

SCOPING REPORT



ELKESLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014 - 2028

PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT

Scoping Report

Scoping Report

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1 Introduction

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

Methodology

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

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Table 1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process

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

Who has carried out this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?

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

Elkesley Neighbourhood Development Plan

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

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2 Links with other Plans and Strategies (Stage A1)

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

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):** The NPPF is a single document that contains guidance on all aspects of Planning Policy setting out the Government's support for sustainable development across the United Kingdom. It also sets out the requirements of Neighbourhood Plans and their relationship with Local Plans.
- **BDC Core Strategy & Development Management Policies:** This document published in December 2011 provides an overview of the development and growth to occur in the District up to the year 2028, comprising the first part of the Local Plan. Policy CS8 of this document focuses specifically on Rural Service Centres which Elkesley is defined as, CS8 outlines what proposals for housing and economic development must address to be deemed acceptable.

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

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

- **BDC Preferred Site Allocations:** This document compliments the Core Strategy and acts as the second part of the Local Plan, delivering the needed development and growth in the District that delivers the aims of the Core Strategy. The Preferred Site Allocations document details what sites are viewed by the Council as being most appropriate for development over the Local Plan period up to 2028. The consultation period on thus Plan ended on the 31st March 2014.
- **Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SMHA) 2014:** The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) published 2014 is a report that outlines the level of and type of housing that is required to be constructed across Bassetlaw District up to the year 2031. Figures are produced for the whole North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area, which Bassetlaw District forms a part of.

The SHMA's purpose is to act as a guideline for the formulation of housing targets for each district within the Housing Market Area up to the year 2031. It proposes that

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within Bassetlaw, the targeted housing completion per annum figure should be between 435-500 homes per annum. This figure is substantially higher than that currently being used within Bassetlaw District Council's Local Plan, which stands at providing 350 new homes per annum throughout the plan period up to 2028.

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

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

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3 Current State of the Natural, Social and Economic environment (Stage A2)

- 3.1 The following part of the document provides a snapshot of the current social, environmental and economic status of the Parish of Elkesley. Evidence is mostly drawn from Census data and information produced by Bassetlaw District Council. In addition to this, information gathered by various members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been utilised.
- 3.2 The themes included in the approach below have been identified from other Plans and Strategies such as those detailed in Section 2 of this document, as well as the suggestions in the SEA directive itself.
- 3.3 The baseline information provided on each theme in this section covers the Stage A2 of this Scoping report, also provided in this section is the implications for the Plan with regards to any data provided for each theme, therefore also covering Stage A3 of the SA process.

General Information

- 3.4 The Parish of Elkesley is located in the south of Bassetlaw District in close proximity to its two most prominent urban centres of Worksop approximately 8 miles to the north-west and Retford approximately 6 miles to the north. The parish is dissected by the A1, which runs horizontally through the parish in a north-east to south-west direction, this main road provides residents of Elkesley with excellent access to the north and south, however current issues exist regarding access roads linking the village to the A1. A bridge is currently under construction to address these and is due to be completed in early 2015. The location of Elkesley within the District of Bassetlaw is shown on **Figure 1** on the following page.
- 3.5 The village of Elkesley is located in the south-east of the Parish, with the rerouted A1 acting as its northern border and Elkesley Wood to the south. Located directly to the north of the village, separated by the A1 is some established land which mostly consists of warehousing and distribution units, within this area also is Elkesley Park Industrial Estate (EPIE). With the exception of these, and of the village of Elkesley itself, the significant majority of the Parish is predominantly used for agricultural use with individual farmhouses and agricultural businesses.
- 3.6 Further to the north is Retford/Gamston Airport, a former RAF base from the Second World War now operating as a small-scale private use airfield, only the southern half of the airfield is within the Parish boundary however.

A1

- 3.7 The location of the A1 will ensure it always plays a prominent part in the role of the parish of Elkesley and will be a key factor in ensuring the continued sustainable growth and development of the area. Currently access to the village is only possible by directly turning off the A1; this is clearly a significant issue and is being addressed by the

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Highways Agency. Construction of a bridge providing access to the village and to the A1 started on 7th May 2014 and is due to be completed by early 2015.

- 3.8 These improvements to the A1 have long been campaigned for by local residents and are viewed as key to ensuring the continued sustainability of the village. The bridge will have a huge impact on the village in terms of the quality of life of residents, safety, and the viability of services such as school and pub, helping improve the desirability of Elkesley as a place to live.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

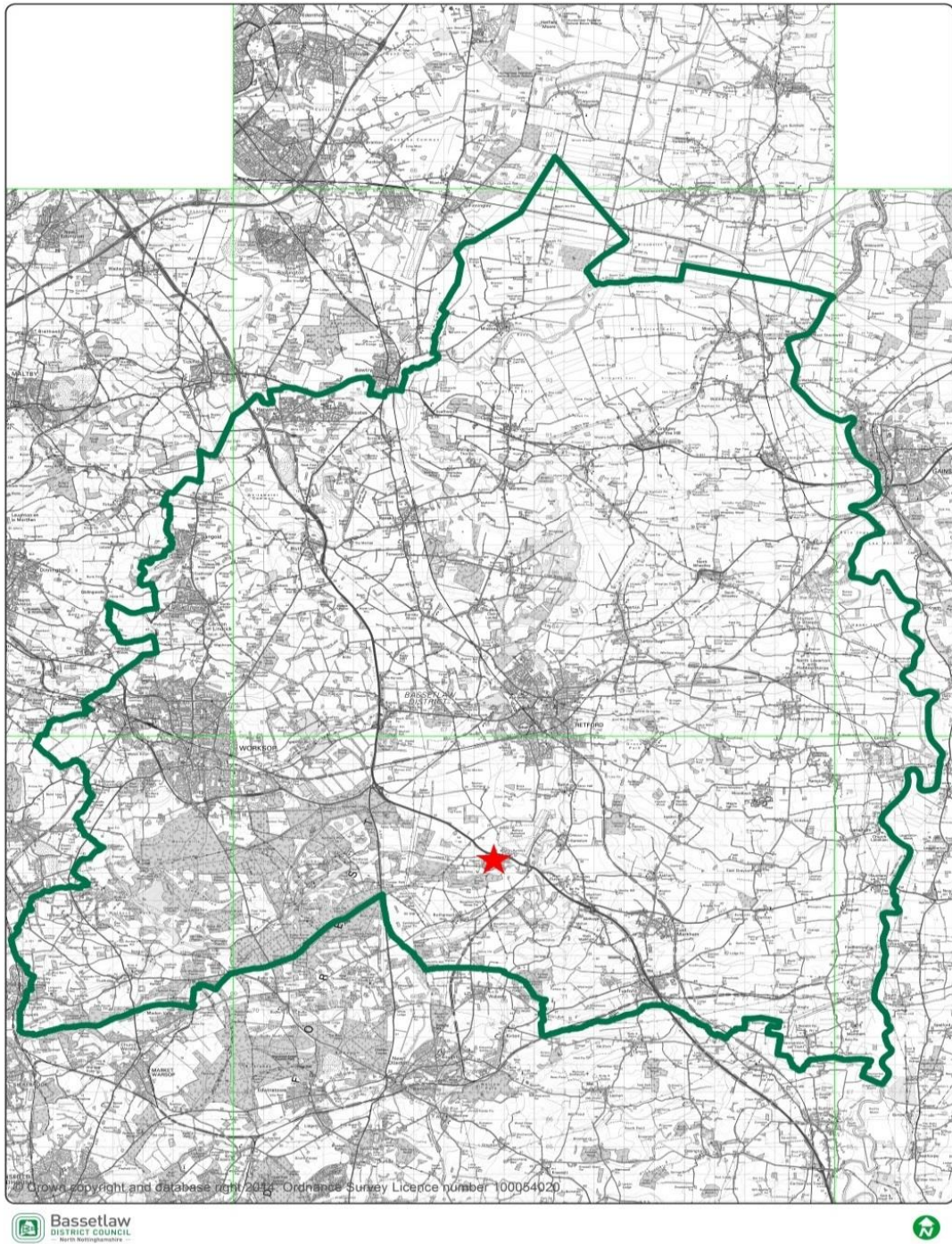
The Elkesley NDP must look to promote suitably located development and growth that contributes to the maintaining of Elkesley's role as a Rural Service Centre. Most importantly this should involve the provision of a mix of high quality new homes for local people and the provision of accessible local employment opportunities where possible. These are two key elements in ensuring the sustainability of the Parish of Elkesley and the local community.

A further essential part in ensuring Elkesley continues to support the local population and reinforce its role as a Rural Service Centre is ensuring important community assets are identified and protected, these assets involve the following;

- Elkesley Primary Schools
- Memorial Hall
- Robin Hood Public House
- Local Shop
- St Giles Church

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Figure 1: Elkesley within the District of Bassetlaw



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Social Environment¹

Demographics

- 3.9 The demographics of Elkesley are an important factor to consider in the production of the Plan. As the age structure of the population plays an important role in determining what development is required within the Ward, such as; the type of housing, what kind of local facilities are needed and also whether and what further employment opportunities should be supported. Some key points in relation to the demographics of Elkesley, obtained from the most recent available data are therefore provided below.

Total Population

- 3.10 The total population of the entire parish of Elkesley currently stands at approximately 822 people; this figure represents a minor increase of 2.1% from figures recorded in 2001.

Levels of Young People

- 3.11 Elkesley has experienced a slight decline in the levels of young people residing within the parish since 2001. Particularly within the age range of 14 and under which has decreased 2%, with this age group now making up approximately 19.3% of the current population.

Working Age

- 3.12 The percentage of residents residing within Elkesley aged between 15 and 64 comprises the majority of the total population of the ward, this currently stands at approximately 63.5%, and this figure has altered little from 2001 levels.

Levels of Older Residents

- 3.13 The percentage of the total population aged 65 and over within Elkesley has increased slightly over the past decade with 17.3% of residents now aged 65 or over compared to 14.3% in 2001.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

This information on the current demographic breakdown of Elkesley has several implications for the Plan. The rather narrow population growth experienced within Elkesley since 2001 suggests that development and growth has been somewhat limited in recent years, it could also be argued however that this could be expected due to the rural nature of the parish, and a reduction in younger people due to a lack of employment opportunities.

It is apparent that the population growth that has been experienced within Elkesley has been predominantly within the age group of people 65 and over. Current data suggests that this figure may increase further in the foreseeable future therefore the Plan must take this information into consideration when planning for the future development and growth of Elkesley, in terms of housing and services required.

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

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Health & Well-being

General Health

- 3.16 Of the total population of Elkesley (822) 76.5% described their overall health as Very Good or Good, this figure is similar to that found for the Bassetlaw District however it does not compare well with the figure for England which sits at 81.4%.
- 3.17 The level of residents who described their health as Bad or Very Bad was 6.1%, again this figure is similar to that recorded for the whole of Bassetlaw however it sits slightly higher than the figure for the whole of England which is 5.5%

Long Term Health Problem or Disability

- 3.18 Of the population of Elkesley 11.2% believe their day-to-day activities are limited a lot by either a long term health problem or disability. This figure is slightly higher than those recorded for Bassetlaw District and for England which stand at 10.8% and 8.3% respectively.
- 3.19 Although still higher, the level of people who believe their day-to-day activities are limited a little in Elkesley, which is 11.3%, is more in line with figures recorded for Bassetlaw District and at the national level.

Households in Deprivation

- 3.20 Another measurement that can be used to assess the health and well-being of the local residents of Elkesley is by looking at the number of households that fall into any of the deprivation dimensions. There are four deprivation dimensions, these are:
- Employment
 - Education
 - Health and Disability
 - Housing
- 3.21 **Table 2** on the following page shows that the levels of households in deprivation in Elkesley are similar in comparison to the levels experienced across Bassetlaw District and England.

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Table 2: Households by Deprivation Dimensions²

Location	All Households	Not Deprived in Any Dimension	Deprived in 1 Dimension	Deprived in 2 Dimensions	Deprived in 3 Dimensions	Deprived in 4 Dimensions
Elkesley	340	40.3%	31.2%	22.1%	5.9%	0.6%
Bassetlaw	47,667	40.2%	32.9%	21.4%	5.3%	0.3%
England	22,063,368	42.5%	32.7%	19.1%	5.1%	0.5%

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

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

In addition to this, a key role of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is the promotion of sustainable development and growth, such as the provision of high quality homes for local people as well as the provision of accessible local employment opportunities and protection of important local green spaces. This should in turn, result in an improvement to the health and well-being of the local population and when the Plan is reviewed, the figures above should show signs of improvement.

² All data used is obtained from the 2011 Census from neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

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Housing³

Housing Total/Completions

Within the parish of Elkesley there are approximately 340 dwellings, as can be expected due to its rural nature, the parish has experienced low levels of housing completions in recent years. Since 2003 only 12 new houses have been built within the parish, with 2 being completed in the year 2012/2013.

Housing Prices⁴

Only three properties have been sold in the past year in Elkesley, two detached and one semi-detached. The overall average price of these sold properties was £143,500; this figure is similar in comparison with the average price in Retford at £140,364 however this is predominantly an urban area. The overall sold price for the last year is slightly higher than the average price for last year, up 5%; however it is 30% down on the figure for 2008 of £204,000.

Looking at available data covering the last five years, the majority of sales in Elkesley were detached and semi-detached properties that sold for an average price of £176,125 and £111,905 respectively. Only one terraced property was sold for a price of £70,000.

Available data shows that currently 16 properties are for sale in Elkesley, with an average asking price of £189,366, of these the majority are detached dwellings.

Housing Tenure

Within Elkesley the majority of housing is owner occupied, this being split further into either owned outright, or owned with a mortgage or loan. The levels of housing owned outright in Elkesley currently make up 35.9% of the current housing stock; this has increased somewhat from levels in 2001 which stood at 32%. Levels of housing owned with a mortgage or loan comprises 35.6% of the current housing stock, this has decreased significantly from levels in 2001 which stood at 41.8%.

The levels of social housing that is rented from either the local authorities housing provider or from housing cooperatives or charitable trusts has decreased in Elkesley from approximately 19.2% in 2001 to the current level of 14.7%. This decrease in levels is similar to those experienced at District level which has fallen from approximately 19.6% to 15.9%.

Housing Type

The most prominent housing type within Elkesley is semi-detached properties which comprise approximately 54.7% of the current stock; this figure is substantially higher than levels recorded for Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands at 42.4% and 35.5% respectively. Of the remaining properties, 35.3% are detached and 9.1% are terraced units.

³ All data used is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from *neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk* unless stated otherwise.

⁴ Obtained from *rightmove.co.uk* & *zoopla.co.uk* (19/10/2013)

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Housing Size

In regards to the size of housing in Elkesley in relation to the number of bedrooms the majority of dwellings are three bedroom units; these comprise approximately 53.5% of the current stock. This figure is typical in relation to Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands with figures of approximately 49.5% and 49.4% respectively.

Dwellings with four bedrooms comprises 18.8% of the current stock which is slightly higher than levels for the District and the East Midlands, whereas two bedroom units comprise 20.3% of the current stock, a figure slightly lower than District and regional levels.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

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

The Plan must therefore seek to determine if local residents are happy with the 11 houses allocated to the area by Bassetlaw District Council in their Preferred Site Allocations document up to the year 2028 or if they believe more is required. The location of any new housing can also be covered by the Plan if local residents express they are not happy with the allocated site on Yew Tree Road.

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

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Natural Environment

3.53 Elkesley benefits from a high quality natural environment consisting of several woodland areas and numerous open spaces, particularly to the south of the village and in the western half of the Parish. This hugely differs to the situation directly north of the village which is dominated by the A1 and employment uses, further reinforcing the importance of the natural environment that remains. These important open spaces along with several Local Wildlife Sites and trees covered by preservation orders can be considered as being environmental assets; the Local Wildlife Sites and Tree Preservation Orders found in Elkesley are identified on **Figure 2** on the following page.

Open Space Study

3.54 The Open Space Study published in August 2012 carried out in support of Bassetlaw District Council's Local Plan scores open spaces in the district on both the quality and value of the site, using a threshold system to score the space as high, average or low. Only 1 space was identified in Elkesley as an open space, Elkesley Play Area, this was defined as a space providing for children and young people. The space itself scored highly in quality and value.

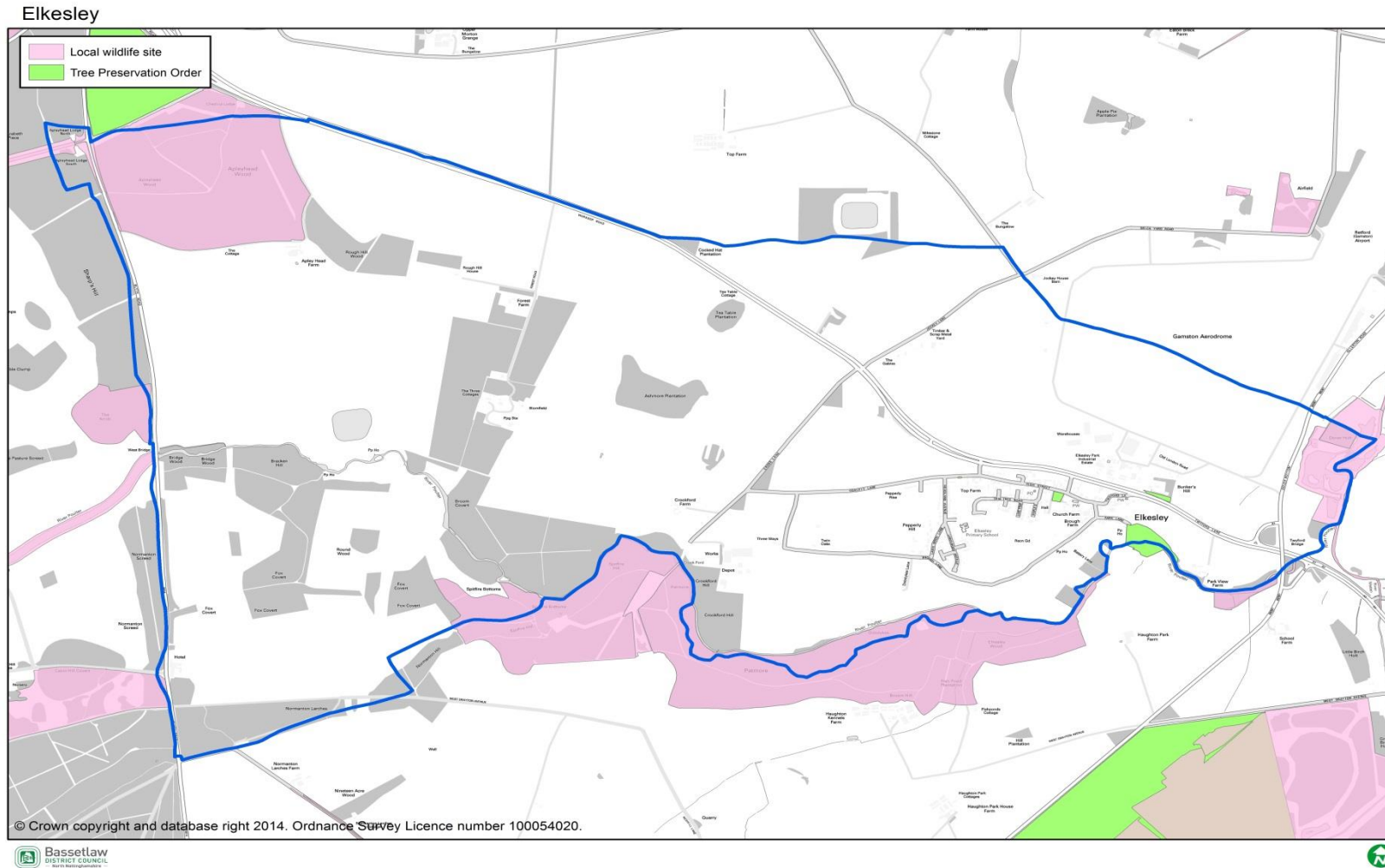
3.55 The study also highlights areas that do not have adequate provision of certain types of open space. Elkesley was identified as not having any amenity greenspace and it is recommended that new informal open space provision (i.e. amenity greenspace or natural and semi natural greenspace) should be sought in the village (minimum of 0.37 hectares).

Playing Pitch Strategy

3.56 A Playing Pitch Strategy Study was also commissioned by Bassetlaw District Council in 2009 to act as a supporting document for their Core Strategy, this study highlights 2 sites in Elkesley, the open space off High Street owned by the Parish Council that is available for community use and accommodates a senior football team (Elkesley FC) and the playing fields of Elkesley Primary School that are not currently available to the general community.

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Figure 2: Local Wildlife Sites



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Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Elkesley has a number of excellent PROW that are regularly enjoyed by local residents. In addition to this, these PROW attract visitors into the village; stimulating the local economy and raising awareness of the village. Current PROW that are located in the Parish are visible in **Figure 3** on the following page.

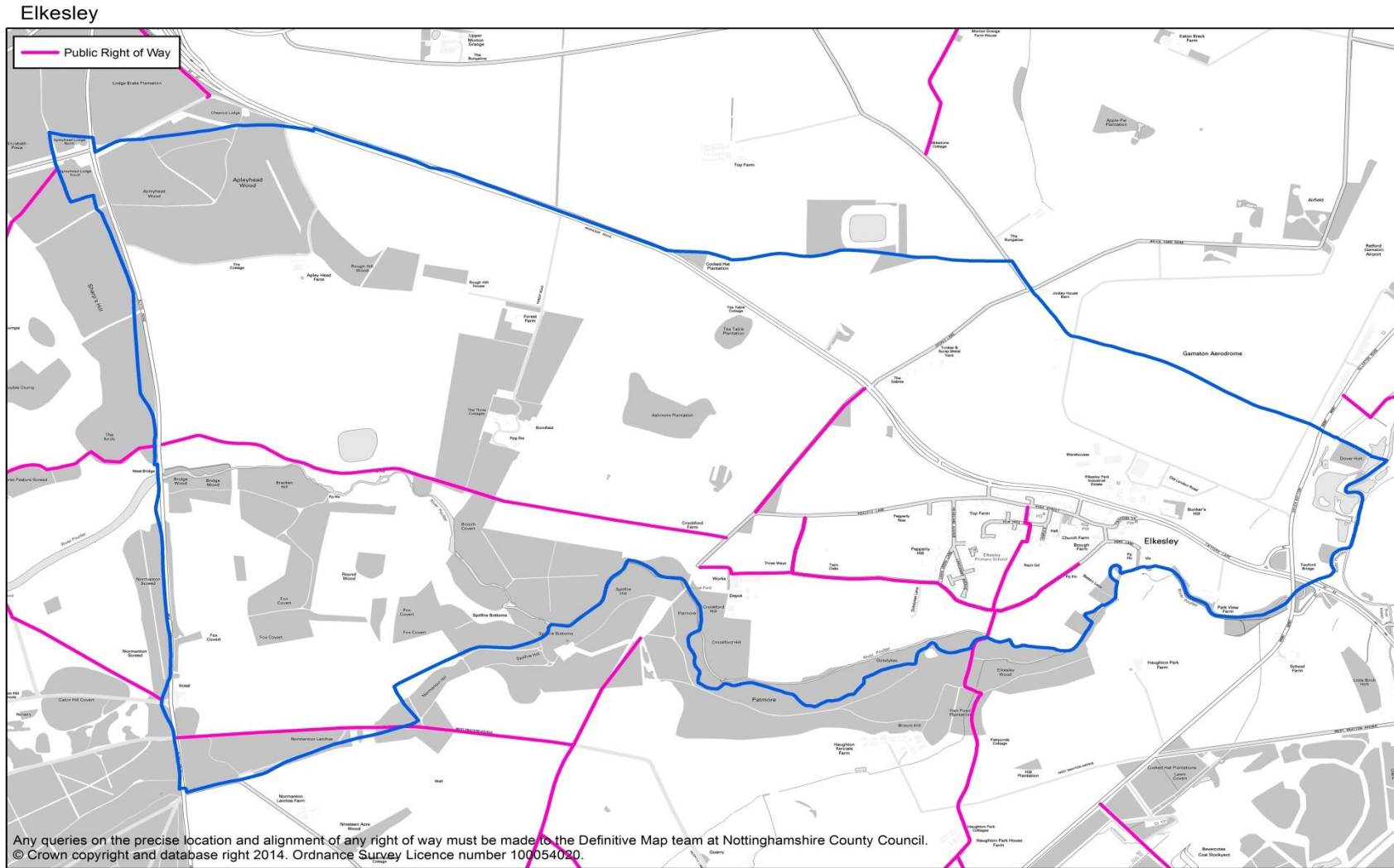
Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan should work to further identify and ensure the protection and enhancement of any environmental assets located in the Parish. The NPPF allows for Neighbourhood Plans to identify important Local Green Spaces which can then be designated as such offering protection from unsympathetic and damaging development proposals.

The Neighbourhood Plan should also seek to provide where possible the provision of the types of open space that the 2012 study identified as needed in the area. The Plan should also aim to preserve and enhance the PROW network in the Parish; this will improve access to important environmental assets in the Plan area.

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Figure 3: PROW in Elkesley



Design & Character

3.60 In terms of design and character the village of Elkesley can be separated into three distinct sections visible in **Figure 4** below, these being;

- **Old Elkesley** – historic core of the village containing the medieval church (earliest parts 13th century), comprising mostly of buildings constructed in the late-18th to early-20th century period usually within earlier plots, with some out of character modern infill sites.
- **Headland Avenue** – this housing estate was developed in the late 1950's and 1960's to house workers at the nearby Bevercotes Colliery, this area contains the school.
- **Yew Tree Road** – housing development constructed in the 1970's, with some additions in the 1990's.

Figure 4: Design & Character zones in Elkesley



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Listed / Non-Designated Buildings

3.62 There are four listed buildings found within the Parish of Elkesley, these are listed below in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Listed Buildings

Site	Designation	Description Available At
Church of St Giles	Grade I listed	http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1223919
Portland Farmhouse and attached garden walls and pavilions	Grade II listed	http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1266992
Range of farm buildings at Portland Farm	Grade II listed	http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1267084
Meadow Farmhouse	Grade II listed	http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1224009

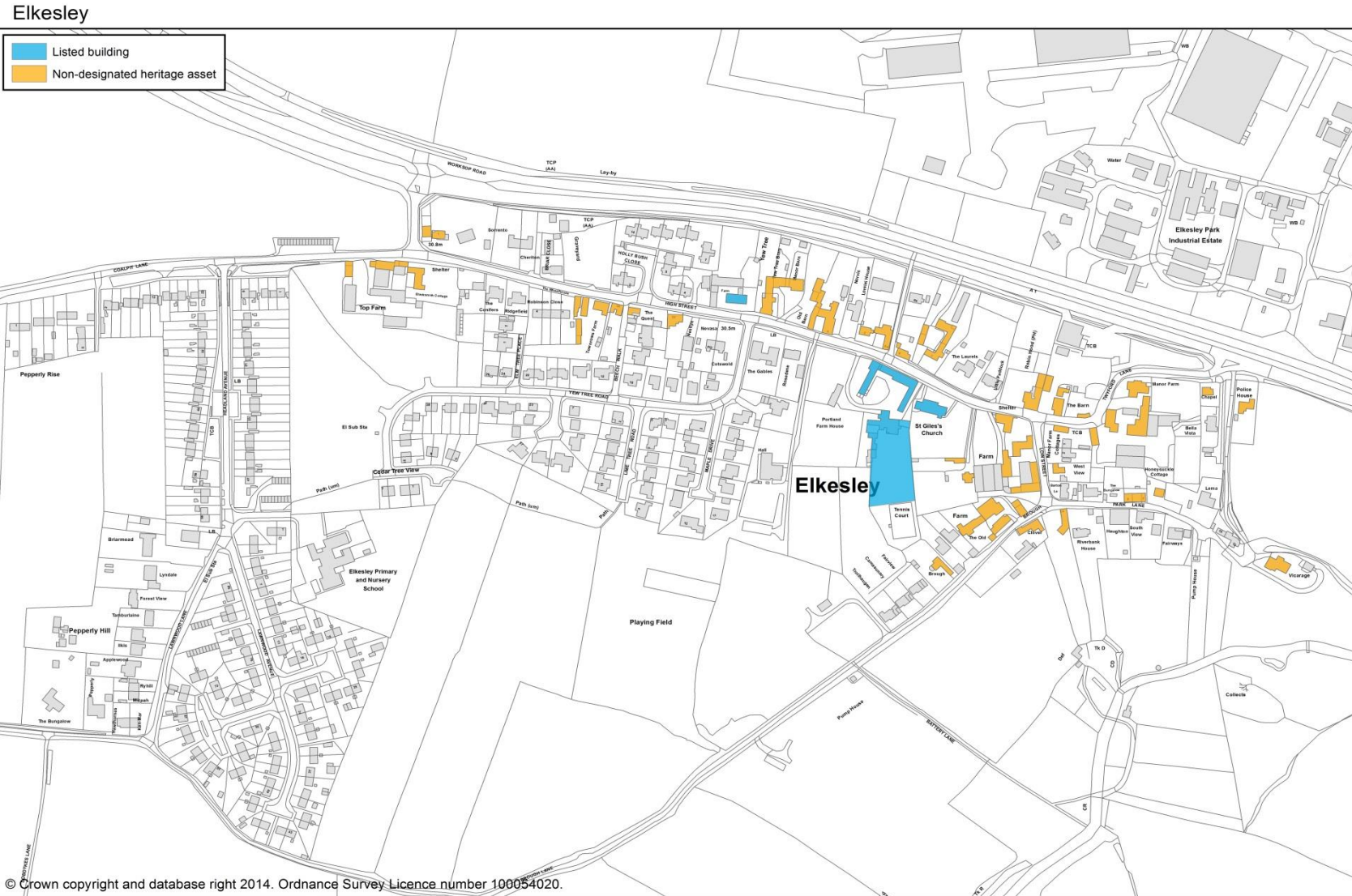
3.75 Several non-designated heritage assets (identified by Bassetlaw District Council in line with its adopted criteria) can also be found in this part of the village, with the majority of buildings found on High Street. The most prominent non-designated heritage assets include Manor Farm, Church Farm and Top Farm. The listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets in Elkesley village are identified on **Figure 5** on the following page. Some of the farms located elsewhere in the Parish are also identified as non-designated heritage assets.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

The three housing zones identified in this section noticeably differ from one another in relation to their layout, plan form and design in some aspects; however several similarities are clear, such as the use of materials and size and storey heights of properties. Therefore the Plan should ensure that all housing developments reflect these consistencies to ensure the continued local character of the area.

With regards to housing density the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) advises that housing density should reflect local circumstances and BDC Core Strategy advises that development proposals will be expected to deliver housing at densities that reflect the specific characteristics of the site and its surrounding area. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to ensure that the density of all housing developments is reflective of those densities currently found in the village.

Figure 5: Heritage Assets in Elkesley



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Economic Environment⁵

Type of Employment

- 3.95 Of the 822 residents of Elkesley 595 (72%) classed themselves as economically active, this meaning they are between the ages of 16-74 and are currently in or seeking employment.
- 3.96 Of these, approximately 38% are in full time employment, this figure being similar to District and National levels of approximately 37.9% and 40.8% respectively. Elkesley also experiences similar levels of residents in part time and self-employment to levels at District and National level, for Elkesley these being approximately 12.9% and 10.9% respectively.

Industry of Employment

- 3.97 As has been established previously in this document, the nature of employment that has dominated the parish of Elkesley was agricultural. This has changed drastically in Elkesley and the UK throughout the 20th century with the levels of employment in agriculture decreasing significantly.
- 3.98 Recent data suggests that the leading industry of employment for Elkesley residents is 'Wholesale and Retail Trade' with 14.5% of residents in employment working in such. The second leading industry of employment is 'Human Health and Social Work Activities' with 11.8% and the third being 'Manufacturing' at 11.3%.

Unemployment

- 3.99 Levels of unemployment with regards to residents who are economically active are relatively low in Elkesley in comparison with Bassetlaw District and the wider region. The level also seems to be decreasing, falling from 4% in 2001 to its current level of 3.5%. This figure of 3.5% is lower when compared to the figure for Bassetlaw District at 4% and the national figure of 4.4%

Retired

- 3.100 It has been stated in a previous section of this document, Elkesley has a substantial older population which will continue to increase if current trends persist. The amount of residents who are retired currently stands at 20.6%, this figure increasing from 15.3% in 2001. This is significantly higher than the national figure which stands at 17.8% however it is more consistent with the figure for Bassetlaw District of 20.9%.

Commuting Information

- 3.101 Coupled with the changing nature of the industry of employment experienced within Elkesley, as well across the whole of the UK, the enhanced ability to live and work in separate locations has significantly increased the levels of commuting to work.

⁵ All data used is obtained from the 2001 & 2011 Census from *neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk*

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3.102 **Table 4** below provides information on the methods of travel to work used by local residents of Elkesley compared to levels for the District of Bassetlaw and England. This data not only provides an idea of how many people work locally and how many commute out of the area for work, therefore providing information on the levels of accessible local employment opportunities, it also provides an insight into the reliance on public transport in the area.

Table 4: Method of Travel to Work⁶

Location	Economically Active	Drive or Passenger in a Car or Van	On Foot	Bicycle	Bus, Minibus or Coach
Elkesley	595	50.8%	4.2%	1.5%	1%
Bassetlaw	83,305	48.6%	6.7%	1.6%	1.5%
England	38,881,374	40.1%	6.9%	1.9%	4.9%

Business / Industrial Park

3.103 Elkesley Park Industrial Estate is located to the north of the village, separated from it by the A1. The park was initially developed in the early 1960's and has not been significantly extended from its original size and layout. The Park is dominated by several large warehouses to the north west of the park, with numerous smaller units located to the south and east.

3.104 The use of the Park is predominantly for warehousing and distribution, particularly in the larger sites with the largest operator being the Canute Group; however some manufacturing businesses are located in the smaller units. The majority of the older buildings dating from the airfields use as an RAF base in the Second World War are used for agricultural storage, however the majority of these buildings are in a poor state of repair and are close to being deemed not fit for purpose.

Within the Village

3.105 Business uses are limited within the village of Elkesley itself; however some do exist mostly directly serving local residents. Some examples include;

- The Robin Hood Public House – first obtained licence in 1811
- Local Convenience Store – Select & Save

⁶ All data used is obtained from the 2011 Census from *neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk*

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- Farms – some farms located in the village still operate, such as Top Farm & Church Farm
- The Old Vicarage – hosts events such as Weddings

Within the Parish

3.106 In relation to business use in the remaining area of the parish, the predominant use is agricultural based in several isolated farming establishments. Also, to the south-west of the village there is a wood processing and distribution site, and a metal recycling site and sleeper company located on Jockey Lane.

Car / Van Availability⁷

3.107 Households that were recorded as having no access to either a car or van comprised approximately 12.6% of the total amount of dwellings in Elkesley. This figure has decreased from the level recorded in 2001 which stood at 16.8%, and is considerably lower than levels in Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands which stand at approximately 20.1% and 22.1% respectively.

3.108 Approximately 45% of households in Elkesley have access to 1 car or van, this figure is slightly higher than levels for Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands at approximately 43.1% and 42.5% respectively. The levels of households with access to 2, 3 or 4+ cars or vans in Elkesley is slightly higher than levels for Bassetlaw District and the East Midlands.

3.109 A total of 486 cars or vans were recorded in Elkesley, where there are currently 340 dwellings. This provides an average figure of 1.43 cars or vans per household.

Implications for the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan should look to promote local employment opportunities in the Parish to potentially provide jobs for those unemployed, as well as providing local jobs enabling more people could walk or cycle to work rather than driving. The Plan could promote local employment opportunities with two approaches.

The first of these would be by encouraging the redevelopment and potential expansion of Elkesley Park Industrial Estate to the north of the village. This established employment site has significant scope to provide a substantial number of additional jobs and will be particularly accessible from the village following the completion of the A1 bridge access.

Secondly, the Neighbourhood Plan could look to promote small scale employment developments within the village itself. This could involve allowing development providing employment opportunities adjoining the existing development boundary or providing support for the improvement of digital connectivity in the village to increase levels of residents working from home.

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

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4 Sustainability Issues

4.1 **Table 5** below provides an overview of the sustainability issues and problems effecting the Parish of Elkesley that have been identified with regard to the baseline data provided in the preceding section of this document.

Table 5: Summary of Sustainability Issues

Sustainability Theme	Identified Issues
Social Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The low levels of housing completions experienced in the Parish over the last few years in addition to its ageing population present a serious sustainability issue for Elkesley. Controlled growth is needed to ensure important community facilities can continue to operate in the Parish, such as additional children moving to the area to support the Local Primary School, and to provide more customers for the local Pub and Shop. • The number of households in deprivation in Elkesley is slightly higher than the national average, this could be addressed by ensuring that important local facilities and environmental assets are protected and where possible improved. • Only 11 new houses have been allocated in Elkesley up to the year 2028 in BDC Site Allocations document, the local community must decide if this level of growth is enough to ensure the continued sustainability of the Parish or if more is needed.
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must also be considered that development at any scale, even sustainable development, will have some negative impact on the natural environment. • Important environmental assets valued by the local community need to be identified to ensure they are protected from harm and unsympathetic development. Ensuring they can continue to serve the current and future local population.
Economic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant lack of local employment opportunities in the Parish could be argued to have contributed to the unbalanced and ageing population. • A significant amount of land in the Parish is already allocated for economic uses however the levels of employment provided by these are noticeably low.

5 Developing the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Framework (Stage 4)

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

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

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

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Table 5 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

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

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

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Table 6 Relationship between SA Objectives and themes of Sustainability

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

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

Table 7 Decision Making Criteria for SA Objectives

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria
1) To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of Elkesley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups? • Will it reduce homelessness? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?
2) To improve health and reduce health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce health inequalities? • Will it improve access to health services? • Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity?
3) To provide better opportunities for recreation and for people to value and enjoy Elkesley's cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide new open space? • Will it improve the quality of existing open space? • Will it help people to increase their participation in cultural activities?
4) To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide safer communities? • Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? • Will it contribute to a safe secure built environment?
5) To promote social cohesion and support the development of community facilities across the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve access to, and resident's satisfaction with community facilities and services? • Will it encourage engagement in community activities?

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<p>6) To protect the natural environment and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure across the Parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it help protect and improve biodiversity and in particular avoid harm to protected species? • Will it help protect and improve habitats? • Will it increase, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest? • Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management? • Will it protect or contribute to the enhancement of the landscape character? • Will it enhance the resilience of the natural environment to the impacts of climate change?
<p>7) To protect and enhance the historic built environment and cultural heritage assets in Elkesley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance existing cultural assets? • Will it protect and enhance heritage assets and their setting? • Will it protect or contribute to the enhancement of the townscape character?
<p>8) To protect and manage prudently the natural resources of the town, including water, air quality, soils and minerals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve water quality? • Will it minimise the risk of property flooding? • Will it protect and conserve water resources? • Will it improve air quality? • Will it lead to reduced consumption of raw materials? • Will it promote the use of sustainable design, materials and construction

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	<p>techniques?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it minimise the loss of soils to development? • Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?
<p>9) To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce household waste? • Will it increase waste recovery and recycling? • Will it assist or facilitate compliance with the waste hierarchy (i.e. reduce first, then re-use, recover, recycle, landfill)? • Will it assist in maximising the use of recycled and secondary materials (including aggregates)?
<p>10) To minimise energy usage and to develop Elkesley's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve energy efficiency of new buildings? • Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? • Will it encourage new development to be of high quality which minimises impacts on the environment and maximises the potential for the UK to move towards a low carbon economy?
<p>11) To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? • Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? • Will it reduce journeys undertaken by car by encouraging alternative modes of transport?

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

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

Table 8 Criteria Used to assess Vision & Objectives

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

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

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Table 9 Criteria used to assess Development Management Policies

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

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6 Consultation and Next Steps (Stage A5)

Consultation

- 6.1 This SA Scoping Report will now be the subject of a five week consultation with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England as the statutory environmental consultees in England. The SA Framework will then be amended and finalised in line with any comments received during this process.

Next Steps

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