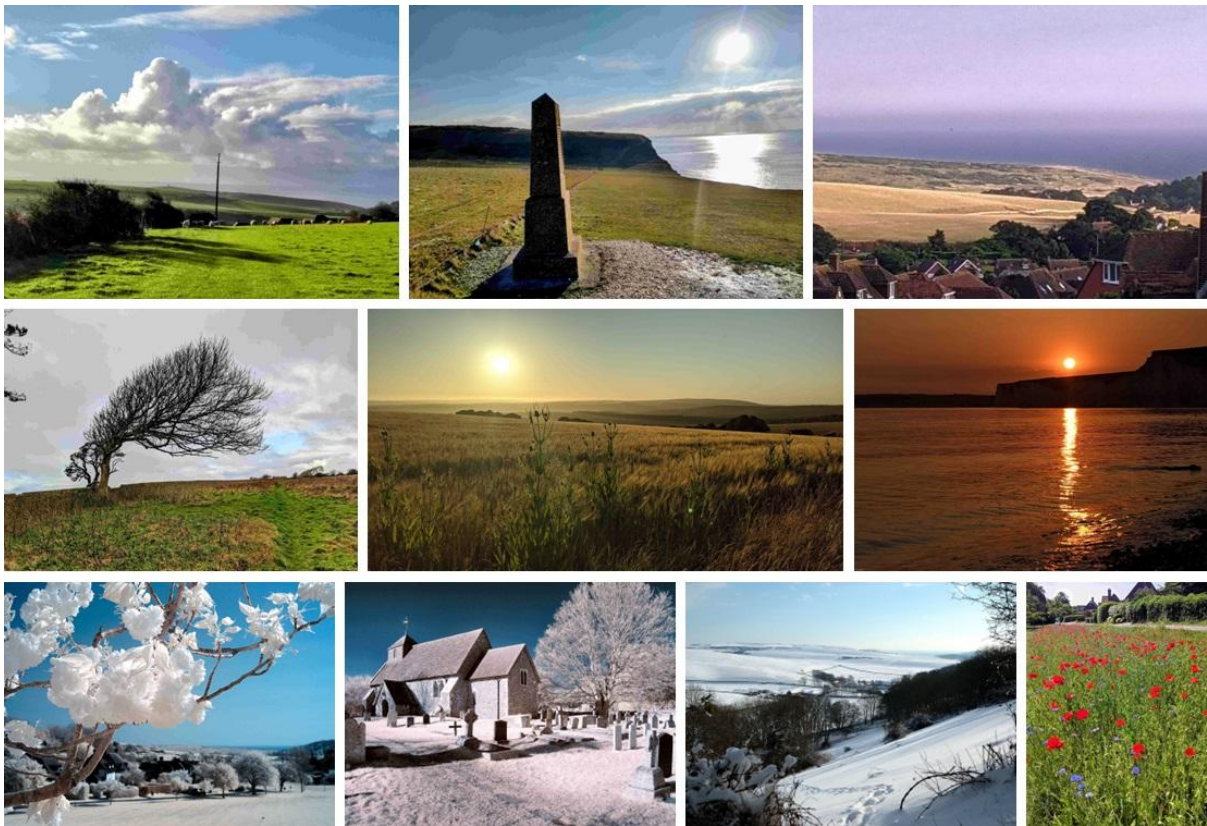




East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Plan 2024 to 2042



Basic Conditions Statement

March 2025

Prepared by the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group on behalf of East Dean and Friston Parish
Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to accompany the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Plan (EDFNP).
- 1.2. The relevant legal framework for the preparation and making of neighbourhood plans is supported by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 and found in the:
 - Town and Country Planning Act 1990: ss. 61F, 61I, 61M-P and Schedule 4B
 - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: ss 38A-C
 - Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (2012 No.637) (as amended)
- 1.3. Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 requires a neighbourhood plan to meet five basic conditions before it can proceed to a referendum. These are:
 - i. Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
 - ii. The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
 - iv. The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, (retained) EU obligations; and
 - v. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan. The prescribed condition is that the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.4. There are two further basic conditions which are relevant only to the making of a Neighbourhood Development Order and are therefore not considered in this document.
- 1.5. This document sets out how the EDFNP meets the Basic Conditions.

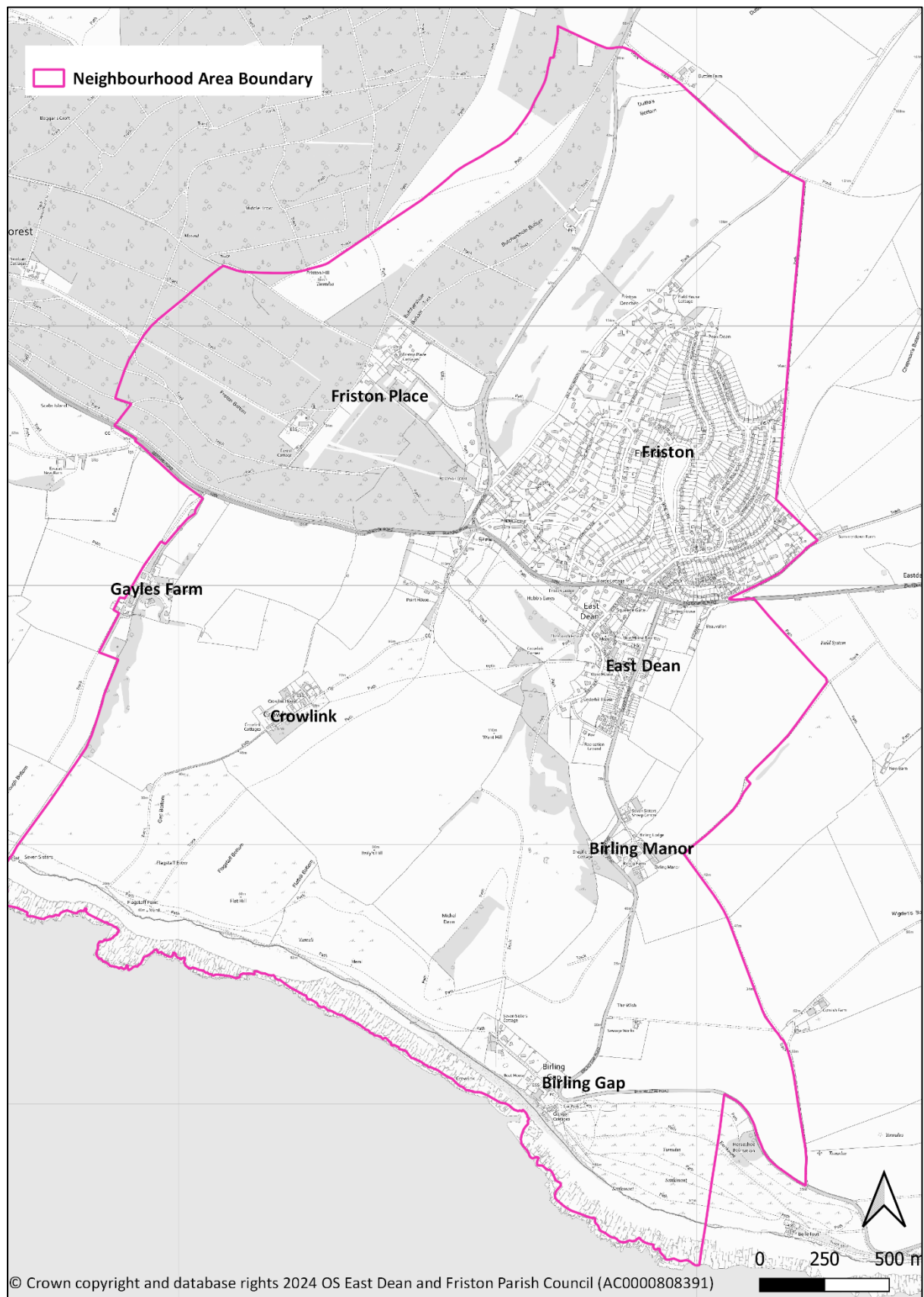
Supporting documents and evidence

- 1.6. The Submission Version EDFNP, with its policies, is supported by a Consultation Statement, this Basic Conditions Statement and an extensive evidence base. It has also been subject to a Screening, organised by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), to ascertain whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment, and the Determination Statement is included as part of the accompanying documentation.
- 1.7. Alongside the planning policies, the EDFNP contains a series of projects which fall outside planning policy. These are intended to contribute towards the achievement of the Plan's vision and could form the basis of the principles for the use of any developer funding and other monies arising from other planning obligations. They complement the Neighbourhood Plan document but are not a formal part of the Development Plan.

Key statements

- 1.8. The Neighbourhood Area shares its boundary with that of the East Dean and Friston Parish (*Figure 1*).
- 1.9. SDNPA designated the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Area on 10 April 2019.
- 1.10. The EDFNP sets out planning policies that relate to the development and use of land within the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Area only.
- 1.11. The EDFNP refers only to the administrative boundary of the parish. There are no other adopted Neighbourhood Plans that cover all or part of the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.12. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has prepared the EDFNP to establish a vision for the future of the parish. It has engaged with the community to set out how the vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change over the plan period 2024 to 2042.
- 1.13. The Plan does not contain any policies which relate to excluded development as defined by section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Figure 1: East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Development Plan designated area



2. Basic condition (i) - conformity with national planning policy

- 2.1. To meet this condition, it is necessary to demonstrate that the EDFNP has regard to national planning policies and the advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. National policy and guidance are contained within the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') and the Planning Practice Guidance ('PPG').
- 2.2. It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NPPF, most recently revised in December 2024.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3. The NPPF has 13 key objectives which are:
- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
 - Building a strong, competitive economy
 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres
 - Promoting healthy and safe communities
 - Promoting sustainable transport
 - Supporting high quality communications
 - Making effective use of land
 - Achieving well-designed places
 - Protecting Green Belt land
 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
- 2.4. This Basic Conditions statement explains how the EDFNP policies contribute to meeting these objectives, where relevant, and also notes the specific national policies that the Plan is intended to support and supplement.
- 2.5. The EDFNP vision is:

***“Building upon the open and friendly village atmosphere and sensitively preserving the rural and built character of the Parish, our vision for East Dean, Friston, Crowlink, Birling Gap and other settlements sees this parish continuing to be a thriving and sustainable place to live, work and visit, where everyone can play a full part in their community.*”**

The mitigation of and need to adapt to climate change is a central strand of the vision. We aim to support householders in protecting and enhancing our natural environment, whilst promoting healthy living and connectivity for the benefit of all.”

- 2.6. There are six objectives, couched within a set of overarching principles, which collectively seek to contribute to the overall vision. These are shown in *Table 1* alongside the corresponding NPPF objective or objectives that each one seeks to address.
- 2.7. *Table 2* provides further detail by setting out the nine policies of the EDFNP and which specific paragraphs of the NPPF each has had regard to along with a commentary.

Table 1: Assessment of the EDFNP ambitions against NPPF (2024) goals

EDFNP ambition	Relevant NPPF goal
Objective 1: To conserve and enhance the natural environment, taking opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, whilst protecting and enhancing this environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
Objective 2: To support development that enhances the design, character and appearance and landscape of the Parish in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Achieving well-designed places • Making effective use of land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
Objective 3: To support the provision of smaller homes allowing for those downsizing and for attracting younger people, particularly those with local connections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Delivering a sufficient supply of homes • Making effective use of land
Objective 4: To champion healthy living in the parish whilst supporting and promoting community facilities - both leisure and local businesses - to ensure a thriving community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Supporting high quality communications
Objective 5: To protect and develop the built and rural environment whilst attracting and developing sustainable tourism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
Objective 6: To support opportunities for walking, 'wheeling', cycling and equestrian pursuits in the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable transport • Promoting healthy and safe communities

Table 2: Assessment of how each policy in the EDFNP conforms to the NPPF

Policy Title and Reference	NPPF Ref.	Commentary
POLICY EDF1: MEETING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS	61-66, 71, 73, 74, 76, 82-84	<p>The NPPF sets out that the size, type, and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Whilst the EDFNP does not seek to allocate housing sites, a position agreed with the SDNPA, it does seek to influence the type and mix of housing to be delivered should sites come forward. The evidence base and local engagement revealed an ageing population, with a predominance of larger-sized homes within a price band well above the average for the wider geographic area and largely out of reach financially for individuals and couples on lower quartile or even median local salaries.</p> <p>The needs of the rural parish are more defined than those set out of the wider local authority areas as a whole, which includes some more urbanised areas. Policy EDF1 therefore seeks to ensure that all residential development proposals are adequately informed by the locally specific Housing Needs Assessment prepared for the parish that drills down to the local level as opposed to relying solely on data prepared at the strategic levels.</p>
POLICY EDF2: CHARACTER AND DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT	96, 103, 109, 129-139	<p>National policy encourages neighbourhood planning groups to develop policies that achieve well-designed places that reflect local aspirations and which are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of the area's defining characteristics. Policy EDF2 contributes to this aim by ensuring that development in the parish is designed to respect local character within the South Downs National Park.</p> <p>Underpinning the policy is the East Dean and Friston Parish Design Guidance and Codes, which provides detailed guidance tailored to the local circumstances. It is an integral part of the neighbourhood plan and will inform the development of sites allocated in the Local Plan as well as windfall development and extensions.</p>

POLICY EDF3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DESIGN	136, 161-169, 182	<p>Policy EDF3 supports the national objective of designing development to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Notwithstanding the fact that such matters are largely controlled by the Building Regulations, the policy (supported by the East Dean and Friston Parish Design Guidance and Codes) identifies a series of design features which would be strongly supported where they are incorporated into development. This includes features aimed at reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and energy loss that should be incorporated into both new development and installed retrospectively into existing, often historic buildings.</p> <p>The policy also provides support for community-scale energy schemes with locally specific criteria against which they should be considered. This is particularly important given the National Park setting.</p>
POLICY EDF4: CONSERVING HERITAGE ASSETS	135, 202, 203, 207, 212-217	<p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment is a key aim of national policy. The parish has a wealth of heritage assets, some of which are already protected by way of national designation. Policy EDF4 plans positively for the conservation and enjoyment of this heritage. It also identifies 37 non-designated heritage assets that are considered to have historic value at the community level.</p> <p>The policy takes a proactive approach to supporting development proposals in the East Dean Conservation Area, in a way that will enhance it.</p>
Chapter 6	88, 96, 103, 105,	Whilst not a policy, the EDFNP supports opportunities for sustainable tourism in the parish, working with partners to minimise the impact of visitors on the environment, while enabling better access to key sites.
POLICY EDF5: CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	135, 136, 187-195	This policy supports the national objective of ensuring that development contributes to and enhances the natural environment and biodiversity. It maps out, at the parish level, components of wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of 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

		<p>habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation through protecting designated and non-designated landscape assets. The policy is supported by an extensive biodiversity profile of the parish, that has been developed by a local ecologist.</p> <p>In line with the Environment Act, the policy requires developments to deliver a biodiversity net gain of at least 10%, although at least 20% is encouraged in line with advice from the Wildlife Trusts. Where this cannot be achieved on-site, there is a desire for it to be delivered within the Parish in the first instance. The identification of biodiversity opportunity areas forms part of the Biodiversity Profile.</p> <p>The policy identifies, at a local level, the significant landscape features, such as trees, ponds and hedgerows that are particularly important within the parish context. These features should be retained and, where possible enhanced. The policy also provides guidance to applicants on how they can best incorporate open space within development as well as wildlife-friendly features.</p>
POLICY EDF6: LOCAL GREEN SPACE	106-108, 153 to 160	<p>The NPPF enables communities to designate spaces that are demonstrably special to them as Local Green Space. The policy identifies two such spaces in the parish, in addition to those already designated in the South Downs Local Plan. It provides the justification as to how each meets the NPPF criteria. This will ensure that these spaces are protected against inappropriate development.</p>
POLICY EDF7: LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT VIEWS	131 to 135, 187	<p>The NPPF states that neighbourhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of their area and explaining how these should be reflected in development, both through their own plans and by engaging in the production of design policy, guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers.</p> <p>Whilst there are many significant views in and across the parish, this policy identifies ten views/ viewpoints that are considered by the community to be particularly locally distinctive – either because they encompass a local landmark or notable landscape. The policy seeks to ensure that any development that takes place within the view ‘arcs’ limits its impact on the</p>

		view itself and, where possible, enhances it.
POLICY EDF8: WALKING/ WHEELING, CYCLING AND EQUESTRIAN OPPORTUNITIES	96, 103, 105, 109-111, 115-117, 135	<p>This policy supports the NPPF objective of encouraging sustainable modes of transport by supporting the improvement of movement routes within the parish that would enable people to access local facilities and the wider countryside more easily and directly by foot (and, to a lesser extent by bike), rather than relying on less sustainable modes of transport. It also considers accessibility for those less mobile. Equestrian movement in the parish is fairly popular and this is also considered, particularly in terms of access to the wider surrounding countryside and in the context of there being fewer bridleways. The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals would link up to the movement route network and that existing public rights of way are protected, maintained and, where feasible, enhanced, to encourage greater and safer usage. It follows the 'walkable' neighbourhood concept, as promoted by a number of national bodies including the Town and Country Planning Association.</p> <p>The policy is supported by a series of associated projects to improve the network that could be discussed with the Highways Authority and landowners.</p>
POLICY EDF9: IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, SPORT AND RECREATION	96, 98, 100, 103, 104	The NPPF encourages policies that contribute to healthy, inclusive communities. The parish benefits from a limited range of local facilities, which are valued by the community. The policy supports the provision of new/improved facilities as evidenced by the community engagement. These could form the basis of an infrastructure improvement plan for the parish

3. Basic condition (iv) - contribution to sustainable development

- 3.1. The NPPF states in paragraph 7 that *‘the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.’*
- 3.2. For the EDFNP, sustainable development has provided the fundamental basis of each of its policies. The National Planning Practice Guidance advises that *‘sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan ... guides development to sustainable solutions’* (Planning Practice Guidance, Paragraph: 072 Reference ID: 41-072-20140306).
- 3.3. Table 3 summarises how the overarching ambitions and policies in the EDFNP contribute towards economic, social and environmental sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF. Many of the ambitions of the EDFNP overlap the three strands of sustainability, so for the purposes of this document, the most relevant strand has been taken to illustrate conformity.

Table 3: Assessment of the EDFNP ambitions and policies against sustainable development

Deliver economic sustainability
NPPF definition – ‘to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.’
EDFNP Objectives: Objective 5: To protect and develop the built and rural environment whilst attracting and developing sustainable tourism.
NP Policies: No policy but Chapter 6 sets out support for sustainable tourism
Commentary: The Plan does not include specific policies on the economy, as these are considered to be adequately included in the Local Plan. Chapter 6 describes the role that the visitor economy plays locally, however, and opportunities to encourage this in a sustainable way are supported. The plan also supports the provision of local facilities, which in turn could attract small businesses to the area. In these ways, the Plan seeks to contribute to building a sustainable economy.
Deliver social sustainability
NPPF definition – ‘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 well-being.’

EDFNP Ambitions:

Objective 3: To support the provision of smaller homes allowing for those downsizing and for attracting younger people, particularly those with local connections.

Objective 4: To champion healthy living in the parish whilst supporting and promoting community facilities - both leisure and local businesses - to ensure a thriving community.

Objective 6: To support opportunities for walking, 'wheeling', cycling and equestrian pursuits in the parish.

NP Policies:

Policy EDF1: Meeting local housing needs

Policy EDF8: Walking/wheeling, cycling and equestrian opportunities

Policy EDF9: Improving opportunities for community, cultural, sporting and recreational facilities

Commentary:

The NPPF underlines the importance of supporting strong, vibrant, inclusive and healthy communities by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations and by creating a high-quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

The EDFNP has been developed following community engagement to understand local priorities to contribute to this national objective. Whilst the Plan does not seek to allocate homes at this time (as it is considered and agreed with the local planning authorities that this will be adequately addressed through the emerging Local Plan process), it does focus on the type, mix, size, tenure and affordability of housing that should be supported in the parish, based on the findings of the local housing needs assessment, which offers a more nuanced picture compared to the wider strategic area.

The Plan includes a policy to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to address the community's needs.

A key principle of the EDFNP is to support the sustainable location of new development. It supports active travel principles, whereby residents and visitors should have the opportunity to walk, wheel, cycle and ride safely if they choose. This will support healthier lifestyles and could also help to reduce local traffic on the roads.

In these ways, the Plan aims to support social sustainability.

Deliver environmental sustainability

NPPF definition – 'to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy,'

EDFNP Ambitions:

Objective 2: Protecting the natural and built environment: The natural environment of the South Downs National Park is protected and celebrated. Green spaces that are important to the community are safeguarded and opportunities for biodiversity improvements are sought. There is a network of ecological corridors that connect through the villages and to the wider countryside. Space for a wide range of active and passive recreation, for all ages. The value of the parish's dark skies is recognised. The parish's historic

buildings are protected and conserved. They are appreciated alongside contemporary architecture as part of our daily activities.

NP Policies:

Policy EDF2: Character and Design of development

Policy EDF3: Energy efficiency and design

Policy EDF4: Conserving heritage assets

Policy EDF5: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Policy EDF6: Local Green Space

Policy EDF7: Protection of locally significant views

Commentary:

Policies to celebrate, protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the parish is an important element of the EDFNP and conforms to the national aims set out in the NPPF.

A locally distinctive East Dean and Friston Parish Design Guidance and Codes has been developed and forms an integral part of the plan, underpinning many of the policies. It sets out expectations including in relation to local character, design, biodiversity and environmental considerations.

In terms of local character, the plan seeks to consolidate all those elements that make the parish – and its individual settlements distinctive. Alongside existing designations, this includes the identification of non-designated heritage assets and locally important views and viewpoints.

The Biodiversity Profile describes and maps out the green spaces and corridors locally that form a network of habitats, with a view to encouraging their protection, improvement and connection. Natural features distinctive to the parish are identified, to encourage their protection and for inclusion in the design of new development. In addition, a series of Local Green Spaces, considered to be demonstrably special to the community, are designated.

The Plan emphasises the need to promote more sustainable modes of transport in order to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions, while supporting healthy lifestyles.

In these ways, the Plan seeks to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment of the neighbourhood area.

- 3.4. As demonstrated in *Table 3*, the strategic objectives of the Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic, and environmental goals. The policies in the Plan demonstrably contribute to sustainable development.

4 Basic condition (v) - general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan

- 4.1. The policies of the EDFNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan for SDNPA, excluding other Neighbourhood Plans.
- 4.2. The development plan for the South Downs is made up of the adopted South Downs Local Plan (SDLP), which covers the National Park in its entirety. It also comprises a number of made Neighbourhood Plans, which cover individual parishes, and several adopted minerals and waste plans prepared for each county in partnership with other local planning authorities.
- 4.3. The SDLP was adopted in July 2019. Work has commenced on a Local Plan Review (LPR), and the Regulation 18 consultation closed on 17 March 2025.
- 4.4. The latest [Local Development Scheme](#) (Ninth Revision) (November 2024) states that the intention is to adopt the new Local Plan in 2027. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the current SDLP.
- 4.5. The proposed policies within the Regulation 18 LPR have been considered as part of this statement, to identify areas of synergy.
- 4.6. It is confirmed that there are no policies in the strategic documents relating to minerals and waste that are of relevance to the EDFNP.
- 4.7. *Table 4* sets out which adopted SDLP policies each EDFNP policy conforms to, where strategic policies are prefixed with 'Core Policy' or 'Strategic Policy'. The commentary includes reference to the LPR where relevant.

Table 4: Relevant strategic policies

Policy Title and Reference	SDLP (2019)	Commentary
POLICY EDF1: MEETING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS	Core Policy SD1, Core Policy SD3, Strategic Policy SD5, Strategic Policy SD27, Strategic Policy SD28, Strategic Policy SD29	The EDFNP is not seeking to allocate sites, a position agreed with the SDNPA. Nevertheless, there may be sites coming forward, for instance as windfall development. Policy EDF1 seeks to ensure that housing proposals contribute to meeting the specific housing needs of the parish in terms of size, tenure, affordability, and the needs of people at different stages of their lives. It adds additional local detail to the evidence compiled at the strategic level, drawing on the evidence in the East Dean and Friston Housing Needs Assessment.
POLICY EDF2: CHARACTER AND DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT	Core Policy SD2, Strategic Policy SD4, Strategic Policy SD5, SD21, SD22, SD30, SD31	The policy supports the landscape-led approach endorsed by the SDNPA. The policy is underpinned by the East Dean and Friston Parish Design Guidance and Codes, which form an integral part of the plan. These have been reviewed by the SDNPA and provide additional local detail to the strategic policies on the matter of design.
POLICY EDF3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND DESIGN	Core Policy SD2, SD14, Strategic Policy SD48, SD50, SD51	The policy supports the strategic policies setting out sustainable design priorities raised by the community to encourage within development proposals.
POLICY EDF4: CONSERVING HERITAGE ASSETS	Core Policy SD2, Strategic Policy SD4, Strategic Policy SD12, SD13, SD14, SD15, SD16	The policy adds additional local detail to the SDLP policies by identifying additional non-designated heritage assets. Each has been carefully considered and assessed in terms of its contribution to local character and heritage.

Chapter 6 – Sustainable tourism	Strategic Policy SD23, SD34	The policies of the SDNP are felt to adequately address tourism matters. These are being strengthened in the LPR.
POLICY EDF5: CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Core Policy SD2, Strategic Policy SD4, Strategic Policy SD9, SD11, Strategic Policy SD17, Strategic Policy SD18, SD45	The policy provides additional local detail to the Local Plan policies, underpinned by a comprehensive biodiversity profile of the parish. The policy supports an uplift to the required 10% minimum biodiversity net gain, something which is being considered as part of the LPR.
POLICY EDF6: LOCAL GREEN SPACE	Core Policy SD2, SD47	The policy seeks to designate two additional local green spaces, in line with national and strategic policy.
POLICY EDF7: LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT VIEWS	Core Policy SD2, Strategic Policy SD4, Strategic Policy SD6	The policy adds additional local detail to the Local Plan policy by identifying specific views considered to be significant by the local community.
POLICY EDF8: WALKING/ WHEELING, CYCLING AND EQUESTRIAN OPPORTUNITIES	Strategic Policy SD5, Strategic Policy SD18, Strategic Policy SD19, Strategic Policy SD20, SD21	The policy conforms to strategic policies in supporting opportunities to encourage and enable active travel for all. It sets out specific projects which could enable this.

POLICY EDF9: IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, SPORT AND RECREATION	Core Policy SD2, Strategic Policy SD42, SD43, SD46	The policy adds additional local detail to the SDLP, identifying areas where improved/additional facilities could meet the needs and aspirations of local people.
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5 Basic Condition (vi) - conformity with retained EU obligations

- 5.1 The EDFNP, and the process under which it was made, conforms to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (EU 2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
- 5.2 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, the SDNPA Council, as the responsible authority, determined in September 2024 that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required as the EDFNP's policies – individually or collectively - are unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 5.3 A copy of the body of the report of the Screening Statement is contained within the evidence base submitted alongside the Submission Version EDFNP.

6 Basic condition (vii) - conformity with the prescribed conditions

- 6.1 Under Directive 92/43/EEC, also known as the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora'), it must be ascertained whether the EDFNP is likely to breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Assessments under the regulations are known as Habitats Regulations Assessments ("HRA"). An appropriate assessment ("AA") is required only if the Plan is likely to have significant effects on a European protected species or site. To ascertain whether it is necessary to undertake an assessment, a screening process is followed.
- 6.2 The SDNPA, as the responsible authority, determined in September 2024 that the EDFNP is unlikely to have significant impact on European sites and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.
- 6.3 In addition to conforming to its EU obligations, the EDFNP does not breach and is not otherwise incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared and forms part of the Evidence Base for the Plan.
- 6.4 A copy of the body of the report of the Screening Statement is contained within the evidence base submitted alongside the Submission Version EDFNP.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1. The relevant basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the East Dean and Friston Neighbourhood Development Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the EDFNP complies with Paragraph 8(1) (a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.