



Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Scoping Report

Stainforth Town Council

December 2021

Quality information

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Air Quality	7
3.	Biodiversity.....	10
4.	Climate Change Mitigation	16
5.	Climate Change Resilience.....	23
6.	Health and Wellbeing	30
7.	Historic Environment.....	36
8.	Landscape	42
9.	Natural Resources	46
10.	Population and Housing.....	55
11.	Transport and Accessibility	67
12.	The SEA Framework and Methodologies.....	75
13.	Next Steps	78



Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
DBEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DLUCH	Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing
DPA	Dwellings per Annum
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
GCN	Great Crested Newt
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area (Census statistical output area)
MSOA	Middle Layer Super Output Area (Census statistical output area)
NCA	National Character Area
NDO	Neighbourhood Development Order
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHS	World Heritage Site

1. Introduction

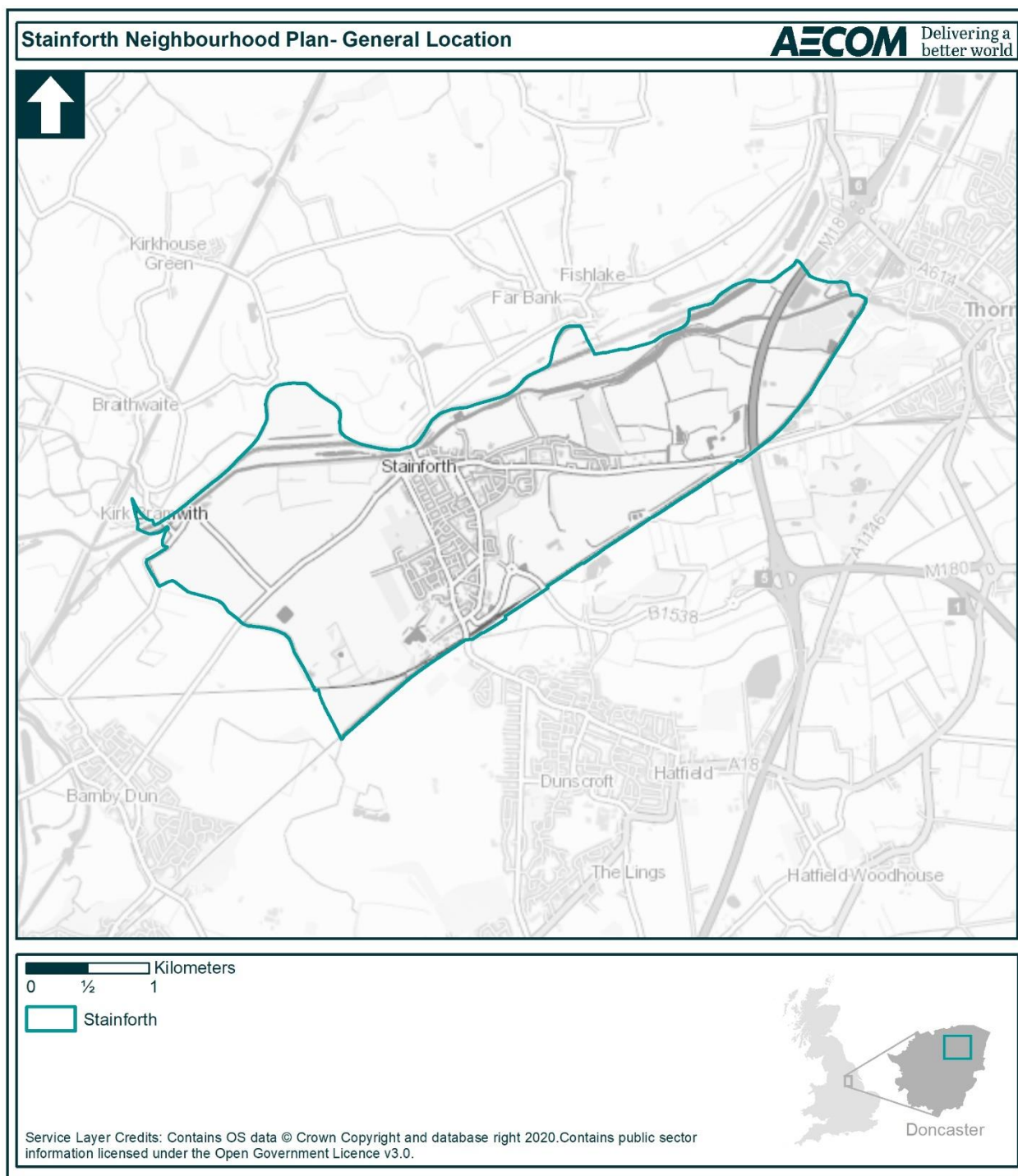
Background

- 1.1 Stainforth Town Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order to shape the sustainable future growth of the area. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Stainforth's Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and Neighbourhood Development Order (NDO) on behalf of the Neighbourhood Group.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Review is being prepared in the context of Doncaster Borough Council's Local Plan (2015-2035); the Local Plan was adopted in September 2021.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development framework for the Stainforth area in Doncaster, alongside the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans 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 Doncaster, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 1.4 The Key information relating to the Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan is presented in the table below (Table 1.1).

Table 1-1 Key facts relating to the Neighbourhood Plan for Stainforth

Name of Responsible Authority	Stainforth Town Council
Title of Plan	Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared alongside a Neighbourhood Development Order under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the Doncaster Local Plan.
Timescale	To 2032
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers an area in Doncaster and the boundary is illustrated in Figure 1.1.
Summary of content	The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order will seek to shape the nature of development in the Parish through to 2032.
Plan contact point	Kirsty Evans - Email: kirsty@stainforthtc.plus.com Matthew Good (planning consultant) (preferred contact) - Email matthew.good@pegasusgroup.co.uk

Figure 1.1: Stainforth general location map

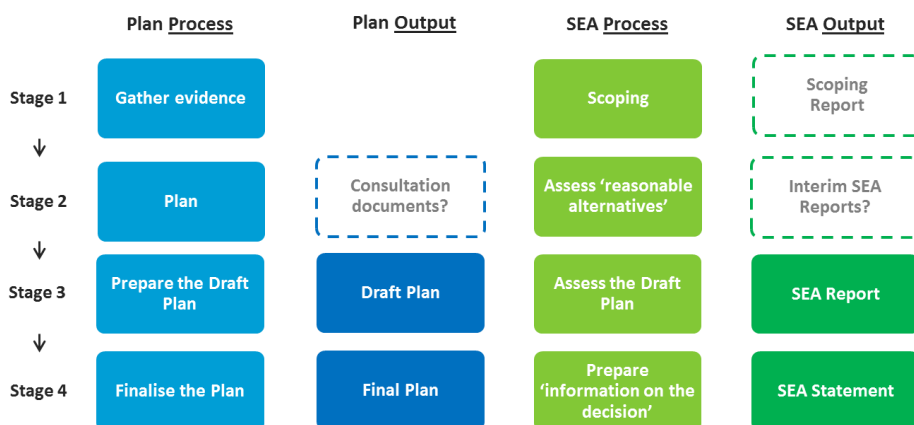


SEA explained

- 1.5 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.

- 1.6 The European Directive 2001/42/EC¹ requires certain plans to be subject to a SEA². This Directive is realised in the UK through Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations). These 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. The plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.7 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



Introduction to scoping

- 1.8 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 (the 'baseline'). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.
- 1.9 The Regulations³ 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 English Heritage.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

² This Directive no longer applies in the context of Brexit, but the national regulations still apply.

³ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

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

- Defining the broader context for the Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order and associated SEA (i.e. International, 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 Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan and Neighbourhood Development Order) in order 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 on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

Scoping outcomes

1.11 The SEA Regulations encourage proportionate assessment and therefore it is important to scope out issues where it is apparent that the Plan would not be likely to significantly affect the topic area. For these topics, detail was gathered through the scoping process, which led to a number of topics being SCOPED OUT. Eight topics have been identified for further assessment at the next stages of the SEA.

1.12 The relevant SEA topic areas are set out in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2: Scoping outcomes

SEA topic area	Scoping Outcome
Air Quality	Scoped out
Biodiversity	Scoped in
Climatic Change Resilience	Scoped in
Climate Change Mitigation	Scoped in
Health and Wellbeing	Scoped in
Historic Environment	Scoped in
Landscape	Scoped out
Natural Resources	Scoped in / out
Population and Housing	Scoped in
Transport and Accessibility	Scoped in

Structure of this Scoping Report

- 1.13 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:
- 1.14 The sustainability topics areas which have been considered in the scoping process have been presented as follows:
- Chapter 2: Air Quality
 - Chapter 3: Biodiversity
 - Chapter 4: Climate Change Mitigation
 - Chapter 5: Climate Change Resilience
 - Chapter 6: Health and Wellbeing
 - Chapter 7: Historic Environment
 - Chapter 8: Landscape
 - Chapter 9: Natural Resources
 - Chapter 10: Population and Housing
 - Chapter 11: Transport and Accessibility
- 1.15 In accordance with the SEA Regulations, the final chapters of the report summarise the overarching sustainability issues, set out the SEA Framework and document the next stages in the process.
- 1.16 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.

2. Air Quality

Focus of theme:

- 2.1 This theme will focus on the causes and distribution of potential air quality issues across the Stainforth Area.

Policy Context

- 2.2 Table 2.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 2-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The Environment Act	2021
	The Clean Air Strategy	2019
	UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	2017
	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
Local	Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy	2020
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021
	Doncaster Cycling Strategy	2020
	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan	2018
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012

- 2.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which predominantly seeks early planning to reduce / mitigate air quality impacts in development and to take advantage of opportunities to improve air quality. Measures to improve air quality include traffic and travel management and green infrastructure provision. Strategic development is expected to be focused on locations that have or will be provided with high levels of accessibility; supporting both a reduced need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. Smaller-scale development should consider the potential for cumulative effects in relation to air quality. The 2021 Environment Act has strengthened protections and aspirations for local air quality and provided greater powers to local authorities.

- To improve air quality across the UK, national strategies have in the last few decades focused on regulatory frameworks, investment by industry in cleaner processes and a shift in the fuel mix towards cleaner forms of energy (largely at point sources). Whilst there are dedicated strategies to reducing roadside emissions (as a significant source of nitrogen dioxide emissions), recent objectives outlined in the Clean Air Strategy seek to recognise wider sources (including smaller contributors and diffuse sources) that contribute to poor air quality. This includes; power generation, heating our homes, producing food, manufacturing consumer goods and powering transport.
- The Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy seeks to manage the projected future increase in road traffic volumes by providing sustainable transport options and reducing air quality issues at existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- The Doncaster Cycle Strategy sets out aims to boost cycling as an attractive mode of travel in the Borough, helping to reduce air quality issues derived from high traffic volumes.
- The Borough's Air Quality Action Plan sets out a range of measures which will be employed across Doncaster to help to reduce air quality issues, these include transport modal shifts, cleaner vehicles and considerations in new development proposals. The Borough's Environment Strategy furthers these aspirations by seeking to protect local air quality.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to address air quality issues by improving access to local services, improving the accessibility of new development, reducing the need to travel by car, minimising pollution, improving air quality and delivering an increased network of green infrastructure. Policies which are directly related to these goals in the Local Plan are:
 - Policies, 12, 13, 16 and 17 which all relate to transport and improving access to less polluting modes of travel.
 - Policy 54 which relates to pollution.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

- 2.4 There are no AQMAs designated within the Stainforth NP area and the nearest designations are found in central Doncaster, over eight kilometres away (Euclidean distance).
- 2.5 The M18 passes through the east of the Parish which may have some associated increases in air pollution, though this is not to an extent which has led to it breaching air quality objectives.
- 2.6 Whilst there may be some localised congestion related air quality issues at peak journey times and at traffic pinch points, this has not been significant enough to lead to any air quality management area designations or heightened monitoring.

Future Baseline

- 2.7 Whilst future housing growth may lead to some increased car journeys, adding to any potential air quality issues at peak journey times and at traffic pinch points, policy direction is likely to mean that developments are supported by options which help to reduce car dependency, thereby making air quality unlikely to be a significant issue in the future.
- 2.8 The mixed use development allocation is supported by a new link road which is expected to ensure that large volumes of traffic from the new area of growth would not be expected to travel through the village.
- 2.9 The move towards electric vehicles is expected to further reduce the likelihood of air quality being a future issue for Stainforth.

Key Issues

- 2.10 Stainforth does not have any significant issues relating to air quality and future development should ensure that sustainable transport provisions are delivered in a manner which helps to reduce car dependency and supports the use of electric vehicles.

Scoping Outcome

- 2.11 The SEA topic 'Air Quality' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA due to the fact that future development in the area would be unlikely to lead to significant increases in air quality issues.

3. Biodiversity

Focus of theme:

- 3.1 This theme focuses on nature conservation designations as well as habitats and species within and surrounding the Stainforth NP area.

Policy Context

- 3.2 Table 3.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 3-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	Biodiversity 2020 Strategy	2011
	The Environment Act	2021
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	2007
	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	2006
Local	Doncaster Local Biodiversity Action Plan	2007
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 3.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which highlights that opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity. This includes utilising a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure at the wider catchment or landscape scale.
- Support is given through the Framework to establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Trees notably make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards).

- Over the past decade, national policy (e.g. The Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020) has demonstrated a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity, to a wider landscape approach to enhancing biodiversity, as part of the overall aims to halt biodiversity loss. The 25 Year Environment Plan places emphasis on improvements to the natural environment; identifying the need to “replenish depleted soil, plant trees, support wetlands and peatlands, rid seas and rivers of rubbish, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cleanse the air of pollutants, develop cleaner, sustainable energy and protect threatened species and habitats.” Working at a landscape scale transformation is expected to connect habitats into larger corridors for wildlife.
- The Environment Act ensures further provisions in relation to biodiversity. The Act sets parameters for biodiversity gain as a condition of planning permission, as well as biodiversity gain site registers and biodiversity credits. The Act identifies a general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including through biodiversity reports and local nature recovery strategies. Local nature recovery strategies identify biodiversity priorities for the strategy area alongside a local habitat map. Furthermore, habitat maps are expected to include recovery and enhancement areas which are or could become of importance for biodiversity.
- The Doncaster Biodiversity Action Plan outlines wildlife conservation priorities and provides guidance on how biodiversity can be protected and enhanced. This is supplemented by a series of habitat and species action plans which cover species and habitats of importance across Doncaster. The document aims to deliver action on a local scale which will help to protect nationally and internationally recognised species and habitats. The objectives relate to preserving existing habitats and rebuilding those which have been lost with a focus on locally significant and vulnerable species.
- In 2019, Doncaster Borough Council declared a climate change and biodiversity emergency. The Borough’s Environment Strategy seeks to protect its natural environment, with ecosystem services being placed as an important aspect of shaping the future of the area.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment, including areas of biodiversity and geodiversity value, whilst providing opportunities for people to access to appreciate such assets. Policies which support these goals include:
 - Policies 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 which all broadly relate to green infrastructure and species and habitat protection.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Internationally and nationally designated sites

- 3.4 There are no internationally or nationally designated sites of biodiversity significance within, or in close proximity to the Stainforth NP area.

Locally important sites

- 3.5 There is one area designated as a Local Nature Reserve (see Figure 3.1) in the east of the NP area; located either side of the M18. The local designation is named Buntings Wood and comprises an area of woodland. This is bordered by the Stainforth and Keadby Canal to the north and public footpaths to the south.
- 3.6 The Plan area has some locations which have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites, with some areas recognised for the presence of deciduous woodland.
- 3.7 Aside from these local designations, there are a number of priority habitats across the NP area (Figure 3.1), broadly consisting of deciduous woodland, floodplain grazing marsh and some areas with no main habitat but additional habitats present.
- 3.8 There is one Tree Preservation Order in the Parish, located within the main built-up area, surrounded by residential uses.
- 3.9 Cross referencing the biodiversity designations illustrated on Figure 3.1 with the site allocations (Figure 10.5), it is evident that a large mixed use site allocation in the Doncaster Local Plan overlaps with an area designated as a Local Wildlife Site (Thorne Ashfields) and a number of priority habitats.

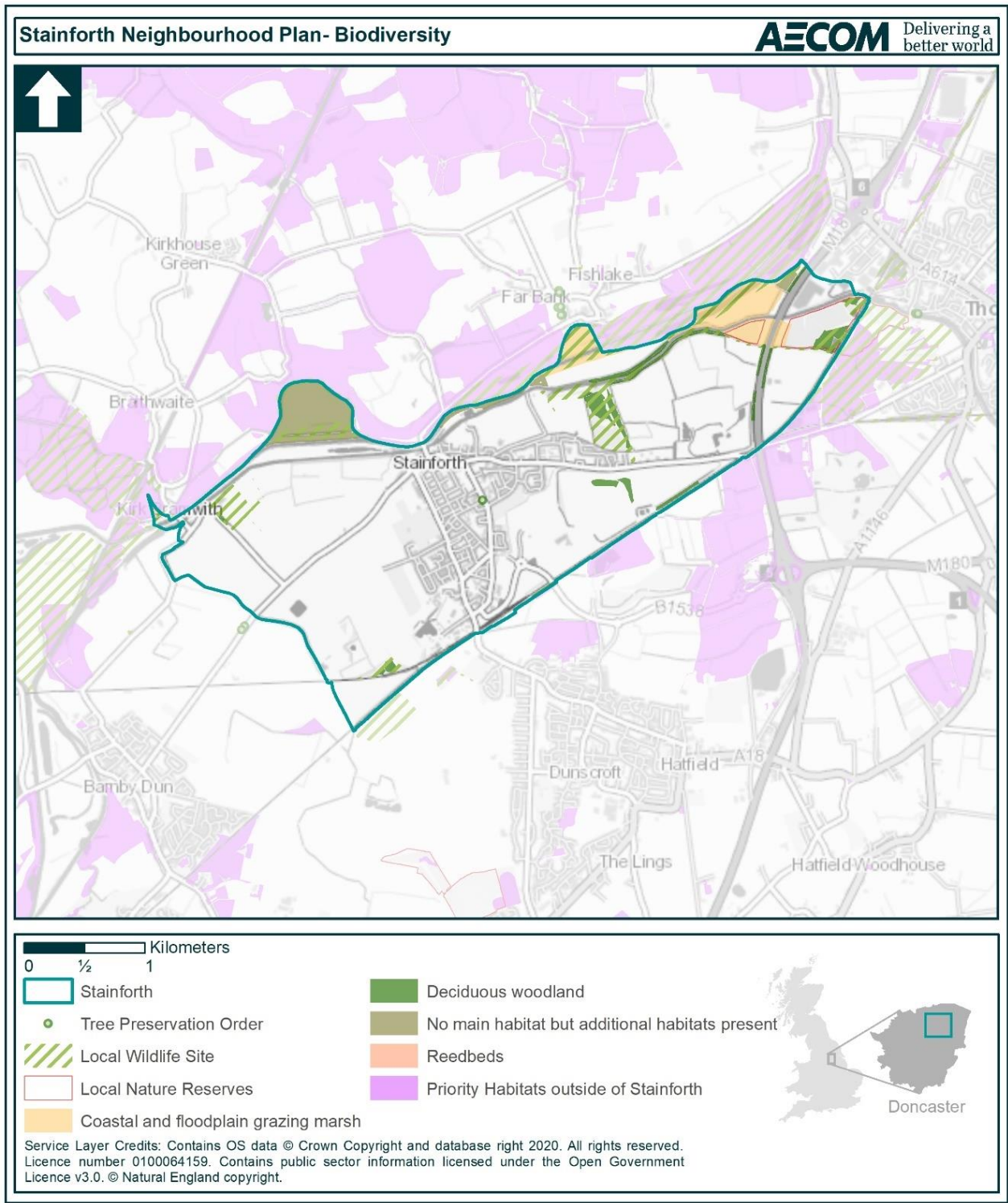


Figure 3.1: Map of biodiversity assets in Stainforth

Future Baseline

- 3.10 Habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through the higher level planning framework, however; they will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative effects on the wider ecological network.
- 3.11 Development of any kind can have the potential for negative impacts (such as habitat fragmentation) through poor location and/or design. However, the Stainforth NP presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, undesignated sites, and connections between designated sites and undesignated sites at a localised scale, and at an early stage of planning for future growth. This is particularly relevant in the siting of new small-scale housing development.
- 3.12 Biodiversity net gain and nature recovery strategies will be important mechanisms for securing positive changes to the natural environment in and around Stainforth.
- 3.13 Whilst the mixed-use allocation which overlaps with some areas of biodiversity value (Local Wildlife Site and Priority Habitats) forms part of the baseline position, the nature of how development comes forward on the site is likely to affect the potential for any effects on these protected areas.

Key Issues

- 3.14 Stainforth has one designated Local Nature Reserve biodiversity site, which is a woodland. There are also some areas of designated Local Wildlife Site, with most of these found in the northern part of the area.
- 3.15 There are some areas of priority habitat across the NP area, although these are not extensive.
- 3.16 The NP and NDO present an opportunity to enhance biodiversity in the area, though depending on the nature of development on the sites in the area, designated sites for their biodiversity value may be affected.

Scoping Outcome

3.17 The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA due to the potential for development in the area to have significant effects on sensitive habitats and species. The framework for achieving net gain is set out in national policy and Local Plan policies. The Plan could help to shape how this net gain is achieved, and identify local opportunities for enhancement.

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and support ecological connectivity.	<p>Support/ improve the status and condition of the area's Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites?</p> <p>Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?</p> <p>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</p> <p>Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?</p> <p>Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue⁴ infrastructure networks?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</p>

⁴ Green and blue infrastructure networks include (but are not limited to); green spaces, open spaces, parks, gardens, allotments, natural areas, river corridors, waterbodies; and the links between these assets

4. Climate Change Mitigation

Focus of theme:

- 4.1 This theme focuses on mitigation of climatic change.

Policy Context

- 4.2 Table 4.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 4-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	Clean Air Strategy	2019
	Clean Growth Strategy	2017
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge	2020
Local	Sheffield City Region Energy Strategy	2020
	Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy (2020-2030)	2020
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 4.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth NP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which requires proactive planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies are expected to support the move to a low carbon economy. The NPPF recognises the potential for planning to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver long-term resilience; including through reuse, regeneration and conversion.
- The Clean Growth Strategy, Clean Air Strategy and the 25-year Environment Plan are a suite of documents which seek to progress the government's commitment under the UK Climate Change Act to becoming net zero by 2050. The documents set out detailed proposals on how the government will tackle all sources of air pollution, whilst maintaining an affordable energy supply and increasing economic growth. This parallels with the 25-year Environment Plan, which further seeks to manage land resources sustainably, recover and reinstate nature, protect soils and habitats, increase resource efficiency, improve water quality, and connect people with the environment. The documents also interlink with the government's commitment to decarbonising transport, a recognised challenge that needs more work in a timely manner if government are to achieve net zero targets.

- The COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow reinforced previous commitments to aim to limit global heating to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels. The agreement saw a significant increase in the number of countries pledging to reach net-zero carbon as well as efforts to shift energy production to renewable sources.
- Both Sheffield City Region and Doncaster Borough Council have declared a climate emergency, stating local awareness and intend to attempt to mitigate climate change as much as possible.
- Sheffield City Region Combined Authority has produced a clean energy strategy which outlines steps for the region to shift to a low carbon economy whilst ensuring equity, employment and economic growth.
- Doncaster's environment and sustainability strategy sets out the role Doncaster Borough intends to play in reducing carbon emissions and limiting global temperature increases; it focuses on the core areas of the built and natural environments, the economy and sustainable consumption and behaviour change. Further to this, the Borough's Environment Strategy seeks to deliver an increase in energy efficient housing, helping to drive down domestic emissions.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to transition the Borough into a low-carbon place with a reduced reliance upon fossil fuels, including by reducing the need to travel and providing alternatives to carbon-intensive modes of transport. Policies which seek to achieve these goals include:
 - Policies 12, 13, 16 and 17 which broadly relate to transport and accessibility.
 - Policies 58 and 59 which relate to low-carbon and renewable energy.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

- 4.4 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions caused by human activity are a key contributing factor to the rapid climatic changes which are being seen across the world. A wide variety of human activities emit Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) (a GHG) into the atmosphere which continues to be a problem and barrier to mitigating climate change, despite efforts to reduce them.
- 4.5 Whilst CO₂ emissions are not monitored at the neighbourhood scale, figures representing Local Authority trends can be used to give a broad understanding of more general trends. In this instance, Doncaster's figures will be used, though it must be noted that these figures may include factors which are outside of the Stainforth NP area, and hence outside the scope of the Stainforth NP.
- 4.6 Figure 4.1 shows that the most recent figures indicate that Doncaster's emissions are largely aligned with regional equivalents, though these figures are both considerably higher than nationwide emissions per capita. In terms of declines since 2005, Doncaster has seen the lowest reduction in per capita emissions compared to regional and national equivalents.

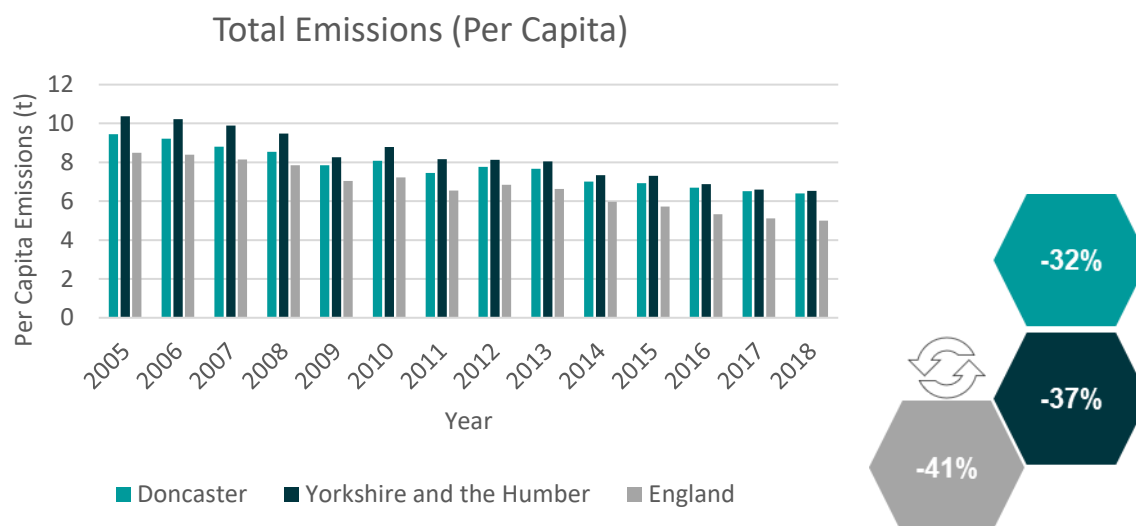


Figure 4.1: Graph showing per capita emissions. (DBEIS, 2020)

- 4.7 As shown in Figure 4.2, industrial and commercial emissions in Doncaster at the latest reporting period were broadly aligned, and marginally below national figures, whereas Yorkshire and the Humber sees significantly higher rates. In terms of declines since 2005, Doncaster has seen more significant reductions than regional equivalents, though the figure is not as great as seen at a national scale.

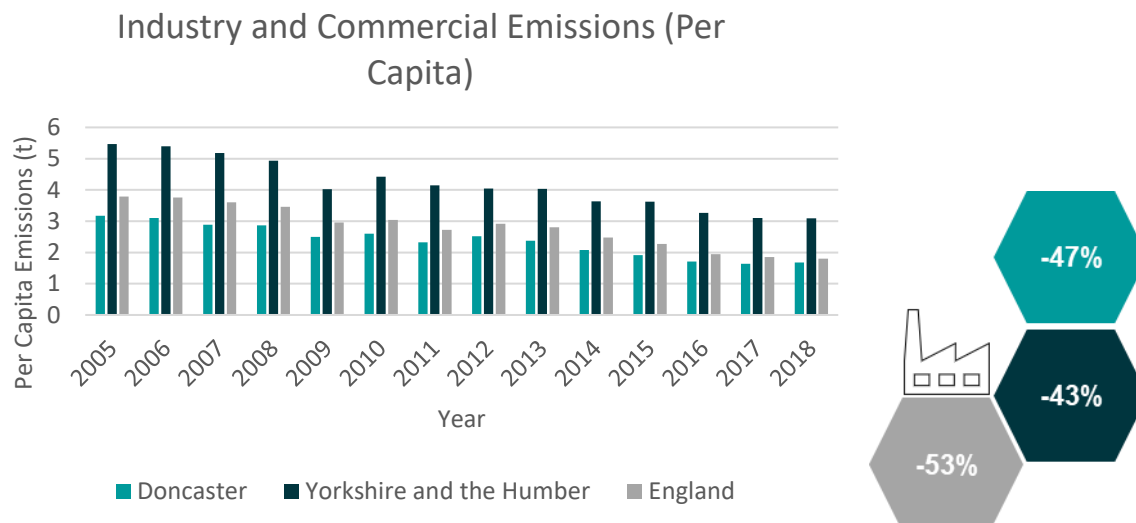


Figure 4.2: Graph showing industry and commercial per capita emissions. (DBEIS, 2020)

- 4.8 As shown in Figure 4.3, the latest reporting period shows that Doncaster has higher than regionally and nationally average domestic emissions. Compounding this are the figures showing that reductions in domestic emissions since 2005 have been slower in Doncaster than in Yorkshire and the Humber and in England as a whole.

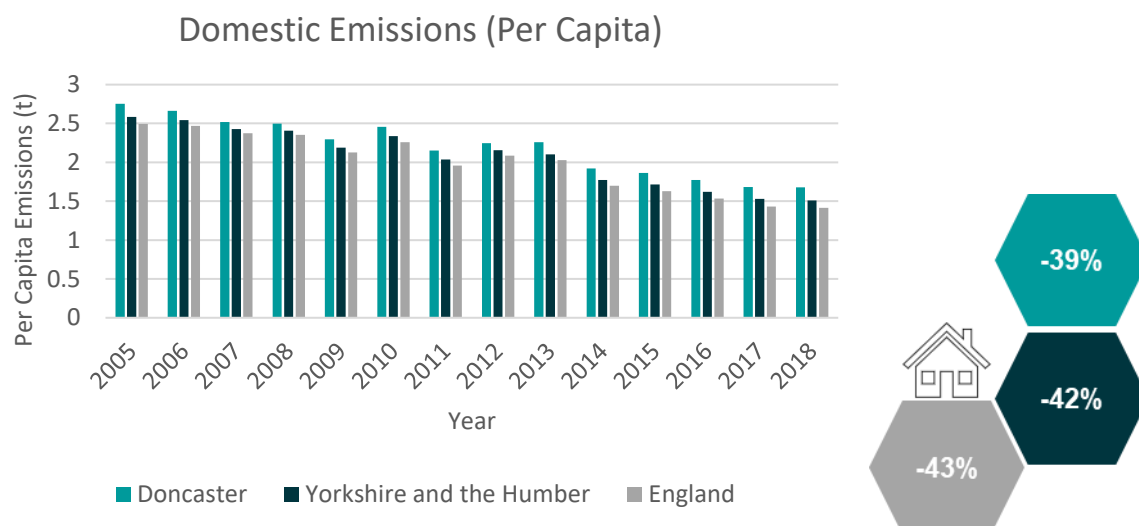


Figure 4.3: Graph showing domestic per capita emissions. (DBEIS, 2020)

- 4.9 As shown in Figure 4.4 Doncaster has significantly higher per capita emissions from transport than nationally and regionally. The reductions in transport emissions since 2005 have also been considerably smaller in Doncaster.

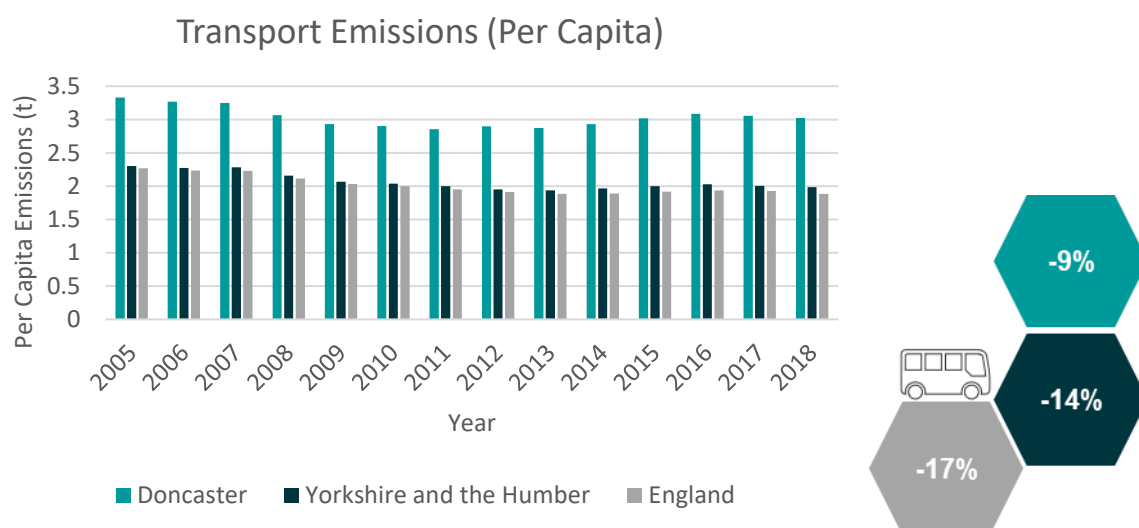


Figure 4.4: Graph showing transport per capita emissions. (DBEIS, 2020)

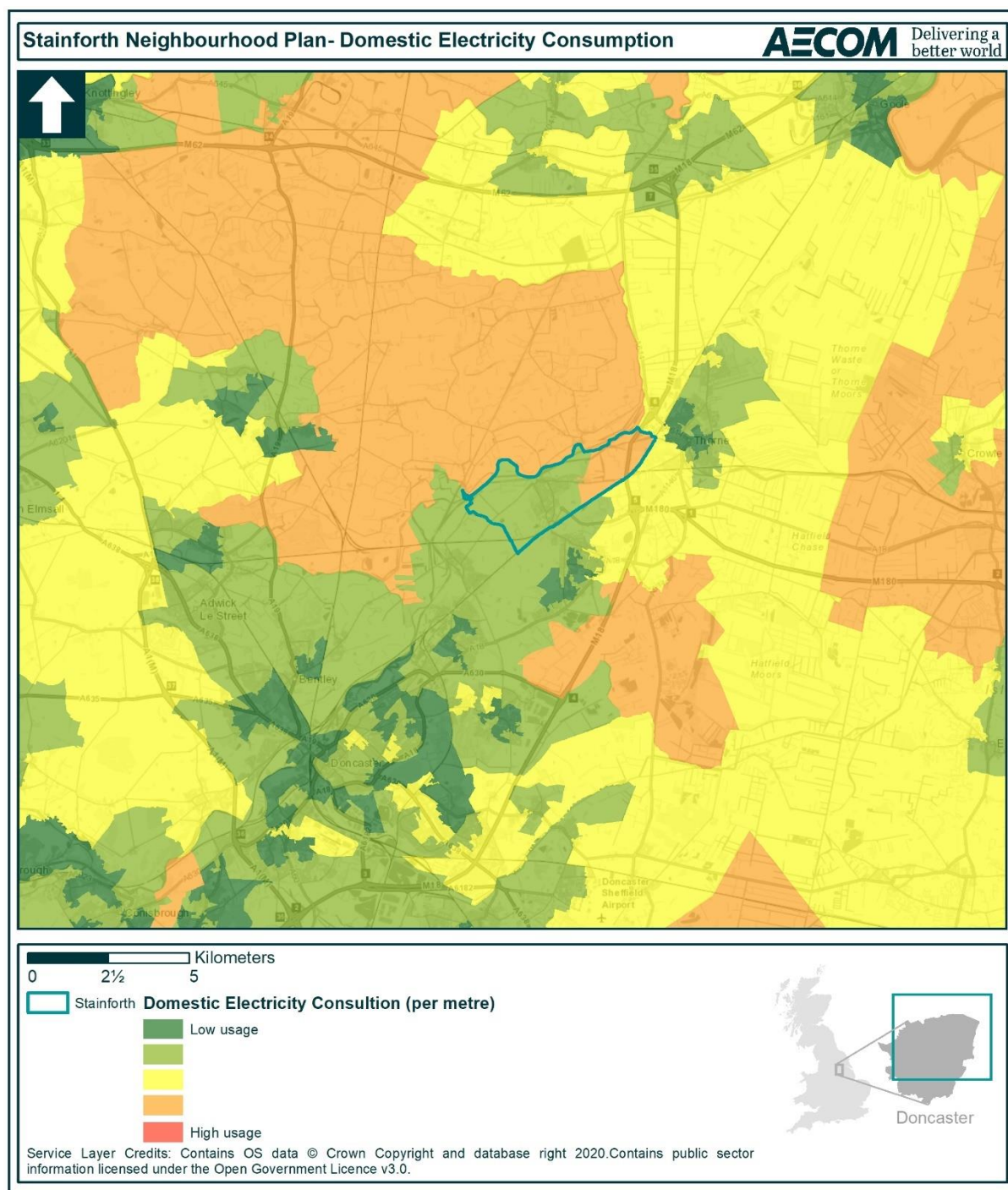


Figure 4.5: Map showing mean domestic electricity usage in and around Stainforth.

4.10 Figure 4.5 shows that Stainforth's domestic electricity consumption (per capita) is broadly considered within a lower band of usage in the main built-up area of the Parish. In the east of the area there is some higher usage, although this area of measurement includes some more rural areas to the north of Stainforth, which may explain the higher usage in this part of the Parish.

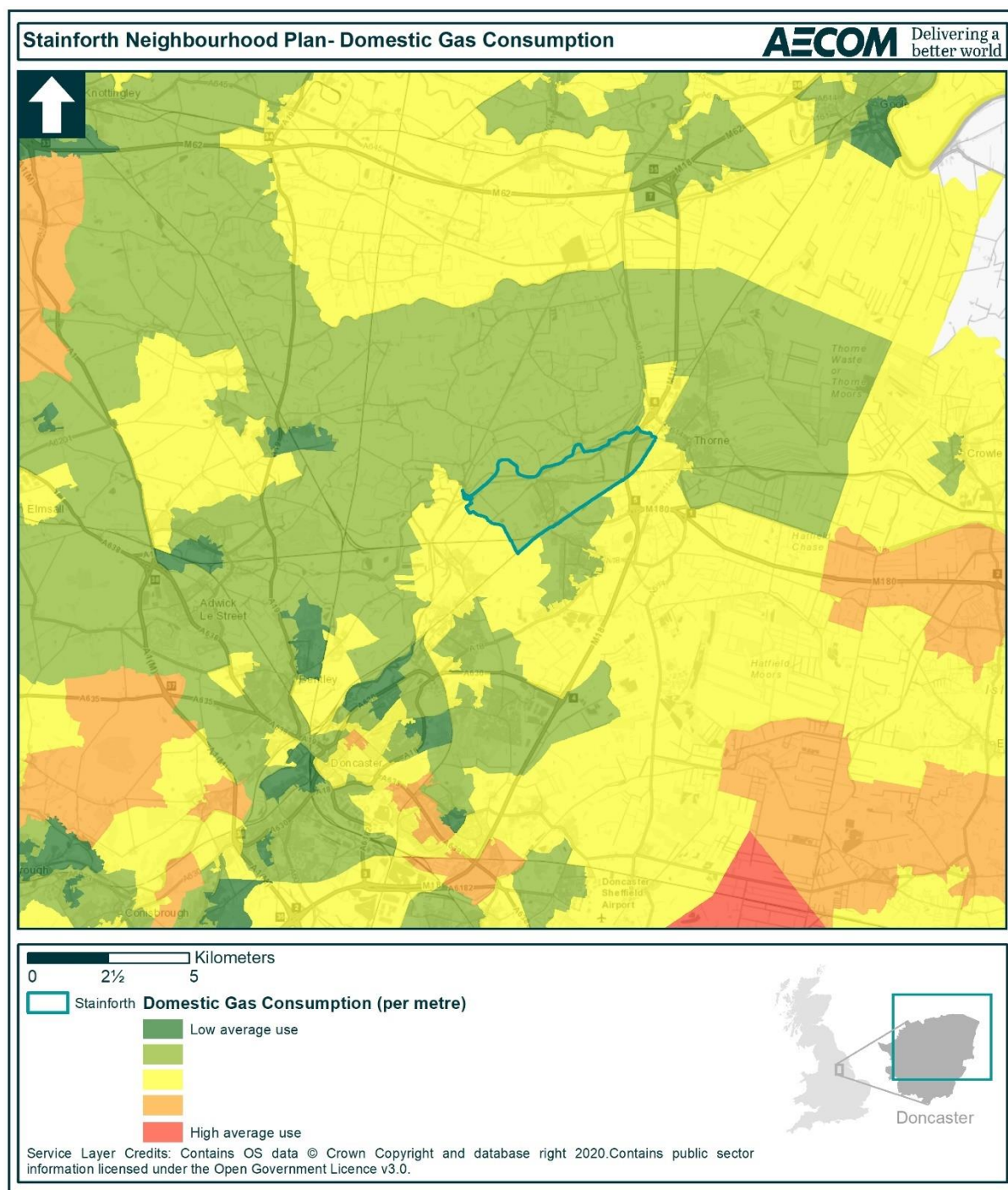


Figure 4.6: Map showing mean gas usage in and around Stainforth.

4.11 Figure 4.6 shows that the entirety of Stainforth is placed on the lower end of the scale when compared to domestic gas use across the country.

Future baseline

4.12 In terms of climate change contribution, GHG emissions may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. There is also a need to increase renewable energy development in Stainforth, which local and neighbourhood planning can contribute to delivering.

Key Issues

- 4.13 There is a need to reduce GHG emissions across all sources in order to reach a national target of net-zero by 2050, and a Sheffield City Region target by 2040.
- 4.14 Doncaster has a higher than average rate of emissions per capita, with reductions since 2005 not being as significant as seen across regional and national equivalents. These issues are most prevalent for emissions derived from domestic and transport sources.
- 4.15 Stainforth's domestic energy consumption (gas and electric) are broadly not considered to be in the higher brackets of energy usage across the country.

Scoping Outcome

- 4.16 The SEA topic 'Climate Change Mitigation' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for the Plan to influence the per capita emissions within Stainforth.

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Reduce the level of contribution to climate change from activities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</p> <p>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</p> <p>Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?</p>
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5. Climate Change Resilience

Focus of theme:

- 5.1 This theme focuses on resilience to the effects of climate change, with specific coverage of flood risk and urban heating.

Policy Context

- 5.2 Table 5.1 below lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised below.

Table 5-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	UK (second) National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023	2018
	Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge	2020
	National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England	2020
Local	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021
	Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy (2020-2030)	2020
	Doncaster MDC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	2014
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012

- 5.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth NP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which requires proactive planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies are expected to improve the resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, avoid inappropriate development in the flood plain, and support the move to a low carbon economy. The NPPF recognises the potential for planning deliver long-term resilience; including through reuse, regeneration and conversion.

- The 25-year Environment Plan seeks to progress the government's commitment to tackling climate change, including through using policy to ensure that society is better prepared to efficiently handle the climatic shifts caused by climate change. It further seeks to manage land resources sustainably, recover and reinstate nature, protect soils and habitats, increase resource efficiency, improve water quality, and connect people with the environment. The documents also interlink with the government's commitment to decarbonising transport, a recognised challenge that needs more work in a timely manner if government are to achieve net zero targets. Furthermore, the decarbonisation plan recognises the twinned need to undertake action to adapt the transport sector and increase resilience to climate change risks; and this challenge is more directly addressed through the UK's National Adaptation Programme. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion document sets out a long-term strategy for tackling such issues, including a three-pronged approach covering resilience of place, infrastructure investments and a level of societal understanding and preparedness.
- Both Sheffield City Region and Doncaster Borough Council have declared a climate emergency, showing understanding that the effects of climate change will lead to large scale impacts, for which resilience will need to be shown.
- Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy sets out plans to ensure resilience to climate change through protecting from flood risk, ensuring green infrastructure helps with mitigating flood risk and cooling, and more generally adopting an approach which sees the value of ecosystem services. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Doncaster Borough Council is responsible for the local flood risk management strategy; this considers all sources of flooding and ensures that the Borough and its stakeholders have a coordinated response to any flood events, helping to reduce flood related issues. Doncaster's Environment Strategy adds weight to these policy directions by seeking to ensure effective flood mitigation and protection for the natural environment, including green spaces.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the emerging Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to ensure resilience to the effects of climate change including an increased prevalence and intensity of extreme weather events and heating, with particular reference to the management of flood risk. Policies which support these goals include:
 - Policies 26, 27, 28 and 32 which specifically focus on green infrastructure.
 - Policies 56 and 57 which relate to drainage and flood risk management.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

- 5.4 Human activities have led to increases in Greenhouse Gas (GHS) emissions in the atmosphere (including CO₂) which have been driving changes to the climatic systems on earth. These emissions have accelerated atmospheric changes, resulting in increases in mean climatic temperatures, a reduction in average annual rainfall and an increase in extreme weather events. Whilst climate change mitigation measures may help to reduce the severity of climatic changes, a degree of change is already 'locked-in' and it is likely that both drought and flood events will increase in their prevalence and severity due to dry, hot conditions as well as intense rainfall events becoming more common.
- 5.5 Stainforth is likely to see areas identified as at greater risk of flooding seeing an increase in the prevalence and / or intensity of flood events; this includes areas along the River Don; though local topography means that the areas at risk cover a large proportion of the Parish. Urban areas may see surface water inundation leaving drainage systems unable to cope; a phenomenon which is likely to be more common in built-up areas. As such, it is important to identify areas which are at greater vulnerabilities to both fluvial and pluvial flood risk, in order to ensure that land uses are appropriate and do not exacerbate vulnerabilities in the area.
- 5.6 Increases in average temperatures and extreme heating events are likely to see the most pronounced effects in urban areas due to factors such as 'concretisation', heat emitting human activities and often poor natural shading solutions. The phenomena are more prevalent in larger urban conurbations. Whilst the established settlement in Stainforth is unlikely to see significant heating due to its small scale, some more vulnerable populations, especially the elderly or frail, may be adversely impacted.

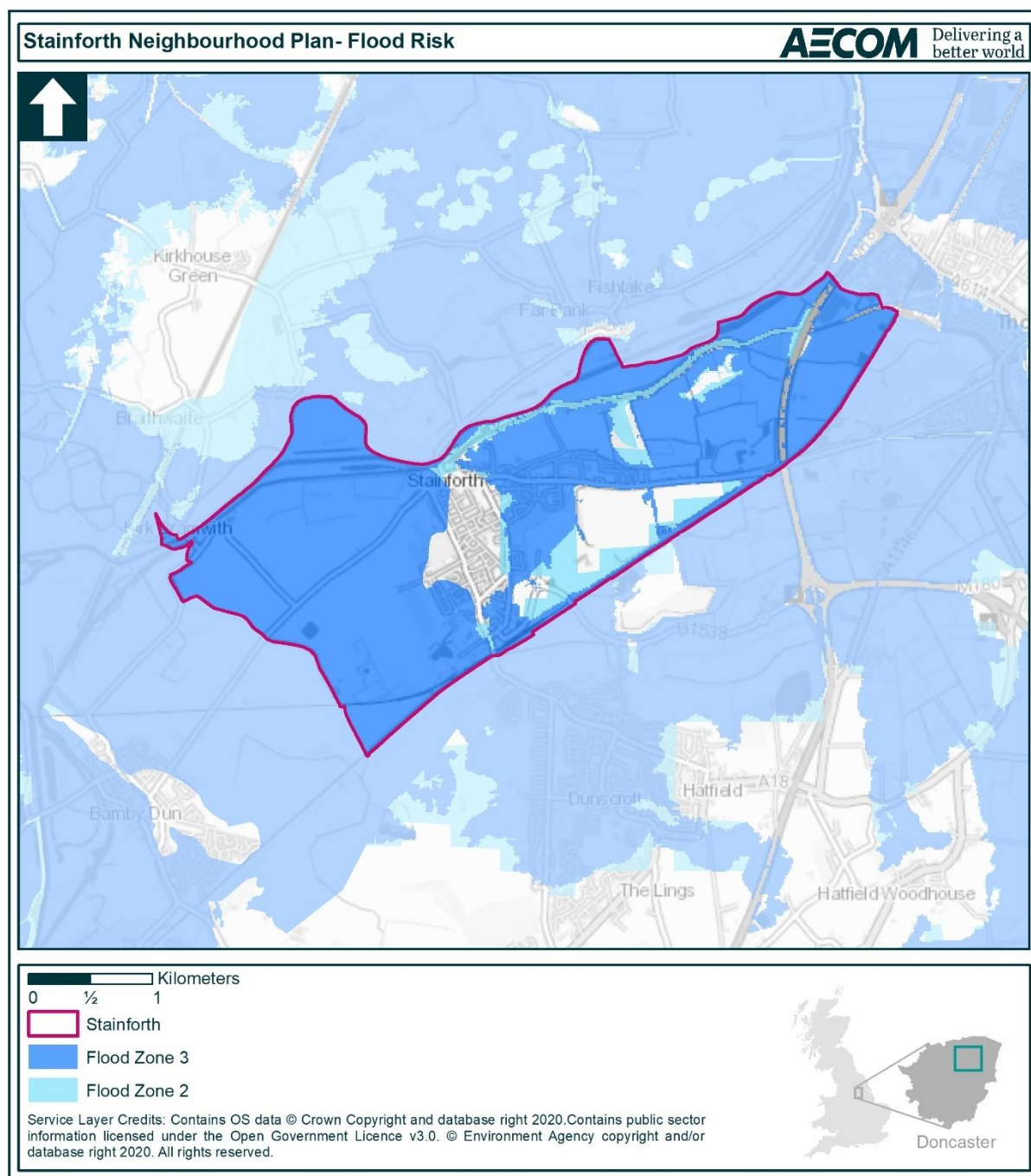


Figure 5.1: Flood risk map.

- 5.7 As shown in Figure 5.1, there are some significant areas at risk of fluvial flooding in Stainforth. A large proportion of the Parish is categorised as Flood Zone 3, with a larger area Flood Zone 2. The central built-up area is shown as being of a reduced risk compared to surrounding areas, meaning that some largely residential areas are not at an elevated risk of flooding, though there are still significant areas of housing and other uses which are at risk. Roads connecting the village are also highlighted as at risk, making effects of a flood event potentially disruptive to the connectivity of the area.

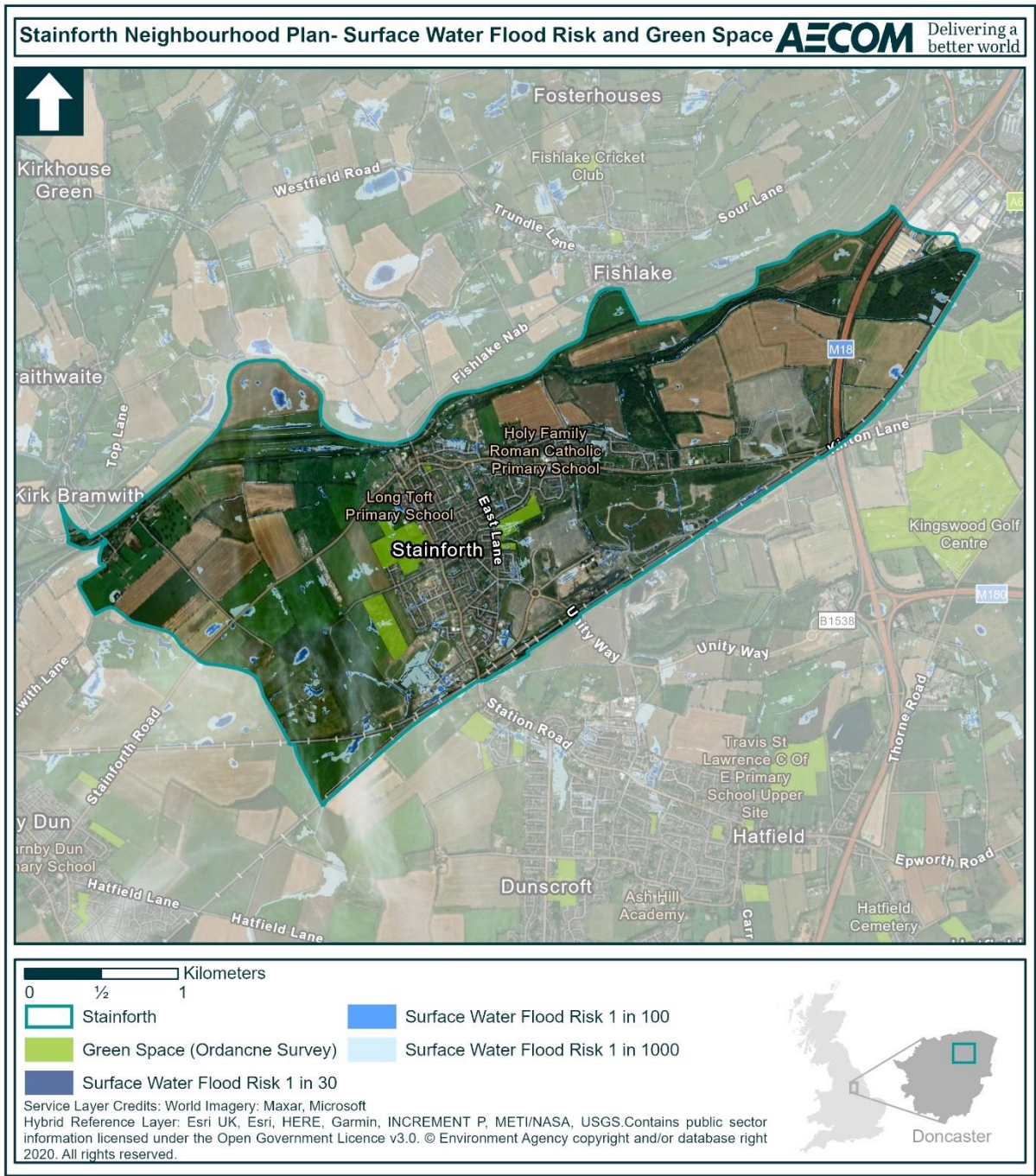


Figure 5.2: Surface water flood risk and green infrastructure map.

- 5.8 As shown in Figure 5.2, there are a number of areas which are shown to be at risk of surface water flooding. Surface water flood risk is generally caused by extreme rainfall events, where inundation causes drainage systems to struggle to manage the flow of water. Permeable surfaces (e.g. greenfield land) are better able to absorb rainfall, meaning that flooding is less likely to occur. Generally, within built-up areas which have been heavily developed, surface water flood risk is more likely due to widespread concretisation which acts to prevent water from infiltrating the ground. This leads to large amounts of surface water collecting in areas with inadequate drainage or in low-lying areas. Surface water flood risk has the potential to disrupt travel by blocking key transport routes, especially along Kirton Lane/Thorne Road. There is a relatively poor spread of formalised green infrastructure across the built-up area of Stainforth; though this data may not include spaces such as amenity green space or tree cover which can help to alleviate surface water flood risk. Where the built-up area is largely surrounded by greenfield land, much of the surface water flood risk away from key infrastructures is unlikely to cause significant disruption in a flood event. Adding to this, the presence of a large amount of greenfield land around Stainforth should help to permit high infiltration rates during extreme rainfall events, reducing surface run off and its potential to negatively affect key infrastructures across the Parish.
- 5.9 Where climate change has the potential to lead to an increased mean temperature during summer, as well as more prevalent extreme heating events, urban areas are more at risk of the effects of heating. This places vulnerable populations at greater risks (elderly populations especially). Whilst this is unlikely to be a significant issue at the scale of Stainforth's urban extent, green infrastructure is effective at reducing the occurrence of extreme heating and providing areas of shelter.

Future baseline

- 5.10 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter, and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. Climate change is also expected to lead to an increase in extreme weather events, including cold and hot weather patterns as well as heavy precipitation. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial and surface water flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 5.11 Issues associated with urban heating, beyond the effects of mean annual temperature increased, are unlikely to be a significant issue in the future in the NP area due to the relatively small scale of the urban area.

Key Issues

- 5.12 The Stainforth Parish has some significant areas which are identified as at fluvial flood risk, constraining the potential for development in the area.

- 5.13 There are some patches of surface water flood risk, as well as some areas of the built-up parts of the Borough which may be more liable to flooding during extreme rainfall events. Surrounding the urban area there is some informal green infrastructure in the form of greenfield land, though the built-up area itself is lacking in a network of well-placed permeable surfaces.
- 5.14 Whilst Stainforth's urban areas are likely to see some heating, the scale of the built-up areas are small and hence these effects are unlikely to be of any severe magnitude, aside from during extreme heat events, where the heat in the surrounding greenfield land is not likely to significantly differ.

Scoping Outcome

- 5.15 The SEA topic 'Climate Change Resilience' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for development to be affected by or contribute towards flooding.

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.

Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?

Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?

Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area?

Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation?

Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?

6. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of theme:

- 6.1 This theme focuses on health indicators, healthcare provision and influences on resident health and wellbeing; including access to leisure and recreational facilities, open space and the countryside.

Policy Context

- 6.2 Table 6.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 6-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	National Planning Practice Guidance – Healthy and Safe Communities	2019
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On	2020
	Planning for Sport Guidance	2019
Local	Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016-2021)	2016
	Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan	2018
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 6.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which seeks to enable and support healthy lifestyles through provision of appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities, including; green infrastructure, access to healthier food, allotments and the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- The NPPF recognises the role of development plans in helping to deliver access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity which contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. The health benefits of access to nature, green spaces and green infrastructure is further reiterated through the 25-year Environment Plan.

- National Planning Practice Guidance identifies that the design and use of the built and natural environments, including green infrastructure, are major determinants of health and wellbeing. Furthermore, the guidance identifies that planning and health need to be considered together in two ways; in terms of creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles, and in terms of identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care, and the wider health and care system.
- The 2020 Health Equity in England Report identifies that the health gap between less and more deprived areas has grown in the last decade, where more people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health, and where improvements to life expectancy have stalled, or even declined for the poorest 10% of women.
- The Planning for Sport Guidance seeks to help the planning system provide formal and informal opportunities for everyone to take part in sport and be physically active. The Guidance outlines 12 ‘planning-for-sport’ principles.
- Doncaster’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out three key overarching aims which, in broad terms, seek to reflect on the past and shape the future of health and wellbeing outcomes, coordinate stakeholders and improve outcomes through targeted measures on wellbeing, health and social care transformation, five-focus areas and reducing health inequalities.
- Doncaster’s Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to protect, provide and enhance playing pitches across the Borough in order to facilitate activities which help to boost health and wellbeing outcomes. Doncaster’s Environment Strategy seeks to protect and promote access to natural green spaces across the Borough.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to stimulate regeneration and reduce deprivation as well as boosting access to natural green and open spaces and encouraging healthy and active lifestyles. Policies which are aimed to achieving these goals include:
 - Policies 16, 17, 18, and 19 which encourage active lifestyles through active travel options.
 - Policies 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 which all relate to open, green and natural spaces (including biodiversity) which are beneficial towards positive health and wellbeing outcomes.
 - Policies 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55 which focus on health, education and amenity based outcomes.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

General Health and Disability

- 6.4 Figure 6.1 reveals a pattern where the wider Local Authority area of Doncaster is grouped in the bottom 5% for performance when it comes to life expectancy and causes of death. The area’s all-cause mortality rate for under 75s is notably high, as is the mortality rate from cancer from under 75s.

Health Indicators (2017-2019)

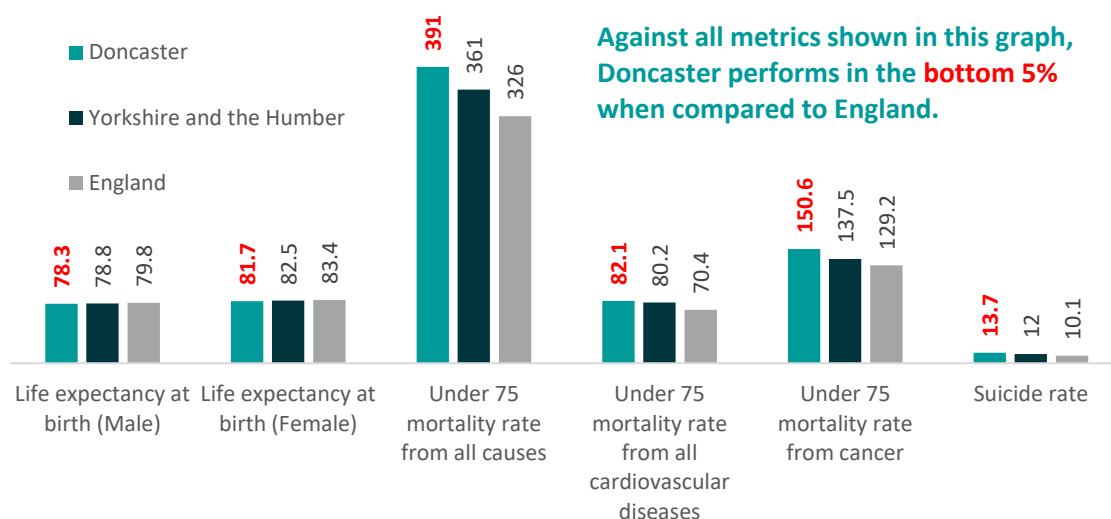


Figure 6.1: Health indicators for Doncaster. (Fingertips, 2021)

6.5 Figure 6.2 shows a pattern whereby Stainforth performs poorly compared to comparative larger scale geographies when focusing on very good and good health outcomes. Similarly, the Parish performs worse than comparative geographies when looking at bad and very bad health outcomes. Stainforth has above average rates of its population experiencing fair health. This evidence might supplement the understanding of Figure 6.1 (showing data relating to Doncaster as a whole), suggesting that Stainforth may perform worse than Doncaster does for life expectancy and mortality rates.

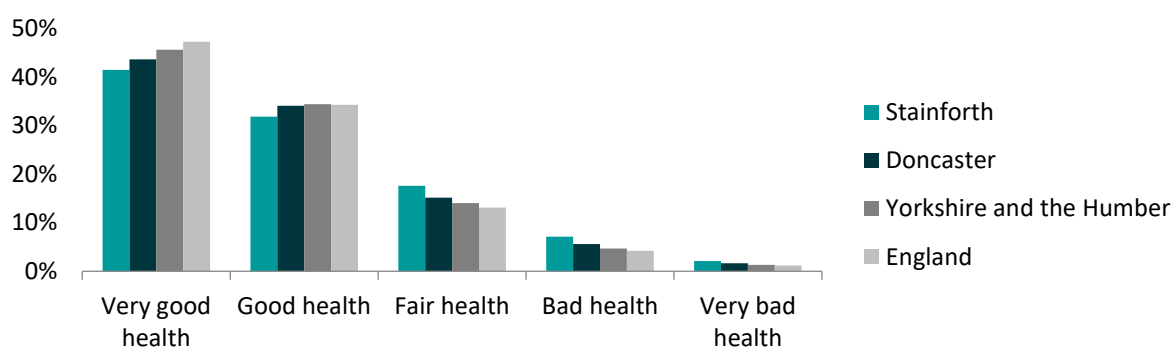


Figure 6.2: Health outcomes. (Census, 2011)

6.6 Figure 6.3 provides insight into disabilities and to what extent people's lives are limited by these in Stainforth. It reveals a pattern whereby a greater proportion of residents in the Parish suffer from their activities being limited on a day-to-day basis due to disability than seen at local, region or national levels.

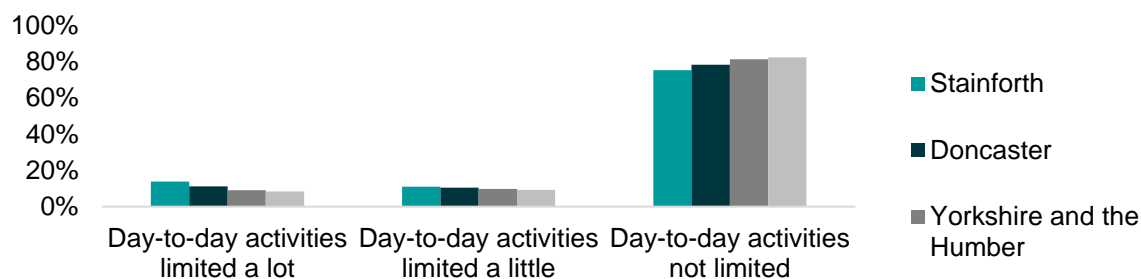


Figure 6.3: Health limitations/disabilities. (Census, 2011)

Recreation and Green Infrastructure

6.7 There are a number of multifunctional green spaces across Stainforth, including allotments, a sports pitch, playgrounds and open, green space (including within the built-up area) (see Figure 6.4). The Parish also offers woodland (though some of this may be private), which can provide positive outcomes in terms of mental health, due to its properties as a natural space (these benefits can be experienced by being in the vicinity of woodland, and not necessarily inside it). A number of public rights of way permit access to greenfield land, woodland and natural landscapes which also provides potential to boost mental health outcomes. The small scale of the village means that these areas are considered to be broadly accessible.



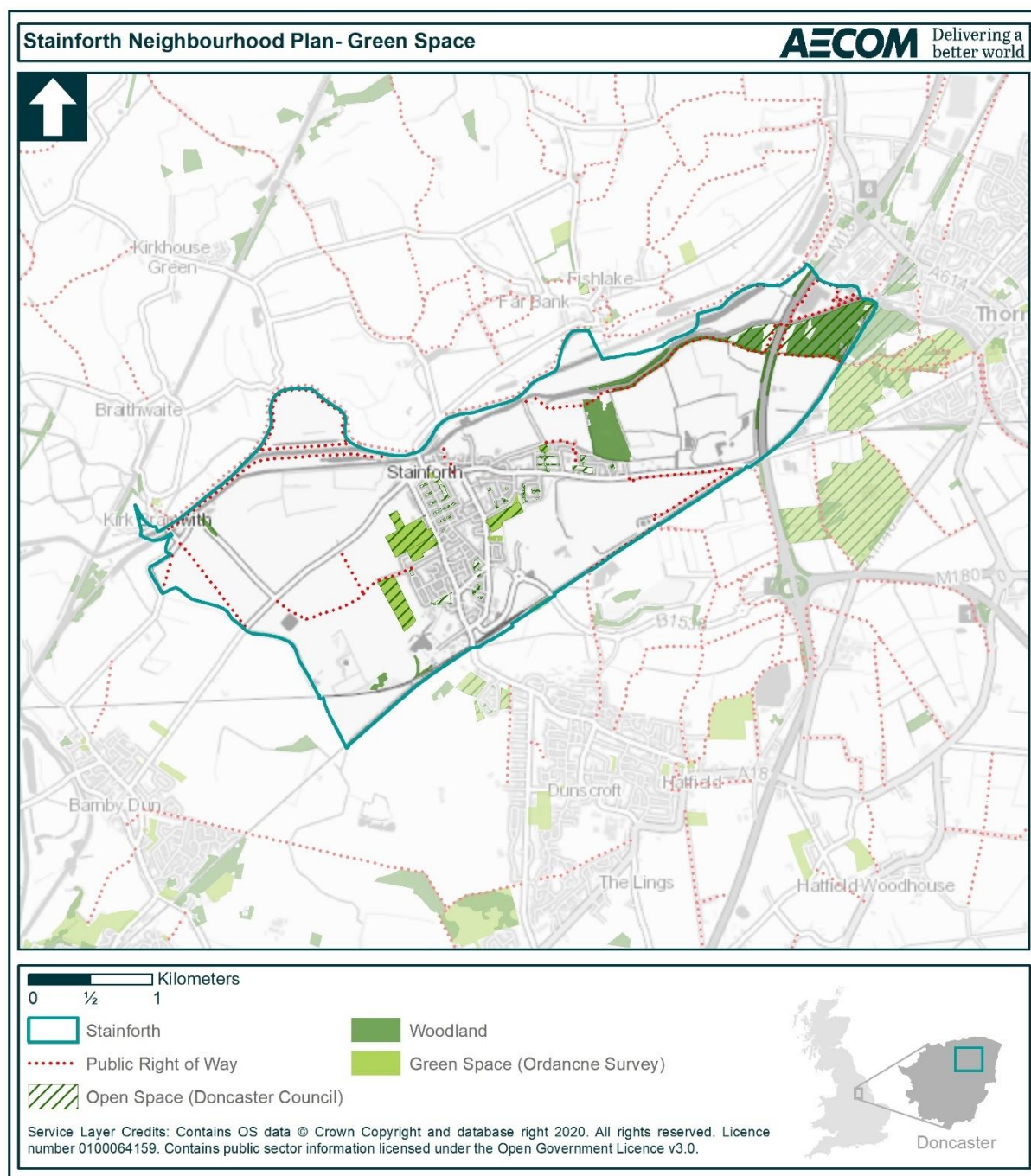


Figure 6.4: Green infrastructure map.

Future baseline

- 6.8 Without intervention, it is likely that health outcomes in the Stainforth area are likely to continue to be poorer than seen in local, regional and national equivalents.
- 6.9 New development in the area has the potential to provide new infrastructures which help to improve access to services and facilities which may help to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, though this is uncertain.

Key Issues

- 6.10 Stainforth suffers with poor health outcomes, including life expectancy, mortality rates for under 75s, general health and disabilities.
- 6.11 Stainforth has a broadly adequate provision of formalised green/open space, woodland and public rights of way to permit physical activity and allow for time to be spent in nature (which has beneficial outcomes for health and wellbeing).

Scoping Outcome

- 6.12 The SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for the Plan to influence the health and wellbeing outcomes of residents within Stainforth and the evidence provided in this section suggest that the health and wellbeing outcomes are a key issue for the Parish.

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	<p>Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</p> <p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and blue infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</p> <p>Promote healthy and active lifestyles?</p> <p>Improve and protect access to the countryside for recreational use?</p>

7. Historic Environment

Focus of theme:

- 7.1 This theme focuses on Designated and non-designated heritage assets (including archaeology) and their setting.

Policy Context

- 7.2 Table 7.1 below lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 7-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	The National Design Guide	2019
	National Model Design Code	2021
	Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management	2019
	Historic England Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets	2017
	Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	2016
Local	Doncaster Council Heritage Strategy (2015-2019)	2015
	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 7.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The key high-level principles for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment are as follows:
 - The historic environment is a shared resource
 - Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
 - Understanding the significance of places is vital
 - Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
 - Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
 - Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.⁵

⁵ Historic England: Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance

- The significance of places is the key element which underpins the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building an archaeological site or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which ultimately seeks to conserve and enhance historic environment assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. The NPPF seeks planning policies and decisions which are sympathetic to local character and history without preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change. The NPPF supports the use of area-based character assessments, design guides and codes and masterplans to help ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places.
- As set out in the NPPF, it should be ensured that the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. Design Codes can set out a necessary level of detail in sensitive locations, for example, with heritage considerations, and they can set out specific ways to maintain local character.
- Planning Practice Guidance expands on the NPPF recognising the proactive rather than passive nature of conservation.
- The role of the historic environment, as part of healthy and thriving ecosystems, landscapes and cultural values, including settlement identity, is reiterated through the key messages of the 25 Year Environment Plan and National Design Guide.
- Historic England's Advice Notes provide further guidance in relation to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Of particular relevance for the Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan is the emphasis on the importance of:
 - Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin designations, as well as how settings and/ or views contribute to the significance of heritage assets; and
 - Appropriate evidence gathering, including clearly identifying those issues that threaten an area or assets character or appearance and that merit the introduction of management measures.
- Doncaster's Heritage Strategy seeks to preserve and increase awareness of its historic environment whilst facilitating growth, positive environmental outcomes and increasing tourism. The Borough's Environment Strategy also seeks to protect and promote the local historic environment.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to ensure a high quality of place and character throughout the Borough's built and natural environments. Policies which support these outcomes include:
 - Policies 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 which all specifically relate to the historic environment.
 - Policies 41 and 43 which broadly relate to local character and views.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

- 7.4 The extent of the Stainforth area's designated historic assets broadly relates to 13 Grade II listed buildings which can be found in the Parish (Figure 7.1). A cluster can be found around the Field Road area as well as around Hall/Bramwith Lane, in the west of the Parish. Fishlake Conservation area is broadly adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, however a small area of it is within Stainforth.

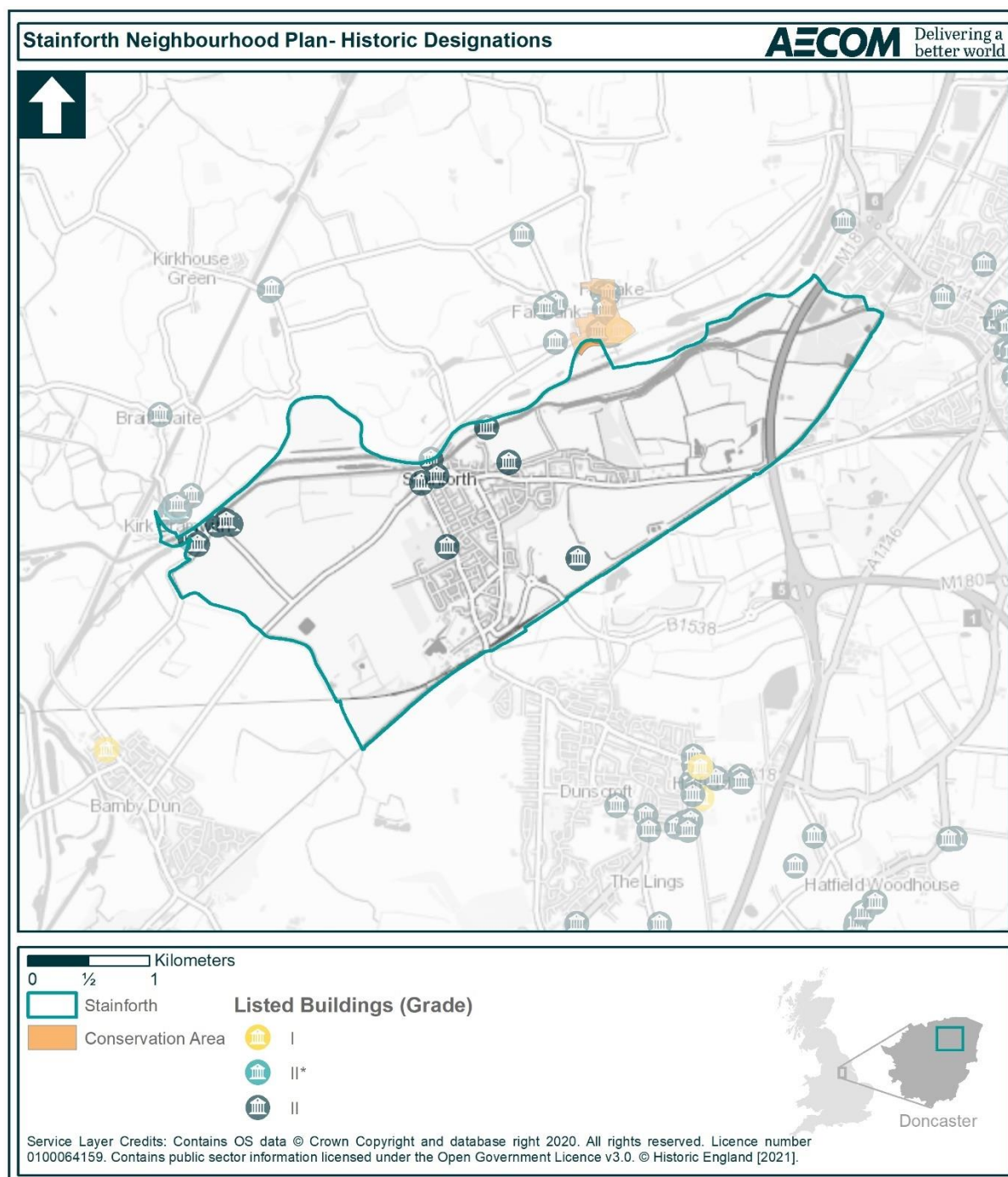


Figure 7.1: Map of historic designations in Stainforth.

- 7.5 Whilst designated as a Grade II listed building (designated under one listing as ‘Numbers 1 and 2 Headstocks at the former Hatfield Colliery’), additional local interest has been noted in relation to the headstocks which remain on the Hatfield Colliery site (see Figure 7.2). The site’s operations as a coal mine were closed down in 2015 and after its closure, the Hatfield Main Colliery Community Heritage Association called for the mine head structures to be protected as they represent a ‘monument’ to the area’s history.

Source: Stainforth Town Council.



Figure 7.2: Hatfield Colliery headstocks (Grade II Listed and particular community interest).

- 7.6 There are no designated historic assets which have been identified in Historic England's 'at risk' register.

Future baseline

- 7.7 Whilst there are no heritage assets which have been identified as 'at risk', the headstocks at Hatfield Colliery have been identified as needing works to secure them.
- 7.8 New development has the potential to impact on the fabric of existing historic assets and the character of the area which holds aspects of the Parish's industrial past; for example, through inappropriate design which may impact the setting of listed buildings. That said, new development could serve to secure and fund conservation works to the headstocks as well as improve the character of local residential areas to better align them with the area's history.

Key Issues

- 7.9 There are 13 Grade II listed buildings across the NP area as well as an adjacent Conservation Area which in one part crosses the boundary into Stainforth Parish.
- 7.10 The headstocks at Hatfield Colliery are Grade II listed buildings and they have also been identified by the local community as of particular interest due to their significance in relation to the area's history of mining.

Scoping Outcome

- 7.11 The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for the Plan to lead to effects upon the historic environment, in particular the listed and locally valued headstocks at the Hatfield Colliery.

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect, maintain and enhance the rich historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	<p>Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings, within and surrounding the Plan area?</p> <p>Conserve, enhance and protect the setting of the nearby Conservation Area?</p> <p>Enhance local identity, distinctiveness and character?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</p> <p>Protect, preserve and record features with archaeological potential.</p>

8. Landscape

Focus of theme:

- 8.1 This theme focuses on designated and protected landscapes within or near to the Stainforth NP area. It also looks at the matters of landscape character, landscape quality and visual amenity.

Policy Context

- 8.2 Table 8.1 below sets out the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 8-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	The National Design Guide	2019
Local	Landscape Character and Capacity Assessment of Doncaster Borough	2007
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 8.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF which gives great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character and scenic beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.
- The NPPF recognises the role of green infrastructure in landscape settings, as well as the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland, historic features, agricultural land and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.
- The 25-year Environment Plan and National Design Guide complement each other with their aims for a cleaner, greener country which puts the environment first and celebrates the variety of natural landscapes and habitats. Design is focused on beautiful, enduring and successful places, which respond to local character and provide a network of high quality green open spaces.
- The Landscape Character and Capacity Study aims to contribute towards shaping development across Doncaster by providing an evidence base which is designed to inform development proposals, taking due consideration of Doncaster's landscape characteristics.

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to protect the quality of place, including through reinforcing distinctiveness and protecting and enhancing areas of landscape value. Policies which support these goals include:
 - Policy 25 which focuses on development in the countryside.
 - Policy 33 which focuses on landscape
 - Policies 41 and 42 which focus on character, distinctiveness and design.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

- 8.4 The Stainforth area encompasses two watercourses, the River Don and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal (Figure 8.1) which hold value in helping to define the Parish's landscape character.



Figure 8.1: Photograph of Stainforth and Keadby Canal.

- 8.5 As shown in Figure 8.2, Stainforth is within the Humberland Levels National Character Area (NCA) (NCA39). The levels are largely characterised by their “flat, low-lying and large scale agricultural landscape”⁶. The landscape tends to have large, regular fields with boundaries (hedges, ditches and dykes) forming important habitats and wildlife corridors. The low-lying land which is below or at the high-water mark leaves fertile soils, conducive to productive agricultural practices. Despite some settlements and transport infrastructure, the character area still retains a feeling of remoteness. Across the character area are three main settlements (Doncaster, Goole and Selby), with the remainder of the population dispersed across a number of small towns and villages, of which Stainforth is one.

⁶ Natural England (2012) NCA Profile: 39 Humberhead Levels (NE339), [online] <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1843305>

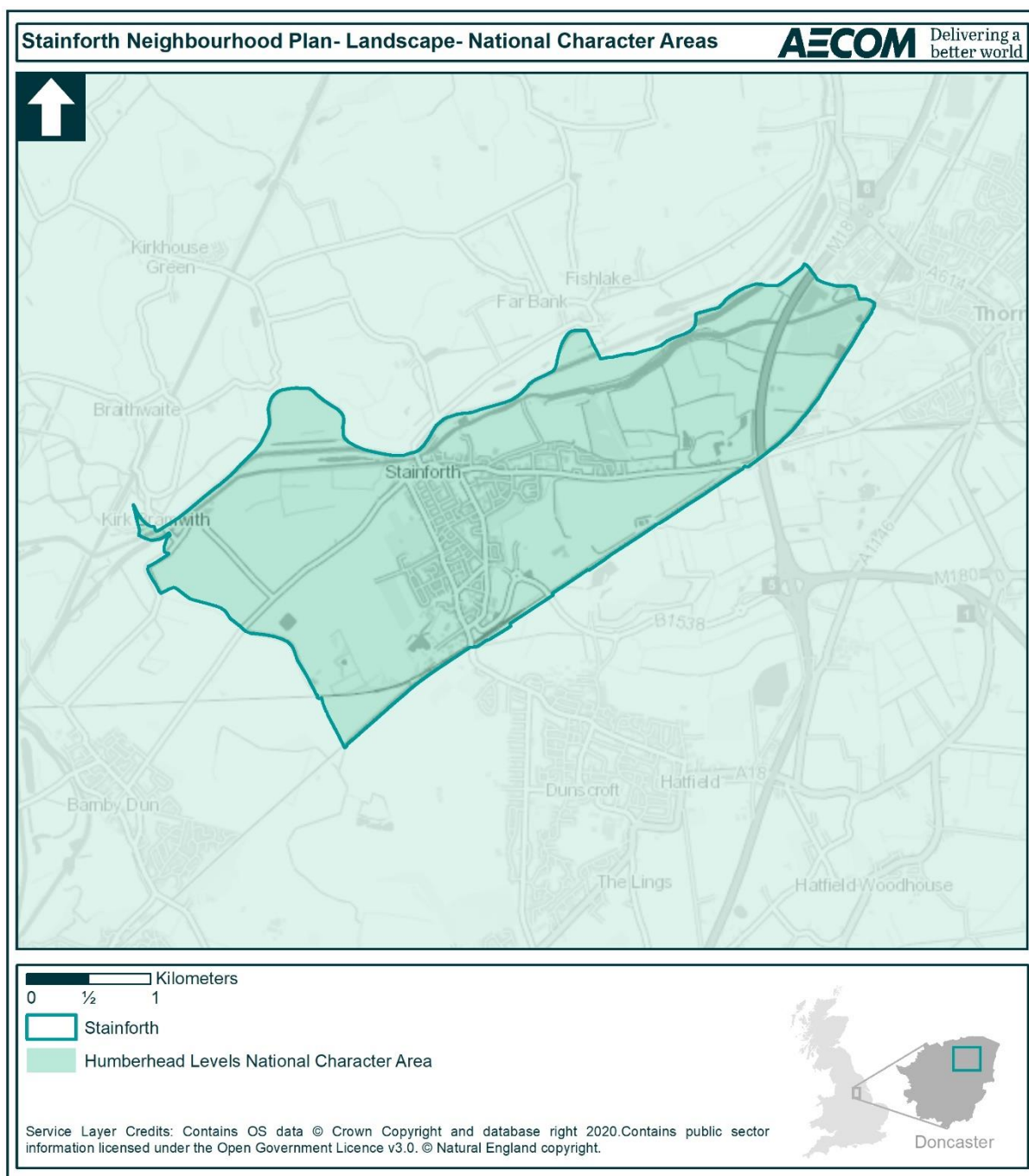


Figure 8.2: Map showing the National Character Area covering Stainforth.

- 8.6 Focusing more specifically on the landscape character areas which bound the built-up areas of Stainforth, to the east lies the East Don and Dun River Carrlands which are characterised by flat floodplain land with medium sized arable geometric fields in an irregular pattern. The area's field boundaries have some mature trees which complement the hedges, ditches and dykes. The area also has infrequent, interspersed deciduous woodlands and has some significant areas characterised by past mining uses, including former collieries and spoil heaps.

- 8.7 The aforementioned Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study references the potential for new development to the east of the Stainforth built-up area to result in “fragmentation and loss of a small but high value and quality rural remnant”. Land to the south east of Stainforth is noted as being dominated by mining activities (historical uses); the area is not considered to be tranquil or remote as a result of these past uses, although the role these landscape features play in linking the area to its past mean that the area is considered to be of a moderate quality.
- 8.8 Focusing on the western edge of the built-up area of Stainforth, the long, rectangular fields are seeing some decline of boundary hedgerows and the area is fairly representative of the wider area. There is a degree of tranquillity and it is considered of high quality. It is likely that development in this area would have significant impacts upon its landscape character by removing an area of intact farmland and disrupting the currently well contained area of housing.

Future baseline

- 8.9 New development has the potential to lead to some changes to landscape character and quality around the boundaries of the existing built-up area in Stainforth, though the land is not of particularly high value in terms of its overall landscape contributions. Any effects would be likely to be more pronounced to the west of the urban area than to the east and south east.

Key Issues

Scoping Outcome

- 8.10 The SEA topic ‘Landscape’ has been **SCOPED OUT** to the SEA. Whilst there is the potential for the Plan to lead to effects on the historic mining landscape assets of the area, historic environment considerations are likely to provide protections for the headstocks which are the valued asset of the mining landscape, other areas of mining landscape are currently brownfield land and do not positively contribute towards the landscape character.

9. Natural Resources

Focus of theme:

- 9.1 This theme focuses on the quality of soil resources, the extent of mineral resources, water supply resources, water quality and waste management in the Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan area.

Policy Context

- 9.2 Table 8.1 below lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 9-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
	The Environment Act	2021
	The 25 Year Environment Plan	2018
	Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England	2009
	Future Water: The government's water strategy for England	2011
	Water for Life	2011
	The National Waste Management Plan	2013
Local	Doncaster Environment Strategy	2012
	Yorkshire Water- Water Resources Management Plan	2019
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021
	Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan	2021

- 9.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which seeks to protect high quality soil resources, and improve the water environment; recognising the wider benefits of natural capital and derived from ecosystem services. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the need to take account of the long-term implications of climate change and build resilience in this respect. The NPPF encourages efficient land use, utilising brownfield land opportunities and land remediation schemes where appropriate and delivering environmental gains.
- The Environment Act sets out requirements for waste reduction and improvements to water quality with particular reference to the management of excess water and storm overflows.

- The 25-year Environment Plan presents a focus for environmental improvement in the next couple decades, with aims to achieve clean air, clean and plentiful water, and reduced risk from environmental hazards. This includes measures to improve soil quality, restore and protect peatlands, use water more sustainably, reduce pollution, maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impacts. This leads on from and supports the soil strategy for England (Safeguarding our soils) which seeks to ensure that all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully by 2030, as well as the national water strategies which seek to secure sustainable and resilient water resources and improve the quality of waterbodies, and the national waste plan which seeks to identify measures being taken to move towards a zero waste economy.
- Doncaster's Environment Strategy outlines priorities to protect water quality and contaminated land issues as well as protecting the natural environment, including the countryside.
- Doncaster's water resources are managed by Yorkshire Water; their latest Resource Management Plan forecasts a significant increase in population, a decline in industry water use, support for significantly reducing leakage and overall, there is an expectation that future water demand can be catered for over the 25-year planning period. The 'Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan' sets an approach for managing waste across the relevant areas, including what waste facilities will be required, where they will be, when they will be provided and how they will be delivered.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to efficiently manage natural resources, including water, soil, minerals and land. Policies which seek to achieve these goals include:
 - Policies 56, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64: These focus broadly on minerals, land, soil and water.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

Land and Soil

- 9.4 It is important to consider the value of greenfield land for potential agricultural uses, in order to minimise the potential future loss of the best and most versatile land.

- 9.5 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban') which provide a broad indication of the quality of land and its potential for agricultural uses. Data collected before 1988, termed 'provisional' grades land from 1-5 (best to worst) alongside the aforementioned non-agricultural land uses. Caution must be exercised when using this data as land use changes since the original survey may mean that the agricultural potential of the land may have changed. Updated surveys on land since 1988 have led to some areas benefitting from more accurate and up-to-date datasets. This splits Grade 3 land up into 3a and 3b, where the former is considered to be 'best and most versatile' and the latter of poorer quality.

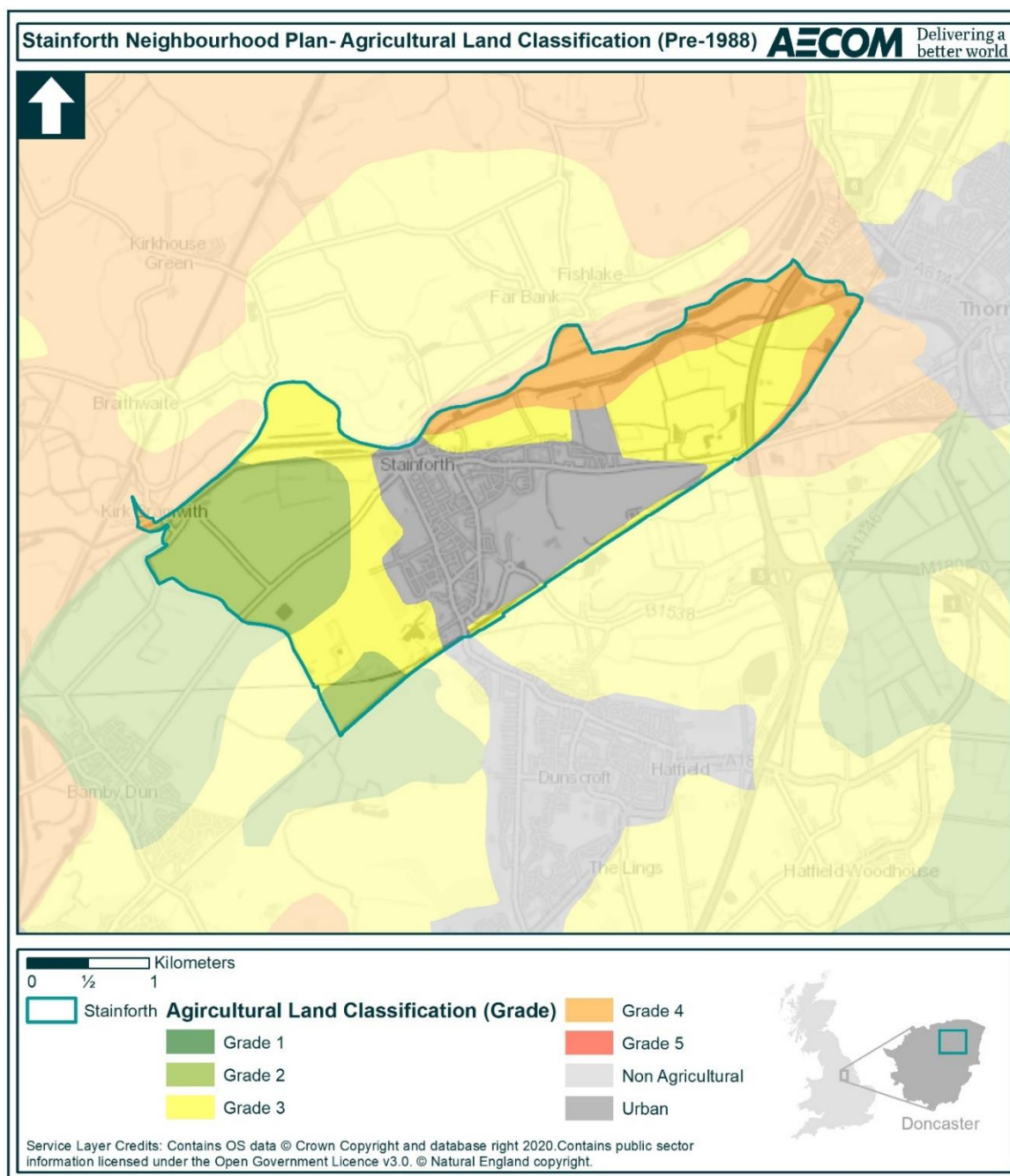


Figure 9.1: Map of agricultural land classification (provisional, pre-1988).

- 9.6 Figure 9.1 shows that there are mixed qualities of agricultural land across the Stainforth area; the western edge has some higher value land (Grade 2), with the main built-up area largely bounded by Grade 3 land (meaning that it has potential to be valuable, though further investigation would help to provide clarity). Land towards the north west is generally of a lower quality (Grade 4).

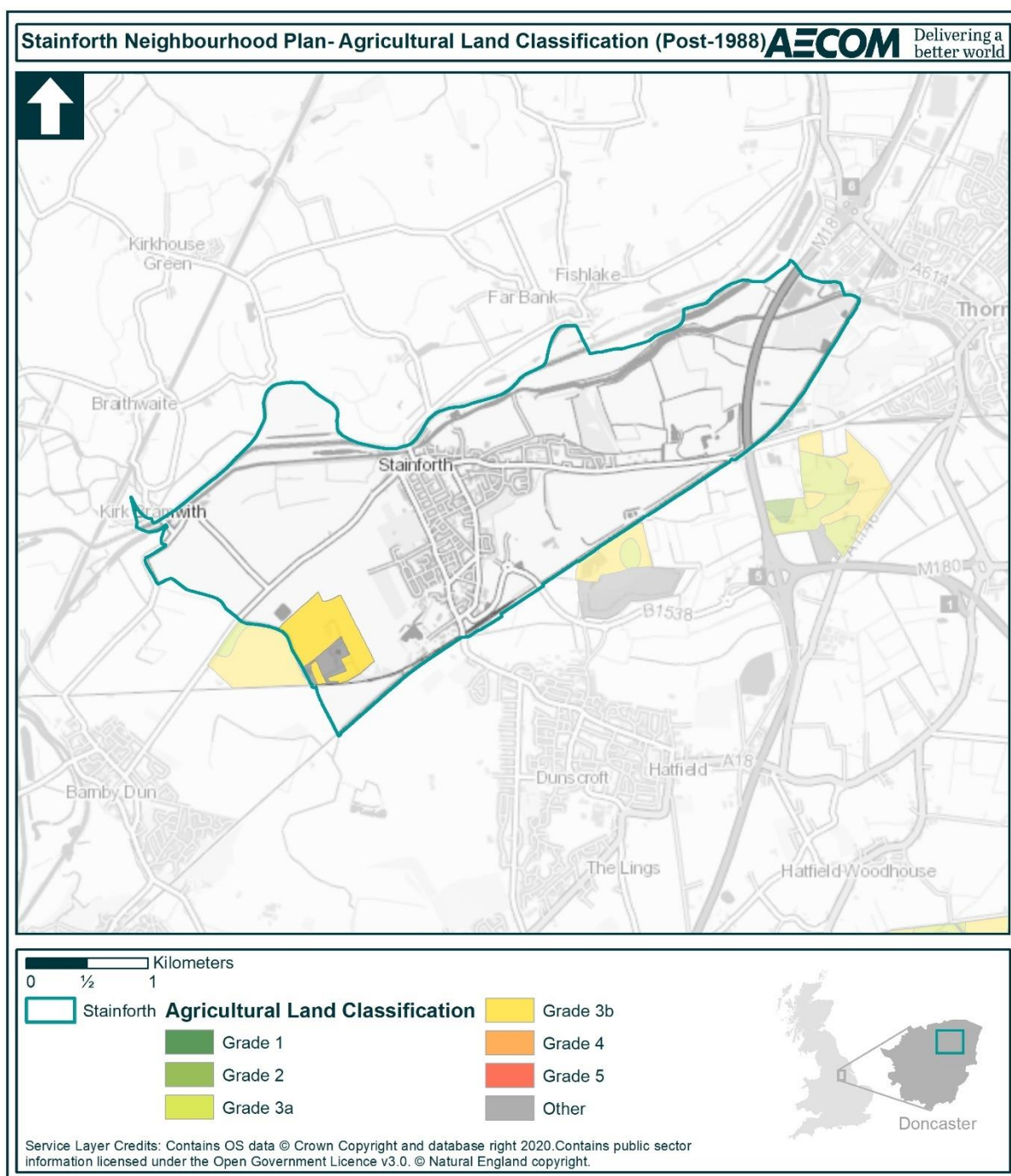


Figure 9.2: Map of agricultural land classification (post-1988 survey)

- 9.7 As shown in Figure 9.2, a small area of land in the south west of the Parish has been surveyed, suggesting that the land is of lower quality for agricultural purposes.

- 9.8 The former Colliery site which occupies land to the south east of the built-up area is mostly brownfield land; this has been accounted for in the agricultural land classifications shown in Figure 9.1.

Water Quality and Resources

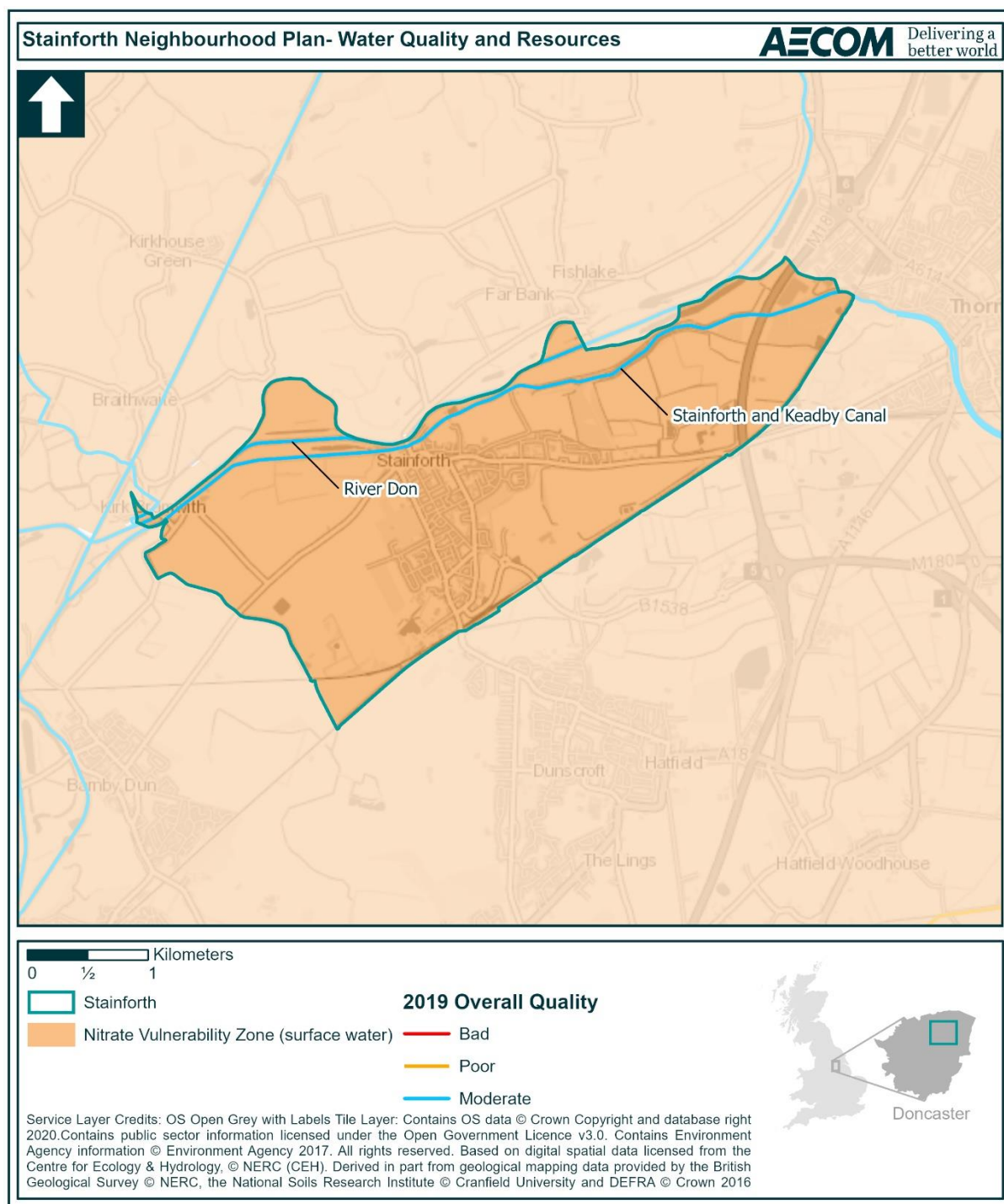


Figure 9.3: Map of watercourses and water quality.

- 9.9 Stainforth is home to two watercourses, the River Don and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal (Figure 9.3), both of which run through the north of the Parish. Their overall water quality statuses were both 'moderate' at the latest reporting stage in 2019. The canal has seen a decline from 2016 when it was classified as 'good'. The river has retained the same water quality status from 2016.

- 9.10 Stainforth is within a nitrate vulnerability zone for surface water (Figure 9.3); this means that land (and consequentially surface water) are at risk of nitrate pollution from agricultural practices.
- 9.11 The Yorkshire Water 'Water Resource Management Plan' predicts that whilst there is likely to be a growing population in Yorkshire (encompassing Stainforth) and climate change is likely to lead to strain upon the water supply-demand balance, the area is due to have an overall surplus of water over the 25-year planning period. This is partly aided by efficiency measures, including leak reductions.

Minerals

- 9.12 Stainforth contains a number of areas which are safeguarded for mineral extraction (sand and gravel) (Figure 9.4). These areas cover a large part of the existing built-up area alongside some smaller areas to the east, west and north of the urban area. There are also mineral safeguarding areas for sand and gravel deposits which surround the NP area. The scale and location of these areas in relation to the built-up area mean that these areas would be expected to be considered unviable for mineral extraction.

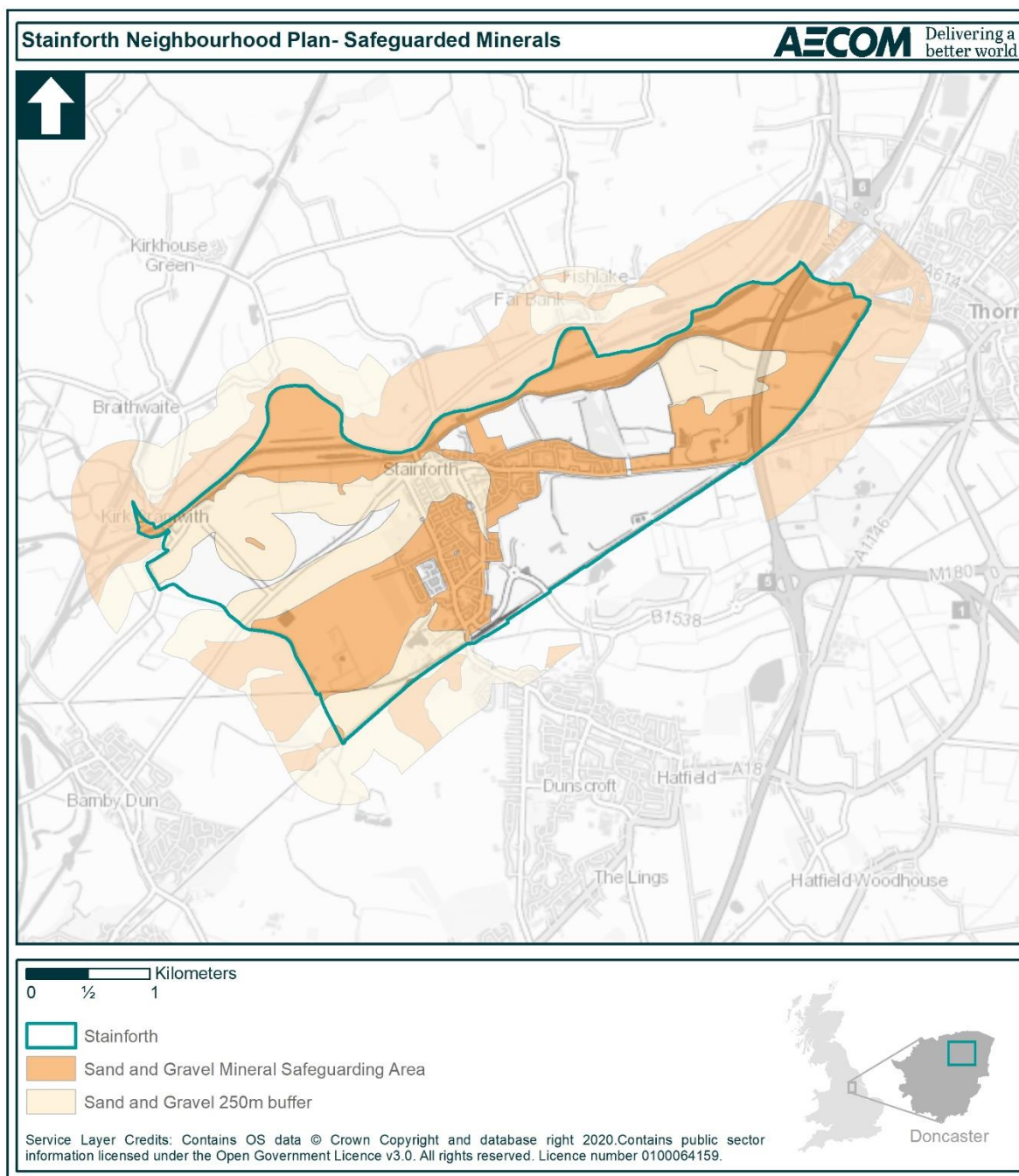


Figure 9.4: Mineral Safeguarding Map

9.13 Notably, the former Colliery site is not safeguarded for minerals.

Waste

9.14 The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan has the responsibility of planning for waste management in the Stainforth area and hence it is outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

9.15 The Hatfield Household Waste Recycling Centre is located nearby to the Parish, providing nearby waste management facilities for Stainforth residents.

Future baseline

- 9.16 Further development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to maintenance or improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and wider area.
- 9.17 It is unlikely that development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan Area would have a significant impact on the wider area's Nitrate Vulnerable Zone unless agricultural intensification occurs.
- 9.18 Natural resources in the Stainforth area are unlikely to be adversely affected by the planned development in the area, this is due to the fact that the permissioned site boundary does not significantly overlap or relate to valuable water, soil or mineral resources.

Key Issues

- 9.19 There is some potentially best and most versatile agricultural land in the west of the Parish.
- 9.20 A large area to the south east of Stainforth's built-up area is brownfield land.
- 9.21 Stainforth has two watercourses which run through it, both of which are classified as having moderate water quality status.
- 9.22 The water supply is predicted to be sufficient over the next 25 years for the Stainforth area.
- 9.23 Stainforth is entirely within a nitrate vulnerability zone.
- 9.24 Much of Stainforth and its surrounding areas are mineral safeguarding areas due to the presence of sand and gravel deposits.
- 9.25 Waste management is not likely to be an issue which is affected by the Stainforth NP.

Scoping Outcome

- 9.26 The SEA topic 'Natural Resources' has been split into subsections in order to determine the scope of the SEA.
- Land and Soils: **SCOPED IN** to the SEA due to the presence of potentially best and most versatile agricultural land in the Parish.
 - Water Quality and Resources: **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA due to the fact that the NP and NDO are unlikely to lead to significant effects upon water quality and resources in the NP area.
 - Minerals: **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA due to the fact that the NP and NDO are unlikely to lead to significant effects upon mineral resources in the NP area.
 - Waste: **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA due to the fact that the NP and NDO are unlikely to lead to significant effects upon waste in the NP area.

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Ensure the efficient and effective use of land

Promote the use of previously developed land?

Avoid development of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3a)?

10. Population and Housing

Focus of theme:

- 10.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in the Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan area, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities and education and skills levels.

Policy Context

- 10.2 Table 10.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 10-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
Local	Doncaster Housing Strategy Update (2020-2025)	2020
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

- 10.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which on the whole seeks 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 well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
- The framework seeks to protect settlement and community identities, ensuring that appropriate tools such as masterplans and design guides or codes are used to secure a variety of well-designed and beautiful homes to meet the needs of different groups in the community. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the benefits of creating cohesive communities, in safe environments where crime and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life of residents.
- As set out in the NPPF, it should be ensured that the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. The Design Guide and Model code illustrate how well-designed places that are beautiful, healthy, greener, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice.

- Doncaster’s Housing Strategy sets out a vision for homes across the Borough from 2020-2025; it seeks to ensure that future housing meets the needs of existing and future residents. It also aims to take a preventative approach to homelessness, improve standards for tenants of rented housing and support town centres.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to aid regeneration and community pride, whilst supporting communities and providing appropriate housing. Policies which seek to support these goals include:
 - Policies 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 which broadly relate to housing and providing appropriate accommodation for existing and future residents of the Borough.
 - Policies 51, 52 and 53 which focus on community facilities, including leisure and education.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

Population

10.4 Stainforth has an estimated population of 6,657 (in 2019); this has seen growth of 5.6% from 2011, a figure which is above local and regional comparative growth rates and slightly below national figures. This suggests that the decline in population in the Parish between 2011 and 2021 has not been sustained.

Table 10-2: Table showing comparative population and population change. (ONS, 2021)

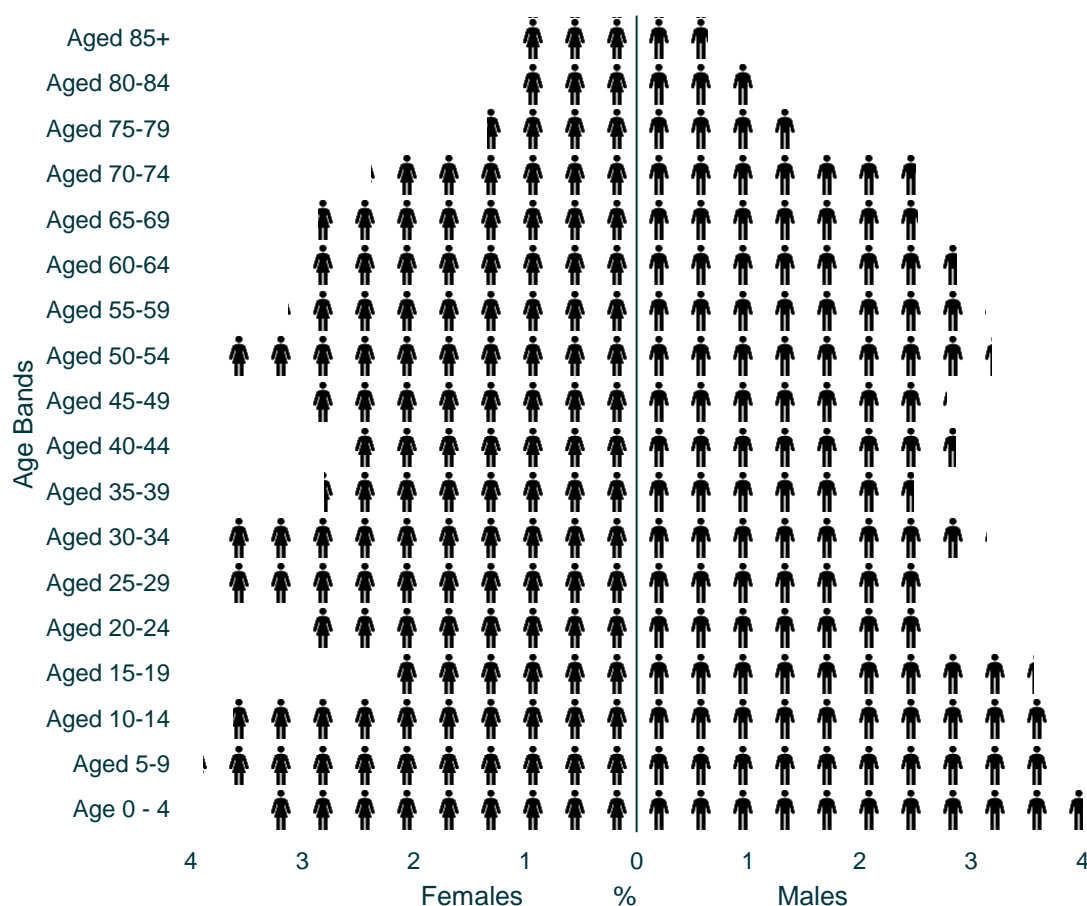
Year	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
2001	6,341	286,866	4,964,833	49,138,831
2011	6,282	302,402	5,283,733	53,012,456
Population change (2001-2011)	-0.9%	5.4%	6.4%	7%
2019 mid-year population estimate	6,657	311,890	5,502,967	56,286,961
Population change (2011-2019)	5.6%	3%	4%	5.8%

10.5 The age distribution of the population in Stainforth indicates that in terms of those aged over 60, the Parish is broadly aligned with national and regional averages, though it is marginally younger than seen in local comparisons. The most notable differences lie in the younger and working age populations, Stainforth has a greater proportion of younger people (aged 0-24) and a smaller than average working age population (25-59).

Table 10-3: Table showing comparative age band split. (Census, 2011)

Age Band (% of total)	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
0-15	21.51%	19.01%	18.88%	18.90%
16-24	13.21%	11.43%	12.60%	11.90%
25-44	24.75%	25.96%	26.30%	27.50%
45-59	18.23%	20.46%	19.51%	19.40%
60+	22.30%	23.14%	22.71%	22.30%

10.6 Stainforth's gender split (Figure 10.1) shows that amongst the younger population, there is a slightly greater weighting of males, with the pattern especially pronounced for those aged 15-19. The pattern is generally reversed for older ages, where there are a greater proportion of older age women than men after the age of 80.

**Figure 10.1: Population pyramid for Stainforth. (Census, 2011)**

10.7 Stainforth ethnic groupings (Table 10-4) show that the Parish has a higher than average rate of people who fit into the 'white' ethnic group, with lower than average people classed under all other ethnic groupings. The Parish has more similar rates to those seen in Doncaster as a whole and is most significantly contrasting to national rates.

Table 10-4: Table showing comparative ethnicities by percentage (%). (Census, 2011)

Ethnic Group	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
White	97.4	95.3	88.8	85.4
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	0.9	1.1	1.6	2.3
Asian/Asian British	1.1	2.5	7.3	7.8
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	0.5	0.8	1.5	3.5
Other ethnic group	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.0

10.8 When focusing on religious groupings (Table 10-5), Stainforth's proportion of those who identify with a religion is broadly similar to average rates. Of these people, the Parish sees a higher than locally, regionally and nationally average rate of those identifying as Christian, with Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim religions all seeing lower rates than comparative averages. For these religions, as the scale of comparative geography increases, the difference in rate generally increases.

Table 10-5: Table showing comparative religious groupings by percentage (%). (Census, 2011)

Religion	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and The Humber	England
Has religion	68.6	68.8	67.3	68.1
Christian	67.2	65.9	59.5	59.4
Buddhist	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5
Hindu	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.5
Jewish	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5
Muslim	0.4	1.7	6.2	5.0
Sikh	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.8
Other religion	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
No religion	24.5	24.4	25.9	24.7
Religion not stated	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.2

Economy, educational needs and local service offer

10.9 In terms of the economic activity of Stainforth's residents (Table 10-6), the Parish sees a significantly lower rate of those who are considered to be economically active than seen across local, regional and national equivalents.

Table 10-6: Table showing comparative economic activity rates. (Census, 2011)

Economic Activity (% of total)	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Economically active	61%	67%	68%	70%
Economically inactive	39%	33%	32%	30%

10.10 In terms of educational attainment in Stainforth (Table 10-7), the Parish has a substantially higher than average proportion of people with no qualifications and lower than average rates of people with higher level qualifications, an issue which is more pronounced for Level 4+ qualifications.

Table 10-7: Table showing comparative levels of qualification achievement. (Census, 2011)

Highest Level of qualification (% of total)	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
No qualifications	46%	30%	26%	21%
Level 1 qualifications	15%	15%	14%	14%
Level 2 qualifications	16%	17%	15%	16%
Apprenticeship	4%	4%	4%	4%
Level 3 qualifications	8%	11%	13%	13%
Level 4 qualifications & above	7%	17%	23%	27%
Other qualifications	4%	5%	5%	6%

10.11 The occupations of residents across Stainforth (Table 10-8) show that a larger than average proportion of residents work in groupings 5-9 which are generally lower skilled and manual roles; conversely, the Parish has lower than average proportions of people working in groupings 1-4, which are largely more skilled and professional roles.

Table 10-8: Table showing comparative occupation groupings. (Census, 2011)

Occupation band (% of total)	Stainforth	Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
1. Managers, directors, senior officials	6%	9%	10%	11%
2. Professional occupations	6%	11%	15%	17%
3. Associate professional & technical occupations	8%	10%	11%	13%
4. Administrative & secretarial occupations	7%	10%	11%	11%
5. Skilled trades occupations	14%	13%	12%	11%
6. Caring, leisure & other service occupations	11%	10%	10%	9%
7. Sales & customer service occupations	11%	10%	9%	8%
8. Process plant / machine operatives	15%	11%	9%	7%
9. Elementary occupations	22%	15%	12%	11%

Housing

10.12 In 2011 Stainforth had 2,683 dwellings, of which 87 were classified as having no usual residents. Of the occupied dwellings, 89% were classified as a house or bungalow (11% were a flat, maisonette or apartment); 12% were detached, 45% semi-detached and 32% terraced.

10.13 The tenures across the Parish (Table 10-2) show two significant disparities between the Stainforth rates and local, regional and national equivalents; a lower rate of residents own their properties and a higher rate are in socially rented accommodation.

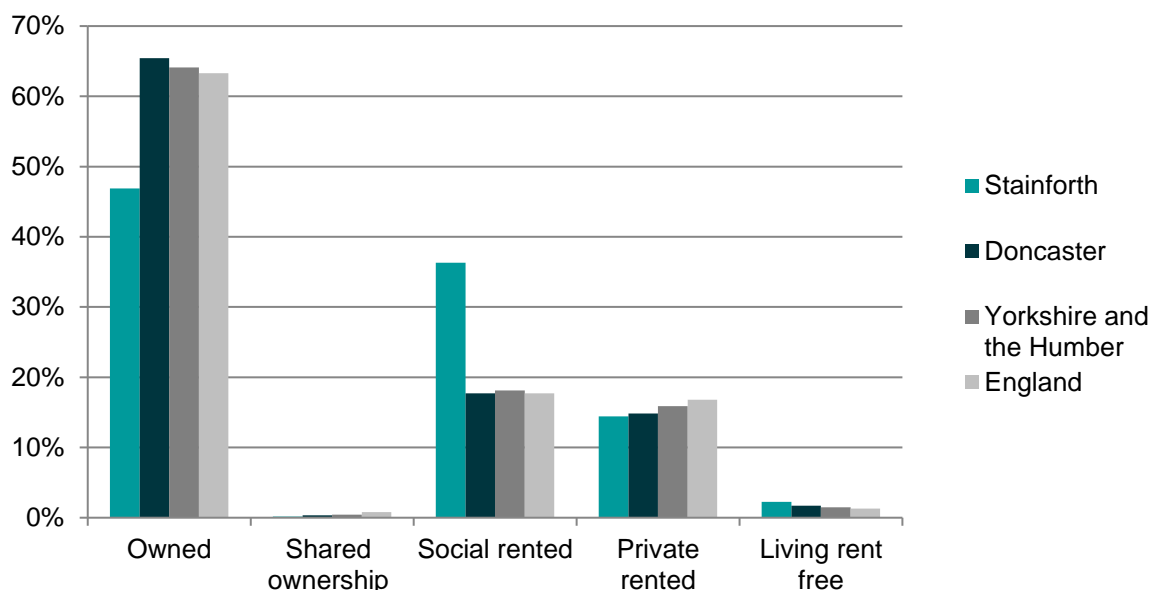


Figure 10.2: Graph showing comparative tenure rates. (Census, 2011)

10.14 In terms of the affordability of housing, the lowest administrative area data (MSOA) which represents Stainforth includes some land to the north of the Parish, though it is largely representative of Stainforth's average house prices and earnings. The latest year in which this data was released at this scale relates to the year ending 2018 (though this data was published in 2020). The data relates to median house prices and net annual household income.

10.15 Average house prices (for year ending 2018) were £100,995; this was comprised of average detached houses selling for £146,995, semi-detached for £98,498 and terraced properties for £85,000. Considering net annual household income in the area for the same period was £25,200, the overall affordability ratio is 4.01, split down to 5.83 for detached properties, 3.91 for semi-detached and 3.37 for terraced. The average affordability ratio for properties in England and Wales for the same period was 7.8, suggesting that housing in Stainforth is significantly more affordable than national averages. Note, all data is taken from the Office for National Statistics 'Housing Affordability Ratios for Middle layer Super Output areas' dataset which links to data for the year ending March 2018.

10.16 In the Doncaster Local Plan (2021), areas classified as ‘Main Towns’ have been allocated 40% of the new homes across the Borough; the larger area of Dunscroft, Dunsville, Hatfield and Stainforth has allocations amounting to 1,968 new homes to the end of the Plan Period (2038). The Plan has allocated one large mixed use site which partially sits within Stainforth; the ‘Unity Project’ site which is supported by the ‘Unity Way’ motorway connectivity in part sits on the former Hatfield Colliery brownfield site adjacent to the existing built-up area. The 428ha cross-boundary site is capable of delivering 3,100 dwellings (all will not be within the Stainforth Parish NP area, as large areas of the allocation are outside of the NP area).

Deprivation

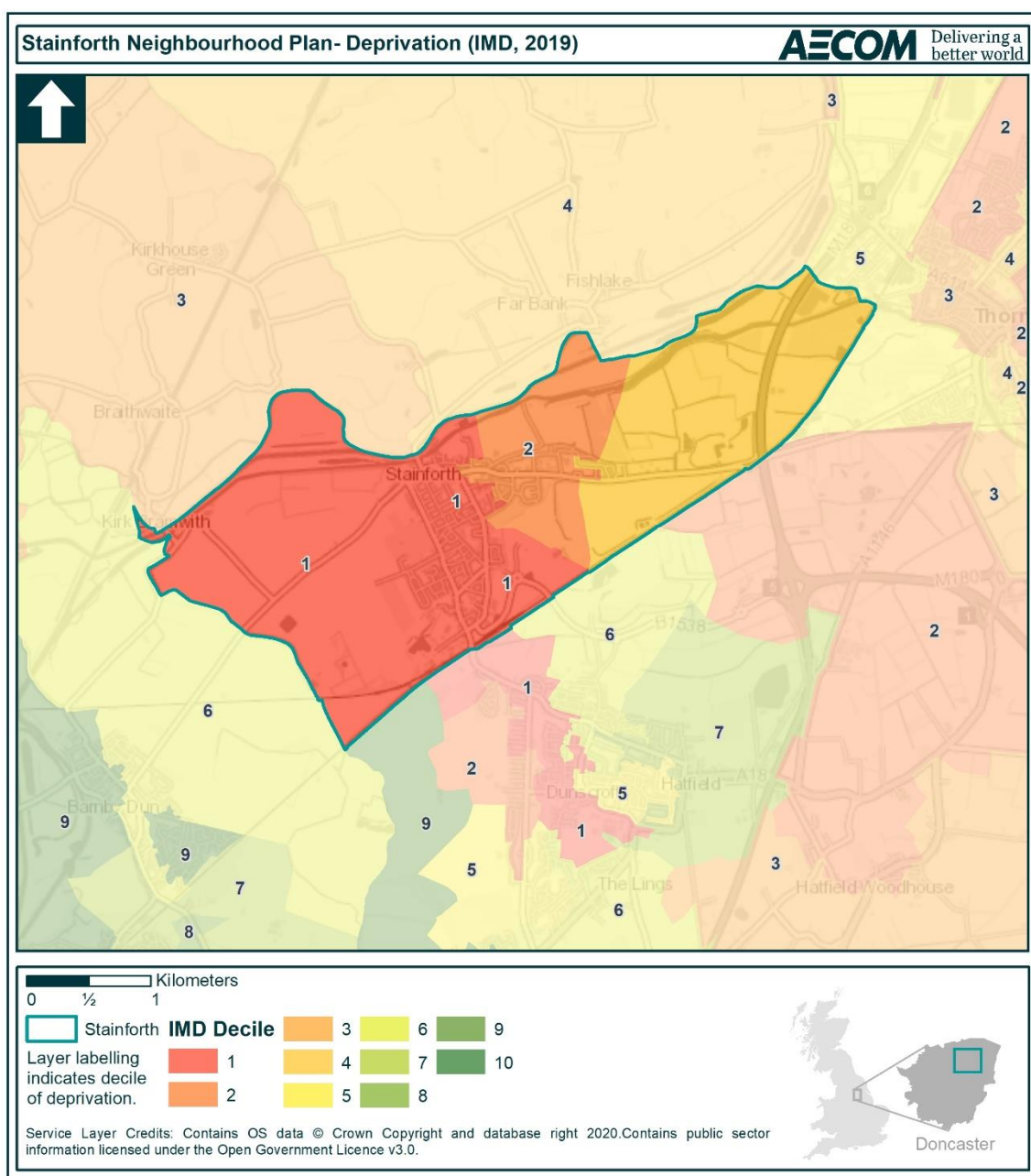


Figure 10.3: Index of Multiple Deprivation. Marked numbers indicate the decile of deprivation.

10.17 Figure 10.3 reveals the extent of relative deprivation in Stainforth, as well as in surrounding areas. The majority of Stainforth's built-up area is within the top 10% of deprived areas nationwide, with a small part of the eastern developed extent categorised as within the top 20% of deprived areas. Looking at nearby areas, much of the land to the north, east and a part of land to the south (land forming Hatfield) are deprived, however other areas to the south and to the west are broadly less deprived, with some areas ranked in the top 10% least deprived areas.

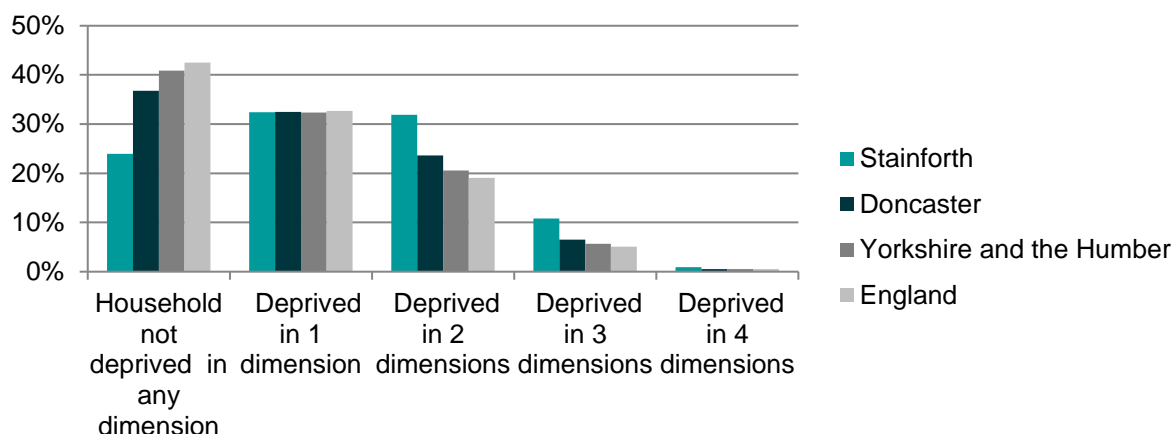


Figure 10.4: Household deprivation chart. (Census, 2011)

10.18 Figure 10.4 provides a more granular focus on the data which is illustrated in Figure 10.3 though it relies upon a different dataset, from an earlier point in time. However, it still provides some indication as to the extent of deprivation in Stainforth. A significantly lower rate of households in the Parish are considered to be not deprived in any dimension than seen across all comparative scales of geography. Those households which report one dimension of deprivation sit at a broadly aligned rate across all geographies. When focusing on those which are deprived in 2, 3 or 4 dimensions, it is evident that whilst Doncaster is more deprived than regional or national equivalents, Stainforth is significantly more deprived than Doncaster.

10.19 Figure 10.5 (below) shows a range of factors. The area has a number of housing, employment and mixed use allocations linked to the Doncaster Local Plan; these have all received some level of planning permission and cumulatively should help to provide additional supporting infrastructures which may help to alleviate deprivation. Alongside this, there are some areas which are classified as employment policy areas and a number of community facilities, including a children's centre and family hub, educational uses as well as a library and clinic.

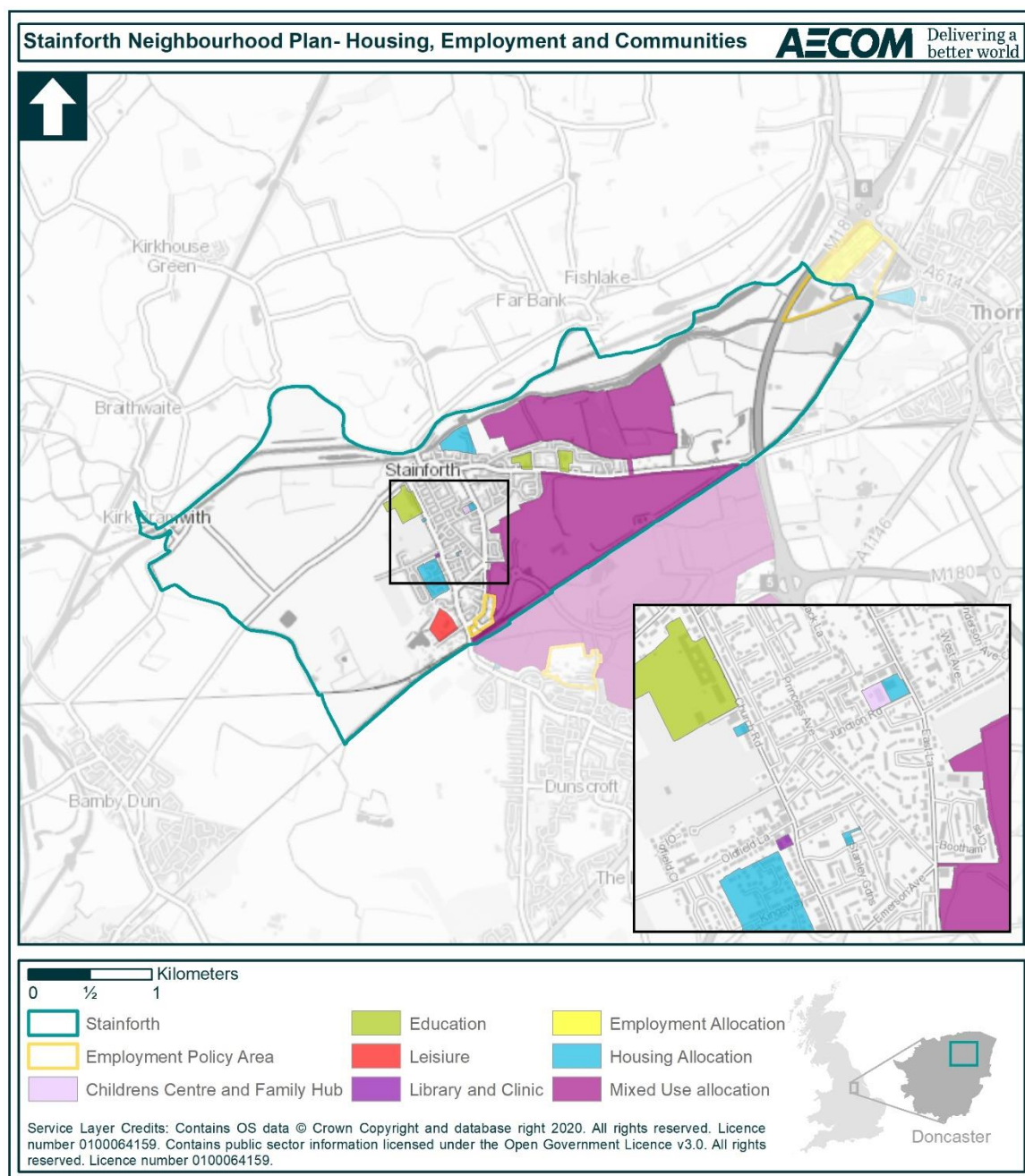


Figure 10.5: Housing, employment and community facilities map.

Future baseline

- 10.20 It would be expected that the demographic profile of Stainforth would continue along its current trajectory, which is broadly aligned with the country (aside from a noted larger than average younger population). Should this younger population stay in the area, further increases in births may replicate this trend and in the longer term show a distinctive pattern where the area has a younger population than the national average.
- 10.21 Current skills shortages, lower band occupational groupings and high rates of economic inactivity would be expected to continue.
- 10.22 The area's deprivation would not be expected to be reversed, though the Local Plan allocation in the area may help to alleviate this to some extent, depending on the nature of development when it comes forward.

Key Issues

- 10.23 Stainforth's population has a slightly higher than average proportion of younger (aged 24 and under) people and has been growing at a faster than locally or regionally average rate since 2011, after seeing a period of decline between 2001-2011.
- 10.24 Stainforth has a higher than average proportion of its population who fit into the 'white' ethnic grouping.
- 10.25 Stainforth has a higher than average proportion of people whose stated religion is Christian, with lower than average proportions of all other religious groupings.
- 10.26 Stainforth has a lower than average proportion of its population who are economically active.
- 10.27 The Parish's population has a lower than average rate of people with higher level qualifications and a higher than average rate of people with no qualifications.
- 10.28 Stainforth's residents are significantly more likely than average to occupy their dwelling on a socially rented tenure, and dwellings are less likely to be owner occupied.
- 10.29 There has been an identified need for 575 dwellings until 2032 in the wider area in which Stainforth sites (including Hatfield and some smaller settlements).
- 10.30 A large, mixed use, urban extension site allocation in the Doncaster Local Plan partially falls within the Stainforth area.
- 10.31 Stainforth is considered to be in the top 10% and 20% deprived areas nationally, with a significantly higher proportion of households reporting deprivation in multiple dimensions.

Scoping Outcome

10.32 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. The Plan could result in effects on community needs for both existing and future residents as well as potentially affecting housing delivery in the Parish.

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities and reduce deprivation across the Parish.	<p>Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities?</p> <p>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</p> <p>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</p> <p>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</p>
Improve the economic activity rate of the Stainforth population, including through providing suitable access and improvements to skills and training.	<p>Provide local employment opportunities?</p> <p>Deliver infrastructure which would support the improved uptake of educational opportunities?</p>
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs?</p> <p>Support the provision of affordable housing?</p> <p>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</p> <p>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</p> <p>Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</p>

11. Transport and Accessibility

Focus of theme:

11.1 This theme will focus on transport infrastructure, transport usage, traffic flows and congestion and accessibility.

Policy Context

11.2 Table 11.1 lists the key documents that have been considered as part of the contextual review. The key messages emerging from these are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Table 11-1: Policy context documents

Scale	Document Title	Year of publication
National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2019
	The Transport Investment Strategy – Moving Britain Ahead	2017
	The Department for Transport's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy	2016
	Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge	2020
	Clean Air Strategy	2019
	Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking	2020
	Local Transport Note 1/20: Cycle Infrastructure Design	2020
Local	Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy	2020
	Doncaster Cycling Strategy	2020
	Doncaster Infrastructure Delivery Strategy	2019
	Doncaster Local Plan (2015-2035)	2021

11.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stainforth Neighbourhood will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which seeks the consideration of transport issues from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals to address any known issues and maximise opportunities to increase accessibility, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport. Larger developments are expected to be delivered in areas which are or can be made sustainable by limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. However, it is recognised that sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural environments.
- National transport strategies set out investment priorities which ultimately all seek to improve the connectivity, effectiveness and reliability of transport networks, whilst reducing impacts on the natural environment (including through decarbonisation). Furthermore, they place great emphasis on making cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journeys. This includes investment in new and upgraded infrastructure, changing perceptions and increasing safety.

- The Sheffield City Region Transport Plan seeks to connect residents and business for beneficial economic outcomes and produce a cleaner and greener city with safe, reliable and accessible transport options.
- Focusing on the Borough, Doncaster's Cycling Strategy seeks to boost cycling as an attractive mode of travel in the Borough. The Infrastructure Delivery Strategy for the Borough seeks to address a number of transport related issues, including improving rural-urban connectivity, reducing congestion and improving Doncaster's sustainable transport infrastructure and services.
- The Stainforth Neighbourhood Plan will be required to be aligned to the policies set out in the Doncaster Local Plan. The Plan seeks to improve accessibility within the Doncaster area and beyond, with a focus on improving access to sustainable transport options and reducing the need to travel by car. Policies which support these outcomes include:
 - Policies 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 which focus on various areas associated with transport and accessibility.

Baseline Summary

Current baseline

11.4 Stainforth's urban area is adjacent to the Stainforth and Hatfield railway station which provides connectivity to Thorne, Goole and Doncaster locally, as well as Scunthorpe and Sheffield in the wider area. The approximate journey times are set out below:

- Thorne: 5 minutes
- Doncaster: 14 minutes
- Goole: 15 minutes
- Scunthorpe: 28 minutes
- Sheffield: 1 hour

11.5 The village is served by public bus services which provide accessibility to Doncaster with the service running every 20 minutes at peak journey times.

11.6 The Parish has benefitted from improved access to the M18 motorway with a new 2.4km link road ('Unity Way') connecting the south side of Stainforth to Junction 5. The infrastructure is in support of the proposed 'Unity Project' mixed use development in the area.

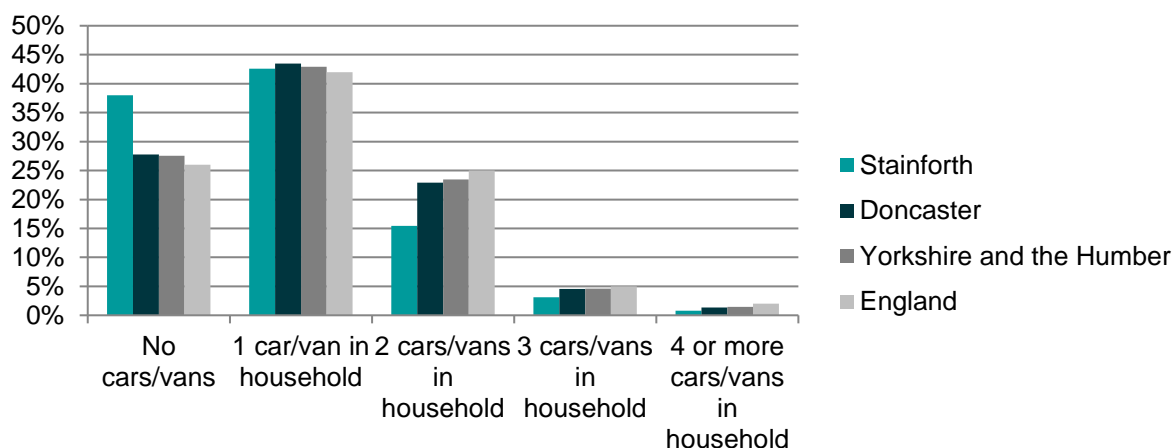


Figure 11.1: Car/Van Ownership (Census, 2011)

11.7 Stainforth has an overall low rate of car or van ownership (Figure 11.1), with significantly higher than average rates of its population not owning a car or van. On average, Stainforth households also own fewer cars or vans per household than seen locally or nationally.

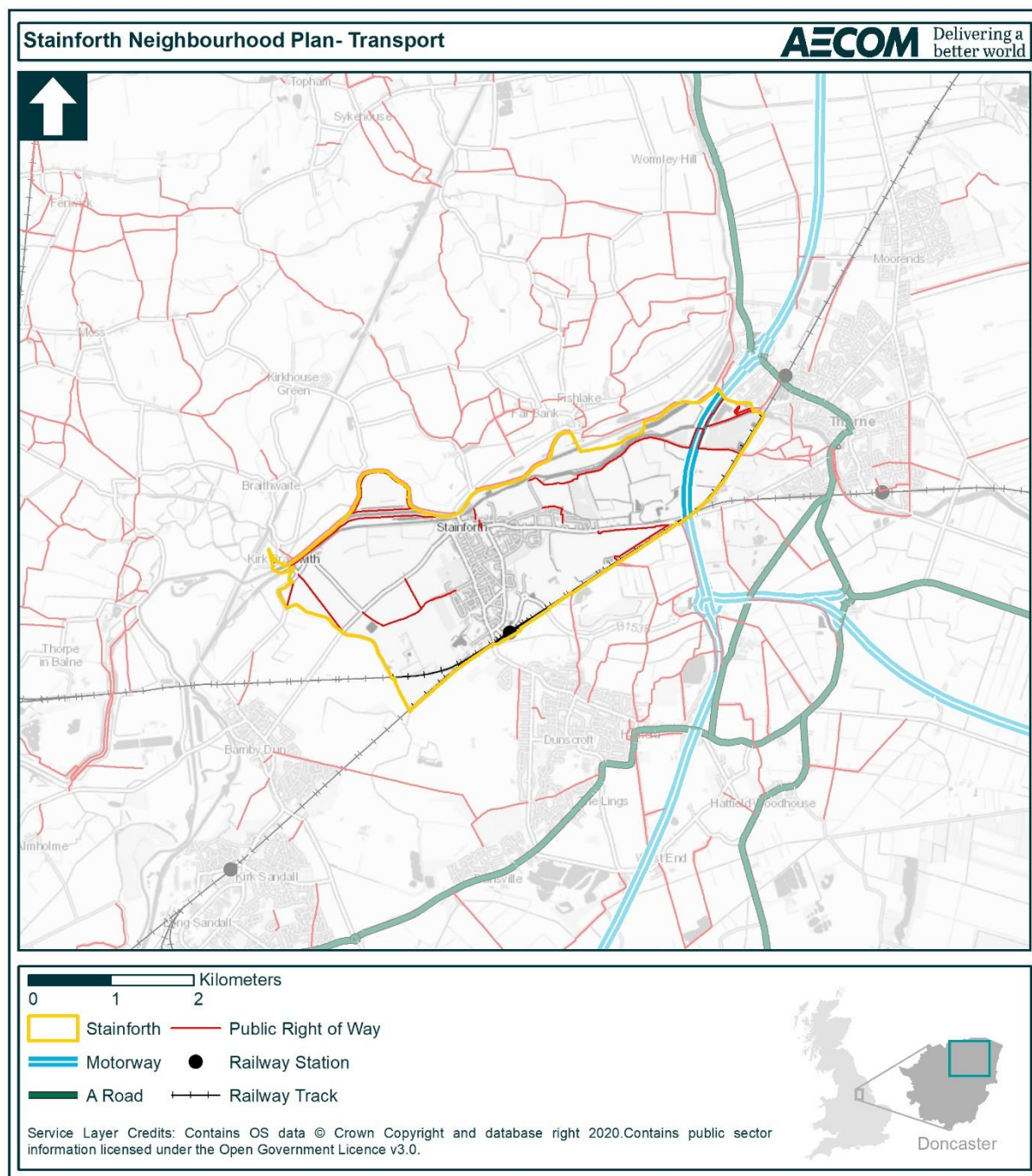


Figure 11.2: Map of transport assets in Stainforth.

11.8 Within the NP area itself (Figure 11.2) the M18 runs through the eastern side of Stainforth with the above-mentioned link road connecting to Junction 5. There are no A Roads within the Parish and the key roads are Church Road/Station Road which provides connectivity to the railway station and Hatfield. Doncaster Road provides connectivity to the west of the village to Barnby Dun and beyond into Doncaster; Kirton Lane provides connectivity to the east to Thorne. There are a relatively limited number of public rights of way found across the NP area.

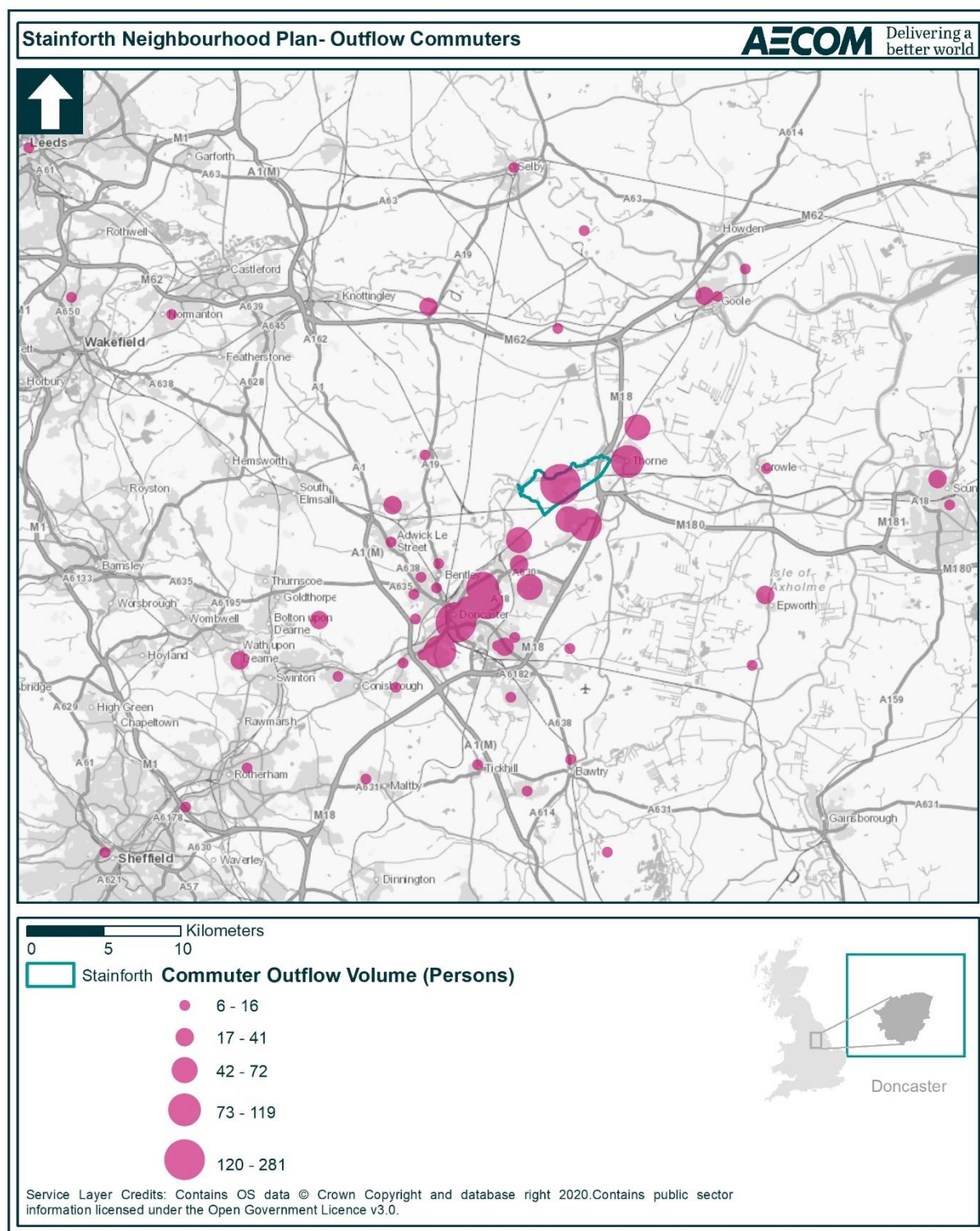


Figure 11.3: Outflow commuters from Stainforth. (Census, 2011)

11.9 Figure 11.3 shows that commuter flows stemming *from* the Stainforth area demonstrate a fairly large footprint, though most commuters travel to broadly nearby locations. The largest flows travel from Stainforth to the south east, mostly into Doncaster.

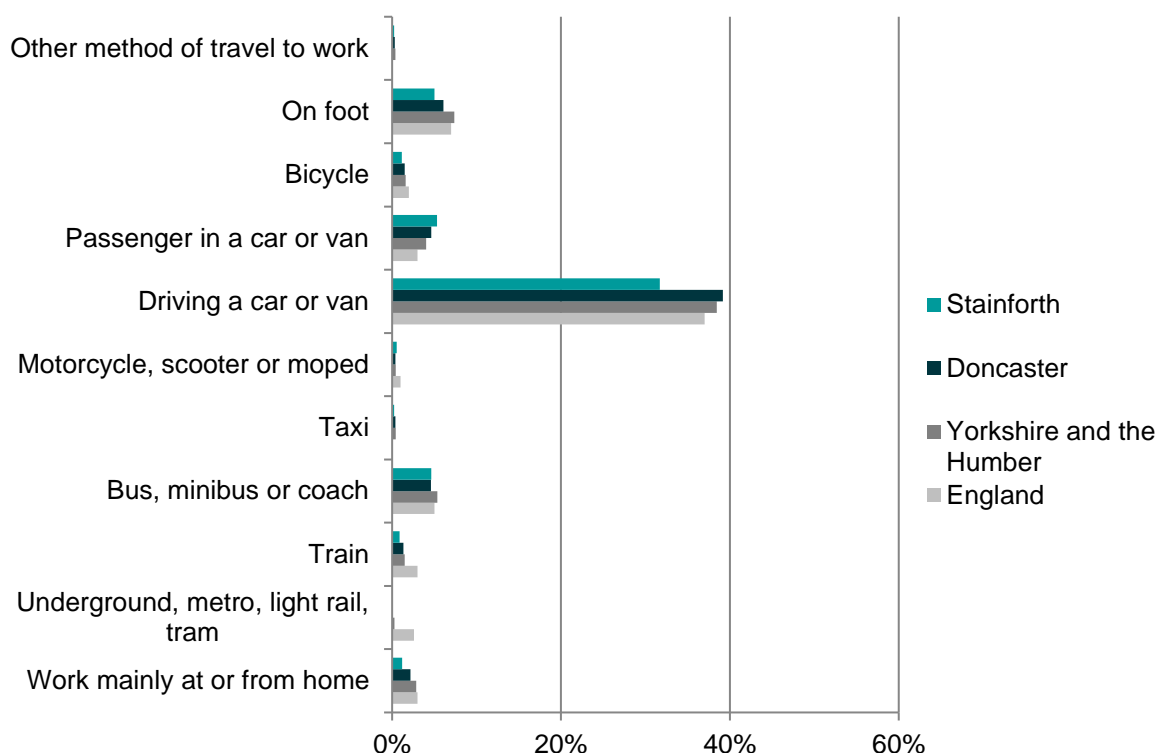


Figure 11.4: Method of travel to work. (Census, 2011)

11.10 Figure 11.4 shows that rates of people commuting by car or van in Stainforth are significantly lower than local and national equivalents. In terms of travelling by active means (walking or cycling) or by train, Stainforth sees slightly lower rates than locally and nationally average. Travel by bus is broadly aligned with comparative scales and the Parish sees a greater proportion of people commuting as a passenger in a car or van than seen across comparative geographies.

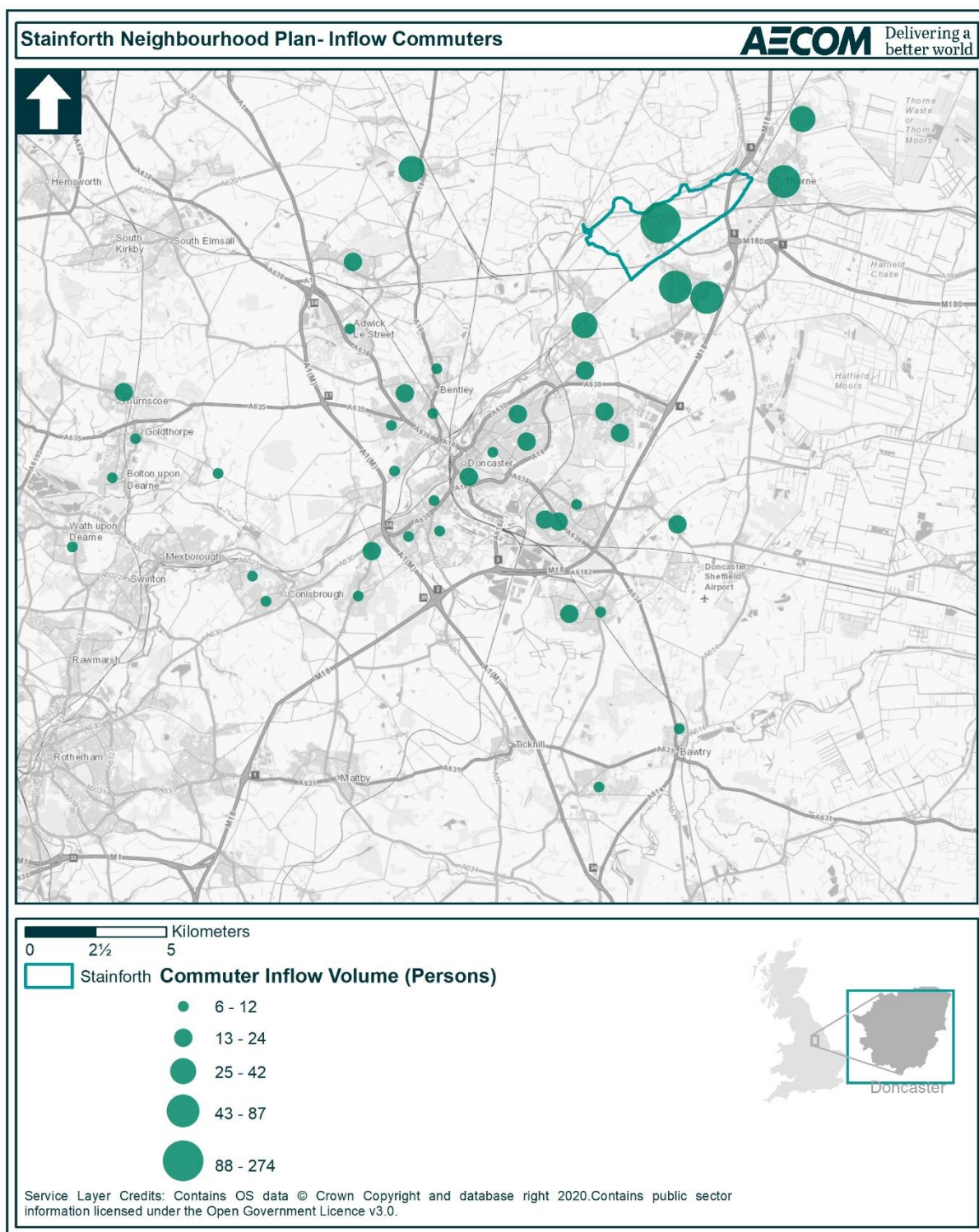


Figure 11.5: Inflow commuters to Stainforth. (Census, 2011)

11.11 Figure 11.5 shows that commuter flows travelling *into* Stainforth are largely stemming from Doncaster, with some others coming from nearby villages.

Future baseline

- 11.12 New development has the potential to increase car dependency and ownership in the Stainforth NP area, however national and local policy drivers which are pushing a focus on active travel may help to mitigate this potential issue and lead to additional services and infrastructure which support sustainable transport choices.
- 11.13 A shift in working patterns as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that working-from-home is likely to influence the commuting patterns of those whose work permits such practices. As such, commuter flows are expected to remain at a reduced level (at least in the short term).

Key Issues

- 11.14 There is a local and national policy drive to decrease car dependency whilst encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport (active travel and public transport).
- 11.15 Stainforth's commuter footprint, including both inflow and outflows, is largely contained to local villages surrounding the Parish as well as the largest flows travelling to and from Doncaster.
- 11.16 Stainforth has lower than average car ownership, a pattern which is mirrored by low rates of commuters travelling by car or van. Though the Parish has high rates of people commuting as a passenger in a car or van.

Scoping Outcome

- 11.17 The SEA topic 'Transport and Accessibility' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. The NP has ambitions to improve sustainable transport options within the Plan Area which could lead to effects upon transport and accessibility within the Parish.

SEA objective

Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:

Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel

Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?

Enable sustainable transport infrastructure improvements?

Reduce the need to travel?

Improve road safety?

12. The SEA Framework and Methodologies

The SEA Framework

- 12.1 The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives 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 2-11).
- 12.2 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).
- 12.3 Table 12.1 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.

Figure 12.1: Table showing the SEA Framework.

SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and support ecological connectivity.	<p>Support/ improve the status and condition of the area's Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites?</p> <p>Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?</p> <p>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</p> <p>Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?</p> <p>Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue⁷ infrastructure networks?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</p>
Reduce the level of contribution to climate change from activities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</p> <p>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</p>

⁷ Green and blue infrastructure networks include (but are not limited to); green spaces, open spaces, parks, gardens, allotments, natural areas, river corridors, waterbodies; and the links between these assets

	<p>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</p> <p>Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?</p>
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	<p>Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?</p> <p>Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?</p> <p>Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area?</p> <p>Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation?</p> <p>Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?</p>
Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	<p>Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</p> <p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green and blue infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</p> <p>Promote healthy and active lifestyles?</p> <p>Improve and protect access to the countryside for recreational use?</p>
Protect, maintain and enhance the rich historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings, within and surrounding the Plan area?</p> <p>Conserve, enhance and protect the setting of the nearby Conservation Area?</p> <p>Enhance local identity, distinctiveness and character?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</p>
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land	<p>Promote the use of previously developed land?</p> <p>Avoid development of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3a)?</p>

<p>Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities and reduce deprivation across the Parish.</p>	<p>Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities?</p> <p>Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</p> <p>Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</p> <p>Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</p>
<p>Improve the economic activity rate of the Stainforth population, including through providing suitable access and improvements to skills and training.</p>	<p>Provide local employment opportunities?</p> <p>Deliver infrastructure which would support the improved uptake of educational opportunities?</p>
<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.</p>	<p>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs?</p> <p>Support the provision of affordable housing?</p> <p>Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</p> <p>Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</p> <p>Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</p> <p>Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</p>
<p>Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel</p>	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Enable sustainable transport infrastructure improvements?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel?</p> <p>Improve road safety?</p>

13. Next Steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

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

- Screening (NPPG Stage A)
- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan 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)

13.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Plan. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back so that they can be considered when preparing the draft plan.

Consultation on the Scoping Report

13.3 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

13.4 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.

13.5 Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Ian McCluskey, Associate Director, *AECOM Ltd, 1 New York Street, Manchester, M1 4HN*

Email address: ian.mccluskey@aeacom.com

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

