NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK & TREASURER
Jackie Scarff
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[redacted]

Wealden District Council
Council Offices,
Vicarage Lane,
Hailsham ;
East Sussex
BN27 2AX
20 November 2019

Dear Sir/Madam;

I am writing to give notice that Ninfield Parish Council wish to make an application under the Localism Act 2011 part 2, regulation 5C of of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the Ninfield Parish Council. Please accept this letter as a formal application for the same.
This application is accompanied by a map identifying the area to which the application relates, being the entire parish area of Ninfield. The Parish Council has passed a resolution for the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and has resolved that the Neighbourhood Area to be designated should be the whole of the Parish. This is considered the most appropriate approach so that the Parish Council and the appointed NDP Steering Group can focus its efforts for the benefit of all Parishioners.

This area is considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the following reasons: The proposed area for the Neighbourhood Plan is in line with the recognised administrative area for Ninfield Parish and Ninfield Parish Council is a public body constituted by law the relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) being the Parish Council for the entire area applied for.

Ninfield Parish has an area of 10.5 km2. The 2011 census identified it had a resident population of 1562 of which 53.8% are aged 45 and over.

The Parish comprises of the small village of Ninfield which is mentioned in the Doomsday Book and settlements in Russels Green and Hazards Green. Ninfield lies 6km south west of Battle town centre, 7km North West of Bexhill on Sea. Ninfield is in the Coombe Haven Valley area of the High Weald with the boundary of the High Weald AONB only 50m north west of the village boundary. Ninfield is situated on a prominent ridge and is elevated from its surrounding landscape with long distance views afforded from the villages existing settlement edge. The landscape to the south east is characterised by a patchwork of historic fields and farmsteads many of which are historic. There are extensive tracts of grade 3 agricultural land and many wooded areas, including some areas of ancient woodland. Hedgerows and trees border many of the roads and lanes many of which of historic interest that should be conserved. It is important that hedgerows, green areas and grassland truly support biodiversity with a wealth of protected species of flora, fauna and

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animals and insects residing alongside the residents of Ninfield. Standard Hill is located on the south western tip of Ninfield and from this location long views across the levels can be gained, it is believed that William the Conqueror placed his flag here after the Battle of Hastings. The historic Battle Abbey is visible from this area. The South Downs National Park is also visible from the south western edge of Ninfield. The northern edge of Ninfield also provides extensive views across the countryside towards the High Weald AONB. We wish to protect the environment including tranquil countryside (day and night), dark skies (also highly important for the nearby Herstmonceux Observatory) and rural hinterland to the settlements within the Ninfield Parish as well as influence the nature and type of housing within it to ensure that any new development conserves the rural character of the village rather than the out of keeping surburban 'package designs' that are proposed by developers. The publication of the National Planning Policy Framework supports "sustainable development", which promotes economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Parishes with a Neighbourhood Plan will also be able to further their benefit from part of the proceeds of Community Infrastructure Levy paid on new development. A Plan provides an opportunity to identify how the parish might use CIL receipts. The village affords many areas of tranquility which the Parish Council wish to see preserved for the well-being of the residents and the Parish Council will continue to push for any development to include energy and other initiative that truly support the climate emergency.

The Parish is in the Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels ward of Wealden District Council, bordered on three sides by Rother District Council and on the fourth by the small villages of Hooe and Wartling. The village is policed by Rother and its health services are delivered by NHS Hasting and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group and so is highly sensitive to decisions in Rother.

A Neighbourhood Plan for Ninfield would be developed to include a wider Community Plan, for those items which do not have planning policy implications. This builds on the previous public consultation which led to the publication of a Parish Plan in 2012.

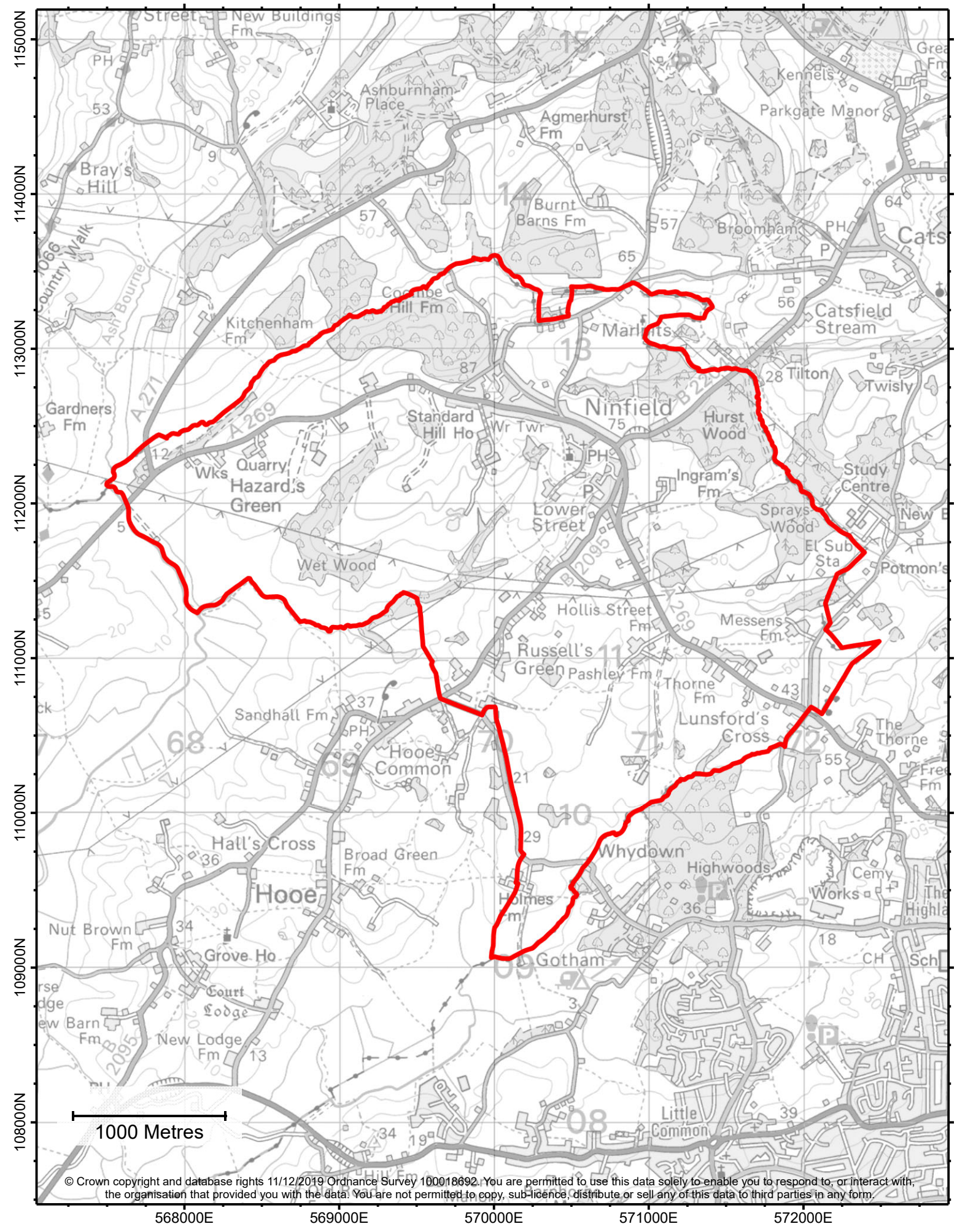
Yours sincerely,

Jackie

Jackie Scarff
Ninfield Parish Clerk & RFO

Location Plan - Ninfield Parish

Scale 1:30000 Date Printed: 11/12/2019



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