



HOUGH ON THE HILL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2024 -2036

(Modified 2025)





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Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013)

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1 INTRODUCTION

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- 1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new right for Parish Councils to prepare a neighbourhood plan to influence future development in their local areas. An adopted neighbourhood plan sits within the statutory planning framework for England. Together with the local plan it forms part of what is referred to as the “development plan” for the area it covers and has full weight in the determination of planning applications¹. Therefore, Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with both the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted local plan policies of the relevant local authority, which for Hough on the Hill Parish is South Kesteven District Council (SKDC).

Why is a Neighbourhood Plan Needed?

- 2 Hough on the Hill Parish Council believes that whilst the rural character of the area and its three settlements of Gelston, Brandon and Hough on the Hill is unlikely to substantially change over the next ten to fifteen years, development and land use challenges are still evident in many planning applications coming through. Clear, locally formulated policies about the type, scale and design of any development will help everyone to have greater certainty about what is acceptable and appropriate here. There are also particular features of the Parish’s distinctive landscape, historic fabric and rural character setting which require attention to ensure that what we value is protected into the future. Having this Neighbourhood Plan helps to ensure that local people have a stronger influence over the way change and development takes place in coming years, and greater certainty that the features they value will be protected and, where possible, enhanced.

How was this Plan Prepared?

- 3 The work of developing the original Plan was undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Project Team (NPPT) established by the Parish Council. This group comprised:
 - 2 Parish Councillors
 - up to 6 local residents.
- 4 Following community consultations, an independent examination and a local referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan was formally “made” (adopted) by the Local Planning Authority, South Kesteven District Council, on 3rd July 2015. Details about the process and the membership of the NPPT, including its Terms of Reference, have been provided in the ‘Statement of Consultation’, published separately alongside the Neighbourhood Plan itself.
- 5 Since the original preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan:
 - in January 2020, South Kesteven District Council adopted the current Local Plan, covering the period 2011 to 2036;
 - a review of the South Kesteven Local Plan has commenced (and is on-going); and
 - the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been revised / amended several times, most recently in December 2024.

¹ To the extent that development plan policies are material to an application for planning permission the decision must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise (see [section 70\(2\) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) and [section 38\(6\) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) – these provisions also apply to appeals).

6 Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed in the light of those and other changes that have occurred since it was first prepared and made, and a number of modifications have been made to bring it up to date. The modifications, which do not materially affect the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, consist of:

- changes to the phrasing of some policies, to make them more clear;
- updating of references to higher-tier planning policy documents, where necessary, to ensure that they are correct and consistent with changes that have been made to those documents;
- updating of demographic information, where relevant, to reflect the findings of the 2021 Census;
- some text clarifications and factual correction of a few errors.

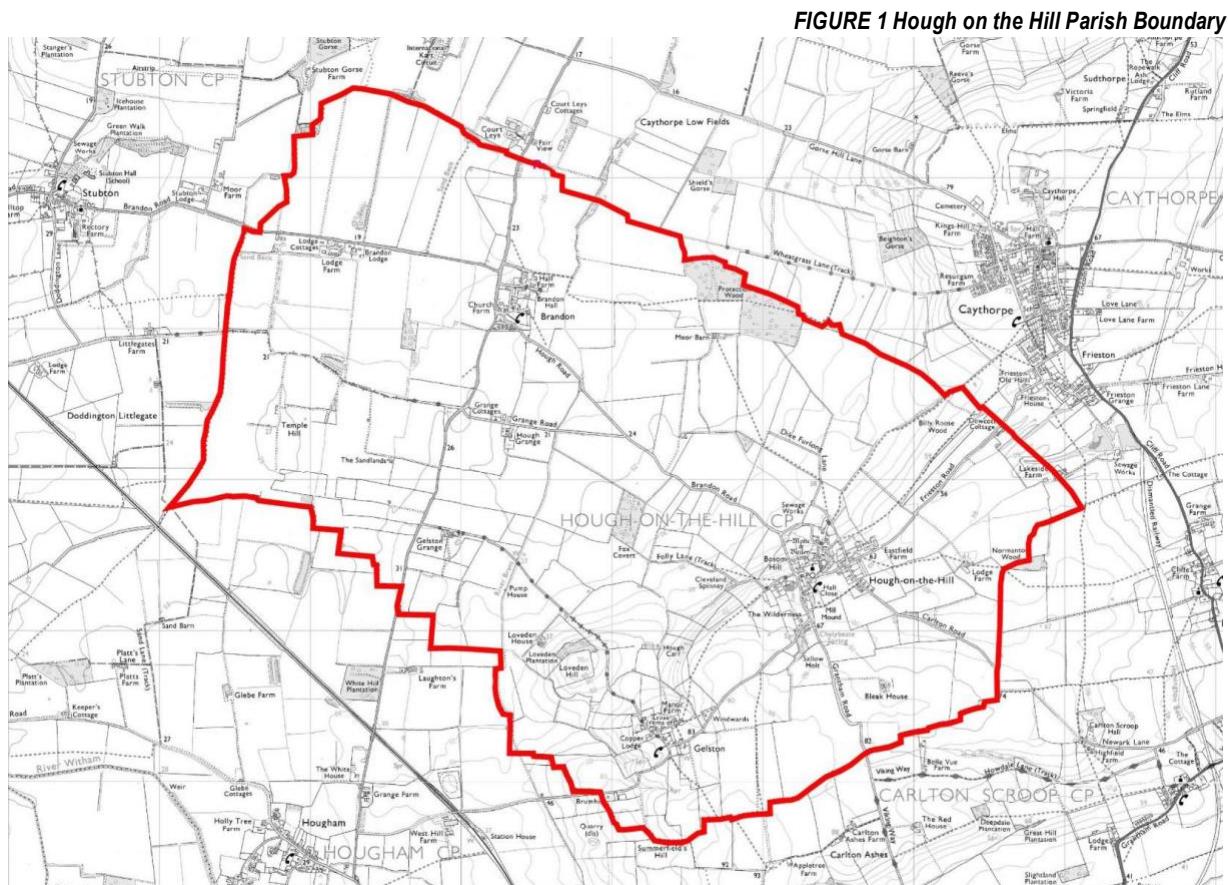
NOTE: All changes are indicated in red text (with deletions ~~crossed through~~).

7 Work involved in both the original preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and its review and modification, has made use of grant funding from the Government's scheme of assistance to communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. This money was used to obtain professional advice, undertake consultation, prepare publicity and produce the final Plan documents (in some cases expenditure was shared with Stubton Parish who are also preparing a Neighbourhood Plan) and now the modified version. However, most of the work involved was undertaken by a small group of volunteers who have contributed a great deal of their own time, thought and effort. Free professional advice was also provided through the Government's scheme of assistance to communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, and this has been invaluable in ensuring compliance with the statutory processes involved.

2 ABOUT THE AREA AND ITS PEOPLE

The Plan Area

- 8 Hough on the Hill Parish is located within Lincolnshire, approximately 7 miles north of Grantham, 12 miles east of Newark on Trent, and 18 miles south of Lincoln. It was formally designated as a 'Neighbourhood Area' by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) in February 2013. The map below indicates the boundary:



- 9 Hough on the Hill Parish is rural in character and contains three main settlements - Gelston, Brandon and Hough on Hill itself – as well as scattered farms. The population at the 2021 Census was approximately 450 persons (up from 400 in 2011). Overall, the area's primary economic function is agricultural with some associated recreation and tourism. Analysis of residents' occupations, as declared in the 2021 Census, shows a higher proportion of "managers, directors and senior officials" than in the District as a whole, and a lower proportion of people employed in services, care and manual work.
- 10 The sections below briefly outline relevant information about the area.

History and Heritage

- 11 The earliest sign of habitation in the Parish is extensive crop marks around Temple Hill, dating, dating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Evidence of a Roman villa was also found near Hough. During the Anglo-Saxon period Loveden Hill was an important burial site, and probably the meeting place for the Loveden Wapentake (Hundred).
- 12 Hough, Gelston and Brandon were all established villages by the Anglo-Saxon era and are listed (*Hache, Cheuelestune and Brandune*) in the 1086 Domesday Book.
- 13 Little documentary evidence then exists until the early 19th century. By this time nearly all the fields had already been enclosed and much of the land was farmed by tenants of a few large landowners, principally Lord Brownlow (of Belton House). The farms were a mixture of arable and pastoral, with the latter being mainly sheep. The population was similar to that recorded in the Domesday Book (and similar to today). In 1850 there were several farms in the villages (also a similar size to today), plus several outlying farms.
- 14 The population seemed to peak in the 1860s, before continuing industrialisation and an agricultural slump drew people towards towns and cities. By the end of the 19th century the population had shrunk by nearly a quarter and many of the men were employed in the ironstone quarries to the east and south of Hough.
- 15 By the 1950s there were more cattle than sheep and a dairy was built on Stubton Road. In the late 20th century dairy farming became uneconomic and the land is now mainly arable. Some of the smaller, isolated farm buildings have been demolished. Although some fields have been merged to aid mechanisation, most of the post-enclosure hedgerows remain.
- 16 Property in the village of Hough on the Hill itself was predominantly owned by the Brownlow family (Belton House) during the 19th and 20th centuries, with many of the houses built in a typical 'Brownlow' estate style creating a unified appearance across the village. The Brownlow estate was sold in the 1970s. Most of the village is now a Conservation Area in recognition of its picturesque quality, distinctive architectural style, archaeological significance, topography and striking, far-reaching views out over the Trent and Belvoir Vales. The Conservation Area contains 8 listed buildings and was most recently reviewed by South Kesteven District Council in 2014. The review process included consultation with all householders within the original and proposed Conservation Area boundaries, and resulted in extension of the boundary to include two additional houses on Frieston Road, and three "ridge and furrow" fields. The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan forms part of the Evidence Base for this Plan.
- 17 The Parish Church of All Saints at Hough on the Hill (Grade I listed) dates from the 11th century and has a distinctive Saxon circular tower. A nearby Augustinian priory was founded in 1164 but only earthworks remain. Brandon has an Early English 'Chapel of Ease' and a Wesleyan Chapel in Gelston was in use from 1839 to 1958. Some of the main farming families around Brandon were Quakers and held meetings at Brandon Lodge, as well as supporting the Meeting House at Brant Broughton.

- 18 As well as a large number of listed buildings – such as Brandon Old Hall c1500 – the Parish has a motte and bailey at Hough on the Hill (known as Castle Hill) and a 15th century cross on Gelston green (both of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments).

Local Character, Landscape and Environment

- 19 Each of the three separate and distinct settlements within the Parish enjoys a unique sense of place derived from the landscape and built environment. Hough on the Hill and Gelston are perched on the ridge overlooking the vale to the west and uplands to the east, and both benefit from extensive panoramic views across the Trent Valley. In addition to the numerous church towers and spires visible in the landscape a number of historic buildings can be seen including Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Newark Castle and Southwell Minster. There are very few modern man-made structures visible: these include Staythorpe Power station near Newark, Cottam Power Station (some 25 miles away) along the River Trent, the Recycling Station at Lincoln and the sugar factory in Newark.
- 20 By contrast Brandon is located in a pivotal position in the vale itself. These lower contours enable uninterrupted views of the full curvature of the escarpment and flatlands. This allows sight lines to historic churches both inside and outside the Parish, noticeable through their towers and spires which pierce the skyline.
- 21 In sporadic locations there are well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks, providing a link with the past. The many walkways which criss-cross the contours of the varied landscape provide their own special experience enhanced by dramatic sunsets. Changing seasons and colours add to the attraction of the views.
- 22 The road networks and pathways are quintessentially rural in character, particularly the elevated routes which meander between the villages. All thoroughfares are narrow and only suitable for light traffic. These quiet country lanes allow for unencumbered enjoyment of the countryside where tranquillity and nature can be appreciated.
- 23 The built environments of the villages have a nucleated pattern. The architectural style is fairly consistent, employing a traditional palette of materials across most buildings. Stone and red brick walling is common along with slate and pantiled roofs. The more historic buildings feature dressed stone detailing. Brandon in particular is small in scale and many of the buildings are dormer style including single storey barn conversions in places. Conversely, Hough on the Hill has more structures with a three-storey configuration. Gelston creates its own distinctiveness by virtue of predominantly 1½ and 2 storey buildings nestled around the village green. The building materials are more varied in this settlement with the introduction of rendered walls in places.
- 24 Taking the Parish as a whole it has the advantage of a varied topographical landscape which has remained relatively unchanged over time. The built environment works in harmony with the terrain and boasts a long history dating back to the Saxon period and beyond.
- 25 In response to residents' views regarding the importance of the landscape to their enjoyment of life in the Parish, in 2013 the Parish Council commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment

study. The resulting report forms a key part of the evidence underpinning this Plan (and is presented in full at Appendix 1). The study identifies four key character areas across the Parish:

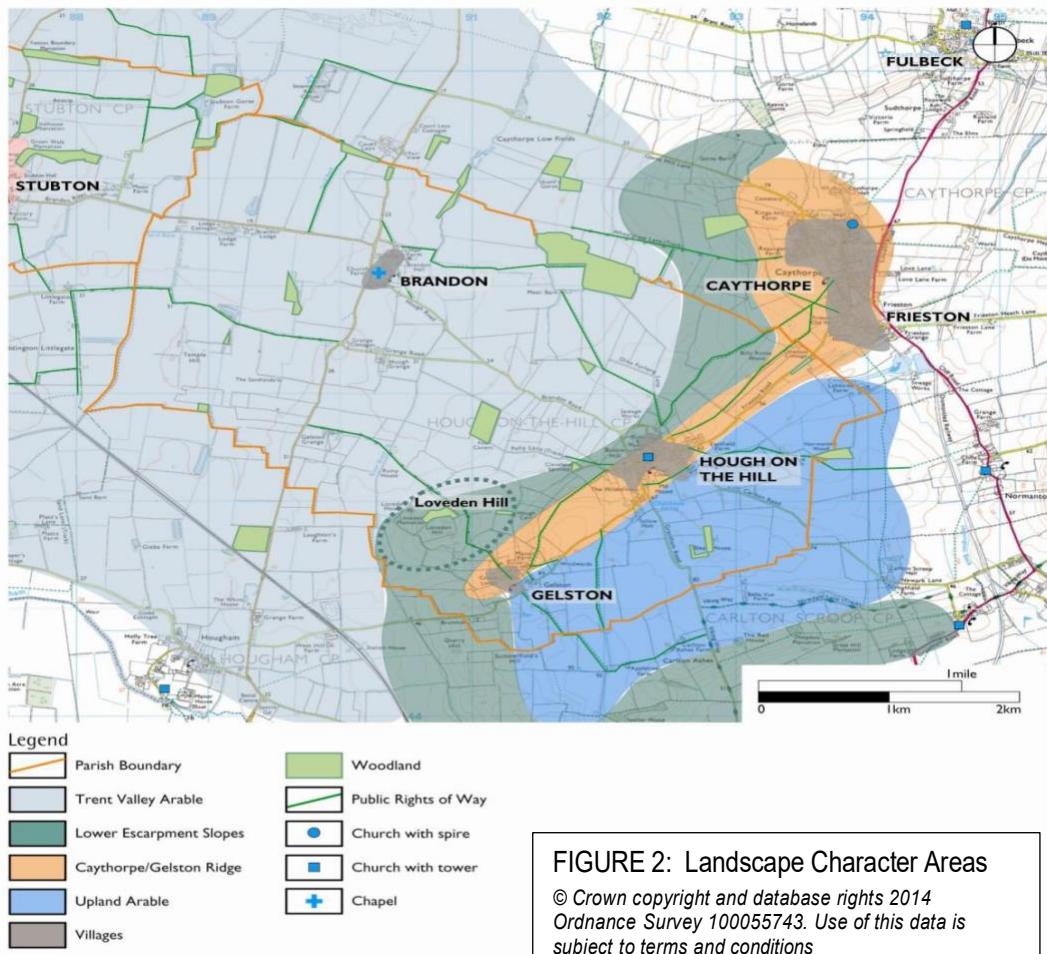
Trent Valley Arable - This is the dominant landscape character within the wider area and its boundaries extend well beyond the Parish. The characteristics are in keeping with the broader landscape character area of the Trent and Belvoir Vales. It includes the village of Brandon as well as a number of farms.

Lower Escarpment Slopes - This area comprises the undulating slopes of the limestone escarpment which runs through the Parish. With the highest area to the east, the slopes within the study area are generally north-west facing. The land use is generally pasture with some arable fields on the more gently sloping areas. The northern part of Hough on the Hill sits within the character area and includes the pasture to the south of Lower Road and some houses and farm buildings on the edge of the village. Loveden Hill also sits within this character area and comprises a distinct hill with an area of woodland to the north.

Caythorpe Gelston Ridge - This area forms a narrow strip between the two adjacent character areas but is distinct in that it forms a ridge, affording 360-degree views from many locations. The area includes the village of Hough on the Hill, Gelston and Frieston/Caythorpe (outside the Parish).

Upland Arable - This area lies to the south and east of Parish and comprises arable fields on a plateau between the two faces of the escarpment. Views to the east are towards the upper escarpment slope.

Farming & Wildlife Conservation



- 26 Farming, as the predominant economic activity, plays a significant role in both shaping and preserving our landscape. The Parish is perhaps fortunate that one resident family of farmers owns and manages some 70% of the land (including over 30 miles of hedges and 8 miles of dykes), which they have done for generations. The considerable care they, and other farmers, take in their stewardship role is of great value locally. During the last four decades at least 10 copse and spinneys have been planted, the Protection and Foxcovert woods have been partially felled and extensive replanting schemes implemented. On an annual basis between 1000 and 1500 hedging plants of varying species are planted to maintain and improve the existing hedges.
- 27 There has also been success in efforts to increase the number and diversity of birds and mammals that are resident or visitors to the Parish, by encouraging lapwings for example. Over the last five years all of the Barn Owls that have been reared in the owl boxes have been tagged, with a total of 48 Barn Owl chicks tagged to date.

Housing

- 28 The 2021 Census data records a total of 180 dwellings in the Parish (up from 167 in 2011), all of which are detached, semi-detached or terraced houses or bungalows. The SKDC Housing Register records a total of 20 affordable housing units (10 in Hough on the Hill, 2 in Gelston and 8 in Brandon). Information provided by South Kesteven District Council indicates that no further affordable housing has been built in the Parish since the Neighbourhood Plan was originally made. A detailed housing needs assessment is not currently available for the Parish, but the Housing Register records 5 persons with a local connection seeking 2-bedroom accommodation. In September 2024, South Kesteven District Council's records indicated a further 20 people on the Housing Register who would like to be housed. In Hough on the Hill but do not live in, or have a local connection with the area.

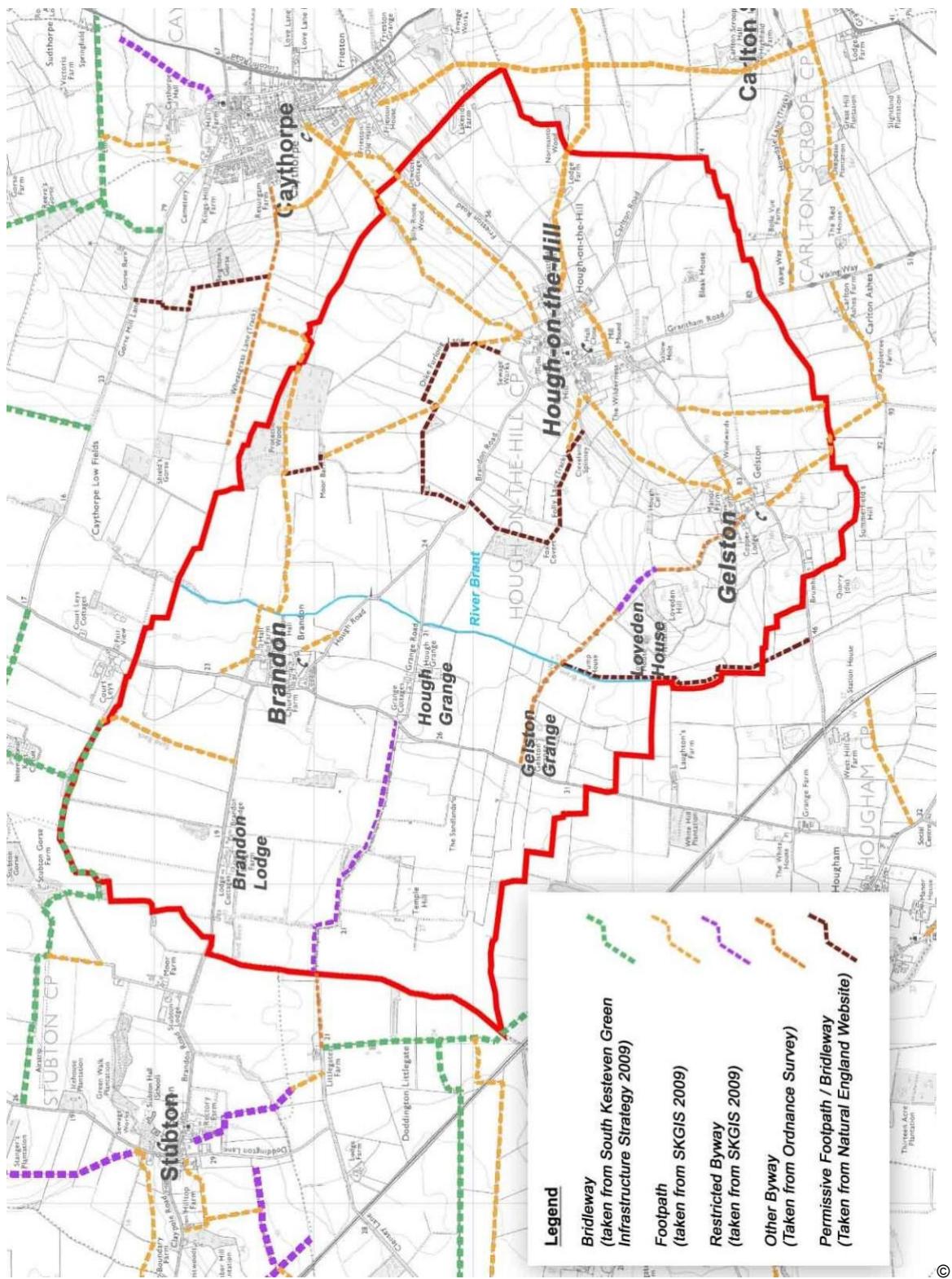
Economy

- 29 The predominant economic activity within the Parish is agriculture. There are several working farms, mainly arable crop production, and with sheep and a few cattle. There are also areas used for raising, and shooting, pheasants. Other local businesses include the Brownlow Arms, the Paddocks Riding Centre and Johnson Packaging (manufacture and supply).
- 30 Of the 350 persons aged between 15-74 years in the 2011 2021 Census, 65% are classified as economically active and in employment, with 2.1% unemployed. Of those aged 16 and over, and in employment, 69.8% are classified as working fulltime, 30.2% part-time. 10.9% of the population are over 70 years of age.
- 31 At the time the Neighbourhood Plan was originally prepared, it was assumed that most of the working population travelled outside of the Parish to their place of work, although commuting patterns were not known. The number of persons working from home was also not known. The 2021 Census showed that 28% of those aged 16 and over and in employment travelled 10 kilometres or further to work, with 11.8% travelling less than 10 kilometres, and 43.15% working from home. It should be noted, however, that the 2021 Census results were affected by the Covid pandemic restrictions.

Transport and Movement

- 32 The road network in the neighbourhood is rural in character. The lanes are narrow and many have a sinuous pattern. They are all Minor "C" road classification. The main vehicular routes are beyond the neighbourhood and consist of the A1, A17 and A607.
- 33 Data obtained from the Department of Transport (2010 traffic flow data) confirms that the usage is low, fairly typical of most villages sited in the countryside. Perhaps the greatest traffic movements are present on the C001 Stragglethorpe Road which cuts through the Parish linking the A17 to the A1. However, the traffic recordings are only 7.5% of a typical A road in the region. The accident rates for Stragglethorpe Road (the C001) in comparison to the A17 are considerably higher (some 4-6 times more likely).
- 34 There are many public rights of way in the form of footpaths, country lanes, bridleways and byways. Many lead to and from Hough on the Hill. When considered with the archaeology and place names, it is clear that Hough on the Hill historically was a significant location. The round-top Loveden Hill which is associated with the ancient Loveden Wapentake also forms a prominent feature in the landscape.
- 35 There is no regular public transport in the neighbourhood. However, bus stops are located in the nearby villages of Caythorpe, Stubton, Marston and Hougham. This means that the majority of the community are reliant on motor vehicles or the Call Connect mini bus service. Some residents commute via the East Coast Mainline with stations at Grantham and Newark Northgate as well as using cross country trains to Nottingham and Leicester from Grantham.
- 36 A portion of the population own cycles for either recreation purposes or as a means of transport. The National Byway for cyclists runs through the villages of Hough on the Hill and Brandon. Gelston and Hough on the Hill are also located along the Hougham Village Cycle Route, a circular leisure cycling route.
- 37 Horse riding is also popular, and there are several riding businesses operating within the Parish.
- 38 A plan showing the extent of the designated footpaths and roads in the neighbourhood is illustrated in the figure overleaf.

NOTE: It should be noted that there are also a number of 'Permissive Paths' operational within the Parish where local farmers and landowners currently allow public access and for which they have been receiving government funding. This funding arrangement is now ending, and future funding arrangements are unclear. It is therefore possible that public access may cease to be allowed on some of these popular and well-used paths and bridleways. In particular, the permissive footpath



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FIGURE 4: Roads, Footpaths and Byways

- Notes:**
1. The designation of the 'Restricted Byway' shown above is taken from a SKDC source; however, it is understood this track is a 'Byway Open to All Traffic'
 2. The permissive access to the footpath indicated (by the brown, dashed line) as forming a loop to the east of Hough on the Hill village is understood to have ceased.

Flood Risk, Water Quality and Geology

- 39 Although the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary falls within Flood Zone 1, there are some regions of Flood Zone 2 and 3 present. The extent of this risk is shown by the associated Flood Zones. The Environment Agency advises that a sequential approach should be taken, avoiding development within the floodplain and steering new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. There are also areas identified as being at risk of surface water flooding, most particularly around the Brandon area: surface water flooding is the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council, as the LLFA. The Environment Agency manages the risk from watercourses designated as a main river under their permissive powers. There are no watercourses designated as a main river within the parish boundary. Watercourses within the parish boundary are therefore likely to be managed by either Lincolnshire County Council or the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board. These authorities are responsible for byelaws which need to be respected when considering any form of development.²
- 40 Hough on the Hill drains into the River Brant catchment, with the village being served by a small Anglian Water Sewage Treatment Works. The Upper Brant is failing good status due to elevated levels of phosphate. The lower River Brant is also at poor ecological status.
- 41 The Parish is predominantly underlain by the geology of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, which is of low environmental sensitivity with regard to groundwater. However, the western part of the Parish is underlain by the Highfield Farm Limestone bed, which is classified as a secondary A aquifer, whilst the Charmouth Mudstone is interbedded with some more permeable layers of Brandon Sandstone and Marstone Rock, which are also secondary A aquifers. There are no Source Protection Zones within the Parish. There are also no current or historic landfill sites within the Parish.

Facilities, Services and Community Organisations

- 42 There are very few facilities and limited services available within the Parish. The majority of properties (and all properties within Brandon and Gelston) are not on mains drainage and none has mains gas. Water supply at Gelston relies on a pump (run by Anglian Water) to maintain supply. The main electricity supply to the villages is through low-level, medium-voltage cables and transformers. There are frequent interruptions of supply in strong winds and high consumption periods, suggesting that provision is operating at or near to capacity.
- 43 Broadband speeds have increased significantly since the Neighbourhood Plan was originally made. With implementation of the Lincolnshire 'Superfast Broadband' project, it is estimated that almost 98% of properties are currently (March 2025) able to receive superfast (above 30Mb/s) and further improvements are planned under the Government's 'Project Gigabit', which aims to achieve full gigabit coverage nationally by 2030 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme>.
- 44 The only licensed premises in the Parish, the Brownlow Arms in Hough on the Hill, is the last remaining service since the adjacent shop and post office closed and the closure of the village

² All development is subject to SKDC Local Development Plan policies relating to flooding and treatment of surface water

school. Brandon and Gelston were once served by cottage 'stores' and mobile suppliers, but these are long gone. The nearest shops are available at Caythorpe and Claypole, outside the Parish, as are several primary schools in larger villages (eg at Caythorpe, Marston, Barkston) and a GP Surgery, with Pharmacy, also at Caythorpe. Hospital services, including a 24-hour Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC), are available at Grantham. The nearest Public Library is at Grantham (and the Mobile Library service currently visits Gelston once a month).

- 45 The Parish Council owns the Playing Field in Hough on the Hill, and manages a small, enclosed playground there with swings and other play equipment. The Parish Council also owns a small area of land in Brandon where there used to be a village hall (destroyed by fire).
- 46 The Church of All Saints in Hough on the Hill offers regular worship, and some services are also held at the Chapel in Brandon.
- 47 There is a local Parish charity, the Hough on the Hill Relief in Need Charity, which derives rental income from its ownership of two local fields. Monies are distributed annually to assist the elderly and people with disabilities.
- 48 The community organisation of longest standing in the Parish is the Hough History Society. Formed in 1984 to preserve, promote and record the local history of the Parish, the Society has accumulated an extensive archive of photographs, news cuttings, old maps, census records and other material providing a rich picture of local historical life.
- 49 In 2000, the Parochial Church Council began to explore ideas for converting parts of All Saints Church in Hough on the Hill to create more accessible and useable space for community access. The Parish has no community centre and the closure of facilities such as the village school meant there were few opportunities for residents to get together socially or hold community activities and events. Successful fundraising provided resources for the completion of Phase One works in 2012, opening up the rear of the nave to create a 75sq metres clear space and constructing an accessible toilet and new servery facilities. The new community space is now used for Parish Council meetings and other events / gatherings.
- 50 A 'Riding for the Disabled' charity is based at the Paddocks Riding Centre.

3 LOCAL CONSULTATION TO FORMULATE THE PLAN

How Have Local People been Involved in Preparing the Plan?

- 51 Local residents, landowners and businesses within the Parish have been consulted on their views throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Full details of all the activities undertaken are contained within the separate 'Statement of Consultation' submitted alongside this Plan. The main findings, and the key issues identified, are summarised as follows.

Initial Consultation (June 2013)

- 52 At the start of the process for compiling a Neighbourhood Plan every household and business premises in the Parish was sent a questionnaire (in June 2013) asking for initial views. A total of 28 questionnaires was returned which, whilst a small percentage of the population, provided a helpful steer on some of the main issues, as summarised below:

a) Landscape and Local Character

It was clear that people's main focus was on the importance of the landscape, its tranquillity and unspoilt character.

b) Housing and New Development

It was clear that those who responded did not want any change to the size of the villages, or to their look or feel. There was support for heritage and conservation measures, and for tighter controls of new build and conversion designs. Concern about wind farm development featured highly, and also dislike of motorsport noise, and generally people indicated that they did not want any large, industrial or noisy developments.

c) Road Safety

There were quite a few comments relating to roads and transport. The physical condition of the roads and road safety issues in particular figure quite highly, along with concerns about through traffic and speeds.

d) Facilities

There were several responses relating to community facilities, especially sports provision.

e) Other Issues

The most consistently raised issue was the need for improved Broadband provision.

Issues Consultation (January 2014)

- 53 In January 2014 a four-sided leaflet was delivered to every business and household in the Parish providing an overview of the emerging issues and identifying areas of concern about which further opinions and views were sought. The leaflet contained a Questionnaire, and also advertised a Consultation Workshop open to all to attend. The Workshop took place on 25th January 2014 in All Saints Church, Hough on the Hill and was attended by 33 residents (including some of the local landowning farmers).
- 54 The table below summarises both the Questionnaire and Workshop outcomes and shows an emerging consensus on most issues apart from new housing development where opinion was

almost equally divided. There was also less consensus on two other issues: whether the Parish should create a '**local list**' of positive buildings and structures in the villages; and whether the Parish should be doing more to promote small-scale **renewable energy**. Both of these issues achieved approximately two-thirds support in the Questionnaire responses, with one third opposing.

Issue	Commentary
1 Design Guidanc e	Almost universal support for this from the Questionnaire responses (33 in favour and only 2 against). From the Workshop discussions, people would seem to favour a positive approach rather than just listing what's not permitted, and an approach that does not rule out modern design. Hedgerows were also raised as important at the Workshop.
2 Valued unlisted structur es	Majority support for this proposal in the Questionnaire responses, although quite a few against it (20 in favour and 10 against). Much of what people have suggested is in fact already listed, or identified within the SKDC Conservation Area 2014 Draft Review.
3 Recreati onal hard- surface facilitie s on the Playing Field	Majority support for this proposal in the Questionnaire responses (23 in favour and 6 against) However, one of the discussion groups at the Workshop were not supportive of the proposal. Some people didn't support it because they felt it wouldn't be used, or they wouldn't themselves use it. Suggestions for other areas for recreational facilities not put forward.
4 Improved Access to the Country side	Very strongly supported by the majority of respondents to the Questionnaire (30 in favour and 3 against) and the issue featured strongly in the Workshop discussions with widespread support. However, the challenges currently faced by our local farmers because of walkers and others not adhering to footpaths was also raised. Improved signage was suggested as a helpful approach for walkers and farmers alike. Several people have also strongly objected to the current status of the Loveden Hill track (which is a Byway Open to All Traffic), asking if this could be changed so that it is open to walkers and horse riders only.
5 Local Green Space	Almost universal support for the designation of Loveden Hill as a Local Green Space in the Questionnaire responses (32 in favour and 2 against). Several other areas also suggested, including: - the old Priory field in Hough on the Hill - the Wilderness in Hough on the Hill - Bosom Hill - Fox Wood - old quarry workings to the east of Hough - Brandon village green adjacent to the church - Protection Wood
6 Affordabl e Housing Develop ment	Views on this issue are almost evenly divided (16 in favour and 17 against). Most of the people who support the provision of more affordable housing do so because they want a balanced community. Those against do not believe the villages are appropriate locations because of lack of public transport and other facilities. (NB it is apparent that the term 'affordable' was not fully explained, and some people think it means lowcost homes for sale.) One of the discussion groups did favour allowing one or two owner occupier starter houses to be built, affordable to young couples, in each of the villages. Inevitably some people also raised previous planning applications they have made for development that have been refused.
7 Renewabl e Energy Provisio n	There is majority support in the Questionnaire returns for small-scale renewables, but only if they are not visually intrusive (21 in favour and 12 against). Some people also remain opposed to energy schemes that are unviable without subsidy. Community-energy schemes were seen as favourable at the Workshop and at the Workshop it was commented that the need for farmers to be 'carbon neutral suppliers' means they are finding it necessary to install renewable energy in the form of solar panels and turbines to meet this demand.
8 Roads & Transport	Quite a lot of support at the Workshop for trying to get speed limits (and weight limits) down on the COO1, or some more electronic warning signs. Also support for continuing to do press for action on potholes and verges – but absolutely no support for road widening. There is some support for the creation of passing lanes on verges.

- 55 In 2022 the Parish Council decided to update the Neighbourhood Plan and undertook a door-to-door Residents Survey to ascertain views and opinions and establish whether the objectives of the original Plan were still in line with residents' wishes. A total of 113 responses were received (over half of all households), and 111 of these indicated continuing support for the Plan's objectives (which therefore remain unchanged in these modifications).
- 56 Consultation on proposed modifications, largely to bring the Plan up to date, was carried out during July and August 2024.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

- 57 The aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan have been formulated in response to the consultation findings as summarised above, flowing directly from the key issues and concerns identified:

The Aim of the Plan:

- 58 The primary purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan will be to set out a vision for the evolution and longterm sustainability of the Parish's historic and built environment, protecting its rural landscape character and guiding appropriate and sensitive future development.

Objectives:

- Promoting sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting of the Parish
- Prioritising local distinctiveness in every element of change and growth
- Protecting jobs, supporting sustainable economic development and local businesses
- Protecting greenspace, and supporting nature conservation and biodiversity
- Encouraging energy efficiency and, where appropriate, energy production from renewable and low carbon sources
- Improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy
- Seeking improvements to transport, utility infrastructure and digital connectivity
- Involving local people
- in an ongoing process of plan-making, monitoring and delivery

The Plan covers the time period to 2036.

- 59 Taking the core issues arising from consultation, and including the findings and recommendations of the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment, the Neighbourhood Plan focuses on the following approaches:

- The rural setting and landscape character of the Parish will be sustained and enhanced through policies designed to protect views and key features, promoting economic and recreational value and protecting heritage and conservation.
- Design guidance will promote sensitive change and enhancement to existing buildings and inform appropriate small-scale development on brownfield sites.
- The importance of Loveden Hill, both historically and as a key feature in the landscape, will be highlighted and protected through its designation as a Local Green Space.
- New leisure and recreational facilities will be supported for appropriate locations.
- Local renewable/low carbon energy schemes and community-led initiatives to generate energy, save energy and/or reduce energy costs will be encouraged, providing there is no visual intrusion into the area's historic or landscape character.

4 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Hough on the Hill Village

- 60 Hough on the Hill is the largest of the three villages within the Parish and is located on the top of the escarpment and in part on its northwest facing slopes. A number of lanes radiate out connecting it to the surrounding villages. The village area is characterised by an irregular plan form and a low density of development. The buildings are located principally along Lower Road, High Road, Carlton Road and the east side of Grantham Road; their informal layout interspersed with areas of open space and grassed verges are significant features which contribute to the picturesque quality of the village. As previously noted, most of the village area is included within a Conservation Area (originally designated in 1980) which contains 8 listed buildings, and 29 records in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The Conservation Area was reviewed by SKDC in 2014, and parts of the following narrative are taken from the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan produced as part of that review.



Church of All Saints (Grade I) together with the Motte and Bailey (Castle Hill, a Scheduled Ancient Monument) form areas of visual dominance and high heritage significance. The Church is located within a spacious graveyard with yews and other mature trees framing views.

- 61 Trees and hedgerows frame key views or form the backdrop to views within and beyond the Conservation Area. The trees lie mainly within private land and gardens but also include the tree belts on the valley slopes and ridge tops which form the backdrop to views beyond the Conservation Area. Boundary walls and hedges are important features which link buildings and maintain the continuity of the building line along the streets.
- 62 **Lower Road** has a gently curving alignment and a dramatic change in topography as it descends into the valley. It has a low density of development of mainly detached buildings. It has a fragmented character at its southern end as the west side consists of both traditional and modern buildings with mixed or no boundary treatments. As the road descends into the valley the character becomes more cohesive due to the presence of boundary walls. The traditional buildings on the east side are elevated above and separated from the highway by a steep grassed verge. The western end has a more rural character with an attractive group of buildings around Wayside Farm and open fields enclosed by hedgerows and trees which allow glimpses of the vale to the north and the church and vicarage to the south.
- 63 **Thompson's Lane** is a narrow lane extending northwards from Lower Road. It contains traditional and modern farm buildings and dwellings. There are glimpsed views southwards to Lower Road

and the church tower.

- 64 **New Hill** is a pleasant rural lane enclosed by hedgerows and mature trees which give way to stone boundary walls as the centre of the village is approached. The buildings on the east side can be glimpsed between the trees and, as the crest of the hill is approached, the Brownlow Arms, Hough House and buildings along Grantham Road and High Road emerge into view. There is an extensive sloping field to the West side, containing Ridge and Furrow, and known locally as 'Bosom Hill', an area popular for sledging in the winter.

Hough Manor (Grade II), together with its grounds at front and rear, and enclosing walls make a significant contribution to the Conservation Area.

- 65 **Folly Lane** extends westwards from the junction with New Hill, High Road and Grantham Road. It has a low density of development on its south side and is enclosed by the stone boundary wall to Hough Manor which partially obscures the buildings from view whilst the low hedgerows on the north side allow extensive views across the vale. The

church tower framed by the mature trees is visible in the eastern view.



- 66 **Grantham Road** has a low density of development located mainly on its eastern side, comprising detached buildings which are either set back or aligned to the rear of the narrow footway. The west is enclosed by a stone boundary wall with open fields and mature trees beyond with views of Hough Manor to the north. The small terrace of houses on the west side, to the north of the junction with Gelston Road, are set back from the highway with large front gardens enclosed by a stone boundary wall.

- 67 The western end of **High Street** comprises a large attractive square enclosed to the south by the Brownlow Arms and former Post Office, and to the north by Hough House and the former vicarage. The road narrows and descends sharply to the east and has an open character with the churchyard and castle mound on the north side (although the steep topography largely obscures them from view) and the generous grounds of Ashlea. The south side is an informal grouping of dwellings and fields (enhanced by recently completed laid-hedging).



- 68 **Carlton Road**, in contrast with the rest of the conservation area, has a regular plan form of pairs of semi-detached former estate cottages which stand within small gardens enclosed by boundary hedgerows.

Properties along Carlton Road, employ architectural detailing such as twisted chimneys and 'gothic' style window openings adding to the picturesque character of the Conservation Area.

- 69 The Conservation Area has a harmonious character derived from a common material palette and vernacular architectural style. The traditional buildings are constructed predominantly of red brick, coursed squared or rubble limestone or ironstone; some of the frontages have been rendered and colour washed. The predominant roof covering is clay pantiles or natural slate, although some have unfortunately been replaced with concrete interlocking tiles. Red brick chimneys are a prominent feature, some of which are decorative in style, particularly the twisted brick chimney stack to No. 20 Carlton Road.
- 70 There are some unusual architectural details which add to the picturesque quality of the Conservation Area. Some of the former estate cottages on Carlton Road have triangular dormer or circular windows; Wayside Farm, the Vicarage and Old School House have attractive fish scale tile roofs and the Old School also has Dutch gables. There are also examples of elegant 18th and 19th century door cases, including the former post office on High Road and Eastern House on Lower Road.
- 71 The post war buildings do not reflect the vernacular style of the traditional buildings, however the use of red brick or stone partially integrates them into the street scene and they do not detract from the overall character of the Conservation Area. Some traditional timber windows and doors have been replaced with uPVC to standard designs, which may be considered to detract from the appearance of individual buildings and from the overall character of the Conservation Area.
- 72 Whilst the Conservation Area affords a substantial level of protection to the built heritage of the village, this Plan considers that additional policies regarding design, use of materials and the protection of key views are warranted and are supported by public opinion. There are also a number of key features, structures and buildings which, whilst not listed, are considered of particular note for their heritage or visual amenity and some are mentioned as "Positive Unlisted Buildings" in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, 2014:

- Finger Post at top of New Hill Church
- Farm (and the Crew Yard at rear)
- The Old Vicarage
- The footpath cobbles on the path known locally as India Rubber Hill
- Bosom Hill
- Red telephone box
- North House (on Grantham Road)
- The Wilderness
- The Old Smithy (on Grantham Road) Red Barn (on New Hill)
- Millmound Cottage and Stableyard Village Pump
- Water Lane footpath
- Two wells on the High Road
- Church Lychgate and Noticeboard
- The Cottage (Lower Road) Beechers Farm
- Eastern House
- Thompson's Lane (general setting)
- Old Dairy (brick buildings), Thompson's Lane Wayside Farm



Cast iron fingerpost and cobbled surfacing are features of historic quality that should be retained

73 Listed Buildings in Hough on the Hill are:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Manor Farm House, Folly Lane..... | Grade II |
| • Manor House, Folly Lane..... | Grade II |
| • The Red House, Grantham Road | Grade II |
| • Brownlow Arms, High Road | Grade II |
| • The Post Office and attached house, High Road | Grade II |
| • Hough House, High Road | Grade II |
| • The Church of All Saints..... | Grade I |
| • The School and attached School House, High Road ... | Grade II |

74 The map on the next page shows the current boundary of the Conservation Area, the position of listed buildings and other important features, along with the key views both into and out from the village.

Augustinian Priory Site

75 The site of the old Augustinian Priory is another important open space within the village. It is a large field (used for grazing) showing extensive earthwork evidence of the original Priory, enhanced by informative Interpretation boards explaining the layout of the buildings on the site, and offering important views across to the Church and village centre.

Parish Playing Field

76 Hough on the Hill also contains the Parish's Playing Field. Apart from the small, fenced playground area operated by the Parish Council, there are no other specific facilities on this large grassed site at the present time which is therefore not extensively used. The Parish Council obtained funding for construction of a small Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

Hough-on-the-Hill Conservation Area

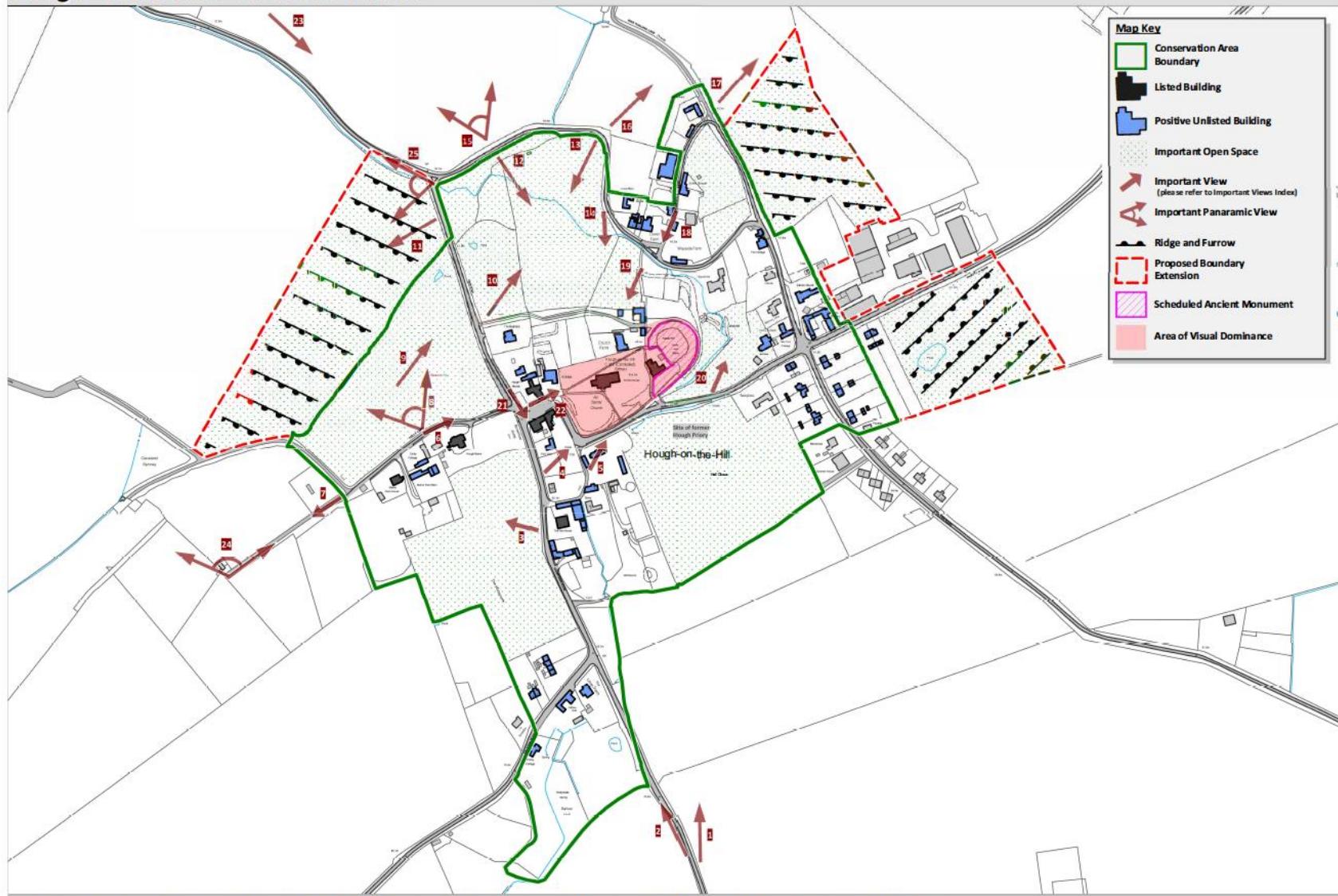


FIGURE 5: Conservation Area (2014)

Important Views Index

1. View towards All Saints Church and Tower.
2. View into conservation area along Grantham Road.
3. View across 'The Wilderness' towards Hough Manor.
4. View towards All Saints Church Tower between buildings on Grantham Road.
5. View towards All Saints Church and Tower between buildings on Water Lane.
6. View towards All Saints Church and Tower Folly Lane.
7. Views out of the conservation area towards Gelston and surrounding Countryside.
8. Panoramic views of Belvoir Vale including Lincoln Cathedral to the north.
9. View towards surrounding Countryside and St Vincent's Church.
10. View from Lower Road through and in between hedgerows across fields of the Belvoir Vale and surrounding Countryside.
11. Views towards ridge and furrow at Bosom Hill.
12. View of All Saints Church, Castle Hill and Church Farm from Lower Road.
13. View of All Saints Church, Castle Hill and Church Farm from Lower Road.
14. Glimpsed views through the trees and hedgerows towards All Saints Church, Castle Hill and Church Farm from Lower Road.
15. Panoramic views across Belvoir Vale.
16. Views across surrounding Countryside towards Caythorpe.
17. Views across surrounding Countryside towards Caythorpe.
18. Views towards All Saints Church, castle Hill and Church Farm from Lower Road.
19. Views towards Church Farm and outbuildings from public footpath.
20. Views from High Road across areas of open space and stream in a north easterly direction.
21. View towards The Brownlow Arms, High Road.
22. View towards All Saints Church and its Norman tower.

NB: The SKDC document above refers (point 22) to a 'Norman' tower at All Saints Church; however we understand that the tower is 11th century Anglo-Saxon, with a 15th century addition of the belfry.

Gelston Village

- 77 Gelston village enjoys an elevated position overlooking the historic Loveden Hill. The large, protected Village Green and historic 15th century limestone Cross at its centre provide a distinctive landscape feature. The dwellings in this location take advantage of this prime rural setting and the surrounding panoramic view. 19th century maps show the footprints of buildings that still remain in some form today. This settlement also has examples of the authentic courtyard farmstead arrangement that is evident elsewhere in the Parish.



Note: Images above show Gelston in 1889 (left) and post 2000 (right). Colours on 1889 map denote the following: brown: built prior to 1889 with evidence of remains today.

- 78 Loveden House situated to the northwest of Loveden Hill (beyond the extent of the map) was in existence in 1850 and is still evident today. The landscape surrounding Gelston has proved to be rich in archaeological remains. There are also remnants of the traditional ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 79 Views of Interest from/to Gelston:
- The view from Hough Road, before entering the village, through a field opening towards Loveden Hill and beyond
 - Entering Gelston on Hough Road there are far reaching views across the Trent valley with the finger post, red telephone box and an open field used for grazing in the foreground
 - This view opens out along the road into Gelston Green with a stone wall along the edge of the field.
 - A far-reaching view from the stone Cross on Gelston Green and from the refurbished pinfold incorporates Belvoir Castle, Newark and Southwell
 - The view back from Gelston Green to the Old Chapel set in fields used for grazing edged with stone walls and hedgerows creates a rural scene with Belvoir ridge in the background
 - The Byway to Loveden Hill, edged with hedgerows and wide verges, affords continuously changing views to Marston, Hough on the Hill and Caythorpe. This opens out at the top of Loveden Hill to magnificent views across as far as Derbyshire and around to Lincoln

Cathedral.

- The footpath along the ridge to Hough on the Hill across a mixture of grazing and arable fields has wide views of Loveden Hill, Hough Church and Caythorpe as well as vistas to Lincoln Cathedral.
- The plateau footpaths benefit from 360-degree views, because of the height and open nature of this arable area, from Carlton Ashes to Belvoir Castle, Newark, Brant Broughton Church and Lincoln Cathedral.

80 Listed Buildings in Gelston:

- Gelston Green, Grade II; 15th century Limestone Cross, Scheduled Ancient Monument.

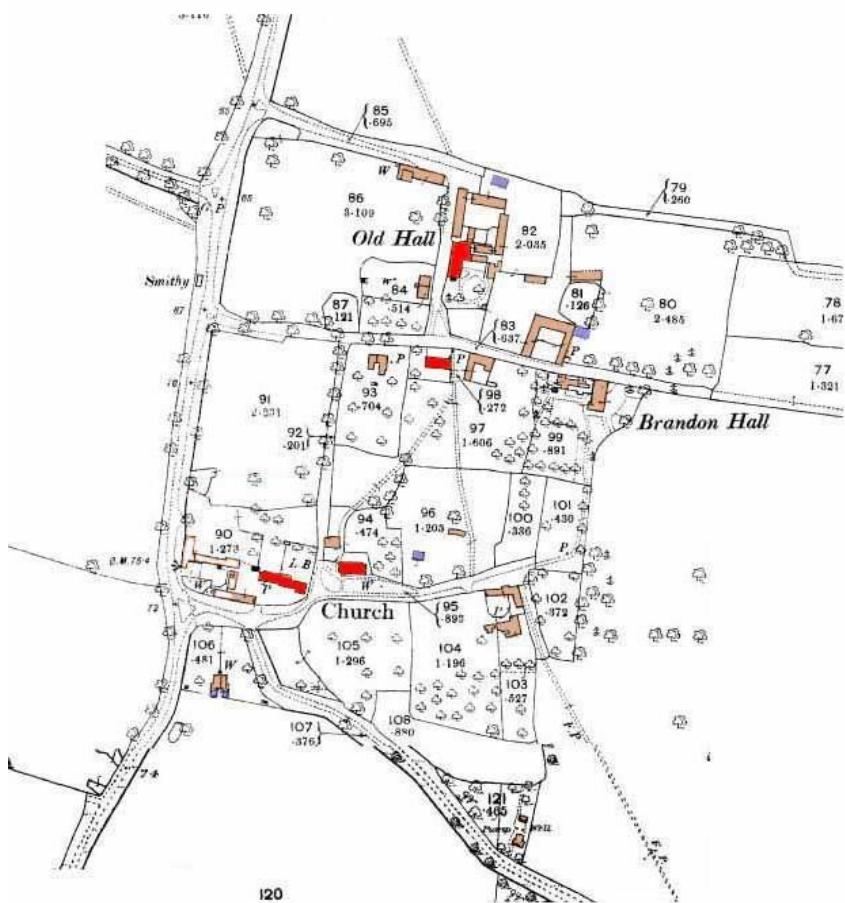
81 List of buildings and features of interest in the landscape (Gelston):

- The Old Chapel 1839
- Copper Lodge and Belvoir Cottage – (circa 18th century)
- The Long House
- The Row 1849 (included the old bakery)
- Fox's Farm
- Manor Farm
- Manor Barns
- White cottage
- Gelston House
- The Corner House
- 20 Gelston, ironstone cottage wall
- Pinfold – restored for the Millennium
- Finger Post
- Red Telephone Box
- Old ironstone walls adjacent Manor Farm and white cottage
- Walled garden at Birdsong bungalow
- Ridge and Furrow between 18 Gelston and Windwards
- Dew Pond and wild area adjacent footpath - Manor Farm

Loveden Hill

82 The historic Loveden Hill, which rises just to the northwest of Gelston, featured strongly in consultation responses to the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment. Local residents said that the hill plays a special role in our local landscape character, dominating views and providing significant heritage value. Enquiries have been made to Historic England regarding its potential inclusion as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, seeking both recognition and protection of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery it contains, and for the burial mound itself. However, previous excavations and ploughing activity within the area have damaged the archaeology, and it is not considered appropriate for listing in this way, although it is mentioned in the Historic Environment Record. (See Appendix 2 for fuller information in support of this Plan's proposal to seek designation of Loveden Hill as a 'Local Green Space'.)

Brandon Village



Note: Images above show Brandon in 1889 (left) and post 2000 (right). Colours on 1889 map denote the following: brown: built prior to 1889 with evidence of remains today; blue: built before 1905 red: denotes Listed Buildings built before 1889.

- 83 Many of the buildings that remain have been modified in some way to facilitate residential use. Brandon historically accommodates a number of wells which have been exposed in various locations. The 1889 map indicates a pump-house to the southeast corner of the village (Nightingale Cottage). This Victorian building is elaborately detailed and suggests that this location was once an important place for this natural resource.
 - 84 The village of Brandon is close to the River Brant and consists of largely small scale traditional historic buildings located around the Church to the south and Old Hall to the north. The village has a quintessential rural character with interesting lanes and grass verges. Often the orientation of buildings form strong edges and in many cases boundary treatments consist of masonry walls, trees and hedges with Lincolnshire post and rail fences. The spaces in between the buildings encompass large gardens and paddocks.
 - 85 Sections of the adjoining landscape towards Hough on the Hill contain fields of surviving ridge and furrow landform.
 - 86 Brandon village and the surrounding former farmsteads at Gelston Grange, Hough Grange and

Brandon Lodge conform to traditional 1850 courtyard plan arrangements as illustrated on the historic maps.

87 Interesting Features in the village (Brandon):



View of street adjacent The Old Hall Brandon, showing an example of stone walling, grass verges and soft edging to the street. The nearby land is also separated into small gardens or paddocks by fencing.



Photo shows arrangement of new buildings forming a natural vista into the landscape.



Photo shows the close relationship between St John's Chapel and Church Farmhouse enabling a green space within the village.



Photo shows Nightingale Cottage with elaborate Victorian detailing to the exterior.



View of original structures from 19th century either converted or extended and used as dwellings. Building on left has been extended to include a new first floor.



Photo of Brandon Hall, the only three storey building in Brandon indicating its historic importance and prominence within the village.



Former cottages converted into one single dwelling with evidence of extensions both to the rear and upwards to create a first floor. The side walls incorporate the original stone gable.

88 Like Hough on the Hill, Brandon contains a number of listed buildings:

1. Church Farm House, Church Lane.....Grade II
2. St John's Chapel, Church Lane.....Grade II*
3. Greystones, Hall Lane.....Grade II
4. Brandon Old Hall, Hall Road.....Grade II*
5. Wall around Brandon Old Hall,
garden and attached outbuildings.....Grade II

89 In addition, the following buildings and features of interest in the landscape are of particular note:
Red telephone box and surrounding landscape on Church Lane. Brandon Hall, Hall Lane

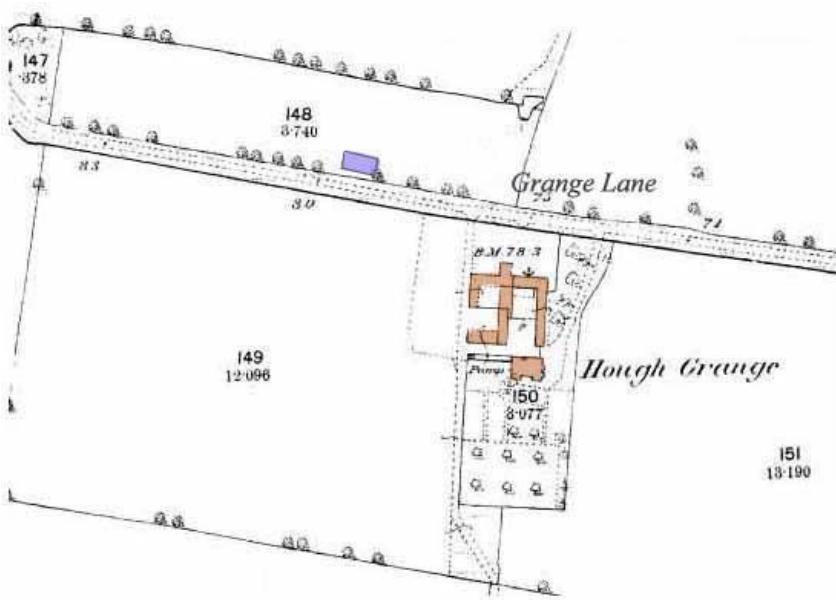
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- The Courtyard and Granary on Hall Lane Rowan Cottage, Hall Road
- Old Hall Barn, Hall Road (and detached dilapidated outbuilding to the north) Old Hall Cottage, Hall Road.
- Church Farm Cottage, Church Lane The Stables, Church Lane
- Church Lane Farmhouse, Church Lane Nightingale Cottage on Hough Road
- Twisted Chimneys (1844), Stragglethorpe Road
- Small narrow unstructured and varied country lanes within and beyond the village
-

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest (not Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings)

-

Hough Grange



Note: Images above show Hough Grange in 1889 (left) and post 2000 (right). Colours on 1889 map denote the following: brown: built prior to 1889, blue: built prior to 1950.

- 90 It is clear that the smallholding and farmhouse at Hough Grange is original and has historic and architectural interest; many of the barns have survived and are apparent today. During the early part of the 20th Century two cottages were constructed on the north side of Grange Lane, shown in blue. The style, brick detailing and sash windows confirm that these dwellings are of late Victorian/Edwardian origin.
- 91 Hough Grange was originally an historic farmstead located in the open countryside. The distinctive hamlet is now primarily a residential settlement.
- 92 Buildings of interest on Grange Lane:
- Barakiel Barn, Grange Cottage, Lower Barn, Grange Barn, and Hough Grange

Brandon Lodge



Note: Images above show Brandon Lodge in 1887 (top) and post 2000 (bottom). Colours on 1887 map denote the following: brown: built prior to 1887, blue: built circa 1950- 1956.

- 93 The above plans demonstrate that most of the original fabric and grouping of the buildings remain the same as shown on the 1887 plan.
- 94 Brandon Lodge is positioned on Stubton Road to the west of Brandon village. The former agricultural buildings and farmhouse are now in residential use. A dairy was constructed in the 1950s adjacent to Brandon Lodge. The building is still in existence today although no longer in use as a dairy.

95 List of buildings and features of interest:

- The Old Dairy and associated barns, Stubton Road
- Chestnut Court, Stubton Road
- Brownlaws Cottage and attached barns, Stubton Road

Gelston Grange



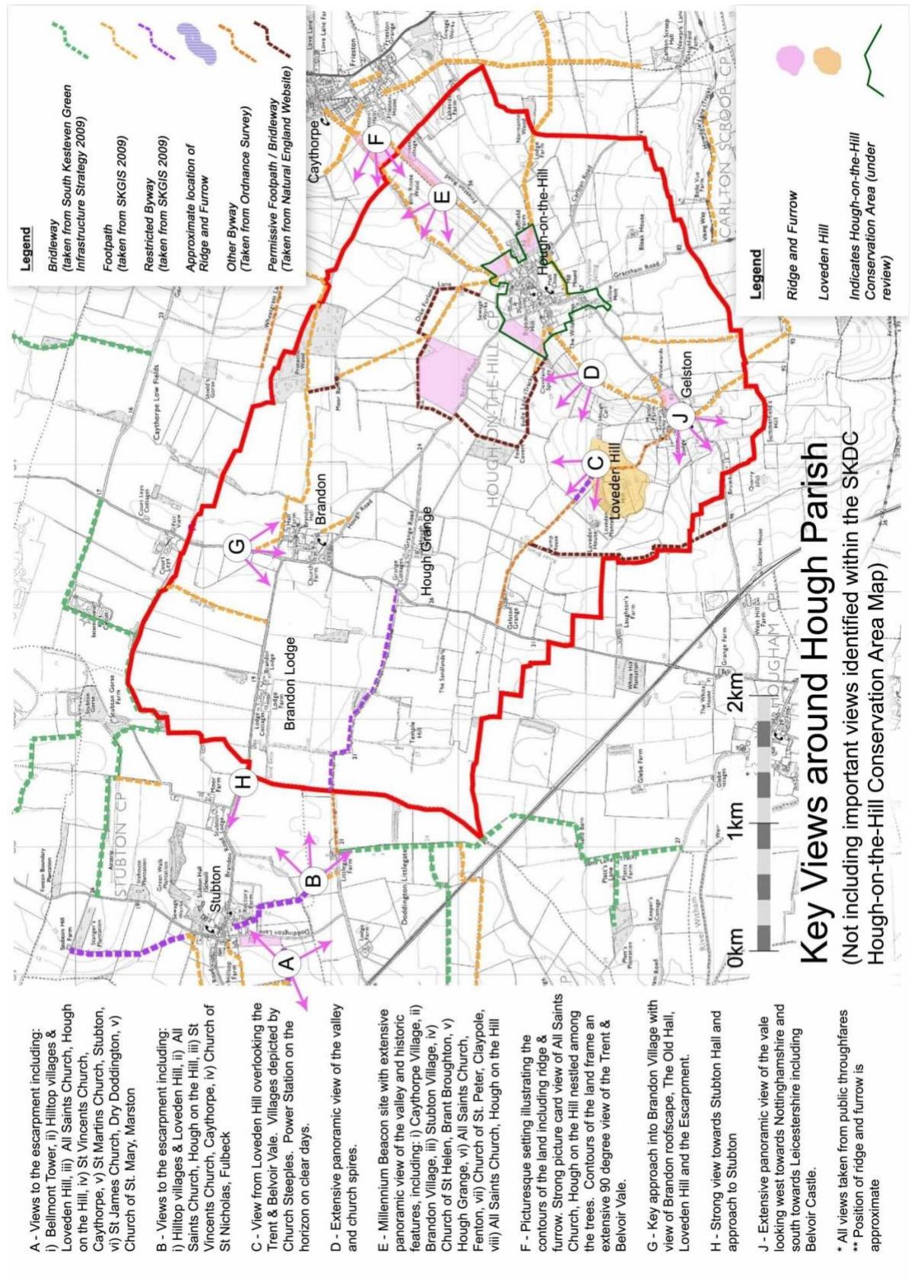
Note: Images above show Gelston Grange in 1889 (left) and post 2000 (right). Colours on 1889 map denote the following: brown: built prior to 1887 with evidence of remains today.

- 96 Gelston Grange is another example of an independent smallholding with footprints that reflect the 19th century working farm. Rural diversification has successfully integrated a new use, as the grange serves as a guest house. This small crop of buildings is discreetly located off Stragglethorpe Road at the bottom of Loveden Hill.
- 97 The gardens have been elaborately cultivated to provide a highly attractive environment where guests can enjoy the rural setting and views across the landscape.
- 98 List of buildings and features of interest:
 - The Grange dwelling and associated outbuildings.

Settings and Key Views Across the Parish

- 99 The individual village profiles above set out many of the key views this Plan will seek to protect and enhance. However, as indicated previously, the unique setting of much of the Parish on the limestone escarpment produces spectacular views both from, and to, many key areas (particularly around Gelston and Hough on the Hill villages). A plan setting out these important wider views across the Parish is shown on the next page.

Note: The permissive access to the footpath indicated (by the brown, dashed line) as forming a loop to the east of Hough on the Hill village is understood to have ceased.



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FIGURE 6: Key Views in the Parish

5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

Introduction

100 The policies of the Hough on the Hill Parish Neighbourhood Plan are set within the context of the national plan-making framework. The scope and content of the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan has been shaped by the priorities and aspirations of the Hough on the Hill community, led by the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Planning Project Team. The policies are being kept under review so that as circumstances change they may, if necessary, be modified through consultation with the community.

Planning Context

101 The procedure for the making of a Neighbourhood Plan is prescribed within the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

102 The Regulations have informed the preparation of policies for the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan, in particular:

- Ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development (which is defined below);
- Ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national planning policies (mostly in the National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF);
- Ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the South Kesteven Local Plan ³

Sustainable Development

103 A definition of sustainable development is provided within the National Planning Policy Framework (most recently amended in December 2024). It states, at paragraph 8, that "Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways...:

- 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".

³ A "Basic Conditions Statement" has been prepared and published, tracing the linkages between Neighbourhood Plan policies, the NPPF and the SKDC Local Development Plan/South Kesteven Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans

104 The NPPF explains (paragraph 30) that:

“Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies”.

Policy Objectives

105 The policies of the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan seek to deliver the Aims and Objectives of the community, which are set out earlier in the Consultation Findings section of this document and are summarised again below:

The primary purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan will be to set out a vision for the evolution and long term sustainability of the Parish's historic and built environment, protecting its rural landscape character and guiding appropriate and sensitive future development.

The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- *Promoting sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape and built setting of the Parish*
- *Prioritising local distinctiveness in every element of change and growth*
- *Protecting jobs, supporting sustainable economic development and local businesses*
- *Protecting greenspace, and supporting nature conservation and biodiversity*
- *Encouraging energy efficiency and, where appropriate, energy production from renewable and low carbon sources*
- *Improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy*
- *Seeking improvements to transport, utility infrastructure and digital connectivity*
- *Involving local people in an ongoing process of plan-making, monitoring and delivery*

The Plan will cover the period 2024 to 2036.

Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan Policies

106 The rural setting and landscape character of the Parish will be sustained and enhanced through Policies designed to protect views and key features, promoting economic and recreational value and protecting heritage and conservation. With the exception of Policy HOH9 concerning Loveden Hill, the Policies detailed below are generic to all sites and developments taking place within the Parish. Design guidance is shown separately (as Annex 1) following the Policies, which are grouped into five sections (showing the relevant Plan objectives at the start of each section):

- Character and Built Environment Employment
- Green Spaces
- Renewable Energy Leisure and Recreation

107 The Policies are to be read in conjunction with the Design Guidance, (Annex 1), the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) provided in Appendix 1, and the 'Key Views in the Parish' shown in Figure 6 (page 31).

CHARACTER AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

-PROMOTING SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH PROTECTS AND ENRICHES THE LANDSCAPE AND BUILT SETTING OF THE PARISH.

-PRIORITISING LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS IN EVERY ELEMENT OF CHANGE AND GROWTH.

108 Under the Spatial Strategy in the adopted Local Plan, new development within Hough on the Hill village - defined in the Local Plan as one of South Kesteven's "Smaller Villages" - is restricted to the following:

SP3: Infill Development

"In all settlements defined in Policy SP2, infill development, which is in accordance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, will be supported provided that:

- a. it is within a substantially built up frontage or re-development opportunity (previously development land);
- b. it is within the main built up part of the settlement;
- c. it does not cause harm or unacceptable impact upon the occupiers amenity of adjacent properties;
- d. it does not extend the pattern of development beyond the existing built form; and it is in keeping with the character of the area and is sensitive to the setting of adjacent properties...";

and

SP4: Development on the Edge of Settlements

"Proposals for development on the edge of a settlement, as defined in Policy SP2, which are in accordance all other relevant Local Plan policies, will be supported provided that the essential criteria a – f below are met. The proposal must:

- a. demonstrate clear evidence of substantial support from the local community* through an appropriate, thorough and proportionate pre-application community consultation exercise. Where this cannot be determined, support (or otherwise) should be sought from the Town or Parish Council or Neighbourhood Plan Group or Forum, based upon material planning considerations;
- b. be well designed and appropriate in size / scale, layout and character to the setting and area;
- c. be adjacent to the existing pattern of development for the area, or adjacent to developed site allocations as identified in the development plan;
- d. not extend obtrusively into the open countryside and be appropriate to the landscape, environmental and heritage characteristics of the area;
- e. in the case of housing development, meet a proven local need for housing and seeks to address a specific targeted need for local market housing; and
- f. enable the delivery of essential infrastructure to support growth proposals.

As an exception to criterion a) above, a housing scheme which meets a demonstrable local need for affordable housing will be considered acceptable as a Rural Exception scheme (regardless of whether

criterion a) above has been satisfied), provided that it is supported by clear up-to-date evidence that the proposal:

- g. is justified by evidence of local need and affordability, from an appropriate local housing needs survey; and
- h. meets the affordable housing needs of households who are currently resident, or have a local connection to the parish as defined in the Council's published housing allocations policy; and
- i. the occupation of the dwellings will be secured in perpetuity to meet local need; and
- j. that no other more suitable site(s) is available within the settlement.

On Rural Exception sites the Council may consider market housing provision alongside affordable housing as a means of cross-subsidising the essential affordable housing provision..."

109 The Local Plan's Spatial Strategy restricts new development within other parts of the Parish, outside Hough on the Hill village, which is all classed as Open Countryside, to which Policy SP5 applies:

Policy SP5: Development in the Open Countryside

"Development in the open countryside will be limited to that which has an essential need to be located outside of the existing built form of a settlement. In such instances, the following types of development will be supported:

- a. agriculture, forestry or equine development;
- b. rural diversification projects;
- c. replacement dwellings (on a one for one basis) or;
- d. conversion of buildings provided that the existing building(s) contributes to the character or appearance of the local area by virtue of their historic, traditional or vernacular form; and
- e. are in sound structural condition; and
- f. are suitable for conversion without substantial alteration, extension or rebuilding, and that the works to be undertaken do not detract from the character of the building(s) or their setting".

110 The Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan supports developments which accord with the SKDC spatial strategy, as outlined above, where it maximises opportunities to protect and enrich the landscape and built setting of the villages and their environs as defined within the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013). The uses set out within the South Kesteven Spatial Strategy are considered to be 'appropriate uses' for the purposes of the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy HoH1: Appropriate Development

New development for 'appropriate uses' (see paragraph 110) which are in accordance with the other relevant policies of this 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.

Conformity with The Local Plan's Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy as expressed in Policies:

- SP1: Spatial Strategy
- SP2: Settlement Hierarchy
- SP3: Infill Development
- SP4: Development on the Edge of Settlements
- SP5: Development in the Open Countryside.

Conformity with NPPF: Section 12; Achieving well-designed and beautiful places

111 Together, Local Plan Policies EN1 – Landscape Character - and DE1 – Promoting Good Design - sets a number of criteria against which new development will be assessed, including that development should:

- be appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration;
- make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness, vernacular and character of the area;
- provide sufficient private amenity space;
- retain and incorporate important on-site features;
- provide well designed hard and soft landscaping;
- effectively incorporate onsite infrastructure.

Those and other related requirements are set out fully in Local Plan Policies EN1 and DE1.

112 The defining characteristics of the Parish and its settlements are set out in Sections 2 and 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan and presented within the SKDC Conservation Area Appraisal 2014 (and subsequent versions of this document). The Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) also considers the historic development and character of the Parish in relation to both the built and natural environment.

113 To provide a consistent and locally-specific basis for considering the design of developments in Hough on the Hill, Design Guidance has been produced in association with the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan. The intention of the guidance, which is set out in Annex 1, is to set out core design principles in the local context, whilst allowing scope for creative interpretation and

innovation. It is intended that the guidance will be developed further in accordance with evolving national guidance and best practice in the preparation and presentation of design guidance and design codes. Any subsequent versions or variations of the Hough on the Hill, Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance will be the subject of appropriate consultation, including local community consultation, before they are finalised and adopted. At that stage, the new guidance will be published as the outdated Annex 1.

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.

Conformity with SKDC Local Plan Policies EN1 – Landscape Character - and DE1 – Promoting Good Design

Conformity with NPPF: Section 12; Achieving well-designed and beautiful places.

114 The National Planning Policy Framework defines a heritage asset as follows:

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing). [NPPF Glossary]

115 Therefore, heritage assets within the Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan include:

- Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments - as defined in the individual village descriptions contained in Section 4 of this Plan (and included within the Hough on the Hill Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan).
- Hough on the Hill Conservation Area – as formally designated (originally in 1980 and subsequently reviewed) and as described within the adopted Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.
- Locally listed buildings, ‘Positive Unlisted Buildings’ or other non-designated heritage assets identified and supported by an evidenced justification within the Hough on the Hill Conservation Area

Appraisal and Management Plan, 2014, and any subsequent versions of this document, within any detailed list of Positive Unlisted Buildings prepared on behalf of SKDC or any superseding document.

Policy HoH3: Hough on the Hill Conservation Area

New development will be supported within the Conservation Area where:

- *It preserves and enhances the character and local distinctiveness of the Conservation Area.*
- *It is sympathetic to the site's context and to the characteristics which are unique to the Hough on the Hill Conservation Area.*
- *It uses materials which are appropriate to the Conservation Area.*
- *Its use, scale and form are appropriate to the Conservation Area and its setting.*

Conformity with Local Plan Policies EN6 - The Historic Environment, EN1 – Landscape Character - and DE1 – Promoting Good Design.

Conformity with NPPF Section 12 - Achieving well-designed and beautiful places, and Section 16 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policy: EN6 - The Historic Environment

Conformity with NPPF: Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

116 The following listed buildings are located within the Parish boundary:

Hough on the Hill

The Church of All Saints	Grade I
Manor Farm House, Folly Lane	Grade II
Manor House, Folly Lane	Grade II
The Red House, Grantham Road	Grade II
Brownlow Arms, High Road	Grade II
The Post Office and attached house, High Road	Grade II
Hough House, High Road	Grade II
The School and attached School House, High Road	Grade II

Gelston

C15 Limestone Cross, Gelston Green, Scheduled Ancient Monument Grade II

Brandon

St John's Chapel, Church Lane	Grade II*
Church Farm House, Church Lane	Grade II
Greystones, Hall Lane	Grade II
Brandon Old Hall, Hall Road (and attached outbuildings)	Grade II*
Wall around Brandon Old Hall and garden	Grade II

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policy EN6 - The Historic Environment

Conformity with NPPF: Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

- 117 The Hough on the Hill Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan contains references to a number of 'positive unlisted buildings'. These buildings are defined as those which make *"a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area."*
- 118 These buildings include some of the former Brownlow estate properties or traditional farm buildings and outbuildings, and 19th to early 20th century detached and semi-detached properties or terraces which are fairly commonplace within the district, but by virtue of their age, design and use of local materials contribute towards the special quality of the Conservation Area. Examples include Church Farm, a two and a half storey detached, Georgian Farmhouse that has a pleasing aspect facing the church and churchyard; The Old Vicarage, with highly decorative features and prominent Gables; and North House, Grantham Road, likely to have been built by the Brownlow family but without the decorative features. In addition to dwelling houses there are many other ancillary buildings, such as outbuildings, stables and former privies that add to the interest of the Conservation Area and should be retained.
- 119 Buildings identified on the Conservation Area map as 'positive unlisted buildings' (and other key features identified in Section 4 of this Plan) will be taken forward for consideration for inclusion on any future Local List of buildings of architectural or historic interest.

Policy HoH6: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

New development will be supported where it would improve, restore or maintain a non-designated heritage asset as 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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policy:-EN6- The Historic Environment

Conformity with NPPF: Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

- 120 Affordable housing is identified as an appropriate use within the Parish, where this conforms with the Local Plan's policies. Affordable housing in parishes such as Hough on the Hill may be brought forward through a 'rural exception scheme' and these schemes must be supported by clear up-to-date evidence that:
- there is a need within that village for the affordable housing being proposed; and
 - no other more suitable site is available within that village
- 121 Consideration of the sustainability of a site to meet a local housing need will be based upon it satisfying all of the following criteria:

- that the site is located within the built up part of the village. If no such sites are available consideration may be given to a site adjoining the village, provided that it is demonstrated that all other options have been considered;
- that the site is small-scale, capable of accommodating only the amount of housing needed;
- avoids areas which are protected because they are important for wildlife, biodiversity, natural, cultural or historic assets;
- avoids sites which are at risk of flooding or which could increase the impact of flooding elsewhere.

122 Sites may be considered appropriate for affordable housing if they can be positively assessed against the three objectives of sustainable development set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (economic, social and environmental).

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 is 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 polices of the Neighbourhood Plan.*

Conformity with Local Plan Policy: H2 - Affordable Housing Contributions; SP3 - Infill Development SP4 - Development on the Edge of Settlements

Conformity with NPPF: Section 5. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

EMPLOYMENT

PROTECTING JOBS, SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

123 There are a number of businesses in the Parish (see para 29) and these are important to the local economy. National and local planning policy recognise the need to support appropriate economic growth in rural areas and this is also a key aspiration of the community in Hough on the Hill Parish.

124 Appropriate economic growth through rural diversification is an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan, and may include:

- Diversification of agricultural, farming and other land based rural businesses;
- Sustainable rural tourism or leisure uses and visitor facilities appropriate to the character of a countryside location;
- Retention and development of existing local businesses.

125 Policies E7, E8 and E9 of the South Kesteven Local Plan support business and employment development in rural areas if it helps strengthen the local economy, respects the countryside, and fits well with its surroundings. The Local Plan's policies support small-scale proposals that relate to:

- Farming and forestry
- Equine businesses
- Local enterprises
- Sport and recreation
- Tourism
- Other rural employment opportunities.

126 Taken together, Policies E7, E8 and E9 support developments of those types which:

- are of a suitable size and type for the rural area;
- offer local jobs and economic benefits;
- fit in with the landscape and avoid causing noise, traffic, or pollution problems;
- avoid harming nature, wildlife, heritage sites, or special local features.

127 Any new buildings must be clearly essential for the business and well-designed for the rural setting. Larger developments - especially those attracting lots of visitors (like large-scale leisure or tourism sites) - should be near towns or larger villages, and easy to get to by walking, cycling, or public transport.

128 Tourism / visitor economy developments are supported where they:

- fit in with the character of the area and protect the countryside;
- enhance existing visitor attractions or accommodation;
- provide new visitor experiences that also benefit local people and jobs;

- use historic rural buildings in a way that respects their heritage.

129 New tourism developments must be of a scale suitable to their setting. If they might lead to permanent living accommodation (like long-term holiday lets), restrictions may be placed on how and when they can be used.

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;*
- *consistent with the aims and requirements of Policies E7, E8 and E9 of the South Kesteven Local Plan.*

Conformity with Local Plan Policy: E7- Rural Economy; E8 - Other Employment Proposals; E9 - Visitor Economy; SP5 – Development in the Open Countryside.

Conformity with NPPF: Section 6. Building a strong, competitive economy

GREEN SPACES

PROTECTING GREENSPACE, AND SUPPORTING NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

130 The National Planning Policy Framework enables local communities to identify green areas which are of particular importance to them for special protection. The significance of Loveden Hill is outlined within the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) and has been identified by the community as a place of local importance to be recognised through the Neighbourhood Plan. A detailed justification statement for this designation is provided within Appendix 2.

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policies: EN2: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity and EN3: Green Infrastructure

Conformity with NPPF: Sections 8 - Promoting healthy and safe communities, and 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

131 The Hough on the Hill Neighbourhood Plan supports developments which accord with South Kesteven Local Plan policies EN2 - Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity, EN3 – Green Infrastructure, and OS1 which seek to protect the natural environment and permit new development where it is appropriate to the character and significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contributes to its conservation, enhancement or restoration. In particular, it includes the following criteria to ensure that valued landscape, open space, biodiversity and ecology are protected:

- Protection of statutory, national and local designated sites, species and landscapes;
- Consideration and integration of existing and new green infrastructure in scheme designs, taking opportunities to enrich biodiversity habitats, enable greater connectivity and provide sustainable access for all;
- Protection of existing open space (including allotments and public open space, and open spaces important to the character, setting and separation of built-up areas);
- Integrity and value of the Green Infrastructure as a whole.

132 In addition to this, the Hough on the Hill Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) considers the landscape and environmental context of the Parish in detail, identifying important characteristics, features and views unique to the area. Key local views are identified in Figure 6 within this Neighbourhood Plan, and Section 4 details the key views within the individual settlements and hamlets.

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policies: EN1: Landscape Character, EN2: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity and EN3: Green Infrastructure

Conformity with NPPF: Sections 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities, and 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policy: EN1 - Landscape Character

Conformity with NPPF: Sections 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities, and 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

RENEWABLE ENERGY

ENCOURAGING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON SOURCES

133 Renewable energy and the transition to a low carbon economy are supported through the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Policies RE1: Renewable Energy Generation, and SBI – Sustainable Building, of the Local Plan:

- Policy RE1 deals primarily with the three main sources of on-shore energy generation likely to be proposed in the District - solar photovoltaic, wind energy and biomass energy’;
- Amongst other requirements, Policy SB1 requires that new development “should demonstrate how carbon dioxide emissions have been minimised in accordance with the following energy hierarchy:
 - Using less energy through energy efficient building design and construction, including thermal insulation, passive ventilation and cooling;
 - Utilising energy efficient supplies – including connecting to available heat and power networks; and
 - Maximising use of renewable and low carbon energy generation system”.

134 The Neighbourhood Plan supports energy efficiency and renewable/low carbon energy generation projects which are local in nature and help existing residents and businesses make a transition to alternative technologies, where these are also in accordance with the wider design aspirations of the Plan.

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.***

Conformity with Local Plan Policies RE1: Renewable Energy Generation, and SBI – Sustainable Building,

Conformity with NPPF: 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

135 National Planning Guidance on “Renewable and low carbon energy”⁴ observes that “Local and neighbourhood plans are the key to delivering development that has the backing of local communities”. The guidance goes on to explain that “Community initiatives are likely to play an

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy#planning-for-renewable-and-low-carbon-energy-introduction>

increasingly important role and should be encouraged as a way of providing positive local benefit from renewable energy development. Further information for communities interested in developing their own initiatives is provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero⁵.

136 The Neighbourhood Plan supports community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy where they meet local needs and provide a positive local benefit. The government's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener⁵ sets out further policy on community energy, stating – at paragraph 11 – that “community ownership of renewables and other assets, often in partnership with other organisations, can be an important driver of reducing local emissions”.

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.***

Conformity with Local Plan Policy RE1: Renewable Energy Generation

Conformity with NPPF: Section 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and National Planning Guidance on “Renewable and low carbon energy”

137 Local businesses may be required, by regulation or commercial pressures, to derive an increasing proportion of their energy use from renewable sources. As discussed above this requirement can be satisfied by a number of technologies, depending on the nature and situation of the business.

138 The Neighbourhood Plan supports efforts by local businesses to develop low carbon and renewable energy, where these are subordinate to the primary business and are also in accordance with the wider design aspirations of the Plan.

Policy HoH14: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy for Businesses

Initiatives which would enable local businesses to develop will be 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.***

Conformity with Local Plan RE1: Renewable Energy Generation, and SBI – Sustainable Building

Conformity with NPPF: Section 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

⁵ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6194dfa4d3bf7f0555071b1b/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf>

LEISURE AND RECREATION

IMPROVING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF ALL AGES TO ENJOY

139 Hough on the Hill Parish includes a network of footpaths, tracks and bridleways which are well used by the local community and visitors. These routes and ways in which they could be improved are identified within the Landscape Character Assessment (October 2013) and their popularity was confirmed through the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process. The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of opportunities to maintain and improve access to the countryside.

Policy HoH15: Maintaining and Improving Access to the Countryside

New development for 'appropriate uses' (see paras 105 and 106 110 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.*

Conformity with Local Plan Policy: EN3: Green Infrastructure

Conformity with NPPF: Section 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

140 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a Delivery Strategy which establishes the evidenced need for infrastructure within the Parish, prepared on behalf of the Parish Council in response to local consultation. The Parish Council may draw on the 'neighbourhood element' of CIL to provide funds towards those items identified in the Delivery Strategy, and It is hoped SKDC will also consider the items in the Delivery Strategy when identifying any planning conditions or Section106 agreements where appropriate and feasible.

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.

Conformity with Local Plan Policies: ID1: Infrastructure for Growth, ID2: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure and ID3: Broadband and Communications Infrastructure

Conformity with NPPF section 2. Achieving sustainable development

6 DELIVERY STRATEGY

Development Management

- 141 The Neighbourhood Plan will be implemented through a combination of SKDC's consideration and determination of planning applications and through steering any additional funds into a series of infrastructure projects contained in the plan.
- 142 Whilst SKDC will be responsible for development management, the Parish Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to frame their representations on submitted planning applications.
- 143 The majority of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will be delivered by land and property owners and developers responding to its planning policies. Care has been taken to ensure, as far as possible, that these policies are achievable.

Infrastructure Requirements

- 144 Policy HOH16 of the Neighbourhood Plan refers to the requirement for all new development to provide necessary and appropriate new facilities on site or contribute to off-site facilities to be secured by means of planning condition, Section 106 agreements, where appropriate and feasible, or through the 'neighbourhood element' of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) adopted by SKDC.
- 145 Although the Parish Council will consider any new plan or project put before them which would enhance the infrastructure or facilities of the Parish, the consultation process for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan identified a number of requirements. These are set out in the following table (noting that improvements to footpaths and bridleways are separately covered in Policy HOH15):

IDENTIFIED NEED	PRIORITY
Hard Surface Games Area on the Hough on the Hill Playing Field	High
Installation of flashing signs indicating driving hazards or speeds in the following locations in order of priority: - on the COO1 as it passes Brandon, in both directions - on the Frieston Road and Barkston Road entries into Hough on the Hill - on both approaches through Gelston	High
The Parish Council will continue to work with Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department to maintain and improve the safety of the roads within the Parish. However, should additional funding become available to the Parish, further safety improvements will be sought, eg by the creation of passing places on the roads connecting the three villages.	High
Community Renewable Energy Schemes (Reference Policy HOH13)	Medium
Interpretation Boards for local heritage sites: - at All Saints Churchyard (village features and history) - at Beacon Site (landscape, ecology and history of the ironstone workings) - on the Loveden Hill Byway (history and archaeology)	Low

Non-Planning Issues

146 The Parish Council has responded to the views and wishes of residents in compiling the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan, but a number of the concerns and ideas raised lie outside the scope of planning and require other actions to take them forward. The table below sets out suggestions for taking forward these wider issues, for further consideration:

Issue	Proposed Action
<p><u>1 Loveden Hill 'Byway Open to All Traffic'</u> Raised as a concern during consultation. Parish Council requested to seek a change to the current status of the track, returning it to Footpath and Byway status.</p>	<p>Parish Council could enquire about the necessary legal process through the Lincolnshire County Council's Footpaths Team. (An initial enquiry has already been raised, Reference 1253648.)</p>
<p><u>2 Multi-Use Games Area on the Playing Field</u> There was support from the consultation for improving the utilisation of the current Playing Field in Hough on the Hill, potentially by installing a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) or similar improved ball games facility.</p>	<p>The Parish Council will consider any new plan or project put before them to enhance the leisure facilities of the Parish. (NB: It is possible that installation of a MUGA, or similar facility, by the Parish Council on land owned by them could be pursued as a permitted development - ie, not require planning permission. However it is recommended that the views and advice of SKDC be obtained before any such initiative is taken forward.)</p>
<p><u>3 Permissive Paths and Byways</u> Government funding to support landowners and farmers to operate Permissive Paths is ending. These paths and byways, which are popular and well-used within the Parish, may be closed.</p>	<p>The Parish Council will liaise with local farmers and landowners about the future of the Permissive Paths within the Parish, supporting them wherever possible to keep Paths open to the public, and/or promoting new paths and access arrangements.</p>
<p><u>4 Condition of Local Roads and Speed Limits</u> Concerns about speeding vehicles on local roads, the lack of passing places and the poor condition of both roads and verges was consistently raised during consultations.</p>	<p>The Parish Council will continue to work with Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department to improve the safety and condition of the roads within the Parish.</p>
<p><u>5 Preparation of a Local List</u> There is currently no Local List of buildings of architectural or historic interest for Hough on the Hill Parish. The SKDC Conservation Officer has indicated that there would be support for such a list to be compiled through an evidenced process.</p>	<p>The Parish Council will explore, in partnership with the SKDC Conservation Officer, an appropriately evidenced process for compiling a Local List of buildings of architectural or historic interest, including within such consideration those 'positive unlisted buildings' identified within the Hough on the Hill Conservation Area (Draft Review 2014 or any subsequently approved document) and the features of interest identified by local people as listed in Section 4 of this Plan.</p>

Regular Review

- 147 The Parish Council will seek to develop its process of consultation with its parishioners.
- 148 The Parish Council will endeavour to undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Plan every 5 years to ensure it remains compliant with both national and local planning policy, and that it is up to date and relevant to changing circumstances. The review process will include liaison with the owner of Loveden Hill Local Green Space if any aspects of this legislation or its impact have substantially altered in the intervening period such that they impact on the operation of his business. The review process will also ensure that the required infrastructure improvements (as listed above) remain relevant and appropriate.

Annex 1: Neighbourhood Plan Design Guidance

- a) The design of extensions should be sympathetic, set back and subordinate in size to the original building and in keeping with the general character of the village or hamlet. Similarly roof pitches, windows and colour schemes should be in harmony with the original palette. Garages and extensions should have pitched roofs in accordance with the existing building and/or style of the neighbourhood.
- b) Exemptions will be given for innovative contemporary creative solutions that successfully integrate modern architectural design into the local vernacular.
- c) A variety of natural roof materials is encouraged eg slates, pantiles and plain tiles.
- d) Dormers should be small and unobtrusive, appropriate in scale and number to the main roof of the building. The size of these windows needs to be in proportion with the existing fenestrations and in accordance with the rhythm of the building. Lead cheeks are considered appropriate with pitched, catslide or flat roofs to be determined by the locality.
- e) TV and satellite dish aerials should be installed in the roofspace where possible, or on the ground in a garden. Aerials at high level and fixed to the main structure of the building should not be visible from the road, if possible.
- f) Particular attention needs to be given to boundary treatments and landscaping. The preservation of existing trees, hedgerows and stone/brick walls should be encouraged. Where removal of hedgerows is unavoidable, new planting should incorporate native species rather than exotic conifers. Timber close boarded fence should not be erected where visible from the road.
- g) Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro-fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife are encouraged, eg the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes. Similarly, the incorporation of features which contribute to the efficient use of water (eg water butts) is encouraged.
- h) Vehicular access arrangement must not be detrimental to the character of the village lanes. Access to houses may include a variety of surface finishes for example, block paviours, gravel, tarmacadam or concrete with traditional brick edging detail.
- i) Key views into and from villages will need to be respected, particularly principal vistas to heritage assets and villages on the escarpment.
- j) Victorian red brick or stone walling is considered the most appropriate building material for the villages and hamlets. Also, the type, colour and finish of components should be in keeping with the local vernacular. Elements such as windows and doors are particularly important as these can help emphasise the local distinctiveness. A consistent choice of materials should be adopted.

- k) Solar panels to roofs can dominate a setting. Their installation is encouraged in appropriate locations that are not prominent.
- l) A large proportion of the neighbourhood is low-lying and surrounded by higher ground. This means that new structures are likely to have a substantial impact across a broad extent of the landscape. The breadth of the landscape and the modest scale of the settlements require new development to be grounded within the broadly horizontal topography. This will mean that the form of new development needs to adopt a horizontal emphasis, with larger structures/buildings (including agricultural storage units) carefully sited with sensitive consideration of their roofscape, colours and textures and with extensive use of new planting to visually break up the mass.
- m) The wide verges along country lanes will need to be maintained where possible to preserve nature and for conservation purposes. The existing bio-diversity, habitats, ecology and wildlife of the area should be protected. All existing public footpaths and byways need to fully protected.

NOTE:

When considering development involving new or altered buildings, it is recommended that reference should also be made to Hough on the Hill Design Guidance and Design Codes (August 2022), prepared by AECOM.