

Marton Moss Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Scoping Report

Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum

May 2021

Quality information

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	Screening outcomes	5
1.3	Introduction to scoping	5
1.4	Scoping outcomes	6
1.5	Structure of this Scoping Report	8
2.	Air Quality	9
	Focus of theme:	9
2.1	Policy Context	9
2.2	Baseline Summary	12
2.3	Key headline issues	14
2.4	Scoping outcome	14
3.	Biodiversity	15
	Focus of theme:	15
3.1	Policy Context	15
3.2	Baseline Summary	19
3.3	Future Baseline	26
3.4	Key headline issues	26
3.5	Scoping outcome	27
3.6	What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SEA theme?	27
4.	Climatic Factors (flood risk and climate change)	28
	Focus of theme:	28
4.1	Policy Context	28
4.2	Baseline Summary	33
4.3	Key headline issues	39
4.4	Scoping outcome	40
4.5	What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?	40
5.	Historic Environment	41
	Focus of theme:	41
5.1	Policy Context	41
5.2	Baseline Summary	43
5.3	Key headline issues	47
5.4	Scoping outcome	48
5.5	What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?	48
6.	Landscape	49
	Focus of theme:	49
6.1	Policy Context	49
6.2	Baseline Summary	51
6.3	Key headline issues	54
6.4	Scoping outcome	54
6.5	What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?	54
7.	Land, Soil and Water Resources	55
	Focus of theme:	55
7.1	Policy Context	55
7.2	Baseline Summary	58
7.3	Key headline issues	63
7.4	Scoping outcome	64
8.	Population and Housing	65
	Focus of theme:	65

8.1	Policy Context.....	65
8.2	Baseline Summary.....	68
8.3	Key headline issues.....	73
8.4	Scoping outcome.....	73
8.5	What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Housing SEA theme?.....	73
9.	Health and Wellbeing.....	75
	Focus of theme:.....	75
9.1	Policy Context.....	75
9.2	Baseline Summary.....	78
9.3	Key headline issues.....	82
9.4	Scoping outcome.....	82
10.	Transportation.....	83
	Focus of theme:.....	83
10.1	Policy Context.....	83
10.2	Baseline Summary.....	85
10.3	Key headline issues.....	88
10.4	Scoping outcome.....	88
11.	The SEA Framework and Methodologies.....	89
11.1	The SEA Framework.....	89
12.	Next Steps.....	92
12.1	Subsequent stages for the SEA process.....	92
12.2	Consultation on the Scoping Report.....	92
13.	Glossary.....	93
	Appendix A – Site Assessment Framework.....	95

Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Air Status Report
BPC	Blackpool Council
BLP1	Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy)
BLP2	The emerging Blackpool Plan Part 2
MNP	The draft Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan
DEFRA	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LEP	Local Economic Partnership
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LTP	Local Transport Plan
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

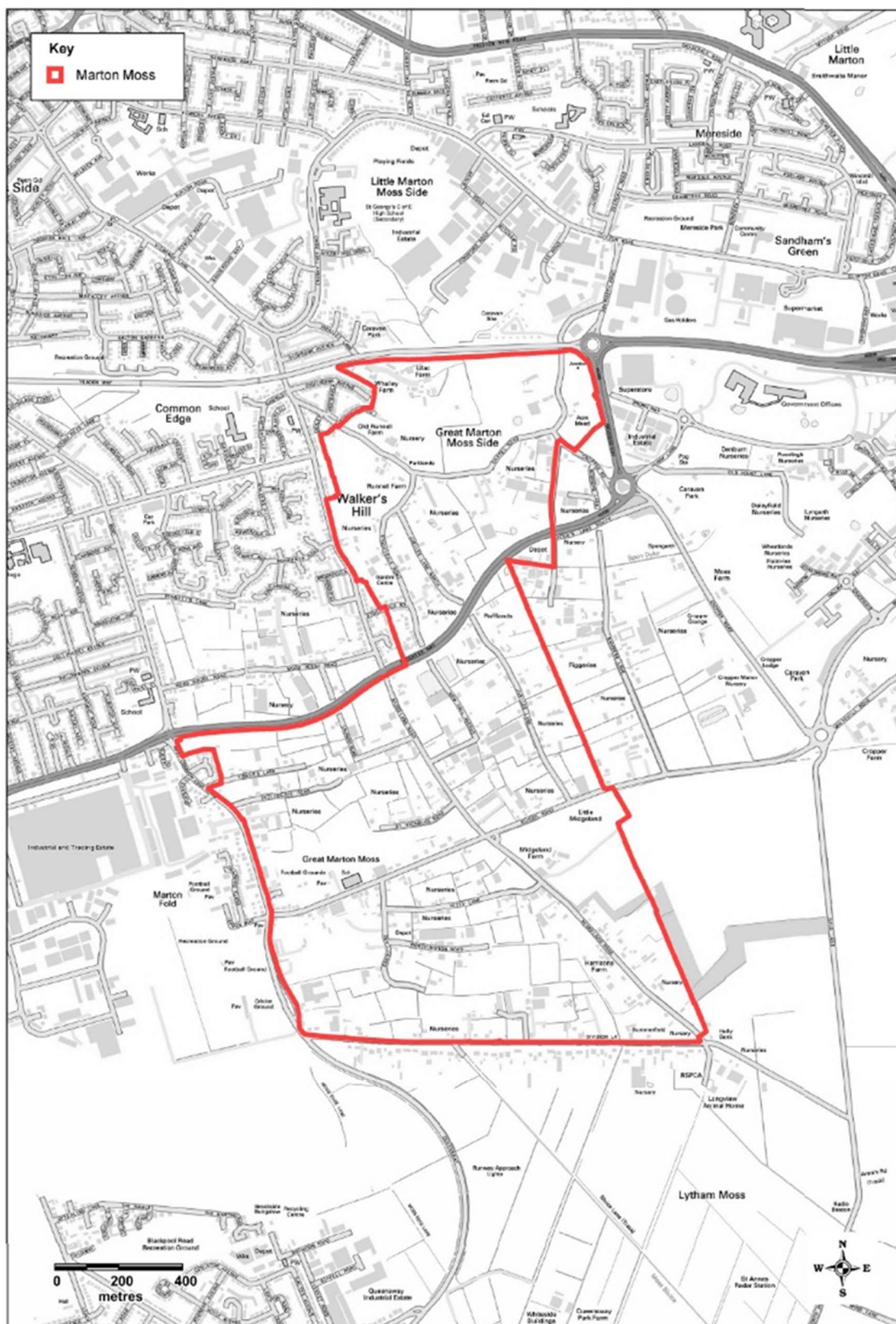
- 1.1.1 Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Forum is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for the sustainable future growth of Marlon Moss. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the Marlon Moss NDP on behalf of the Forum.
- 1.1.2 The NDP is being prepared in the context of the adopted Blackpool Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) adopted in 2016 and the emerging Blackpool Local Plan Part 2. The NDP will form part of the development plan for the Marlon Moss neighbourhood area, alongside the Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 NDPs are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted 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 in Blackpool, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the Neighbourhood Planning process where appropriate.

1.1.4 The Key information relating to the Marlon Moss NDP is presented in the table below (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Key facts relating to the NDP for Marlon Moss

Neighbourhood Group	Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Forum
Title of Plan	Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The Marlon Moss 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 Blackpool Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) and having regard to the emerging Blackpool Local Plan Part 2.</p> <p>Once ‘made’ the Marlon Moss NDP will be used to guide and shape development within the Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2030
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the designated Marlon Moss Neighbourhood area (Figure 1.1). It is located at the south eastern extremity of Blackpool, to the east of Blackpool Airport, around 2.4 km east of Blackpool Beach. The north east corner of the area is close to the western end of the M55 motorway. The northern boundary of the NP area is formed by Yeadon Way and the eastern boundary coincides with the administrative boundary of Blackpool with Fylde Borough as does the southern boundary also marked by Division Lane.
Summary of content	The Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and a range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area. It also allocates sites for housing in the area.
Plan contact point	Stephen Woodhouse chairman@marlonmossforum.org

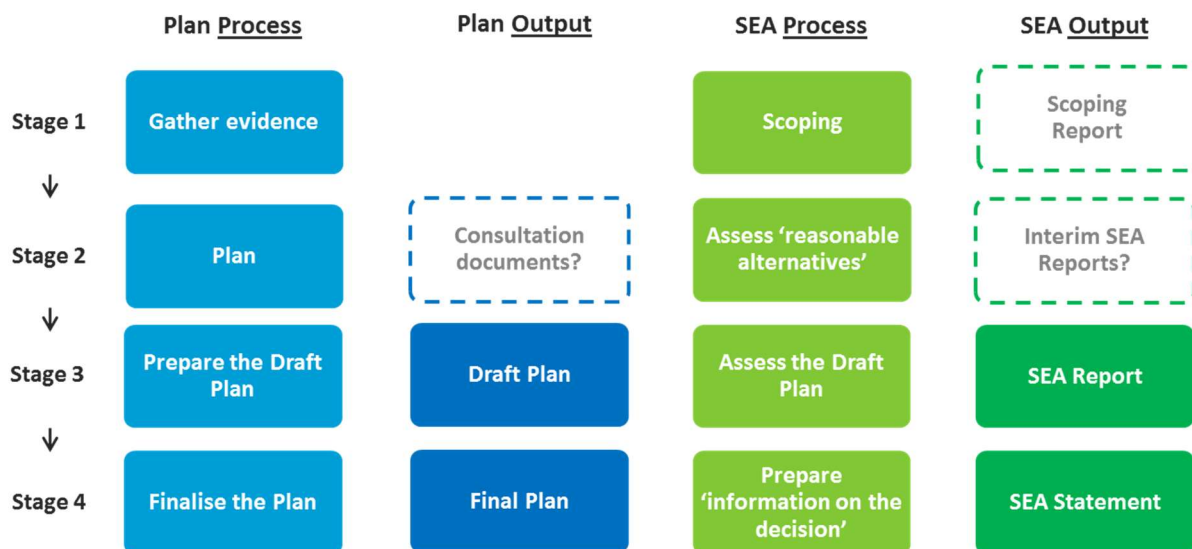
Figure 1-1 Marton Moss NP area



SEA explained

- 1.1.5 The Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which triggers the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 1.1.6 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable 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 or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects.
- 1.1.7 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations) require an environmental assessment to be carried out on certain plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. This plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing a SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.1.8 SEA can be viewed as a four-stage process that produces a number of statutory and non-statutory outputs. As illustrated in Figure 1.2 below, 'Scoping' is a mandatory process under the SEA Regulations but the publication of a scoping report is a voluntary (but useful) output.

Figure 1-2: SEA as a four step process



1.2 Screening outcomes

1.2.1 The Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan was screened-in for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Natural England considered that a HRA would be required in this instance as some of the allocations are adjacent to, or potentially within sites which could constitute land functionally linked to the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site¹. Potential impacts associated with recreational pressures were also raised. Therefore, a SEA is required as “Appropriate Assessment” under the Habitats Regulations automatically triggers the requirement for SEA.

1.3 Introduction to scoping

1.3.1 One of the first stages in the SEA process is to establish what the key issues are that the appraisal should focus on. This is called ‘scoping’, and involves a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (a ‘contextual review’) and information about the current and future state of the environment, economy and social factors (the ‘baseline’). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.

1.3.2 The Regulations² require that certain statutory bodies are consulted on the scope of a SEA. This can be done in a number of ways, but most often a Scoping Report is produced that presents the key information and a methodology for how future appraisals will be undertaken. Statutory Consultees have 5 weeks to comment on the scope of the appraisal. In England, the statutory consultees are Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.

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

- Defining the broader context for the Marlon Moss NDP and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
- Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Marlon Moss NDP) to help identify the plan’s likely significant effects;
- Identifying particular problems or opportunities (‘issues’) that should be a focus of the SEA; and
- Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions based on these issues, which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

¹ Natural England’s Email to Blackpool Council, reference 335198 dated 22/12/2020 I.

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

1.4 Scoping outcomes

- 1.4.1 The SEA Regulations and guidance document (the NPPG for example) encourage proportionate assessment and therefore it is important to scope out issues where it is apparent that the Plan could not affect the topic area in a significant way. In order to do this, an initial scoping sifting exercise has been undertaken.
- 1.4.2 As a result, a number of SEA topic areas have been scoped-out without the need to establish a more detailed baseline position. For other topics, further detail was gathered through the scoping process, which led to additional topics being SCOPED OUT.
- 1.4.3 Only Biodiversity, Climatic Factors, Historic Environment, Landscape and Housing have been identified for further assessment at the next stages of the SEA process.
- 1.4.4 The relevant SEA topic areas and the reasons for the scoping decisions are set out in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2: Scoping outcomes

SEA topic area	Scoping Outcomes
Air Quality	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently SCOPED OUT as there are no Air Quality Management Areas or areas of concern in the NDP area.
Biodiversity	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED IN .
Climatic factors	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED IN for climate change resilience and flood risk.
Historic Environment	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED IN .
Landscape	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED IN .
Waste	The Plan is unable to influence this to a significant extent and therefore this topic area can be SCOPED OUT . Key issues relating to waste will be to ensure adequate access for waste collection, and storage that does not affect the street scene.
Minerals	The plan does not pose any sterilisation risk to mineral resources. Therefore, this topic area can be SCOPED OUT .
Land, Soil and Water Resources	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently SCOPED OUT
Population and Housing	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED IN .
Health and Wellbeing	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process and subsequently SCOPED OUT
Transportation	Considered in greater detail through the scoping process, but subsequently SCOPED OUT

1.5 Structure of this Scoping Report

1.5.1 The outcomes of the scoping exercise for the topic areas further considered in the scoping process (following the initial sift) have been presented as follows:

- Chapter 2: Air Quality;
- Chapter 3: Biodiversity;
- Chapter 4: Climatic factors (Flood Risk and Climate Change);
- Chapter 5: Historic Environment;
- Chapter 6: Landscape;
- Chapter 7: Land, Soil and Water Resources;
- Chapter 8: Population and Housing;
- Chapter 9: Health and Wellbeing; and
- Chapter 10: Transportation.

1.5.2 In accordance with the SEA Directive, the final chapters of the report summarise the overarching sustainability issues, set out the SEA Framework and outline the next stages in the process. To demonstrate a clear trail of how the SEA objectives have been identified, each topic Chapter (which is scoped into the SEA) concludes with suggested objectives and supporting criteria for inclusion in the SEA Framework. Appendix A comprises the site assessment framework for assessing allocated development sites in the NDP.

2. Air Quality

Focus of theme:

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

2.1 Policy Context

2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)³ outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.

- *‘Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.’*
- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health.’*
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.1.2 Local Planning Authorities are required to publish annual Air Quality Annual Status Reports (ASRs) to discharge their monitoring obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act (1995). Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and Part II of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) if improvements are necessary. Where an AQMA is designated, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) must then be put in place.

³ HM GOV (2019) National Planning Policy Framework,
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

- 2.1.3 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 transpose into UK law the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) which sets legally binding limits for outdoor concentrations of major air pollutants which impact public health.
- 2.1.4 The Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (2018)⁴ issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the National Air Quality Objectives 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).
- 2.1.5 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁵ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan are relevant.
- 2.1.6 The Clean Air Strategy⁶ (2019) sets out the strategy for improving air quality, including goals to reduce exposure to toxic pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia, particulate matter, non-methane volatile organic compounds and sulphur dioxide. For example, the strategy aims to reduce particulate matter emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 46% by 2030.
- 2.1.7 The government's draft Environment Bill (2019-2021); which is currently completing its passage through Parliament, sets out new legal frameworks for air pollution, water quality and nature conservation. It requires the secretary of state (SoS) to establish long-term (minimum 15 years) targets with respect to air quality for England by 31 October 2022. This includes a requirement to set a target annual mean level for PM_{2.5} in air. Targets set are to be reviewed at least every 5 years. Under the bill the SoS is required to prepare an environment improvement plan (EIP) for England to significantly improve the natural environment. The EIP must have a minimum span of 15 years. DEFRA's current 25 year plan, which includes clean air goals, will be the first EIP. A new body; the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) will act as the watchdog on matters of environmental compliance.

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 HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁶ Defra (2019) Clean Air Strategy at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

- 2.1.8 The Defra report Action for air quality in a changing climate⁷ (2010) 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.
- 2.1.9 In terms of the local context, Blackpool Council is required to monitor air quality across the borough, 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 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.
- 2.1.10 Lancashire County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3)⁸ sets out the county council's vision, aims and objectives for transport over the period 2011-2021. The LTP's goals include; reducing carbon emissions, improving access into areas of economic growth and regeneration, providing better access to employment and education, improving quality of life and wellbeing, providing effective transport alternatives to the car (safe, reliable, affordable) and improving safety on the streets for vulnerable residents. Measures to achieve these objectives include;
- Reducing congestion, increasing road capacity and improving highway links and junctions.
 - Exploring renewal of outdated rural roads infrastructure.
 - Working with operators to reduce journey times to key employment sites.
 - Working to bring about improvements to connections and links.
 - Promoting major infrastructure investment.
 - Developing bus stations and interchanges.
 - Introducing Park and Ride sites.
 - Promoting sustainable travel to visitor destinations.
 - Work with district councils to deliver adequate parking to allow access to services.

⁷ 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

⁸ Lancashire County Council Transport Plan LPT3 2011-2016; <https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/download-package/lancashire-county-council-transport-plan-ltp3-2011-2021/>

2.1.11 Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM41⁹; (Transport requirements for new development) states that; new development will only be permitted where the access, travel and safety needs of all affected by the development are met. It also requires that safe pedestrian and cycle routes are provided. Additional mitigation measures must be factored into proposals that generate impacts on surrounding highways.

2.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

2.2.1 Air quality in Blackpool is largely influenced by traffic emissions; particularly from traffic on the M55, bringing traffic from the M6 into Blackpool. Tourist traffic can often lead to congestion, particularly during the holiday seasons. The other main roads in Blackpool are the A583, A5073 and A5230 which lead off the M55, the A587 and the A584 which runs along the seafront. Blackpool has one monitoring station that collects data on levels of NOx and PM10 and there are other non-automated monitoring sites in the town to monitor NO2 concentrations across the borough. The Blackpool Marlon monitoring station, located in the grounds of Stanley Primary School, around 2 km from the northern boundary of the NP area at feeds air quality data (including Nitrous oxides and PM10 particulate levels) into the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (ARUN)¹⁰. Blackpool Council has one AQMA, located in Blackpool Town Centre and extending along Talbot Road to the seafront and Dickson Road to its junction with Pleasant Street (Figure 2.1). Blackpool generally doesn't exceed the NO2 levels for annual background (AURN monitoring) levels, but the non-automated network has recorded exceedances within the Air Quality Management area since 2005¹¹. This area is just under 4km away from the northern edge of the NP area. In this area, NO₂ levels occasionally exceed the stipulated limits and individuals may therefore be exposed to harmful levels of air pollute

⁹ Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 available at; <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/CONSULTATION-VERSION-Publication-merged-with-Appendices.pdf>

¹⁰ The AURN is the UK's largest automatic monitoring network and is the main network used for compliance reporting against the Ambient Air Quality Directives.

¹¹ Source: Blackpool Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Figure 2-1 Blackpool Air Quality Management Area



Summary of future baseline

- 2.2.2 Although the AQMA is 4km away from the northern most boundary of the NP area, new employment and /or housing provision within the NDP area can potentially have adverse effects on air quality through increase traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂.
- 2.2.3 The implementation of the Lancashire Local Transport Plan (LTP3), which includes improved foot and cycle links to bus stations and stops and cycle storage at interchanges, is likely to encourage active travel and reduce the reliance on cars.
- 2.2.4 Improvements in air quality may be experienced as a result of lower emission vehicles, which could offset any increases associated with traffic.

2.3 Key headline issues

- 2.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area with the nearest AQMA located around 4km away from the northern boundary of the NP area in Blackpool Town Centre.
 - Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase vehicular emissions and reduce air quality in the area (though low emissions vehicles could offset this to an extent).

2.4 Scoping outcome

- 2.4.1 The scale of development associated with the plan is such that any additional effects, taken in isolation or in-combination, are not predicted to be significant.
- 2.4.2 For the above reasons, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.
- 2.4.3 Whilst significant effects are unlikely, it is still possible for the Plan to contribute towards air quality improvements. This is evident from the Plan aims and objectives seeking to achieve environmental improvements.

3. Biodiversity

Focus of theme:

- European and nationally designated sites
- Local wildlife sites
- Priority habitats and species

3.1 Policy Context

3.1.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy¹² 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*'.

3.1.2 The European Commission Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment¹³ (2013) suggests that a 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.

3.1.3 Natural England's Conservation Objectives for European Sites¹⁴ are based on the qualifying nature conservation features for which site has been specifically designated and informed by the ecological requirements of those features. These Objectives are specifically needed by to ensure that new plans or projects proceed without having an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site unless, in the absence of alternative solutions, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and the necessary compensatory measures can be secured. The objectives for SACs and SPAs are as below;

- SACs: Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring;

For Qualifying Habitats :

- Extent and distribution of qualifying habitats
- Structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying habitats, and
- Supporting processes on which qualifying habitats rely

¹² 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

¹³ 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>

¹⁴ Natural England: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

For Qualifying Species :

- Extent and distribution of habitats of qualifying species
 - Structure and function of habitats of qualifying species
 - Supporting processes on which habitats of qualifying species rely
 - Populations of qualifying species, and
 - Distribution of qualifying species within the site.
-
- SPAs: Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;
 - Extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
 - Structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
 - Supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
 - Populations of each of the qualifying features, and
 - Distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

3.1.4 Key messages from the NPPF (2019) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to *'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity.'*
- *'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value [...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.'*
- *'To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*
 - a. *Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and*
 - b. *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'.*

- Paragraph 175: *When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:*
 - a. *if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
 - b. *development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
 - c. *development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
 - d. *development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged.*

3.1.5 The Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'¹⁵ (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.
- 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.

¹⁵ 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>

- 3.1.6 The government's draft Environment Bill (2019-2021); in December 2018 the UK government announced plans for new environmental legislation setting out a new framework for environmental law post-Brexit. The Environment Bill was published in January 2020. It sets out new legal frameworks for air pollution, water quality and nature conservation. It also establishes a new environmental watchdog – the Office for Environmental Protection – to hold governments and other public bodies to account when the environment is under threat. In March 2019 the government confirmed that new developments must deliver an overall increase in biodiversity in order to achieve a 'biodiversity net gain'. This requirement was set out in the Environment Bill summer policy statement (July 2019). The Bill had the first day of its report stage on Tuesday 26 January 2021.
- 3.1.7 The emerging Blackpool Local Plan (part 2) Policy DM35¹⁶ states that development proposals must not result in loss or harm to biodiversity and must minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net gains through good design and biodiversity enhancements and habitat creation. It further states that development will not be permitted in or adjacent to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) where this would adversely affect its nature conservation importance. Furthermore, development proposals should ensure that species and habitats set out in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans will be protected and where possible enhanced. Where development is permitted, adequate compensatory measures must be undertaken to sustain and enhance the species and its habitat.

¹⁶ Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 (January 2021) page 108, available at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/CONSULTATION-VERSION-Publication-merged-with-Appendices.pdf>

3.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 3.2.1 Lancashire has a range of wildlife species and habitats. A number of these are protected sites; the designation of which helps to preserve the biodiversity and character of the areas. Nature designations in the vicinity of the NDP area are presented in the following table and illustrated in Figure 3.1.

Table 3.1 Nature Designations near Marlon Moss

Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Liverpool Bay SPA (3km from western boundary of NP area)
	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA (4.2km from southern boundary)
Ramsar Sites	Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar (4.2km from southern boundary)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Marlon Mere SSSI (1.7km north of NDP area)
	Ribble Estuary SSSI (2.5km from western boundary and 4.2km from southern boundary)
	Lytham St. Anne's Dunes SSSI (2km from western boundary)
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve (5km from southern boundary)
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Marlon Mere Local Nature Reserve (1.5km from northern boundary)

- 3.2.2 **Liverpool Bay SPA:** The Birds Directive aims to conserve the habitats of qualifying wild birds in order to ensure their survival and reproduction. The Special Areas of Protection designation is a key mechanism in achieving this. The Liverpool Bay SPA is classified for the protection of red-throated diver, common scoter, and little gull during the non-breeding season, as well as a waterbird assemblage, and foraging areas for little tern and common tern breeding within coastal SPAs¹⁷. The conservation objectives for the protected features of this site are to ensure they remain in / reach favourable condition. This is influenced by the sensitivity of the designated features to pressures associated with activities taking place within or in close proximity to a protected site.
- 3.2.3 **Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA / Ribble Estuary SSSI and Ramsar site:** There are over 4,100 Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) in England, which cover around 8% of the country's land area. SSSIs are recognised as amongst the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. The Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA is legally underpinned by the Ribble Estuary SSSI. The site occupies a stretch of coastline between Liverpool and Preston. It lies between the Mersey estuary and Morecambe Bay. The site comprises extensive sand and mudflats backed, in the north, by the saltmarsh of the Ribble Estuary and, to the south, the sand dunes of the Sefton Coast. The tidal flats and saltmarsh support internationally important populations of waterfowl in winter and the sand dunes support vegetation communities and amphibian populations of international importance. The breeding bird communities of the saltmarsh are also significant and include nationally important breeding populations of black-headed gull, common tern and redshank. It protects the largest aggregation of common scoters, the largest marine aggregation of little gull, and the third largest aggregation of red-throated diver in the UK¹⁸. Enclosed by the Coastal Road is an area of reclaimed unimproved grazing marsh, an uncommon habitat in NW England¹⁹. This still supports a variety of saltmarsh plants in the more brackish parts nearer the sea and along the creeks. Plants such as cord-grass, thrift, sea aster and the brackish water crowfoot, a particularly scarce plant in NW England, occur here. A number of factors that are contributing to saltmarsh change including coastal erosion as a result of coastal flood-defence works, rising sea-levels, variations in sediment deposition, and land claim for development. The birds utilising the habits here are vulnerable to disturbance from human activities, for example, bait digging, dog walking and wildfowling. Disturbance should therefore be minimised. The location and extent of mud or sandflats is dependent on the extent to which the estuary or coast where they occur is constrained from responding to sea level rise and changing sediment regimes. Management needs to create space to enable landward roll-back to take place in response to sea-level rise. The area is also sensitive water quality, which is usually dependent on land-use in the wider catchment. Where water is excessively rich in fertilisers such as nitrogen and phosphorus, enrichment will alter the plants found in the meadow and the ditches, usually for the worse, by encouraging tall rank grasses and nettles.

¹⁷ Source: JNCC, Liverpool Bay SPA available at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/liverpool-bay-spa/>

3.2.4 The Marton Mere SSSI and National Nature Reserve (NNR): is a freshwater lake around two miles east of the centre of Blackpool. The Mere is believed to occupy a kettle-hole, formed during the last glaciation over 14,000 years ago, and is thus one of only two remaining water bodies in Lancashire of natural origin²⁰. Much of the formerly extensive reedbed surrounding the Mere was submerged in 1976, but many small patches of reed still exist around the lake margin with other species such as reed-grass, yellow flag, bur-reed, glaucous bulrush and lesser reedmace (an uncommon plant in north-west England) which together provide an attractive habitat for water birds. The open water and fringing habitats of Marton Mere support a wide range of waterfowl and wetland birds. The breeding community of the site is of particular note: approximately 35 different species are known to use the Mere as a breeding site. Marton Mere is the most important breeding site in Lancashire for little grebe (up to 10 pairs), and is also of county importance for its population of great crested grebe, coot, mallard, pochard and shoveler. The area is an important resting place for a wide variety of migrant. The site is also attractive as a wintering ground for over 65 species of bird and is of county importance for its wintering population of coot, mallard, shoveler and tufted duck. The muddy margins of the lake – a rare habitat in Lancashire – provide important feeding areas for a variety of waders, including ruff, redshank, greenshank, curlew and oystercatcher, while the surrounding scattered scrub and vegetated areas provide attractive nesting and feeding habitat for several small passerine bird species. The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides. The site may also be sensitive to impacts due to increased access, and any recreational activities within. The site is subject to a high level of pressure from recreational developments on surrounding land and from its proximity to the large population centre at Blackpool.

¹⁸ Ibid; Ramsar information sheet available at: <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11057.pdf>

¹⁹ Natural England; Ribble Estuary SSSI Citation available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1004299.pdf>

²⁰ Source: Natural England, Marton Mere SSSI citation available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1001795.pdf>

- 3.2.5 Lytham St Anne’s dunes SSSI is located between Blackpool and St Anne’s on the Fylde Coast. They occur as a narrow strip between the recreational and residential developments of these popular holiday resorts, and form the remnants of an extensive dune system, which once existed along this stretch of coast²¹. The dunes are important as the best example of a calcareous dune system remaining in Lancashire. These support rich dune flora typical with over 230 species of higher plants, some of which are scarce nationally. The site also supports rich invertebrate fauna including many rare or uncommon species associated with coastal and dune habitats. Over a 150 species of moths and butterflies have been recorded in the area. The vulnerable Sandhill Rustic has more recently been rediscovered in the area. Also, of note are several pairs of nesting stonechat at their only breeding locality in the Fylde area. The SSSI is sensitive to the management of amenity beaches which can affect dune formation. The vegetation supported by the sand dunes is fragile and vulnerable to erosion from trampling and recreational pressures can result in the loss of vegetation cover.
- 3.2.6 Natural England collects data on the condition of SSSIs and Table 3.2 below sets out the condition of the local SSSIs;

Table 3.2 SSSI Conditions²²

Site	Status
Marlon Mere SSSI	100% Favourable
Ribble Estuary SSSI	99.1% Favourable/ 0.89% Unfavourable-no change
Lytham St. Anne’s Dunes SSSI	100% Unfavourable-Recovering

²¹ Source: Natural England, Lytham St Anne’s dunes SSSI citation available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1005632.pdf>

²² Natural England (2021)

3.2.7 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ), map zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is designated (Figure 3.2). 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. 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. The majority of the NP area falls within SSSI Impact Risk Zones for the Ribble Estuary and Lytham St Anne's Dunes and Marlon Mere SSSIs. The IRZ for residential development of 10 or units covers the majority of the NP area therefore such proposals would need to assess the potential effects on the these SSSIs.

Figure 3-1 Priority Habitats at Marton Moss

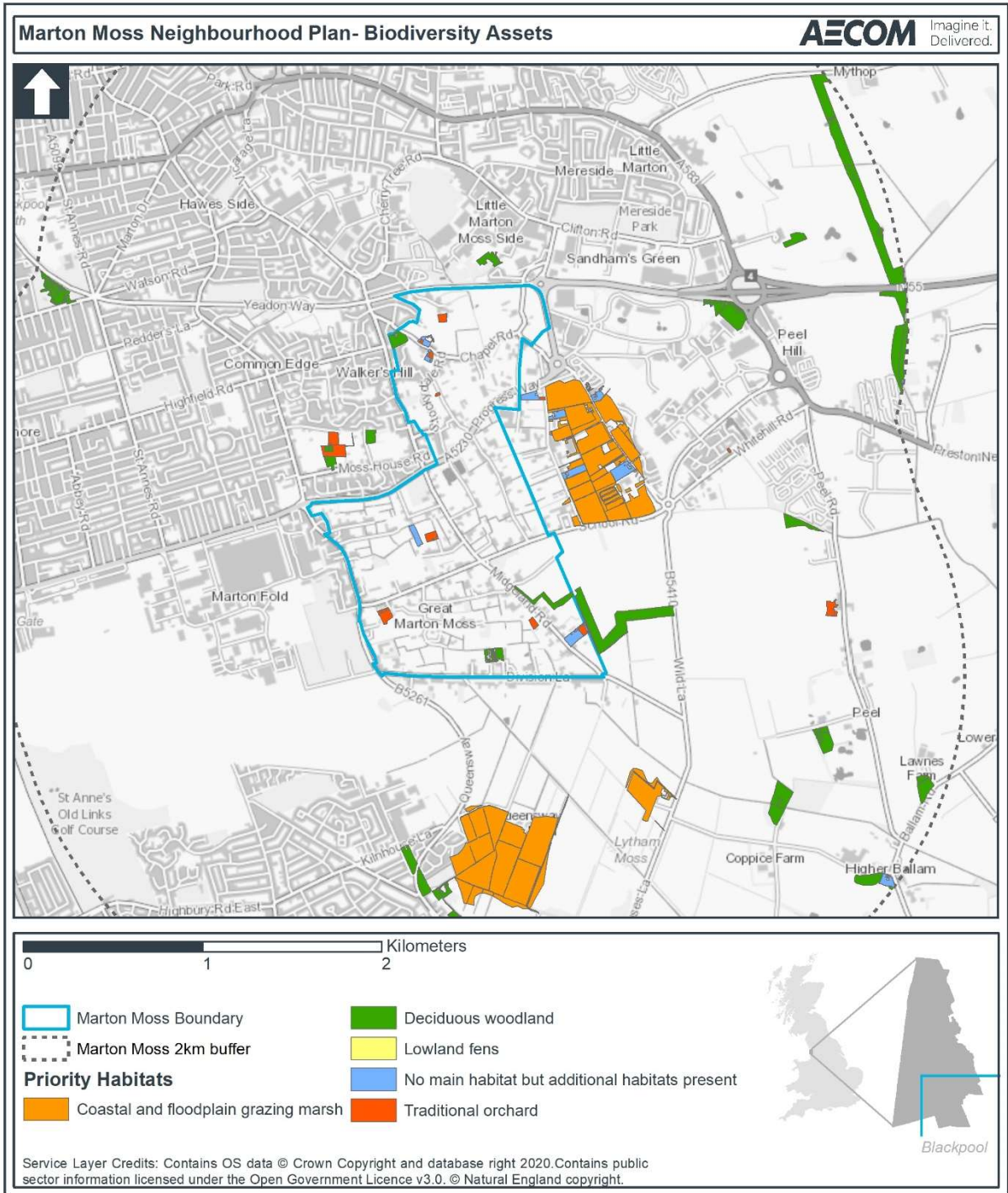
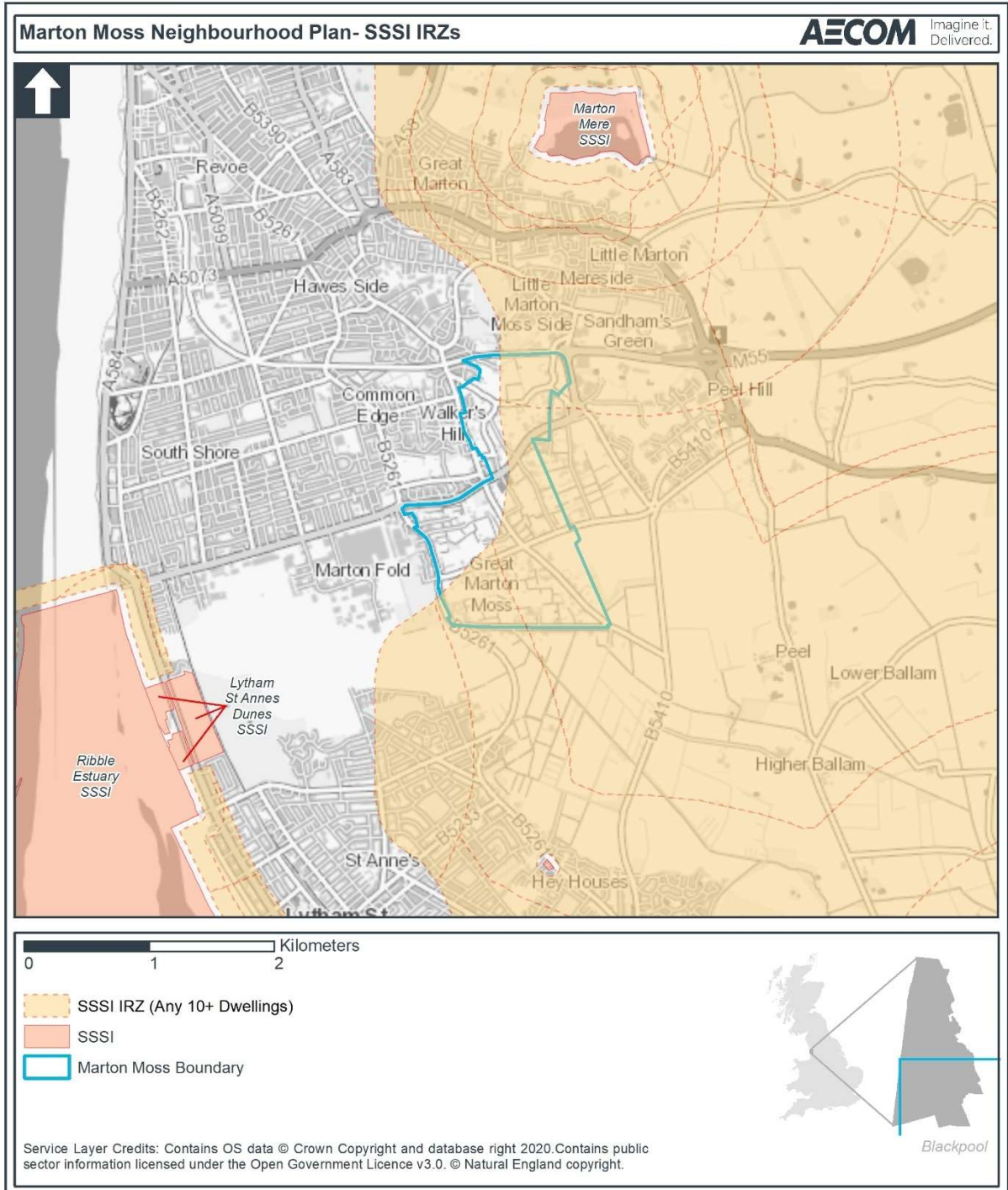


Figure 3-2 SSSI Impact Risk Zones



3.3 Future Baseline

- 3.3.1 Increased development in the NDP area can potentially place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land-take for development and an increase in population. An increase in population is likely to lead to an increase in leisure and recreational pressure and increased demand for natural resources such as water. New development may lead to an increase in disturbance through human activity, loss of habitat, increased predation (e.g. from domestic pets), atmospheric, light and water pollution.
- 3.3.2 Habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through higher level planning policy (including the emerging BLP2) and whilst these areas face increasing pressures from future development, planning policy should safeguard the most valued areas and protect ecological networks.

3.4 Key headline issues

- 3.4.1 There are several sites of high biodiversity importance in the vicinity of the NDP area such; as the Marlon Mere, Ribble Estuary and Lytham St Anne's Dunes, SSSIs. The risk impact zones associated with these SSSIs overlap most of the NP area indicating that developments of 10 or more units may have impacts on the SSSIs.
- 3.4.2 The biodiversity sites around the NDP area are sensitive to water quality, water excessively rich in fertilisers such as nitrogen and phosphorus can alter delicate balance of flora and fauna to the detriment of biodiversity within the sites.
- 3.4.3 Development in the NDP area could place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land-take for development and an increase in population and associated activities.

3.5 Scoping outcome

- 3.5.1 The SEA topic ‘Biodiversity’ has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for localised effects at sites that could be identified for development, as well as increased recreational pressure.
- 3.5.2 It will also be important to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects upon the numerous important biodiversity designated sites in the vicinity of the NDP area such as, the Liverpool Bay SPA, the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar and the SSSI sites in the vicinity of the NDP area.
- 3.5.3 There may also be opportunities to enhance ecological networks and achieve net biodiversity gains.

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

- 3.6.1 The SEA topic ‘Biodiversity’ has been scoped-in for this SEA. Table 3.3 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan (and reasonable alternatives) in relation to this theme.

Table 3.3 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Biodiversity

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support connections between habitats in the Plan area? • Avoid significant impacts on designated sites within and in the vicinity of the NP area including; the Marton Mere, Ribble Estuary and Lytham St Anne’s Dunes SSSIs. • Support continued improvements to the designated sites in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support appropriate access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change?

4. Climatic Factors (flood risk and climate change)

Focus of theme:

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

4.1 Policy Context

4.1.1 The UK Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It 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 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 means that there is now in place a legally binding target of net zero by 2050. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- Commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The target was based on a 2019 report; 'Net Zero-The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' and introduced into law through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
- 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 Climate Change Committee (CCC) was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Act requires the Government to assess the risks and opportunities from climate change for the UK, and to prepare for them. The associated 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.

4.1.2 The Clean Air Strategy released in 2019 sets out the Government plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution. The strategy sets out proposals in detail and indicates how devolved administrations intend to make their share of emissions reductions, and complements the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan.

4.1.3 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (2019) include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to *‘contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment’ including by ‘mitigating and adapting to climate change’ and ‘moving to a low carbon economy.’ ‘The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.’*
- *Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.’*
- *‘Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.’*
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). *‘Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.’*

4.1.4 In May 2019, the UK Parliament declared a climate emergency, with a view to explicitly acknowledging that human activities are significantly affecting the climate, and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be paramount. This declaration has been mirrored by several local planning authorities across the country. Additionally, the shared vision produced by the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Environment Agency in January 2020 outlines the use of nature-based solutions to tackle the climate and ecological emergency²³. This includes through large-scale woodland planting in the right places, working with nature to manage flood risk, protecting and restoring peatlands, supporting farmers towards net zero, managing land in a more strategic way, as well as encouraging the use of less carbon intensive materials such as timber in construction.

²³ GOV.UK (2020): ‘Environmental bodies set joint vision to tackle climate change’, [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environmental-bodies-set-joint-vision-to-tackle-climate-change>

4.1.5 The Flood and Water Management Act²⁴ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- 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; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).²⁵

4.1.6 DEFRA's National Adaptation Programme and Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting²⁶ is the second National Adaptation Programme (NAP). It sets out the government's response to the second Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) presenting the actions government is/ will be taking to address the risks and opportunities posed by a changing climate. It forms part of the five-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008. The key actions include;

- Ensure that decisions on land use, reflect the level of current and future flood risk.
- Boost the long-term resilience of homes, businesses and infrastructure.
- Reducing risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion through greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Deliver more, better quality, local Green Infrastructure.
- Work to restore natural processes within river systems to enhance storage capacity.
- Set ambitious targets for water leakage reductions.
- Introduce a new Environmental Land Management scheme to deliver environmental outcomes.
- Implement Nature Recovery Network, linking habitat restoration/ creation to access, flood protection and water quality.
- Incentivise good soil management to deliver environmental benefits.

²⁴ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available to access via:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

²⁵ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

²⁶ DEFRA The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (July 2018) [online]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727252/national-adaptation-programme-2018.pdf

- Introduce sustainable fisheries policy.
- Build ecological resilience on land, rivers, lakes and seas.
- Protect soils and natural carbon stores.
- Ensure a resilient food supply chain and review UK Food Security Assessment.
- Manage existing plant and animal diseases and reduce risk of future new ones.
- Tackle invasive non-native species.

4.1.7 Blackpool Council is the lead local flood authority (LLFA) for the county as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Under this role, it is the Council's responsibility to assist in the management of flood risk from local sources such as surface water, 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. The strategy identifies six key priorities²⁷;

- Deliver effective flood risk management locally
- Understand local risks and challenges
- Support sustainable flood resilient development
- Improve engagement with Flood Family
- Maximise investment opportunities to better protect business and communities
- Contribute towards a climate resilient Lancashire

²⁷ Consultation Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire 2021-2027 available at; <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Documents/Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy-2021-to-2027-Accessible.pdf>

- 4.1.8 Blackpool Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment SFRA (updated 2014 and 2020)²⁸ was produced to inform the preparation of the Council's Local Development Documents. The SFRA considers flood risk for each key development area. The assessment states that the majority of Marton Moss is in flood zone 1 with some areas of flood zone 2 and 3. The assessment adds; *'developments of all types could be permitted in flood zone 1 in Marton Moss but consideration should be given in all cases to SuDS, due to extra surface water runoff caused by increased impermeability factors. All development of 1 hectare or more in flood zone 1 should be supported by a site specific FRA which should demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures are provided and that a breach scenario has been considered using climate change allowances of the time. Longstanding sea defences mean there are realistically no tidal flood issues on this site therefore there should not be any restriction on tidal flooding grounds for potential development within this area which is in Flood Zone 1. The main flood risk at Marton Moss relates to surface water flooding from and during exceptional rainfall events and infrastructure capacity and failure. Enforced maintenance and integration of all watercourses and outfalls should be mandatory. Consideration should be given to SuDS, due to extra surface water runoff caused by increased impermeability factors, should be given in all cases. All developments of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 should be supported by a FRA which should demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures are provided and that a breach scenario has been considered using climate change allowances of the time.'* The strategy states that the whole Marton Moss NP site is located in Flood Zone 1, adding *'Marton Moss is not a flood plain or washland, and is not at any significant risk from fluvial or tidal flooding. The main difficulty that needs to be resolved for any potential new development will be the drainage of surface water without causing flooding or pollution of the underlying aquifer or surface water (principally the Marton Mere system).'*
- 4.1.9 The Blackpool Core Strategy (Local Plan Part1) Policy CS9 (water management), is the strategic level policy for flood risk in the borough and applies to all relevant planning applications. The policy seeks to reduce flood risk and manage impact of flooding and climate change. It seeks to achieve this by directing development away from areas of high flood risk and promoting Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- 4.1.10 The emerging Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 policy DM31 (Surface water management) adds the below requirements;
- Surface water from development sites will be discharged via the most sustainable option available.
 - On greenfield sites applicants must demonstrate that the current natural discharge rate is replicated as a minimum

²⁸ Blackpool Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Updated December 2020) available at;<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/FINAL-Blackpool-SFRA-Update-December-2020-Accessible.pdf>

- On previously developed sites applicants must aim to reduce pre-existing discharge rates and volumes of surface water to match greenfield rates and volumes, as far as practicable.
- All new development should include the use of sustainable drainage systems unless demonstrably inappropriate and,
- Reduce areas of existing impermeable surfaces
- Approved proposals must be supplemented by appropriate maintenance and management regimes for surface water drainage.

4.1.11 The Blackpool Core Strategy CS10; Sustainable design and renewable and low carbon energy aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change. It seeks to ensure that buildings are energy-efficient requiring non-residential developments to reduce energy consumption through design and investigate the opportunity to incorporate renewable and low carbon energy provision. The policy also supports development of renewable, local carbon or decentralised energy schemes. Furthermore, the policy states that all non-residential development over 1000m² must achieve BREEAM 'very good' standard or equivalent.

4.1.12 Blackpool Council declared a 'climate emergency' in June 2019 recognising the impact of climate change around the world and declaring 'we must take action in Blackpool'. The declaration stated that the Council is committed to making its carbon emissions net zero and using 100% clean energy across the council's services by 2030²⁹.

4.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Greenhouse gas emissions

4.2.1 The total per capita emissions figures for Blackpool (table 4.1) are lower than those for Lancashire and England as a whole. Lancashire's total emissions are consistently greater than those for England as a whole.

4.2.2 The 2018 figures show that the domestic sector was the biggest contributor to CO₂ in Blackpool whereas for Lancashire and England, transport made the biggest contribution to CO₂ emissions per capita.

4.2.3 The data shows a trend of declining emissions for Blackpool (as is the case nationally), with the total emissions figure for 2018 representing a 40% decline in emissions since 2005. A similar trend is observed for Lancashire and England.

²⁹ Blackpool Council Climate declaration available at :
<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Climate-emergency/Climate-declaration.aspx>

Table 4.1: Per capita local CO² emission estimates by sector (kt CO₂)³⁰

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2018
Blackpool							
Industrial & Commercial	2.05	1.94	1.69	1.53	1.64	1.27	1.07
Domestic	2.61	2.49	2.23	2.06	2.11	1.69	1.48
Transport	0.96	0.93	0.89	0.86	0.81	0.82	0.78
Total per capita	5.63	5.37	4.82	4.45	4.56	3.80	3.35
Lancashire							
Industrial & Commercial	4.07	3.50	2.77	2.78	2.74	2.49	2.09
Domestic	2.61	2.51	2.28	2.11	2.19	1.77	1.56
Transport	2.49	2.45	2.30	2.25	2.17	2.21	2.13
Total per capita	9.29	8.57	7.46	7.24	7.19	6.55	5.86
England							
Industrial & Commercial	3.79	3.61	2.96	2.73	2.80	2.27	1.80
Domestic	2.49	2.37	2.13	1.96	2.03	1.63	1.42
Transport	2.27	2.23	2.03	1.95	1.88	1.92	1.88
Total per capita	8.49	8.14	7.04	6.55	6.62	5.72	5.00

³⁰ National Statistics UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018>

Effects of climate change and adaptation

4.2.4 Climate change projections for the United Kingdom published as part of the UKCP18³¹ programme provide detailed probabilistic projections of climate change. Although there is uncertainty in climate change predictions; the projected general trend is a move towards warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur. The following changes are likely to have taken place by 2070s. The changes mentioned below relate to an area in central England based on the 10-90th percentile range (low to high emissions) of emission scenario³²:

- In UKCP18, the probabilistic projections provide local low, central and high changes across the UK, corresponding to 10%, 50% and 90% probability levels. These local values can be averaged over the UK to give a range of average warming between the 10% and 90% probability levels. By 2070, in the high emission scenario, this range amounts to 0.7°C to 4.2°C in winter, and 0.9°C to 5.4°C, in summer. For precipitation, corresponding ranges of UK average changes are -1% to +35% for winter, and -47% to +2% for summer, where positive values indicate more precipitation and negative values indicate reduced precipitation (drier summers).
- Hot summers are predicted to become more common, with the probability of a hot summer rising from the current 20-25% to up to 50% by the middle of the century.

4.2.5 Based on the above; in the future Marlon Moss is likely to experience, a warmer climate, with drier summers and potentially wetter winters, which means that extreme events such as floods and droughts are likely to become less predictable and possibly more frequent.

³¹ Further information on the UKCP18 programme is available from:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index>

³² Projections from UKCP18 Climate Change Over Land, which correspond to two emissions scenarios (Low and High). The medium emissions scenario - describes a world that has rapid economic growth, quick spreading of new and efficient technologies, and a global population that reaches 9 billion mid-century and then gradually declines. It also relies on a balance between different energy sources. The high emissions Scenario is characterised by similar economic and population trends as the medium emission scenario but with more reliance on power generation from fossil fuels. The low emissions scenario represents a more integrated ecologically friendly world, characterised by clean and resource efficient technologies, and lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

Flood risk

- 4.2.6 Blackpool Council's level 1 strategic flood assessment (December 2020 update) 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. The NDP area is described as being mostly in flood zone 1. However, most of the area bounded by Progress Way, School Rd and Midgeland Road to the east is in flood zones 2 and 3 with a flood zone 3 extending around the St Nicholas Road and Laundry Road area (Figure 4.1). The flood risk is mainly due to the drainage of surface water during exceptional rainfall events. Surface water is currently removed through pumping and failure at one or more of the pumping stations during exceptional rain events may lead to surcharged sewers and surface water flooding. Since 2016 the water utility (United Utilities) has started a surface water separation scheme which has produced new pumping stations, detention tanks and attenuation basins in the area. Inadequate watercourse maintenance is another issue exacerbating surface water flood risk.
- 4.2.7 Flood Zone 1 is defined as having a 'Low Probability' of flooding and incorporates areas where the annual probability of flooding is lower than 0.1% (a 1 in 1000 year flood event). Flood Zone 2 is defined as having a 'Medium Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of flooding between 0.1% and 1.0% for fluvial flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event) or 0.1% and 0.5% for tidal and coastal flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event). Flood Zone 3 is defined as having a 'High Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of beyond 1.0% for fluvial floods and beyond 0.5% for tidal and coastal floods.

Climate change adaptation

- 4.2.8 There is no baseline information or data relating specifically to climate change adaptation. However, there is a range of green infrastructure that will benefit communities in terms of flood risk, hotter summers and wetter winters. Blackpool's draft Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy³³ considers multifunctional green space including parks, open space, playing fields, woodlands, trees, allotments and gardens. It also considers streams, the sea (including the coastline) and other water bodies and features.

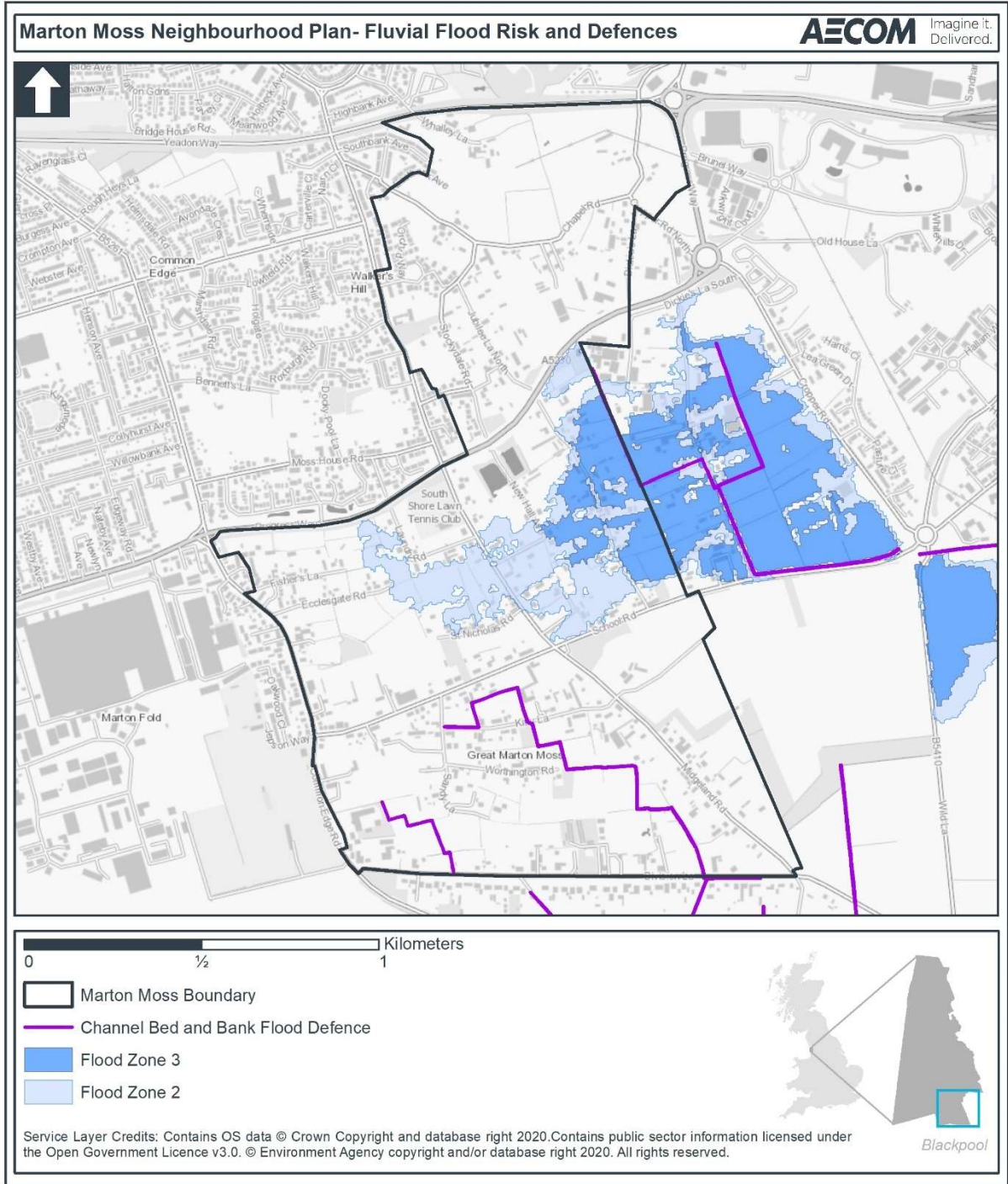
³³ Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (Draft for Consultation) available at: <https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s40656/Appendix%20Green%20and%20Blue%20Infrastructure%20Strategy.pdf>

- 4.2.9 In terms of climate change adaptation; the strategy recognizes the importance of GBI in reducing surface water and flooding and improving seawater quality. The associated Blackpool Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan³⁴ aims; to protect, enhance, create and connect GBI and promote its benefits. The Blackpool Open Space Assessment³⁵ assesses the quantity, accessibility, quality and value of open space in the borough.
- 4.2.10 The assessment calculates total area of open space (including GI) to be 607.24 ha which equates to around 4.4 ha per 1000 population. Parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace and outdoor sports facilities make up the largest proportion of total open space. A quality audit was also carried out as part of the assessment which showed that 88% of sites rated from 'fair' to 'excellent' with the majority (58%) rated as 'fair'. The remaining 12% were rated as 'poor'. Stanley Ward, which includes the NP area, has 24.17 ha of open space which equates to 3.76 per 1000 population. This is comprised mainly of outdoor sports facilities (18ha) with the remainder made up of amenity greenspace, churchyards, cemeteries and natural/ semi-natural greenspace.

³⁴ Blackpool Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan, available at; <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Blackpools-Green-and-Blue-Infrastructure-Action-Plan-2019-2029.pdf>

³⁵ The Environment Partnership report 'Blackpool open space assessment-final open space technical report' available at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Open-Space-Technical-Report-FINAL-November-2019.pdf>

Figure 4-1 Fluvial Flood Risk in the NDP area³⁶



³⁶ Source: Environment Agency and Blackpool SFRA (Dec 2020 update)

Summary of future baseline

- 4.2.11 There is potential for climate change to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the NDP area. Such weather events are likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including surface water flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.2.12 In terms of the mitigation of climate change, GHG emissions could decrease through the adoption of energy efficient measures and cleaner energy (especially in transport and industry). However, increases in population and the number of households could counteract this.
- 4.2.13 Flood risk at any specific location may be influenced by local factors such as existing formal or informal flood defences and the capacity of existing drainage systems or road/rail culverts. The adoption of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and introduction of Green Infrastructure within development schemes may reduce the speed of surface water run-off and have positive effects in terms mitigating flood risk.
- 4.2.14 Development in any instance has the potential to exacerbate flood risk within and in the vicinity of the NDP area by increasing the volume of surface water run-off, or by introducing areas of hard standing which could increase the speed of surface water run-off. The risk would be greatest if development were to take place in proximity of Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 areas.
- 4.2.15 In the absence of the Plan, there will still be a need to satisfy policy measures relating to flood management.

4.3 Key headline issues

- 4.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- Average per capita CO₂ emissions are declining in Blackpool and are below the levels for Lancashire and England as a whole.
 - The NDP area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1 with some areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 to east and centre of the NDP area.
 - The main source of flood risk in the NP area is from rivers (fluvial) and likely to occur during exceptional rain events when large flow volumes and velocities are likely can lead to inundation of the sewerage/ drainage systems.
 - The likelihood of flooding from fluvial and non-fluvial sources could be exacerbated by development in the NDP area. However, the area has effective flood defences in place. Opportunities for mitigation exist in sustainable design and Sustainable Urban Drainage.

4.4 Scoping outcome

4.4.1 With regards to climate change mitigation, the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on carbon emissions. It is limited in the ability to implement higher standards of energy efficiency, and there are no plans in the scope of the Plan to identify areas of potential for renewable energy schemes. The scale of growth will not lead to significant emissions beyond what might be otherwise experienced in the absence of the Plan (likewise, any reduction is not likely to be significant). Therefore, this factor has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA process.

4.4.2 Resilience to climate change and flood risk has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards flood risk mitigation. Flood risk could also be an important factor in terms of the site selection process.

4.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?

4.5.1 The SEA topic 'Climatic Factors' has been scoped in for this SEA. Table 4.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan (and reasonable alternatives) in relation to this theme.

Table 4.2: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Climatic Factors

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Avoid and manage flood risk and support the resilience of the Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage surface water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? • Avoid placing development in areas that are at the greatest risk of flooding?

5. Historic Environment

Focus of theme:

- Designated heritage assets;
- Heritage at risk;
- Locally important features; and
- Archaeology and other historic records.

5.1 Policy Context

5.1.1 Heritage assets are protected under a number of different consents, required for new development and for carrying out works to existing buildings and sites including planning permissions and listed building consent. This requirement is covered in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The historic environment is managed using;

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 which provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 which provides specific protection for scheduled monuments
- The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 which provides specific protection for protected wreck sites.

5.1.2 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.
- Plans should set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- *'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss of less than substantial harm to its significance'*

- 5.1.3 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England³⁷ (2010) sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise 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 Heritage Statement (2017)³⁸ updates the 2010 Statement on the Historic Environment for England and sets out the Government's vision for supporting the heritage sector to help it to protect and care for heritage and the historic environment in the coming years, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.
- 5.1.4 Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 – Second Edition (February 2019)³⁹ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:
- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
 - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 5.1.5 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)⁴⁰ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.
- 5.1.6 Blackpool's Core Strategy Policy CS8; Heritage, supports development which respects and draws inspiration from Blackpool's built, social and cultural heritage. It supports proposals that retain and reuse, whilst conserving and enhancing the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. It also supports proposals that strengthen existing townscape character. Development affecting heritage assets must demonstrate how the assets (including conservation areas) will be conserved and enhanced.

³⁷ DDCMS (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

³⁸ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (2017) Heritage Statement; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-heritage-statement-2017>

³⁹ Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1 (second edition)'; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>

⁴⁰ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8'; <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

- 5.1.7 Blackpool's Local Plan Part 2, policy DM26 pertains to listed buildings and sets out the Council's support for proposals which sustain and enhance the significance of listed buildings and their settings. Proposals that would cause harm or loss to such assets will only be permitted where this is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposal. Works to listed buildings including new development within their settings must be accompanied by a heritage statement. Where the latter fails to adequately justify the proposal and/or its impact on the significance of the affected heritage assets, it may be used as grounds for refusal.
- 5.1.8 Similarly, policy DM19 (Strategic Views) seeks to protect local views of particular importance in the borough. It requires development to protect and enhance views of buildings and features of strategic importance including into and within conservation areas, views of listed and locally listed buildings.
- 5.1.9 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 policy DM27 relates to conservation areas; requiring proposals within or affecting the settings of conservation areas to conserve or enhance their special character and appearance as identified in the conservation area appraisal. Proposals should be appropriate to their context (including setting, scale, density and physical characteristics).
- 5.1.10 Policy DM28 of the Local Plan Part 2, is concerned with non-designated heritage assets. It seeks to support proposals that retain / re-use and repair the significance of non-designated heritage assets. Development proposals must be accompanied by a heritage impact statement (proportionate to the significance of the assets) .

5.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1 The NDP area contains a conservation area and two Grade II listed buildings (Figure 5.1). The listed buildings have been designated by Historic England as being of special interest by way of their historic and architectural value. However, there are likely to be numerous other non-designated buildings or features within the area that have local historic or architectural merit.

Table 5.1 Marlon Heritage Assets

Designations

Grade II	Cottages at 1 and 2, Fishers Lane
Grade II	Cottage (adjoining workshop and cobbled wall) to North Blowing Sands and attached wall to North.
Grade II	Walkers Hill Farm, attached Barn and Shippon (c. 100 m outside the north west boundary of NP area)

5.2.2 The lower two thirds of the NP area overlaps the Marlon Moss Conservation Area (CA). Designated in 2019, the CA is bounded by the southern edge of Progress Way to the north, east side of Common Edge Road to the west (running at the rear of modern buildings as necessary), along the middle of Division Lane to the south, and the borough boundary with Fylde to the east. The Marlon Moss Conservation Area Appraisal⁴¹ describes it as *‘one of small piecemeal post - medieval enclosure surrounded by busy arterial routes. It consists of the earliest cobbled buildings through to modern detached bungalows. Within the busy communication infrastructure it is an enclosed leafy landscape based around lanes, rectangular fields and drains with views limited to gaps in hedgerows on the narrow lanes, and across open paddocks.’*

⁴¹ Blackpool Council; Marlon Moss Conservation Area Appraisal (2018) available at: <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Planning/Conservation/Marlon-Moss-conservation-area/Marlon-Moss-conservation-area-appraisal.aspx>

5.2.3 The architecture dates back to the 18th century and later with the most prominent example being; Blowing Sands, a Grade II listed cobble cottage. The Grade II listed cottages on Fishers Lane are also within the CA. There are several locally listed buildings within the CA including; Midgeland Farm, Butcher's Farm Cottage and the St. Nicholas Mission Church and Day School. Some of the locally listed heritage assets are in advanced state of disrepair / decay and modernisation of the some of the Victorian houses has resulted in the loss of original features which has undermined the historic character. A significant proportion of post-medieval enclosed mossland, such as Marlon Moss, has been lost to urban expansion or later agricultural rationalisation⁴². The proportion remaining relates an important story of post-medieval agricultural improvement within the county (and nationally) and mirrors social and technological changes taking place within both the countryside and adjacent burgeoning industrial towns. It is expected that a Conservation Area Management Plan will be produced in the future which should proffer some degree of protection to the historical asserts, townscapes and landscapes within it.

Heritage at Risk

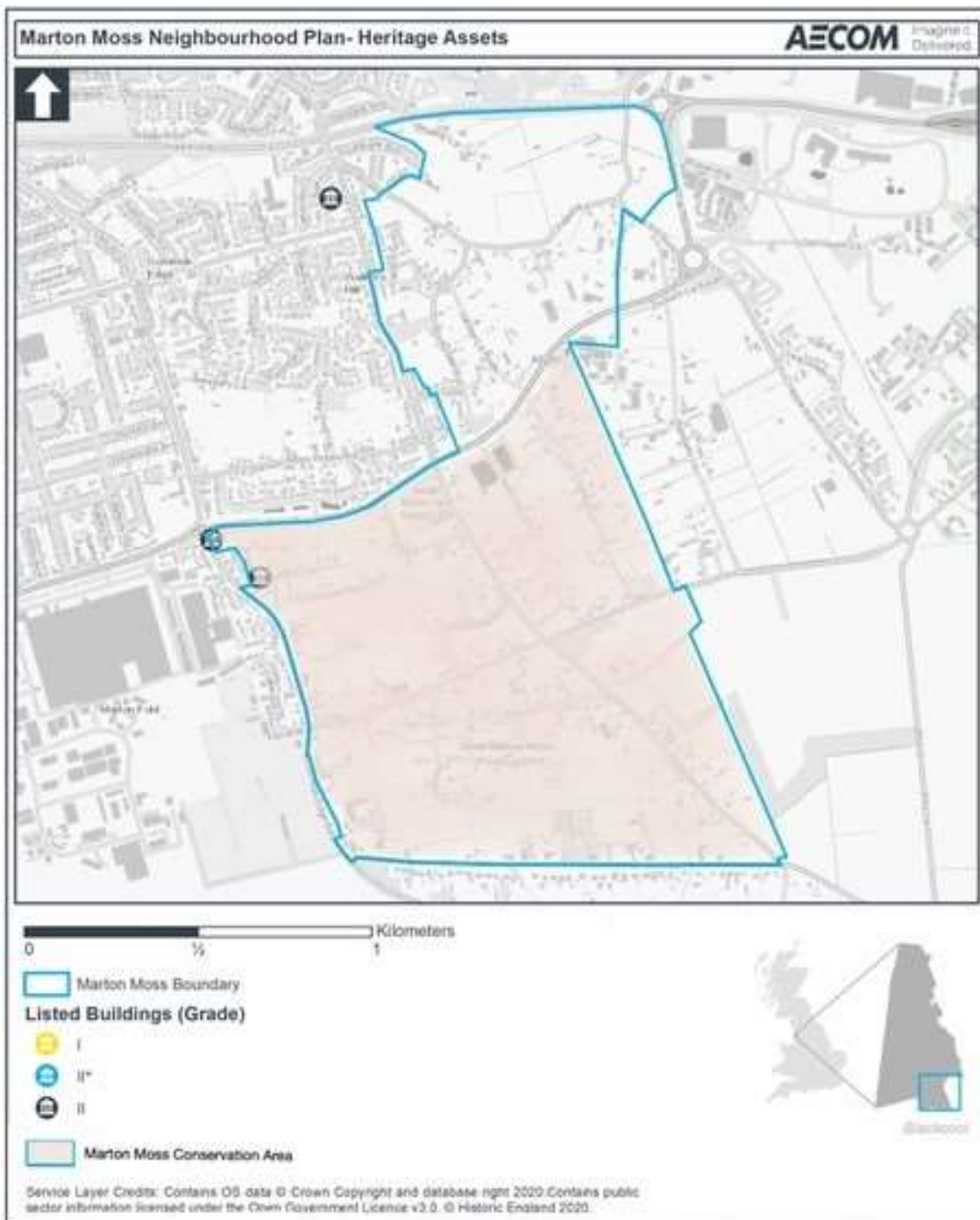
5.2.4 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights some of the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. There are currently no heritage at risk entries on the Register for the NDP area.

Locally important features

5.2.5 In addition to designated heritage assets, the NP area contains many non-designated buildings and sites that contribute to the historic environment. There around ten locally listed heritage assets in the NP area which include houses/ cottages, a telephone box, farm buildings, etc.

⁴² Ibid

Figure 5-1 Heritage designations in Marlon Moss NP Area



Summary of future baseline

- 5.2.6 There are several heritage assets in or adjacent to the NP area which render it sensitive to change. Heritage assets are significant not only due to their physical presence but also due to their setting.
- 5.2.7 The NPPF defines setting as “*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced*”. *Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.*” Setting include, inter alia, key views of the asset in its wider context.
- 5.2.8 Development in the NDP area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and upon the character of the townscape. This may lead to negative effects, such as the delivery of unsympathetic design and material use. Conversely, it could lead to positive effects through redevelopment of derelict and underused land and buildings. In the absence of a plan, there is less strategic direction for the NP area; meaning that negative effects may be more likely to occur.
- 5.2.9 It should be noted that historic environment designations and the historic environment related policies within the Blackpool Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

5.3 Key headline issues

The key issues are as follows:

- 5.3.1 The NDP area contains two Grade II listed buildings and ten locally listed heritage assets. The majority (around two thirds) of the NP area is within the Marton Moss CA. The CA and heritage assets are vulnerable to change, and therefore should be protected by assessing the impacts of policies/ proposals on their significance and contribution to the historic environment. Assessment of the significance of affected heritage assets (a statement of heritage significance) must stem from the interest(s) of the heritage asset (archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic)⁴³.

⁴³ Historic England Advice Note 12 “Statements of Heritage Significance: “Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets”

5.4 Scoping outcome

5.4.1 Historic Environment has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon heritage assets and their settings. It is also important to ensure that the wider character of the built and natural environment is protected and enhanced.

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

5.5.1 The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been scoped-in for this SEA. Table 5.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan (and reasonable alternatives) in relation to this theme.

Table 5.2 SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Historic Environment

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the integrity, distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the wider built environment.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? • Contribute to better management of heritage assets? • Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment? • Consider the impact on setting in a manner proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected. • Promote heritage-led regeneration? • Lead to the repair and adaptive re-use of a heritage asset and encourage high quality design? • Protect and enhance the Marlon Moss Conservation Area.

6. Landscape

Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality

6.1 Policy Context

6.1.1 The European Landscape Convention (introduced in UK in 2007) promotes the protection, management and planning of landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. It covers land and water (inland and seas), natural, rural, urban and peri-urban landscapes.

6.1.2 Key messages from the NPPF include;

- *‘Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.’*
- *Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for ‘conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.’*
- *Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments ‘are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).’*
- *‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils*
 - *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*
 - *remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’*

6.1.3 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. Actions proposed of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character are as follows:

- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
- Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas and,
- Monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.

6.1.4 Natural England has produced 29 National Character Area (NCA) profiles⁴⁴ (2015) for the North West of England; each of which, is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. The NP area falls within the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain NCA.

6.1.5 The emerging Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 policy DM21 (Landscaping) seeks to protect distinguishing landscape features, trees and hedgerows. Where loss of trees is unavoidable at least two replacement trees must be planted. Where appropriate, development should include a landscaped buffer of appropriate depth and length. The policy further states that; Proposals involving the hard surfacing of more than 50% of a residential garden will not normally be permitted.

6.1.6 Policy DM27 (Conservation Areas) offers further protection to landscape and townscape within conservation areas; requiring that development should conserve or enhance the special features within CAs, particularly in terms of massing and heights which should be closely related to adjacent buildings. Furthermore, development should not have an unacceptable impact on townscape and landscape.

6.1.1 The Historic Characterisation of Marlon Moss report was commissioned by Blackpool Council to inform the planning process and decision making in the NP area. The report includes a detailed characterisation assessment of the landscape value of Marlon Moss⁴⁵. The report's states that the objective is maintain, enhance or create local distinctiveness in the area.

⁴⁴ In-depth profiles are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-north-east-england>

⁴⁵ Archaeo-Environment Ltd report (2009) for Blackpool Council: The Historic Characterisation of Marlon Moss. Available at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/EB035-Marlon-Moss-Characterisation-Study.pdf>

6.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 6.2.1 The NDP area falls within the Lancashire and Amounderness Plain; an area of high-grade agricultural land, bounded by Morecambe Bay in the north and Liverpool in the south. The eastern boundary is contained by the Bowland Fringe. The plain is made up of a series of low-lying landscape types: in the east, undulating lowland farmland on the highly productive coastal plain, and in the west, the former mosslands and their remnant sites, and the coastal marshes and dunes (Figure 6.1).
- 6.2.2 The Historic Characterisation of Marlon Moss report describes the NDP area as comprising 4 character areas; The Mosslands, Walkers Hill, Wild Lane and Whitehill and Cropper.
- 6.2.3 The Mosslands character area forms the major part of the NDP area. This is described as; *'piecemeal enclosure and development, quiet leafy lanes, but fast noisy arterial roads, horses, pollarded field boundaries, high hedgerows with occasional open views to pasture, moss drains, small pasture fields, cobble cottages, Victorian brick houses and brick cart stores, old street lights and telephone boxes, modern hacienda detached houses, bungalows, increasing density of development around arterial routes and towards the north end of Midgeland Road, palm trees, private gardens, high walls and gates, gateposts mounted with ornamental animal heads, derelict and working glasshouses, disused farm buildings'*⁴⁶. Threats to the landscape and townscape here include the gradual loss (due to inappropriate modernisation) of traditional features associated with the 18th and 19th century buildings of the area.
- 6.2.4 The Walker's Hill character area is described as a *'gradual hillside affording some distant views, old houses, some modernised and neglected, derelict farm buildings, dumped building materials, caravan sites, ancient historic landscape, traffic noise, quiet lanes'*. This area is more open than the Mosslands below it. The rising topography affords some distant views to the former railway line (now Yeadon Way). The report notes that land between Whaley Farm, Lilac Farm and Yeadon Way has deteriorated and has become an eyesore. Caravan parks with poor landscaping, badly-modernised historic buildings and poor boundary treatment do little to enhance the area.

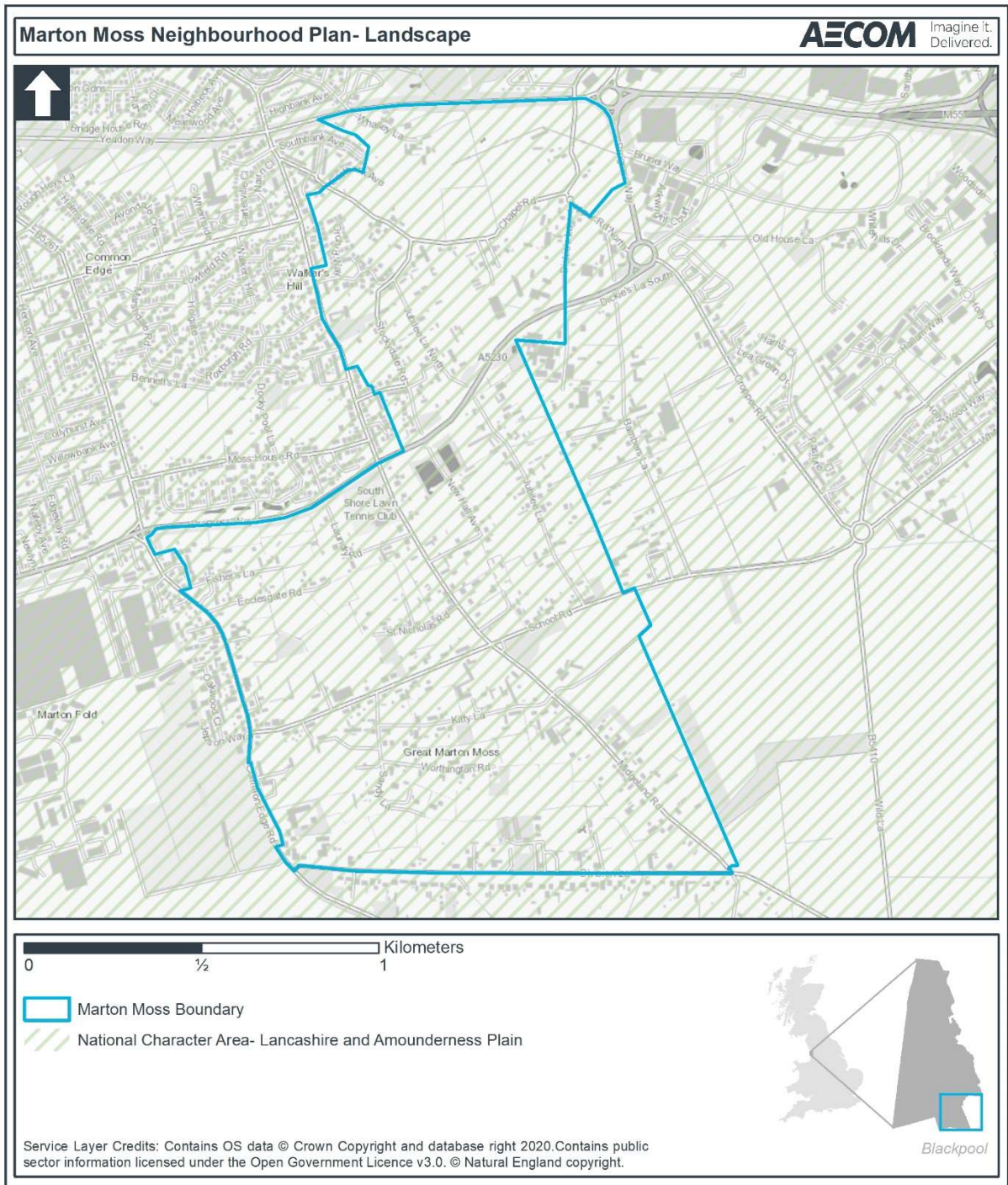
⁴⁶ Ibid, page 57.

- 6.2.5 The Wild Lane character area is described as *'open space, flat and featureless landscape, electricity pylons, straight narrow road, passing places with dumped materials, straight shelter belts and modernised post medieval field pattern'*. This area is also described as being 'not sensitive to change'. The Whitehill and Cropper character area is described as; *'nursery gardens, caravans, high hedges, narrow roads, creeping industrialisation/commercialism, electricity substation and pylons, noisy traffic, red brick houses set back, modernised enclosure landscape, palm trees'*. Furthermore, *'this area suffers from encroachment of large scale modern industrial buildings and a busy road network which places it in a transitional zone between rural tranquillity and light industry.'*

Summary of future baseline

- 6.2.6 The existing Local Plan Part 1 and emerging Local Plan Part 2 policies offer a degree of protection to the landscape and townscape character within the NP area. However, depending on the scale of development, a lack of overall vision and framework could result in the delivery of less sympathetic development styles, layouts and material choice. This could have a disruptive impact on the landscape through the lack of cohesive development. Insensitive development could also result in the loss of landscape features and adverse visual impact. Conversely, sensitive development presents an opportunity to enhance the existing townscape character of Marton Moss whilst respecting the key characteristics of the landscape.

Figure 6-1 Marton Moss National Character Areas



6.3 Key headline issues

6.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- There are valuable landscapes in the NP area, particularly within the Maraton Moss CA that make a significant contribution to the character of the area.
- Parts of the NP area such as, the Wild Lane character area, may be less sensitive to change and potentially offer an opportunity for enhancement.
- Threats to the landscape and townscape have been subject to gradual erosion of character due to inappropriate modernisation and encroachment of large scale modern industrial buildings and busy roads.
- The existing Development Plan and the emerging BLP Part2 policies offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings, but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.

6.4 Scoping outcome

6.4.1 Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the character of landscapes. The NDP allocates sites for housing and the NDP can potentially have impacts (positive and negative) on landscape.

6.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

6.5.1 The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been scoped-in for this SEA. Table 6.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan (and reasonable alternatives) in relation to this theme.

Table 6.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Landscape

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets• Contribute to better management of landscape assets?• Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?• Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of theme:

- Soil resource and quality;
- Watercourses;
- Water availability; and
- Water quality.

7.1 Policy Context

7.1.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁴⁷ (2006) presents a strategy for protecting soil 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.

7.1.2 Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. 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;
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
- Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.

⁴⁷ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Strategy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm

7.1.3 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
 - i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and*
 - i. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.’*
- Prevent new or existing development from being ‘adversely affected’ by the presence of ‘unacceptable levels’ of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate ‘despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’.
- ‘Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or ‘brownfield’ land.’
- ‘Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.’
- Planning policies and decisions should ‘give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs’, and ‘promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.’
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

7.1.4 In Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England⁴⁸ (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.

⁴⁸ 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>

- 7.1.5 The Future Water⁴⁹ 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.
- 7.1.6 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. This also includes respecting nature by using our water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a net environmental gain which can include water quality.
- 7.1.7 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) set out a framework for how all river basin stakeholders, including water companies and local communities, can help improve the quality of the water environment. There are eight RBMPs in England which all have a harmonised plan period of 2015-2021 and are reviewed every five years.
- 7.1.8 The NP area's water utility is United Utilities. Its Water Resources Management Plan⁵⁰ (2019) sets out how the organisation will ensure the sufficient supply of water over a 25-year period (2020-2045). The NP area falls within United Utilities Strategic Resource Zone. The plan objective is to manage demand, offsetting future demand pressures through leakage reductions (20% by 2025 and over 40% by 2045) and increased resilience.
- 7.1.9 The emerging BLP2 policy DM31 (Surface Water Management) concerns the management of surface water from new developments. It seeks to ensure that this is discharged via the most sustainable drainage options in accordance with national guidance. On greenfield sites the current natural discharge rate should be replicated as a minimum. On previously developed land, reduction of pre-existing rates and volumes to greenfield levels is required where practicable. All new development will be required to use sustainable drainage systems where appropriate and reduce areas of impermeable surfaces.
- 7.1.10 The emerging BLP2 Policy DM36 (Controlling Pollution and Contamination), states that development will only be allowed where it will not cause any risk of pollution to surface or ground water and mitigation will be required to prevent any harm where necessary.

⁴⁹ Defra (2011) Future Water – The government's water strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

⁵⁰ United Utilities (2019) Water Resources Management Plan. Available at: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/water-resources/water-resources-management-plan/>

7.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Soil resources

- 7.2.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was introduced in the 1960s and formed the basis for advice given by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (subsequently part of DEFRA) on land use planning matters. It provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (PALC) classified land into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. This was subsequently revised in 1988. The post 1988 agricultural land classification (ALC) system gives considerable weight to flexibility of cropping, whether actual or potential, but the ability of some land to produce consistently high yields of a somewhat narrower range of crops is also taken into account categorises land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land (BVM) and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.
- 7.2.2 As illustrated in Figure 7.3 the NP area comprises a mix of grade 2 and grade 3 agricultural land. Although no post 1988 survey data is available for the area, some of the Grade 3 land may potentially include Grade 3a BVM land.

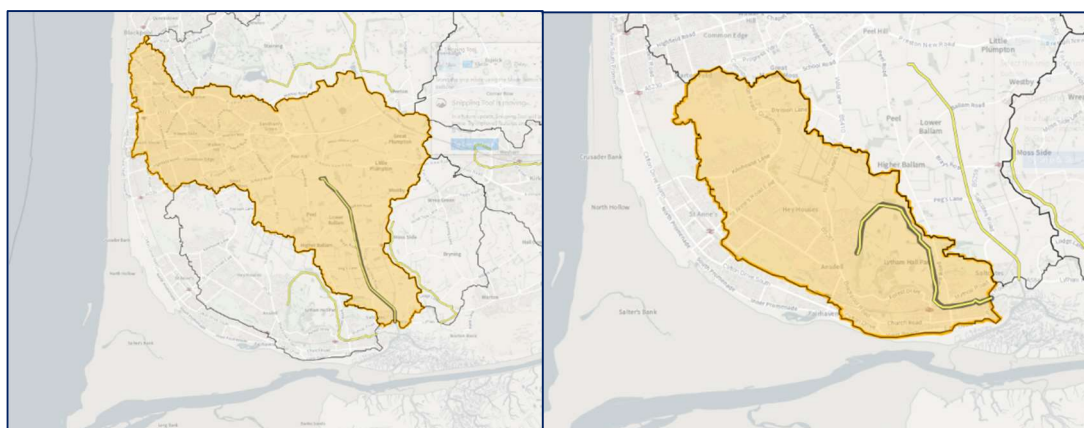
Water resources

- 7.2.3 The NP area is within the United Utilities Strategic Resource Zone. UU's water resources management plan states that over 50% of the region's water comes from resources in Cumbria and Wales. The water travels through an extensive network of pipes known as large diameter trunk mains and huge, gravity-fed aqueducts bringing water from Cumbria. The geographical area that relies on these water sources is home to over seven million people. Plans are in place to build a new water treatment works and a pipeline between Thirlmere reservoir and West Cumbria (completion in 2022). Once finished by 2022, West Cumbria will be in one of the UK's largest water resource zones. Merging these resource zones together, it is now known as the 'Strategic Resource Zone.' This zone is expected to have enough water to meet the needs of consumers up to 2045 and beyond⁵¹.

Watercourses

- 7.2.4 The NDP area overlaps the Savick Brook and Fylde South Drains Operational Catchment (OC) part of the Ribble Management Catchment (MC). There are several water courses in this OC including the Main Drain (Ribble) and Liggard Brook. These have catchments that overlap the NP area. The Main Drain (Ribble) is a heavily modified river, 5km in length with a 35.6 Km² catchment area. The Liggard Brook is also heavily modified; 4.8km in length and with a 16.6Km² catchment area.

Figure 7-1 From left; Main Drain (Ribble) and Liggard Brook (right), Catchments



Source: Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer

- 7.2.5 The Savick Brook and Fylde South Drains are lowland, slow flowing rivers in a mainly rural catchment. The Environment Agency (EA) measures the quality of England's rivers in two ways. An ecological measure examines the diversity and health of its wildlife, while a chemical measure assesses whether rivers contain too much sewage, phosphate or other harmful substances. In this instance dairy farming and sewage systems impact water quality within water bodies. There are 7 water bodies within the catchment (6 rivers, 1 lake) The 2019 Cycle 2 classification shows that all seven water bodies have 'Moderate' Ecological status and all seven are classed as 'Fail' for Chemical status. Issues preventing water reaching 'Good' status and sectors responsible are shown below in Figure 7.2.

Figure 7-2 Reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGS)

Sources of pollution	Counts of RNAGS	Sectors responsible
Rural areas	9	Agricultural
Waste water	13	Domestic, Water Industry, Industry, Urban and Transport
Physical modifications	9	Local/ Central government, Urban and Transport, Navigation, Agricultural
Towns & Cities, Transport	2	Domestic General Public

Water quality

- 7.2.6 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been designated by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. There are no SPZs within the NDP area.
- 7.2.7 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. The NDP area does not fall within a Groundwater NVZ.

Figure 7-3 Indicative Agricultural Land Classification

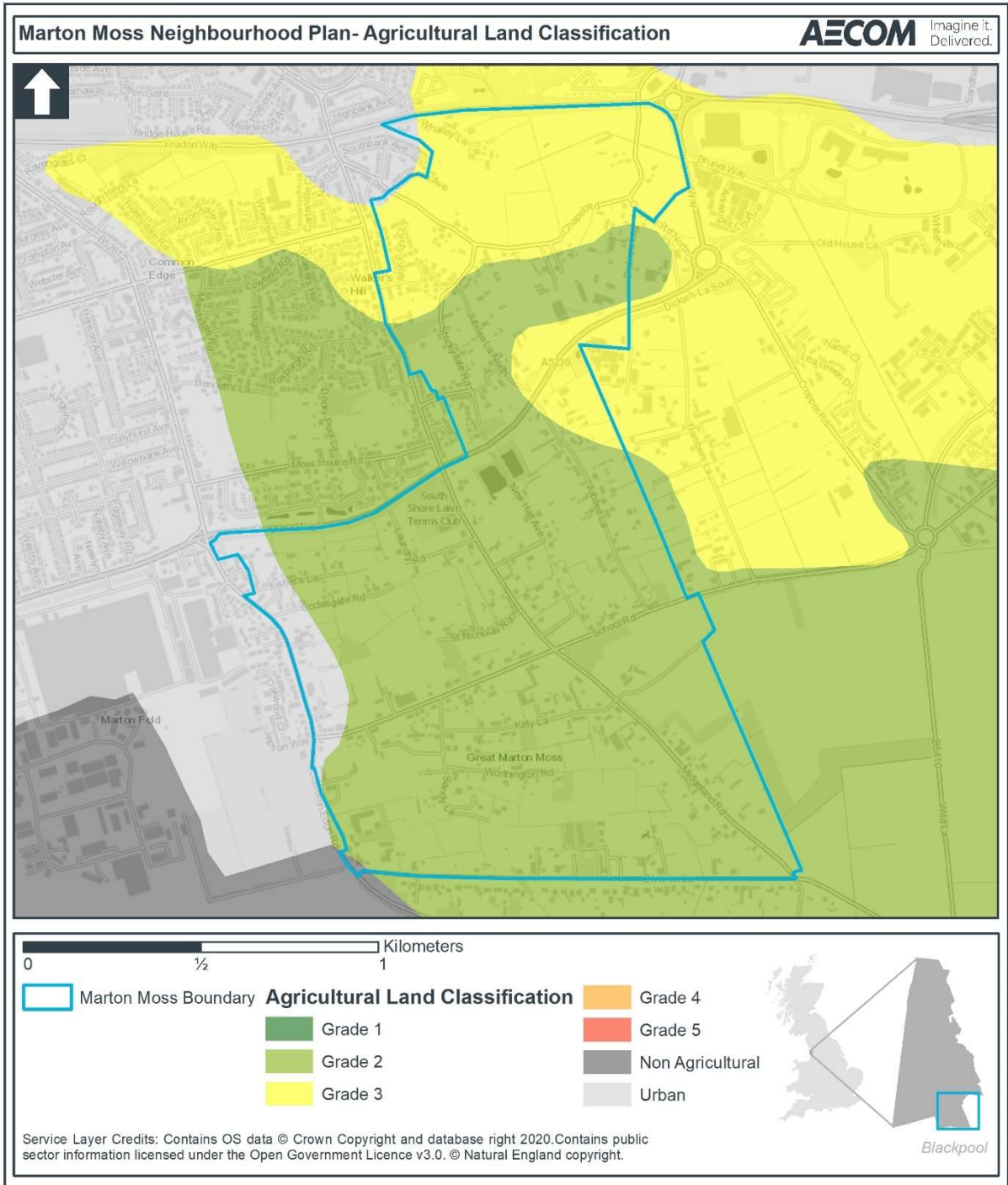
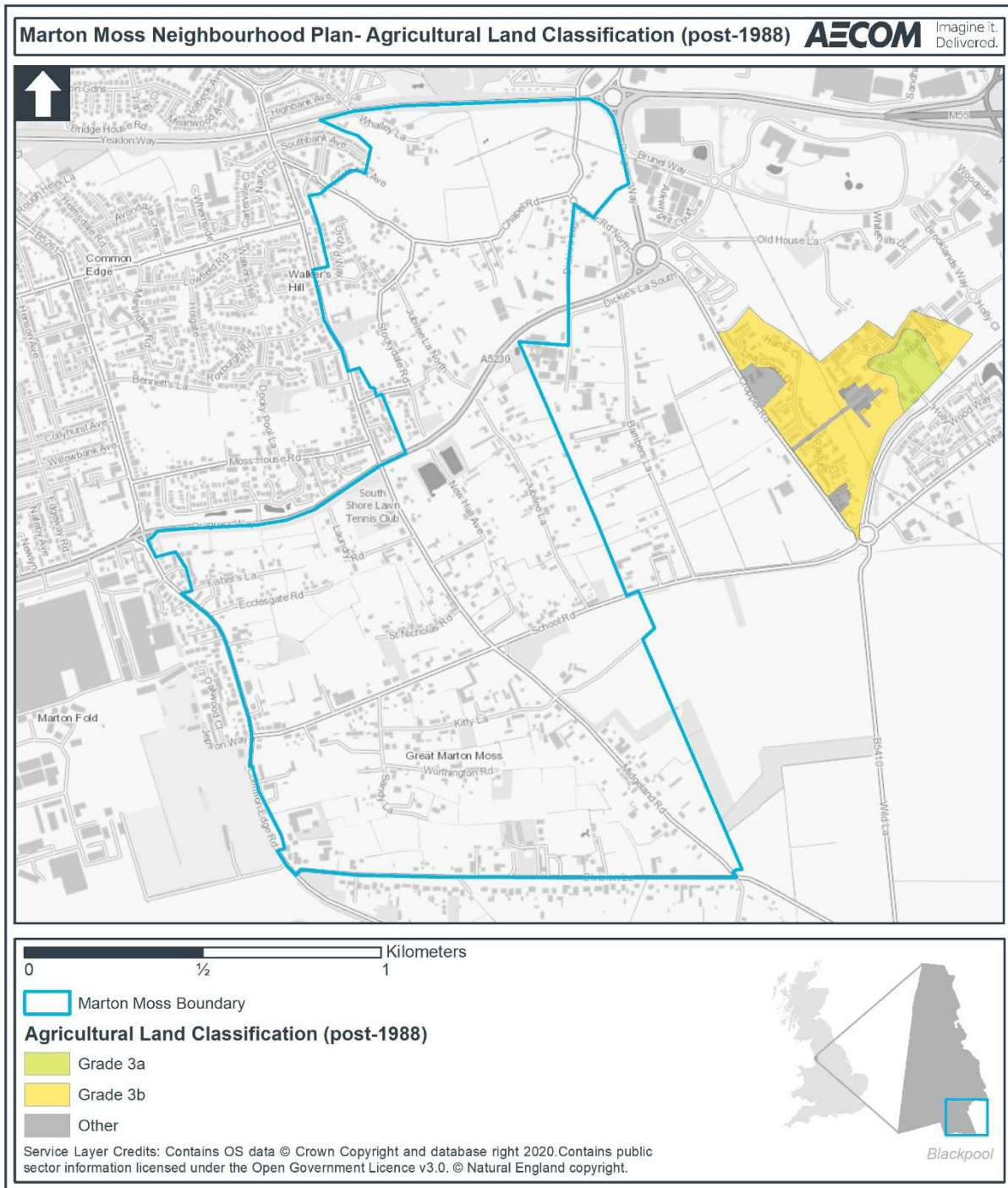


Figure 7-4 Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification



Summary of future baseline

- 7.2.8 In terms of water quality; requirements set out in the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. However, water quality could be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 7.2.9 Water availability in the area may be affected by increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change, but this is likely to be negligible.
- 7.2.10 Development which requires sewage treatment may, if not designed correctly or located appropriately, result in an increased risk of pollution to groundwater and surface water. Development will therefore need to have due consideration to the capacity of sewage works.
- 7.2.11 It is unlikely that large amounts of agricultural land would be lost to development, as future development is likely to fall within or adjacent to the built area of Marlon Moss and proportionate to local housing need and demand. However, it might be possible that higher grades of land are affected with un-planned, ad hoc growth.

7.3 Key headline issues

7.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- The NDP area mainly consists of Grade 2 and Grade 3 (potentially including some 3a) agricultural land. Development may result in some loss of BVM land but the scale of development proposed is unlikely to give rise to significant loss of BVM land.
- There are no Groundwater NVZs or Groundwater Source Protection Zones in the NDP area.
- Development could change the land and soil quality and adversely affect water quality, but effects could be avoided.

7.4 Scoping outcome

- 7.4.1 The topic of 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on land and water quality.
- 7.4.2 There are important soil resources in the NDP area that ought to be avoided. However, the limited scale of development proposed in the NDP is unlikely to lead to a significant effect upon soil resources. For this reason, soil is scoped out of the SEA. This does not mean that higher quality agricultural land should not be protected.
- 7.4.3 As the NDP area does not overlap SPZs or NVZ, it is considered unlikely that significant effects upon water quality would occur as a result of the NDP. With regards to wastewater treatment and drainage, the NDP is not expected to cause issues to existing and planned infrastructure, and so significant effects in this respect are also unlikely. Consequently, water quality has been scoped out of the SEA

8. Population and Housing

Focus of theme:

- Population size and age structure;
- Housing delivery and needs;
- Housing tenure;
- Housing affordability.

8.1 Policy Context

8.1.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.’*
- To support the Government’s objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies *‘should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.’*
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a *'sufficient choice of school places'* and taking a *'proactive, positive and collaborative approach'* to bringing forward *'development that will widen choice in education'*.

8.1.2 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 including planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.

8.1.3 The Fylde Coast SHMA⁵² (published 2014) presents evidence of the housing need in Fylde Coast Local Authorities including Blackpool. This was subsequently updated recently in the Blackpool Affordability Study 2019⁵³. The report concludes that an additional 250 to 400 dwellings per annum (dpa) are required within Blackpool.

8.1.4 The Blackpool Core Strategy Policy CS2 sets out the housing requirement for Blackpool over the period 2012 – 2027. The Local Plan Part 2 sets out how provision will be made for the delivery of the new homes required by this policy. The policy makes provision for 4,200 homes (2012-27) in identified sites within the existing urban area, including major regeneration sites and identifies sites within South Blackpool growth area and an allowance for windfall sites (1,500 homes). It further states, that a neighbourhood planning approach for the remaining land at Marlon Moss will ensure the retention and enhancement of the distinctive character of the area.

⁵² Fylde Coast Strategic Housing Market Assessment (final ver. Published Feb. 2014) available at:<https://new.fylde.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Fylde-Coast-SHMA-2014.pdf>

⁵³ Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 Evidence Base: Housing Topic Paper (Jan 2021) available at:<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/Housing-Topic-Paper-Final-accessible.pdf>

8.1.5 Blackpool's Local Plan Core Strategy policy CS26 (Marlon Moss) states that; *'a neighbourhood planning approach will be promoted for this area to develop neighbourhood policy which supports the retention and enhancement of the distinctive character, whilst identifying in what circumstances development including residential may be acceptable. Prior to developing a local policy framework through the neighbourhood planning process development on the remaining lands of the Moss will be limited to:*

a. Conversion or change of use of existing buildings for agricultural or horticultural purposes

b. Outdoor recreational uses appropriate to a rural area

c. New homes that meet the requirements of NPPF paragraph 55

d. Extensions or replacement dwellings in keeping with the scale and character of the area and not exceeding 35% of the original ground floor footprint of the existing dwelling.

8.1.6 The Marlon Moss housing needs assessment (HNA)⁵⁴ estimated the need for affordable housing in the NDP area. It highlighted the importance of maximising the provision of new affordable homes when new housing developments are delivered in the NA.

⁵⁴ AECOM report (Jan. 2020); Marlon Moss Housing Needs Assessment

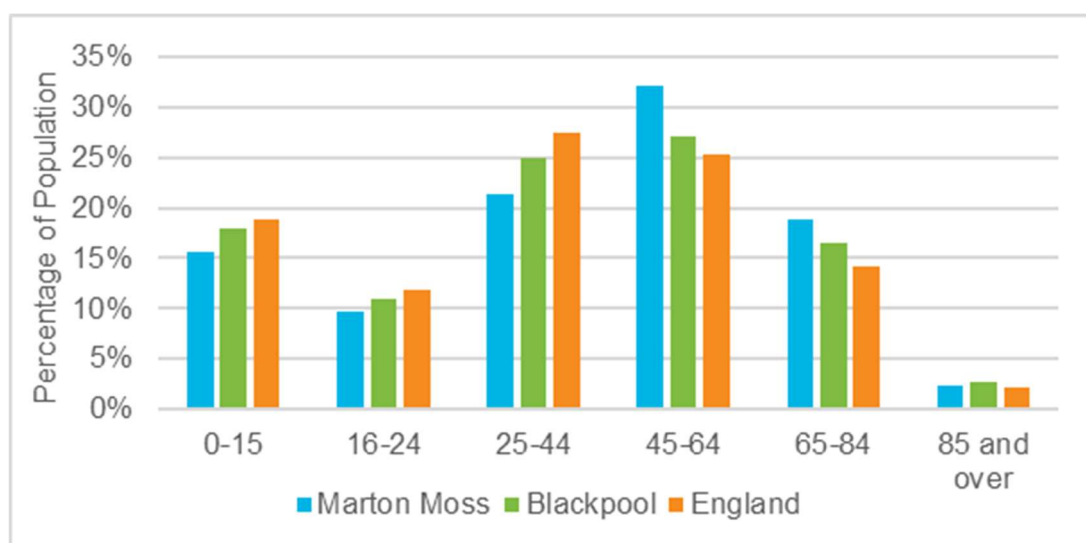
8.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Age Structure

- 8.2.1 The population of Marlon Moss NP area is around 1,249 based on statistical output areas (OA)⁵⁵: E00064189, E00064199, E00064206 and E00064208.
- 8.2.2 The 2011 Census data reveals that Marlon Moss has an older population than Blackpool as a whole and England (see Figure 8.1 below). 21% of the population in 2011 was aged 65 or over, compared to 20% in Blackpool and 16% in England. A large proportion of the population was aged 45-64 in 2011 and will move into the 65+ age category over the plan period. Conversely, Marlon Moss has a smaller proportion of its population in the younger age groups.

Figure 8-1 Age Structure



⁵⁵ 2011 Census

Housing Delivery and Tenure

8.2.3 With regards to housing delivery, table 8.2 which sets out housing delivery in relation to the Core Strategy requirements shows that there has been considerable variation in delivery rates over the years. The table shows that there was a net loss of dwellings in 2013/14 and 2016/17 which is due to redevelopment of an estate and flats; where properties in these locations have been replaced by new dwellings at lower densities. In 2019/20, 335 dwellings were completed, exceeding the CS target of 280 for the same year. However, overall 1,642 dwellings were completed in total representing a short fall of 488 units against the target set in the CS.

Table 8-1 Net Housing Completions in Blackpool⁵⁶

Year	Completions	CS Requirement	Under/Over Delivery
2012/13	166	250	-84
2013/14	-40	250	-290
2014/15	389	250	+139
2015/16	294	250	+44
2016/17	-146	250	-396
2017/18	276	280	-4
2018/19	368	280	+88
2019/20	335	280	+55
Total	1642	2,090	Cumulative shortfall -488

8.2.4 Table 8.3 shows the tenure distribution in Marlon Moss. The vast majority of households in Marlon Moss own their own homes (83.2%). This proportion is substantially higher than in Blackpool (61.6%) and England (63.3%) as a whole. Conversely, the proportion of household living in the private rented sector is relatively low, though is likely to have grown since 2011 along with national trends. The social rented sector in Marlon Moss is very limited with 1.1% of households live in social rented homes. Similarly, the number of households in shared ownership is in single figures

⁵⁶ Blackpool Council; Housing Monitoring Report 2019/20;
<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/HMR-2020-Final.pdf>

Table 8-2 Housing Tenure in 2011 (ONS Housing Tenure)

Tenure	Matron Moss	Blackpool	England
Owned (Total)	83.2%	61.6%	83.2%
Shared Ownership	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Socially Rented	1.1%	10.9%	1.1%
Private Rented	13.9%	26.1%	13.9%

8.2.5 Table 8.4 shows how tenure changed in the NDP area between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. In line with the national trend, levels of home ownership declined slightly in Marton Moss between 2001 and 2011. The change was marginal however, and the sector was effectively stable in size. By contrast, the number of households living in the owner-occupied sector declined by almost 12% over the 10 years in Blackpool as a whole. This is likely to reflect declining affordability of home ownership over the period and the expansion of the private rented sector. In the same period, the private rented sector doubled in size in the NDP area. This growth outstripped growth in both Blackpool and England as a whole but in part this is because of the relatively small size of the sector in 2001 (35 households).

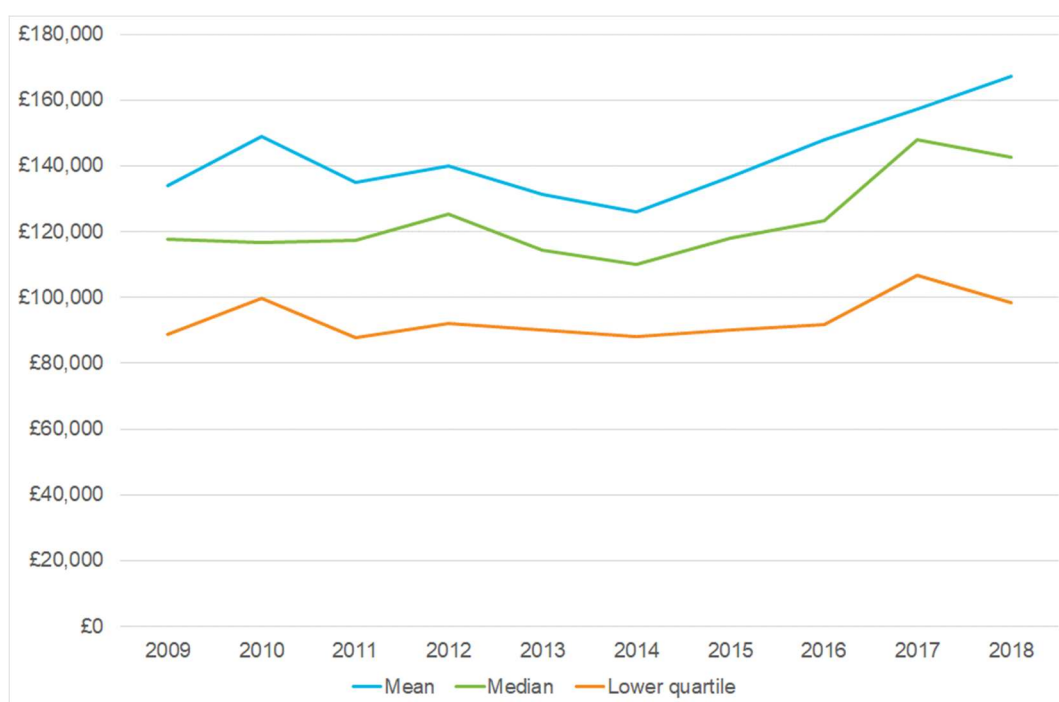
Table 8.3 Rates of tenure change in Marton Moss, 2001-2011⁵⁷

Tenue	M. Moss	Blackpool	England
Owned (Total)	-0.7%	-11.8%	-0.6%
Shared Ownership	0.0%	-42.7%	30.0%
Socially Rented	0.0%	13.3%	-0.9%
Private Rented	108.6%	60.5%	82.4%

⁵⁷ Source: 2001 and 2011 Censuses, AECOM calculations

8.2.6 Figure 8.2 looks at selected indicators of house prices in Marlon Moss⁵⁸. It shows that over the period 2009-2018, house prices in the ward containing the neighbourhood area have risen. Mean average house prices increased by 25% over the period, median average prices by 21%. Lower quartile (entry-level) prices experienced more modest growth - increasing by 11% over the period. The price of an average (mean) property in the NA was £167,400 at the end of 2018. A lower quartile property was priced at £98,300 at the end of 2018.

Figure 8-2 House prices by quartile in Marlon Moss between 2009 and 2018



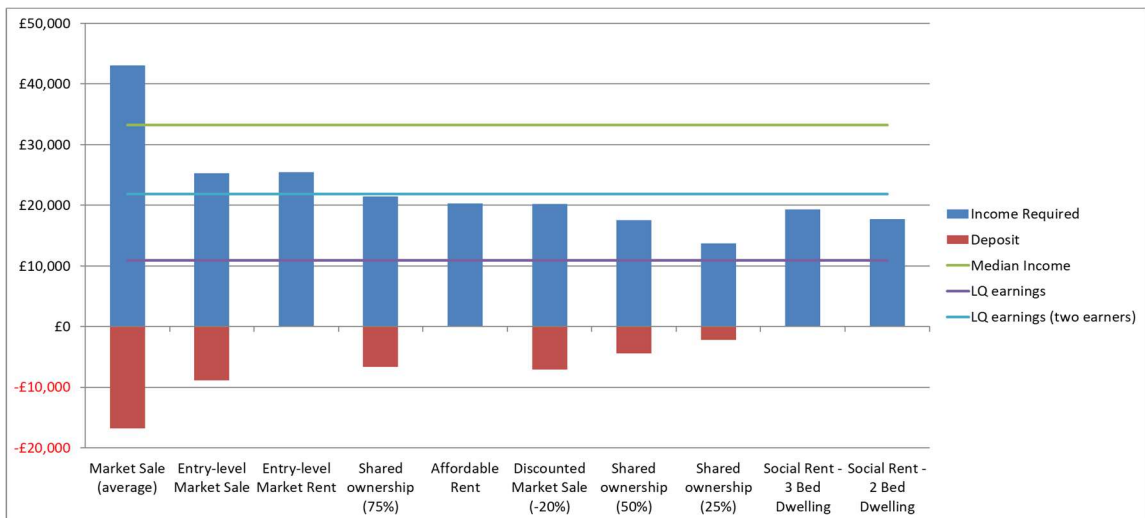
8.2.7 In terms of current house prices, these vary widely depending on exact location. Whilst the HIP data doesn't include ward level information, the Land Registry data for properties sold in the FY4 5 post code area over the 12 months to April 2021 gives an average price of £262,656 for all properties sold. These included flats (£96,300), terraced properties (£101,325), semi-detached (£159,463) and detached properties (£262,743)⁵⁹.

⁵⁸ Data based on that for Stanley Moss Ward.

⁵⁹ AECOM calculation of average prices based on Land Registry (<https://landregistry.data.gov.uk/>) price paid data for properties sold in the 12 months to April 2021 within 'FY4 5' post code area.

8.2.8 A recent housing needs assessment (HNA) carried out by AECOM for Marlon Moss calculated the annual income required for different tenures in the NDP area. The HNA concluded that the income required to buy an average market home for sale (£43,035) is higher than that available to households with median household incomes (£33,200). However, the income required to buy an average entry-level home for sale (£25,280) is lower than that available to households on median incomes, but unaffordable to those lower quartile household earnings (£10,295), even where two household members may be earning.

Figure 8-3 Affordability Thresholds in Marlon Moss



Summary of future baseline

8.2.9 Population trends in the NDP area show an ageing population with the proportion of the 65 plus age groups rising rapidly and 0-15 and 25-44 groups declining. Given the large proportion of older residents in the NDP area, it is likely that population rate will flatten or decrease as younger age-groups decline and young families move out of the area. Conversely, the substantial growth in the proportion of 65+ age group is likely to engender a need for specialist housing and smaller dwellings, better suited to older residents' needs.

8.2.10 Average market homes for sale are likely to be unaffordable to households on average incomes in Marlon Moss. In the long term house prices are likely to continue to increase, though prices may fluctuate in the interim.

8.2.11 Social and economic changes as a result of COVID-19 are likely to affect housing including but not limited to, housing need, affordable housing need, the type of housing required locally and house prices. However, the impact of COVID-19 on housing need is uncertain at this stage.

8.3 Key headline issues

8.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- Net housing completions in Blackpool shows a cumulative shortfall of 488 dwellings compared to Core Strategy targets.
- Average house prices in Marlon Moss are unaffordable to households on average incomes. Whilst entry-level homes are affordable to average income households, they are unaffordable to households on lower quartile income households. This is also the case for double lower quartile earning households.
- The increasingly ageing population in the NP area will engender a need for smaller properties over the plan period. Older residents downsizing to smaller properties would help release larger properties thus increasing choice in the market. However, such properties are unlikely to be affordable to those on average incomes and below.
- It is likely that COVID-19 will have an effect on housing factors, but these are uncertain at this stage.

8.4 Scoping outcome

8.4.1 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. The NDP intends to allocate sites for housing delivery. It includes policies pertaining to affordable housing which will influence the nature of housing delivered within the Plan area, associated infrastructure and services required to support sustainable communities.

8.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Housing SEA theme?

8.5.1 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been scoped-in for this SEA. Table 8.7 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan (and reasonable alternatives) in relation to this theme.

**Table 8.7: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions:
Population and Housing**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs of different community groups?• Support the provision of affordable housing in the NP area.• Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation; and
- Influences on health and wellbeing.

9.1 Policy Context

9.1.1 There are numerous links between planning and health highlighted throughout the NPPF. Paragraph 69 of the NPPF states that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that Local Planning Authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in Local Plans and in planning decision-making.

9.1.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'*
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

9.1.3 Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('The Marmot Review')⁶⁰ (2011) 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.

9.1.4 Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020) has been produced by the Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation to mark 10 years on from the landmark study Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review)⁶¹.

The report highlights that:

- people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health;
- improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women;
- the health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas; and
- place matters – for example living in a deprived area of the North East is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.

9.1.5 Public Health England (PHE) has a key role in shaping health policy and practice across the country. In 2017 the organisation published 'Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places'⁶². The review provides guidance on the role of the built and natural environment in shaping health impacts. The review also explores the impacts of neighbourhood design, provision of housing, transport and the natural environment on public health. Additionally, in 2018 PHE produced a 'Healthy High Streets'⁶³ briefing which highlights how health inequalities can be addressed in the design of the built environment.

⁶⁰ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

⁶¹Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on (2020) [online] available to access via <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

⁶² Public Health England (2017) Spatial Planning for Health An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729727/spatial_planning_for_health.pdf

⁶³ Public Health England (2018): 'Healthy High Streets: Good Place-Making in an Urban Setting', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-high-streets-good-place-making-in-an-urban-setting>

- 9.1.6 The Blackpool Core Strategy policy CS7 (Quality of Design) promotes new pedestrian and cycle routes and the provision of green infrastructure (GI). The latter is also promoted by Policy CS6 (Green Infrastructure) which states that high quality connected GI networks will be achieved by protecting the greenbelt, enhancing quality and accessibility of GI, creating new GI and connecting GI to the built environment. Furthermore, all development would be required to incorporate new or enhance existing GI or make financial contribution to provide GI where on-site provision is not practicable.
- 9.1.7 Blackpool's Core Strategy Policy CS12 (Sustainable Neighbourhoods) seeks better quality of life for residents by supporting development that; provides high quality housing, accessible community facilities, contributes to efficient multi-modal transport and creates healthy and secure environment and public realm.
- 9.1.8 Policy CS15 (Health and Education) of the Core Strategy supports development that encourages active lifestyles and addresses the Council's health priorities. This includes co-located/ integrated health and education facilities, increasing access and participation and reducing need to travel.
- 9.1.9 Blackpool's emerging Local Plan Part 2, Policy DM16 (Hot food takeaways) aims to promote healthier communities by limiting hot food takeaway outlets. It states that permission will not be granted to such outlets within 400m of wards where more than 15% of year 6 pupils or 10% of reception pupils with obesity.
- 9.1.10 The emerging Local Plan Part 2, Policy DM38 (Allotments and Community Gardens) aims to preserve existing allotments and community gardens; stating that development resulting in loss of such areas will not be granted unless there is no demonstrable need for them and/or where these can be replaced elsewhere or where partial redevelopment of exiting allotments/ community gardens would result in improvements/ more efficient use of such assets.

9.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Health indicators

- 9.2.1 According to the Blackpool Health Profile⁶⁴, the health of people in the Borough is worse than the average for England.
- The life expectancy for both males (74.4) and females (79.5) is significantly less than the average for England (79.6 and 83.2 respectively). Similarly, the under 75 mortality rates (from all causes) is significantly worse in Blackpool (544 counts per 100,000 population) than England (330).
 - The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 1015 (counts per 100,000 population), worse than the average for England (664). This represents 1,403 admissions per year. The rate for self-harm hospital admissions is 379, worse than the average for England (193). This represents 505 admissions per year.
 - Estimated levels of smoking prevalence in adults (aged 18+) are 21 (count per 100,000 population) for Blackpool versus 14 for England. The percentage of physically active adults (aged 19+) is 54 versus 66 for England.
- 9.2.2 In terms of healthcare facilities, the nearest Accident and Emergency facility is approximately 4 miles away (from centre of NP area) at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. There are several GP surgeries and medical centres in the vicinity of the NP area with around four GP surgeries/ primary medical care centres within a 3 mile radius (The nearest being Abbey Dale Medical Centre around 1 mile from the centre of the NP area).
- 9.2.3 In terms of sports and leisure facilities the nearest leisure centre is around 2 miles north west of the NP area (Palatine Leisure Centre). There is also a Tennis centre and football ground within the NP area. The Marlon Mereside Youth & Community Centre lies just outside the NP area to the north east.
- 9.2.4 Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on health by encouraging and facilitating outdoor activity. Marlon Moss NP area has several formal green open spaces such as at Midgeland Farm (proposed informal open space), land north of St Nicholas School (informal open space) and football grounds off school Road.
- 9.2.5 There is expansive countryside to the south east of the NP area. Blackpool pleasure beach is just under 2 miles west of the NP area. The NDP area further includes numerous formal and informal walking and cycle routes.

⁶⁴ Public Health England Blackpool Local Authority Health Profile [online] available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/ati/202/are/E06000009>

Deprivation

9.2.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (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:

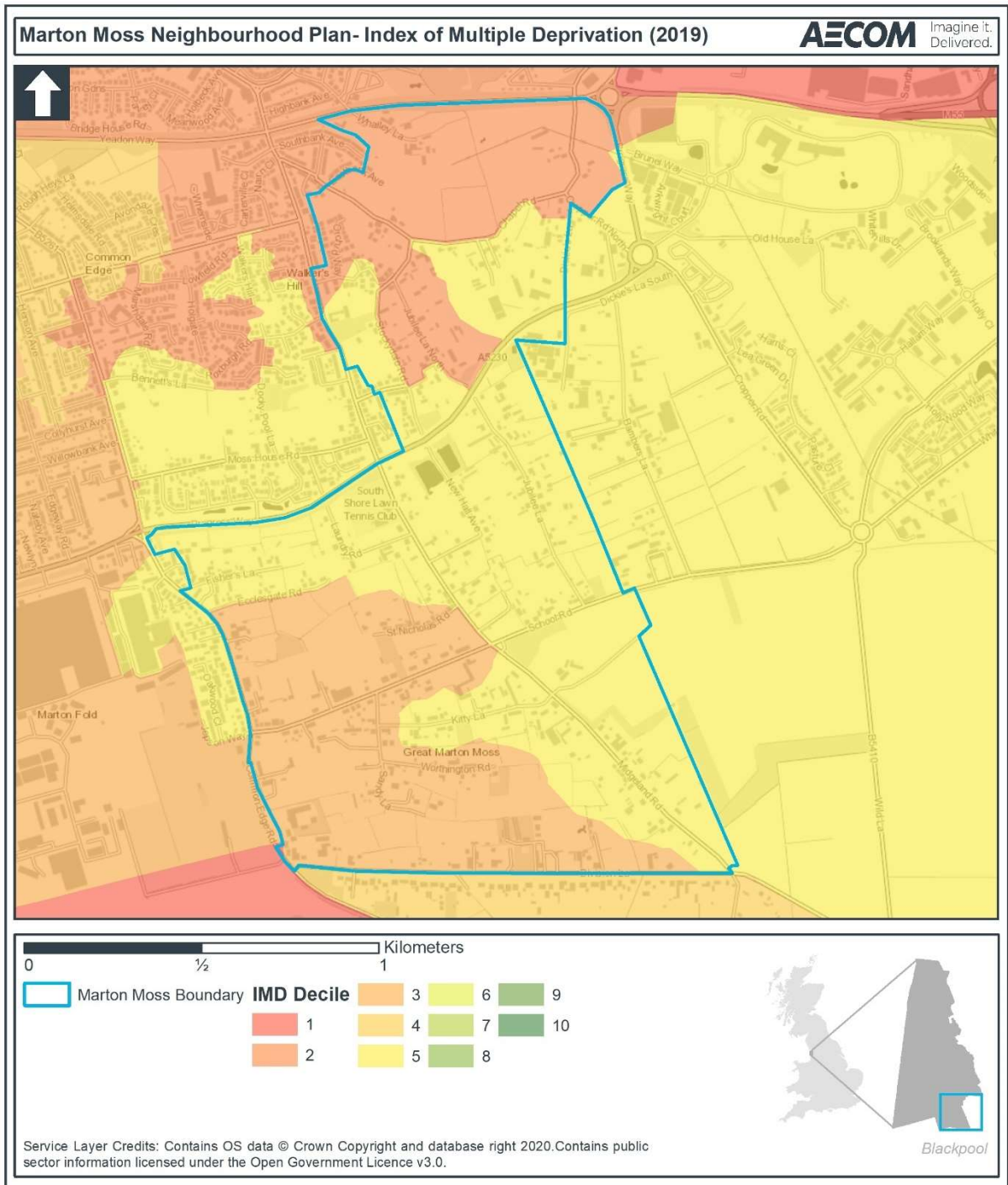
- Income: The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work.
- Employment: The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness / disability, or caring responsibilities.
- Education, Skills and Training: The lack of attainment and skills in the 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.
- 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.
- Living Environment: The quality of the local environment, including the quality of housing stock, air quality and road traffic incidents.

Two indices, subsets of the Income deprivation domain, 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.

9.2.7 As illustrated in Figure 9.1 below, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) data for the NDP area shows part of the northern part of the NP area in the 2nd Decile (within the 20% most deprived) and areas to the south and south east in the 3rd decile with the remaining area being in 5th decile.

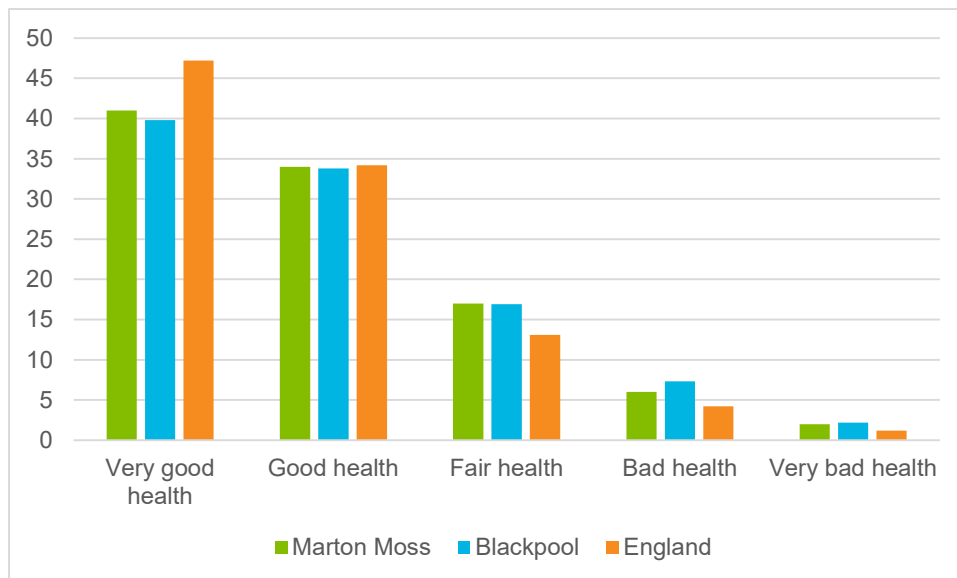
Figure 9-1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 in and around the NDP area



9.2.8 A self-assessment of health by residents in the NDP area indicated that most residents in Marlon Moss consider themselves to be in either very good or good health (75%). Residents who said they are in fair health formed 17% of the local population. Whilst 8% were in either bad or very bad health (Figure 9.2).

9.2.9 These trends are similar to the national pattern with the key difference being that Marlon Moss has a notably smaller percentage of residents that consider themselves to have very good or good health (75%) compared to the national average (81%). Those considering themselves to be in Bad / Very Bad health are also higher in Marlon Moss (8%) compared to national average (5%). Marlon Moss displays a very similar distribution to Blackpool as a whole.

Figure 9-2 Residents General Health (Census 2011: KS301EW)



Summary of future baseline

9.2.10 It is likely that with time, as the population ages, the growth of the 65+ age group will increase pressure on health and social care services and facilities in the NDP area.

9.2.11 It is likely that in the short to medium term health indicators would worsen because of the impact of Covid-19. Delays in treatments for non-Covid health issues during 2020/2021 pandemic created an enormous NHS backlog of people waiting for treatments and operations. It is likely that Covid-19 has had a greater impact on deprived households. Therefore, the current, poorer than average, health indicators discussed above are likely to worsen post Covid particularly for the more deprived households (e.g. those in the 2nd decile in the NP area).

9.3 Key headline issues

9.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- Blackpool has poorer health indicators than the average for England. This is reflected in the lower life expectancy in Blackpool when compared to average for England.
- The NDP area includes pockets within the 20% most deprived areas in the country.
- Covid-19 may exacerbate the health issues in the NP area particularly in more deprived areas.
- There are several health and recreational facilities in the vicinity of the NDP area.

9.4 Scoping outcome

9.4.1 The Plan has the potential to engender effects on health and wellbeing, as development on allocated sites could lead to benefits with regards to affordable housing access, or negatives in terms of amenity disturbance. However, given the small scale of development proposed within the draft MNP; this is unlikely to produce significant effects on health and wellbeing. It is expected that the policies within Blackpool's Local Plan (Parts 1 and 2) are likely to offer a degree of protection to green / open spaces, health and community facilities in the borough. With this in mind the SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED OUT**.

10. Transportation

Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Accessibility; and
- Modes of travel.

10.1 Policy Context

10.1.1 Key messages from the NPPF (2019);

- *‘Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:*
- *The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;*
- *Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised;*
- *Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;*
- *The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed, and taken into account; and*
- *Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.’*
- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.’*

10.1.2 The Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan⁶⁵ (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. In the case of Blackpool the Plan supports the ongoing SMART UTMC highways management programme, improved town centre access arrangements and enhanced network maintenance programme including Yeadon Way.

⁶⁵ Transport for the North (2018) Strategic Transport Plan [online] available at: <https://transportfornorth.com/stp/>

10.1.3 Lancashire County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3)⁶⁶ sets out the county council's vision, aims and objectives for transport over the period 2011-2021. The LTP's goals include; reducing carbon emissions, improving access into areas of economic growth and regeneration, providing better access to employment and education, improving quality of life and wellbeing, providing effective transport alternatives to the car (safe, reliable, affordable) and improving safety on the streets for vulnerable residents. Measures to achieve these objectives include;

- Reducing congestion, increasing road capacity and improving highway links and junctions.
- Exploring renewal of outdated rural roads infrastructure.
- Working with operators to reduce journey times to key employment sites.
- Working to bring about improvements to connections and links.
- Promoting major infrastructure investment.
- Developing bus stations and interchanges.
- Introducing Park and Ride sites.
- Promoting sustainable travel to visitor destinations.
- Work with district councils to deliver adequate parking to allow access to services.

10.1.4 Blackpool Local Plan Part 2, Policy DM41⁶⁷; (Transport requirements for new development) states that; new development will only be permitted where the access, travel and safety needs of all affected by the development are met. It also requires that safe pedestrian and cycle routes are provided. Additional mitigation measures must be factored into proposals that generate impacts on surrounding highways.

⁶⁶ Blackpool Council also produced an interim document: Local Transport Implementation Plan (2018-2021) available at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Parking-roads-and-transport/Documents/LTP-Implementation-Plan-2018-to-2021.pdf>

⁶⁷ Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 available at; <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Local-plan-2021/CONSULTATION-VERSION-Publication-merged-with-Appendices.pdf>

10.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 10.2.1 The NDP area is served by a network of highways that run through and connect Marlon Moss to settlements across north east England, Lancashire and Scotland. The M55 links the area to the M6 which connects Blackpool to Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, then M1 and London. The M6 also links the area to the North; to Carlisle and Scotland via the A74(M). Tourist traffic can often lead to congestion, particularly during holiday seasons. The other main roads in Blackpool are the A583, A5073 and A5230 which lead off the M55, the A587 and the A584 which runs along the seafront.
- 10.2.2 There are several railway stations in the vicinity of the NP area, the nearest (1.8 miles) being Squires Gate which also links the NDP to Liverpool John Lennon Airport.
- 10.2.3 The NDP area is served by several local bus routes (service 6,7,17,8 and 18) that connect it to the rest of Blackpool, St. Annes and Lytham.
- 10.2.4 There are several Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) surrounding and within the NDP area (Figure 10.3).

Modes of travel

- 10.2.5 According to Census data, the majority (70%) of working local residents are likely to travel into work driving a car or a van (Figure 10.1). Walking (6%) is the next most popular method of travelling to work followed by and Bus (5%). Only 1% of residents travel to work on the train compared to 5.2% for England and Wales (Figure 10.2). The number of residents travelling to work on foot is also lower (6%) compared to the national average (10.7%).

Figure 10-1 Methods of Travel to Work

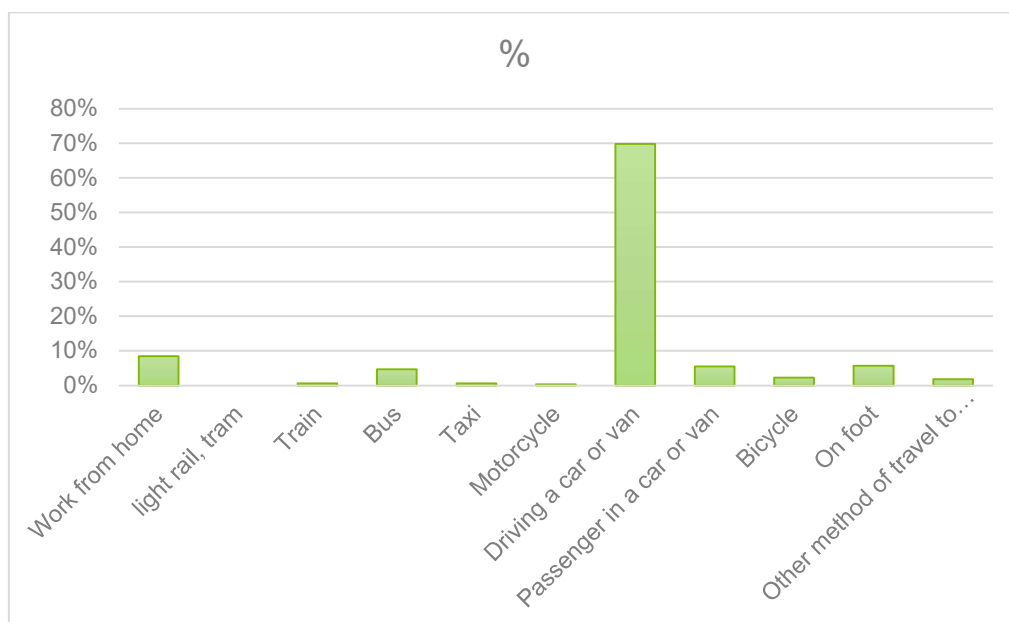
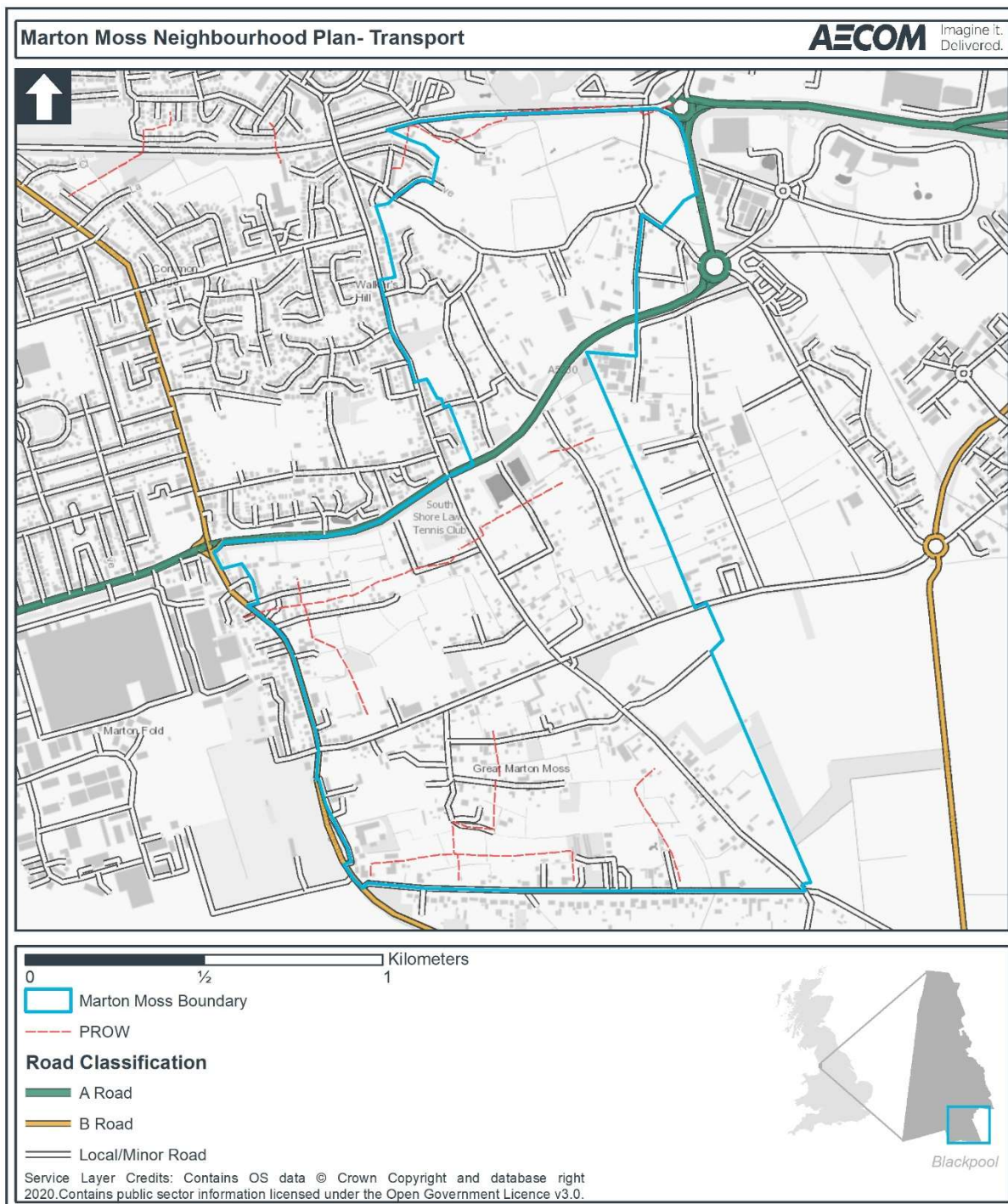


Figure 10-2 Methods of travel to work (Census 2011)

	Marlon Moss	England and Wales
Work mainly from home	8%	5.4%
Underground, metro, light	0%	3.9%
Train	1%	5.2%
Bus, minibus or coach	5%	7.3%
Taxi	1%	0.5%
Motorcycle, scooter or	0%	0.8%
Driving a car or a van	70%	57.5%
Passenger in a car or a van	6%	5.1%
Bicycle	2%	2.9%
On foot	6%	10.7%
Other	2%	0.7%

Figure 10-3 Public Transport Connectivity and Road Network across the NDP area



Summary of future baseline

- 10.2.6 New development is likely to result in higher amounts of traffic and congestion on the local road network. A greater local population through the delivery of Local Plan housing allocations and other developments and subsequent demand for public transport could provide opportunities to increase bus provision. However, Marlon Moss is unlikely to experience the scale of growth that would be likely to add significant congestion to the local road network or make major improvements to public transport viable.
- 10.2.7 Changing patterns of work locations and the role of town centres could lead to changes in the number and length of car trips in the NDP plan area.

10.3 Key headline issues

10.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well served by the highway network and benefits from good railway and bus connectivity.
- The majority of residents are likely to travel to work by car/ van, but trends could change as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic due to increased home working.
- Development can potentially lead to increased traffic and improve the viability of public transport, but this is unlikely to be significant.

10.4 Scoping outcome

- 10.4.1 The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the scale of growth proposed in the NDP is unlikely to generate significant additional traffic and movement in the NDP area.

11. The SEA Framework and Methodologies

11.1 The SEA Framework

- 11.1.1 The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 2-10).
- 11.1.2 The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Development Plan Document (and any reasonable alternatives).
- 11.1.3 Table 11.1 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The Framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can have in some areas.

Table 11.1: The SEA Framework

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to...)
Biodiversity	Will the option/proposal help to:
Protect, maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity habitats and species; achieving a net environmental gain and stronger ecological networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support connections between habitats in the Plan area? • Avoid significant impacts on designated sites within and in the vicinity of the NP area including; the Marlon Mere, Ribble Estuary and Lytham St Anne’s Dunes SSSIs. • Support continued improvements to the designated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change?

Climatic Factors	Will the option/proposal help to:
<p>Avoid and manage flood risk and support the resilience of the Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage surface water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? • Avoid placing development in areas that are at the greatest risk of flooding?

Historic Environment	Will the option/proposal help to:
<p>Protect, enhance and manage the integrity, distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the wider built environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? • Contribute to better management of heritage assets? • Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment? • Consider the impact on setting in a manner proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected. • Promote heritage-led regeneration? • Lead to the repair and adaptive re-use of a heritage asset and encourage high quality design? • Protect and enhance the Marlon Moss Conservation Area.

Landscape	Will the option/proposal help to:
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets• Contribute to better management of landscape assets?• Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?• Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?
Population and Housing	Will the option/proposal help to:
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs of different community groups?• Support the provision of affordable housing in the NP area.• Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?

12. Next Steps

12.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

12.1.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a five-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 finalisation (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)

12.1.2 The next stage will involve establishing and appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will involve consideration of strategic issues such as the growth and distribution of housing, and site options. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back so that they can be considered when preparing the draft plan.

12.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

12.2.1 Involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

12.2.2 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

12.2.3 Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to the below contacts;

Omar Ezzet,	AECOM	omar.ezzet@aecom.com
Stephen Woodhouse,	Marlon Moss Neighbourhood Forum	chairman@marlonmossforum.org

12.2.4 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

13. Glossary

Agricultural Land - Agricultural land is classified into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. A number of consistent criteria are used for assessment which include climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, texture, stoniness).

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – This is a measure of deprivation in England, for every local authority and super output area seven domains of deprivation are measured: (Income, Employment, Health deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime the Living Environment). This allows all 32,482 SOAs to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to each other. This information is then brought together into one overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

LNR – Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

NNR - Many of the finest sites in England for wildlife and geology are National Nature Reserves (NNR). There are currently 224 across the country and almost all are accessible and provide great opportunities for people to experience nature.

Objective – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends Option For the purposes of this guidance option is synonymous with ‘alternative’ in the SEA Directive Plan For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Development Plan Documents. Supplementary Planning Documents are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are required to have a sustainability appraisal.

RAMSAR – Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Locally Important Geological Sites – LIGs are designated by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important designated sites for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected areas such as SSSIs.

SAC – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive

Scheduled Monument - A ‘nationally important’ archaeological site or historic building, which is given protection against unauthorised change.

Scoping – The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal.

Screening – The process of deciding whether a document requires a SA.

SEA Directive – European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

SEA Regulations – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law).

SPA – Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species.

SSSI – SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats - large wetlands teeming with waders and waterfowl, winding chalk rivers, gorse and heather-clad heathlands, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote uplands moorland and peat bog.

Super Output Area (SOA) – SOAs are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Three layers of SOA have been devised: Lower Layer - Minimum population 1000; mean 1500. Built from groups of SOAs (typically 4 to 6) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs. Middle Layer - Minimum population 5000; mean 7200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs. Upper Layer - To be determined; minimum size c.25, 000.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainability Issues – The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.

Appendix A – Site Assessment Framework

<p>Environmental Constraints</p> <p>Site is predominantly, or wholly, within or adjacent to the following statutory environmental designations:</p> <p>Yes / No / partly or adjacent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ancient Woodland• Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)• Biosphere Reserve• Local Nature Reserve (LNR)• National Nature Reserve (NNR)• National Park• Ramsar Site• Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*• Special Area of Conservation (SAC)• Special Protection Area (SPA) <p><i>*Does the site fall within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone and would the proposed use/development trigger the requirement to consult Natural England?</i></p>
<p>Site is predominantly, or wholly, within or adjacent to the following non statutory environmental designations:</p> <p>Yes / No / partly or adjacent / Unknown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Infrastructure Corridor• Local Wildlife Site (LWS)• Public Open Space• Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)• Nature Improvement Area• Regionally Important Geological Site <p>Other</p>
<p>Site is predominantly, or wholly, within Flood Zones 2 or 3?</p> <p>See guidance notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood Zone 1: Low Risk• Flood Zone 2: Medium Risk• Flood Zone 3 (less or more vulnerable site use): Medium Risk <p>Flood Zone 3 (highly vulnerable site use): High Risk</p>

Site is at risk of surface water flooding?

See guidance notes:

- Less than 15% of the site is affected by medium or high risk of surface water flooding – **Low Risk**

>15% of the site is affected by medium or high risk of surface water flooding – **Medium Risk**

Site contains habitats with the potential to support priority species? Does the site contain local wildlife-rich habitats? Is the site part of:

- UK BAP Priority Habitat;
- a wider ecological network (including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity);
- wildlife corridors (and stepping stones that connect them); and/or
- an area identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation?

Yes / No / Unknown

Physical Constraints

Is there existing vehicle access to the site, or potential to create suitable access?

Yes / No / Unknown

Is there existing pedestrian access to the site, or potential to create suitable access?

Yes / No / Unknown

Is there existing cycle access to the site, or potential to create suitable access?

Yes / No / Unknown

Are there any known Tree Preservation Orders on the site?

Yes / No / Unknown

Are there veteran/ancient trees within or adjacent to the site?

Within / Adjacent / No / Unknown

Would development of the site result in a loss of social, amenity or community value?

Yes / No / Unknown

Accessibility

Distances to community facilities and services

Measured using walking routes from the centre of each site to each facility. The distances are based on the assumption that 400m is equal to approximately 5 minutes' walk and are measured from the edge of the site.

Facilities	Town / local centre / shop	Bus / Tram Stop	Train station	Primary School	Secondary School	Open Space / recreation facilities	Cycle Route
Distance (metres)	400-1200m	400-800m	>1200m	400-1200m	<1600m	>800m	>800m

Landscape and Visual Constraints

Is the site low, medium or high sensitivity in terms of landscape?

- **Low sensitivity:** the site has few or no valued features, and/or valued features that are less susceptible to development and can accommodate change.
- **Medium sensitivity:** the site has many valued features, and/or valued features that are susceptible to development but could potentially accommodate some change with appropriate mitigation.

High sensitivity: the site has highly valued features, and/or valued features that are highly susceptible to development. The site can accommodate minimal change.

Is the site low, medium or high sensitivity in terms of visual amenity?

- **Low sensitivity:** the site is visually enclosed and has low intervisibility with the surrounding landscape, and/or it would not adversely impact any identified views.
- **Medium sensitivity:** the site is somewhat enclosed and has some intervisibility with the surrounding landscape, and/or it may adversely impact any identified views.

High sensitivity: the site is visually open and has high intervisibility with the surrounding landscape, and/or it would adversely impact any recognised views.

Heritage Constraints

Would the development of the site cause harm to a designated heritage asset or its setting?

Directly impact and/or mitigation not possible /
Some impact, and/or mitigation possible /
Limited or no impact or no requirement for mitigation

Would the development of the site cause harm to a non-designated heritage asset or its setting?

Directly impact and/or mitigation not possible /
Some impact, and/or mitigation possible /
Limited or no impact or no requirement for mitigation

