

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council

Quality information

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Acronyms

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
HWRC	Household Waste Recovery Centre
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
EU	European Union
GhG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
NCA	National Character Area
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPZ	Groundwater Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Slyne-with-Hest emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

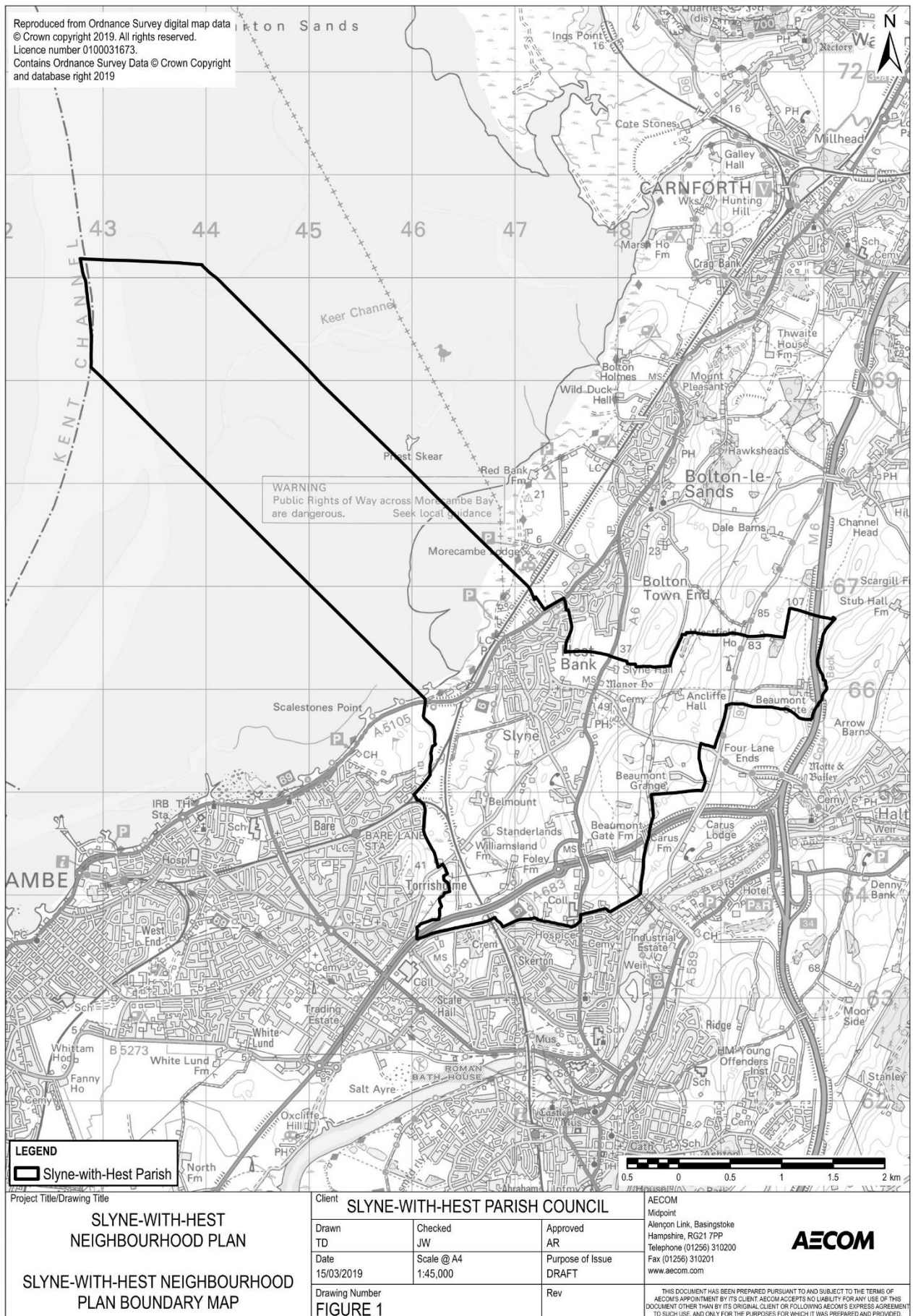
The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the emerging Lancaster Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Policies and Land Allocation Development Plan Document for Lancaster District. Once adopted by the council, the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD and accompanying Policies Map will replace any site specific guidance from the strikethrough edition of the Lancaster District Local Plan 1996 - 2016 (adopted in 2004 and reviewed in 2008). It is currently anticipated that the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Lancaster Council late 2019.

Key information relating to the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council
Title of Plan	Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the emerging Lancaster Local Plan.</p> <p>The emerging Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2031
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Slyne-with-Hest in Lancaster (Figure 1.1).
Summary of content	The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	<p>Jean Walker, Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Email address: swhneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com</p>

Figure 1.1: The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan Area



1.2 Relationship of the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan with the Local Plan

Due to the Neighbourhood Plan Area being location within Lancaster, this Plan is being prepared in the context of the Strike-Through Edition of the Lancaster District Local Plan (2008) and the emerging Lancaster Local Plan.

Neighbourhood plans are required to be in conformity with the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development Lancaster, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process, where appropriate.

1.3 Vision for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan

The Mission Statement for the Draft Plan is as follows:



October 2016

Dear resident,

The Neighbourhood Plan group have listened to over 200 local people and prepared the following vision and objectives to guide land use in our Parish over the next 20-30 years. Items that fall outside of a neighbourhood plan's scope have been passed to the Parish Council for consideration and action. We will now begin work on expanding the vision and objectives to policies and a full Neighbourhood Plan. All residents will have the chance to vote on the final document in 2017.

VISION

The Historic village of Slyne-with-Hest is located on the shore of Morecambe Bay and enjoys spectacular panoramic views of the Lake District hills. The village bounded on three sides by fields, is a vibrant community, a place where people feel involved, safe and have traditionally put down roots. It is a great place to bring up a family, live, work and grow old.

The Parish Council will support measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable development to meet the requirements of existing and future residents. Our plan will protect the environment, its green spaces and wild life habitats for generations to come.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To ensure any new development is sensitive to the character of the Parish, is of high quality, truly affordable, needs led and provides sufficient parking.
- 2) To ensure the scale of any development is proportional to the size of the existing village and does not compromise its geographic independence.

3) To ensure any business development is carefully sited and sensitively designed. New enterprises will reflect the character and meet the needs of the village.

4) To preserve, enhance and improve the natural environment and maintain access for all.

5) To preserve and protect our local heritage and conservation areas, including historic buildings and their settings, monuments, canal and shoreline with its unrivalled views.

6) To maintain and improve the communal and recreational facilities in the village ensuring they are appropriate to the needs and requirements of all who reside in or visit the Parish, and make the village a safer place to walk and cycle.

For more information visit:

www.slyne-with-hest.org.uk

Contact us by email at:

neighbourhood-plan@slyne-with-hest.org.uk

1.4 SEA explained

The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Lancaster Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.

SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item 1 above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

1.5 SEA 'scoping' explained

Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:

1. Defining the broader context for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
2. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
4. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

1.6 Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1–4 above have been presented under a series of key environmental themes, as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Climatic Factors (including flood risk)
- Landscape and Historic Environment
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transportation

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive¹. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 9.

SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework (this could include site options, policies and strategic decisions).

The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 9.

¹ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme:

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

2.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Air quality in the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area is generally good, with no significant issues identified.
- Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase emissions and reduce air quality in the area; however air pollution is at a very low baseline so likely effects are unlikely to be significant. Furthermore, the Plan does not propose to increase growth substantially beyond that set out in the emerging local plan.
- Due to the absence of significant and tangible air quality issues in the Neighbourhood Plan area, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process.

2.2 Policy and contextual review

The **Air Quality Strategy** (2007)² establishes the policy framework for ambient air quality management and assessment in the UK. The primary objective is to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. The Strategy sets out the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and government policy on achieving these objectives.

The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** (2018)³ outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.

The **Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance** (2018)⁴ issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the NAQOs apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year).

The Defra report **Action for air quality in a changing climate** (2010)⁵ focuses on the synergies between the two issues of air quality and climate change. In particular, it notes the potential for additional health benefits through the closer integration of climate and air pollution policy. It is suggested that co-benefits can be realised through a variety of means, including promoting low carbon vehicles and renewable energy.

In terms of the local context, Lancaster City Council is required to monitor air quality across the county, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and

² Defra (2007) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/approach/>

³ MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf

⁴ Defra (2018) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance [online] available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-February-18-v1.pdf>

⁵ Defra (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69340/pb13378-air-pollution.pdf

particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

2.3 Baseline summary

Air quality in the coastal areas of Lancaster is generally very good, and this includes villages such as Slyne-with-Hest which is relatively small in terms of housing and economic activity.

Though there is the strategic coastal road (A5105 - Marine Drive) and the M6 cuts through the most Easterly point of the Neighbourhood area, the level of emissions do not contribute significantly to the air quality in Slyne-with-Hest (which has low background levels of pollutants and particulate matter).

Currently, air quality within Slyne-with-Hest is generally good, and well within national air quality objectives / targets.

There are no locations within the Neighbourhood Area which are considered at risk of exceeding air pollutant standards, nor are any areas subject to Air Quality Management designations.

2.4 Summary of future baseline

Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist within the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area, new employment and or housing provision within the Neighbourhood Plan area could have the potential for some minor adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂.

Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be the village centre and the routes with the greatest congestion issues. The existing baseline for air pollutants is very low in Slyne-with-Hest though, and as such any increases are not likely to lead to air quality issues in the village in the longer term.

If air quality was to be affected it would be very minor and it would be affected most likely through the following reasons : the construction and operational process of development and increased traffic flows and associated pollutants which may be generated.

Any increase could be offset in part by the adoption of sustainable construction methods and standards for built development, minimising energy use, the use of zero or low carbon energy sources for energy requirements, and the implementation of the Lancaster Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2021⁶ (May 2011), which is likely to encourage a modal shift from the private car for short journeys as they have indicated putting cycle hubs in to improve active travel options across the Local plan area .

In fact, in the absence of a neighbourhood plan, it is anticipated that air quality will see a general improvement in response to the use of cleaner fuels.

⁶ https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/191267/LTP3_through_full_council.pdf

3. Biodiversity

Focus of Theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- SSSIs in the plan area
- Important habitats and species

3.1 Headline sustainability issues

- The Neighbourhood plan area contains one SSSIs, with additional sites within close proximity.
- There is a SPA and Ramsar Site within the plan area.
- There are priority habitats and species present both in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. These need to be protected and enhanced in order to prevent the loss, fragmentation and deterioration of biodiversity in Slyne-with-Hest.

3.2 Policy and contextual review

At the European level, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**⁷ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

The European Commission Guidance on **Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment**⁸ (2013) suggests that an SEA should focus on ensuring 'no-net-loss of biodiversity' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of 'ecosystem services' and the links between natural environment and economy.

The **NPPF** (2018) states that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment including helping to improve biodiversity, and using natural resources prudently. In support of this aim the framework states that plans should 'identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats' and should also 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.

The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**'⁹ (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the protection and promotion of biodiversity are as follows:

- Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife, and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
- Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive, and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.

⁷ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

⁸ European Commission (2013) Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

⁹ Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

- Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
- Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

The **Biodiversity 2020 strategy**¹⁰(2011), published by the government, sets out objectives to deliver: a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, to put people at the heart of biodiversity policy, to reduce environmental pressures, an overall improvement in the status of species and prevention of further human-induced extinctions and improved public knowledge of biodiversity.

In addition to the national agenda, efforts to maintain biodiversity have also been made on the more local level. The Lancashire Local Plan:

Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan¹¹ (BAP) The LBAP itself prepared 39 action plans for around individual species or groups of species that are threatened within the area with an intention to protect their levels within the Lancashire local authority area. It is noted that the BAP dates from 2001 and has not been updated.

Biodiversity will also be protected through the emerging Local Plan, which has been informed by a **Habitats Regulations Assessment¹²** (February 2018). The purpose of the HRA is to assess possible effects of the Local Plan on the nature conservation interests of sites designated on a European Level under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. The commitment of the council to protect and enhance biodiversity features is outlined under Policy DM40: The Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity of the Draft Plan for Regulation 18 Consultation (May 2018).

3.3 Baseline Summary

Nature conservation designations

Lancaster currently exhibits a range of wildlife species and habitats. A number of these are protected sites; the designation of which helps to preserve the nature and the character of the areas. Nature designations within Slyne-with-Hest and the surrounding area are presented in the following table and illustrated in Figure 3.1.

Table 3.1: Nature Designations within Slyne-with-Hest¹³

Designation Type	Total Number	Location
Natura 2000	0	N/A
Special Area of Conservation	1	Morecambe Bay
Special Protection Areas	0	N/A
	2 within 10km of Neighbourhood Area	Leighton Moss and Bowland Fells
Ramsar Sites	1	Morecambe Bay

¹⁰Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

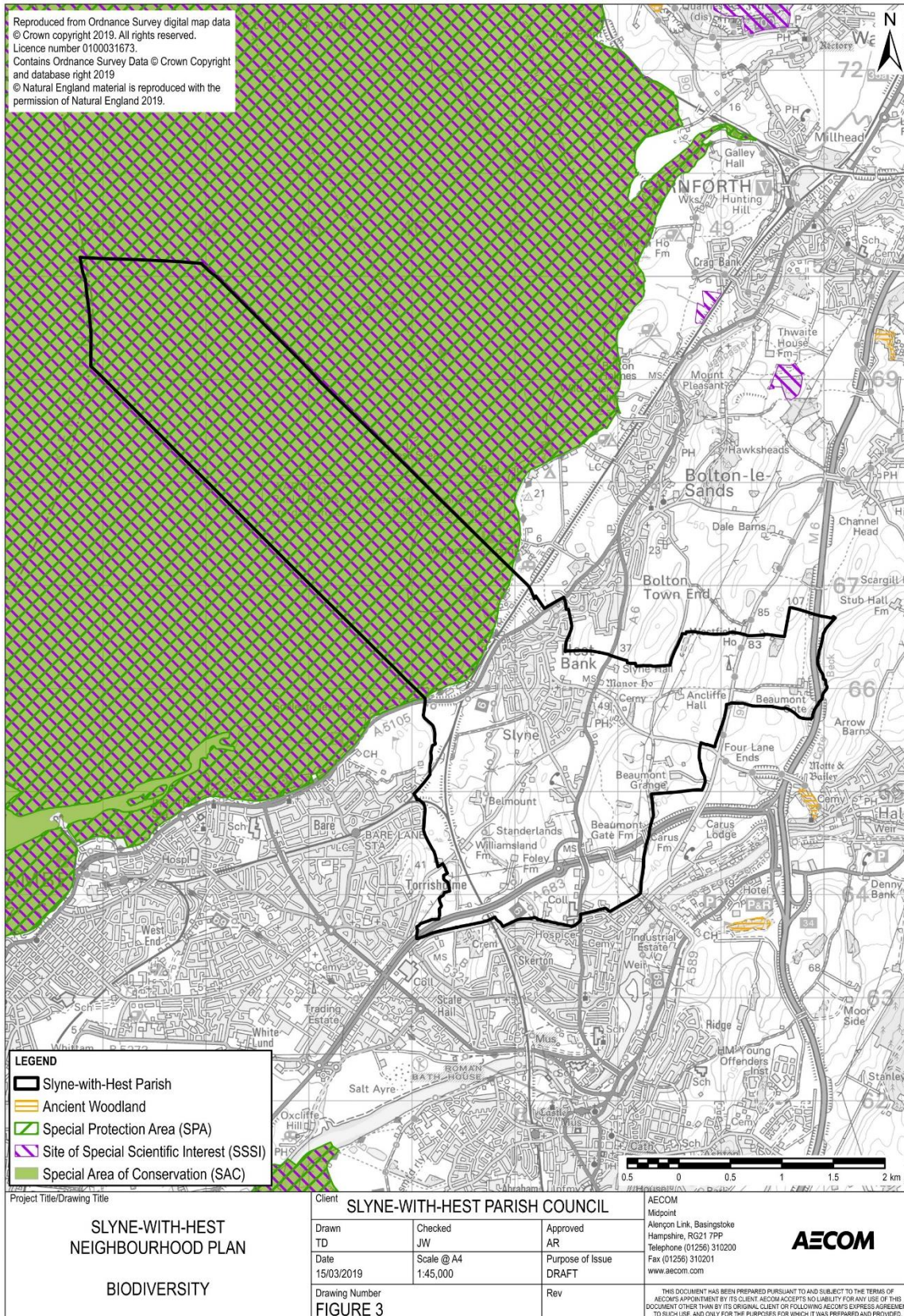
¹¹ <https://ftps.lancashire.gov.uk/>

¹² Lancaster City Council (2018) Habitat Regulations Assessment [online] available at: <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/3122/Part%202%20Development%20Management%20Habitats%20Regulations%20Assessment.pdf>

¹³ Natural England (2018)

Designation Type	Total Number	Location
	+ 1 within 15km of Neighbourhood Area	N/A
Site of Special Scientific Interest	1	Morcambe Bay
	17 within 10km of Neighbourhood Area	Trowbarrow Quarry, Artle Dale, Burton Wood, Cringlebarrow And Deepdale, Eaves Wood, Leighton Moss, Thrang End And Yealand Hall Allotment, Heysham Moss, Hawes Water, Bowland Fells, Silverdale Golf Course, Calf Hill And Cragg Woods, Crag Bank, Jack Scout, Far Arnside, Thwaite House Moss, Lune Estuary, Thrang End And Yealand Hall Allotment, Middlebarrow
Local Nature Reserve	0	N/A

Figure 3.1: Ecological Designations within the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area



SSSIs within the Plan area

There are over 4,100 Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) in England, which covers around 8% of the country's land area. SSSIs are recognised as the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. There is one SSSI within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which is also a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Morecambe Bay

Morecambe Bay, lying between the coasts of South Cumbria and North Lancashire, forms one of the two largest areas of intertidal estuarine flats in Britain, the other being the Wash. The whole estuarine complex is of international significance for wintering wading birds and of national significance for wintering wildfowl. As such Morecambe Bay provides a vital link in the chain of west coast estuaries used by migrating birds.

The saltmarshes are particularly important for their vegetation which is diverse, supporting a number of rare and uncommon plants, as well as a variety of nationally scarce invertebrate species. The estuarine system of flats and marshes is dynamic with shifting channels and phases of erosion and accretion. On the northern and eastern sides of the Bay sand flats are bordered by extensive areas of saltmarsh which are covered only by the highest tides. The site contains the largest area of saltmarsh in South Cumbria and the second largest in Lancashire after the Ribble Estuary. The majority of the intertidal flats consist of fine sand with small amounts of silt, whilst relatively muddy areas can be found near Walney Island and towards the Lune Estuary. Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds are a major feature of the Bay with very large areas off Morecambe, Heysham and Foulney Island. The flats are divided by 3 main river channels namely the Keer, Kent and Leven, in addition to numerous creeks which dissect the marshes. Areas of shingle occur between Rampside and Conishead Bank, and there are a number of stony outcrops known locally as scars or skeers.

The estuary is the second most important in the UK after The Wash as a feeding and roosting ground for large concentrations of wintering wading birds. It regularly supports 110,000 wintering waders with 9 species occurring at nationally important levels (numbers exceeding 1% of the British population). These are oystercatcher (41,000), dunlin (31,000), knot (14,000), curlew (8,000), redshank (5,000), turnstone (1,200), bar-tailed godwit (3,200), grey plover (700) and ringed plover (310); the first 6 are recorded at levels of international significance (numbers exceeding 1% of the European population). Internationally important numbers of ringed plover (1,200) are recorded on passage in the spring, and nationally important numbers of dunlin (3,000) and redshank (5,600) in the autumn. Although no discrete populations of sanderling are identifiable during migration, passage counts indicate the international significance of Morecambe Bay for this species with a recent spring count of 8,500.

Table 3.2: SSSI Conditions¹⁴

	Meeting area of favourable or unfavourable recovering	Favourable	Unfavourable Recovering	Unfavourable No change	Unfavourable Declining	Destroyed
Area (ha)	25,186.59	24,561.15	625.4		856.4	0%
Percentage	96.7%	94.31%	2.40%	0%	3.29%	0%

¹⁴ Natural England (2018)

SSSI Impact Risk Zones

SSSI Impact Risk Zones map zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is designated. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

In its entirety, the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area falls within SSSI Impact Risk Zones for the Morecambe Bay SSSI.

Activities that are identified as potentially threatening to the SSSIs include residential development (of various scales depending on proximity to SSSI), infrastructure, commercial and industrial development, and development which may result in externalities such as waste and air pollution.

Important habitats and species

Coastal saltmarshes

Coastal saltmarshes comprise the upper, vegetated portions of intertidal mudflats, lying approximately between mean high water neap tides and mean high water spring tides. Saltmarsh is one of a number of coastal habitats that are threatened by rising sea levels and increased storm events, combined in some area with isostatic change. The impact of sea level rise is exacerbated by hard sea defences which prevent new habitat from forming to replace what is lost.

Mudflats

Mudflats are sedimentary intertidal habitats created by deposition in low energy coastal environments, particularly estuaries and other sheltered areas. Their sediment consists mostly of silts and clays with a high organic content. Towards the mouths of estuaries where salinity and wave energy are higher the proportion of sand increases. Mudflats are intimately linked by physical processes to, and may be dependent on, other coastal habitats such as soft cliffs and saltmarshes. They commonly appear in the natural sequence of habitats between subtidal channels and vegetated saltmarshes. In large estuaries they may be several kilometres wide and commonly form the largest part of the intertidal area of estuaries. However, in many places they have been much reduced by land claim. Mudflats are highly productive areas which, together with other intertidal habitats, support large numbers of predatory birds and fish. They provide feeding and resting areas for internationally important populations of migrant and wintering waterfowl, and are also important nursery areas for flatfish.

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is dependent on periodic inundation and high water levels, which means that it is sensitive to the projected changes in patterns of rainfall and extreme events such as drought and flooding. Coastal grazing marsh is at additional risk from sea level rise, leading to increased inundation, potential coastal erosion, and coastal squeeze, with freshwater sites adjacent to the coast sensitive to saline intrusion. Coastal grazing marsh is also vulnerable to human responses to sea level rise, including losing space to intertidal habitats following managed realignment schemes.

Lowland fen

Lowland fen is highly sensitive to changes in the quality and quantity of water supply and its seasonal availability, all of which are likely to alter significantly under climate change. The direct impacts of changes to precipitation and temperature pose a severe threat to lowland fen habitat and may in many cases be compounded by increasing demand for water leading to increased abstraction. Sea level rise and associated saline intrusion will pose an increasing threat to fen close to the coast.

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

The greatest threat to woodlands from climate change is likely to be an increase in the frequency and severity of summer drought. There is a high likelihood that there will be impacts on drought sensitive tree species particularly on some soil types (e.g. shallow, freely-draining soils and clay soils), particularly in southern and eastern England. Stressed trees are more susceptible to insect pests and

diseases, and the majority of insect pests that currently affect UK woodlands are likely to benefit from climate change as a result of increased activity and reduced winter mortality (Broadmeadow 2005). The impacts of both insect pests and diseases are therefore likely to increase with climate change. Deer and grey squirrel populations are also likely to benefit from climate change, representing a greater threat to woodlands and limiting the capacity for evolutionary adaptation through natural regeneration. There are likely to be shifts in the distribution of the main tree species across much of the UK and, due to the low species diversity of high forest trees in England's woods; over a long time-frame this may result in widespread change to the composition and structure of woodland. The risk of wind throw may increase if the UK experiences more storms or if tree-root depth becomes restricted by increased rainfall and waterlogging. The likely responses of the forestry sector to climate change may change the character of broadleaved woodlands as new management approaches, including the planting of native and non-native species in locations outside their natural range, are adopted. However, the more widespread adoption of continuous cover systems of management could benefit some woodland biodiversity through improvements in stand structure.

Mixed deciduous woodland is characterised by trees that are more than 5 m high when mature, and which form a distinct, although sometimes open, canopy with a canopy cover of greater than 20%. It includes stands of both native and non-native broadleaved tree species and of yew *Taxus baccata* where the percentage cover of these trees in the stand exceeds 80% of the total tree cover. Deciduous woodland may be of ancient or recent origin, and can be either semi-natural arising from natural regeneration or planted.

3.4 Future baseline

A number of factors threaten protected and priority species and habitats within Slyne-with-Hest. Notably recreational pressures, climate change, unsuitable land management and invasive species.

Development within the plan area could encroach on certain habitats, threaten local species, and impact biodiversity networks should mitigation measures not be adopted. However, in the absence of the neighbourhood Plan, the scale of development would not be anticipated to lead to significant effects with regards to biodiversity.

Threats to biodiversity may also be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.

If an approach to development is taken which seeks to maintain ecological corridors and habitats and improve or expand existing habitats where possible, the potentially negative effects from development may be offset to some extent. However, in the absence of a plan, development is less likely to be coordinated on a strategic level. Therefore, opportunities for wider improvements to green infrastructure may be less likely to be realised.

3.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?

This SEA topic has been **SCOPED IN** as the plan will allocate land for development that could potentially give rise to significant effects upon biodiversity. Furthermore, the plan offers opportunities to enhance biodiversity through the development of locally specific policies.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Achieve net gains in biodiversity through the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and associated species.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance designated wildlife sites and nearby habitats which may act as a 'buffer'? • Support the conservation and enhancement of priority species and habitats Lowland mixed deciduous woodland, Lowland fen, Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, Mudflats and Coastal saltmarshes? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Ensure current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity, whilst managing the possible impacts of recreational pressure? • Contribute to improved resilience to climate change for species and habitats?

4. Climate Change

Focus of Theme:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Effects of climate change and adaptation
- Flood risk

4.1 Headline sustainability issues

- An increase in the built footprint of the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Neighbourhood Plan areas along the coast are situated within Flood Zone 2 and 3 (medium to high risk of flooding) with a number of roads and properties in such areas.
- There is a need to manage and if possible reduce the risk of flooding on development sites and existing properties.
- The Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan should seek to increase the Neighbourhood Plan area's resilience to the effects of climate change by supporting and encouraging adaptation strategies.

4.2 Policy and contextual review

Effects of climate change and adaptation

The Carbon Plan (2011) sets out the Government's plans for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions committed to in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the first four carbon budgets. The Carbon Plan aims to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050, relative to levels in 1990.¹⁵

The **UK Climate Change Risk Assessment** is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It requires the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report to achieve the following:

*'Based on the latest understanding of current, and future, climate risks and opportunities, vulnerability and adaptation, what should the priorities be for the next UK National Adaptation Programme?'*¹⁶

The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, as follows:

1. Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
2. Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
3. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;

¹⁵ HM Government (2011) Carbon Plan : Delivering our low carbon future [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/47613/3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf

¹⁶ GOV UK 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017 (Online) available to download from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> last accessed 24/10/18.

4. Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
5. Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
6. New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

The UK Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act includes the following key aims and objectives:

- The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same.

Greenhouse gas emissions

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assessed the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommended a package of measures to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.¹⁷ In relation to energy, the Commission recommended that the EU's energy efficiency should be improved by 20% and that the share of renewable energy should grow to 20% by 2020.

Key messages from the **NPPF** regarding climate change include:

- Supporting the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a core planning principle.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GhG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008¹⁸. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GhG emissions;
 - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Governments policy;
 - positively promoting renewable and low carbon energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their application; and
 - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Identifying areas suitable for wind energy.

¹⁷ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

¹⁸ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

Food risk

Key messages from the **NPPF**;

- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The **Flood and Water Management Act**¹⁹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management should be promoted. For example:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion;
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).²⁰

Further guidance is provided in the document **Planning for SuDs**.²¹ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

This Lancashire and Blackpool Local Strategy will be developed in conjunction with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) and are both the lead local flood authorities (LLFA) for the county as defined by the **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**. Under this role, it is the Councils responsibility to assist in the management of flood risk from local sources such as surface water, ordinary watercourses, groundwater, canals, lakes and small reservoirs. As a result, the Council has produced a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to outline how they will manage flood risk within local areas.

The Key objectives from the Joint local flood Risk Management Strategy are:²²

¹⁹ Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 . Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

²⁰ N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

²¹ CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen' Available:

<http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

²² Lancashire County Council (2013) Local Flood Risk Management [online]

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/900474/lancashire-and-blackpool-local-flood-risk-management-strategy-consultation-draft.pdf>

Roles and Responsibilities

- RR1 Identify RMAs and define each RMA's roles and responsibilities in relation to managing risk from all sources of flooding
- RR2 Allow RMAs to make efficient decisions on flood risk management and exploit opportunities effectively
- RR3 Give risk management authorities powers to undertake flood related works
- RR4 Ensure alignment of local Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning functions

Understanding Risk

- UR1 Understand key local flood risks
- UR2 Work together with other RMAs to investigate and manage interactions between Main River, coastal flooding and local flood risks
- UR3 Record, investigate and report flooding incidents
- UR4 Take account of climate change when fulfilling duties and responsibilities in flood risk management

Funding

- F1 Define the approach to, and opportunities for, resourcing and funding local flood risk management activities
- F2 Encourage beneficiaries to invest in local flood risk management

Communication and Involvement

- C&I1 Deliver flood risk management through effective partnership working
- C&I2 Establish effective data sharing agreements
- C&I3 Encourage stakeholder and community involvement in flood risk management

Sustainable Flood Risk Management

- SFRM1 Integrate economic, social and environmental improvements with local flood risk management in line with sustainability principles
- SFRM2 Manage development so that it reduces flood risk
- SFRM3 Promote the use of SuDS
- SFRM4 Encourage innovation in local flood risk management
- SFRM5 Set out an asset management plan
- SFRM6 work with the owners of assets with a flood risk management function

4.3 Baseline Summary

Greenhouse gas emissions

Emissions in Lancaster per capita are significantly below the national averages. Levels have decreased in Lancaster significantly from 7.1 to 5.4 tonnes per capita between 2010 and 2016. This is unlike national averages that have fluctuated and have now returned to the same peak level they reached in 2010.

As a relatively rural area, Slyne-with-Hest is likely to emit more emissions from domestic and transport, rather than industrial activities.

There are no large scale renewable / low carbon energy schemes within the Plan area.

Table 4.1: Per capita Local CO² emissions estimates 2010-2016²³

	Year	Total
Lancaster	2010	7.1
	2011	6.4
	2012	6.7
	2013	6.5
	2014	6.0
	2015	5.7
	2016	5.4
England	2010	7.4
	2011	6.7
	2012	7.0
	2013	6.8
	2014	6.1
	2015	5.9
	2016	5.4
	2010	7.4

Effects of climate change and adaptation

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²⁴. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

The effects of climate change for the North West of England by 2050, based on a medium emissions scenario, are predicted to be as follows::

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.0°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.6°C; and
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 13% and summer mean precipitation is -17%.

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2013>

²⁴ The data was released in 2019 See: http://cedadocs.ceda.ac.uk/1320/1/climate_projections_full_report.pdf

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and flooding of roads.

Flood risk

A strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) was completed in 2007 for Lancaster (*including for Slyne-with-Hest*) and looked at areas that would be at risk of pluvial flooding (surface water flooding), rivers/sea (fluvial/tidal), groundwater flooding, sewers and artificial sources such as reservoirs and canals. This helped to identify areas at particular risk of flooding in Slyne-with-Hest.

According to the 2007 Local Flood Risk Asset register, there are 10 assets²⁵ within the Neighbourhood plan area that are on the register and are therefore likely to have a significant effect on flood risk in the area²⁶. Below is the text taken from the SFRA in relation to the Slyne-with-Hest character area:

²⁵ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/907869/flood-risk-management-asset-register.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/900474/lancashire-and-blackpool-local-flood-risk-management-strategy-consultation-draft.pdf>

Assessment of Flood Risk - Character Area B4 – Slyne-with-Hest

Character Area B4 is located along Morecambe Bay. Tidal ZONE 3a HIGH PROBABILITY exists along the shoreline and stretches further inland in isolated areas, particularly around watercourses. Hatlex Beck is an Environment Agency maintained channel and the land within close proximity to it is considered predominantly ZONE 3a HIGH PROBABILITY with areas of ZONE 2 MEDIUM PROBABILITY at the periphery of the zone. There is also a series of minor watercourses located in the south of the character area; their associated low lying land enables tidal egress resulting in areas of land falling within ZONE 3a HIGH PROBABILITY in and around Morecambe Golf Course. The remainder of the character area is considered ZONE 1 LOW PROBABILITY. The records provided by Untied Utilities identify four localised drainage events occurring in the region.

Overview of Development Pressures

The Core Strategy seeks to concentrate the majority of development within the urban areas of Lancaster, Morecambe, Heysham and Carnforth. However, Slyne-with-Hest is identified as one of a number of villages within Lancaster District where a small amount of future development (10% of new homes and 5% of employment land) will be made available to serve local needs (Policy SC2). It is anticipated that any development within the village will be located within the urban area.

Background evidence to support the Slyne-with-Hest Flood Alleviation Scheme in 2014 states that *"the area of Slyne-with-Hest has a long standing problem with flooding. In prolonged periods of heavy rainfall the culvert and the other natural drainage in the area cannot cope causing the water table in Hest Bank Lane area to become saturated and causing extensive flooding to property, cellars and gardens as well as affecting the highway network . In turn the surface water flooding leads to overloading of the sewers, and surcharging of the foul water system"*²⁷.

In 2015 the Flood Alleviation scheme was completed, which included:

For the properties²⁸:

- 1 flood wall was constructed in front of two properties;
- 9 flood gates installed;
- 1 non- return valve has been fitted to a drain;
- 1 garage door barrier; and
- 5 surface water pumps were issued to compliment the measures.

For the Leisure Club:

- 4 flood barriers;
- 1 single flood door; and
- 1 double flood door.

Figure 4.1 indicates the location of flood zones 2 and 3 in Slyne-with-Hest. There are areas along the coast that are at substantial risk of flooding, that lie adjacent to the settlement, however development here is unlikely due to redising close to the coastlital plains. Within the urban area itself, the risk of fluvial flooding is not present and therefore would not overlap with potential development sites. Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the NP area. Again, this is largely concentrated around the canal corridor in the Plan area, as depicted in Figure 4.2 below.

²⁷ <http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/s50851/Report.pdf>

²⁸ <http://newground.co.uk/case-studies/hest-bank-flood-protection-scheme-lancashire/>

Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area

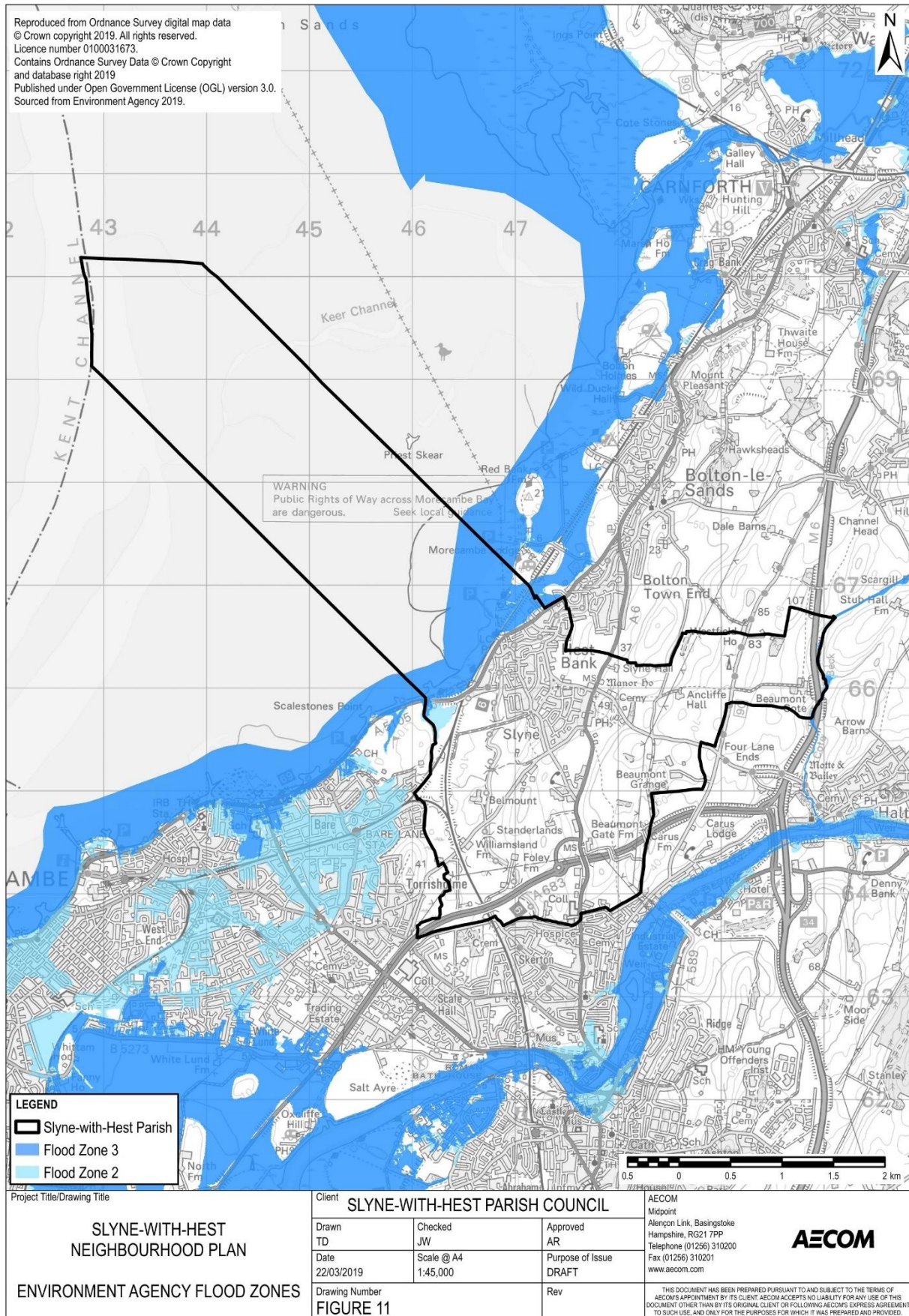
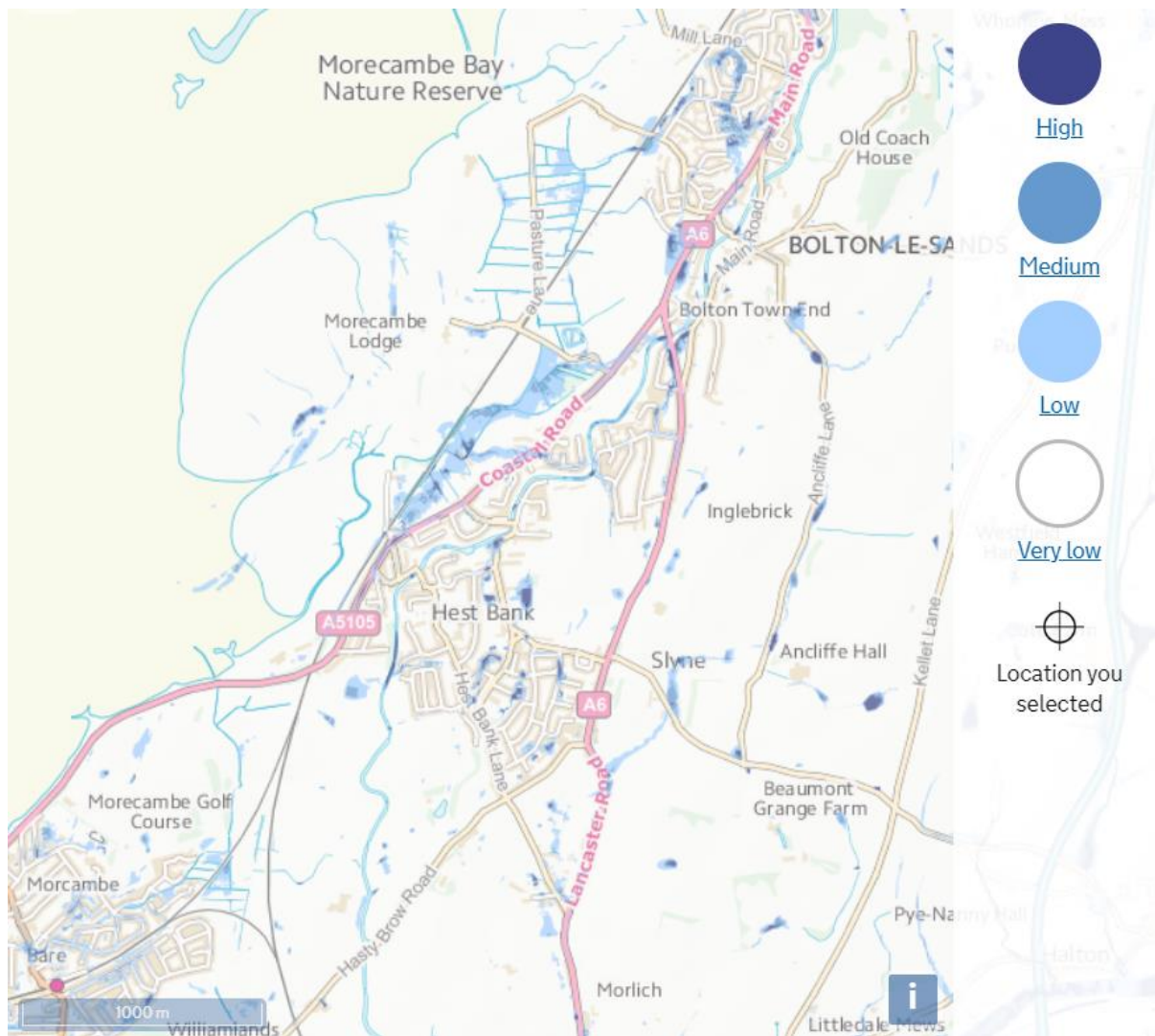


Figure 4.2: Surface water risk in the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan area²⁹



²⁹ Environment Agency (2019) Flood Map for Planning [online] available at: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

Future baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in Slyne-with-Hest. There could also be an increase in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in precipitation in summer.

Although Slyne-with-Hest currently faces a relatively low risk level with regard to fluvial flooding and surface water flooding (due to flood defences and other flood management measures being in place) climate change may increase the likelihood and extent of flood events in the future.

With increased development and hard-standing surfaces, the likelihood of surface water flooding occurring may also be increased, but the implementation of sustainable drainage systems ought to ensure that such effects are limited.

With regards to greenhouse gas emissions, any development is likely to contribute to an increase in emissions, but the efficiency of new buildings would most likely be much higher than the existing building stock.

In the absence of a neighbourhood plan, the level of growth in Slyne-with-Hest is unlikely to be substantial given its role in the settlement hierarchy. The scale and distribution of development would also be guided by the emerging local plan Lancaster.

In the longer term, it is possible that greenhouse gas emissions will decrease slightly in light of current trends. Whilst development in Slyne-with-Hest would likely be reliant on car transport (and hence an increase in emissions), the efficiency of new development would be higher, and it is likely that the electricity grid will be from a higher proportion of low carbon sources.

4.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change SEA theme?

Though only limited areas within the plan area are at risk of flooding, there is potential for significant effects as a result of land allocations. There may also be policies that could be relevant with regards to climate change adaption issues. Therefore, this topic has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA.

With regards to climate change mitigation and energy, it is unlikely that the plan would have significant effects. The sustainability credentials of new development are largely determined through national standards, and policies within the emerging Local Plan. Therefore, the neighbourhood plan is likely to have limited effects in this respect. With regards to impacts from traffic, the overall quantum of growth is to be guided by the emerging Local Plan, and the potential to consider alternatives is not possible given that the plan is focused only on Slyne-with-Hest. Therefore, this factor has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the risks of flooding and other potential effects of climate change

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely effects of climate change?
- Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?
- Ensure there is no increased risk of flooding (in the plan area or downstream) and if possible to contribute towards slower rates of surface water run-off and improved 'storage' of water.

-
- Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area?
 - Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change, including enhancements to ecological networks?
-

5. Landscape and Historic Environment

Focus of Theme:

- Landscape
- Townscape and cultural heritage
- Archaeological potential

5.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There are a range of designated heritage assets in the Plan area that contribute to the character of the village and the wider plan area.
- Future management within the Neighbourhood Plan area should seek to protect the setting of heritage assets and landscape / townscape quality.
 - New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and townscapes.
- Improvement in access to and enhancement of cultural heritage assets has potential for positive benefits for tourism.

5.2 Policy and Contextual review

Landscape

Key messages from the **National Planning Policy Framework** (NPPF, 2018) include:

- Conserve and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The **Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment** is used to help inform decisions relating to policy and development by defining the local landscape and sensitivities.

North Lancashire Green Belt Review 2016

The northern edge of Bolton-le-Sands is less than 1 kilometre from the southernmost part of Carnforth, while the built-up areas of Morecambe are barely 1.25km from Slyne. The landscape between these settlements contains significant natural features which could act as barriers to development and are visible from many public viewpoints.'

Lancaster District Local Plan (2004)

The purpose of the Green Belt is primarily to prevent the built-up areas of Lancaster, Morecambe and Carnforth from merging into one urban area losing their separate identities and absorbing Bolton-le-Sands, Hest Bank and Slyne. Green Belts should, where possible be permanent and remain protected for the foreseeable future. The settlements within the Green Belt; Bolton-le-Sands, Hest Bank and Slyne will be protected from large scale development and will not be allowed to expand beyond their present boundaries into open countryside. Within the Green Belt itself new development will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances'.

Townscape and cultural heritage

Key messages from the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** include:

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ that should be conserved in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’, taking account of ‘the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’ of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a ‘positive strategy’ for the ‘conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification
- Develop ‘robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics’.

The **Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England**³⁰ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognize its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

The **draft Lancaster District Heritage Strategy**³¹ (July 2018) looks at the opportunities, as well as the vulnerabilities faced by the historic environment. This has resulted in a list of recommendations which it is hoped will ensure that decisions affecting heritage are based on a clear understanding of the place, its significance and its values. Some of the recommendations that might relate to Slyne-with-Hest are set out below:

- Development of highways signage and street furniture design guidance;
- Production of ‘Heritage at Risk’ surveys for grade II listed buildings;
- Working with Historic England and building owners to see heritage assets removed from the national Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register;
- Production and review of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans;
- Identification of Non-Designated Heritage Assets and production of a Local List of Heritage Assets;
- Facilitate in the grant opportunities for Council-owned heritage assets;
- Support grant opportunities across the district;
- Development of Management Plan for Council-owned heritage assets;
- Improve and produce new design guidance; and
- Update website and improve public understanding of heritage assets.

³⁰ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

³¹ https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/3911/LCC_Draft_Heritage_Strategy_July_2018.pdf

The Council set out a series of strategic policies, in its Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD (Feb 2018), to deliver the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. The recommendations at the end of document are looked at in terms of how they help deliver these objectives:

- Conserving and enhancing the district's heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can continue to be enjoyed by this and future generations;
- Recognising the historic environment's potential for investment and ensuring that it informs regeneration projects in order to secure better outcomes for sustainable growth;
- Respecting the character and local distinctiveness of places, buildings and landscapes through careful design and siting of development, and encouraging new development to make a positive contribution, in order to retain the district's unique character and identity; and
- Realising the tourism and visitor potential and economic benefits of the district's historic environment, and ensuring that engagement with and access to it are increased.

Lancaster Cultural Heritage Strategy (2011) aims to identify how Lancaster can make the most of its' exceptional heritage for the benefit of local people, visitors and the economy. In particular it looks at and evaluates a number of options for investment in heritage over the next 10 years. The main aims of this report are shown below:

- To improve the quality of life for everyone in the district through working together- recognising the value of a protected and enhanced environment to that quality of life
- To place- shape Lancaster City and riverside as a regionally significant visitor and shopping destination and a competitive employment destination with an outstanding waterfront.
- To regenerate and re-invent Morecambe as an attractive choice to live, work and visit.

5.3 Baseline Summary

Landscape

Slyne-with-Hest is located in the 'Coastal Plain'³² which is broken down into small character areas of which Slyne falls into 'The Fylde 15d'³³ Landscape character area which is located in the east of Lancashire along the Irish sea coastline.

This area is characterised as follows:

"the gently undulating farmland of the Fylde occurs between Blackpool to the west and Preston and the M6 corridor to the east. It has been formed of boulder clay deposits which lie on soft Triassic sandstones and mudstones and is naturally poorly drained. Field ponds are a particularly characteristic feature of this area and provide important wildlife habitats. The predominant land use is dairy farming on improved pasture and lowland sheep farming with a small amount of arable on the freer draining soils. Red brick nineteenth century two storey farmsteads with slate roofs and red brick barns are dominant built features of this landscape character area; occasional windmills also reflect the historic importance of the area for corn milling. Other features of the area are the brine fields around Stalmine which have been reclaimed by ICI and form a rare and distinctive land use. Field size is large and field boundaries are low clipped hawthorn, although hedgerow loss is extensive. Blocks of woodland are

³² <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/152743/strategy.pdf>

³³ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/152746/characterassessment.pdf>

characteristic, frequently planted for shelter and/or shooting and views of the Bowland fells are frequent between the blocks. There are many man-made elements; electricity pylons, communication masts and road traffic are all highly visible in the flat landscape. In addition, views of Blackpool Tower, the Pleasure Beach rides and industry outside Blackpool are visible on a clear day”.

There are pressures for recreational facilities, particularly in the Fylde on the fringes of Blackpool. There are particular pressures for the development of golf courses and static caravan sites, as well as substantial leisure complexes close to the M6 corridor. These facilities represent an additional urbanising influence in the rural fringe areas.

Focal points, views and vistas

Key focal points, views and vistas are shown on the Townscape Appraisal Map³⁴, and consist largely of views into and out of the conservation area from the edges of the village, or of views glimpsed between buildings of the pastoral landscape that forms the backdrop to the settlement.

- A - views out of Slyne across the flat marshy sheep-grazed fields that serve as a green buffer separating Slyne and Lancaster’s suburbs. Conversely, coming into Slyne from the south, there are views up to the prominently sited Keys Hotel;
- B - views from the pinfold across green fields with mature trees to Foley Farm in the plain below and to the winding Lancaster Canal; • C – views glimpsed between the houses of Orchard Close of gently rising hills to the east of the conservation area;
- D - views across fields towards the trees and earthworks of Ashton Bank;
- E and F - long views across the Lancaster Sand and Morecambe bay to the hills of Barrow-in-Furness on the far side of the Lune estuary

Townscape and cultural heritage

Slyne with Hest is a small village on the western coastline of Lancashire. The civil parish contains 34 buildings that are recorded on the National Heritage List for England as designated listed buildings. Of these one is a Grade II*, with the remaining buildings being Grade II.

The parish contains the villages of Slyne and Hest Bank, and most of the listed buildings are houses, or originated as houses, and associated structures. The Lancaster Canal passes through the parish, and eight bridges crossing it are listed. The other listed buildings include a public house, three milestones, a hotel, a church, a pinfold, and a set of stocks.

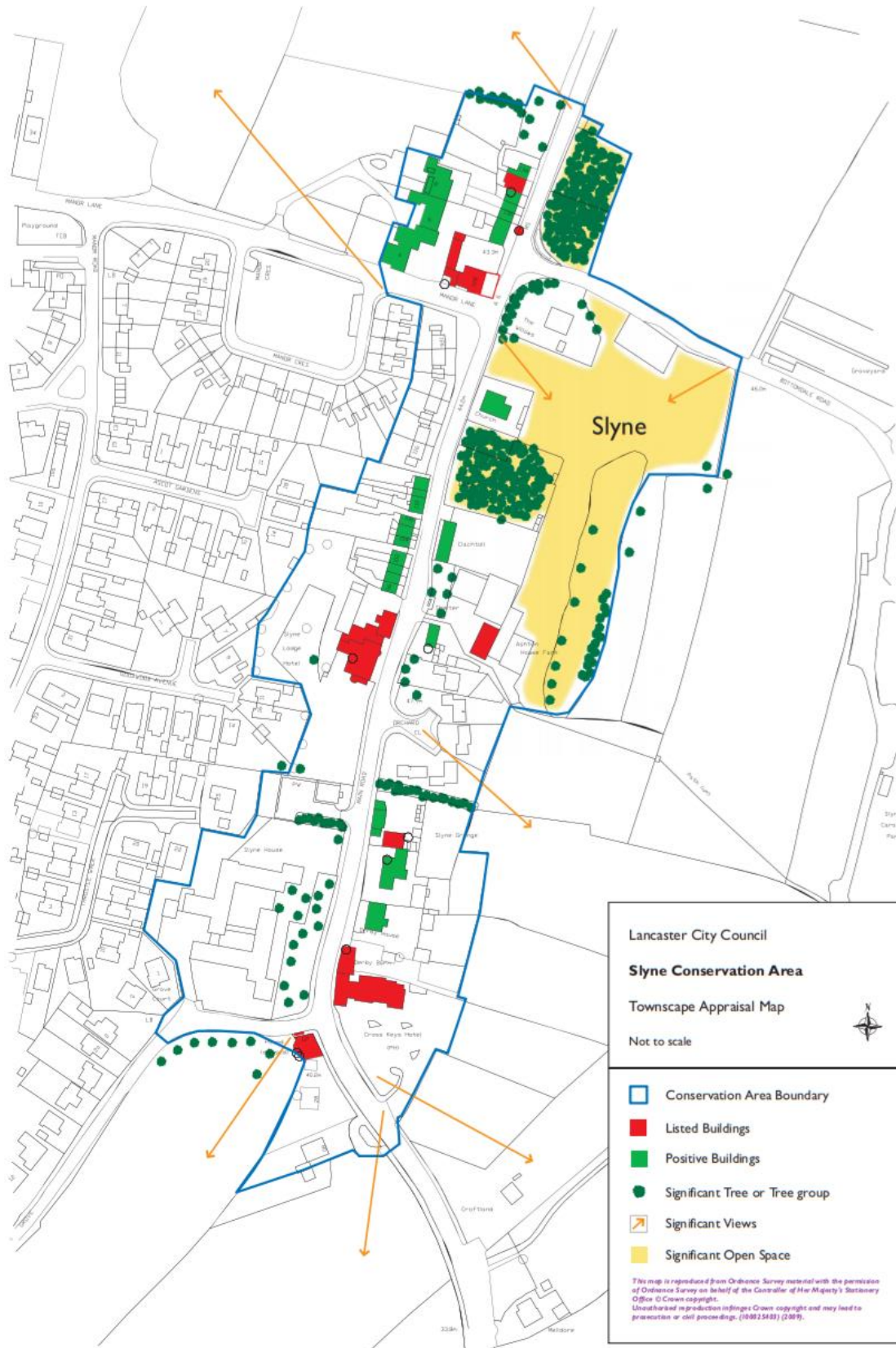
The centre of Slyne which represents the town’s core was designated as a Conservation Area in 1981 by Lancashire County Council. This area is illustrated on figure 5.1 below. The boundary of the Slyne Conservation Area has been drawn in such a way as to include all of the town’s historic buildings and their associated landscapes but to exclude buildings that are of more recent (i.e. later 20th century) date. As a result, the boundary mainly follows the back property boundaries of the historic dwellings, pubs and hotels that line the eastern and western sides of the main street³⁵.

The majority of statutorily designated buildings are located in this part of Slyne, concentrated within the Conservation Area in particular. This includes several historic church buildings, public houses and public buildings.

³⁴ Lancashire County Council (2019) available at: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/340/Slyne-CAA-Final-Dec09.pdf>

³⁵ Lancashire County Council (2019) available at: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/340/Slyne-CAA-Final-Dec09.pdf>

Figure 5.1: Slyne conservation area



The Grade II listed buildings within the Plan area are as follows: (these are illustrated in Figure 5.2)

- Manor House
- Beaumont Hall
- Beaumont Cote and Beaumont Cote Manor
- Sundial base
- Little Grange
- Ashton House
- 136 Slyne Road
- Cross Keys and barn
- Gate piers, Manor House
- Whitewalls Restaurant
- Gate piers, Whitewalls Restaurant
- Ancliffe Hall
- Gate piers, Beaumont Cote
- Slyne Hall
- Slyne Grange
- Folly Bridge (no 112)
- Williamslands Bridge (no 113)
- Belmont Bridge (no 114)
- Blind Lane Bridge (no 115)
- Rakes Head Bridge (no 116)
- Occupation Bridge (no 117)
- Canal Bridge (no 118)
- Hatlex Bridge (no 119)
- Milestone
- 1 and 3 Hest Bank Lane
- 2 and 4 Hanging Gate Lane
- Beaumont Grange
- Boundary stone
- Slyne Lodge Hotel
- St Luke's Church
- Pinfold
- Stocks and stone seat

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England³⁶, there are no scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan area, however there are three in the neighbouring parishes. These are listed below (and illustrated in Figure 5.2):

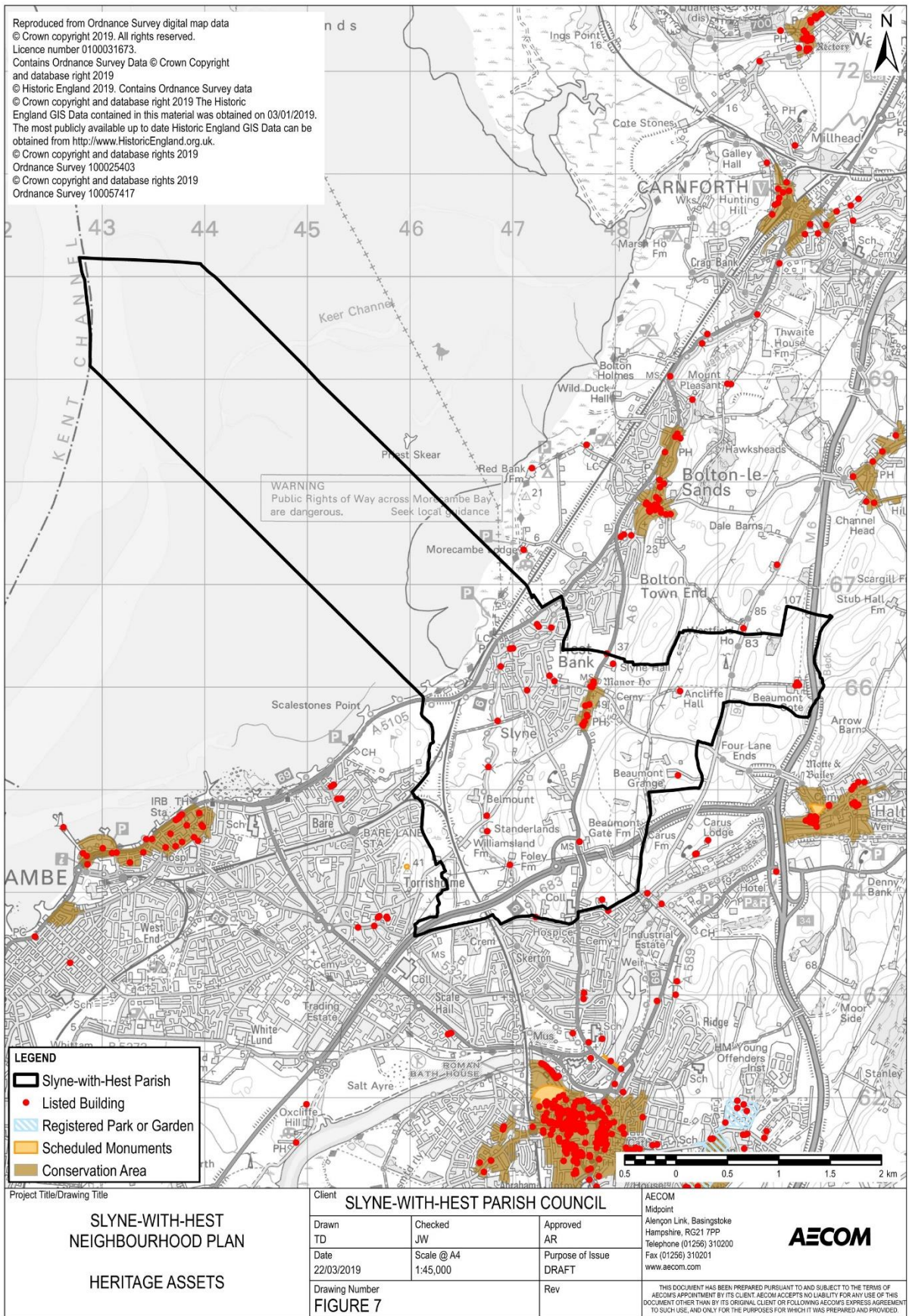
- Torrisholme bowl barrow
- High cross in St Wilfrid's churchyard, Halton
- Castle Hill motte and bailey, Halton

It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life - whether at home, work or leisure.

Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are seen as important by local communities. Therefore there may be historic assets in Slyne-with-Hest that may be of local interest but are not designated.

³⁶ Historic England: National Heritage List for England: <<http://list.historicengland.org.uk>>

Figure 5.2: Heritage Designations in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area



Significant unlisted buildings

A number of unlisted buildings have been identified within the Townscape Appraisal map as being “Positive Buildings”. These buildings vary, but commonly they will be good examples of relatively unaltered historic buildings where their style, detailing and building materials provides the streetscape with interest and variety. Most importantly, they make a positive contribution to the special interest of the conservation area. Historic buildings are normally included under this heading unless they have been so heavily altered that the changes are irreversible and restoration would be impractical.

To help identify such features, a search of the Historic Environment Record has been requested from the County Council, and the findings will be included in the next iteration of the scoping report. This will help to inform the appraisal of the Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

Archaeology

There are no designated archaeological assets within the Slyne Conservation Area, though the lack of scheduled sites is no guide to the degree of survival of archaeological remains below ground.

There are two plots within the conservation area that clearly have the buried remains of dwellings and boundary walls, probably of post-medieval date. These consist of:

- the plot on the north-eastern boundary of the conservation area where an area of rough woodland covers low walling and rubble from what looks like a dwelling and / or an agricultural building;
- the plot to the south of the Christadelphian Hall, on the eastern side of the A6, where another area of brambles and rough woodland covers low walling and rubble from what also could be a former dwelling and / or an agricultural building.

No dwellings are visible on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey for these two plots, both of which are shown as orchards, so it is possible that the remains are those of apple lofts or storage buildings.

In addition, the area to the east of this second plot, which forms the eastern boundary of the conservation area at this point, shows signs of terracing and stretches of grass-covered bank, which might be little more than collapsed fieldwalls, but which also might be part of an historic garden or designed landscape. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey shows this plot as an elongated rectangle called Ashton Bank, even more densely planted with trees than now, and it is possible that this was planted as a shelter belt (this is unlikely given that it is on the leeward side of prevailing westerly winds) or as an eye catcher, intended to be seen on the crown of the hill from the lower coastal parts of the parish.

Should any of these plots or landscapes be subject to development proposals, it is recommended that further research be undertaken to ascertain the likely nature of the remains, and their significance, including archaeological excavation if necessary.

Post-Medieval (1540 – 1714)

Larger houses continued to be built during this period, including Borwick (c.1590), Heysham Hall (c.1598) and Cloughton Hall (c.1600). The post-medieval period also saw the early stages of rebuilding of the rural housing stock in stone for some of the most prosperous gentry, notably at Slyne and Whittington.

5.4 Future baseline

Development in the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to impact upon the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets; for example through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Likewise, policies within the NPPF, and the emerging Lancaster Local Plan, would offer a degree of protection for heritage assets and the character of the built and natural environment.

Furthermore, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of Slyne and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance.

In the context of the existing policy framework, it is considered unlikely that major changes to the character of the built and natural environment would occur in the absence of the neighbourhood plan. However, the need to provide for greater amounts of housing in particular could lead to incremental, but small changes in the longer term. This could include areas with sensitive landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.

5.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme?

The topic of 'landscape' has been **SCOPED-IN** to the SEA, as Slyne-with-Hest is characterised by areas of strong landscape character. In particular, part of the plan area overlaps with the Green Belt which plays an important role in preserving the countryside and surrounding landscape.

The topic of 'Cultural Heritage' has been **SCOPED-IN** to the SEA, as Slyne-with-Hest is characterised by a range of historic buildings and features and conservation area, which contribute to a unique townscape.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the historic environment.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, conserve and enhance buildings, structures and features (including their setting) that contribute towards the historic fabric of the plan area? • Protect and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment? • Protect and enhance the character of the Slyne Conservation Area?
Protect and enhance the character and quality and appreciation of the landscape surrounding Slyne.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance key landscape features? • Protect important views? • Encourage access and enjoyment of the countryside and coastal areas?

6. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme:

- Waste and recycling
- Soils resources
- Water quality

6.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There are no household waste recycling points located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however one is located 5km to the south of Slyne.
- Following a period of improvements, the percentage of household waste recycled, composted or reused has been gradually declining.
- There is an area of agricultural land within the Neighbourhood Plan area that is categorised as Grade 3. If this is Grade 3a it is 'best and most versatile' land.

6.2 Policy and contextual review

Waste and recycling

The **NPPF** (2018) seeks to minimise waste and requires development to make sufficient provision for the management of waste.

The **National Planning Policy for Waste**³⁷ (2014) states that waste planning authorities 'should prepare Local Plans which identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste streams'. It further sets out a criteria for waste planning authorities to assess the suitability of sites, this includes 'the capacity of existing and potential transport infrastructure to support the sustainable movement of waste, and products arising from resource recovery, seeking when practicable and beneficial to use modes other than road transport'.

The **Waste Management Plan for England**³⁸ (2013) provides an analysis on waste management in England, bringing current and planned waste management policies together in one place.

The **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire**³⁹ (2008) sets out aims to deliver sustainable waste management, including strategies to raise awareness of recycling and waste reduction.

Soil resources

The **EU's Soil Thematic Strategy**⁴⁰ (2008) presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity and food safety.

³⁷ MHCLG (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

³⁸ Defra (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-management-plan-for-england>

³⁹ Lancashire District Councils (2003) Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Northumberland [online] available at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/waste-and-recycling/municipal-waste-management-strategy/>

⁴⁰ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Strategy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm

The **NPPF** (2018) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued soil and the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Policies should also prevent new and existing development from 'contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution'.

Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality

In **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England**⁴¹ (2009), a vision is set out for the future of soils in the country. It suggests that changing demands on our soils need to be better understood and it must be ensured that appropriate consideration is given to soils in the planning process.

The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes using and managing land sustainably by protecting the best agricultural land, improving soil health and restoring and protecting peatlands.

Water quality

The **EU Water Framework Directive** (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales. There are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England.

The Environment Agency has recently updated River Basin Management Plans, including the Northumbria River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan⁴² (2015). The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

The **NPPF** (2018) suggests the importance for development to have adequate provision for water supply and wastewater. It further asserts that development should not have any detrimental effects on water quality.

The **Future Water Strategy** (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

⁴¹ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

⁴² Environment Agency (2015) Northumbria River Basin District - River Basin Management Plan [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718333/Northumbria_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them.

This includes respecting nature by using water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a net environmental gain which can include water quality.

The **Draft Water Resources Management Plan**⁴³ (2019) prepared by United Utilities Water sets out how the organisation will ensure the sufficient supply of water over a 25 year period. The draft plan was consulted on from 2nd March to 25th May 2018, which is due to be adopted later in the year (2019). The key aims are:

- Drought resilience
- Enhanced demand management and leakage
- Levels of service – frequency of drought permits or orders
- National water trading
- Water supply resilience to hazards other than drought

Lancaster District Local Plan 2011 – 2031: Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (Publication February 2018)⁴⁴ sets out the infrastructure requirement throughout the duration of the plan period. The delivery schedule aims to investigate traffic management measures on Slyne Road to improve bus access into Lancaster City Centre.

6.3 Baseline Summary

Waste and recycling

There are no recycling centres within Slyne-with-Hest. However, Lancaster Household recycling centre lies 5km to the south of Slyne. This accepts the following materials:⁴⁵

- Batteries
- Bric-a-brac
- Cans
- Cardboard
- Carpet
- Cooking oil
- Electronic equipment
- Flat/plate glass
- Fluorescent tubes
- Fridges and Freezers
- Furniture (sofa, armchair, wardrobes)

⁴³ https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z_corporate-site/about-us-pdfs/water-resources/draft-wrmp19-statement-of-response.pdf

⁴⁴ [http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/3145/Infrastructure%20Delivery%20Schedule%20\(Publication%202018\).pdf](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/3145/Infrastructure%20Delivery%20Schedule%20(Publication%202018).pdf)

⁴⁵ Lancashire County Council (2019), available at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/types-of-waste-our-recycling-centres-accept/>

- Gas bottles
- Glass bottles and jars
- Green garden waste
- Household and car batteries
- Household chemicals
- Large domestic appliances (cookers, ovens)
- Mattresses
- Newspapers, magazines, books and paper
- Paint
- Plaster and plasterboard*
- Plastic bottles
- Printer cartridges
- Rubble and hardcore*
- Scrap metal
- Textiles, clothes and shoes
- TV's and monitors
- Tyres
- Wood
- Fluorescent tubes
- Plastic bags
- Cartons
- Ink cartridges
- Asbestos

Kerbside collections are on a Monday. Recyclables, garden and general waste are all collected fortnightly. Items collected in the kerbside collections are the following :

1. Mixed recyclables:

- Newspapers and magazines
- Cardboard
- food and drink cans
- Aerosols
- Plastic bottles.

2. Garden Waste:

- Hedge clippings
- Grass
- Weeds
- Leaves

- Branches

3. Unrecyclable waste / general waste

In 2016/17, **38.9%** of household waste collected in Lancaster was recycled, composted or reused compared to **44.5%** in 2015/16 and **41.6%** in 2011/2012.

Soil resources

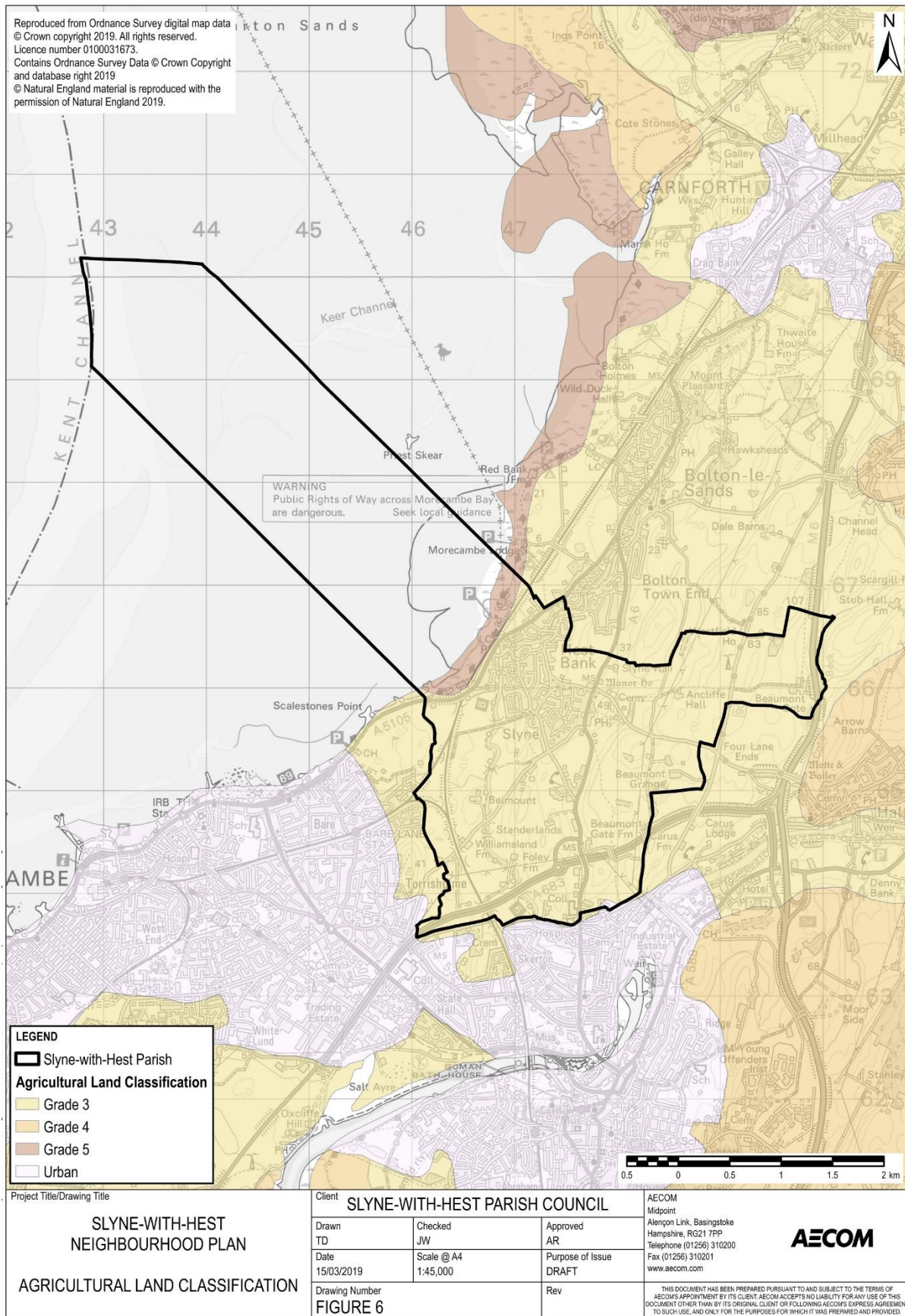
The Agricultural Land Classification categorises land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'). Land classified as Grade 1 is the best quality, and would support a wide range of agricultural practices and be expected to produce strong yields. Grades 2 and 3a are also considered to be 'best and most versatile' land, whilst Grades 3b, 4 and 5 are of poorer quality.

As illustrated on Figure 6.1, there are large areas of grade 3 land within the Plan area, which is broadly located to the west and south east of the plan area.

It is unknown whether this land is Grade 3a (which is best and most versatile) or Grade 3b (which is not). However, it is evidence that agricultural practices are being undertaken on several parcels of land throughout the Plan area.

.

Figure 6.1 Agricultural Land Classification



Water quality

The main watercourse within the Plan area is Lancaster canal. This watercourse runs vertically through Slyne.

With regards to water provision and treatment, Slyne with Hest is supplied by United Utilities, which covers the North West of England.

United Utilities is building a floating solar farm on the surface of Langthwaite Reservoir, off Little Fell Lane. The power generated will be used to run the neighbouring Lancaster water treatment works which supplies water to 152,000 people across Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham (including Slyne).

6.4 Future baseline

Due to legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates. It is therefore likely that recycling rates are uncertain due to the variation over the past decade in the plan area.

Land of best and most versatile agricultural value should be protected from new development as, once removed, it is unlikely to be restored to its current productivity levels. In the absence of a plan, it is possible that ad hoc development could be proposed leading to a loss of agricultural land. With a lack of strategic planning, it is more likely that higher quality land could be lost without a consideration of alternative sites.

Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change. However, this is unlikely to be affected by development within Slyne-with-Hest alone.

With regards to water quality, it will be important to ensure that local waste water treatment and drainage networks are sufficient to accommodate additional growth. The scale of growth that might be anticipated in the absence of the plan would not be high, and so significant effects on water quality ought to be avoided.

6.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme?

Waste and recycling has been 'SCOPED OUT' of the SEA, as it is unlikely that the plan would give rise to significant effects.

Soil has been SCOPED IN to the SEA as there is potential for the plan to result in the loss of best and most versatile land.

Water quality has been SCOPED IN to the SEA, as further development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, it is considered that water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Minimise the loss of the most valuable soils and agricultural land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the loss of the most valuable soils as much as possible? • Help to remediate contaminated land?
Protect water quality and contribute towards the achievement of Water framework Objectives.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the pollution of water courses through the implementation of natural drainage systems? • Protect and contribute towards an improvement in water quality?

7. Population and Community

Focus of Theme:

- Population size and density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- Housing
- Education and skills
- Employment

7.1 Headline sustainability issues

- There is an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a higher proportion of residents within the 45-64, 65-84 and 85+ year's age groups when compared with Lancaster and England averages.
- Slyne-with-Hest Parish area falls within the 60-80% least deprived areas nationally, and 80-100% least deprived when compared to the rest of Lancaster
- Owner-occupied is the predominant form of tenure in Slyne-with-Hest followed by privately rented. Slyne-with-Hest has a lower than county and national average rates of socially, private rent tenures and shared ownership.
- Although a higher proportion of people in Slyne are educated for Level 4 qualifications, there are less residents with level 3 and below qualifications.
- 59.9% of residents are economically active and are in employment in Slyne. Employment and unemployment trends in the town are similar to county and national trends, the exception being that Slyne has a larger retired and smaller student population.

7.2 Policy and contextual review

The NPPF (2018) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, 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'*. It further emphasises the need for homes to be of a size, type and tenure to meet needs of different social groups, with at least 10% of new homes to be provided for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.

In February 2017, the Government published a housing white paper entitled **'Fixing our broken housing market'**. This establishes the government's plans to reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes in England through a series of four proposals. These are; planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.

Lancaster District Housing Strategy and Housing Action Plan 2012 - 2017⁴⁶ aims *"to capture the extensive range of housing related issues through understanding the housing needs and requirements*

⁴⁶ Lancaster Council (2019), available at: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/housing-strategy>

of our District, appropriate interventions, and how, by working with key partners, these can be achieved and planned for over the Action Plan period". The report goes on to state the purpose of the Strategy is to create an accessible barrier free approach to improving the communities and to better meet the housing and support the needs of existing residents by:

1. Achieving sustainable housing growth
2. Improving quality: sustainable communities and decent housing
3. Meeting a broad range of housing needs within the community

A Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011-2031 Background Paper – Housing Standards June 2018⁴⁷

The housing standards relate to three key areas:

- Water efficiency
- Internal space; and
- Accessibility and Adaptability

2018 Housing Land Monitoring Report⁴⁸ The report confirms that housing completions have continued to be strong in the district over the last 12 months, exceeding again the Core Strategy housing requirement of 400 dwellings per annum. Whilst continuing to be high they have fallen slightly since the 2016/17 monitoring period which recorded 628 completions. Throughout the monitoring period the council has also continued to receive and approve planning applications for new housing with 237 new dwellings granted approval between the 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. This includes new approvals for student housing. Accounting for completed development and lapsed planning permissions; as of the 1st April 2018 the outstanding commitment for the district including student accommodation stood at 2,655 dwellings.

148 of the 523 housing completions recorded over the last 12 month period were for affordable housing. 148 of the 523 housing completions recorded over the last 12 month period were for affordable housing. The number of affordable units whilst increasing from the previous period (28 in 2016/17) still represents a significant reduction from the 209 new affordable dwellings were approved in the 2015/2016 monitoring period.

Five year housing land supply position (February 2019)⁴⁹ This statement has been prepared, and should be read in conjunction, with the 2018 Housing Land Monitoring Report (HLMR). The statement describes the council's five year housing land supply position as of the 1st April 2018. The Statement has been updated to take account of updated national planning guidance relating to the calculation of housing need published on the 20th February 2019.

The council, based on current identified supply, is unable to meet its local housing need figure. As a consequence there is a clear expectation that unless material considerations imply otherwise sites that offer the opportunity to deliver additional housing should be considered favourably.

A Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011-2031 Annual Monitoring Report 2017 - 2018⁵⁰

Lancaster draft Local Plan for Regulation 18 consultation⁵¹ – Sustainable Settlement Interim Review was undertaken to inform and underpin the Lancaster District Settlement Hierarchy, set out within the emerging Local Plan, Lancaster City Council has undertaken a Sustainable Settlements Review. This is a review of the assessment of the settlements identified as sustainable within the Development Management DPP (policy DM42). This report considered both settlements within Syne-with-Hest

⁴⁷ Lancaster Council (2018), available at: <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/4403/Background%20Paper%20-%20Housing%20Standards%20FINAL.pdf>

⁴⁸ Lancaster Council (2018), available at: <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00928973.pdf>

⁴⁹ Lancaster Council (2018), available at: <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00942947.pdf>

⁵⁰ Lancaster Council (2018), available at: <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00935252.pdf>

⁵¹ Lancaster Council (2018), available at: <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00920075.pdf>

Parish (Slyne & Hest Bank), both of which were considered sustainable settlements due to the provision of 'key' and 'other' services within the settlement itself.

Lancaster draft Local Plan for Regulation 18 consultation -Policy SP2: Lancaster District Settlement Hierarchy sets out a spatial strategy to deliver sustainable development across Lancaster.

Lancaster Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Part II) 2018⁵² provides an update to a review in 2015 of housing requirements in the county and establishes an objective assessment of the need for additional housing provision. The report concludes that an additional 675 dwelling per annum are required within the Lancaster City Council area.

Lancaster Homelessness Strategy⁵³ sets out the priorities and future actions for tackling homelessness from 2014-2019. In order to provide a coherent vision for housing, planning and homelessness on a countywide basis this Homelessness Strategy was informed and influenced by a number of other Council documents particularly the Lancaster Housing Strategy, the emerging Local Plan and the Lancaster Private Sector Housing Strategy.

A Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011-2031 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), 2018⁵⁴

Lancaster City Council Lancaster District Retail Review December 2015⁵⁵ looks at Lancaster's retail offering.

⁵² Lancaster Council (2018), available at <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00930527.pdf>

⁵³ Homelessness for Lancaster 2014-2019, Available:
<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/2485/Lancaster%20Homelessness%20Strategy.pdf>

⁵⁴ Lancaster Council (2018), available at <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00937866.pdf>

⁵⁵ Lancaster Council (2018), available at <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00909791.pdf>

7.3 Baseline summary

Population

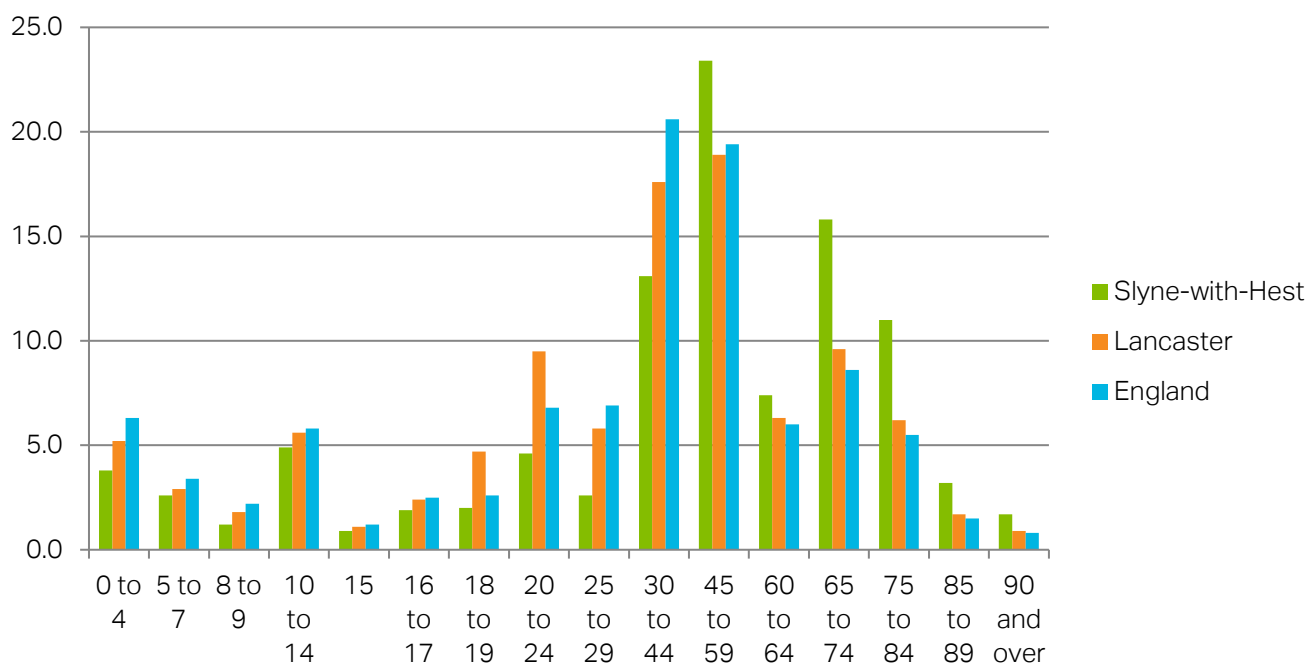
The population of Slyne-with-Hest has decreased from 3,163 to 3,126 between 2001 and 2011, whereas the overall population of Lancaster has increased from 134,049 to 138,375 over the same time period.

Age structure

With regards to the age structure profile of Slyne-with-Hest, Figure 7.1 presents 2011 Census data, which shows that the Neighbourhood Plan area has a significantly higher percentage of people in the 45-64, 65-84 and 85+ years age groups when compared with Lancaster and England.

However, the lower age groups show the opposite pattern, whereby the 0-15, 16-24 and 25-44 age groups are all lower in Slyne-with-Hest in comparison to the rest of Lancaster and England.

Figure 7.1: Population by Age (all usual residents), Census 2011



Between 2001-2015 the number of over 45's has increased by 183, the number of people aged under 15 has decreased by 67⁵⁶, the estimated age profile in 2015 was as follows:

Table 7.1: Population estimates 2015

Over 65	946
45- 64	1036
16- 44	732
15 and under	391

Source: Slyne with Hest Parish Profile (2016)

⁵⁶ <http://slyne-with-hest.org.uk/np/docs/example1.pdf>

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The more recent Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 - 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
 - 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
 - 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 - 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
 - **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
 - **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

The Lancashire deprivation summary report (2015 states that Lancaster has become one of the most deprived 50 authorities, owing to a relative deterioration of its local concentration ranking, falling 23 places to 36th in 2015 for this measure. This can be seen in table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2: Local Authority deprivation summaries from the 2015 Indices of Deprivation (2010) – ranks for six of the local authority deprivation measures

Local authority	IMD Rank of average rank 2015 (2010)	IMD Rank of average score 2015 (2010)	IMD Rank of extent 2015 (2010)	IMD Rank of local concentration 2015 (2010)	Rank of income scale 2015 (2010)	Rank of employment scale 2015 (2010)	IMD In 50 most deprived 2015 (2010) [2]
Blackburn with Darwen	24 (28)	15 (17)	13 (14)	20 (7)	83 (70)	80 (75)	Y (Y)
Blackpool	4 (10)	1 (6)	12 (16)	1 (1)	68 (74)	61 (63)	Y (Y)
Burnley	17 (21)	9 (11)	16 (19)	8 (4)	130 (125)	129 (115)	Y (Y)
Chorley	186 (173)	175 (156)	146 (132)	137 (118)	195 (206)	181 (166)	
Fylde	218 (235)	217 (236)	196 (218)	191 (220)	275 (280)	262 (253)	
Hyndburn	28 (40)	26 (34)	24 (33)	41 (27)	159 (152)	155 (137)	Y (Y)
Lancaster	125 (133)	105 (116)	100 (104)	36 (59)	127 (127)	125 (113)	Y
Pendle	42 (41)	38 (33)	31 (32)	62 (29)	150 (135)	151 (138)	Y (Y)
Preston	72 (59)	61 (45)	46 (34)	60 (23)	110 (104)	106 (97)	Y (Y)
Ribble Valley	290 (285)	292 (290)	302 (294)	309 (312)	323 (323)	315 (305)	
Rossendale	98 (90)	108 (98)	109 (103)	117 (123)	222 (228)	209 (199)	
South Ribble	234 (207)	229 (206)	208 (190)	201 (189)	224 (229)	202 (186)	
West Lancashire	164 (153)	139 (136)	121 (117)	75 (79)	154 (145)	156 (136)	
Wyre	167 (185)	145 (163)	141 (135)	61 (101)	174 (174)	171 (162)	

[1] Rankings out of 326 English local authorities (where rank 1 = most deprived and rank 32,844 = least deprived).

[2] Local authorities in the 50 most deprived rankings for any of the six local authority domains (Y = YES).

Source: Lancashire County Council (2015)

However, when you look more locally at Slyne-with-Hest Parish, this area falls within the 60-80% least deprived areas nationally, and 80-100% least deprived when compared to the rest of Lancaster, which can be seen on figure 7.2 and figure 7.3 below.

Though the areas within the Plan area itself present low levels of deprivation, it is noted that there are several neighbourhoods adjacent to the Plan area around Morecambe which fall within the top 20% deprived areas in the country.

Figure 7.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2017 - National

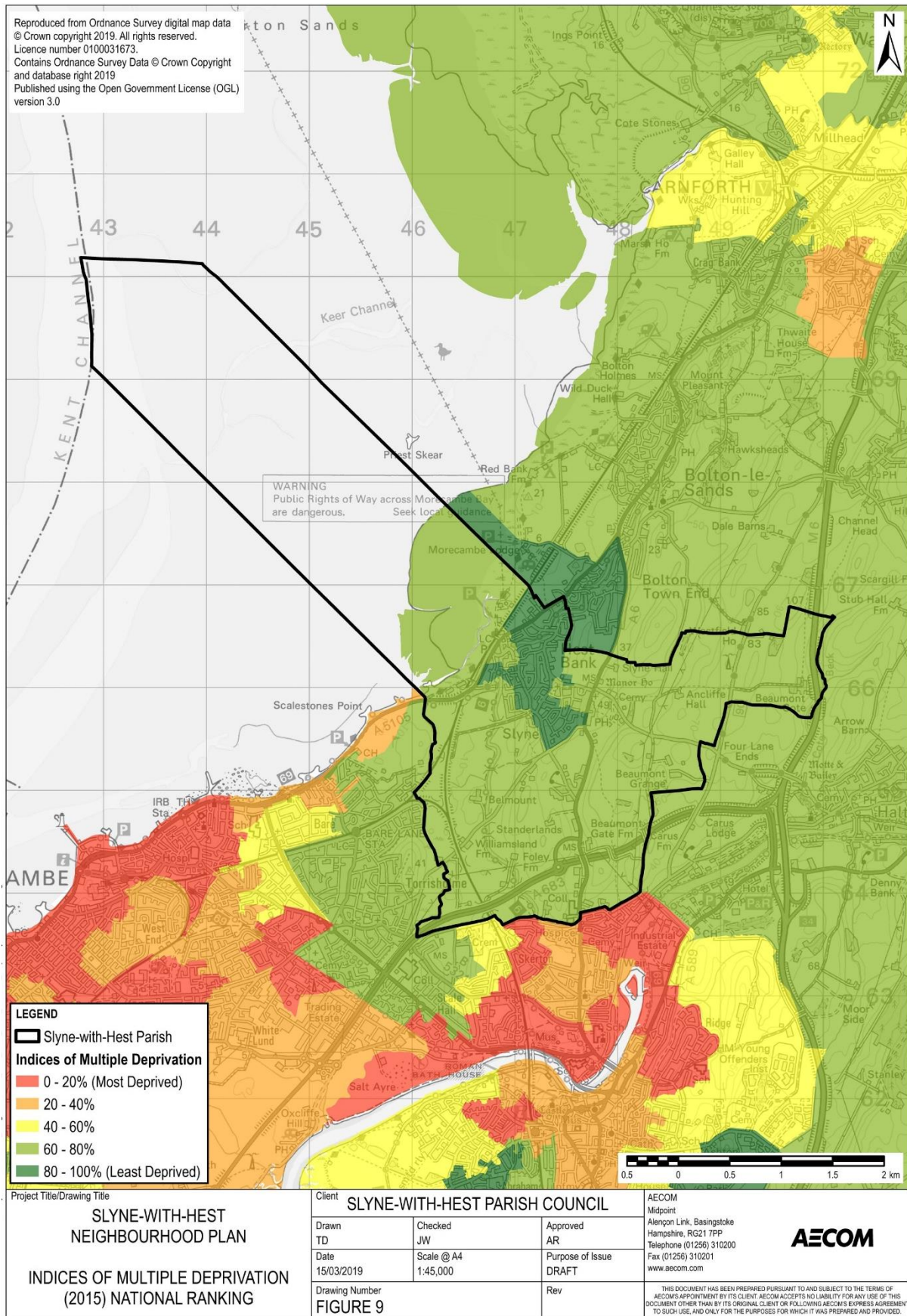
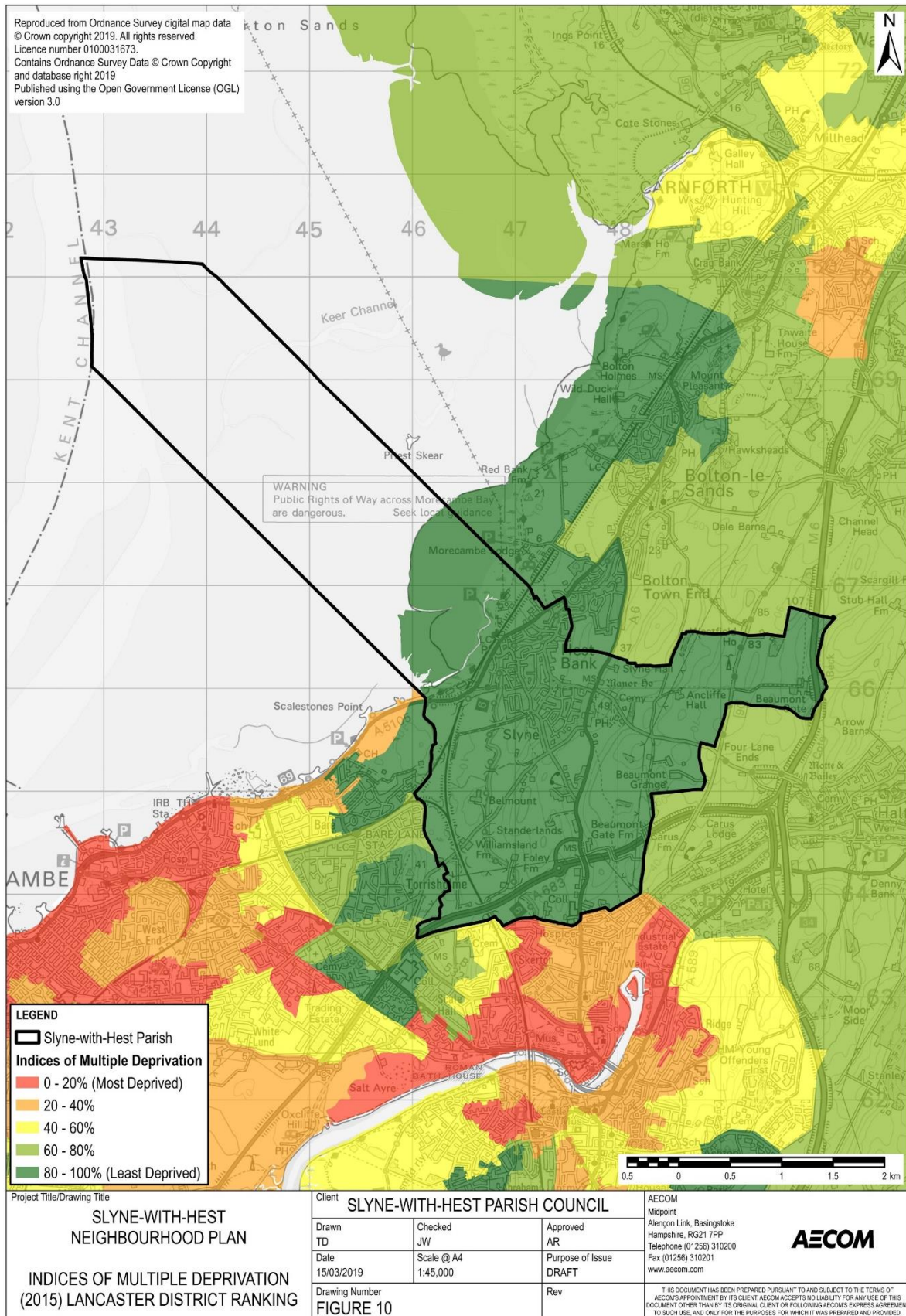


Figure 7.3: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2017 - Lancaster



Housing tenure

Table 7.3 below presents Census data from 2011, showing that the predominant tenure is one of owner occupation (90%) (which is significantly higher than the rest of Lancaster and England).

The privately rented sector makes up 7.4% of the tenure profile of Slyne-with-Hest and the socially rented sector makes up 1.9%, both of which are significantly lower than the district average and the rest of England.

Table 7.3: Tenure (households) in Slyne-with-Hest, Census 2011 and AECOM Calculations

Tenure	Slyne-with-Hest	Lancaster	England
Owned; total	90%	69.2%	63.3%
Shared ownership	0%	0.6%	0.8%
Social rented; total	1.9%	10%	17.7%
Private rented; total	7.4%	18.9%	16.8%

Education and skills

The educational profile of the plan area is relatively consistent with the Lancaster and England & Wales average. However there are considerably greater members of the population who have achieved a Level 4 Qualification and / or above.

Slyne has a lower proportion compared with the regional average with regard to individuals with Level 3 qualifications (11.5% compared to 17.5%); however when looking at Level 2 qualifications and lower, these are generally in line with Lancaster. Slyne does however have a greater number of residents with no qualifications than the rest of England and Wales.

There is one primary school located in the centre of the plan area.

Table 7.4: Qualifications, Census 2011

	Slyne ⁵⁷		Lancaster (%)		England and Wales (%)
	<i>Figure</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Figure</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
Level 4 Qualifications and Above	955	35.2	31,396	27.2	29.7
Level 3 Qualifications	312	11.5	20,214	17.5	14.5
Level 2 Qualifications	392	14.5	17,539	15.2	17.2
Level 1 Qualifications	287	10.6	13,178	11.4	15.2
Apprenticeships and Other Qualifications	216	7.9	9,274	8.1	8.6
No Qualifications	548	20.2	23,804	20.6	15.0

⁵⁷ Figure represented is the total calculation the Slyne-with-Hest Local Ward areas, Available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/advanced.aspx?resume=yes> [Accessed: 7/11/18]

Employment

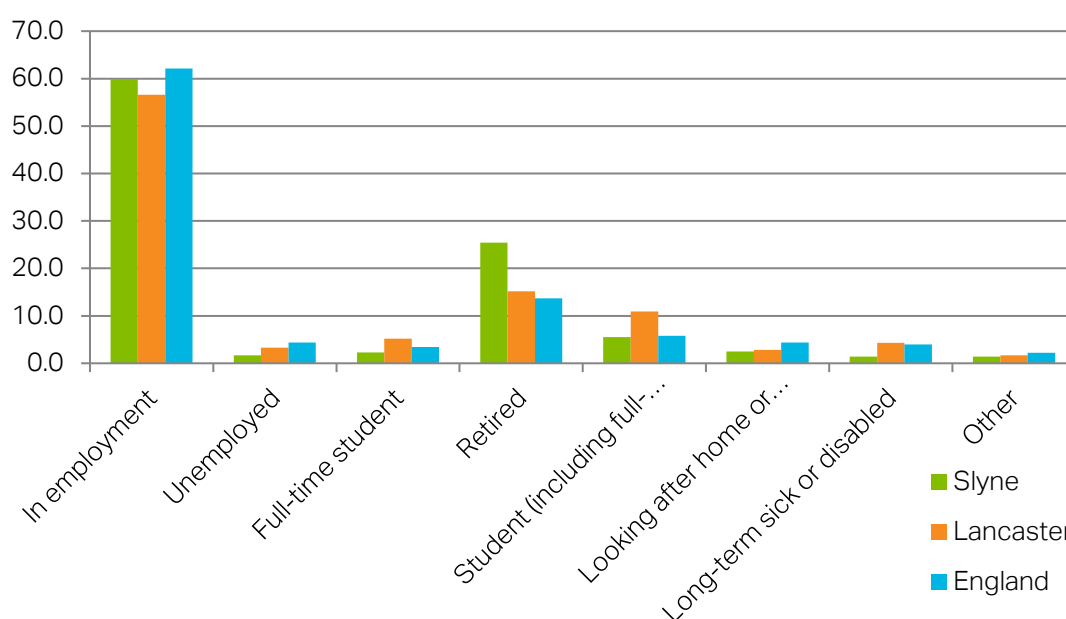
Data from the 2011 Census data shows that the Neighbourhood Area has an economically active population which is in line with regional and England and Wales average.

59.9% of residents are economically active and are in employment according to the 2011 Census shown in figure 7.4 below.

A further 25.4% are retired, 2.3% are students, 1.7% are unemployed, 1.4% are long-term sick/disabled and 2.5 % are economically inactive.

Although the levels of employment and unemployment do not differ significantly than those observed in Lancaster and England, there are more retired people and fewer students and long-term sick or disabled in the plan area when compared to the average for Lancaster.

Figure 7.4: Employment and Unemployment Levels of the Economically Active and Inactive, 2011



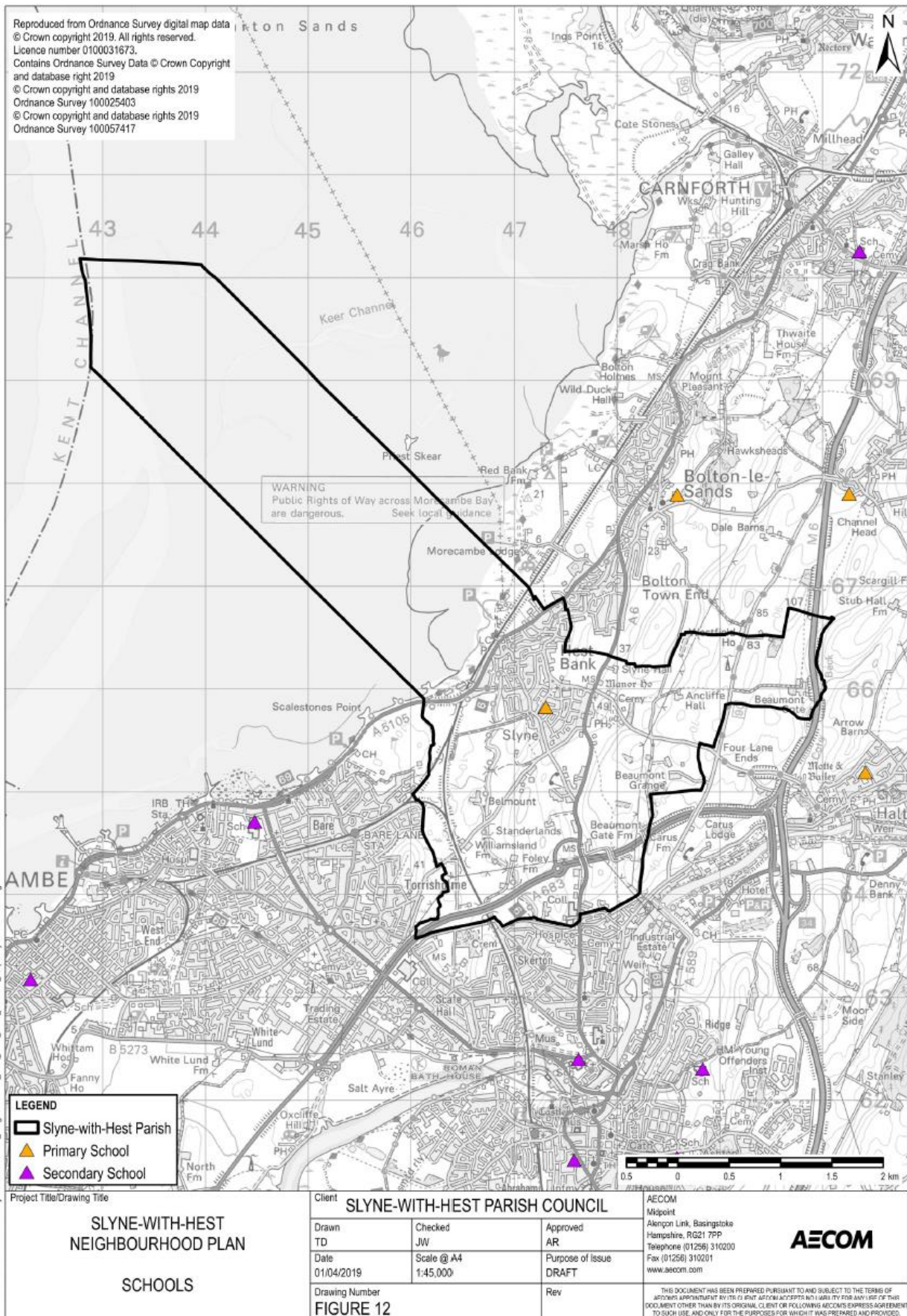
Census 2011 data shown in table 7.5 below shows that the majority of residents work less than 10km away from home (59.6%) which is in line with the rest of Lancaster (59.9%) and similar to England averages (52.3%). The majority of the residents below taken from Slyne are in line with Lancaster and England averages, the main difference is the proportion of residents who mainly work from home, which is slightly higher in Slyne (12.6%) compared to Lancaster (10.6%) and England (10.3%).

Table 7.5: Distance to work, Census 2011 and AECOM Calculations

Location of work	Slyne	Lancaster	England
Less than 10km	59.6%	59.9%	52.3%
10km to less than 30km	9%	10.3%	21.0%
30km and over	11.3%	11.5%	8.0%
Work mainly at or from home	12.6%	10.6%	10.3%
Other	7.5%	7.7%	8.5%
Average distance travelled to work	17km	16.2km	14.9km

Source: ONS, AECOM Calculations

Figure 7.5: Schools within the Neighbourhood Plan area



Town Centre

Hest Bank has a limited provision of retail, service and other uses located on Marine Drive/Coastal Road. This includes a dentist, café, two takeaways, a beauty salon, hairdressers and estate agent. There is no convenience goods store at Hest Bank.

The wider Hest Bank area, which is adjoined by Slyne (forming the wider suburb), there is a Londis convenience store and pharmacy located on Manor Road, approximately 1 km south-east⁵⁸ of the retail and services. This limited provision is further supported by the relatively close proximity of Bolton-le-Sands local centre to the north. The location of social and community infrastructure and services within the Neighbourhood Plan area is illustrated in figure 8.1.

7.4 Future Baseline

The SHMA 20158 states that 'a major strategic challenge for the Council is to ensure a range of appropriate housing provision, adaptation and support for the area's older population'⁵⁹, given that the ONS 2014-based population projections predict the number of people across Lancaster area aged 65-79 and those ages 80+ are expected to significantly grow over the plan period.

Therefore, there are pressing demographic reasons why addressing housing issues for older people is important.

Although this data is for Lancaster, the likelihood is that the demographic situation in Slyne-with-Hest will nevertheless become ever more pronounced in terms of an elderly population do the current high proportion of those over 45 when compared to the rest of Lancaster.

Table 7.6: Projected age population 2017-2033

Table 4.2 Projected population change, 2017 to 2033				
Age Group	2017	2033	Change 2017-33	% Change 2017-33
0-14	22,700	23,500	800	3.5%
15-29	34,200	35,300	1,100	3.2%
30-44	23,000	24,500	1,500	6.5%
45-64	35,500	32,300	-3,200	-9.0%
65-79	20,700	24,600	3,900	18.8%
80+	7,800	12,400	4,600	59.0%
Total	143,900	152,600	8,700	6.0%
aged 65+	28,500	37,000		
aged 80+	7,800	12,400		

Source: Lancaster SHMA 2017

The ageing population structure of Lancaster is well documented and this trend is predicted to continue into the future. The continued ageing of the population will clearly impact on a range of services and housing needs in the future.

Slyne-with-Hest has an important relationship with Lancaster jobs and relies on satellite communities for additional services. .

⁵⁸ Lancaster District Council (2018) available at: <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/NorthgatePublicDocs/00909844.pdf>

⁵⁹Lancaster District Council SHMA 2015 pg. 11

In order to deal with this demographic shift, there is a need to plan for education, social and health services and housing accordingly to accommodate not only the increase in population, but a more elderly population than currently experienced.

7.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SEA theme?

This topic has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the plan will influence housing delivery and the growth of employment opportunities, and other infrastructures and services that are required to deliver and sustain sustainable communities.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community, particularly the elderly? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Support and maintain a strong and sustainable local economy	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the local economy and provide access to employment opportunities? • Support a more diverse range of employment opportunities for local residents, particularly in professional / technical occupations?

8. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well-being

8.1 Headline sustainability issues

- The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'very good health' or 'good health'. However, the percentage of residents reporting 'very good health' is below local, regional and national averages.
- Comparatively fewer residents report bad health or very bad health than the North West or national averages.
- An ageing population has the potential to increase pressures on healthcare services and is therefore a significant influence on future health and wellbeing in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

8.2 Policy and contextual review

The NPPF (2018) contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities... by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment'*. It also states that *'access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities'*.

The Framework further outlines that the planning system should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that are designed to promote social interaction, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles.

Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁶⁰ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'*.

The Government's **'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'** (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Relevant proposals include connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing by:

- Using green spaces including through mental health services.
- Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.
- Greening towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.

⁶⁰ The Marmot Review, The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning, 2011, Available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

- Making 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with 'Step-Up To Serve' and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.

The increasing role that local authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by government legislation. **The Health and Social Care Act 2012** transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** for Lancashire offers information regarding the health and wellbeing of the county. The requirement for the JSNA was created in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007. An annual commentary report is produced to highlight countywide issues for health, wellbeing, social care and the wider determinants to work towards improving the quality of life of Lancaster's population.

8.3 Baseline Summary

Health indicators and deprivation

Generally, levels of bad health reflect the county and national averages. In contrast, a greater proportion of people consider their health as 'good' compared to the county and national averages. However, the percentage of residents living in Slyne who consider their health to be 'very good' is 44.6%, is marginally lower than the averages for Lancaster (46.7%) , and nationally (47.1%).

Table 8.1: Health of all usual residents in Slyne Ward, ONS 2011

	Slyne ⁶¹		Lancaster		England and Wales
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Percentage (%)
General health is very good	1,393	44.6	64,577	46.7	47.1
General health is good	1,111	35.5	46,831	33.8	34.3
General health is fair	474	15.2	18,960	13.7	13.2
General health is bad	109	3.5	6,215	4.5	4.3
General health is very bad	39	1.2	1,792	1.3	1.3

⁶¹ Figure represented is the total calculation of Slyne-with-Hest Local Ward areas Available: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?opt=3&theme=&subgrp>

Influences on health and wellbeing

The introduction of Green infrastructure into communities is considered to have a positive effect on health and wellbeing by offering a platform where residents and visitors can engage with nature, and recreational activities.

The following land uses are identified to be common 'typologies' for elements of green infrastructure:

- Parks and Gardens – urban parks, Country and Regional Parks, formal gardens;
- Amenity Greenspace – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, urban commons, other incidental space, green roofs;
- Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces - woodland and scrub, grassland (e.g. down land and meadow), heath or moor, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and disturbed ground), bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs and quarries);
- Green corridors – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, cycling routes, pedestrian paths, and rights of way; and
- Other - allotments, community gardens, city farms, cemeteries and churchyards.

The presence of such facilities is generally considered to support the health and wellbeing of local communities.

Within Slyne-with-Hest there are several open and green spaces that can be used for recreation. One being the Slyne-with-Hest Village Play Area which contains; a slide, wooden balance trail, climbing frame with slide, climbing frames, bucket swing and junior and infant swings. Along with, a basketball court with basketball frames and two football goals. The location of recreational spaces and green infrastructure in Slyne-with-Hest is illustrated in figure 8.1.

Access to social and community facilities can offer opportunities for social interaction and platforms to support the well-being of residents. Figure 8.2 illustrates how existing facilities including a convenience store and pharmacy are broadly concentrated along Manor Road.

There is a Nursing home within Slyne-with-Hest that provides accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care, Dementia, Treatment of disease, disorder or injury, Caring for adults over 65 years. There are also two residential care homes in Slyne-with-Hest (The Thorns and Greenroyd). Otherwise, there are no GPs or medical centres within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Crime

Crime or the perception of crime can directly affect people's feelings of safety.

In January 2019 there were 15 reported crimes committed in Slyne-with-Hest⁶².

There are no particular identifiable 'hotspot' areas of criminal activity within Slyne-with-Hest, with the exception of built up residential areas.

⁶² Police.gov (2018) available at: <https://www.police.uk/lancashire/B26/crime/2018-01/>

Figure 8.1: Social and community infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Plan area

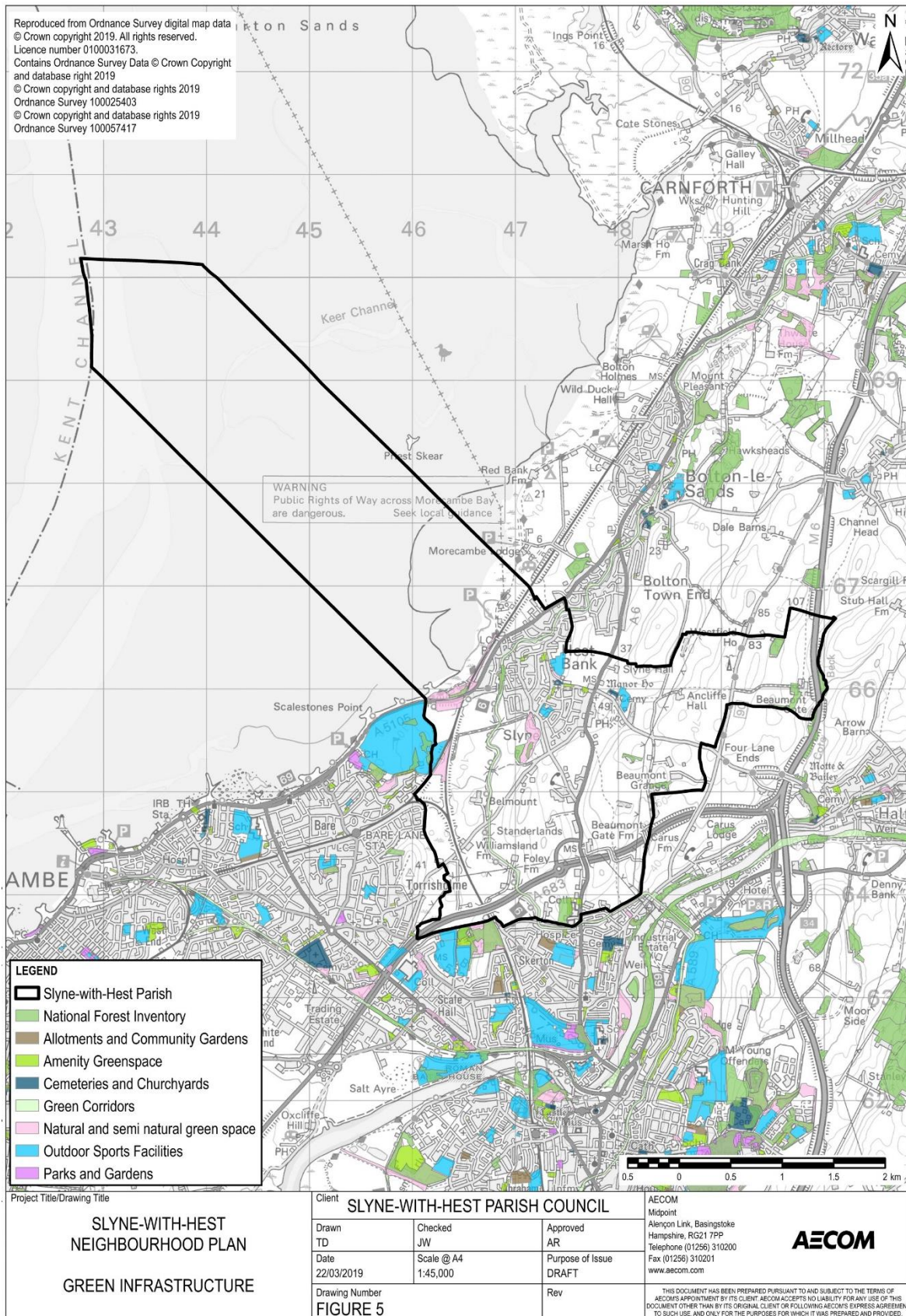
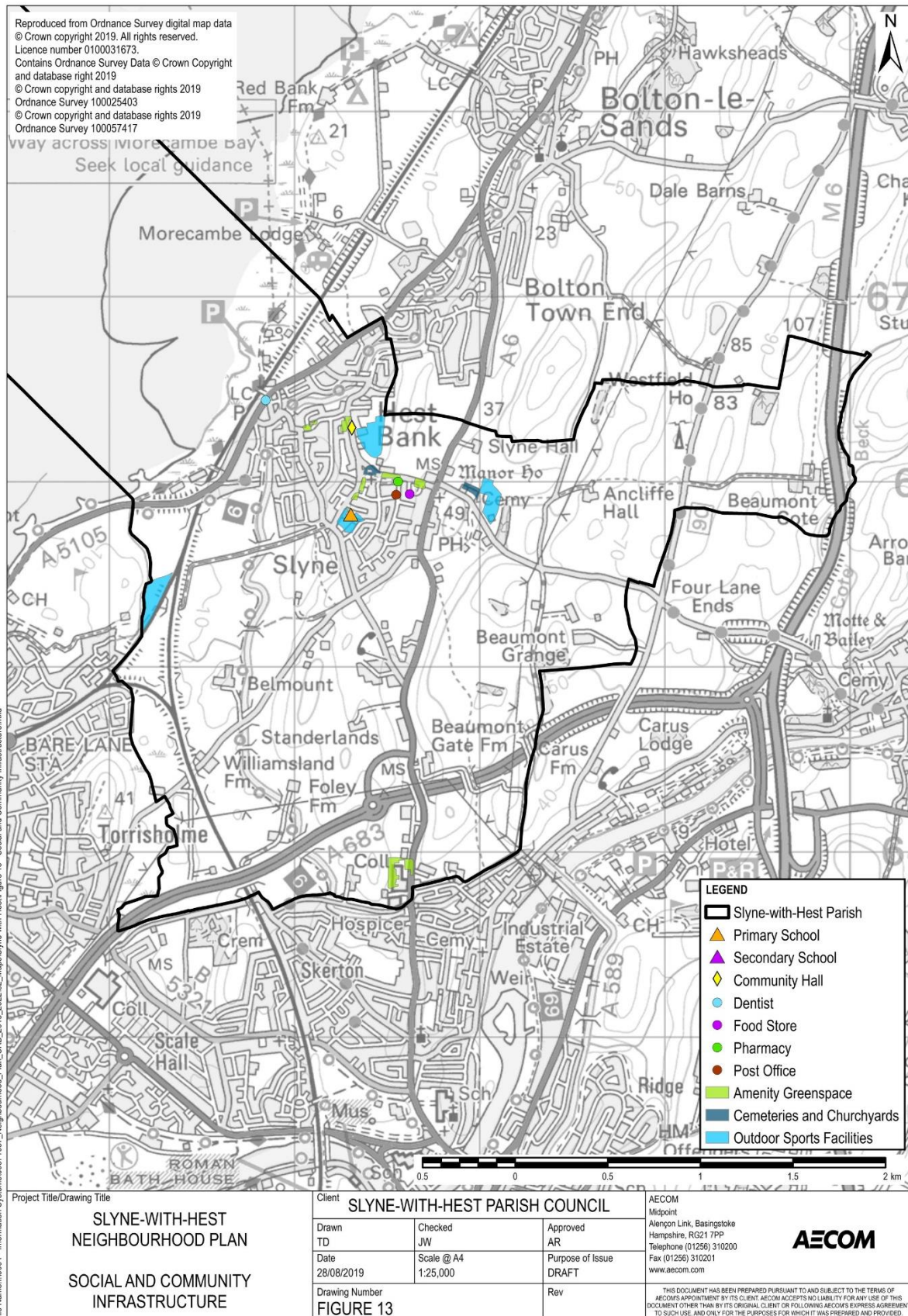


Figure 8.1: Social and community infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Plan area



8.4 Future baseline

It is possible that future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area would help to provide opportunities to capitalise on the extension of Green Infrastructure networks. These are key aims of national and local planning policy, and it is therefore likely that such principles would be an important consideration in development. However, strategic opportunities may be less likely to be taken in the absence of a plan.

With regards to health and wellbeing, an increasing elderly population could put more pressure on health services, and create greater demand for housing of a certain type. Though improvements to health and public services would be anticipated, these may not be in-sync with ad hoc developments.

Conversely, the overall health of the population may be expected to improve due to advancements in medicine, health care and technology, but this is difficult to predict. Factors such as climate change may also make certain groups more vulnerable to health related issues (for example flooding / extreme heat).

8.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan has the potential to have significant effects upon health and wellbeing.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Align to the priority areas outlined in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Reduce noise pollution? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Prepare for an ageing population?

9. Transportation

Focus of Theme:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

9.1 Headline sustainability issues

- The closest train station to Slyne-with-Hest is located at Bare lane located 2 miles to the south of the plan area.
- Slyne-with-Hest benefits from good road access. It has a lower than the national average of households without access to a car and in contrast a higher than the national average of households with access to a single car.
- Public transport use as a mode to travel to work is significantly lower than the county and national averages. However, more people tend to walk to work.

9.2 Policy and contextual review

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel.

The **NPPF** (2018) requires that '*transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making*'. The scale, location and density of development should reflect '*opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure*'. To help reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health the planning system should focus significant development '*on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes*'. The Framework also requires that planning policies support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to further help reduce the need to travel as well as the provision of high quality walking and cycling network.

The **Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan**⁶³ (2018) sets out a plan for transport infrastructure investment in the North of England with an aim of supporting economic growth through enhanced connectivity and higher productivity.

Lancaster Council has produced a **Local Transport Plan** (LTP) 2011-2021⁶⁴ to support the national agenda, and establish the Councils vision, aims and objectives for transport over this period. It outlines the commitment to deliver reliable, resilient and efficient transport networks, reduce carbon emissions, increase accessibility and safety, and to use transport as a tool to improve the quality of life for those within the Lancaster area.

⁶³ Transport for the North (2018) Strategic Transport Plan [online] available at: <https://transportfornorth.com/stp/>

⁶⁴ Lancaster District Council (2018) available at: https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/191267/LTP3_through_full_council.pdf

District of Lancaster Highways and Transport Masterplan (2016)⁶⁵ – which sets out the vision for travel and transport to 2031 and beyond. This masterplan:

- Considers patterns of land use and transport use in the district of Lancaster;
- Considers the impact of future plans and priorities on our existing transport networks;
- Puts forward a vision for the district of Lancaster's highways and transport networks that supports the City Council's future aspirations; and
- Sets out the highway and transport measures that will be needed to support this vision and outlines funding mechanisms and a delivery programme.

9.3 Baseline Summary

Rail network

The closest train station to Slyne-with-Hest is Bare Lane, which is located two miles south of the plan area. This station is serviced by the Northern Line train service with hourly trains to Morecambe, Lancaster, Heysham Harbour and a less regular service to Leeds.

Bus and Road network

The location of bus stops in the Slyne-with-Hest area is illustrated in Figure 9.1. The Main service running through Slyne-with-Hest is the 55 to Carnforth and Lancaster City Centre, which operates an hourly service and the 555 services which also operates an hourly service to Keswick and Lancaster City Centre. In addition to these, there is the 5 Carnforth to Overton and 755 Morecambe to Bowness which serve the Slyne-with-Hest area.

Availability of cars and vans

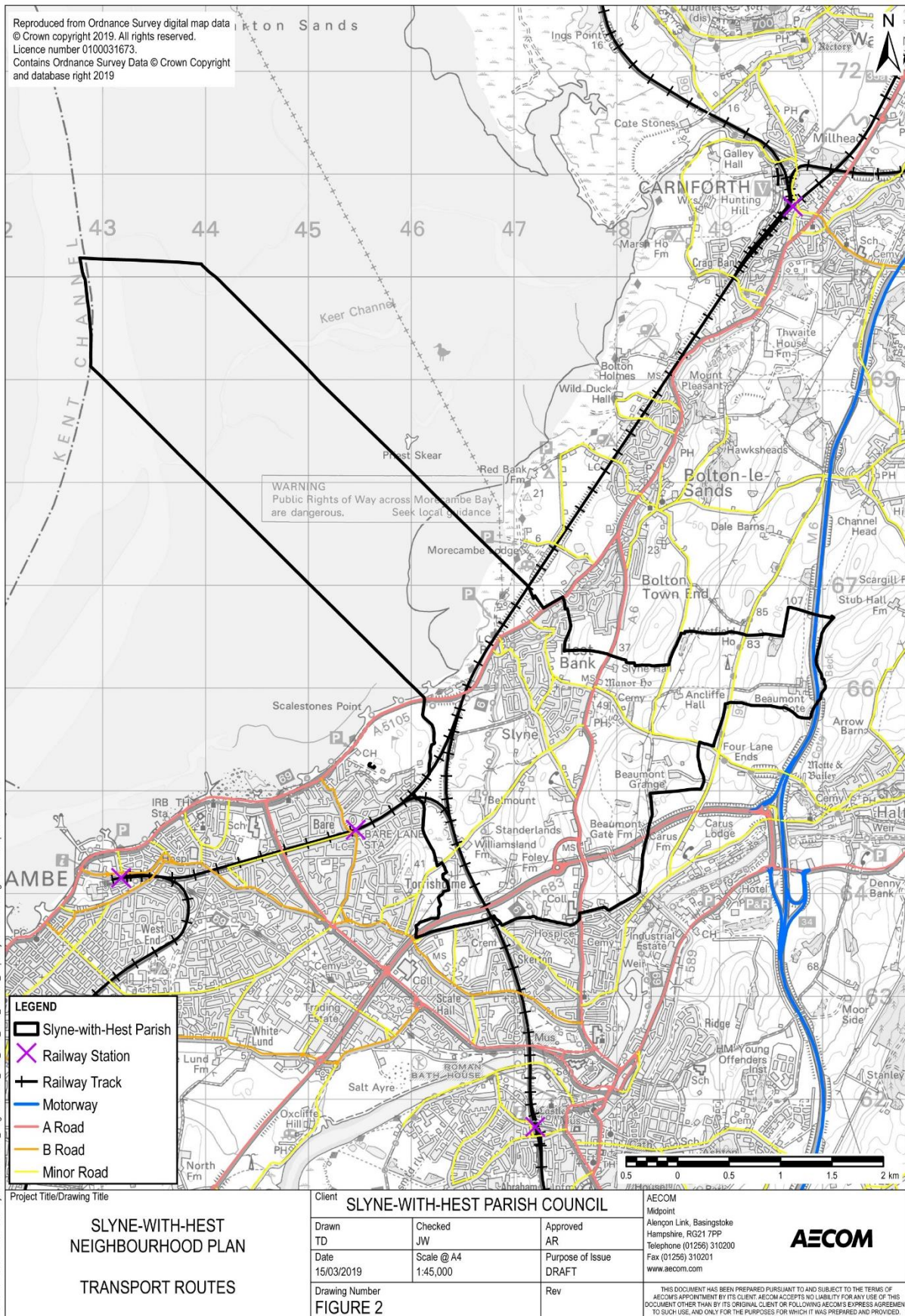
The proportion of households with 2, 3,4+ cars per household is significantly higher in Slyne than the rest of Lancaster or England, which could be attributed to the geographical location of the Neighbourhood plan area relying on the use of the private car.

Table 9.1: Household cars and vans, Census 2011

	Slyne		Lancaster		England and Wales
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
No cars or vans in household	140	10.4	14,232	24.6	25.6
1 car or van in household	575	42.5	26,299	45.5	42.2
2 cars or vans in household	478	35.4	13,648	23.6	24.7
3 cars or vans in household	127	9.4	2,752	4.8	5.5
4 or more cars or vans in household	32	2.4	891	1.5	1.9

⁶⁵ Lancaster District Council (2018) available at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/899614/final-lancaster-highways-and-transport-master-plan.pdf>

Figure 9.1: The location of transport routes within Slyne-with-Hest



Travel to Work

The proportion of people travelling to work via a private vehicle is significantly higher than the county and national averages.

Public transport use to travel to work is significantly lower than that of Lancaster and England averages. This can be attributed to the infrequencies of services and longer journey times when compared to the length of journey via the private car.

Table 9.2: Method of Travel to Work (aged 16-74 in employment), Census 2011

	Slyne-with-Hest		Lancaster		England and Wales
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Work mainly from home	102	4.6	3,388	33	3.5
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	0	0	58	0.1	2.6
Train	18	0.8	1,305	1.3	3.5
Bus, minibus or coach	43	1.9	3,785	3.7	4.9
Taxi	3	0.1	395	0.4	0.3
Motocycle, scooter or moped	13	0.6	544	0.5	0.5
Driving a car or a van	997	45.1	36,945	35.8	36.9
Passenger in a car or a van	61	2.8	3,915	3.8	3.3
Bicycle	50	2.3	2,551	2.5	1.9
On foot	67	3.0	9,518	9.2	6.9
Other	14	0.6	423	0.4	0.4

9.4 Future baseline

With regards to modes of transport, it is likely that car travel would continue to dominate without intervention (given the infrequency and accessibility of public transport links).

9.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

This SEA topic has been **SCOPED IN**, as the Plan has the potential to generate significant effects with regards to accessibility and the use of transport.

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?• Facilitate working from home and remote working?• Improve road safety?• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

10. Next Steps

10.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in an iterative six-stage SEA process:

- Screening (NPPG Stage A)
- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalization (NPPG Stage D / E)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)

The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan.

This will consider alternative policy approaches for the delivery of key elements of the Neighbourhood Plan (for example housing and employment land allocations).

The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed-back to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft Plan.

Once the draft ('pre-submission version') Plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.

Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan / Environmental Report, the Plan will be finalised and submitted to Lancaster City Council for subsequent Independent Examination.

10.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At the scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.

The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees for a formal consultation period of five weeks starting 26th April 2019.

Comments are also welcomed from a wider range of people, and can be submitted to the Parish Council in writing or by email.

