

4.0 Vision and Objectives

- 4.1 An NDP is required to have a Vision and Objectives. Our Draft Vision and Objectives for Aldcliffe with Stodday NDP are set out below:

Draft Vision

In 2031 The Parish of Aldcliffe with Stodday will continue to be a distinct community enjoyed and appreciated by residents and visitors alike enabling them to take advantage of its rural setting. While maintaining the cohesion of the present range of building designs, it will seek to provide suitable accommodation for a range of housing needs of its residents.

Draft Objectives

Objective 1: To protect areas of wildlife and areas of local landscape significance.

Objective 2: To support improved accessibility and health and wellbeing for all by protecting existing networks according to the users' hierarchy whereby pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised whilst recognising the parish's role as an important area for informal recreation.

Objective 3: To support appropriate small scale housing development to meet local needs, ensuring it is sensitive to the local built and landscape context and with associated improvements in community facilities and infrastructure.

Objective 4: To seek improvements in community facilities.

Objective 5: To support improvements in local infrastructure provision

Objective 6: To promote sustainable design and energy conservation in new housing and other buildings.

Objective 7: To work in partnership with local and national businesses to help ensure future investment and development are sensitive and appropriate to the many natural and built heritage assets of the parish.

Do you agree with the draft Vision and Objectives?

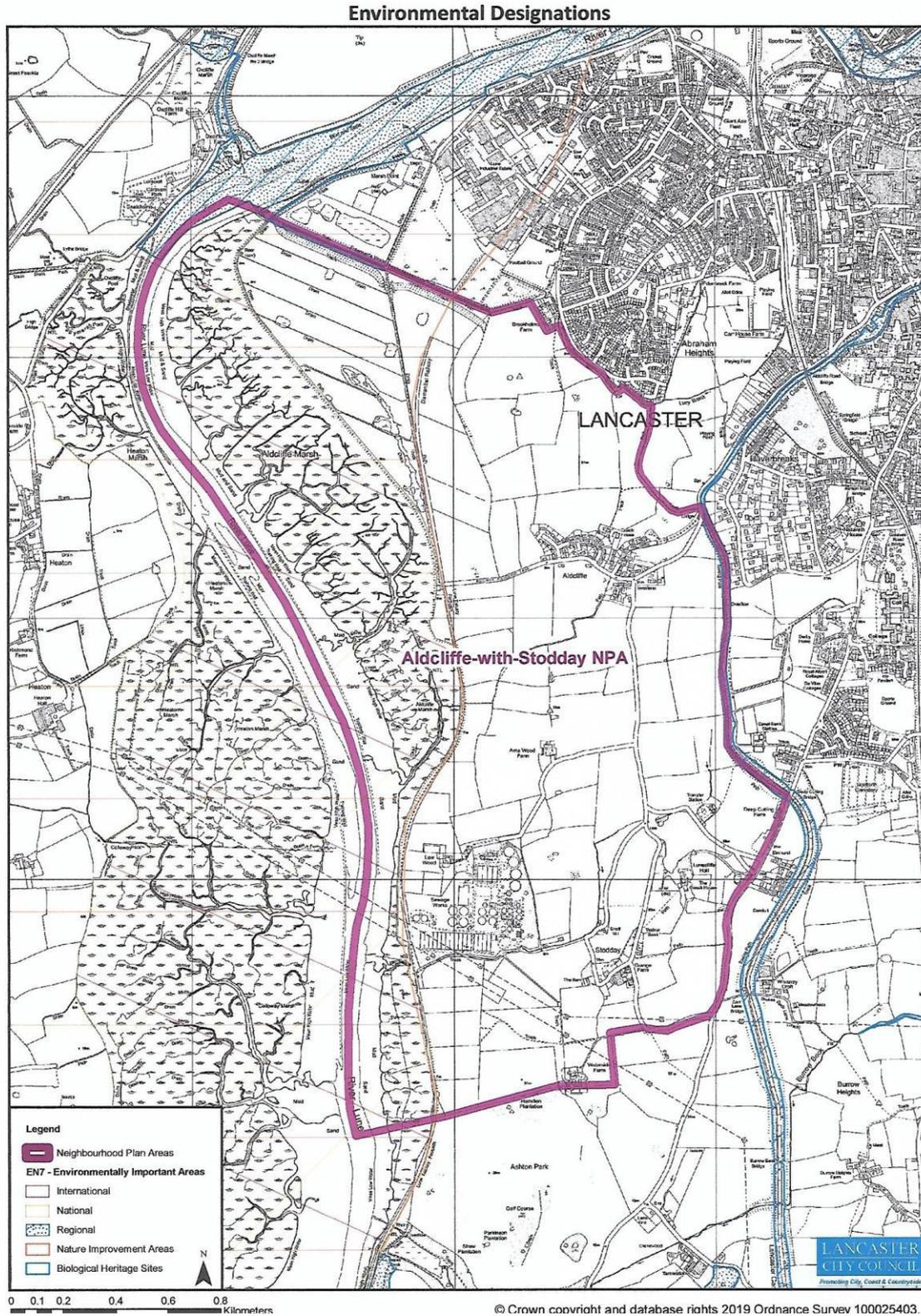
YES/NO

Do you have any suggestions for how they might be improved?

5.0 Key Planning Issues and Policy Options

5.1 Conservation and Accessibility

Wildlife and Habitats



Map 2 – Environmental Designations

- 5.1.1 The parish of Aldcliffe with Stodday includes several internationally and nationally important areas of wildlife, set within two areas of distinctive landscape character. The Neighbourhood Area includes an area of the Morecambe Bay Estuary Ramsar Site, Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Morecambe Bay SPA (Special Protected Area). The area also includes part of the Lune Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 5.1.2 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to the protection of wildlife and habitats are set out in Appendix 1:
- 5.1.3 Morecambe Bay SPA⁴ is one of the largest estuarine systems in the UK. The flats contain an abundant invertebrate fauna that supports many of the water birds using the bay. The capacity of the bay to support large numbers of birds derives from these rich intertidal food sources together with adjacent freshwater wetlands, fringing saltmarshes and saline lagoons, as well as dock structures and shingle banks that provide secure roosts at high tide. The site is of European importance throughout the year for a wide range of bird species. In summer, areas of shingle and sand hold breeding populations of terns, whilst very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders not only overwinter, but (especially for waders) also use the site in spring and autumn migration periods. The bay is of particular importance during migration periods for waders moving up the west coast of Britain. Morecambe Bay is also an SAC⁵ due to the significance of its habitats including estuaries, mudflats and sandflats.
- 5.1.4 Lune Estuary SSSI⁶ is on the coast of Lancashire extending from Heysham in the north and the Wyre Estuary in the south and inland to the outskirts of Lancaster. It forms part of the Morecambe Bay intertidal system and includes extensive sand/silt flats together with saltmarsh in the form of a number of discontinuous saltings fringing the estuary. The mud-flats are exposed for considerable periods between tides and are rich in invertebrates. They provide extensive feeding grounds for waders and for many of the wildfowl, especially shelduck which depend on the intertidal zone almost entirely for their diet of invertebrates. The sandbanks also provide important low-tide roosting sites for pink-footed geese and other waterfowl. The estuary is fringed by a series of saltmarshes which provide roosting sites for waders at high tide and support large numbers of wildfowl, such as mallard, widgeon, shelduck and pink-footed geese. The saltmarshes themselves are mostly grazed by sheep or cattle and include perennial grasses such as common saltmarsh grass, red fescue and creeping bent, accompanied by other salt-tolerant plants (halophytes) such as sea arrow-grass, thrift, sea milkwort and sea plantain. The marshes are dissected by irregular creeks or channels

⁴ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1982>

⁵ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013027>

⁶ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1001709.pdf>

along the edges of which (where they are protected from grazing) such typical plants as sea aster, sea purslane and annual sea-blite are found.

- 5.1.5 These important sites are protected by national and Lancaster City Council level planning policies and other legislation. However, it is important that the NDP notes these wildlife areas and it could include a planning policy to help ensure new development is sensitive to these areas and where possible includes opportunities to help enhance and support local wildlife.

Planning Policy Option 1

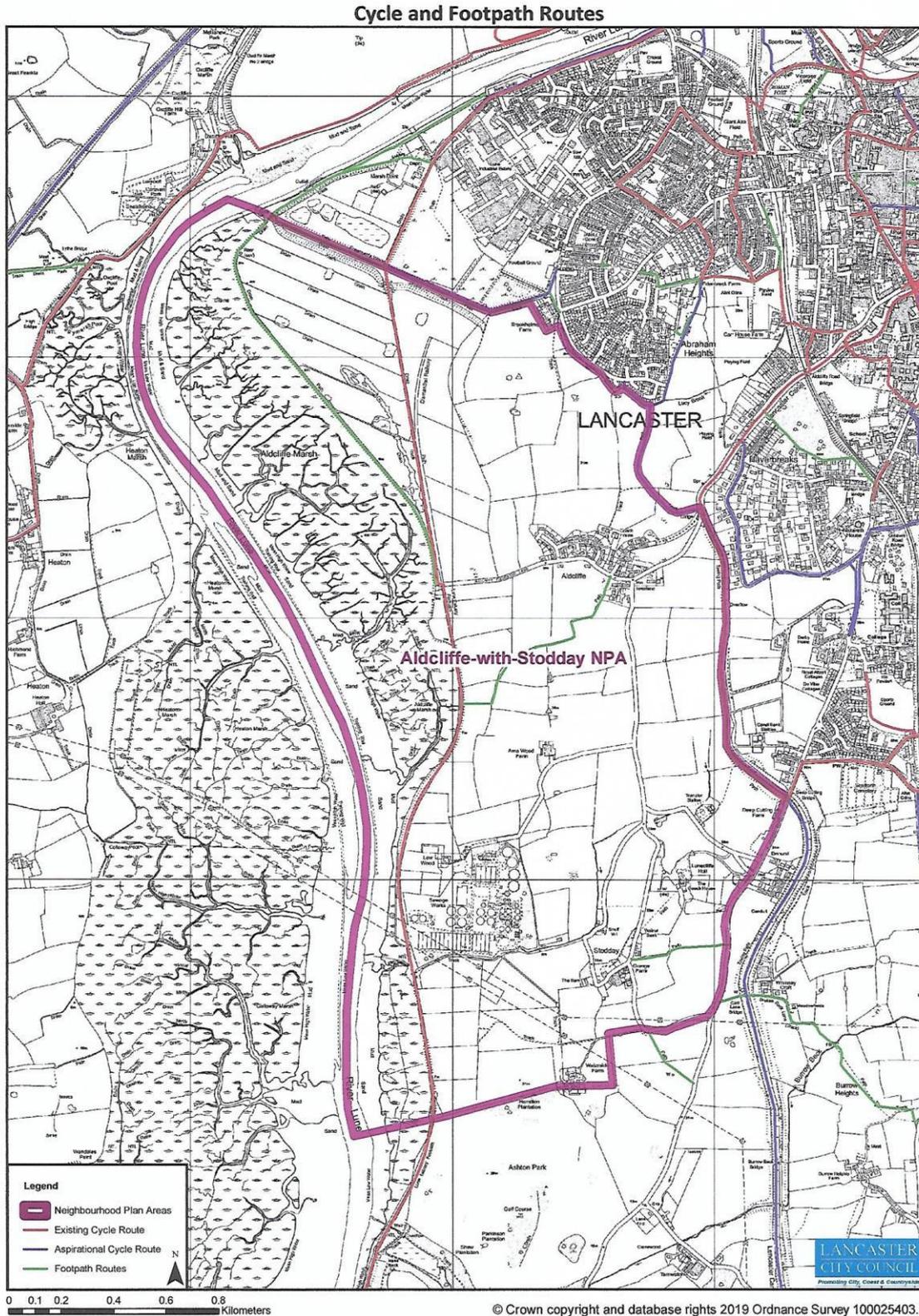
Do you think the NDP should include a policy to require new development to protect and enhance local wildlife and habitats in the parish?

YES/NO

Please provide any comments

Accessibility, Health and Wellbeing

- 5.1.6 The significance of the local area is recognised as providing leisure opportunities for local residents as well as visitors from the Lancaster City area and further afield. It also has potential as an educational resource. The neighbourhood area includes several important routes for cycling and walking, several of which run very close to (or through) the areas which are of major wildlife significance. These are shown on Map 3. Paragraph 5.1.8 below describes cycling facilities in more detail whilst paragraph 5.1.9 outlines walking routes.



Map 3 – Cycle and Footpath Routes

5.1.7 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to enhancing well-being and encouraging walking and cycling are set out in Appendix 2.

- 5.1.8 At the bottom end of Aldcliffe Hall Lane there is currently an informal car park that will hold four or five cars on rough ground that used to be where a level crossing and crossing keeper's house were located on the Lancaster to Glasson railway line. The multi-use path follows the route of the old railway line from here to Glasson but in the northerly direction it follows the route of what used to be called Long Mile Lane that ran alongside the railway line towards Lancaster. One possibility could be to minimally develop this area to provide a small car park that would give immediate access to Aldcliffe Marsh and the multi-use path. By designating a number of spaces for disabled drivers and others with a four-hour time limit, a car park would increase the accessibility for leisure users of the Aldcliffe Marsh and the multi-use path.
- 5.1.9 Sustrans cycle Route 6 runs through Aldcliffe-with-Stodday on its western boundary, along the multi-use path beside the River Lune. It is a traffic-free route that connects to the south with Glasson Dock (route 700) and the on-road section of Route 6 through Galgate with Route 90 running from Blackpool to Cumbria. To the north Route 6 connects with traffic free Routes 700 to Morecambe and 69 to Caton. There is a traffic-free route from Glasson Dock to Morecambe and Caton through Aldcliffe that is used for commuting and is especially popular for leisure use because to the west of the path is the Lune estuary and Aldcliffe marshes. Riders can enjoy views and the wildlife of the Morecambe Bay SSSI without the need to beware of motor vehicles. As the multi-use path runs through Aldcliffe, to the east riders have views across the gently rolling green hills of the low coastal drumlins that are characteristic of the area. The multi-use path of Route 6 can be accessed by cyclists through Aldcliffe either down Aldcliffe Hall Lane or Snuff Mill Lane. They can leave the canal towpath or Aldcliffe Road as it runs beside the canal and ride up Aldcliffe Hall Drive, a tree lined path that is not a through-route for motor vehicles. This route to the multi-use path is particularly popular with families cycling together for relaxing and leisure; it is a safe route for children and inexperienced cyclists. Aldcliffe Road itself, running through the middle of the Parish is popular with cyclists who may then access the busier A588 via a range of road and off-road routes as they leave the parish. Cycling through Aldcliffe-with-Stodday is currently very popular, particularly because there are traffic-free routes and routes with very little traffic. A possibility would be to introduce a twenty mile an hour speed limit through the Parish which would increase its popularity with cyclists and recreational users. A speed limit would also deter the increasing numbers of car drivers who use it as a cut-through to avoid the jams on the A6 during heavy commute times.
- 5.1.10 The lanes through both Aldcliffe and Stodday are narrow with no footways, making them potentially hazardous for walking. The most frequented walking route is the former railway line adjacent to the river, which is shared with cyclists and horse-riders. There are few designated footpaths in the parish. The principal paths link the major roads on the parish boundary to the riverside path. Many pedestrians use Aldcliffe Hall Drive as a means of

accessing the centre of Aldcliffe from the Lancaster Canal. The path from Stodday to the A588 runs across private farmland; the access points at either end are difficult to negotiate as they have high or narrow stiles and can become overgrown with holly bushes. These minor footpaths are still well used by residents and by formal and informal groups of walkers.

5.1.11 The NDP Steering Group would like the NDP to support the area's role in terms of providing a range of informal recreational activities for local residents, visitors from the built up area of Lancaster City and from further afield. The NDP has a role in encouraging healthy lifestyles and walking and cycling have significant health and wellbeing benefits. In addition, higher levels of walking and cycling have environmental benefits as they can reduce reliance on the private car (especially for short journeys) and thereby contribute towards reduced energy consumption and air pollution.

5.1.12 However there is potential for conflict. The attractiveness of the area, including its wildlife interest, are reasons for a high numbers of visitors and their increased numbers could have adverse impacts on wildlife and sensitive habitats. There is therefore a need to balance these two issues and to support recreation and health, whilst protecting sensitive areas.

Planning Policy Option 2

Should the NDP have a policy which supports enhancements for walking, cycling and education subject to the need to protect and support areas of wildlife significance?

YES/NO

Please provide any comments including any thoughts on educational resources.

Built Character

5.1.13 Domestic and agricultural buildings in the parish vary greatly in construction, size and style. The oldest domestic buildings dating from the mid 17th century



Aldcliffe Cottages

were farm cottages and similar small terraces of tied properties of local stone and rubble construction with stone or lakeland green slate roofs. There are several large country houses and halls dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries although the original Aldcliffe Hall was demolished in 1960 and is now the site of a mix of individually

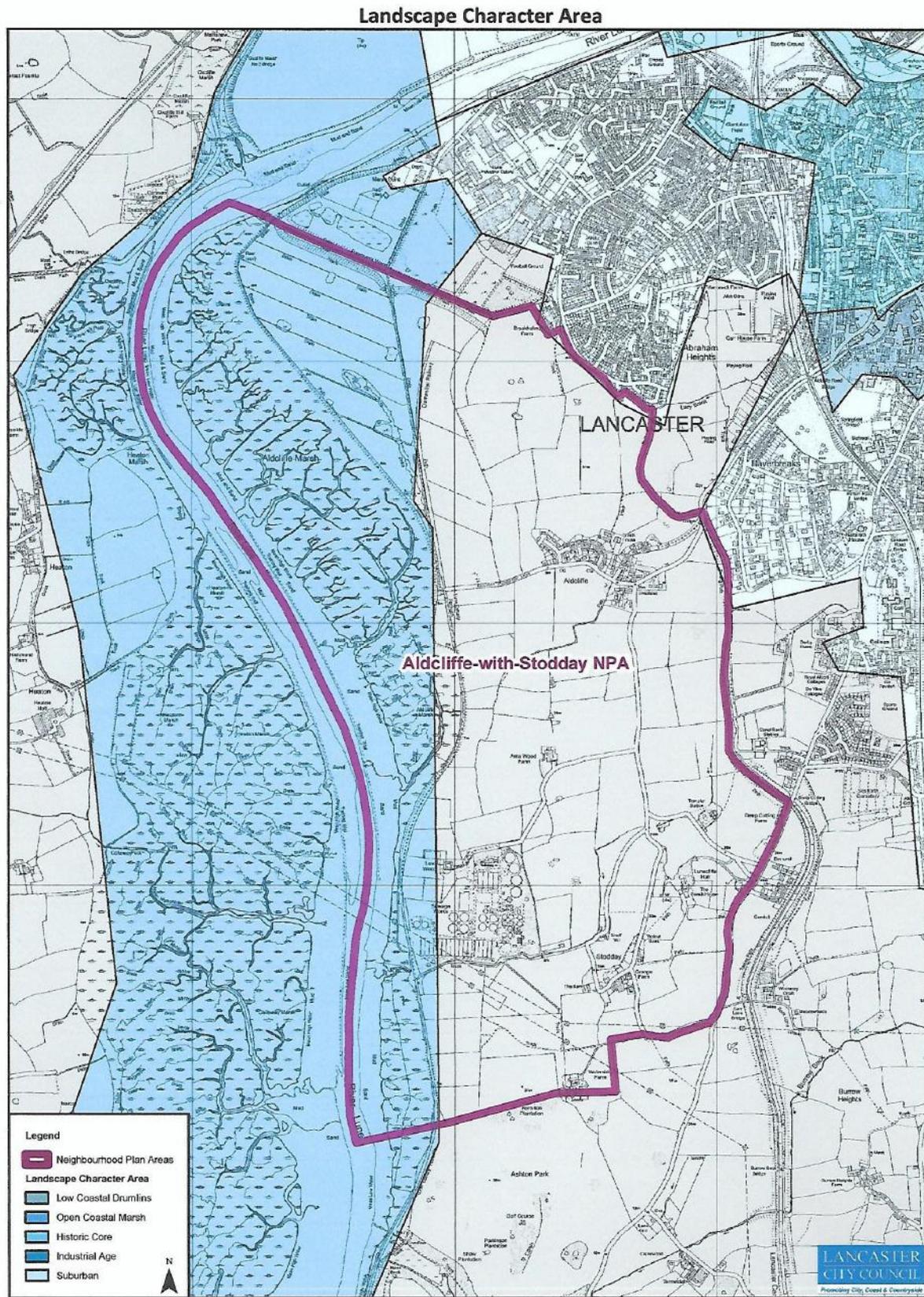
designed properties and large houses in a cul-de-sac layout built in the 1960's



Brier Cote and Rowallen House

and 70's. The East Lodge to Aldcliffe Hall, a grade 2 listed building, is, at the time of writing, the only disused/uninhabited building in the parish. Farmhouses of various ages and scale are scattered across the parish. In Stodday there are examples of farmhouses and cottages from the late 1870's/early 1880's constructed entirely of shuttered concrete, some of the earliest examples of this form of construction in the area. In the last thirty years a significant number of barns and other agricultural buildings have been converted into dwellings, retaining local stone exteriors to blend with existing built character.

Landscape Character



Map 4 – Landscape Character Area

5.1.14 Aldcliffe with Stodday lies within Natural England's National Character Area 31 Morecambe Coast and Lune Estuary.⁷ More locally, A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire, Landscape Character Assessment, 2000⁸ identifies two landscape character areas in Aldcliffe with Stodday parish: 12a Carnforth-Galgate Cockerham in 12 Low Coastal Drumlins Character Area and 18d Lune Marshes in 18 Open Coastal Marsh Character Area. These are described in more detail below.

12 Low Coastal Drumlins

This area is described as low, whaleback hills of around 40m high, with broad rounded tops that are a feature of the area as a whole and of Aldcliffe with Stodday in particular. Individual drumlins are isolated; there are often areas of poorly drained pasture, standing water and occasionally mosses, fens and fen meadows between the drumlins. The alignment of drumlins gives the landform a distinctive grain. The strong pattern of pastures emphasises the undulating topography, with neat, low cut thorn hedges traversing the drumlins. Trees and shrubs are limited in this agricultural landscape, although small copses occur on the tops and sides of the drumlins. Scattered farmsteads are reached by a network of winding hedged lanes and tracks, but one medium sized housing estate and one small industrial site are largely hidden in low lying parts of the landscape. All settlement is sited above poorly drained land on the shallow valley slopes. Minor roads and the canal wind around the drumlins while overhead powerlines cut across the drumlins and marsh land, paying no attention to the natural landform.

12a Carnforth-Galgate-Cockerham

Fields are largely of post medieval pattern. The drumlins provide elevated points from which there are views over the salt marshes to Morecambe Bay. Traditional farmsteads and older settlement cores are built of stone but the modern development is often built using red brick. Buildings on top of the drumlin hills are particularly visible. Woodland is limited to small plantations, woods associated with former estates and rarely, fragments of ancient woodland in unusual hilltop or hillside settings.

18 Open Coastal Marsh

Salt marshes and intertidal flats occur around the sheltered waters of the west coast of Lancashire and extend to the low water mark. The Open Coastal Marshes are flat, expansive coastal areas formed on marine alluvium. They are separated from the Enclosed Coastal Marshes and coastal farmland by man-made sea dykes and in places by boulder clay. The simplicity of the

⁷ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5000283?category=587130>

⁸ See Local Plan Evidence Base

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/examination-stage>

landscape pattern is visually appealing: usually the fine sward surface is closely grazed and is etched by a maze of creeks and channels which gives texture to the flat, expansive landscape. The marshes are open, except for occasional patches of scrub just beyond the high water mark, whilst the few marshes which are ungrazed are a riot of colour in high summer.

There is a striking absence of settlement or man-made features. This sense of remoteness is a dramatic contrast to the surrounding manmade landscapes. Another notable feature is the prolific bird life which brings movement to the landscape and provides a changing scene.

18d Lune Marshes

The sheltered mouth of the Lune Estuary supports an extensive saltmarsh which stretches almost into the centre of Lancaster and provides a dramatic contrast to the built environment of the city and its industrial edges. There are a number of footpaths, nature trails, cycle routes and viewpoints alongside the marsh which ensure that the area is well visited and highly visible. This, and the area's proximity to the centre of Lancaster, means the Lune Marshes are under pressure from visitors and from development. This is evident from the reclamation of the marshes immediately downstream of Lancaster.

Local Ecology

5.1.15 Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish covers a rural area that includes farmland but also includes Aldcliffe Marsh which is part of the Morecambe Bay SSSI. Most houses in the Parish have mature gardens – some quite extensive – and many have trees. Most of the land between these groups of houses is farmland in small fields which are bordered by hedgerows – there are stone walls or fenced borders to fields. Most of the farmland is grazing for sheep and some cattle or is used to grow fodder crops. Some fields are turned over to wheat in some years and some are now used as solar farms. Many of the fields include trees in the hedgerows or in clusters in corners. Footpaths such as 'Accommodation Lane' and the 'Lune Estuary Path' are bordered by hedges on each side providing excellent habitat for birds and small animals. There is no designated open space in the Parish but there are a number of 'in-between areas' and small woods that are also inhabited by birds and small animals (e.g. where Aldcliffe Road leaves the canal side, the verges and trees along the northern section of Aldcliffe Hall Drive, the footpath along the disused railway line leading northwards from the bottom of Aldcliffe Hall Lane, and the wooded areas around Lunecliffe Hall, to the east of the sewage treatment works and along Snuff Mill Lane).

The canal side

A two-stage ecological survey (winter 2018 and spring 2019)⁹ of the canal side recorded a wide range of trees, plants, birds and flowers. In the coppiced woodland near to East Lodge were Ash, Hazel, Beech, Horse Chestnut, Yew, Wild Cherry, Norway Maple and Sycamore. There were also shrubs - Holly, Bramble, Ivy and Dog rose and plants - Butterbur, Garlic Mustard, Spanish Bluebell, Germander Speedwell, Tufted Vetch Columbine, Common Dog Violet, Daisy, Wild Garlic, Wood Forget Me Not, Wood Avens, Cleavers and Native Bluebell.

Further along the canal side were: Cocks foot and grasses and the plants included Bracken, Common Nettle, Common Dock, Creeping Buttercup, Cow Parsley, Harts Tongue Fern, Ground ivy, Hogweed, Lesser Burdock and Ramsons. Flowers recorded in this area included: Cat's Ear, Yellow Flag Iris, Dandelion, Greater Stichwort, Wall lettuce, Welsh poppy, Red Campion, Ribwort Plantain, Red Clover, Rough Sow-Thistle, Willow Herb and Common Sorrel.

At the edge of the canal with roots in the water there were: Common Reed, Alder, Flowering Rush, Broad Leaf Plantain, Rosebay Willow Herb and Bulrush. On or nearby the canal the survey recorded a number of birds: Blackbirds, Eurasian magpie, Blue tit, Great tit, Long tailed tit, European robin, Carrion crow, Mallard duck, Moorhen and Kingfisher. By the canal, dragonflies and damselflies dart or hover in the summer months along with bees, wasps, hover flies and ladybirds that, along with many flies and beetles, provide some of the food for the birds and bats. Butterflies (orange tip, speckle wood and small white were all recorded in the spring ecology survey – later in the year painted lady, peacock, red admiral, common blue and meadow brown) were also to be seen along the canal side.

Aldcliffe Marsh

The marsh is tidal with some high spring tides covering it right up to the multi-use estuary path. At low tide the high levels of the marsh are covered in saltmarsh grass with a number of other grasses and rushes in the drier intertidal areas. In spring, thrift adds a carpet of pink in places and later sea lavender adds colour to the green that covers much of the mud. Across the marsh mud creeks and channels wind their way towards the estuary, providing cover for feeding redshank and curlew. Aldcliffe Marsh has a wide variety of wading birds (redshank, curlew, oystercatcher, lapwings, snipe) and is home to greylag geese, cormorants, shelduck, little egrets, mallards and herons. The creeks and fields adjacent to the marsh are visited by teal, widgeon, pinkfoot geese, Canada geese and occasionally more exotic species.¹⁰ In summer the skies swarm with swifts, housemartins, and

⁹ "Ecological survey for Aldcliffe-with-Stodday Parish Council (In area between Aldcliffe Hall East Lodge And the start of Deepcutting Bridge 94, Ashton Lane)", Survey 1, (23/11/18), Survey 2, (20/05/19), by Stewart Hirst.

¹⁰ <http://birdingaldcliffe.blogspot.com/>

swallows that join the all-year round gulls (heron, common, black-headed, lesser black-backed), ravens, crows, jackdaws and smaller birds. In winter fieldfares and redwings come to the margins of the marsh. Both sides of the multi-use path along the estuary have verges that are wide in places and bordered with trees and shrubs. Occasional benches along the path, the picnic area at Stodday and a raised area between Stodday and Aldcliffe provide resting points and views across the Marsh.

Gardens, woods and hedgerows

The hedgerows are a mixture of sycamore, elder, brambles as well as hawthorn, blackthorn and beech with occasional dog roses and honeysuckle. The footpaths enjoy displays of celandine, greater stichwort, bluebells, red campions in the spring. Blackbirds, crows, thrushes, sparrows, blue tits, great tits, greenfinches, chaffinches and gold finches are abundant and tree-creepers, nuthatches and woodpeckers more occasional visitors. The mewling of buzzards and kestrels can often be heard – sometimes as they are being chased by rooks or other smaller birds. Barn owls can be seen hunting in the early evening and later the sounds of owls can be heard.

The raptors are able to find voles and field mice in the hedgerows and some of the scrubland that remains, especially near the marsh. There are hares and rabbits to be seen in the fields and the occasional deer. Stoats, weasels and hedgehogs are there if seldom seen except by those about early in the mornings or late evenings.

Many of the trees along Aldcliffe Hall Drive – beech, oak, horse-chestnut, lime – are 193 years old having been planted when the Drive was laid out and the



East Lodge built in 1827. Their high branches provide quiet for the more private birds such as woodpeckers and owls. Other trees from the original Aldcliffe Hall estate are a similar age and all host the many types of insects that attract birds. There are wooded copses in many of the fields and rough bramble patches that

provide shelter and food sources for birds and small animals. The trees also house the bats that circle in the gardens and nearby open spaces when dusk leaves a plentiful supply of flying insects during the summer months.

5.1.16 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to protecting and enhancing local landscape character are set out in Appendix 3.

5.1.17 The Steering Group will be undertaking a more detailed study of both the built and landscape character of the local area.

Planning Policy Option 3a

Should the NDP have a policy which describes local landscape and built character and requires development to be sympathetic to its special qualities?

YES/NO

Please provide any comments

5.2 Housing, Community Facilities and Local Infrastructure

New Housing in the parish of Aldcliffe with Stodday

5.2.1 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to providing suitable new housing in Aldcliffe with Stodday are set out in Appendix 4. Specifically the emerging Local Plan for Lancaster District 2011 - 2031 identifies Aldcliffe with Stodday as an area where sustainable development need not take place unless it can be demonstrated that such development enhances or maintains the vitality of the local community and has well developed community support.

5.2.2 The Neighbourhood Development Plan provides an opportunity to review the current housing stock and consider the changing needs of existing residents as identified in both the Housing Needs Survey and the AECOM report referred to above in paragraph 2.4. The results of these two reports will be considered and will be used to inform the NDP policies alongside the responses to this Issues and Options consultation.

5.2.3 An NDP could include a policy to support suitable small scale new housing development to meet local needs and/or identify one or more site allocations for new residential development. Site allocations would require a "call for sites" process to local landowners and then a technical site assessment to consider whether such sites are suitable, deliverable and achievable, followed by community consultation. A planning policy would set out the local criteria to guide decisions on any planning applications that could come forward over the plan period - up to 2031. Planning decisions for housing are often controversial but the NDP provides an opportunity to set out what local people want for their area in terms of house types, sizes, tenure and design, as well as possible locations if sites are identified.

- 5.2.4 Any future development should be modest and a mix of one, two and three bedroom homes. In terms of dwelling type, the strong evidence of need for smaller dwellings is likely to translate more into terraced and semi-detached houses, as well as bungalows, than it will into detached properties. These types of dwellings would meet the express need for downsizing and starter homes.

Planning Policy Option 3b

Do you agree that if there is any future housing development it should respond to expressed local views for smaller housing units suitable for downsizing or for starter homes?

YES/NO

Please provide any comments

Community Facilities

- 5.2.5 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to providing new community facilities in Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish are set out in Appendix 5:
- 5.2.6 Aldcliffe with Stodday is without any community facilities. There are no shops, public toilets, pubs, cafes, churches, church halls or available meeting places within the parish boundary. The Parish Council has to meet in the Friends Meeting House in Lancaster, approximately 2.5 miles away from the centre of the Parish. The Steering Group have had to consider not only where to hold its meetings but also where to hold consultation events related to the NDP and at present remote locations such as the Friends Meeting House are the only reasonable option unless innovatory solutions such as some form of mobile provision can be explored with a view to developing a clearer sense of community. It should also be noted in particular that there is currently no provision in the parish for younger members of the community.
- 5.2.7 The NDP provides an opportunity to provide a supportive planning framework to encourage development which contributes to community infrastructure and facilities. As the parish is fairly small and the population limited it is likely that funding for the development and then the maintenance and running of a traditional village hall type facility would be difficult to secure.
- 5.2.8 However, it may be possible to develop parish amenities such as a parish or community room.

Planning Policy Option 4

Would you like there to be some form of communal facility within the parish?

YES/NO

If YES what type of facilities should be provided?

Communication Technologies including Broadband

5.2.9 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to supporting new communications technologies in Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish are set out in Appendix 6:

5.2.10 The NDP has a role in helping to ensure that any new development is supported by improvements in local infrastructure. In order to support local businesses and local residents' access to goods and services there is a need to ensure that the NDP encourages investment in new communication technologies, provided that they are designed and sited carefully to protect and enhance built and natural environmental assets.

5.2.11 Very few parts of the Parish have truly fast Broadband speeds, especially when upload speeds – essential for home working – are factored in. While parts of Aldcliffe have sufficient bandwidth for the receipt of basic streaming services, this is not the case in other parts of the parish, Stodday in particular. There is evidence that many parts of the parish have antiquated infrastructure that includes aluminium cables (less effective than copper which itself is now regarded as inadequate for fast broadband). The area is currently not within the scope of the development plans of a well-regarded local community based provider of superfast broadband (B4RN) although recently a stretch of aluminium cabling in Aldcliffe Hall Drive has been replaced by Openreach leading to a settling down of internet services in the immediate surrounding location. These problems are not unusual for small rural communities.

Planning Policy Option 5

Should the NDP support improvement in local infrastructure provision such as broadband to help with home working and improved access to goods and services?

YES/NO

Please provide any comments.

Low Carbon and Community Energy Schemes

5.2.12 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to supporting new low carbon and community energy schemes in Aldcliffe with Stodday Parish are set out in Appendix 7.

5.2.13 In response to international climate change objectives and the need to promote low carbon technologies, improved security of supply and greater energy efficiency in the UK, it is likely that proposals for renewable energy schemes will continue to come forward over the next plan period. The NDP could include locally appropriate policies to guide small scale or community led renewable energy schemes such as hydro-electric turbines, solar panels or ground source heat pumps and to help ensure any such proposals are sited and designed sensitively within the landscape.

5.2.14 Small scale community led renewable energy schemes can help to improve security of energy supply and often provide an income stream to support other community projects. Community energy projects have an emphasis on local engagement, local leadership and control and the local community benefiting collectively from the outcomes. Examples of community energy projects include:

- Community-owned renewable electricity installations such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines or hydroelectric generation;
- Members of the community jointly switching to a renewable heat source such as a heat pump or biomass boiler;
- A community group supporting energy saving measures such as the installation of cavity wall or solid wall insulation;
- Working in partnership with the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to pilot smart technologies;
- Collective purchasing of heating oil for off gas-grid communities;
- Collective switching of electricity or gas suppliers.¹¹

5.2.15 A significant part of the parish does not have a mains gas supply and thus has to rely upon oil and propane, together with electricity, for heating purposes. Recent national concerns about climate change seem to be leading towards a position where new build homes may not be assumed to have gas supplies. We therefore wish to encourage new development to use alternative low or zero carbon technologies for heat and power and to ensure suitable insulation is provided in line with the highest recommended technical standards.

¹¹ See **Community Energy** and **What is Community Energy?**

A guide aimed at local groups who are interested in setting up a community energy project.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-energy#what-is-community-energy>

Planning Policy Option 6a

Should the NDP support community energy schemes?

YES/NO

How do you think these could be enacted?

5.3 Sustainable Design and Energy Conservation

5.3.1 National and strategic Lancaster planning policies which are relevant to supporting sustainable design are set out in Appendix 8:

5.3.2 Incorporating a sustainable design approach into new buildings and development supports greater energy and resource efficiency and reduces carbon emissions which are a major contributor towards climate change. Sustainable design, which can include solar panels, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps, improved insulation and climate resilience, can also support other environmental objectives such as protecting and enhancing local biodiversity and habitats and supporting wider social objectives such as enhancing health and wellbeing and addressing fuel poverty.

5.3.3 Overall development should be designed to be 'climate resilient', that is designed to be robust and to protect occupiers from extremes of heat and cold and other adverse weather conditions which are projected to become more frequent as a result of climate change.

5.3.4 The NDP Steering Group are committed to promoting sustainable design in new development to help ensure Aldcliffe with Stodday contributes towards these wider sustainable development objectives whilst providing benefits to local residents.

Planning Policy Option 6b

Should the NDP include a policy which promotes sustainable design and climate resilience in any new development?

YES/NO

Please expand your response in relation to our parish.

6.0 Next Steps

- 6.1 This Issues and Options discussion document has been published for informal consultation from 24th February 2020 until 6th April 2020.
- 6.2 The Steering Group will read and carefully consider all the responses received as part of this consultation. Your responses will help us to prepare a First Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will involve the preparation of draft planning policies and supporting text.
- 6.3 Once the First Draft Plan is prepared, there will be a further period of *informal* consultation on the plan before the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan is finalised for a further 6 weeks *formal* consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.