



BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

HUNSDON AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2019 – 2033

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Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared by Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Group (HANPG) to accompany the submission to the local planning authority, East Hertfordshire District Council.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan must satisfy six “basic conditions” before it can come into force. The plan must:
- Have appropriate regard to national planning policy
 - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
 - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area
 - Not breach and otherwise be incompatible with European Union (EU) Regulations, including human rights requirements and not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site or European offshore marine site, or UK equivalent
 - Meet the prescribed legal requirements
 - Not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- 1.3 This statement confirms that the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan, 2019 – 2033, submitted by Hunsdon Parish Council and the supporting HANPG, meets all the necessary requirements.

2 Legal Requirements

- 2.1 The Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan ('the Neighbourhood Plan') is submitted by Hunsdon Parish Council, the qualifying body, which is entitled to submit a neighbourhood plan for the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led framework for the future development and growth of the parish. It has been compiled on behalf of the Parish Council by the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Group, which was set up on 18 April 2018 for the purpose of managing the process and drafting the document. The preparation of the Plan has been informed by an extensive evidence base which includes the results of public consultations, mapping, and data from public records.
- 2.3 Within both the national and local frameworks, the Neighbourhood Plan is concerned with the development and use of land. The policies laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to planning matters and have been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (as amended). They provide a practical framework for the guidance of the Local Planning Authority in making decisions on planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 2.4 The area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan is shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** This was formally designated by East Herts Council on 29th November 2017. The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan Area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the area and the area does not overlap (but lies adjacent to) any other neighbourhood plan area.
- 2.5 To ensure that the last of the Basic Condition above in paragraph 1.2 has been met, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was submitted to East Herts Council. Following East Herts consultation with the three prescribed statutory bodies, on the Screening Report, East Herts Council issued a Screening Determination. This determination is attached at Appendix A.

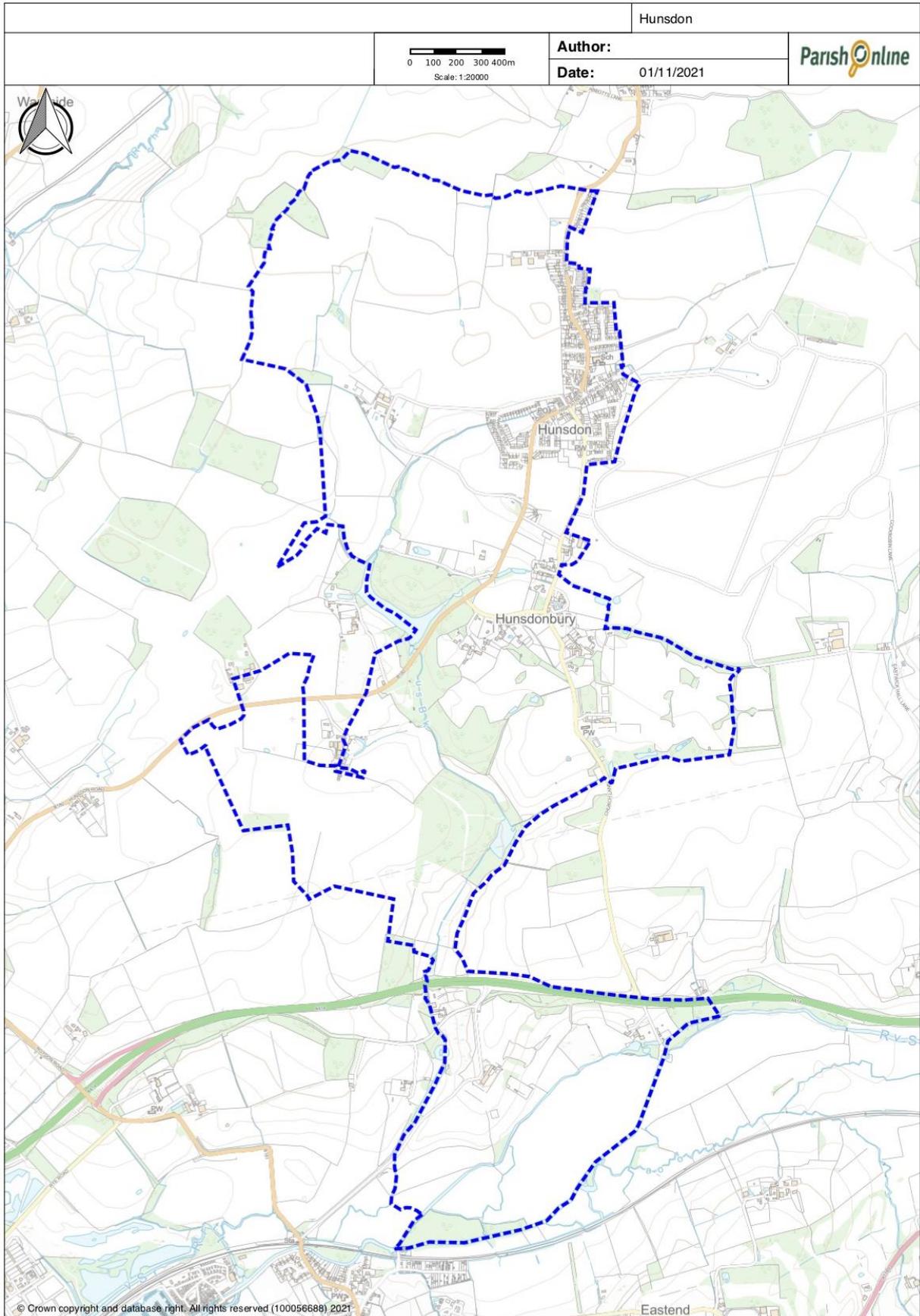


Figure 1 Neighbourhood Plan Area

3 Key Requirements

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) calls for neighbourhood plans to support the delivery of strategic policies (Paragraph 13) and apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development (Paragraph 11). In accordance with national policy, the Plan seeks to promote sustainable development and embraces a range of social, economic, and environmental issues. It sets out a vision for the designated area, coupled to a range of planning objectives, policies, and proposals.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan aims to meet the needs and demands of the local community, conserving the rural feel of the parish and to further enhance the well-being of new and existing residents, as well as ensuring that all development is sustainable.
- 3.3 In accordance with the NPPF, it is important that the planning policies have three overarching objectives that are both interdependent and dependent. These objectives are economic, social and environmental objectives (Paragraph 8).
- 3.4 The economic objective refers to building a 'strong responsive and competitive economy' through supporting growth and innovation, identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure, and ensuring that there is sufficient land of the right types in the right places (Paragraph 8a).
- 3.5 The social objective is 'to build and support a strong, vibrant and healthy community, by ensuring that the number of homes is sufficient in terms of quantity and is able to meet the needs of the current and future generations; and fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces which reflect the present and future needs; as well as supporting communities' health, social and cultural well-being (Paragraph 8b).
- 3.6 The environmental objective ensures that the natural, built and historic environment is protected and enhanced, a process which includes 'making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy' (Paragraph 8c).
- 3.7 While preparing the Neighbourhood Plan the HANP ensured that the policies satisfy the criteria that the NPPF provides as laid out below:

Economic Policies

- 3.8 Business is important in Hunsdon, and local businesses are supported by the village community. Policies in the Plan seek to balance the needs of business with social sustainability and the environment. Policy HB1 recognises the need for new businesses to reduce the need to travel to work.

Social Policies

- 3.9 Social policies include accessibility of housing (Policies HHD2 – HHD6) including a housing mix, affordability and design; transport (Policies HT1 & Ht2) on mitigating traffic impact and ensuring sustainable modes of travel; and health and wellbeing policies for open space and access to health facilities (Policies HWB2 & HWB3).

Environmental Policies

- 3.10 Environmental policies feature most prominently in the Plan. They cover the protection of the Green Belt (Policy HHD1), housing design (Policy HHD6), the rural environment, natural environment and renewable energy (Policies HE1 – HE6) as well as the historic environment (Policies HHC1 & HHC2).

4 Contributing to Achieving Sustainable Development

- 4.1 The NPPF affirms, “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development” (Paragraph 7). Neighbourhood plans should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The policies in the Hunsdon Neighbourhood Area Plan support sustainable development by:

- Providing a framework containing policies which guide new housing developments in the Parish up to 2033
- Protecting the character of the built environment and rural landscape setting by protecting views and valuable heritage assets
- Supporting sustainable development close to the village
- Ensuring that new building meets high sustainability and design standards
- Encouraging appropriate local enterprise
- Promoting the use of sustainable modes of transport, connectivity, new pedestrian and cycle routes, and protection of the rights of way network
- Proposing improved leisure facilities and retention of health facilities
- Preserving and enhancing woodlands, hedges, and green spaces
- Protecting and promoting biodiversity when considering new development

- 4.2 The NPPF also states that planning policies should be prepared with the active involvement of local highway authorities so that strategies and investment for supporting sustainable transport and development patterns are aligned (paragraph 104b). Hertfordshire’s Local Transport Plan 2018 – 2031 (the LTP) is guided by four principles: the application of technology, cost effectiveness, integrating land use and transport planning, and encouraging modal shift and active travel. Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have been prepared having regard to these principles, considering the village location and the lack of sustainable public transport available to residents.

5 Conformity with Strategic Policies in the Local Plan

- 5.1 At the time of preparing this document, the current local plan was the East Herts District Plan October 2018. These policies are referred to in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Strategic Objectives of the District Plan form the basis of the District Plan Policies. Appendix A shows how the Neighbourhood Plan policies help to achieve these overarching District objectives.
- 5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the policies of the East Herts District Plan, adopted in October 2018. It consists of a written statement and a policies map, which is depicted on an Ordnance Survey base.
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan policies are in accordance with the relevant strategic policies in the East Herts District Plan October 2018. Appendix B shows which of the Neighbourhood Plan policies relate to the strategic District Plan policies listed below:

INT1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development)
DPS1 (Housing, Employment and Retail Growth)
DPS2 (The Development Strategy 2011-2033)
DPS3 (Housing Supply 2011-2033)
DPS4 (Infrastructure Requirements)
DPS5 (Neighbourhood Planning)
GBR1 (Green Belt)
GBR2 (Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt)
VILL1 (Group 1 Villages)
VILL4 (Village Employment Areas)
HOU1 (Type and Mix of Housing)
HOU2 (Housing Density)
HOU3 (Affordable Housing)
HOU4 (Rural Exception Affordable Housing Sites)
ED1(Employment)
ED2 (Rural Economy)
DES2 (Landscape Character)
TRA1 (Sustainable Transport)
CFLR1 (Open Space, Sport and Recreation)
CFLR2 (Local Green Space)
NE1 (International, National and Locally Designated Nature Conservation Sites)
NE3 (Species and Habitats)
HA1 (Designated Heritage Assets)
CC1 (Climate Change Adaptation)
CC2 (Climate Change Mitigation)
WAT1 (Flood Risk Management)
WAT2 (Source Protection Zones)
WAT5 (Sustainable Drainage)
WAT6 (Wastewater Infrastructure)
EQ4 (Air Quality)

- 5.4 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in consultation and cooperation with the local planning authority, East Herts Council.

- 5.5 There is duty and a commitment by the District Council to review its planning policies whenever the need is demonstrated. Accordingly, Hunsdon Parish Council will monitor the Neighbourhood Plan and undertake a review where necessary, to ensure that the policies laid out in the Plan remain in general conformity with the adopted East Herts District Plan October 2018.

6 Compatibility with Human Rights and EU Legislation

- 6.1 The proposals and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are compatible with the human rights legislation and all the existing requirements of European Law or UK equivalents.

7 Summary

- 7.1 It is a legal requirement that Hunsdon Parish Council submit this statement. It confirms that the submitted Hunsdon Neighbourhood Area Plan meets the basic conditions required of a neighbourhood plan as defined in current neighbourhood planning legislation.

8 Appendices

APPENDIX A: East Herts Council SEA Screening Determination

APPENDIX B: Table indicating how the policies in Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan help to achieve the strategic objectives in the East Herts District Plan 2011 – 2033

APPENDIX C: Table indicating how the policies in the Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan are in accordance with the strategic policies in the East Herts District Plan 2011 - 2033

Appendix A: East Herts SEA Screening Determination

Friday, 12 November 2021

Dear Mr O'Shea

Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

I write to advise that on the 29th September 2021 it was agreed that the Parish Council be advised that:

- (a) In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the District Council, as the responsible authority, has determined that an environmental assessment of the emerging Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. In making this determination, the District Council has had regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations and has carried out consultation with the consultation bodies; and**
- (b) The emerging Hunsdon Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect upon a Natura 2000 designation and therefore does not require an HRA.**

This decision was subject to a call-in period which expired on Wednesday 6th October. You are now able to submit your neighbourhood plan to the Council when ready.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



Laura Guy
Principal Planning Officer
Planning Policy and Implementation

Appendix B: HANP Policies Mapped to the Strategic Objectives in East Herts District Plan 2011–2033

District Plan Strategic Objectives	Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Policies																				
	H H D 1	H H D 2	H H D 3	H H D 4	H H D 5	H H D 6	H E 1	H E 2	H E 3	H E 4	H E 5	H E 6	H C 1	H C 2	H T 1	H T 2	H B 1	H W B 1	H W B 2	H W B 3	H I M 1
Mitigate the effects of climate change	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		✓	
Encourage safe and vibrant mixed communities		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Balance the housing market	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
Protect the countryside & historic environment and promote good design						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Foster entrepreneurship																	✓				
Improve access and sustainable transport															✓					✓	
Maintain and improve existing facilities and provide new facilities															✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.									✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓
Protect and enhance environmental assets including biodiversity	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Provide necessary infrastructure		✓	✓					✓				✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Appendix C: HANP Policies Mapped to the Strategic Policies in East Herts District Plan 2011–2033

District Plan Strategic Policies	Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan Policies																			
	H H D 1	H H D 2	H H D 3	H H D 4	H H D 5	H H D 6	H E 1	H E 2	H E 3	H E 4	H E 5	H E 6	H H C 1	H H C 2	H T 1	H T 2	H H B 1	H W B 1	H W B 2	H W B 3
INT1 Sustainable Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DPS1 Housing, Employment and Retail Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											✓			
DPS2 Development Strategy		✓	✓																	
DPS3 Housing Supply		✓	✓	✓	✓															
DPS4 Infrastructure Requirements																✓				
DPS5 Neighbourhood Planning		✓																		
GBR1 Green Belt	✓																			
GBR2 Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt			✓																	
VILL1 Group 1 Villages		✓																		
VILL4 Village Employment Areas																				
HOU1 Type and Mix of Housing			✓	✓	✓															
HOU2 Housing Density						✓														
HOU3 Affordable Housing					✓															
HOU4 Rural Exception Affordable Housing Sites																				
ED1 Employment																	✓			

District Plan Strategic Policies	H H D 1	H H D 2	H H D 3	H H D 4	H H D 5	H H D 6	H E 1	H E 2	H E 3	H E 4	H E 5	H E 6	H H C 1	H H C 2	H T 1	H T 2	H B 1	H W B 1	H W B 2	H W B 3	H I M 1
ED2 Rural Economy																		✓			
DES2 Landscape Character									✓	✓		✓	✓								
TRA1 Sustainable Transport																✓					
CFLR1 Open space, sport and recreation								✓										✓	✓		
CLFR2 Local Green Space								✓													
NE1 International, National & Locally Designated Nature Conservation										✓	✓										
NE3 Species and habitats						✓				✓	✓										
HA1 Designated Heritage Assets													✓								
CC1 Climate Change Adaption						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓			
CC2 Climate Change Mitigation						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓			
WAT1 Flood Risk Management						✓	✓				✓	✓			✓			✓			
WAT2 Source Protection Zones																					
WAT5 Sustainable drainage						✓									✓	✓					
WAT6 Wastewater Infrastructure																					
EQ4 Air Quality																					

