

Hough on the Hill

Neighbourhood Plan Modifications

Basic Conditions Statement

March 2025

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Hough on the Hill Parish Council is the qualifying body with regard to the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan, which was formally “made” by South Kesteven District Council on 3rd July 2015, following all required consultations, independent examination and the support of a clear majority of parishioners who voted in the referendum in 2015.
- 1.2. The designated Neighbourhood Area is the whole parish of Hough on the Hill, as outlined on the map in Figure 1 (Page 2).
- 1.3. Modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan are being proposed. Taken as a whole, they are considered to be “**material modifications which do not change the nature of the Plan**”.
- 1.4. Consultation has been carried out with residents of the Parish, In accordance with the requirements of Regulation 14. Having considered all the responses that were received, with amendments being made where appropriate, Hough on the Hill Parish Council is now submitting the Modified Neighbourhood Plan to South Kesteven District Council.
- 1.5. The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies, continue to refer only to planning matters (use and development of land) and do not deal with County Matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other development defined as “excluded development” in Section 61k of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 1.6. This Basic Conditions statement has been prepared to confirm that the Modified Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan continues to meet all the relevant requirements under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Schedule 4b paragraph 8 (2) of which requires that all neighbourhood development plans must:
 - a) have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - b) have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses,
 - c) have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area;
 - d) must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - e) must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area); and
 - f) must not breach, and must otherwise be compatible with, assimilated obligations, relating to environmental impacts, protected habitats and human rights.
- 1.7. The Basic Conditions were found to have been met when the Neighbourhood Plan was examined and then formally made in 2015. As explained in the Modification Statement, the modifications proposed are mostly to bring the Neighbourhood Plan up to date with regard to national and local planning policy. It has not been necessary to make major changes to any of

the Neighbourhood Plan's policies to maintain consistency with the current higher tier policies and guidance to which those policies must have regard and/or be in general conformity. The modifications ensure that the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan continues to:

1. have regard to national policy – primarily in the National Planning Policy Framework;
2. contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area - the South Kesteven Local Plan; and
4. be compatible with assimilated obligations relating to environmental impacts and protected habitats, and human rights.

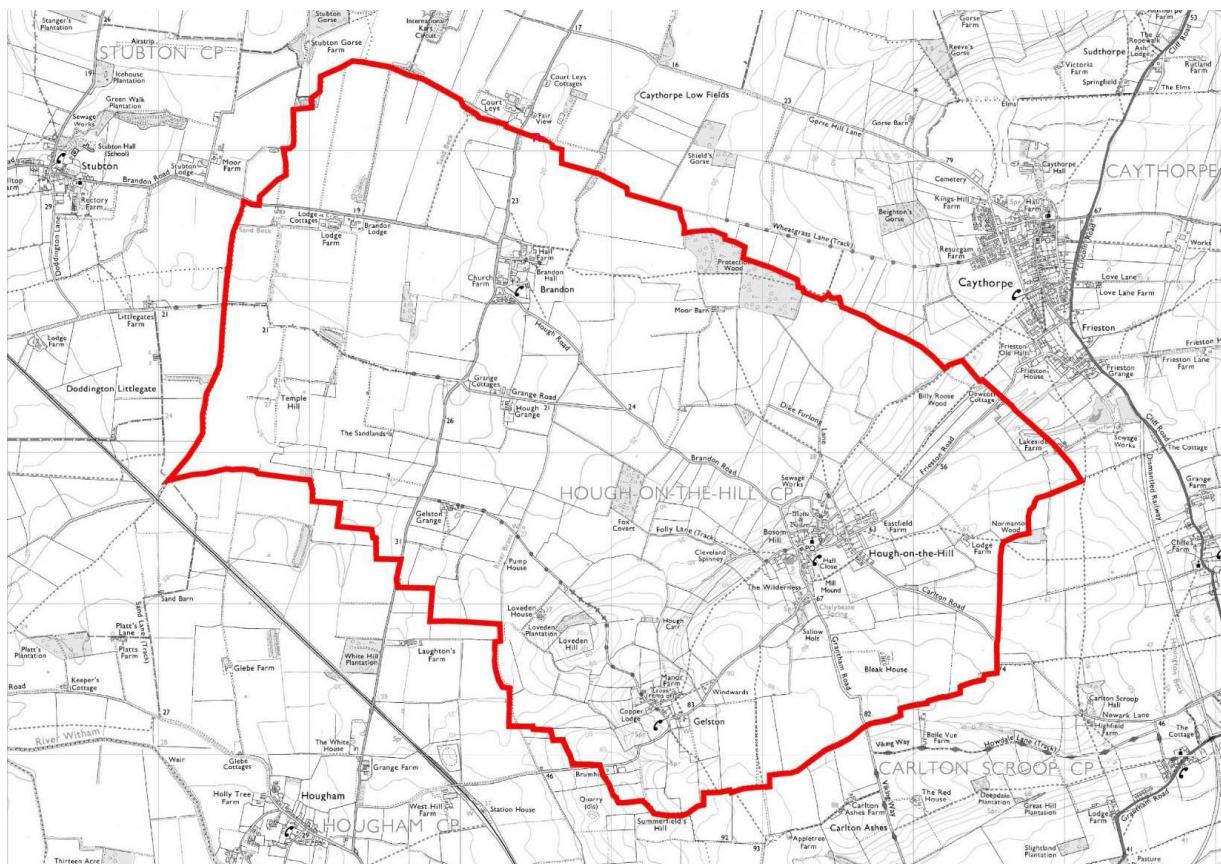


Figure 1: Map of the Designated Neighbourhood area

2. Conformity with the Basic Conditions

2.1 An assessment of compliance has been prepared, evaluating all policies within the Neighbourhood Plan for Hough on the Hill against NPPF guidance, the principles of sustainable development, and strategic policies of the South Kesteven Local Plan (202). The results have been summarized in the tables below.

2.2 The definition of sustainable development employed in the assessment of compliance has been derived from the NPPF's definition (NPPF, paragraph 8):

"Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

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

2.3 In summary, the modifications to the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan have been prepared having regard to, and in conformity with:

- national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2024,
- The achievement of sustainable development,
- Local Policies as set out in the South Kesteven Local Plan.,
- EU obligations as carried forward.

3. Having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework

3.1 Every neighbourhood plan must have regard to national policy, which is set out mostly in the National Planning Policy Framework – most recently revised in December 2024 – and Planning Practice Guidance. Ways in which the modified Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policy are outlined in Table 1 (Column 2).

4. Conformity with the South Kesteven Local Plan

4.1 Every neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area. The operative development plan for South Kesteven District is the South Kesteven Local Plan, 2011-2036, adopted in 2020, which includes the following explanatory information about the relationship between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans:

“

What are Neighbourhood Plans and their relationship to the new Local Plan?

1.21 Neighbourhood plans are prepared under separate legislation by interested Town and Parish Councils, and in non-parished areas by Neighbourhood Plan forums. They set out the local communities' views on the future development of their areas. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.

1.22 A number of Neighbourhood Plans have been, or are being prepared, by communities within the District, and once approved by the Council each Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan. As the new Local Plan progresses and gains weight, any made Neighbourhood Plans, or those currently being prepared, should be reviewed by the qualifying bodies that prepared the Neighbourhood Plans, to ensure they remain consistent with the new Local Plan.

1.23 The Local Plan establishes how much housing, employment and retail development is needed to meet the anticipated needs of the District over the plan period. The Local Plan also allocates suitable sites to meet the needs identified in the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans which are being prepared or reviewed after the Local Plan is adopted, can look to allocate additional sites for development within their designated area, however they cannot propose less development than that set out in this Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to meet the basic conditions as set out in legislation. One element of this is that a Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained within the Local Plan. To assist Neighbourhood Plans that are produced in South Kesteven, a list of policies is provided...with strategic policies identified.

1.24 For up to date information on current Neighbourhood Plan Designations please visit: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans //

4.2 For the purposes of this Basic Conditions Statement, the modified Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed for consistency with the strategic policies of the adopted South Kesteven Local Plan, as listed on the next page.

List of South Kesteven Local Plan's Strategic Policies (excluding place-specific policies not directly relevant to Hough on the Hill)
SD1 The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven
SP1 Spatial Strategy
SP2 Settlement Hierarchy
SP3 Infill Development
SP4 Development on the Edge of Settlements
SP5 Development in the Open Countryside
H1 Housing Allocations
H2 Affordable Housing Contributions
H3 Self and Custom Build Housing
H4 Meeting All Housing Needs
H5 Gypsies and Travellers
H6 Travelling Showpeople
E2 Strategic Employment Sites
E3 Employment Allocations
E4 Protection of Existing Employment Sites
E6 Loss of Employment Land and Buildings to Non-Employment Uses
E7 Rural Economy
E8 Other Employment Proposals
E9 Visitor Economy
EN1 Landscape Character
EN2 Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity
EN3 Green Infrastructure
EN4 Pollution Control
EN5 Water Environment and Flood Risk Management
EN6 The Historic Environment
EN7 Protecting and Enhancing Grantham Canal
DE1 Promoting Good Quality Design
SB1 Sustainable Building
OS1 Open Space
RE1 Renewable Energy Generation
GR2 Sustainable Transport in Grantham
ID1 Infrastructure for Growth
ID2 Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure
ID3 Broadband and Communications Infrastructure

5. The Neighbourhood Plan's Policies

5.1 All 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan's, policies are listed below. Policies which have been modified are indicated by '(M)' at the end of the title. However, the text of every policy is shown in its "final" form, without any differentiation of any modifications that have been made. This is because the assessments of conformity with higher tier policies have been carried out for each policy taken in its entirety, not just the modifications. Modifications have been clearly identified in the Modifications Statement and a version of the full Modified Neighbourhood Plan, both made available alongside this Basic Conditions Statement.

Policy HoH1: Appropriate Development

New development for 'appropriate uses' (see paragraph 110) which are in accordance with the other relevant policies of the Development Plan, will be supported where it can be demonstrated that they will not harm the landscape and built setting of the Parish, and, where appropriate, opportunities to enrich those qualities have been incorporated.

Locally important features and characteristics against which any development will be assessed are clearly defined in this Neighbourhood Plan and its evidence base, and development which appropriately responds to these will be supported.

Policy HoH2: Development Context

New development should be sympathetic to the existing form, scale and character of its location and be appropriate to its rural context. Development should respond to the character of both the built and natural environment.

Materials and boundary treatments should be sympathetic to the character and landscape of the part of the Parish area in which they are proposed, and should reflect good design characteristics of the surrounding area.

Development which has been designed in accordance with the current Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance will be supported.

Note: for the purposes of Policy HoH2, "current" means the latest design guidance that has been adopted at the time a planning application is being considered with reference to this policy.

Policy HoH4: Protection of Heritage Assets

Development which would result in the loss of all or part of a heritage asset will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefits would outweigh the harm caused.

HoH5: Listed Buildings

New development will be supported where it would improve, restore or maintain the fabric of a listed building,

Development which would have a negative or harmful impact on a listed building or its setting will not be supported unless a clear justification is presented that there would be substantial public benefits which would outweigh the loss or harm to the building.

Policy HoH6: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

New development will be supported where it would improve, restore or maintain a non-designated heritage asset identified within this Neighbourhood Plan or the Conservation Area Appraisal, 2014.

Development which would have a harmful impact on a building or structure of this type or its setting will not be supported unless a clear justification is presented which explains how the benefits would outweigh the loss or harm.

Policy HoH7: Affordable Housing

Development of affordable housing will be supported in or immediately adjoining the villages where:

- **it meets an identified local need; and**
- **it meets the relevant requirements of Policies SP3 and SP4 of the South Kesteven Local Plan; and**
- **it has been designed in accordance with the requirements of Policy HoH2, having due regard to the current Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance; and**
- **it is in accordance with the Character and Built Environment and Green Spaces policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Policy HoH8: Rural Diversification

Development proposals for appropriate rural diversification within the Parish will be supported where they are:

- *in accordance with the Character and Built Environment and Green Spaces policies of the Neighbourhood Plan; and*
- *located on previously developed land or sites containing existing agricultural buildings, or a clear justification is provided as to why the proposed site is more appropriate; and*
- *consistent with the aims and requirements of Policies E7, E8 and E9 of the South Kesteven Local Plan.*

Policy HoH9: Local Green Space

The Neighbourhood Plan designates the area at and above the 50M contour line of Loveden Hill as a Local Green Space as shown on the map in Appendix 2.

Development within this area will only be supported if it enhances the qualities and contributions valued by the community, for which it has been designated.

Policy HoH10: Protection of Valued Landscapes and Habitats

New development must be appropriate to the character, natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the Parish's landscape. Developments must respect the landscape character of the Parish and its settlements, as defined within the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) and incorporate features which contribute to the conservation, enhancement or restoration of these features.

In particular, new development should, wherever possible, maintain existing hedgerows, trees and woodland and encourage the planting of new trees and hedgerows. Where new trees are proposed, these should, wherever possible, be appropriate disease resistant native species.

Policy HoH11: Protecting Valued Views and Settings

Development will be supported where it would maintain the features which define the character and setting of the Parish which are set out within the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013). In particular, development which would impact on views into and out of the villages and hamlets as indicated on the Key Views Map (Figure 6, page 31) should demonstrate that these features have been sensitively and appropriately considered and incorporated and/or mitigated as necessary.

Policy HoH12: Domestic Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Generation

New development for domestic-scale energy efficiency and/or energy production from renewable and low carbon sources will be supported where:

- ***it relates to an existing or proposed property in the Parish;***
- ***it is subordinate in scale to the existing building; and***
- ***it is in accordance with the Character and Built Environment and Green Spaces policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance.***

Policy HoH13: Community-led Renewable Energy

Community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where:

- ***They meet local needs and provide a positive local benefit, and***
- ***They are in accordance with the Character and Built Environment and Green Spaces policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance.***

Policy HoH15: Maintaining and Improving Access to the Countryside

New development for 'appropriate uses' (see paragraph 110 above) will be-supported where it seeks to maintain or improve access to the countryside, and where it is in accordance with the other policies of the development plan. In particular, the following improvements will be sought through the use of planning conditions and Section 106 agreements where appropriate and feasible:

Improvements to footpaths and signage to ensure they are easily identified and accessible all year round.

Wherever possible, new development should ensure that access to existing permissive rights of way is maintained.

Wherever viable, provide linkages to existing footpaths and rights of way or create new routes.

Policy HoH16: Developer Contributions to Necessary Facilities

All new development must provide necessary and appropriate new facilities on site or contribute to off-site facilities as required by means of planning condition and/or Section 106 agreements as appropriate.

5.2 Relationships between each policy and relevant higher-tier policies to which they must have regard or be in conformity are outlined in the table that follows -Table 1.

Policy HoH14: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy for Businesses

Initiatives which would enable local businesses to develop will be accepted supported where:

- ***The primary function is to support their operations;***
- ***They are subordinate to the primary business, and***
- ***They are in accordance with the Character and Built Environment and Green Spaces policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, including the Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance.***

Table 1. Consistency with the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework and South Kesteven Local Plan

Abbreviations used in this table: NP - Neighbourhood Plan; NPPF National Planning Policy Framework; SKLP – South Kesteven Local Plan

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
Policy HoH1: Appropriate Development and Policy HoH2: Development Context	<p>12: Achieving well-designed places</p> <p>In supporting appropriate developments that support the needs of the community and the sustainability of the parish, in harmony with its characteristic and distinctive built and natural features, Policies HoH1 and HOH2 have regard to NPPF Chapter 12 in general, and especially the following statements:</p> <p>“The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve.” [131]</p> <p>“Plans should at the most appropriate level. Set out a clear design vision and expectations so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. Design policies should be developed with local communities so that they reflect local aspirations and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics. Neighborhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development, both through their own plans and by engaging in the</p>	<p>SP1: Spatial Strategy</p> <p>SP2: Settlement Hierarchy</p> <p>SP3: Infill Development</p> <p>SP4: Development on the Edge of Settlements</p> <p>SP5: Development in the Open Countryside</p> <p>EN1: Landscape Character</p> <p>DE1: Promoting Good Design</p> <p>The Local Plan policies identified here set the strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan’s approach to planning for appropriate development – and appropriately designed development - in the parish.</p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	production of design policy guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers.” [132]	
Policy HoH3: Hough on the Hill Conservation Area Policy HoH4 Protection of Heritage Assets HoH5: Listed Buildings Policy HoH6: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	<p>16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p> <p>In seeking to conserve and enhance the parish's historic environment and support developments that recognise and respond to the character and value of heritage assets, Neighbourhood Plan Policies HoH3, HoH4, HoH5 and HoH6 are consistent with the NPPF's advice regarding the historic environment, as set out in detail in Chapter 16 in general, and especially the following statements:</p> <p><i>“Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:</i></p> <p class="list-item-l1"><i>a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;</i></p> <p class="list-item-l1"><i>b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;</i></p> <p class="list-item-l1"><i>c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and</i></p>	<p>EN6: The Historic Environment</p> <p>Local Plan Policy EN6 sets the strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan's approach to planning development that is consistent with protection of the Parish's historic environment and assets.</p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	<p><i>d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place." [203]</i></p> <p><i>"The effect of an application on the significance of a non designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset." [216]</i></p>	
Policy HoH7: Affordable Housing	<p>5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan Policy HoH7 provides for affordable housing that meet the needs of the local community and specifies local requirements relating to site location and type, and other provisos to be met so that additional development can be assimilated satisfactorily. This approach is consistent with the NPPF's advice as detailed in Chapter 5 in general, and especially the following statement:</p> <p><i>"In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs, including proposals for community LED development for housing." [82]</i></p>	<p>H4: Meeting All Housing Needs</p> <p>SKLP does not specify a requirement for the development of Affordable Housing – or other housing - in Hough on the Hill Parish, so proposals for such development are to be considered in the context of SKLP Policies SP3 and SP4 and NP Policies HoH1 and HoH2. SKLP Policy H4 does, however state that:</p> <p><i>"... New housing proposals shall also:</i></p> <p><i>...c. enable the provision of high quality and affordable housing for all and accommodation that considers specialist needs and ensures that people</i></p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
		<p><i>can live close to their families and work opportunities within the district.”</i></p> <p>At paragraph 2.42, it is stated that:</p> <p><i>“The Local Plan aims to ensure that new housing provision in the District over the next 20 years meets the changing needs of the population. An appropriate mix of housing is necessary to secure mixed and balanced communities where people’s needs and aspirations for new housing are met. Policy H4: Meeting all Housing Needs seeks to ensure greater choice in the types of homes entering the housing market. This will ensure that future development proposals can positively respond to local housing need”.</i></p>
Policy HoH8: Rural Diversification	6: Building a strong, competitive economy <p>Neighbourhood Plan Policy HoH8 seeks to support local enterprise and employment, particularly through rural diversification. This approach has particular regard to NPPF paragraphs 88 and 89:</p> <p><i>“Planning policies and decisions should enable:</i></p>	E7: Rural Economy <p>Policy HoH8 is consistent with SKLP Policy E7. Which supports proposals for the following types of small business schemes to support or regenerate the rural economy:</p> <p><i>Farming;</i> <i>Forestry;</i></p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	<p><i>a) The sustainable growth and the expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;</i></p> <p><i>b) The development and diversification of agricultural and other land based rural businesses;</i></p> <p><i>c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and</i></p> <p><i>d) the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.</i></p> <p><i>“Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport. In these circumstances it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (for example, by improving the scope for access on foot, by cycling or by public transport). The use of previously developed land and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist”.</i></p>	<p><i>Equine;</i> <i>Rural enterprise;</i> <i>Sport and recreation; and</i> <i>Tourism.</i></p> <p>Policy E7 specifies the following criteria for all such developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) be of a scale appropriate to the rural location;</i> <i>b) be for a use(s) which is(are) appropriate or necessary in a rural location, providing local employment opportunities which make a positive contribution to supporting the rural economy;</i> <i>c) the use/development respects the character and appearance of the local landscape, having particular regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, and will not negatively impact on existing neighbouring uses through noise, traffic, light and pollution impacts; and</i> <i>d) avoid harm to areas, features or species which are important for wildlife, biodiversity, natural, cultural or historic assets, including their wider settings.</i>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
Policy HoH9: Local Green Space .	<p>8: Promoting healthy and safe communities</p> <p>In identifying and seeking to protect Local Green Space, Policy HoH 9 has regard to Chapter 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities. In particular. The policy has regard to paragraph 103, which states that “<i>Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change</i>”.</p> <p>Policy HoH9 Has regard to Paragraph 106, which states that”</p> <p><i>“The designation of land has Local Green Space through local and neighborhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when the plan is prepared to updated and be capable of. Enduring beyond the end of the plan period”.</i></p>	<p>OS1: Open Space</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan Policy. HoH9 complements SKLP Policy. OS1 Which provides protection for all existing open spaces, stating that:</p> <p>“Development proposals for existing open spaces will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the proposal will provide increased or improved open space and or recreational facilities; or b) the site is not required to meet the local standard set out above’ or c) equivalent or better replacement provision is to be made within the locality; and d) the site does not support important or protected habitats or species.

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	<p>At paragraph 107 it is explained that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is: <i>a) is reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example, because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value(including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land".</i></p>	
<p>Policy HoH10: Protection of Valued Landscapes and Habitats and Policy HoH11: Protecting Valued Views and Settings</p>	<p>15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p> <p>Together, Policies HoH10 and HoH11 have regard to NPF Chapter 15 generally, and in particular to paragraph 187, which reads:</p> <p><i>"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value, and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);</i> <i>b) recognizing the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural</i> 	<p>EN1: Landscape Character</p> <p>EN2: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> <p>EN3: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Together these Local Plan policies provide the strategic context for conserving and enhancing South Kesteven's natural environment, including protection of landscapes (a district-wide landscape character assessment being provided), habitats and biodiversity. Neighbourhood Plan policies HoH10 and HoH11 are consistent with this strategic policy context.</p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	<p><i>capital and ecosystem services - including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;</i></p> <p><i>c) Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;</i></p> <p><i>d) minimizing impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs..."</i></p>	
Policy HoH12: Domestic Scale Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Generation	<p>14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p> <p>Policies HoH13 and HoH14 support community-led and local business developments providing for the generation of energy from renewable sources, in ways appropriate for this small rural community.</p>	<p>RE1: Renewable Energy Generation,</p> <p>Local Plan policy RE1 sets the context for considering proposals relating to renewable energy generation generally. Neighbourhood Plan policies HoH12, HoH13 and HoH14, provide for such developments at a scale appropriate to this small rural community, in the context of that wider strategy.</p>
Policy HoH13: Community-led Renewable Energy	<p>The policies respond to NPPF paragraph 165, which states that:</p>	
Policy HoH14:		

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy for Businesses	<p><i>"To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:</i></p> <p><i>a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);</i></p> <p><i>b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and</i></p> <p><i>c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers."</i></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan's policies provide for generation of energy from renewable sources in ways that have regard to paragraph 168 b) which advises that local planning authorities should <i>"recognise that small scale and community-led projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions"</i> 2.</p> <p><i>Hmm..</i></p> <p><i>"</i></p>	

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
Policy HoH15: Maintaining and Improving Access to the Countryside	<p>9: Promoting sustainable transport</p> <p>8. Promoting healthy and safe communities</p> <p>In supporting appropriate development which seeks to maintain or improve access to the countryside, and to secure developer contributions to that end where appropriate and feasible, Policy HOH 15. has regard to Chapter 9 of the NPPF - Promoting sustainable transport. It also has regard to Chapter 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities. In particular, the policy reflects advice in paragraph 105: <i>“Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks, including National Trails”.</i></p>	<p>EN3: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>ID2: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure</p> <p>In supporting appropriate development which seeks to maintain or improve access to the countryside, and to secure developer contributions to that end where appropriate and feasible, Policy HOH 15 complements Local Plan policies EN3 and ID2, which respectively require that:</p> <p><i>“Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design, taking opportunities to enrich biodiversity habitats, enable greater connectivity and provide sustainable access for all”</i> [EN3];</p> <p>and state that:</p> <p><i>“South Kesteven District Council and its delivery partners will support and promote an efficient and safe transport network which offers a range of transport choices for the movement of people and goods reduces the need to travel by car and</i></p>

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
		<p><i>encourages use of alternatives, such as walking, cycling, and public transport.</i></p> <p><i>New development will be required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies.</i></p> <p><i>All new developments should demonstrate that they have applied the following principles.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>are located where travel can be minimized and the use of sustainable transport modes maximized;</i> b) <i>reduce additional travel demand through the use of measures such as travel planning, safe and convenient public transport, dedicated walking and cycling links and cycle storage, parking links and integration with existing infrastructure... ”. [ID2]</i>
Policy HoH16: Developer Contributions to Necessary Facilities	2: Achieving sustainable development 3. Plan-making	ID1: Infrastructure for Growth ID2: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure ID3: Broadband and Communications Infrastructure

NP Policy (as modified)	NPPF Chapter / Paragraph(s) to which the NP Policy has regard	SKLP strategic policies with which the NP Policy is consistent
	<p>Policy HoH16 seeks developer provision of (or contributions towards the provision of) adequate facilities. In seeking this, the Neighbourhood plan has regard to:</p> <p>Chapter 2, particularly paragraph 11, which states that:</p> <p><i>Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making, this means that all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to meet the development needs of their area, align growth and infrastructure, improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas), and adapt to its effects:</i></p> <p>and</p> <p>Chapter 3, particularly paragraph 35, which advises that: “<i>Plans should set out the contributions expected from development. This should include setting out the levels and types of affordable housing provision required, along with other infrastructure such as that needed for education and health, transport, flood and water management, green and digital infrastructure. Such policies should not undermine the deliverability of the plan</i>”.</p>	<p>In seeking developer contributions towards the provision of relevant and necessary facilities, or direct provision of such facilities where appropriate, Policy HoH16 complements Local Plan Policies ID1, ID2 and ID3, as outlined below.</p> <p>Policy ID1 includes the following provision:</p> <p><i>“Where implementation of a development proposal will create a need to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. provide additional or improved infrastructure and amenities; or</i> <i>b. would have an impact on the existing standard of infrastructure provided; or</i> <i>c. would exacerbate an existing deficiency in its provision;</i> <p><i>The developer will be expected to make up the necessary infrastructure provision for the local communities affected either by direct provision or through a proportionate contribution towards the overall cost of the provision of local and strategic infrastructure required by the development either alone or cumulatively with other developments”.</i></p> <p>Polices ID2 and ID3 set out specific requirements and criteria relating to transport and digital communications.</p>

6. Helping to Achieve Sustainable Development

6.1 The table below (Table 2) represents an assessment of the extent to which the Neighbourhood Plan's policies contribute towards the achievement of Sustainable Development. The likely effects of each policy have been considered in relation to economic, social and environmental sustainability principles, assessing the expected impacts as negative, neutral or positive in each case. The method is largely intuitive, but it provides an overall assessment of the impacts that can be expected and the extent to which the Neighbourhood Plan's policies should contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Table 2: The Neighbourhood Plan's Consistency with Principles of Sustainable Development

Econ = Economic Factors; Soc = Social Factors; Env = Environmental Factors

- Negative; 0 Neutral;+ Positive

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Econ	Soc	Env	How the policy contributes to Sustainable Development
Policy HoH1: Appropriate Development	+	+	+	These policies seek to ensure that new developments are appropriate to a "Smaller Village" and consistent with distinctive characteristics of the village and Parish, by requiring new developments to be built in line with the place-specific design guidance. The village characteristics will, therefore, be preserved which will have positive socio-cultural impacts on the NP area. Furthermore, through the evolving Design Guidance, the policy also encourages development that makes adequate provision for storage of bicycles and charging for electric vehicles which works towards net zero carbon emission targets.
Policy HoH2: Development Context	0	+	+	Appropriate development includes both housing and business/employment -supporting development, of suitable scale and type in both cases.
Policy HoH3: Hough on the Hill Conservation Area	0	+	+	This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the parish's historic environment and support developments that recognise and respond to the character and value of heritage assets.
Policy HoH4: Protection of Heritage Assets	+	+	+	This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the parishes' historic environments and support developments that recognise and respond to the character and value of heritage assets.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Econ	Soc	Env	How the policy contributes to Sustainable Development
HoH5: Listed Buildings	0	+	+	This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the parishes' historic environments and support developments that recognise and respond to the character and value of heritage assets.
Policy HoH6: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	+	+	0	This policy seeks to conserve and enhance the parishes' historic environments and support developments that recognise and respond to the character and value of heritage assets.
Policy HoH7: Affordable Housing	+	+	+	Policy HoH7 provides for housing to meet the needs of the local community and (based on a Housing Needs Assessment carried out for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan) specifies local priorities, requirements relating to site location and type, and other provisos to be met so that additional development can be assimilated satisfactorily.
Policy HoH8: Rural Diversification	+	+	+	Neighbourhood Plan Policy 7 specifies and differentiates between types of business and service development that will be supported in each of three parts of the Neighbourhood Area – Winthorpe Village, the Newark Showground Policy Area, and the Open Countryside. Within that context, the Policy provides for provision of local services and sustainable economic development.
Policy HoH9: Local Green Space	0	+	+	This policy protects a green space that is valued and used by the community and that contributes to Hough on the Hill's landscape qualities and setting and ecology /biodiversity.
Policy HoH10: Protection of Valued Landscapes and Habitats	0	+	+	By requiring development to be appropriate to the character, natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the Parish's landscape, Policy HoH10 supports social well-being (these attributes and features are valued and used by the community, contributing to people's physical and mental health) and environmental well-being (protecting and enhancing ecology and biodiversity).
Policy HoH11: Protecting Valued Views and Settings	0	+	+	This policy protects views contexts that are valued by the community and that contribute to Hough on the Hill's setting and distinctive character. This also contributes to the protection and potential for enhancement of the Parish's ecology and biodiversity.
Policy HoH12: Domestic Scale Energy Efficiency and	+	+	+	Policy HoH12 supports carefully located and designed development to provide for the

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Econ	Soc	Env	How the policy contributes to Sustainable Development
Renewable Energy Generation				generation of energy from renewable sources at a domestic scale. Policy HoH13 supports community-led renewable energy schemes. Policy HoH14 supports initiatives which would enable local businesses to develop renewable and low carbon energy. In all cases such developments are expected to be consistent with local environmental protection requirements. Such development will have positive environmental impacts and will help to support an efficient, green local economy.
Policy HoH13: Community-led Renewable Energy	+	+	+	
Policy HoH14: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy for Businesses	+	+	+	
Policy HoH15: Maintaining and Improving Access to the Countryside	+	+	+	This policy seeks to protect and enhance Public Right of Ways (PROW), encouraging people to walk and bike, helping to work towards a net zero carbon future. By protecting and improving facilities that enable people to travel actively, the mental health and physical wellbeing of residents will be supported. The policy can also be expected to support rural economic activities related to visitors.
Policy HoH16: Developer Contributions to Necessary Facilities	+	+	0	The policy seeks to ensure that new development contribute appropriately to the delivery of required facilities, on-site or off-site. Community Infrastructure Levy and planning obligations are to be used to achieve this. Community facilities are vital to communities' health and wellbeing. The protection and improvement of these facilities will therefore support the social and economic well-being of the community.

Conclusion of the Sustainability Appraisal

6.2 Overall, the assessment shows that the Neighbourhood Plan's policies can be expected to make a positive contribution towards sustainable development within the Neighbourhood Area.

7. Compatibility with Assimilated Obligations relating to Environmental Impacts and Habitat Protection, and Human Rights

7.1 The Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.

7.2 A screening opinion was issued by South Kesteven District Council who considered it unlikely that there would be any significant environmental effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan as originally made. None of the modifications will increase the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan. There are no relevant designated sites or habitats within or adjacent to the parish and it is considered that there is no requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulation Assessment.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out and referred to in Schedule 4B to the Town and County Planning Act 1990 and associated regulations are considered to be met by the modified Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan.