current demographics of Harworth & Bircotes, as well as its future increasing population for the timescale of the Plan.

Health & Well-being

- 3.13 The health and well-being of local residents is clearly of upmost importance, data on this theme can be used to determine the current state of the local population with regards to health and well-being. This data will highlight, if any, noteworthy issues with the health and well-being of the local population that the Plan may attempt to address.
- 3.14 When the Plan is reviewed in the future, new data for this theme could be compared to the data provided below to monitor if the Plan is having any positive or negative impacts on the health and well-being of local residents.

General Health

- 3.15 Of the total population of Harworth & Bircotes (7,948) 75.5% described their overall health as Very Good or Good, this figure is similar to that found for the Bassetlaw District however it does not compare well with the figure for England which sits at 81.4%.
- 3.16 The level of residents who described their health as Bad or Very Bad was 7.8%, again this figure is similar to that recorded for the whole of Bassetlaw however it sits higher than the figure for the whole of England which is 5.5%

Long Term Health Problem or Disability

- 3.17 Of the population of Harworth & Bircotes 12.5% believe their day-to-day activities are limited a lot by either a long term health problem or disability. This figure is noticeably higher than those recorded for Bassetlaw District and for England which stand at 10.8% and 8.3% respectively.
- 3.18 Although still higher, the level of people who believe their day-to-day activities are limited a little in Harworth & Bircotes, which is 11.3%, is more in line with figures recorded for Bassetlaw District and at the national level.

Households in Deprivation

- 3.19 Another measurement that can be used to assess the health and well-being of the local residents of Harworth & Bircotes is by looking at the amount of households that fall into any of the deprivation dimensions. There are four deprivation dimensions, these are: employment; education; health and disability and housing.
- 3.20 **Table 2** below shows that the levels of households in deprivation is significantly higher in Harworth & Bircotes than the levels experienced across Bassetlaw District and England, particularly the number of households deprived in 2 and all 4 dimensions.

Table 2: Households by Deprivation Dimensions

Location	All Households	Household is Not Deprived in Any Dimension	Household is Deprived in 1 Dimension	Household is Deprived in 2 Dimensions	Household is Deprived in 3 Dimensions	Household is Deprived in 4 Dimensions
Harworth & Bircotes	3,338	33.1%	33%	27.5%	6.1%	2.1%
Bassetlaw	47,667	40.2%	32.9%	21.4%	5.3%	0.3%
England	22,063,368	42.5%	32.7%	19.1%	5.1%	0.5%

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

Although the Plan cannot directly address the issues raised above, it can possibly work towards maintaining and improving influences that may have an indirect effect on the health and well-being of the local population. This can be done by ensuring that important local facilities and environmental assets are protected and where possible improved.

In addition to this, a key role of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is, by the promotion of sustainable development, to facilitate the growth and development of the town through the provision of high quality new homes for local people as well as the provision of accessible local employment opportunities. This should in turn, result in an improvement to the health and well-being of the local population and when the Plan is reviewed, the figures above should have improved.

Housing²

- 3.21 The Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan is a plan produced by, and to benefit local residents, both current and future. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan should ensure that any new housing provided in the town, is of a size and type that is needed, and is situated in sustainable locations.
- 3.22 Providing information on where and how these people live is therefore an essential part of the SA Scoping Report for Harworth & Bircotes. This will allow for any potential future housing provided in the town to be in keeping with the town's current housing stock, as well as providing for any potential future demand. Currently available housing data provides a breakdown of the current housing situation in the town, some key points follow below.

Total Housing / Completions

- 3.23 7.3 There are currently approximately 3,338 dwellings located in Harworth & Bircotes, this figure rising quite substantially from approximately 3090 dwellings in 2001, a net gain of 248 homes. In recent years the levels of new housing completions has declined in the town, most likely due to the current economic climate, with only 22 new dwellings delivered in the town since 2008³.

Housing Prices⁴

- 3.24 The overall average price of sold properties in Harworth & Bircotes over the past year (2012/2013) was £101,188, in comparison with the average price in Worksop at £117,035 this figure is somewhat low and supports the statement that Harworth & Bircotes experiences the lowest average house prices in the whole Bassetlaw District. This overall sold price is relatively similar to the average price for last year; however it is 17% down on the figure for 2006 of £122,080.
- 3.25 The majority of sales in Harworth & Bircotes during the last year were semi-detached properties that sold for an average price of £90,537. Terraced properties sold for an average of £69,472, with detached properties fetching considerably more at £181,306.

Housing Tenure

- 3.26 Within Harworth & Bircotes the majority of housing is owner occupied, this being split further into either owned outright comprising 31% of the current stock, or owned with a mortgage or loan currently comprising 35.4% of the current stock. These levels are similar to those experienced in the Bassetlaw District and in the East Midlands.
- 3.27 Housing that is socially rented from either the local authorities housing provider or from housing cooperatives or charitable trusts comprises 15.8% of the current stock, this figures is slightly higher than levels for the Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands which is recorded at 12.9%.

² All data used, unless stated otherwise is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

³ Obtained from BDC Annual Monitoring Report 2013

⁴ Obtained from rightmove.co.uk (27/09/2013)

Housing Type

- 3.28 The housing stock in Harworth & Bircotes is dominated by semi-detached properties, making up approximately 59.9% of the current stock; this figure is substantially higher than levels in the Bassetlaw District and for the East Midlands at approximately 42% and 36% respectively. The town consequentially experiences low levels of detached dwellings and flats / apartments which make up approximately 16.3% and 4.7% respectively of the current housing stock.
- 3.29 In relation to the number of bedrooms in households, those containing 3 bedrooms represent the majority of the current housing stock in Harworth & Bircotes, this figure standing at approximately 60.2%. This figure is substantially higher than the figure for the Bassetlaw District and for the East Midlands which stand at 49.5% and 45.4% respectively, reiterating the dominance of 3 bedroomed properties in Harworth & Bircotes.
- 1.2 Consequentially, the levels of households with either 2 or 4 bedrooms within the town is lower than levels across the District and the East Midlands, at approximately 20.1% for 2 bedrooms and 9.6% for 4 bedrooms. Compared to figures of 23.3% for 2 bedroom and 16.2% for 4 bedroom households in the Bassetlaw District and 26.5% for 2 bedroom and 15.4% for 4 bedroom households in the East Midlands.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

A key role of the Plan is to deliver high quality new housing in the area that is accessible to local people. New housing development are however the most direct way of bringing new people into the area allowing it to grow and develop sustainably.

The Plan must therefore seek to determine if local residents are happy with the houses allocated to the area by Bassetlaw District Council in their Preferred Site Allocations document up to the year 2028 or if they believe more is required. The location of any new housing can also be covered by the Plan.

The Plan should also ensure that any new housing developed in the area is providing for any identified local need, such as affordable housing for first time buyers, as well as properties suitable for downsizing.

Education

- 3.30 There are currently four schools located in Harworth & Bircotes, these being the three primary schools of; All Saints Harworth Church Of England Primary School, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School and Serlby Park Primary School. The last is the secondary school Serlby Park Academy.
- 3.31 Plans are currently in place for the demolition and rebuilding of Serlby Park Academy on its current grounds, the replacement school will have a higher capacity and work is expected to commence some time in 2014.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

The issue of ensuring that sufficient educational facilities and school places are provided for new residential developments is something that the NDP cannot directly ensure; this issue is dealt with at the planning application stage. However, the Plan may allocate suitable sites for development for educational purposes if this is what the community would like to see included in the Plan.

As there is a significant amount of housing to be developed in the town this suggests that further educational facilities and potentially whole new schools will have to be provided. If the Neighbourhood Plan propose further housing growth than that allocated by BDC then the provision of and access to school places must be factored into the decision making as a key consideration.

Natural Environment

3.32 Harworth & Bircotes benefits from a high quality natural environment consisting of several woodland areas, local wildlife sites and numerous open spaces. These important open spaces along with the 3 Local Wildlife Sites and trees covered by preservation orders can be considered as being environmental assets; the Local Wildlife Sites and Tree Preservation Orders in Harworth & Bircotes are identified on **Figure 3** on the following page. The Local Wildlife Sites that fall within the Plan boundary are named:

- Snipe Park Woods
- Well Hill
- Whitehouse Plantation

Open Space Study

3.33 Bassetlaw District Council published an updated Open Space Report in August 2012, this report contained details of all current provision of open spaces in the District. The report goes on to provide recommendations for needed future provision of open spaces across the District. Extractions from this report have been taken to provide a summary of the report's findings on open spaces in Harworth & Bircotes; these can be found in **Appendix A** of this document. **Figure 4** shows the different identified open spaces in Harworth & Bircotes.

Play Pitch Strategy

3.34 A Play Pitch Strategy Study was also commissioned by Bassetlaw District Council in 2009 to act as a supporting document for the Core Strategy, extracts from this document providing a summary on the main findings on play pitches in Harworth & Bircotes is included in **Appendix B** of this document.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

3.35 Natura 2000 sites are a network of sites spanning Europe that are considered to represent natural habitats of the highest value for nature conservation. The sites can be important for plants and animals that are rare or considered threatened in a European context. The network of sites was established under the 1992 Habitats Directive⁵ and 1979 Birds Directive⁶ and consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These sites are often simply referred to as 'European Sites'. SACs are designated for their importance for habitats while SPAs are designated for their importance for birds.

3.36 Although there are no European Sites within the Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan area, three sites have been identified that lie within 15km of the boundary:

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC
- Hatfield Moors SAC and SPA
- Thorne Moors SAC and SPA

⁵ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

⁶ Council Directive 79/409/ECC on the conservation of wild birds (as amended and subsequently codified in Directive 2009/147/EC).

Figure 3: Local Wildlife Sites

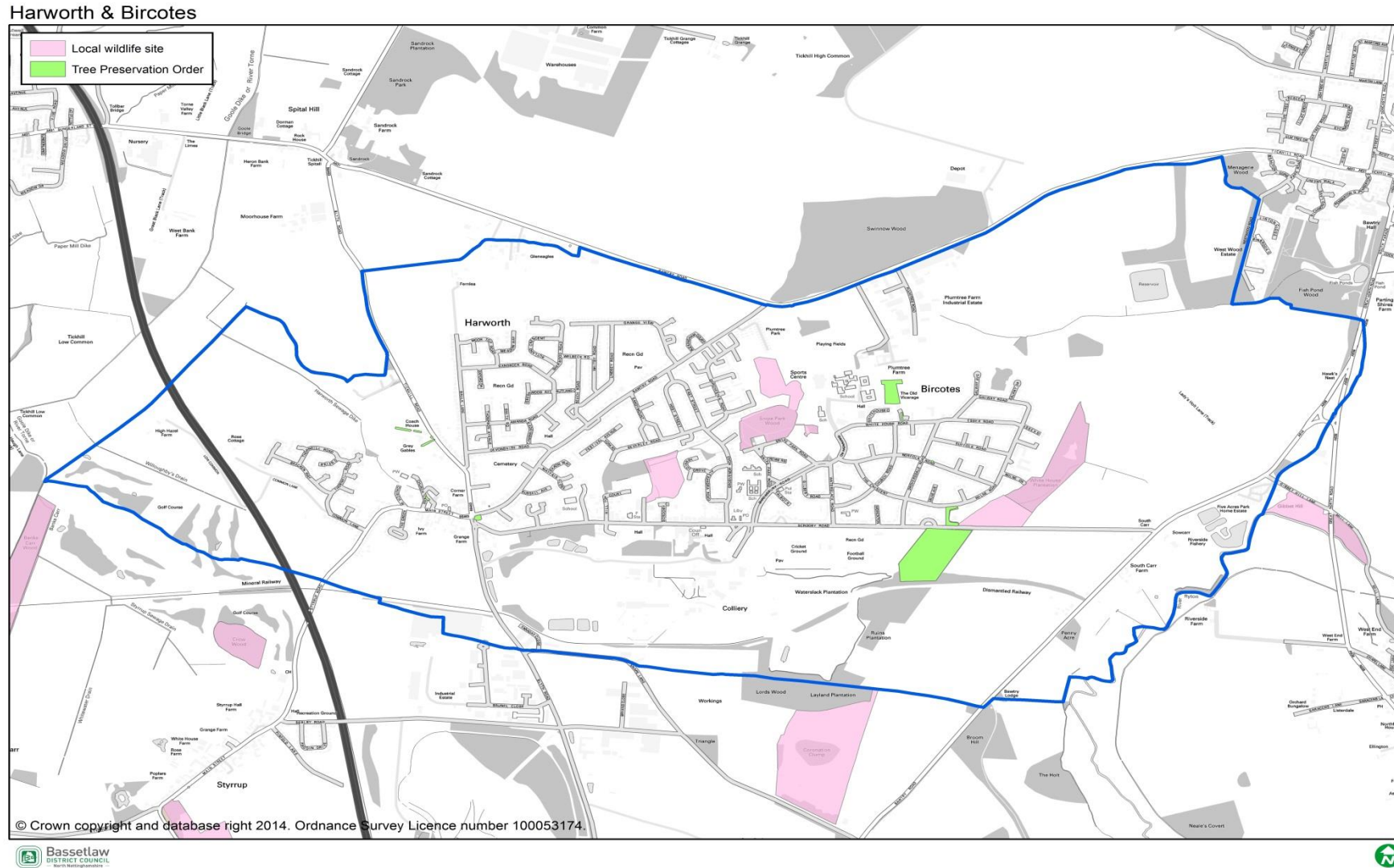
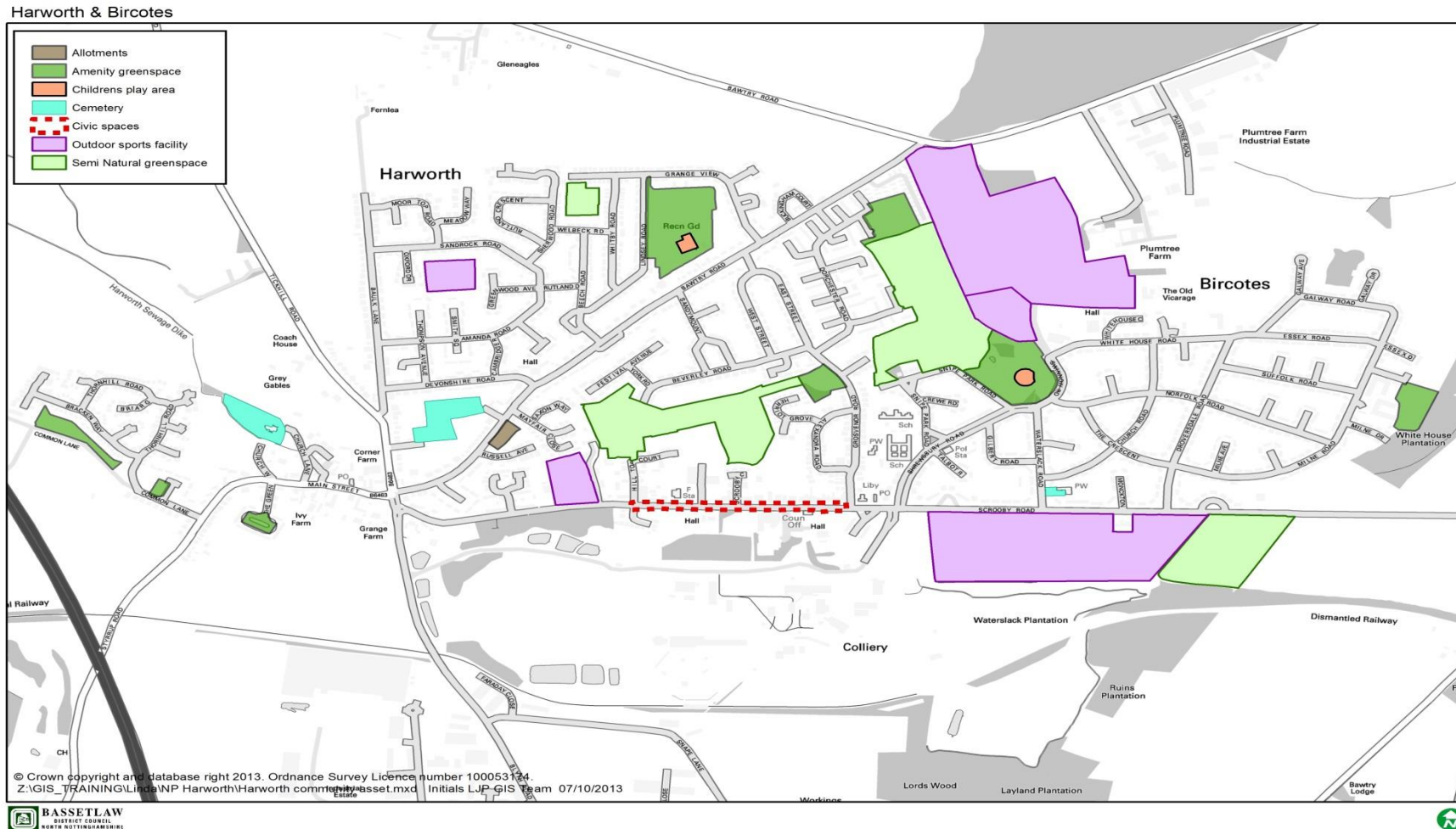


Figure 4: Open Spaces in Harworth & Bircotes



Public Rights of Way (PROW)

3.37 Harworth & Bircotes has a number of PROW that are regularly enjoyed by local residents. However the current provision in the Town is somewhat disjointed and does not link well together. Current PROW that are located in Harworth & Bircotes are visible in Figure 5 on the following page.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

To achieve the sustainable development of the town and ensure that growth in the local population is catered for adequately. The Plan should look to develop a clear and concise approach for the protection of existing open spaces in the town as well as future provision of needed open space.

An approach that integrates not only open spaces, but all Green Infrastructure in Harworth & Bircotes, would be the best approach to achieving this. This will include not only open spaces, but also important areas of biodiversity as well as the currently poor public rights of way provision in the town. The Plan must also ensure that any new development in the town addresses the need to protect existing and provide adequate open spaces and green infrastructure.

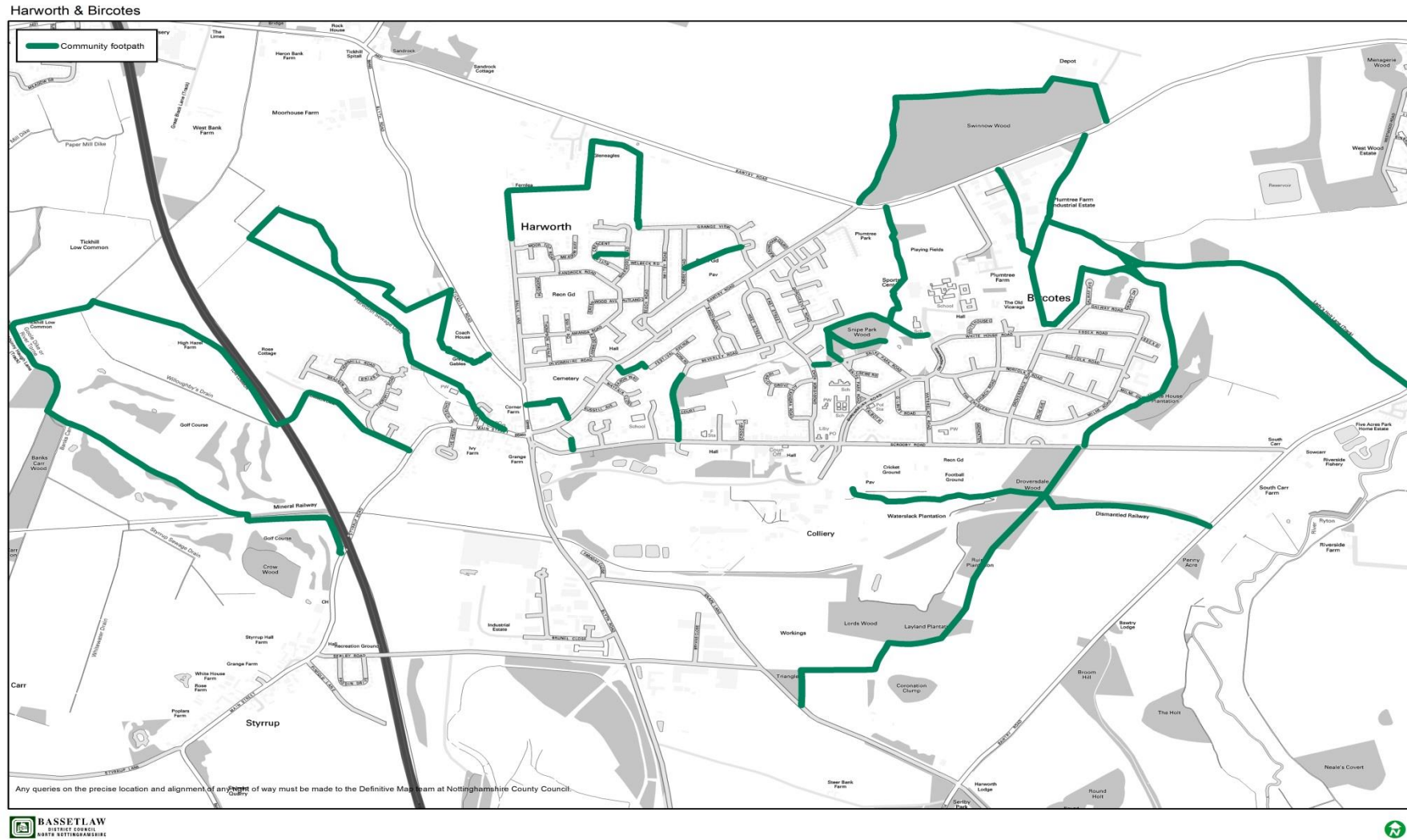
Figure 5 clearly shows that the current provision of Public rights of way within the town is poor and disconnected. The Plan should look to improve this network by joining up the existing provision, as well as ensuring that any new developments are integrated successfully into the network.

Design & Character

3.38 Harworth & Bircotes also hosts a significant amount of historical buildings in the form of seven Listed Buildings and 24 Non-Designated Heritage Assets. These are identified on **Figure 6**.

3.39 The majority of the built environment found in Harworth & Bircotes is of a similar design and character; this is as a result of the significant levels of growth experienced in the early 20th century in the area following the opening of the Colliery. The most notable exception to this is the old village of Harworth located to the west of Blyth Road.

Figure 5: PROW in Harworth & Bircotes



Economic Environment

3.40 The town of Harworth & Bircotes is still suffering from the loss of the 3 major employers from the area in recent times, in particularly the closure of the Colliery. A key factor in ensuring the sustainability of Harworth & Bircotes and also in improving the health and well-being of local residents and raising aspirations in the town is the provision of accessible local employment opportunities.

Local Employment Opportunities

3.41 The two largest concentrations of local employment opportunities in the Harworth & Bircotes area are located to the south of the town and to the north east. To the south of the town is Brunel Industrial Estate, just outside the Neighbourhood Plan boundary is a thriving employment area housing a mix of B1, B2 and B8 uses. The majority of the premises on these sites are large scale with the largest employer being DHL, also located in this area is the head office of Harworth Estates.

3.42 Situated to the north east of the town is Plum Tree Farm Industrial Estate, this employment area houses several varying business, working mainly in B2 uses with some B1 and B8 use. The largest employer in the Park is CBI Fleetwood.

3.43 Some local employment opportunities are present within the town, focussed on Scrooby Road in the town centre; the majority of these are with small scale uses such as cafes and hairdressers. Some larger scale employers are present in this area, such as the ASDA and Medical Centre.

Unemployment⁷

3.44 As a result of the significant loss of jobs from the area as described earlier, in addition to the current economic climate, Harworth & Bircotes experiences relatively high levels of unemployment with the current rate for residents who are economically active and aged 16-74 in the town being approximately 5%, in comparison to Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands levels of approximately 4% and 4.2% respectively.

Town Centre

3.45 The majority of the retail opportunities that Harworth & Bircotes offers as well as the location of other community facilities and services can be found along Scrooby Road. This has acted as the centre for the town since the large scale housing developments that took place in the 1920's to provide accommodation for miners and their families. As a consequence of the current economic climate several sites along the north side of Scrooby Road are however now vacant.

⁷ All data used is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Supermarkets

- 3.46 There are currently 2 supermarkets located in Harworth & Bircotes, these being the Co-op and the Asda which opened in 2012; both of these are located on Scrooby Road. Planning permission has also been granted for the construction of an Aldi on the south side of Scrooby Road and construction is scheduled to start in the autumn of 2014.

Car / Van Availability⁸

- 3.47 The availability of access to car(s)/van(s) heavily influences local resident's lives and how they move around the town as well as their capability in accessing nearby services and facilities. Analysing this information is possible through looking into data available on the amount of cars or vans that are owned by households in Harworth & Bircotes, therefore providing some information on how mobile the community is.
- 3.48 10.5 Households that were recorded as having no access to either a car or van comprise approximately 25.4% of the total amount of dwellings in the town. This figure, although lower than that recorded in 2001 which stood at 30.5%, is still considerably higher than levels in Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands which stand at approximately 20.1% and 22.1% respectively.
- 3.49 Approximately 46.3% of households in Harworth & Bircotes have access to 1 car or van, this figure is slightly higher than levels for Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands at approximately 43.1% and 42.5% respectively. The levels of households with access to 2, 3 or 4+ cars or vans in the town is significantly lower than levels for Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands.

Public Transport

- 3.50 With 25.4% of the current population of Harworth & Bircotes not having access to either a car or van, public transport provision in the town becomes an important issue. The town is not served by a train station with the nearest station being located in Worksop 9 miles away from the town.
- 3.51 Provided below in **Figure 7** and **Table 4** is information on the current Public Transport offer in Harworth & Bircotes. (Data taken on the 20/10/2013)

⁸ All data used is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Figure 7: Public Transport Routes⁹

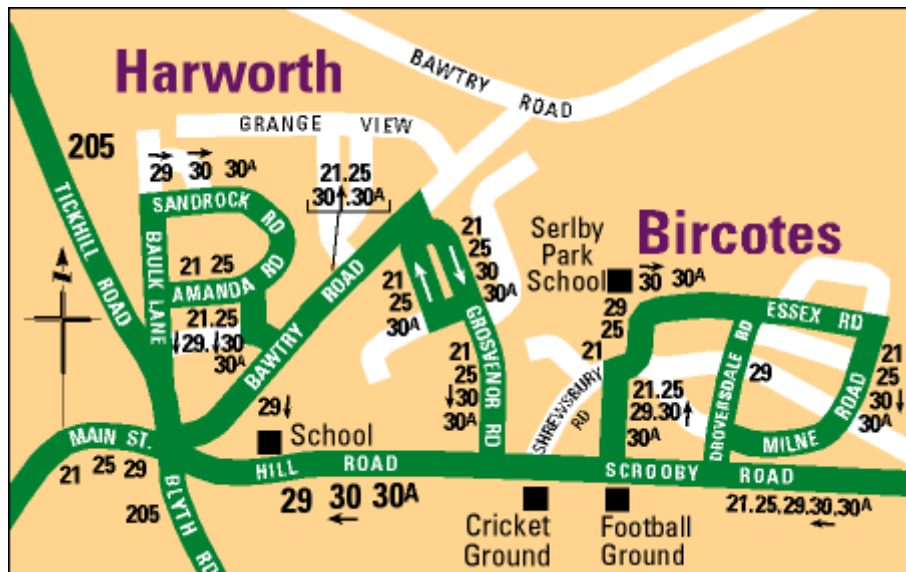


Table 3: Public Transport Timetable

Route Number	Operator	Route	Services per day		
			M - F	Sat	Sun
21	Stagecoach	Worksop - Doncaster	15	15	7
25	Stagecoach	Worksop - Doncaster	15	15	7
29	Stagecoach	Mansfield - Newark	9	6 inbound 7 outbound	0
30	Stagecoach	Blyth – Robin Hood Airport	17	17	0
200	Wilfreda Beehive	Bessacarr - Gainsborough	1	0	0
205	First	Doncaster - Tickhill	6 inbound 4 outbound	5 inbound 3 outbound	4

⁹ Obtained from cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk (21/10/2013)

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

In light of the extensive employment land allocations to the south of the town in BDC Site Allocations document, the need to provide land for local employment opportunities within the Plan is minimised. The Plan could however ensure that links to these sites are provided in the area, particularly to encourage local people to walk or cycle to work.

As the town centre plays a vital role in the functioning of Harworth & Bircotes, addressing issues currently experienced and exploiting opportunities present in the centre must be a key part of the Plan. In addition to this, as Harworth & Bircotes has been identified as a 'Main Regeneration Settlement', and will receive at least 1,560 new homes over the Plan period as outlined in BDC Core Strategy, plans to expand and improve the town centre must therefore be explored and developed.

Figure 7 along with **Table 3** suggests that currently an adequate public transport service is provided in the town. Consultation with local residents will better allow for the identification of issues if any exist. The provision of public transport is difficult to influence directly through the Plan, however the large increase in the population of the town proposed should be accompanied by increased public transport provision as necessary.

4 Sustainability Issues (Stage A3)

4.1 **Table 4** below provides an overview of the sustainability issues and problems effecting the Harworth & Bircotes neighbourhood area that have been identified with regard to the baseline data provided in the preceding section of this document.

Table 4: Summary of Sustainability Issues

Sustainability Theme	Identified Issues
Social Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The substantial housing allocation in BDC Local Plan has the potential to radically alter the social makeup of the area. The changes that this development will bring must be identified and planned for accordingly. As part of this significant increase in the housing stock of the town, the provision of suitable for local residents such as elderly accommodation and affordable housing must be prioritised. • The number of households in deprivation in Harworth & Bircotes is substantially higher than the national average; this could be addressed by ensuring that all new dwellings provided in the area are of a high quality, which then may potentially result in an improvement to the existing stock. As well as through the delivery of more local employment opportunities in the area that are accessible to local residents. • With regards to the health and wellbeing of local facilities, it is important that local facilities and environmental assets are protected and where possible improved. • Significant levels of growth have been allocated up to the year 2028 in BDC Site Allocations document, the local community must decide if this level of growth is enough to ensure the regeneration of the area or if more is needed.
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must also be considered that the proposed level of development in Harworth & Bircotes will clearly have some negative impact on the natural environment. These impacts need to be identified before development occurs and • Important environmental assets and green infrastructure valued by the local community need to be identified to ensure they are protected from harm and

	<p>unsympathetic development. Ensuring they can continue to serve the current and future local population.</p>
<p>Economic Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of over 101 ha of employment land just to the south of Harworth & Bircotes in BDC Local Plan should provide a significant increase in the amount of employment opportunities that are accessible for local residents, however this is not guaranteed. Therefore ensuring that an adequate level of jobs is provided for the planned increase in the local population is an important factor to consider in ensuring the continued sustainability of the town.

5 Developing the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Framework (Stage A4)

- 5.1 The Sustainability Framework developed for Bassetlaw District Council's Core Strategy & Development Management Policies document consists of a series of objectives and indicators. These have been devised with regard to both national and regional sustainability objectives and indicators, as well as to the environmental and sustainability issues assessed to be of key importance in Bassetlaw. Full information on these and their formulation can be found in the Scoping Report of the Core Strategy, which is accessible via Bassetlaw District Council's website or through using the following link:

<http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/pdf/SA%20Scoping%20Report%20Nov%202009.pdf>

- 5.2 For the Sustainability Appraisal of the Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Development Plan the Framework used for the Core Strategy Appraisal will be applied and is deemed acceptable by Bassetlaw District Council, however several amendments are required to reflect the smaller, more specific scale of the town.
- 5.3 The Community Vision and Objectives of the Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan will be drawn up as a result of consultation with the community and taking into account the requirements of other policies and programmes identified earlier. They will be assessed against the Sustainability Objectives listed below by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and officers from Bassetlaw District Council.
- 5.4 Each of the SA Objectives has been matched with detailed decision-making criteria. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not the Draft Plan works towards the SA objective. The SA Objectives that will be used to appraise the sustainability of the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for Harworth & Bircotes are therefore shown on the following page in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	
1	To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Harworth & Bircotes
2	To improve health and reduce health inequalities
3	To provide better opportunities for recreation and for people to value and enjoy Harworth & Bircotes cultural heritage
4	To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime
5	To promote social cohesion and support the development of community facilities across the town
6	To protect the natural environment and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure across the town
7	To protect and enhance the historic built environment and cultural heritage assets in Harworth & Bircotes
8	To protect and manage prudently the natural resources of the town including water, air quality, soils and minerals
9	To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials
10	To minimise energy usage and to develop Harworth & Bircotes renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources
11	To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available
12	To create high quality employment opportunities
13	Promoting opportunities for establishing new enterprise, learning and innovation
14	To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies

5.5 To ensure that these objectives are sustainable, they will be assessed against the three themes of sustainability, these being; social, economic and environmental judging their predicted impact on each, this being either positive or negative. The relationship between the SA objectives and the three themes of sustainability is shown in **Table 6** on the following page

Table 6: Relationship between SA Objectives and themes of Sustainability

SA Objective	SA Theme		
	Social	Econ	Envi
1) To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Elkesley	+	+	-
2) To improve health and reduce health inequalities	+	-	-
3) To provide better opportunities for recreation and for people to value and enjoy Elkesley's cultural heritage	+	+	+
4) To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	+	+	-
5) To promote social cohesion and support the development of community facilities across the Parish	+	-	-
6) To protect the natural environment and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure across the Parish	-	+	+
7) To protect and enhance the historic built environment and cultural heritage assets in Elkesley	-	+	+
8) To protect and manage prudently the natural resources of the Ward including water, air quality, soils and minerals	-	+	+
9) To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials	-	+	+
10) To minimise energy usage and to develop Elkesley renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources	-	+	+
11) To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available	+	+	+
12) To create high quality employment opportunities	+	+	-
13) Promoting opportunities for establishing new enterprise, learning and innovation	-	+	-
14) To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies	-	+	-

5.6 Each of the SA Objectives has been matched with detailed decision-making criteria. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not the Plan works towards the SA objective, these can be found below in **Table 7**:

Table 7: Decision Making Criteria for SA Objectives

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria
<p>1) To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Harworth & Bircotes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups? • Will it reduce homelessness? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?
<p>2) To improve health and reduce health inequalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce health inequalities? • Will it improve access to health services? • Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity?
<p>3) To provide better opportunities for recreation and for people to value and enjoy Harworth & Bircotes cultural heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide new open space? • Will it improve the quality of existing open space? • Will it help people to increase their participation in cultural activities?
<p>4) To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide safer communities? • Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? • Will it contribute to a safe secure built environment?
<p>5) To promote social cohesion and support the development of community facilities across the town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve access to, and resident's satisfaction with community facilities and services? • Will it encourage engagement in community activities?
<p>6) To protect the natural environment and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure across the town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it help protect and improve biodiversity and in particular avoid harm to protected species? • Will it help protect and improve habitats? • Will it increase, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? • Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management? • Will it protect or contribute to the enhancement of the landscape character? • Will it enhance the resilience of the natural environment to the impacts of climate change?

<p>7) To protect and enhance the historic built environment and cultural heritage assets in Harworth & Bircotes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance existing cultural assets? • Will it protect and enhance heritage assets and their setting? • Will it protect or contribute to the enhancement of the townscape character?
<p>8) To protect and manage prudently the natural resources of the town, including water, air quality, soils and minerals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve water quality? • Will it minimise the risk of property flooding? • Will it protect and conserve water resources? • Will it improve air quality? • Will it lead to reduced consumption of raw materials? • Will it promote the use of sustainable design, materials and construction techniques? • Will it minimise the loss of soils to development? • Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?
<p>9) To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce household waste? • Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? • Will it assist or facilitate compliance with the waste hierarchy (i.e. reduce first, then re-use, recover, recycle, landfill)? • Will it assist in maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials (including aggregates)?
<p>10) To minimise energy usage and to develop Harworth & Bircotes renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve energy efficiency of new buildings? • Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? • Will it encourage new development to be of high quality which minimises impacts on the environment and maximises the potential for the UK to move towards a low carbon economy?
<p>11) To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? • Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? • Will it reduce journeys undertaken by car by encouraging alternative modes of transport?

<p>12) To create high quality employment opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the diversity and quality of jobs? • Will it reduce unemployment? • Will it increase average income levels?
<p>13) Promoting opportunities for establishing new enterprise, learning and innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase levels of qualification? • Will it create jobs in high knowledge sectors?
<p>14) To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide land and buildings of a type required by businesses? • Will it improve the diversity of jobs available?

5.7 As the sections of the Plan that are to be appraised, these being the; Community Vision & Objectives and the Development Management Policies, are substantially different, in terms of both content and purpose. It is deemed necessary to adopt a differing approach to measuring the sustainability of these against the SA Objectives. The following criteria will be used to assess the level of compatibility of the Plan’s Vision, Aim and Objectives:

Table 8 Criteria Used to assess Vision & Objectives

Key	
Compatible	✓
Neutral / No Impact	-
Incompatible	x
Uncertain Impact	?

5.8 To make a more thorough assessment of their potential impacts, the Development Management Policies will be considered against more detailed criteria. The intended appraisal criteria for these are listed in **Table 9** on the following page.

Table 9 Criteria used to assess Development Management Policies

Key	
Strong Positive Impact	✓✓
Positive Impact	✓
Neutral / No Impact	-
Negative Impact	x
Strong Negative Impact	xx
Uncertain Impact	?

6 Consultation and Next Steps (Stage A5)

Consultation

- 6.1 A Draft copy of this Scoping Report was consulted on in late 2014, a copy of the document was sent to the three statutory consultees, these being: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- 6.2 All three of these approved the approach outlined above and agreed with the Sustainability Objectives identified. The only amendments required were suggested by Natural England and involved including the names of Local Wildlife sites in the Plan area; these have been added to this final document. The comments from Natural England suggesting these changes can be found in **Appendix A** of this document.

Next Steps

- 6.3 The final Harworth & Bircotes SA Framework will subsequently be used to appraise the Final Neighbourhood Plan. A Sustainability Appraisal Report will be prepared showing the assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects of the emerging proposals on the town by using the established SA objectives and will be consulted on alongside the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

Appendix A: Natural England response to Draft Scoping Report

Date: 07 January 2015
 Our ref: 138741
 Your ref: None



James Green
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 Bassetlaw District Council

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear James

Planning consultation: Haworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan – SEA Screening and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation on the above document which was received by Natural England on 08 December 2014

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.

Strategic Environmental Assessment SEA Screening Report

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Haworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan.

We can confirm that we agree with your conclusions that the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in any significant environmental effects which would require further assessment under the SEA guidance that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisals of both the Adopted Bassetlaw Core Strategy and the emerging Site Allocations Development Plan Document.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Natural England generally welcomes the scoping report. We suggest however that the Local Wildlife Sites that fall within the Parish boundaries are named for clarity, as follows:

- Snipe Park Woods
- Well Hill
- Whitehouse Plantation

Further information on Local Wildlife Sites is available from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Site <http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/>.

We welcome reference to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) at paragraph 3.35 and acknowledge that HRAs of both the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Site Allocations DPD demonstrates consideration of the potential effects of these higher tier plans and that no further assessment of the neighbourhood plan would be required.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

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For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming
Adviser
Sustainable Development Team
East Midlands Area

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