AECOM Imagine it. Delivered.

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report to accompany the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan

Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

January 2020

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Ryan Putt Environmental Consultant	Nick Chisholm-Batten Associate Director	Alastair Peattie Associate Director	Alastair Peattie Associate Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
V1.0	20th January 2020	Initial draft for Neighbourhood Group comment	21st January 2020	Nick Chisholm-Batten	Associate Director

Prepared for:

Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Prepared by:

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited
Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

aecom.com

© 2020 AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited. All Rights Reserved.

This document has been prepared by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited ("AECOM") for sole use of our client (the "Client") in accordance with generally accepted consultancy principles, the budget for fees and the terms of reference agreed between AECOM and the Client. Any information provided by third parties and referred to herein has not been checked or verified by AECOM, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document. No third party may rely upon this document without the prior and express written agreement of AECOM.

Table of Contents

Non-Technical Summary i

1. Introduction 1
Background 1
SEA explained 2
Structure of this SEA Environmental Report 3

2. Local Plan context and vision for the Neighbourhood Plan 4
Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan 4
Vision, aims and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan 4

3. What is the scope of the SEA? 6
SEA Scoping Report 6
Key Sustainability Issues 7
SEA Framework 10

4. What has plan making / SEA involved up to this point? 14
Introduction 14
Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken since 2011 14
Housing numbers to deliver through the Neighbourhood Plan 14
Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the broad location of housing development 15
Preferred approach in the Neighbourhood Plan in light of appraisal findings 19
Assessment of reasonable alternatives for broad areas of growth 20
Assessment of reasonable alternatives for site allocations 31
Neighbourhood Plan site assessment and initial shortlisting of sites 31
Assessment of the shortlisted sites through the SEA process 31
SEA site assessment findings 33
Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies 46
Choice of sites taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan 47
Neighbourhood Plan policies 47

5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage? 49
Introduction 49
Approach to this appraisal 49
Biodiversity and Geodiversity 49
Climate Change 51
Landscape 52
Historic Environment 53
Land, Soil and Water Resources 54
Population and Community 55
Health and Wellbeing 57
Transportation 58
Conclusions at this current stage 59

6. What are the next steps? 60

Appendix A Context Review and Baseline 61

This page is intentionally blank

Non-Technical Summary

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has been undertaken to inform the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to help avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

What is the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan?

The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report, which accompanies the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan, is the latest document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (September 2019), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues for the area;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan;
- The likely significant effects of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan; and
- The next steps for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA process.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Sites allocated in Aldingbourne through the Arun Local Plan

The Arun Local Plan, which was adopted in 2018, allocates a strategic allocation to the east of Westergate for housing and employment land, which partly overlaps with the Neighbourhood Plan area. Specifically, Policy H SP1 'The Housing Requirement' states that the strategic allocation of 2,300 dwellings (allocation SD5) is to be delivered in Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate.

The policy also notes that additional non-strategic allocations will be made across the district through emerging Neighbourhood Plans or reviews of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. In this context, Arun District Council have confirmed a housing target of at least 70 dwellings for Aldingbourne Parish which is to be found within the revision of the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

Whilst the Parish Council are required to allocate at least 70 dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan, there is a desire to "future proof" its Neighbourhood Plan and slightly exceed the housing target. In this respect, a target of 85 dwellings will be delivered on appropriate sites to meet locally identifiable needs and community aspirations.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the broad location of housing within the Neighbourhood Plan area

With a view to delivering (and slightly exceeding) the housing number provided by Arun, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group sought to explore different options for locating new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

A first consideration was where, in broad terms, to facilitate new housing provision in the Neighbourhood Plan area. To support decision-making on this element, the SEA process undertook an appraisal of two different alternative approaches linked to where, in relation to the existing settlements in Neighbourhood Plan area, new housing should be delivered.

In this context there are currently six 'built up' areas of the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are Westergate / Woodgate village, which comprise the primary settlements in the Neighbourhood Plan area, alongside the smaller settlements of Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey.

The two options therefore considered through the SEA process were as follows:

- **Option 1:** Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate; and
- **Option 2:** Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey.

Table 4.1 within the main body of the Environmental Report presents the findings of this assessment. A summary of the appraisal findings is presented below.

The assessment has highlighted that Option 1, which seeks to focus new housing provision within proximity to Westergate / Woodgate village, has the most potential to support accessibility to amenities, and limit greenhouse gas emissions from transport. This is given the settlement has the broadest range of services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The option also has increased potential to support the vitality and viability of the village. Comparatively, Option 2 would direct development to the locations of the Neighbourhood Plan area which are less accessible to services, amenities and public transport networks.

Whilst both options have the potential to result in the permanent loss of 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land within the parish, Option 2 could potentially result in a greater loss of natural features which help to regulate soil and water quality, by facilitating a higher proportion of new development in the open countryside. Furthermore, Option 2 would likely facilitate development in more sensitive locations in terms of the historic environment and landscape character. This is given the prevalence of nationally and locally designated heritage assets and areas within the rural areas of the parish and the distinctive setting of the smaller settlements. It is not expected that Option 1 would facilitate development within the setting of nationally designated heritage assets within Westergate / Woodgate. These features benefit from screening due to the relatively flat topography and being surrounded by existing buildings.

Subsequently, in terms of the broad location of development to be taken forward through the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group took the decision to take forward an approach which reflects Option 1 above. This reflects a desire to support the vitality of Westergate and Woodgate, which are the main settlements in the parish, and to deliver housing in the location with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for broad areas of growth surrounding Westergate and Woodgate

To facilitate consideration of potential locations for site allocations, six broad areas, or 'segments', were mapped around surrounding the settlements of Westergate and Woodgate. Broadly representing the 'points of the compass', the six segments have been evaluated, with a view to establishing the likely environmental constraints to development in each of these areas. Constraints are shown in Figures 4.1 to 4.3 in the main body of the Environmental Report.

Table 4.2 within the main body of the Environmental Report presents the findings of this assessment. A summary of the appraisal findings is presented below.

The segments in the north of the settlement covered by Westergate 1 and Westergate 2 are particularly constrained in terms of biodiversity and the historic environment. This is due to the proximity of these areas to nationally designated and locally important heritage features (including listed buildings, flint walls and features on the Historic Environment Record for West Sussex, along with the prevalence of biodiversity corridors and chalk streams passing along segment boundaries.

There are biodiversity corridors and chalk streams passing directly through the boundaries of Westergate 3, Westergate 4 and Westergate 6, in addition to areas of 'deciduous woodland' BAP priority habitat in Westergate 3 and Westergate 4. From a landscape perspective, all three segments contain Tree Preservation Orders which have been designated in the interest of their amenity value.

All the segments are underlain by areas of BMV agricultural land and are within good proximity to services, facilities and amenities in Westergate. Other than Westergate 5, all the segments also contain areas which have fluvial flood risk issues and/or surface water flood risk issues.

Overall, the results indicate that Westergate 5 is the least constrained segment surrounding Westergate / Woodgate village. However, most of the area is underlain by BMV agricultural land and the southern section has a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and 'low' landscape capacity.

Neighbourhood Plan site assessment and initial shortlisting of sites

During the earlier stages of the Neighbourhood Plan's development, there was a recognition that the Neighbourhood Plan would potentially need to allocate sites for new development. In light of this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook an assessment of the various available sites in the parish. These sites were assessed against a range of criteria relating to suitability, availability and achievability.

Subsequent to this process, seven sites were shortlisted as being appropriate for further consideration as potential allocations for the Neighbourhood Plan. These sites are as follows:

- Site A: Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site 32);
- Site B: Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site WE8);
- Site C: Land at Nyton Road, Northfields Lane and Fontwell Lane (HELAA ref: Site WE9);
- Site D: Land surrounding Long House, Nyton Road (HELAA ref: Site EA12);
- Site E: Land east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL1);
- Site F: Land west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL3); and
- Site G: Westergate Lodge, Westergate Street (HELAA ref: Site WE10).

Assessment of the shortlisted sites through the SEA process

To support the consideration of the suitability of the above shortlisted sites for a potential allocation of this type in the Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA process has undertaken a separate appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the relevant sites. This has considered the potential effects that may arise as a result of a housing development at these locations.

In this context, the sites have been considered in relation to the SEA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during SEA scoping (Chapter 3 of the Environmental Report)

and the baseline information. This SEA site assessment was undertaken separately to the site assessment undertaken by the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The sites assessed through the SEA process are the same as the shortlisted sites above. The locations of the seven sites assessed through the SEA process are presented in Figure NTS1 below.

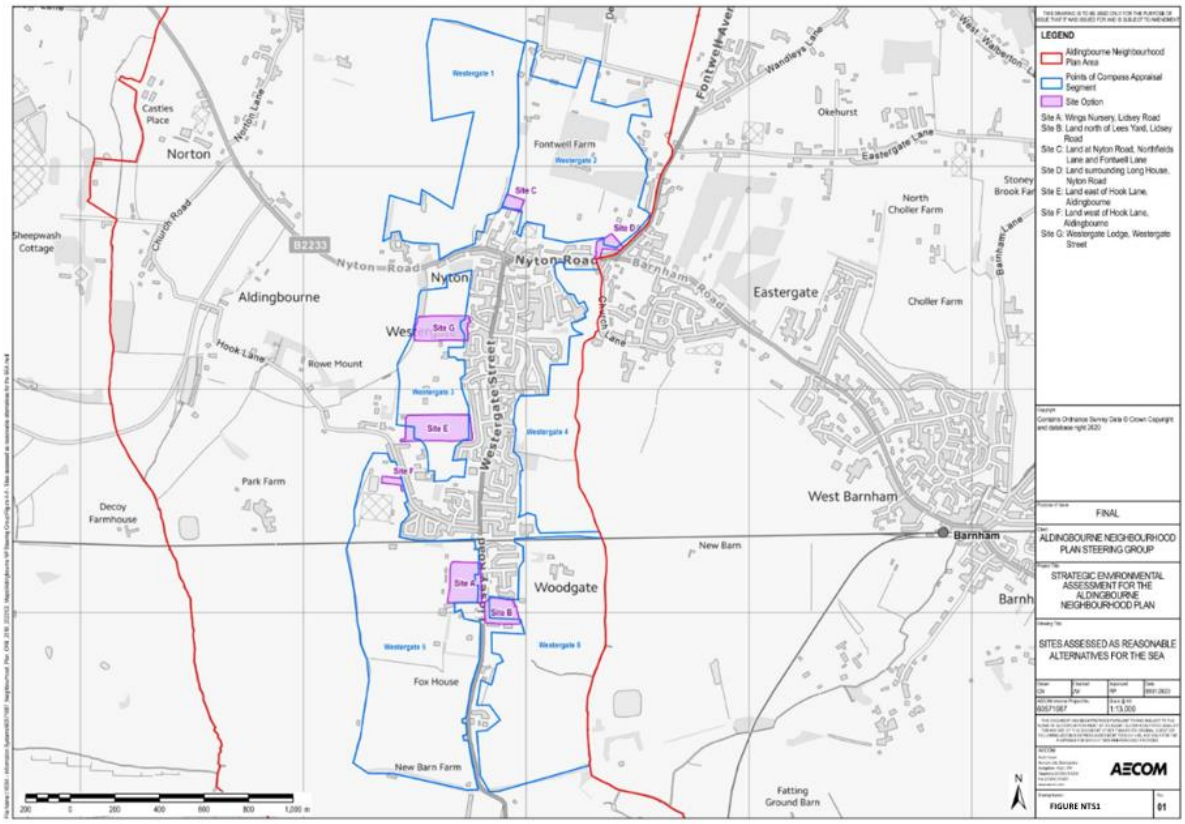


Figure NTS1: Sites assessed as site options through the SEA

Tables 4.3 to 4.9 in the main body of the Environmental Report present the findings of the assessment. A summary of the appraisal findings is presented below:

Table NTS1: Summary of SEA site appraisal findings

Site	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Climate Change	Landscape	Historic Env.	Land, Soil and Water Resources	Population and Community	Health and Wellbeing	Transport
Site A								
Site B								
Site C								
Site D								
Site E								
Site F								
Site G								

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Following consideration of these sites, the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan allocates two sites for housing development, specifically:

- Site A: 'Land at Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road' (for 55 dwellings); and
- Site B: 'Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road' (for 37 dwellings).

This follows the consideration of the findings of the site assessments undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan, consultation events, an ongoing consideration of viability and achievability and the SEA findings presented above. Notably, planning application 'AL/32/19/OUT' for the erection of 55 dwellings on the site was permitted with conditions in October 2019 on 'Land at Wings Nursey, Lidsey Road'. The Neighbourhood Plan is therefore supportive of this allocation.

Assessment of the Regulation 14 version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan

The Regulation 14 version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan presents 40 planning policies for guiding development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Other than Policy H1 'Provide housing to meet District Council allocation', all the other 39 policies have been 'saved' from the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan in 2016, with slight amendments to the policy wording in places to reflect the latest available studies and baseline information. These were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering.

Utilising the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SEA, the SEA process assessed the policies put forward through the current version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan. The Environmental Report has presented the findings of the assessment under the following SEA Themes:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Climate Change;
- Landscape
- Historic Environment;
- Land, Soil and Water Resources;
- Population and Community;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Transportation.

The assessment has concluded that the current version of the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community' SEA theme. This relates to the focus of the Neighbourhood Plan on safeguarding and enhancing community infrastructure, facilitating the delivery of housing which meets local needs and through supporting economic vitality by enhancing the prospects for employment locally. The Neighbourhood Plan is also likely to lead to positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' SEA themes. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's emphasis on protecting and enhancing the special qualities of the parish, supporting the quality of the public realm, and through incorporating high-quality and sensitive design through new development proposals.

The Neighbourhood Plan will also bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Health and Wellbeing' SEA theme, linked to its promotion of improved and accessible network of footpaths, enhancements to green infrastructure and open space provision to encourage active lifestyles, and the facilitation of flexible and easily adaptable dwellings for all residents.

Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan will bring positive effects in relation to the 'Biodiversity' SEA theme through retaining habitats, enhancing ecological networks and delivering net gain. However, given the approaches taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will help limit potential effects from new development areas rather than secure significant enhancements, these impacts are less likely to comprise significant positive effects overall. Furthermore, it is recommended that the relevant

wording is inserted into Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services', or another appropriate policy within the Neighbourhood Plan, as indicated within the HRA.

Regarding the 'Climate Change' SEA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan will potentially lead to positive effects through supporting development proposals which tackle flood risk issues, deliver renewable energy generating infrastructure and include low carbon energy sources to address the climate crisis. However, this is dependent on the extent to which development proposals incorporate these mitigation and adaptation measures through design. The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches regarding the 'Transportation' SEA theme, given its focus on reducing traffic congestion, supporting a modal shift towards sustainable transport and by ensuring that new developments provide appropriate access to local services and facilities.

Likewise, the Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches for the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SEA themes through the implementation of objectives which seek to limit pollution and improve the environmental quality of the parish. However, these are not considered to be significant in the context of the SEA process given the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and the scale of proposals. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan facilitates the delivery of 85 dwellings on two predominantly greenfield sites which are underlain by BMV agricultural land. This has the potential to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the significance of the loss of BMV land is reduced in the context of the amount of land take required through strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan.

Next steps

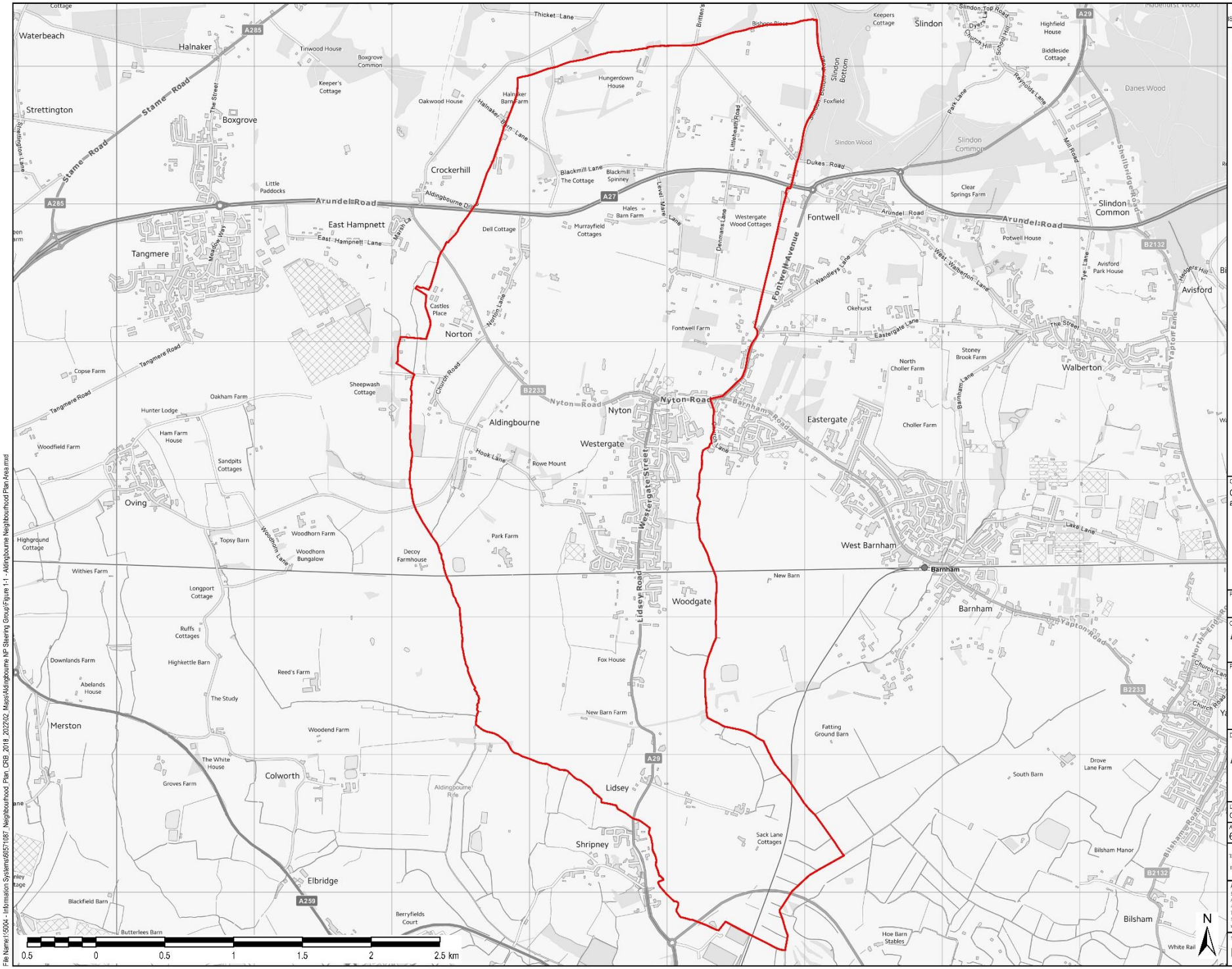
This Environmental Report accompanies the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.

Following consultation, any representations made will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and the Neighbourhood Plan and Environmental Report will be updated as necessary. The updated Environmental Report will then accompany the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, Arun District Council, for subsequent Independent Examination.

At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with local planning policy.

If the Independent Examination is favourable, Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Arun District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the parish.

This page is intentionally blank



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area

Copyright:
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019

Purpose of Issue
FINAL

Client:
ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	29/08/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A3
60571087	1:25,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT BY ANY AGENT INTENDED SUCH USE AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
South Wales
Abergwili Lane, Dinefwr Park
Carmarthen SA31 2JR
Telephone (01267) 232201
Fax (01267) 232201
www.aecom.com

AECOM

Drawing Number
FIGURE 1.1

Rev
01

File Name:\\60004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_202202_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure 1.1 - Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area.mxd

1. Introduction

Background

1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Aldingbourne Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, which is a revision of the adopted Neighbourhood Plan which was 'made' in 2016. The 'made' Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed in order to align itself with the Arun Local Plan which was adopted in 2018.

1.2 The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

1.3 It is currently anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Arun District Council in 2020 and undergo a referendum later in the year.

1.4 Key information relating to the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Aldingbourne Parish Council
Title of Plan	Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the Arun Local Plan 2018. The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Timescale	To 2031
Area covered by the plan	The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Aldingbourne in West Sussex (**Figure 1.1**).
Summary of content	The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	The Clerk, Mrs. Nash, Aldingbourne Parish Council Email address: aldingbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

SEA explained

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

1.2 SEA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive[1]. It also widens the scope of the assessment from focusing on environmental issues to further consider community issues.

1.3 The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Arun District Council as requiring an SEA. To meet this requirement, the Neighbourhood Plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

1.4 The SEA will be undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

1.5 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the Regulation 14 version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

[1] Directive 2001/42/EC

Structure of this SEA Environmental Report

1.5 This document is the SEA Environmental Report for Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed below with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the SEA Environmental Report in order to meet the regulatory[2] requirements

Environmental Report question		In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include…[3]
What's the scope of the SEA?	What is the plan seeking to achieve?	• An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan.
	What is the sustainability 'context'?	• Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. • The relevant environmental protection **objectives**, established at international or national level. • Any existing environmental **problems** which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.
	What is the sustainability 'baseline'?	• The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan. • The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. • Any existing environmental **problems** which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.
	What are the key issues and objectives?	• Key **problems**/**issues** and **objectives** that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment.
What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?		• Outline reasons for selecting the **alternatives** dealt with. • The likely significant effects associated with **alternatives**. • Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of **alternatives** appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the current version of the plan.
What are the assessment findings at this stage?		• The likely significant effects associated with **the Regulation 14 version of the plan**. • The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing **the Regulation 14 version of the plan**.
What happens next?		• The next steps for the plan making / SEA process.

[2] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
[3] NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

2. Local Plan context and vision for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Arun Local Plan which was adopted in 2018. The Local Plan provides the broad policy framework and a long-term strategy to manage development, protect the environment, deliver infrastructure and promote sustainable communities within Arun District.

2.2 In the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area, Aldingbourne is designated as a 'village', along with the settlements of Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate, Walberton and Yapton. The Local Plan states that the settlements of Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate (which is within the Neighbourhood Plan area) are located close together and provide a range of local services and facilities. Comparatively, the settlement of Aldingbourne is noted as having a limited range of services and facilities.

2.3 Policy H SP1 'The Housing Requirement' within the Arun Local Plan[4] includes a strategic allocation of 2,300 dwellings (allocation SD5) to be delivered in Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate. The policy also notes that additional non-strategic allocations will be made across the district through emerging Neighbourhood Plans or reviews of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. In this context, Arun District Council have confirmed a housing target of at least 70 dwellings for Aldingbourne Parish which is to be found within the revision of the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

2.4 Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for Arun, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the 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 Arun, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

Vision, aims and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

2.5 The vision for Aldingbourne Parish captures the community's views and aspirations for the Parish over the next 20 years as expressed through the consultation process. It therefore forms the basis on which the neighbourhood objectives and proposed policies have been formulated.

"

In 2036 Aldingbourne Parish will continue to be an attractive place to live, maintaining its intrinsic semi-rural character whilst allowing for sustainable development, improving connectivity and local services.

Vision Statement for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan "

2.6 The vision is underpinned by a clear set of core objectives that seek to make a positive contribution to sustainable growth within the parish, economically, environmentally and socially.

[4] Arun District Council (2018): 'Arun Local Plan', [online] available to access via: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan> last accessed [18/09/19]

2.7 Housing

- Meet identified local needs;
- Complement the current character and cultural heritage of the village; and
- Contribute to the provision of local infrastructure and facilities.

2.8 Environment

- Protect high quality agricultural land;
- Protect and enhance existing green spaces;
- Protect and enhance the parish's biodiversity; and
- Minimise the risk of flooding.

2.9 Getting around

- Encourage provision of improvements to cycle ways and footpaths; and
- Promote greater connectivity to the National Park and to the coast.

2.10 Employment and enterprise

- Support local shops and other businesses; and
- Encourage greater digital and internet connectivity.

2.11 Leisure and community

- Ensure provision of a range of facilities for leisure and recreation; and
- Promote opportunities for community food production.

3. What is the scope of the SEA?

SEA Scoping Report

1.6 The SEA Regulations require that: "*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*". In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.[5] These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan SEA for a period of five weeks, between September and October 2019.

1.7 The purpose of scoping was to outline the 'scope' of the SEA through setting out:

- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
- The key sustainability issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- An 'SEA Framework' of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.

1.8 Responses received on the Scoping Report, and how they were addressed, have been summarised below.

Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
Natural England *Victoria Kirkham, Consultations Team (email response received on 14th October 2019)*	
Natural England has no specific comments to make on this neighbourhood plan SEA scoping. However, we refer you to the advice in the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.	Comment noted. The recommended guidance has provided an essential reference point during the SEA process.
Environment Agency *No response received*	
Historic England *Robert Lloyd Sweet, Historic Places Adviser (email response received on 24th October 2019)*	
I found this to be a useful and informative document in terms of presenting the evidence of the condition of the known historic environment resource within the Neighbourhood plan area.	Comment noted.

[5] In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because *'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme'.'*

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
It is clear that there is a considerable potential for archaeological remains to be affected by planning decisions based on the recorded resource. This suggests it would be useful to ensure that potential site allocations are checked for potential impacts to recorded archaeological remains. We would therefore recommend amending the final bullet point in the list of Historic Environment Assessment Question (page 36) to "Have proposed site allocations and reasonable alternatives been assessed for potential impacts to sites of archaeological or historic interest recorded on the West Sussex Historic Environment Record, and have possible impacts, been avoided or minimised where impacts could occur in manner appropriate to the significance?".	The West Sussex Historic Environment Record has provided an essential reference point during the consideration of reasonable alternatives and site allocations (Chapter 4 of the Environmental Report). Potential impacts to the historic environment have been considered throughout the SEA process, proportionate to the additional seven themes which have been scoped in to the SEA. Potential impacts resulting from the site allocations have been further discussed during the Plan appraisal (Chapter 5 of the Environmental Report), alongside policy commitments aiming to protect and enhance the heritage assets and features within the parish.
Given the identification of existing issues affecting the conservation areas and opportunities for enhancement we would also suggest including an additional SEA objective to "Provide a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of the area's historic environment by guiding development proposals to address issues identified as threats to the character or appearance of the conservation areas". This would be paired with an assessment questions such as "Do plan policies guide development proposals to secure remediation of issues identified as affecting the conservation area (see baseline description) and prevent cumulative impacts?".	The Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan contains several policy commitments seeking to protect and enhance the historic environment, including specific commitments for the 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane' conservation areas. The Plan also seeks to designate a third conservation area at the northern end of Hook Lane due to its special architectural, archaeological and heritage interest. This is further discussed within the Historic Environment appraisal in Chapter 5 of the Environmental Report.

1.9 Baseline information (including the context review and baseline data) is presented in **Appendix A**. The key sustainability issues and SEA Framework are presented below.

Key Sustainability Issues

Air Quality

- The 2019 ASR for Arun District confirms that there are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The ASR highlights that there is concern over increasing NO_2 levels from road traffic exhaust emissions. These emissions are the main source of air pollution in the district.
- Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Part of the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan overlaps with the 12km buffer zone for the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels Special Area of Conservation.

- There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located directly to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: 'Halnaker Chalk Pit' SSSI and 'Eartham Pit, Boxgrove' SSSI.
- At the local level, 'The Brookes' (Bersted Brooks)' LNR, 'Fontwell Racecourse' SNCI and 'Slindon Bottom' SNCI are located either within or within proximity to the parish, containing habitats and species listed in the annexes of both the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).
- There are a variety of BAP Priority Habitats located within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, good quality and semi-improved grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland fens, lowland meadows, and traditional orchard.
- The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SBRC) data for Aldingbourne confirms that there is a network of chalk streams within the northern half of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Climate Change

- Any increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions in Aldingbourne.
- Arun has seen a 36.2% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for West Sussex (36.6%), the South East of England (36.7%) and England (37.6%).
- Sections of Oving Road and Hook Lane in the settlement of Aldingbourne partly fall within Flood Zone 3, with a corridor of land covering the western section of the settlement between St Mary's Church and Church Road also within Flood Zone 3.
- Completed in 2016, the Arun District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment highlights that there has been a series of flooding events in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy estimates around 495 properties are at risk of surface water and coastal flooding combined across Aldingbourne, Westergate and Eastergate.
- Surface water flooding is a risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a low-to-medium risk of flooding from the Aldingbourne Rife surrounding Westergate and Woodgate and a high risk in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan along the A27 Arundel Road.

Landscape

- The South Downs National Park overlaps with the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, containing several special qualities which classify its distinctiveness and value.
- There are seven LCAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the Arun Landscape Study outlining several key features which contribute to their distinctiveness.
- Reflecting the results of the Landscape Study, five out of the seven LCAs either have a 'low' or 'low to medium' capacity for change. Additionally, six out of the seven LCAs have been classified as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity.
- Arun District Council have allocated serval Tree Preservation Orders in the Neighbourhood Plan area in the interest of their amenity value.
- The views across the Neighbourhood Plan area are an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process.

Historic Environment

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains 30 Grade II and one Grade I nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. It is currently not possible to determine whether the Grade II listed buildings are 'at risk'.
- There is one scheduled monument within the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: 'The Keep of Tote Copse castle; 400m north of Decoy Farmhouse'.

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains two designated conservation areas: 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane', which contain several features which contribute to their distinctiveness.
- Conservation Area Appraisals have not been prepared for 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane' therefore it is not currently possible to gain an in-depth understanding of the special interest of the areas.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are proposing a new conservation area at the northern end of Hook Lane and Park Lane due to the heritage interest of the five listed buildings and the scheduled monument which are within and within the setting of the area.
- The HER for West Sussex contains records of 89 locally important heritage features located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

- The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset identifies areas of Grade 1, Grade 2, and some Grade 3a agricultural land within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Based on the results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment', greater than 60% of the undeveloped areas surrounding Aldingbourne have a high likelihood of containing BMV land.
- The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan is the Aldingbourne Rife, which flows from north to south of Aldingbourne south, where it drains into the Sussex TRaC.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area is within the 'Aldingbourne Rife' Surface Water NVZ.
- Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer classifies the Aldingbourne Rife as having a 'good' chemical status and a 'poor to moderate' ecological status.
- The reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) are primarily attributed to the following activities: sewage discharge, poor soil/nutrient management, groundwater abstraction, transport/land drainage and contaminated land.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area potentially overlaps with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E.

Population and Community

- The population of Aldingbourne increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to Arun, the South East of England and England averages.
- Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (28.6%) in comparison to the regional and national trends.
- Aldingbourne has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the parish's sense of identity. There are several local green spaces and local open spaces within the parish.
- In terms of deprivation, Arun 003d, Arun 003E and Arun 012D are all amongst the top 40% most deprived LSOAs in England within the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' domain.

Health and Wellbeing

- The JSNA highlights that annual changes in the 65+ population averaged +2,500 per year between 2002 and 2017, projecting averages of +4,800 per year between 2017 and 2032.
- The 2018 Public Health Profile for Arun estimated that levels of adult physical activity across the district (63.9%) is lower than the regional total (69.8%) and the national total (66.3%).
- 17.7% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited either 'a little' or 'a lot'.
- 82.1% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', broadly aligning to the totals for the South East of England (83.6%) England (81.4%) but higher than the total for Arun (78.8%).

Transportation

- There are no railway stations within Aldingbourne parish. The nearest mainline railway station connecting residents to the national network is in the neighbouring settlement of Barnham.

- In terms of congestion, key concerns include the volume of traffic on the A29 and queues arising from the Woodgate level crossing. The safety of pedestrians along the A29 is also a concern, particularly for children walking or cycling to school.
- A lower percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan catch a train, bus, minibus, coach or walk to work (6.9%) in comparison to the totals for Arun (10.9%), the South East of England (15.4%) and England (15.0%).
- 91.7%% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for Arun (80.5%), the South East of England (81.4%) and England (74.2%).
- The total number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area with access to at least two cars or vans (39.5%) is higher than the regional and national trends.

SEA Framework

3.1 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the submission version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework.

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geodiversity	Will the option/proposal help to: • Support the integrity of the European designated sites located within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Support the status of the nationally and locally designated sites within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Protect and enhance priority habitats and species, including those listed in the annexes of the European Habitats Directive and the European Birds Directive? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	Will the option/proposal help to: • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	Will the option/proposal help to: • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape	
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Downs National Park, in line with the Partnership Management Plan and Local Plan? • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and villagescape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the seven LCAs and TPOs? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?
Historic Environment	
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	Will the option/proposal help to: • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?

Land, Soil and Water Resources	
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land? • Protect the integrity of mineral safeguarding areas?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? • Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption? • Protect surface water resources?
Population and Community	
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

Health and Wellbeing	
Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Address the key challenges identified in the JSNA? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
Transportation	
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

4. What has plan making / SEA involved up to this point?

Introduction

4.1 The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report.

4.2 A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA Regulations[6] are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the '*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*'.

4.3 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include…

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

4.4 The following sections therefore describe how the SEA process to date has informed the preferred development strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan area and potential locations for development. Specifically, this chapter explains how the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan's development strategy has been shaped through considering alternative approaches for the location of housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken since 2011

4.5 Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan's development began early in 2011, initiated by Aldingbourne Parish Council. It has been led by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which includes representatives of the Parish Council and volunteers from the local community.

4.6 Significant public consultation has been carried out to date to support the Neighbourhood Plan. This has gathered local views and opinions, with a view to engaging local people throughout the Neighbourhood Plan's development process. This has included events, household questionnaires and engagement through the Neighbourhood Plan website.

4.7 The Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in November 2016 following a successful referendum. However, the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed in order to align itself with the Arun Local Plan which was adopted in 2018.

Housing numbers to deliver through the Neighbourhood Plan

4.8 As discussed in Chapter 2, the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in conjunction with the provisions of the Arun Local Plan, which was adopted in 2018.

4.9 Policy H SP1 'The Housing Requirement' within the Arun Local Plan[7] includes a strategic allocation of 2,300 dwellings (allocation SD5) to be delivered in Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate. The policy also notes that additional non-strategic allocations will be made across the district through emerging Neighbourhood Plans or reviews of 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. In this context, Arun District Council have confirmed a housing target of at least 70 dwellings for Aldingbourne parish which is to be found within the revision of the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

[6] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
[7] Arun District Council (2018): 'Arun Local Plan', [online] available to access via: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/adopted-local-plan> last accessed [18/09/19]

4.10 Whilst the Parish Council are required to allocate at least 70 dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan, there is a desire to "future proof" its Neighbourhood Plan and slightly exceed the housing target. In this respect, a target of 85 dwellings will be delivered on appropriate sites to meet locally identifiable needs and community aspirations. As such the expectation is that the new Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate Community Land Trust will be offered first refusal on affordable housing delivered at sites allocated through the Neighbourhood Plan. This is so that local people will be able to remain living and working in the parish, with the benefits this brings for family and community support.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the broad location of housing development

4.11 With a view to delivering the housing number provided by Arun, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group sought to explore different options for locating new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

4.12 A first consideration was where, in broad terms, to facilitate new housing provision in the Neighbourhood Plan area. To support decision-making on this element, the SEA process undertook an appraisal of two different alternative approaches linked to where, in relation to the existing settlements in Neighbourhood Plan area, new housing should be delivered.

4.13 In this context there are currently six 'built up' areas of the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are Westergate / Woodgate village, which comprise the primary settlements in the Neighbourhood Plan area, alongside the smaller settlements of Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey.

4.14 The two options therefore considered through the SEA process are as follows:

- **Option 1:** Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate; and
- **Option 2:** Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey.

4.15 In terms of other potential options, it was viewed that delivering the housing requirement in the open countryside and rural hinterland would not be compatible with national planning policy and the provisions of the Arun Local Plan, and as such would not comprise a 'reasonable alternative' appropriate for considering through the SEA process.

4.16 **Table 4.1** overleaf presents the findings of the appraisal of Option 1 and Option 2 outlined above. To support the assessment findings, the options have been ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant SEA theme. It is anticipated that this will provide the reader with a likely indication of the comparative sustainability performance of the two options in relation to each theme considered.

Table 4.1: Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives for the broad location of housing development

Option 1: Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate

Option 2: Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Option 1	Option 2
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites present in the Neighbourhood Plan area, and there are also no SSSI Impact Risk Zones covering the Neighbourhood Plan area for the types of development potentially to be taken forward (i.e. residential, rural residential, rural non-residential). Therefore, the two options are unlikely to lead to significant effects on these designated sites. The Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) present in the Neighbourhood Plan area are in the north eastern section of the parish (near to the neighbouring settlement of Fontwell). These are not in close proximity to the three potential areas of housing allocations likely to be taken forward through the two options. In terms of other key biodiversity habitats, and ecological networks, the relative merits of the options largely depend on the detailed location of development, the provision of new and enhanced green infrastructure alongside new development, the retention and incorporation of biodiversity features within new housing provision and detailed design and layout. In this respect, biodiversity corridors and chalk streams are present in Aldingbourne, Norton, Westergate and Woodgate, with Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats present in the settlements of Aldingbourne, Nyton and Westergate.	=	=
Climate Change	In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, road transport is the significant contributor to emissions in the area, with census data highlighting that over 90% of households have access to at least one car or van (over 10% higher than the regional and national averages). The extent to which the two options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. In this context, Option 1 is likely to encourage a distribution strategy which promotes development at locations in closer proximity to the existing services and facilities of the main settlement in the Neighbourhood Plan area, Westergate / Woodgate village. In this context, Westergate / Woodgate village has a range of services, facilities and amenities including Aldingbourne Post Office, Aldingbourne Primary School, Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, Westergate Methodist Church, a local supermarket and a public house. This will help to limit the need to travel to local facilities for some day-to-day activities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). In this regard, Option 2 is less likely to reduce the dependence on private cars for undertaking day-to-day activities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is primarily due to the rurality of Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton and Lidsey. In terms of climate change adaptation, the extent to which the options promote climate change adaptation depends on the specific location, design, layout and scale of development, and the incorporation of features which support climate resilience.	1	2

Option 1: Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate

Option 2: Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Option 1	Option 2
Landscape	In terms of landscape constraints, most of the Neighbourhood Plan area located to the north of the A27 is within the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. However, as the settlements of Aldingbourne, Norton, Nyton, Lidsey, Westergate and Woodgate are all located to the south of the A27, neither of the options are likely to lead to significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, there are several Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and TPO areas within Westergate and Woodgate, designated in the interest of their amenity value. In this respect, Option 1 has the potential to adversely impact these landscape features in the absence of sensitive design. However, it is anticipated that these features could be appropriately integrated and retained through development proposals. In relation to landscape character Option 2 would facilitate development in settlements which are more visible in the open countryside, contrary to local and national policy provisions. Additionally, as the settlements of Aldingbourne, Nyton and Norton are all located relatively close together in the parish, Option 2 could potentially contribute to the coalescence of settlements through reducing the green gaps between them. Comparatively, Option 1 would focus new development within proximity to the main built-up areas of the parish, minimising the levels of development in rural locations.	**1**	**2**
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the nationally designated heritage features located within the settlements of Westergate and Woodgate are predominantly contained along Westergate Street and Nyton Road, surrounded by existing development. As such, it is not expected that Option 1 would facilitate development within the setting of nationally designated features, as most nationally designated heritage features would likely be screened from view. Comparatively, both the 'Norton Lane' and 'Church Road' conservation areas are in the western section of the parish, within the settlements of Norton and Aldingbourne respectively. Both conservation areas contain nationally designated heritage features, including the Grade I listed 'Parish Church of St Mary'. As these settlements are predominantly surrounded by open countryside, it is anticipated that Option 2 would likely facilitate development within the setting of both nationally and locally designated heritage assets. This includes through impacting views into and out of the conservation areas. With reference to non-designated heritage assets, Historic England noted in their response to SEA scoping that that there is a considerable potential for archaeological remains to be affected by planning decisions based on the recorded features on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for West Sussex. Therefore, both options have the potential to impact non-designated assets and features within the parish.	**1**	**2**

Option 1: Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate

Option 2: Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Option 1	Option 2
Land, Soil and Water Resources	In terms of agricultural land quality, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that most of the undeveloped areas of the Neighbourhood Plan area are underlain by Grade 1 (excellent) or Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land, which is some of the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land for agricultural purposes. With reference to the water environment, there are chalk streams passing through the settlements of Aldingbourne, Norton, Westergate and Woodgate. As such, both options have the potential to impact these watercourses if development is not appropriately sited. Nevertheless, Option 2 would facilitate higher levels of development in settlements located in the open countryside, likely resulting in a greater loss of natural features which help to regulate soil and water quality.	**1**	**2**
Population and Community	Accessibility to amenities is a key determinant of residents' quality of life. In this respect, Option 1 will facilitate development in closer proximity to Westergate / Woodgate village, which has the widest range of services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Comparatively, Option 2 would focus new development within rural areas of the parish where the availability of services, facilities and amenities is more limited. Both options will help deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet local needs. However, Option 2 may reduce the scope for delivering community benefits and affordable housing from new development through spreading housing provision around the Neighbourhood Plan area.	**1**	**2**
Health and Wellbeing	Accessibility to amenities is a key determinant of residents' quality of life. In this respect, Option 1 will facilitate development in closer proximity to Westergate / Woodgate village, which has the widest range of services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes relating to key leisure and recreational opportunities including at Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park and tennis club. This will encourage active and healthy lifestyles for residents. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the Neighbourhood Plan area is served by a comprehensive public rights of way (PRoW) network. For example, footpaths and bridleways link the settlements of Aldingbourne, Nyton and Norton with Westergate. Likewise, there is a footpath following the route of the 'Chichester and Arundel Canal' which passes through Lidsey. As such, both options have the potential to facilitate health and wellbeing benefits for residents. The nearest Doctor's surgeries are in the neighbouring settlements of Eastergate (approximately 1km to the east of Westergate) and Tangmere (approximately 1km to the west of Aldingbourne). Therefore, both options will also locate housing which will be reliant on these settlements for health services. However, Option 1 is more likely to facilitate development within closer proximity to local health services.	**1**	**2**

Option 1: Focus new development within and within proximity to Westergate and Woodgate

Option 2: Facilitate a more dispersed development strategy, which enables allocations to take place in Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton, and Lidsey

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Option 1	Option 2
Transport	Option 1 will focus new housing in Westergate / Woodgate village, which will help limit the need to travel to the range of services and facilities available in the parish. It will also improve access to the bus services which serve the village, with bus stops located along Nyton Road and Westergate Street providing access to services connecting to neighbouring settlements (including stops at Barnham railway station). Nonetheless, there are bus stops along the B2233 (Nyton Road), Orving Road and the A29 (Lidsey Road) which connect the settlements in Option 2 to the local public transport network. However, Option 2 is less likely to deliver housing in good proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area's services and amenities. Option 2 is also less likely to reduce the dependence on private cars for undertaking day-to-day activities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is primarily due to the rurality of Aldingbourne, Nyton, Norton and Lidsey.	**1**	**2**

Summary of Assessment

The assessment has highlighted that Option 1, which seeks to focus new housing provision within proximity to Westergate / Woodgate village, has most potential to support accessibility to amenities, and limit greenhouse gas emissions from transport. This is given the settlement has the broadest range of services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The option also has increased potential to support the vitality and viability of the village. Comparatively, Option 2 would direct development to the locations of the Neighbourhood Plan area which are less accessible to services, amenities and public transport networks.

Whilst both options have the potential to result in the permanent loss of BMV agricultural land within the parish, Option 2 could potentially result in a greater loss of natural features which help to regulate soil and water quality, by facilitating a higher proportion of new development in the open countryside. Furthermore, Option 2 would likely facilitate development in more sensitive locations in terms of the historic environment and landscape character. This is given the prevalence of nationally and locally designated heritage assets and areas within the rural areas of the parish and the distinctive setting of the smaller settlements. It is not expected that Option 1 would facilitate development within the setting of nationally designated heritage assets within Westergate / Woodgate. These features benefit from screening due to the relatively flat topography and being surrounded by existing buildings.

Preferred approach in the Neighbourhood Plan in light of appraisal findings

4.17 In terms of the broad location of development to be taken forward through the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group took the decision to take forward an approach which reflects Option 1 above. This reflects a desire to support the vitality of Westergate and Woodgate, which are the main settlements in the parish, and to deliver housing in the location with the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

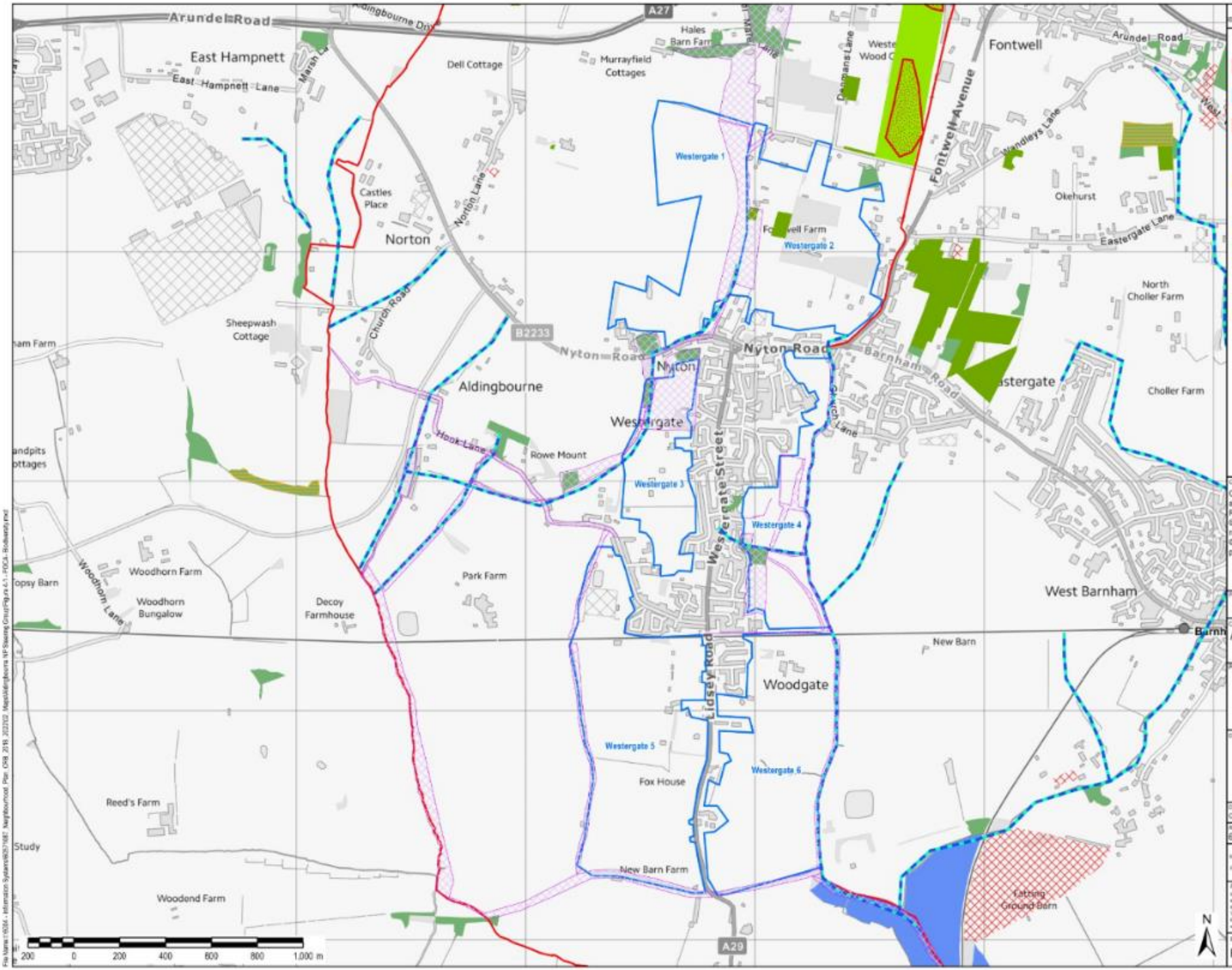
Assessment of reasonable alternatives for broad areas of growth surrounding Westergate and Woodgate

4.18 To facilitate consideration of potential locations for site allocations, six broad areas, or 'segments', were mapped around surrounding the settlements of Westergate and Woodgate. Broadly representing the 'points of the compass', the six segments have been evaluated, with a view to establishing the likely environmental constraints to development in each of these areas. Constraints are shown overleaf in **Figures 4.1 to 4.3.**

4.19 The key environmental constraints present in each of the segments, include those relating to: biodiversity; historic environment; landscape character and sensitivity; agricultural land quality; flood risk; and the water environment, have been evaluated.

4.20 In this context, **Table 4.2** (overleaf) presents the findings of this process through a 'points of the compass' appraisal of the segments. This seeks to provide an overview of the relative merits of promoting development in these locations.

4.21 This appraisal has been undertaken by AECOM as an independent and objective desk-based assessment, with reference to the following principal sources of information: Magic Interactive Map; Parish Online GIS Layers (provided by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group); Natural England Regional Agricultural Land Classification Mapping; UK Government Flood Maps for Planning; and the Arun Landscape Study.



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Points of Compass Appraisal Segment
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- Chalk Stream
- Biodiversity Corridors
- Ancient Woodland

Priority Habitat Inventory (South)

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Lowland Meadows
- No Main Habitat but Additional Habitats Present
- Traditional Orchard

Copyright
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown copyright 2019. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020803
© Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2019.

Purpose of Issue: FINAL

Client: ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title: POINTS OF THE COMPASS APPRAISAL: BIODIVERSITY

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	23/10/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Base @ A3
60571087	1:15,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S CONTRACT WITH THE CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER IN RELATION TO THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN TO THE ORIGINAL CLIENT ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS: EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AND ANY OTHER LIMITATIONS ARISING FROM THE CONTRACT BETWEEN AECOM AND THE CLIENT: NONE PROVIDED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS REPORT

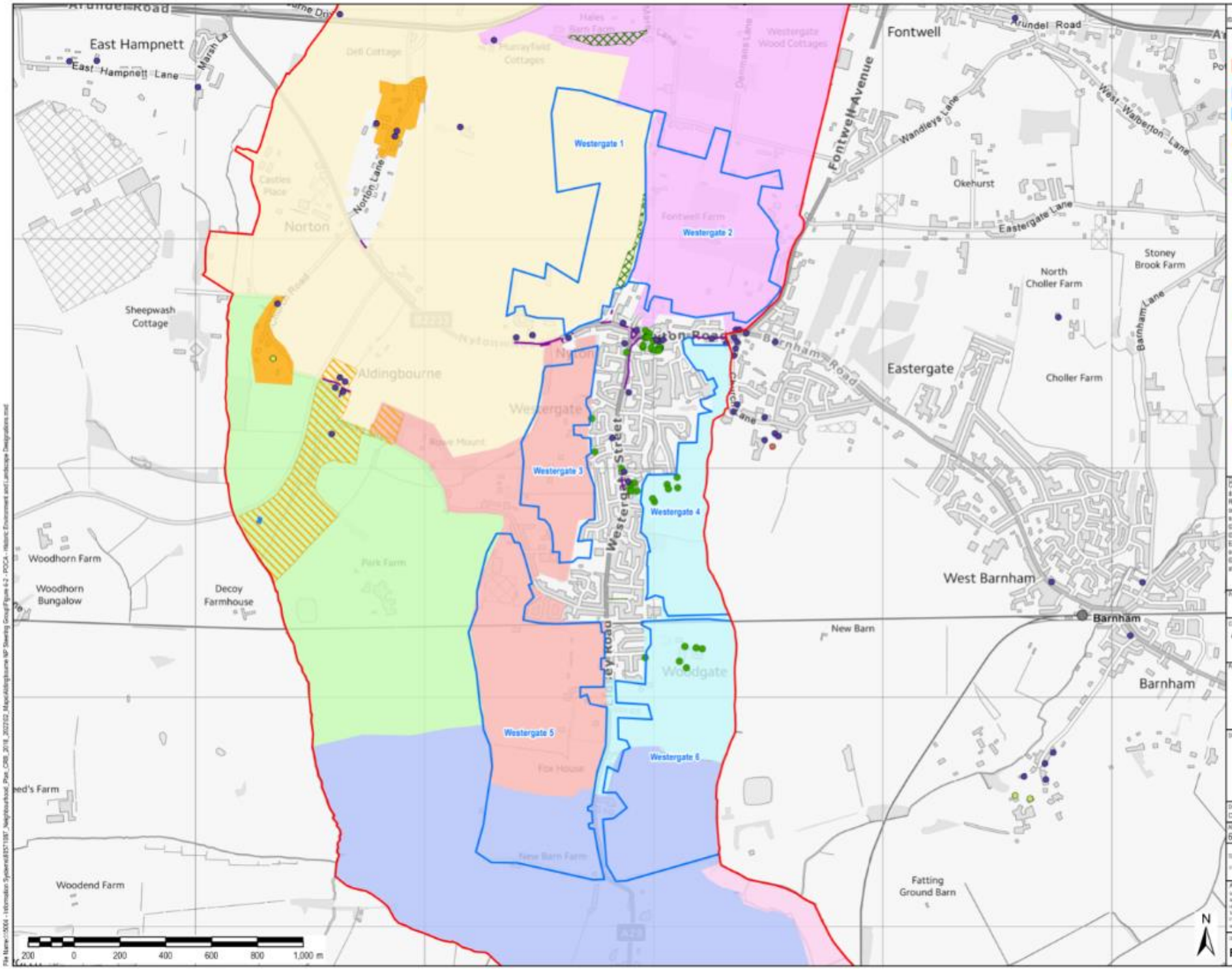
AECOM
Aecom House, Stockport Road, Manchester, M22 5PP
Telephone: (0161) 437 0220
Fax: (0161) 437 0221
www.aecom.com

AECOM

Drawing Number: FIGURE 4.1

Rev: 01

File Name: I:\60571087 - Information System\60571087 - Neighbourhood Plan (CNB 2019, 2022)\2. Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure 4.1 - POCA - Biodiversity.mxd



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Points of Compass Appraisal Segment
- Record of Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Proposed Conservation Area
- Tree Preservation Order
- Tree Preservation Order Areas
- Flint Walls

Listed Building

- Grade I
- Grade II*
- Grade II

Landscape Character Area

- LCA 11 Lidsey Coastal
- LCA 12 Park Farm Upper Coastal Plain
- LCA 13 Westergate Western Fringe
- LCA 14 Westergate Eastern Fringe
- LCA 15 Norton Upper Coastal Plain
- LCA 16 Fontwell Westergate Mosaic
- LCA 18 Ryebank Rife

Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown copyright 2019. All rights reserved. Licence number 100058830
© Historic England 2019. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 16/10/2019
© Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2019

Purpose of Issue: FINAL

Client: ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title: POINTS OF THE COMPASS APPRAISAL: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	23/10/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A3
60571087	1:15,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS ASSESSMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

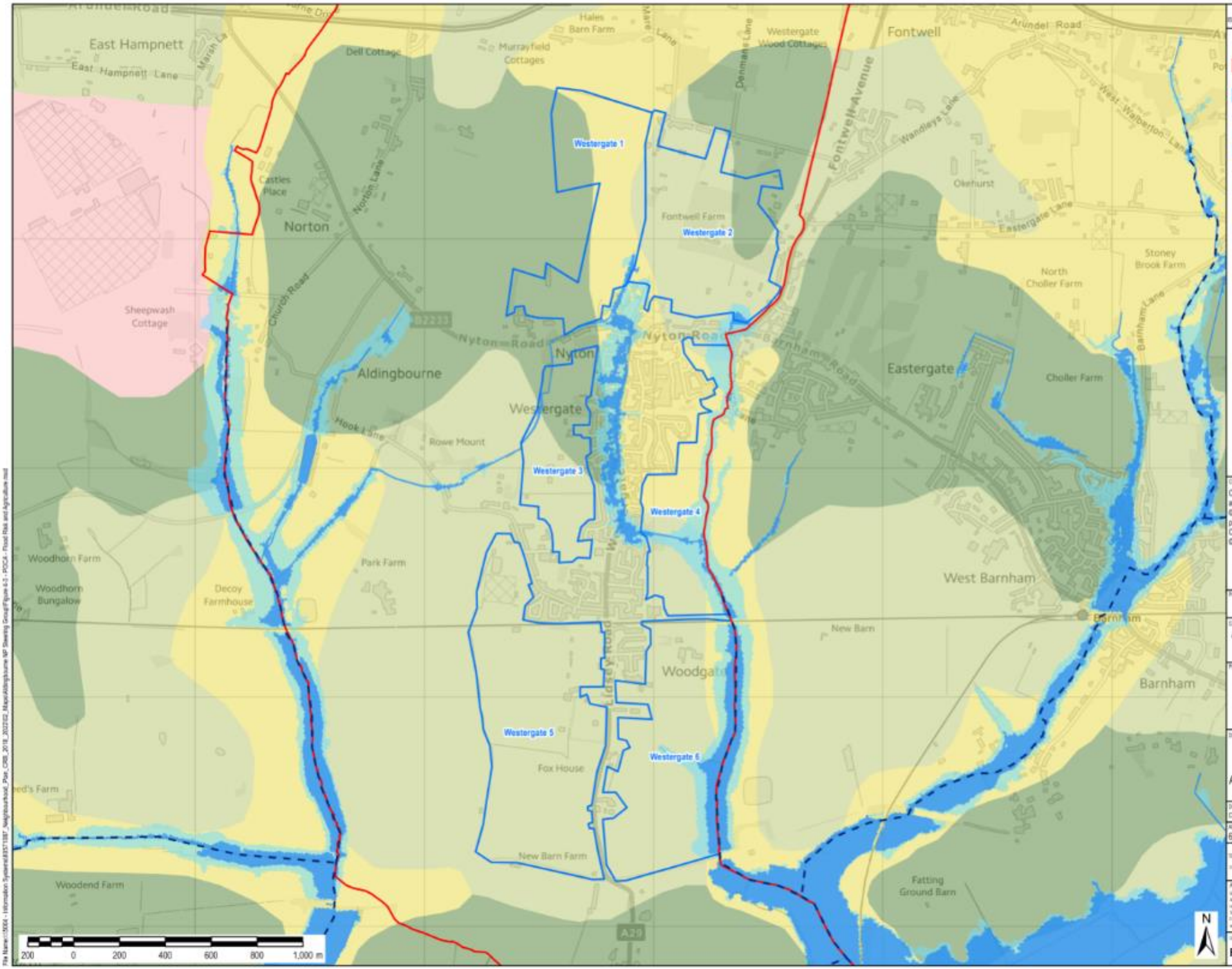
AECOM
South House
Station Link, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG21 3W
Telephone 01256 310200
Fax 01256 310201
www.aecom.com

AECOM

Drawing Number: FIGURE 4.2

Rev: 01

File Name: \\5004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_20270D_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure 4-2 - POCA - Historic Environment and Landscape Designations.mxd



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Points of Compass Appraisal Segment
- Watercourse
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

Agricultural Land Classification

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Non Agricultural

Copyright:
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019
© Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2019
Contains Environment Agency Information
© Environment Agency and/or database right

Purpose of Issue: FINAL

Client: ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title: POINTS OF THE COMPASS APPRAISAL: FLOOD RISK ZONES AND AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	23/10/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A3
60571087	1:15,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
Scott House
Alencon Link, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG21 7PP
Telephone 01256 310200
Fax 01256 310201
www.aecom.com

Drawing Number: FIGURE 4.3

Rev: 01

File Name: ...\60X - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_202202_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure 4-3 - PDCA - Flood Risks and Agriculture.mxd

Table 4.2: Appraisal findings: points of the compass appraisal (PoCA)

PoCA Segment	Key Constraints	SEA Themes for which constraints exist
Westergate 1	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 1. Likewise, Westergate 1 does not overlap with a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone (SSSI IRZ) for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). At the local level, there is a biodiversity corridor[8] located along the eastern boundary of the segment and a chalk stream located along the south eastern boundary of the segment. Whilst there are no Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within the boundary of Westergate 1, there are areas of deciduous woodland located directly to the south and to the west of the segment. Most of the western half of the site is underlain by Grade 1 agricultural land, which is classified as 'excellent' for agricultural purposes. There is a small area of Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land located in the central eastern section of the segment. The remaining areas of Westergate 1 are underlain by Grade 3 agricultural land, but in the absence of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment at this location it is currently not possible to determine the subset grading of Grade 3a (best and most versatile land) and Grade 3b (which is not considered to be the best and most versatile land). However, based on the results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment'[9], greater than 60% of the segment has a high likelihood of containing BMV land (aligning to the trends in the national dataset). In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, most of Westergate 1 is within Flood Zone 1 and has low fluvial flood risk and surface water flood risk potential. There is a corridor of land in the south eastern section of the segment (adjacent to the chalk stream) which is within Flood Zone 2 and 3. Furthermore, land adjoining the eastern site boundary has a low-medium surface water flood risk. There are also three small areas of land in the southern section of the site which have a high surface water flood risk. In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 600m to the north of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, Westergate 1 is located within the 'Norton Upper Coastal Plain' Landscape Character Area (LCA). The results of the Arun Landscape Study[10] identify the LCA as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low' landscape capacity. Additionally, there is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) area located alongside the southern half of the western segment boundary (adjacent to Northfields Lane). The TPO area is designated to protect this group of trees in the interests of their amenity value.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment.

[8] The Neighbourhood Planning Group carried out a local ecological survey, with areas of ecological importance classified as 'biodiversity corridors' following the concept of 'ecological networks' through John Lawton's keynote 'Making Space for Nature' Report. Alongside the chalk streams, these biodiversity corridors are non-statutory designations but are considerably valued locally.
[9] Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land – Strategic scale map London and the South East', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6056482614804480?category=5208993007403008> last accessed [19/08/19]
[10] Aldingbourne Parish Council (2016) 'Neighbourhood Development Plan Landscape Appraisal', [online] available at: https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/media/4296/adc_landscape_study___appraisal.pdf [accessed 15/01/20]

Westergate 1 (continued)	Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. There are four Grade II listed buildings located directly to the south of Westergate 1, along the B2233 (Nyton Road). The Norton Lane Conservation Area is approximately 800m to the west of the segment (at its nearest point). With reference to non-designated heritage assets and features, the Historic Environment Record (HER) for West Sussex[11] highlights that 'Park, Nyton' (monument ID: MWS2279) is within the southern section of the segment. Furthermore, there are locally distinctive flint walls located directly to the south of the segment (adjacent to Nyton Road) which positively contribute to the historic character and sense of place. The southern section of Westergate 1 is located approximately 150m to the north west of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. This includes Westergate Methodist Church, Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, a convenience store, Aldingbourne Primary School, Aldingbourne Post Office and the 'Prince of Wales' public house. There are bus stops located along Nyton Road and Westergate Street which provide access to services connecting to the neighbouring settlements (including stops at Barnham railway station, albeit limited due to the infrequency of services).	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment.
Westergate 2	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 2. Similarly, Westergate 2 does not overlap with an SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). Locally important ecological areas include a biodiversity corridor along the western boundary of the segment and a chalk stream along the south western boundary of the segment. There are two areas of BAP Priority Habitats located within the central western section of the segment, specifically an area of traditional orchard and an area of deciduous woodland. Fontwell Racecourse Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) is located approximately 200m to the north west of Westergate 2 (at its nearest point). In terms of land quality, a detailed ALC assessment has been completed in the southern section of the segment, identifying areas of Grade 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land (the best and most versatile for agricultural purposes). The national dataset highlights that the rest of the segment is underlain by Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land. In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, most of Westergate 2 is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk and surface water flood risk potential. There are areas of land toward the south eastern corner and the south western corner of the segment located within Flood Zone 2 and 3. There is a corridor of land along the western site boundary which has a high surface water flood risk. Similarly, there are areas of land to the north of Northfields Farm (north eastern section of the segment) which also have a high surface water flood risk.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change.

[11] The Neighbourhood Planning Group provided AECOM with access to their Parish Online GIS database where the Historic Environment Record layers (points, lines and polygons) had been mapped. The Group note that they do not have access to the most up to date layers, and additional features may have been added since the former Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in 2016. Nonetheless, these layers have provided a useful reference source for the SEA process.

Westergate 2 (continued)	In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 600m to the north west of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, Westergate 2 is located within the 'Fontwell Eastergate Mosaic' LCA. The results of the Arun Landscape Study identify the LCA as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium' landscape capacity. Whilst there are no TPOs within the segment boundary, there is a TPO area located directly to the west of Westergate 2, adjacent to Northfields Lane. Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. There are several Grade II listed buildings located approximately 50-100m to the south of Westergate 2, alongside the A29 (Nyton Road), along with locally distinctive flint walls. The Norton Lane Conservation Area is approximately 1km to the west of the segment (at its nearest point). With reference to non-designated heritage assets and features, the HER for West Sussex highlights that there are three monuments located to the east of the segment adjacent to the A29 (Fontwell Avenue), namely: 'Eastergate Memorial (monument ID: MWS9108); 'Follyfoot Farm Historic Farmstead, Eastergate' (monument ID: MWS10588); and 'Site of Eastergate Workhouse, Eastergate' (monument ID: MWS12439). However, it is important to acknowledge that these HER features are approximately 25m outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary. The southern section of Westergate 2 is located approximately 150m to the north east of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. There are bus stops located along Nyton Road and Westergate Street which provide access to the local public transport network.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change.
Westergate 3	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 3. Likewise, Westergate 3 does not overlap with an SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). At the local level, there is a biodiversity corridor covering the northern section of the segment which contains an area of deciduous woodland BAP Priority Habitat. The corridor extends along the western boundary, and partly overlaps with a chalk stream. Regarding land quality, the whole of the segment is underlain by land classified as the best and most versatile for agricultural purposes. Specifically, the northern section of the segment is underlain by Grade 1 agricultural land and the southern section of the site is underlain by Grade 2 agricultural land. In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, most of Westergate 3 is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk and surface water flood risk potential. Nonetheless, there is a corridor of land in the north western section of the segment (adjacent to the chalk stream) within Flood Zone 3 and has a medium-high surface water flood risk potential. Most of the built up area in the settlement of Westergate located to the east of the segment is within Flood Zone 2 and 3 and has a high flood risk potential. These areas are also at risk from surface water flooding.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Historic Environment.

Westergate 3 (continued)	In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 1.5km to the north of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, Westergate 3 is located within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA. The results of the Arun Landscape Study identify the LCA as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. There are two TPOs located to the east of the segment which have been designated in the interest of their amenity value. Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The nearest asset, the Grade II listed 'Nyton Lodge', is approximately 50m to the north of the segment, along with locally distinctive flint walls. With reference to non-designated heritage assets and features, the HER for West Sussex highlights that 'Flint Working Site – Norton Spinney' (monument ID: MWS6803) is located within the northern section of Westergate 3. The eastern section of Westergate 3 is located approximately 200m to the west of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. There are bus stops located along Westergate Street which provide access to the local public transport network.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Historic Environment.
Westergate 4	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 4. Similarly, Westergate 4 does not overlap with an SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). Locally important ecological areas within the segment include two chalk streams, one of which follows the eastern boundary of the segment and the other passing through the central section of the segment. Furthermore, there are several biodiversity corridors passing through the Westergate 4, along with an area of deciduous woodland BAP Priority Habitat adjacent to Elmcroft Place (western section of the segment). A detailed ALC assessment has been completed on most of the land within Westergate 4. There are areas of Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land located adjacent to Richards Road (central western section of the segment), to the south of Church Lane and St George's Church (central eastern section of the segment) and to the north of the railway line (southern western section of the segment). Most of the remaining sections of the segment are underlain by Grade 3a and Grade 3b agricultural land. In terms of flooding, the main areas at risk within Westergate 4 include land adjacent to the two chalk streams. In this respect, most of the eastern half of the site is within Flood Zone 2, with a corridor of land through the central section of the segment also within Flood Zone 2. The areas of land immediately adjacent to the chalk streams are within Flood Zone 3. Comparatively, most of the central western section and south western section of the segment is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low risk of fluvial flooding. Most of the segment has a very low surface water flood risk, with the main areas at risk covering the land adjacent to the chalk streams.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment; Population and Community.

Westergate 4 (continued)	In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 1.5km to the north west of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, Westergate 4 is located within the 'Westergate Eastern Fringe' LCA. The results of the Arun Landscape Study identify the LCA as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low to medium' landscape capacity. There are six TPOs located in the central western section of the segment which have been designated for their amenity interest. Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. There are two Grade II listed buildings located adjacent to the northern boundary of the segment, specifically: 'Merryend' and Old Farm Cottage', along with a locally distinctive flint wall along the A29 (Nyton Road). There are several additional Grade II listed buildings located within 50m proximity to the north eastern boundary of the segment, but these assets are located within the neighbouring parish of 'Barnham and Eastergate'. With reference to non-designated heritage assets and features, the HER for West Sussex highlights that the 'Westergate Community College, LBA-EIA activity' findspot (monument ID: MWS7048) is in the north eastern section of Westergate 4. There are no further HER features within the segment. The central western section of Westergate 4 is located approximately 200m to the east of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. There are bus stops located along Westergate Street which provide access to the local public transport network. However, most of the segment overlaps with strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan. Therefore, this area of overlap is not a reasonable consideration for the Neighbourhood Plan.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment; Population and Community.
Westergate 5	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 5. Likewise, Westergate 5 does not overlap with an SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). Other than the locally valued biodiversity corridors located along the southern and western boundaries of the segment which should be retained through development proposals, Westergate 5 is relatively unconstrained in terms of biodiversity. Regarding land quality, the whole of the segment is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land, which is some of the best and most versatile land for agricultural purposes. In terms of flooding, the whole of Westergate 5 is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk potential. Other than a small area of land located toward the south western corner of the segment which has a high surface water flood risk, the segment has a low or very low potential for surface water flooding.	Land, Soil and Water Resources; Landscape.

Westergate 5 (continued)	In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 2.5km to the north of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, the central and northern sections of Westergate 5 are located within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA. The results of the Arun Landscape Study identify the LCA as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. Comparatively, the southern section of Westergate 5 is within the 'Lidsey Coastal' LCA, which is identified as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low' landscape capacity. There are no TPOs or TPO areas located within or adjacent to Westergate 5. Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. Other than the 'Chichester and Arundel Canal' (monument ID: MWS5754) which passes alongside the southern boundary of the segment, Westergate 5 does not contain any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. The north eastern section of Westergate 5 is located directly to the south west of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. There are bus stops located along Westergate Street and Lidsey Road (adjacent to the eastern boundary of the segment) which provide access to the local public transport network.	Land, Soil and Water Resources; Landscape.
Westergate 6	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to Westergate 6. Similarly, Westergate 6 does not overlap with an SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). There is a locally valued biodiversity corridor and a chalk stream located along the eastern boundary of the segment, along with an additional biodiversity corridor along the southern boundary. There is also an area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh located approximately 100m to the south west of the segment (at its nearest point). Other than land within the north eastern section of the segment which is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land, the whole segment is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the best and most versatile land for agricultural purposes. In the absence of a detailed ALC assessment it is currently not possible to determine the subset grading of Grade 3a (best and most versatile land) and Grade 3b (which is not considered to be the best and most versatile land). However, based on the results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment', greater than 60% of the segment has a high likelihood of containing BMV land (aligning to the trends in the national dataset). Flooding is a risk in some areas of Westergate 6. Specifically, all the land extending approximately 150m into the segment from the eastern boundary is either within Flood Zone 2 or 3. There is an additional corridor of land adjacent to a drainage ditch in the central section of the segment that is also within Flood Zone 2. Surface water flood risk issues are also present in these areas of the segment. Additionally, there are three small areas in the southern half of the segment have a medium or high surface water flood risk, alongside a corridor of land extending northward from the drainage ditch.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment; Population and Community.

Westergate 6 (continued)	In terms of landscape character, the segment does not overlap with a nationally designated landscape. The South Downs National Park is located approximately 3km to the north west of the segment (at its nearest point). At the local level, the northern half of Westergate 6 is located within the 'Westergate Eastern Fringe' LCA. The results of the Arun Landscape Study identify the LCA as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low to medium' landscape capacity. Comparatively, the southern half of the segment is within 'Lidsey Coastal' LCA, which is also identified as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low' landscape capacity. There are six TPOs located in the northern section of the segment which have been designated for their amenity interest. Regarding the historic environment, the segment does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. With reference to non-designated heritage assets and features, the HER for West Sussex highlights that the 'Chichester and Arundel Canal' (monument ID: MWS5754) passes alongside the southern boundary of the segment. There are three additional features from the HER within Westergate 6, namely: 'Woodgate Brick Co.' (monument ID: MWS4705) within the central northern section of the segment, along with 'Chapel - Lidsey' (monument ID: MWS5839) and 'Site of Former Headhone Farm' (monument ID: MWS8025), both within the southern section. The north western section of Westergate 6 (adjacent to Lidsey Road) is located approximately 300m to the south of Westergate Street, which has the broadest range of services and facilities within the parish. There are bus stops located along Westergate Street and Lidsey Road (adjacent to the western boundary of the segment) which provide access to the local public transport network. However, most of the segment overlaps with strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan. Therefore, this area of overlap is not a reasonable consideration for the Neighbourhood Plan.	Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Land, Soil and Water Resources; Climate Change; Landscape; Historic Environment; Population and Community.

Summary of assessment

The segments in the north of the settlement covered by Westergate 1 and Westergate 2 are particularly constrained in terms of biodiversity and the historic environment. This is due to the proximity of these areas to nationally designated and locally important heritage features (including listed buildings, flint walls and features on the HER for West Sussex), along with the prevalence of biodiversity corridors and chalk streams passing along the segment boundaries.

There are biodiversity corridors and chalk streams passing directly through the boundaries of Westergate 3, Westergate 4 and Westergate 6, in addition to areas of 'deciduous woodland' BAP priority habitat in Westergate 3 and Westergate 4. From a landscape perspective, all three segments contain TPOs which have been designated in the interest of their amenity value.

All the segments are underlain by areas of BMV agricultural land and are within good proximity to services, facilities and amenities in Westergate. Other than Westergate 5, all the segments also contain areas which have fluvial flood risk issues and/or surface water flood risk issues.

Overall, the results indicate that Westergate 5 is the least constrained segment surrounding Westergate / Woodgate village. However, most of the area is underlain by BMV agricultural land and the southern section has a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and 'low' landscape capacity.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for site allocations

Neighbourhood Plan site assessment and initial shortlisting of sites

4.22 During the earlier stages of the Neighbourhood Plan's development, there was a recognition that the Neighbourhood Plan would potentially need to allocate sites for new development. In light of this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook an assessment of the various sites available for development in the parish.

4.23 This considered sites which were previously considered through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) completed for the Arun Local Plan. These sites were assessed against a range of criteria relating to suitability, availability and achievability. Subsequent to this process, seven sites were shortlisted as being appropriate for further consideration as potential allocations for the Neighbourhood Plan due to their 'deliverability' and 'achievability'. These are all located on land within or within proximity to the settlements of Westergate and Woodgate.

4.24 These sites are as follows:

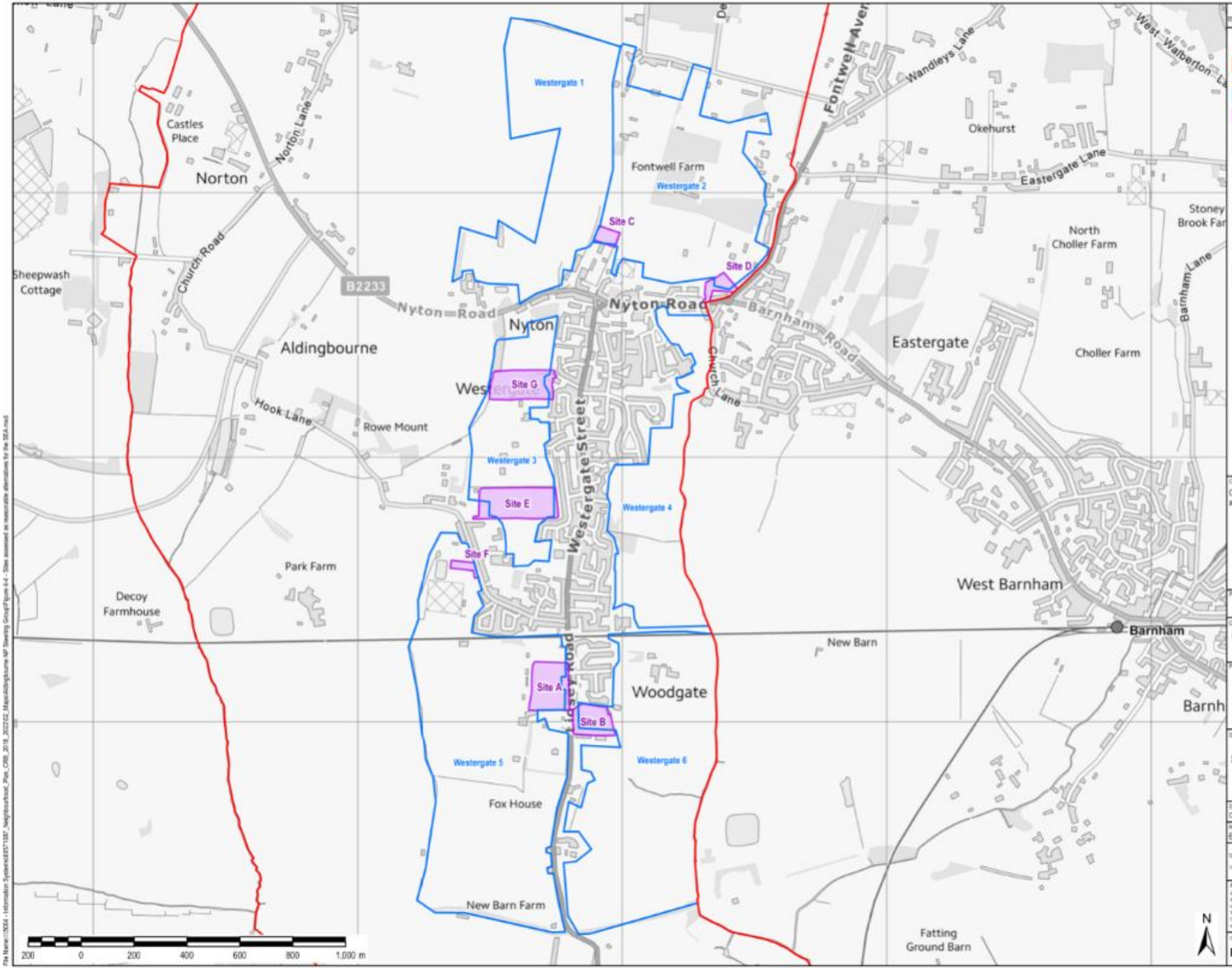
- Site A: Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site 32);
- Site B: Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site WE8);
- Site C: Land at Nyton Road, Northfields Lane and Fontwell Lane (HELAA ref: Site WE9);
- Site D: Land surrounding Long House, Nyton Road (HELAA ref: Site EA12);
- Site E: Land east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL1);
- Site F: Land west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL3); and
- Site G: Westergate Lodge, Westergate Street (HELAA ref: Site WE10).

Assessment of the shortlisted sites through the SEA process

4.25 To support the consideration of the suitability of the shortlisted sites for a potential allocation of a type appropriate for the Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA process has appraised the key constraints and opportunities present at each of the relevant sites.

4.26 In this context, the sites have been considered in relation to the SEA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during SEA scoping (Chapter 3) and the baseline information. This SEA site assessment was undertaken separately to the site assessment undertaken by the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

4.27 The locations of the seven sites assessed through the SEA process are presented in **Figure 4.4** (overleaf). **Tables 4.3 to 4.9** which follow present this assessment and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the eight SEA themes.



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Points of Compass Appraisal Segment
- Site Option

Site A: Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road
Site B: Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road
Site C: Land at Nyton Road, Northfields Lane and Fontwell Lane
Site D: Land surrounding Long House, Nyton Road
Site E: Land east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne
Site F: Land west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne
Site G: Westergate Lodge, Westergate Street

Copyright
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020

Purpose of Issue
FINAL

Client
ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
SITES ASSESSED AS REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE SEA

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	09/01/2023

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A2
60571087	1:13,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
Staff House
Stanjon Unit, Stanjongate
Chichester, PO21 3FF
Telephone (01243) 215000
Fax (01243) 531201
www.aecom.com

AECOM

Drawing Number
FIGURE 4.4

Rev
01

File Name:\\5064 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_2022\02_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure 4-4 - Sites assessed as reasonable alternatives for the SEA.mxd

SEA site assessment findings

Table 4.3: Site A

SEA theme	Commentary, Site A: Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site 32)	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone (SSSI IRZ) for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). There are no locally important biodiversity corridors or chalk streams within proximity to the site. Overall therefore, the site is relatively unconstrained in terms of biodiversity.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). In terms of flooding, the whole of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk potential. There is a small area of land located directly adjacent to the existing entrance into the site (north eastern corner adjacent to Lidsey Road) that has a high surface water flood risk potential. Otherwise, all of the site has a 'very low' or 'low' risk from surface water flooding.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' Landscape Character Area (LCA). The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. Furthermore, there are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) or TPO areas located within or adjacent to the site.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site A: Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site 32)	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The nearest nationally designated assets to the site are Grade II listed buildings located along Westergate Street (approximately 500m to the north of the site). Similarly, the site does not contain and is not within proximity to any features listed on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for West Sussex. In this respect, the nearest feature 'Woodgate Railway Station' (monument ID: MWS5682) is located approximately 150m to the north east of the site.	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that the site is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land for agricultural purposes. However, the site does contain some areas of previously developed land, including a glasshouse and residential dwelling. This will promote the efficient use of land in the eastern section of the site. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). The site is not within a groundwater source protection zone (SPZ) and is not within proximity to a chalk stream. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA). However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Planning application AL/32/19/OUT for the erection of 55 dwellings on the site was permitted with conditions in October 2019. The site is also adjacent to strategic site allocation SD5 within the Arun Local Plan. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the 'Prince of Wales' public house, Aldingbourne Post Office and Aldingbourne Primary School. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 2km to the north east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 1km to the north of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the northern section of the site is achievable via a track extending westwards from the A29 (Lidsey Road). The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.4: Site B

SEA theme	Commentary, Site B: Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site WE8)	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). There are no locally important biodiversity corridors or chalk streams within proximity to the site. Overall, the site is relatively unconstrained in terms of biodiversity.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). Regarding flood risk concerns, the whole of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk potential. Most of the site has a 'very low' or 'low' risk from surface water flooding. However, there are areas of land alongside the eastern and northern site boundaries which have a 'high' surface water flood risk potential.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Westergate Eastern Fringe' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity and a 'low to medium' landscape capacity. There are no TPO or TPO areas located within or adjacent to the site.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site B: Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road (HELAA ref: Site WE8)	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The nearest nationally designated assets to the site are Grade II listed buildings located along Westergate Street (approximately 500m to the north of the site). Similarly, the site does not contain and is not within proximity to any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. In this respect, the nearest record is 'Woodgate Brick Co.' (monument ID: MWS4705) located approximately 150m to the east.	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that the site is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the BMV land for agricultural purposes. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ. However, the site is not within a SPZ and is not within proximity to a chalk stream. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. However, planning application AL/57/18/OUT for the erection of 30 dwellings was rejected in March 2019. The site is also adjacent to strategic site allocation SD5 within the Arun Local Plan. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the 'Prince of Wales' public house, Aldingbourne Post Office and Aldingbourne Primary School. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 2km to the north east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 1km to the north of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the northern section of the site is achievable via a track extending eastwards from the A29 (Lidsey Road). The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.5: Site C

SEA theme	Commentary, Site C: Land at Nyton Road, Northfields Lane and Fontwell Lane (HELAA ref: Site WE9)	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). At the local level, there is a chalk stream located directly to the west of the site and a biodiversity corridor located directly to the north and to the west of the site.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). In terms of flooding, land in the south eastern section of the site is within Flood Zone 2. Similarly, land to directly to the south of the site is within Flood Zone 2. Land directly adjacent to the chalk stream (western boundary of the site) is within Flood Zones 2 and 3. Comparatively, most of the site has a 'low' or 'very low' surface water flood risk potential. The areas of land at highest risk from surface water flooding are along the western site boundary, adjacent to the chalk stream.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site C: Land at Nyton Road, Northfields Lane and Fontwell Lane (HELAA ref: Site WE9)	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Fontwell Eastergate Mosaic' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium' landscape capacity. There is a TPO area located directly to the west of the site.	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The nearest nationally designated assets to the site are Grade II listed buildings along Nyton Road (approximately 150m to the south). Similarly, the site does not contain and is not within proximity to any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. In this respect, the nearest record is 'Park, Nyton' (monument ID: MWS2279) located approximately 350m to the south west of the site.	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has been completed on the site. In this respect, the whole of the site is underlain by Grade 2 agricultural land which is considered some of the BMV land for agricultural purposes. An allocation at this location would therefore result in the permanent loss of BMV land. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ and there is a chalk stream located directly to the west. However, the site is not within a SPZ. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the Community Sports Centre, a local supermarket, and Westergate Methodist Church. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 1km to the east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 500m to the south of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the western section of the site is possible via Northfields Lane. The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

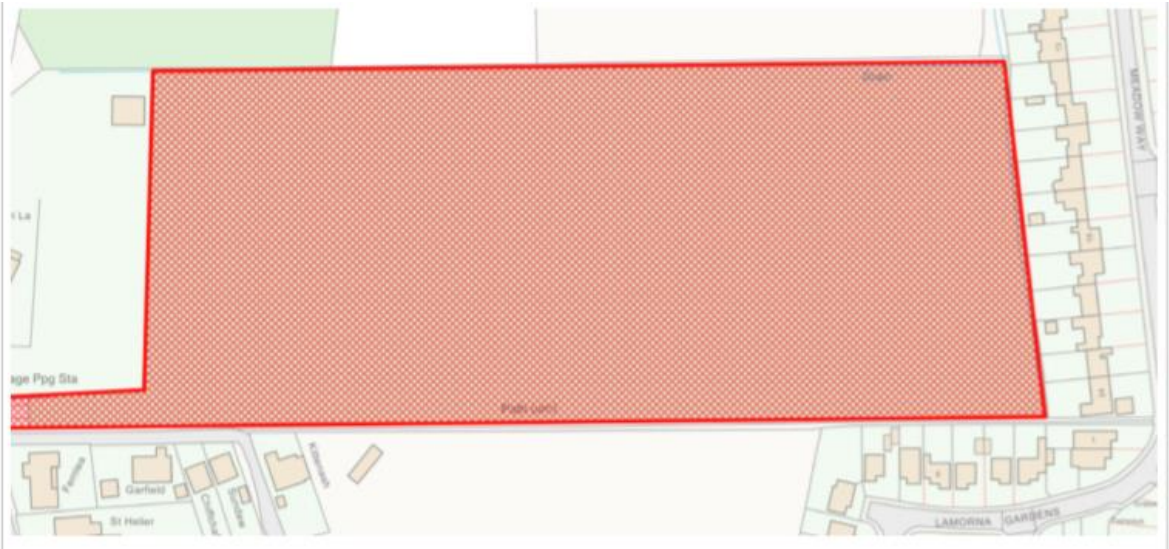
Table 4.6: Site D

SEA theme	Commentary, Site D: Land surrounding Long House, Nyton Road (HELAA ref: Site EA12)	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). Other than the chalk stream located directly to the south, the site is relatively unconstrainted in biodiversity terms.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). Regarding fluvial flood risk issues, the southern half of the site is within Flood Zone 3 and the northern half of the site is within Flood Zone 2. Likewise, most of the central section of the site has a 'high' surface water flood risk potential.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Fontwell Eastergate Mosaic' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium' landscape capacity. There are no TPO or TPO areas located within or adjacent to the site.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site D: Land surrounding Long House, Nyton Road (HELAA ref: Site EA12)	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. However, there are four Grade II listed buildings located directly to the south of the site along the A29 (Nyton Road). Specifically, 'Argyl House' and 'The Long House' are located adjacent to the southern site boundary and are visible from the site itself. In terms of non-designated features, the site does not contain any features listed on the HER for West Sussex.	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that the site is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the BMV land for agricultural purposes. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ and there is a chalk stream located directly to the south. However, the site is not within a SPZ. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the Community Sports Centre, a local supermarket, and Westergate Methodist Church. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 250m to the east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 600m to the south west of the site.	
Transportation	In terms of access, it would be possible to create an entrance into in the southern section of the site via the A29 (Nyton Road). However, there are possible safety and traffic issues to consider from existing junctions at this location, including from Church Lane and Barnham Road. The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.7: Site E

SEA theme	Commentary, Site E: Land east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL1)	
		
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). There are no locally important biodiversity corridors or chalk streams within proximity to the site. Overall, the site is relatively unconstrained in terms of biodiversity.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). In terms of flooding, the whole of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk potential. Similarly, the site has a 'very low' risk from surface water flooding.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. There are no TPO or TPO areas located within or adjacent to the site	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The nearest features are Grade II listed buildings located along Westergate Street (approximately 150m to the east of the site and screened from view). Similarly, the site does not contain and is not within proximity to any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. In this respect, the nearest record is 'Flint Working Site, 1 Croft Cottages, Westergate' (monument ID: MWS7101) which is located approximately 200m to the north east of the site.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site E: Land east of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL1)	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that the site is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the BMV land for agricultural purposes. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ. However, the site is not within a SPZ and is not within proximity to a chalk stream. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the 'Prince of Wales' public house, Aldingbourne Post Office and Aldingbourne Primary School. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 2km to the north east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 500m to the north of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the western section of the site is possible via a turning from Hook Lane. The site is also located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre (via a footpath extending eastwards from the site) which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.8: Site F

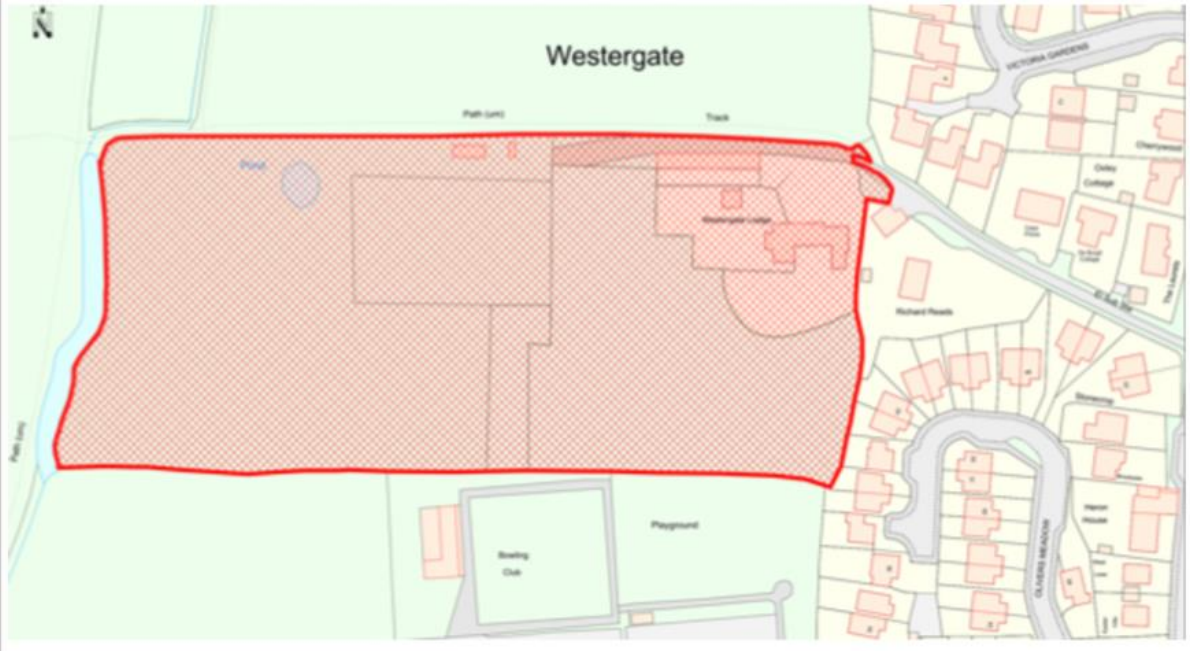
SEA theme	Commentary, Site F: Land west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL3)	

Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). There are no locally important biodiversity corridors or chalk streams within proximity to the site. Overall, the site is relatively unconstrained in terms of biodiversity.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). In terms of flooding, the whole of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low fluvial flood risk potential. Similarly, the site has a 'very low' risk from surface water flooding.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. There are no TPO or TPO areas located within or adjacent to the site	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. Similarly, the site does not contain and is not within proximity to any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. In this respect, the nearest designated and non-designated heritage assets are located at least 450m from the site boundaries and screened from view by the surrounding trees and buildings.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site F: Land west of Hook Lane, Aldingbourne (HELAA ref: Site 18AL3)	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that the site is underlain by Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land which is some of the BMV land for agricultural purposes. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ. However, the site is not within a SPZ and is not within proximity to a chalk stream. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the 'Prince of Wales' public house, Aldingbourne Post Office and Aldingbourne Primary School. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 2km to the north east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located approximately 1km to the north of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the southern section of the site is possible via a turning from Hook Lane. The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.9: Site G

SEA theme	Commentary, Site G: Westergate Lodge, Westergate Street (HELAA ref: Site WE10)	
		
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	There are no European or nationally designated sites for biodiversity located within or within proximity to the site. Likewise, the site does not overlap with a SSSI IRZ for the types of development potentially to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential). At the local level, the whole of the site is within a biodiversity corridor. There is also an area of deciduous woodland BAP Priority Habitat located directly to the north west of the site, and a chalk stream adjacent to the western site boundary.	
Climate Change	Development of the site will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at this location. The site is in good proximity to the services and facilities in the village centre, helping to limit the need to travel to local facilities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). Other than the land adjacent to the chalk stream (western boundary) which is within Flood Zone 3 and has a 'high' risk from surface water flooding, most of the site has a low fluvial flood risk potential and a 'very low' surface water flood risk potential.	
Landscape	From a landscape perspective, the site is outside the boundaries of the South Downs National Park. Therefore, an allocation at this location is not likely to have any significant impacts on the special qualities of this nationally designated landscape. At the local level, the results of the Arun Landscape Study indicate that the site is within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA. The LCA is classified as having a 'moderate' landscape sensitivity and a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. There is a TPO located within proximity to the south eastern corner of the site.	
Historic Environment	Regarding the historic environment, the site does not contain any nationally or locally designated heritage assets or features. The Grade II listed 'The Old Manor House' is located approximately 125m to the south east of the site. Whilst the site does not contain any features listed on the HER for West Sussex, the 'Flint Working Site, 1 Croft Cottages, Westergate' (monument ID: MWS7101) is located approximately 175m to the south east of the site, screened from view by the surrounding buildings.	

SEA theme	Commentary, Site G: Westergate Lodge, Westergate Street (HELAA ref: Site WE10)	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	A recent agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken on the site. However, the regional agricultural land classification map for South East England (published by Natural England) indicates that most of the site is underlain by Grade 1 (excellent) agricultural land, with a small area of land in the south western corner classified as Grade 2 (very good) agricultural land. In this respect, the whole of the site is likely to contain BMV agricultural land. Regarding the water environment, the site is within the Aldingbourne Rife Surface Water NVZ and is adjacent to a chalk stream (western site boundary). However, the site is not within a SPZ. The site could potentially overlap with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E of the Joint Minerals Local Plan for West Sussex.	
Population and Community	Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs. Services and facilities located within 500m to the site boundary (along Westergate Street) include the Community Sports Centre, a local supermarket, and Westergate Methodist Church. Westergate village centre has the broadest range of services, facilities and amenities in the parish.	
Health and Wellbeing	The nearest medical centre is in the neighbouring settlement of Eastergate, approximately 1km to the east of the site. The Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, play park, and tennis club are located directly to the south of the site.	
Transportation	Access into the northern section of the site is possible via a lane which extends westwards from Westergate Street. The lane is a single track and relatively narrow and is less suited for frequent use from vehicles. The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Westergate village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for some day-to-day services and facilities.	

Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effect	

Table 4.10: Summary of SEA site appraisal findings

Site	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Climate Change	Landscape	Historic Env.	Land, Soil and Water Resources	Population and Community	Health and Wellbeing	Transport
Site A								
Site B								
Site C								
Site D								
Site E								
Site F								
Site G								

Current approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Choice of sites taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan

4.28 The Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan allocates two sites for residential development, specifically:

- Site A: 'Land at Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road' (for 55 dwellings); and
- Site B: 'Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road' (for 37 dwellings).

4.29 This follows the consideration of the findings of the site assessments undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan, consultation events, an ongoing consideration of viability and achievability and the SEA findings presented above. Notably, planning application 'AL/32/19/OUT' for the erection of 55 dwellings on the site was permitted with conditions in October 2019 on 'Land at Wings Nursey, Lidsey Road'. The Neighbourhood Plan is therefore supportive of this allocation.

Neighbourhood Plan policies

4.30 To support the implementation of the vision statement for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Regulation 14 version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan puts forward 40 policies to guide new development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

4.31 Other than Policy H1 'Provide housing to meet District Council allocation', all the other 39 policies have been 'saved' from the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan in 2016, with slight amendments to the policy wording in places to reflect the latest available studies and baseline information. These were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering and are listed below in **Table 4.11.**

Table 4.11: Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan policies

Policy Reference	Policy Name
	Housing
Policy H1	Provide housing to meet District Council's allocation
Policy H2	Housing Mix
Policy H3	Housing Density
Policy H4	Affordable Housing
Policy H6	Windfall Sites
Policy H7	Development in the vicinity of businesses
Policy H8	Outdoor Space
Policy H9	Attention to detail
	Environment and Heritage
Policy EH1	Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB)
Policy EH2	Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services
Policy EH3	Development on Agricultural Land
Policy EH4	Protection of watercourses
Policy EH5	Surface Water Management
Policy EH6	Protection of trees and hedgerows
Policy EH7	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

Policy Reference	Policy Name
Policy EH8	Buildings and structures of character
Policy EH9	Conservation Areas
Policy EH10	'Unlit village' status
Policy EH11	Flint Walls
	Getting Around
Policy GA1	Promoting sustainable movement
Policy GA2	Footpath and Cycle Path network
Policy GA3	Parking and new development
	Employment and Heritage
Policy EE1	Supporting Existing Employment and Retail
Policy EE2	Retention of employment land
Policy EE3	Support for new commercial uses
Policy EE4	Local shopping facilities
Policy EE5	Improving signage
Policy EE6	Sustainable Recreational and tourism activities
Policy EE7	Rural Buildings
Policy EE8	Communications infrastructure
Policy EE9	Sustainable Commercial and Employment Buildings
	Leisure and Community
Policy LC1	Support Independent Living
Policy LC2	Healthcare facilities
Policy LC3	Provision of buildings for community use
Policy LC4	Provision of allotments
Policy LC5	Protection of assets and community value
Policy LC6	Designation of Local Green Space
Policy LC7	Local Open Space
Policy LC8	School facilities
Policy LC9	Allocation for camping / touring caravans

4.32 The next chapter presents the findings of the assessment of these policies.

5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

Introduction

5.1 The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Regulation 14 consultation version of the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan. This chapter presents:

- An appraisal of the current version of the Neighbourhood Plan under the eight SEA theme headings; and
- The overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

Approach to this appraisal

5.2 The appraisal is structured under the eight themes taken forward for the purposes of the SEA.

5.3 For each theme, 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

5.4 Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan area is relatively constrained in biodiversity terms. Part of the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan overlaps with the 12km buffer zone for the 'Singleton and Cocking Tunnels' Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which supports populations of Barbastelle *(Barbastella barbastellus)* and Bechstein's bat *(Myotis bechsteinii)*. Additionally, the 'Halnaker Chalk Pit' Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 'Eartham Pit, Boxgrove' SSSI 'The Brookes' (Bersted Brooks)' Local Nature Reserve, 'Fontwell Racecourse' Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and 'Slindon Bottom' SNCI are located either within or within proximity to the parish, containing habitats and species listed in the annexes of both the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Furthermore, the Neighbourhood Plan area contains a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species. Whilst no significant negative effects on biodiversity can be readily identified, there will be a need for potential effects on biodiversity linked to future development in the Neighbourhood Plan area to be avoided and mitigated. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan sets outs provisions which will 1) help limit potential effects from new development on features and areas of biodiversity interest and 2) support the resilience of ecological networks.

5.6 The Neighbourhood Plan has been accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ascertain the potential for likely significant effects (LSE) on the integrity of the European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The following impact pathways were considered through the HRA process: loss of functionally linked land, recreational pressure, water quantity, level and flow, water quality, atmospheric pollution (primarily nitrogen deposition) and adverse effects from construction activities (e.g. dust

emission, noise and visual disturbance, water surface runoff). Many of the European sites and linking impact pathways were screened out during stage 1 of the HRA and did not require an appropriate assessment (stage 2). However, the appropriate assessment investigated three considerations based on the potential for LSE, namely: loss of functional linked land (Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC); water quantity, level and flow (Arun Valley Ramsar / SPA); and atmospheric pollution (Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC).

5.7 In this respect, the appropriate assessment for the loss of land that is functionally linked to the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC concluded that the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan contains strong and adequate policy wording, protecting the identified biodiversity corridors in the Aldingbourne (later discussed in this appraisal). However, given that Aldingbourne falls within the 12km Wider Conservation Area surrounding the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC and to be precautionary regarding the potential severance of commuting lines of bats, the HRA recommends that the following additional text is inserted into Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services', or another appropriate policy within the Neighbourhood Plan:

"In order to be fully compliant with the Habitats Directive relating to the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC qualifying features, proposals for the development of greenfield sites within the parish (most of which falls within the SAC's 12km Wider Conservation Area) must evaluate whether there is a potential for the loss of suitable foraging habitat and / or the severance of commuting flightlines, such as in the form of mature treelines, hedgerows and watercourses. If so, such features must be preserved unless surveys demonstrate that they are not used by barbastelle bats. Care must also be taken through development design to ensure that such retained features are not subject to artificial lighting."

5.8 The HRA states this will ensure that additional protection is given to the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC, where bats are known to travel long distances from their roost sites. If the above wording is inserted, the HRA concludes that there will be no adverse effects on the site integrity of the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC regarding the impact pathway loss of functionally linked land. No further likely significant effects (LSEs) were identified through the appropriate assessment in the HRA.

5.9 Several Neighbourhood Plan polices will further safeguard European designated sites from plan proposals. In this respect, Objective EH2.3 within Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services' seeks to safeguard habitats and biodiversity corridors within the Neighbourhood Plan area which providing roosting and foraging sites for species. Likewise, Policy EH10 'Unlit Village Status' stipulates that new lighting will be required to conform to the highest standard of light pollution restrictions as to protect the unlit environments of the parish. This will indirectly benefit nocturnal species using these environments and habitats.

5.10 The proposed spatial strategy through Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation' will deliver 85 dwellings across two sites. In relation to the SSSIs located within and within proximity to the parish, the Neighbourhood Plan area does not overlap with SSSI IRZs for the types of development which are likely to come forward (i.e. residential, rural residential, rural non-residential). Therefore, the scale of proposals likely to come forward through the Neighbourhood Plan are not likely to have any significant impacts to nationally designated sites. Applications for infill development or the redevelopment of sites will be supported within the built up area boundary, in principle (see Policy H6 'Windfall Development'), providing that wildlife is conserved and enhanced. Moreover, Policy EH7 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' encourages proposals for energy generating infrastructure to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, providing the impacts to wildlife are minimised.

5.11 Published in July 2018, paragraph 170 (d) within the revised NPPF[12] states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by *'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks'*, with paragraph 32 outlining that spatial development strategies should demonstrate how opportunities for net gains have been addressed. An environmental net gain principle for development is also embedded within the goals and policies of the UK

[12] MHCLG (2018): 'Revised National Planning Policy Framework', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework> last accessed [05/11/19]

Government's 25-Year Environment Plan[13] which was published in January 2018. In this regard, Objective EH2.2 within Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services' encourages developers to demonstrate how the overall function and integrity of biodiversity corridors within the Neighbourhood Plan area may be enhanced to provide net gains.

5.12 Policy EN2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services' seeks to protect and enhance (where possible) local biodiversity corridors within the parish. Corridors includes woodlands, well maintained hedgerows, small copses, old orchards, mature hedgerows, ponds, watercourses and similar habitats hosting a variety of wildlife (Objective EH2.1). In this respect, the policy states that new development within or adjacent to local biodiversity corridors will only be supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that proposals would not give rise to any significant harm to their integrity or function. Policy EH6 'Protection of Trees and Hedgerows' requires development proposals to incorporate biodiversity within and surrounding developments to enhance ecological networks. Existing features should be retained, with proposals resisted if they would result in the loss or damage of trees, hedgerows, priority habitats and ecological networks. Ecological networks will also be strengthened through Policy LC6 'Designation of Local Green Space' and Policy LC7 'Local Open Space'.

5.13 Ecological networks within the Neighbourhood Plan area are further supported by Policy EH4 'Protection of Watercourses' supports proposals which would promote river catchment management and wildlife conservation. Objective EH4.1 identifies the importance of such schemes to restore chalk streams within the parish. Additionally, Objective H8.1 within Policy H8 'Outdoor Space' indicates that outdoor amenity spaces associated with new development proposals should contribute to providing tree cover and improved biodiversity. The provision of these policies will ensure that ecological sensitivities are appropriately considered during the planning, construction and operational phases for new development proposals which come forward during the plan period, whilst also delivering net gains. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out a range of provisions which will support and enhance habitats, species and ecological networks in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Climate Change

5.14 Several policies within the Neighbourhood Plan emphasise the importance of mitigating and adapting to climate crisis, seeking to embed environmentally sustainable practices in response to the challenges faced.

5.15 In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Based on the 2011 Census data, the most regularly used method of travelling to work in the parish is via driving, with 91.7% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area having access to at least one car or van. The total number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area with access to at least two cars or vans (39.5%) is also higher than the regional and national trends. In this respect, active travel within the Neighbourhood Plan area is supported through the provisions of Policy GA1 'Promoting Sustainable Movement' and Policy GA2 'Footpath and Cycle Path Network'. This will encourage a limitation of emissions associated with new development proposals though protecting and enhancing local walking and cycle routes through the parish and ensuring developments have good accessibility to services and facilities. This is reaffirmed through Policy H6 'Windfall Sites', stating that proposals should facilitate good accessibility via a range of transport modes. These aspects are further discussed within the 'Transportation' appraisal.

5.16 With reference to the proposed site allocations in Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation', both sites are in good proximity to the services and facilities in Westergate. This will help limit the need to travel to local amenities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). It is important to acknowledge that development at these locations will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the parish. However, these are unlikely to be significant in the wider context of the 2,300 new

[13] DEFRA (2018): 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan> last accessed [05/11/19]

dwellings delivered through strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan.

5.17 Policy EH7 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' encourages proposals for energy generating infrastructure to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts. In this respect, the proposals must be appropriate to its location and to the scale of the existing buildings or the development which it is intended to serve (amongst other considerations). Similarly, energy generating infrastructure using renewable or low carbon energy sources in the design of new commercial development will be encouraged through Policy EE9 'Sustainable Commercial and Employment Buildings' (where viable and consistent with other Neighbourhood Plan policies). The provisions of these policies will further contribute to climate change mitigation efforts.

5.18 With reference to adapting to the effects of climate change, both site allocations in Policy H1 are located within Flood Zone 1 and have a low flood risk potential. Further tackling flood risk concerns in the parish, Policy EH4 'Protection of Watercourses' supports proposals which promote river catchment management and reduce flood risks. Policy EH5 'Surface Water Management' also states that new development will not be supported in areas at risk from flooding unless it is supported by a site-specific flood risk assessment which demonstrates that the proposal would a) not give rise to additional flood risks to the site and surrounding land, and b) make appropriate provision for accommodating the surface water and foul water arising from the development. It is anticipated that the provisions of the NPPF will also help to ensure that developments are located way from the areas at highest risk of flooding.

5.19 Additionally, the protection of open spaces and habitats within the Neighbourhood Plan area through the provisions of Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services' and Policy EH6 'Protection of Trees and Hedgerows' (protection of natural features) will safeguard natural carbon sequesters located within the landscape (i.e. trees and hedgerows). This will positively respond to the potential effects of climate change (particularly from extreme weather events) through providing summer shading and reducing surface water run-off.

Landscape

5.20 The South Downs National Park overlaps with the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, containing several special qualities which classify its distinctiveness and value. Reflecting the results of the Arun Landscape Study, five out of the seven landscape character areas (LCAs) within the Neighbourhood Plan area either have a 'low' or 'low to medium' capacity for change. Additionally, six out of the seven LCAs have been classified as having a 'substantial' landscape sensitivity. As such, policies within the Neighbourhood Plan seek to address these sensitivities and have a strong focus on protecting the sense of place and special qualities of Aldingbourne which contribute to its character. This will respect the setting of the National Park and safeguarding the integrity of the character areas.

5.21 Policy EH1 'Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB)' states that development proposals within the open countryside will be resisted. Specifically, the Policy seeks to ensure that the distinction between the built environment and natural environment is safeguarded (Objective EH1.1) and the integrity of the visual separation and important viewpoints between settlements are maintained (Objective EH1.2). With reference to the proposed site allocations through Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation, both sites are adjacent to the existing built-up area, outside of the National Park boundary.

5.22 With reference to local landscape character, site allocation 'Land at Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road' is within the 'Westergate Western Fringe' LCA which is identified as having a 'medium to high' landscape capacity. Comparatively, 'Land north of Lees Yard, Lidsey Road' is within the 'Westergate Eastern Fringe' LCA which is identified as having a 'low to medium' landscape capacity. It is important to recognise that the significance of any landscape and visual impacts at these locations is reduced given the amount of land take required through strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan. However, both LCAs are identified as being sensitive development and as such, several Neighbourhood Plan policies focus on delivering a high quality design through development proposals.

5.23 For example, Policy H3 'Housing Density' outlines that new development shall be appropriate to its location to ensure that it does not harm the established character and appearance of the local area (Objective H3.1). Policy H9 'Attention to Detail' confirms that items such as meter boxes, lighting, flues and ventilation ducts must be considered early in the design process to ensure that appropriate materials are used to minimise any visual impacts. Objective H9.1 within the policy also states that these features should be positioned and located to be unobtrusive. Similarly, Policy EH8 'Buildings and Structures of Character' affirms that development proposals involving the buildings of local character (as listed in Schedules D and E in the Neighbourhood Plan) must retain their significance, including their contribution to local distinctiveness. Objective EH8.1 of the policy also notes that the Parish Council will work with the local planning authority to prevent key features from being removed and inappropriate extensions being added which detract from the character of these buildings and structures.

5.24 The Neighbourhood Plan also acknowledges that additional applications for development have the potential to come forward during the plan period. In this context, infill development or the redevelopment of sites within the built up area boundary (see Policy H6 'Windfall Development') will be supported in principle providing that, amongst other considerations, the scale and design of development is appropriate to the size and character of the settlement and landscape character is conserved and enhanced. Policy EH7 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' encourages proposals for energy generating infrastructure to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, providing that the impact to landscape views are minimised. Policy LC3 'Provision of Buildings for Community Use' encourages such proposals providing that their design and scale are in keeping with the local character.

5.25 Arun District Council have also allocated serval Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in the Neighbourhood Plan area in the interest of their amenity value. In this respect, Policy EH6 'Protection of Trees and Hedgerows' affirms that development will be resisted where it would result in the loss of trees of arboricultural and amenity value. Such features should be retained through development proposals, including ancient trees and hedgerows. This will protect the integrity of these valuable landscape features, important in the local context as there are several TPO designations in the parish. Moreover, neither of the proposed site allocations through Policy H1 contain any designated TPOs or TPO areas.

5.26 Views are an important consideration in the parish, particularly those viewed from the conservation areas and rural hinterland. In this respect, Policy EH9 'Conservation Areas' is only supportive of development proposals in these areas where they would (amongst other considerations):

- Protect the distinctive open and rural character of the conservation areas and their setting;
- Contribute to sustaining or enhancing the visual connections between the three principal settlements and their rural hinterland, including longer views to the South Downs; and
- Protect the key view lines into and out of the conservation areas.

5.27 Policy EH10 'Unlit Village Status' states that development proposals which detract from the unlit environments of the parish will not be supported. This will protect the integrity of the rural areas of the parish and enable residents to experience the full night sky. Additionally, objective EE5.1 in Policy EE5 'Improving Signage' suggests that illuminated signage is inappropriate in rural areas. Therefore, the policy will only support proposals where they are appropriate to their surroundings. This will support a limitation of effects on the open countryside and safeguard these areas from inappropriate scales of development.

Historic Environment

5.28 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, recognised through the diversity of features and areas that are internationally, nationally and locally valued for their cultural heritage interest. This includes 30 Grade II and one Grade I nationally designated listed buildings, 'The Keep of Tote Copse castle; 400m north of Decoy Farmhouse' scheduled monument, and two designated conservation areas at 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane'. Following a high-level review of the Historic Environmental Record (HER) for West Sussex

(accessed via the Heritage Gateway), there are 89 records within Aldingbourne parish including several Neolithic sites, Roman artefacts and roads, Palaeolithic sites, Iron Age pottery and many distinctive buildings which contribute to the character and setting of the parish.

5.29 With reference to the proposed site allocations through Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation', neither site contains or is within proximity to a nationally designated heritage asset or area, or their settings. Similarly, neither site contains any features listed on the HER for West Sussex. Nonetheless, several Neighbourhood Plan policies have a strong focus on conserving and enhancing the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings.

5.30 For example, development proposals affecting the 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane' Conservation Areas will only be supported through Policy EH9 'Conservation Areas' where they preserve and enhance their character, setting and appearance. Additionally, Objective EH9.2 of the policy outlines a preference for designating an additional conservation at the northern end of 'Hook Lane'. This is given the distinct architectural character, local historic interest, prevalence of listed buildings and a scheduled monument at this location. This will further support the integrity of heritage assets and features within the parish, alongside policies which safeguard important viewpoints from these areas (previously discussed within the Landscape appraisal section).

5.31 Policy EH8 'Buildings and Structures of Character' confirms that development proposals involving the demolition or alteration to buildings and structures of local character (as listed in Schedules D and E which accompany the Neighbourhood Plan) will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that they cannot be put to an alternative beneficial or viable use to secure significant public benefits. Furthermore, Policy EH11 'Flint Walls' will refuse development proposals that would remove or replace any of the flint walls listed in Schedule F accompanying the Neighbourhood Plan. New development proposals will be required to provide flint walls and/or incorporate flint detailing into boundary treatments (where appropriate), to positively reflect the local vernacular and historic architectural character within the parish. This is likely to provide opportunities for new development to positively contribute to the fabric and setting of heritage assets through incorporating high-quality design which reflects the historic character and special qualities of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

5.32 The Neighbourhood Plan also acknowledges that additional applications for development have the potential to come forward during the plan period. In this context, applications for infill development or the redevelopment of sites within the built up area boundary (see Policy H6 'Windfall Development') will be supported in principle, providing that the built character is conserved and enhanced, and the integrity of the character is maintained (Objective H6.1). The policy notes that this is particularly the case for areas which are specifically recognised for their character, referencing the conservation areas and listed buildings. Policy EH7 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' encourages proposals for energy generating infrastructure to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts, providing that the siting, scale, design and impact to heritage assets (and their settings) is minimised. This is reaffirmed through Policy EE6 'Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Activities'. Potential impacts to heritage assets are also recognised through Policy EE7 'Rural Buildings' which states that development proposals for the reuse, conversion and adaptation of rural buildings for small businesses will only be supported where the proposed use would not have an adverse impact on any archaeological, architectural and historic features.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

5.33 In terms of the location of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land, Natural England's provisional agricultural land quality dataset indicates that the Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly covered by Grade 1 (excellent), Grade 2 (very good) and Grade 3 (good to moderate) land. Although a detailed agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken for most of the parish, it is noted in the predictive land quality assessment that the site allocations do have the potential for BMV agricultural land, as they both contain undeveloped areas which are underlain by Grade 2 agricultural land. Therefore, new development would potentially result in the permanent loss of BMV land at these locations.

However, the proposed site allocation on 'Land at Wings Nursery, Lidsey Road' does contain some areas of previously developed land, including a glasshouse and residential dwelling. This will promote the efficient use of land in the eastern section of the site. Additionally, the significance of the loss of BMV land is reduced given the amount of land take required through strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan.

5.34 Nonetheless, Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to safeguard the open countryside and rural hinterland from high levels of inappropriate development to positively safeguard land, soil and water resources. For example, Policy EH1 'Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB)' is supportive of proposals located within the defined settlement boundary of Westergate, strictly controlling levels of development in the surrounding countryside. Applications for infill development or the redevelopment of sites within the built up area boundary (see Policy H6 'Windfall Development') will be supported in principle, providing it can be demonstrated that the and would be used effectively and comprehensibly. Policy EH3 'Development on Agricultural Land' affirms that proposals for development on BMV agricultural land will be resisted unless it supports the diversification of a rural business or when it is evident that the need for the development outweighs the harm. Additionally, Policy EE7 'Rural Buildings' confirms that proposals for the reuse, conversion or adaptation of rural buildings for small businesses will only be supported where the use is appropriate to a rural location. Furthermore, agricultural land will also be safeguarded through the provisions of Policy EH7 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy', stating that proposals for energy generating infrastructure on land in current agricultural production or on BMV agricultural land will not be supported.

5.35 Concerning the protection of water resources in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the primary watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan is the Aldingbourne Rife, with the latest water quality assessments completed in 2016 classifying the watercourse as having a 'good' chemical status and a 'poor to moderate' ecological status. In this regard, Policy EH4 'Protection of Watercourses' supports proposals which would promote river catchment management to address diffuse pollution issues. Objective EH5.4 and EH5.5 within Policy EH5 'Surface Water Management' encourage the use of surface water drainage systems through proposals (including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)), to make appropriate provision for accommodating surface water and foul water arising from the development. This will minimise the risk of excessive surface water entering the watercourses, which is important in the local context as sewage discharge is one of the reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) for Aldingbourne Rife. This will indirectly contribute to water quality improvements through limiting suspended solids entering watercourses from surface water run-off, positively contributing to the Water Framework Directive's objective of achieving 'good status' for as many watercourses as possible by 2027.

5.36 Several policies also seek to protect key features of landscape and biodiversity interest and promote green space and open space. While these policies do not specifically seek to address land, soil and water resources, the policies will indirectly help promote and protect these resources, including the promotion of high-quality green networks in the Neighbourhood Plan area and the protection and enhancement of key landscape features. This will help support the capacity of the landscape and villagescape to regulate soil and water quality.

Population and Community

5.37 Regarding the housing target for the Neighbourhood Plan area, Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation' seeks to deliver 85 new dwellings in Aldingbourne through two site allocations:

- Land at Wings Nursey, Lidsey Road (55 dwellings); and
- Land north of Lees Yard, Lijdsey Road (37 dwellings).

5.38 Specifically, Policy H1 affirms that proposals will be expected to conform to Neighbourhood Plan policies, with Objective H1.2 of the policy outlining that a percentage of the housing at both site allocations will be expected to be delivered through the Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate Community Land Trust. This has been shown to be in many locations an effective mechanism for delivering high quality and affordable homes for local people.

5.39 Whilst the Parish Council are only required to allocate at least 70 dwellings through the Neighbourhood Plan, the delivery of 85 dwellings reflects a desire to "future proof" its Neighbourhood Plan to meet locally identifiable needs and community aspirations. The narrative behind the decision making process for these two site allocations is further discussed through the consideration of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan (Chapter 4).

5.40 To meet any residual housing needs during the plan period, Policy H6 'Windfall Sites' is supportive of infill residential developments and the redevelopment of sites within the built up area boundary (subject to the conditions listed within the Policy). Likewise, applications should demonstrate how the proposals will integrate effectively with existing development and meet the requirements of Neighbourhood Plan policies. Furthermore, Policy EH1 'Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB)' is supportive of proposals located within the defined settlement boundary of Westergate. This will ensure that new development is located in the most accessible areas of the parish in terms of proximity to services and facilities.

5.41 The Neighbourhood Plan also seeks to support the delivery of high-quality design within housing, in addition to supporting the delivery of housing appropriate for local people though explicitly seeking to deliver homes of a type to reflect local needs. This will respond to a need to improve the balance of the housing stock locally, and to meet the needs of an ageing population. Key policies in this regard include Policy H9 'Attention to Detail' which encourages elements such as bin stores, recycling facilities, cycle stores, meter boxes, satellite dishes and telephone lines (amongst other considerations) to be integrated into the design. Policy H2 'Housing Mix' confirms that proposals for new housing must deliver a range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet local needs. Proposals will also be supported through Policy H2 where at least 25% of dwellings meet Lifetime Home Standards (or equivalent). Policy H3 'Housing Density' also states that the density of new development shall be appropriate to its location by virtue of size, siting and relationship to existing properties. Moreover, Policy H4 'Affordable Housing' affirms that any proposal for at least 10 dwellings should include 40% affordable units, with the size and tenure of affordable units reflecting the latest available housing needs evidence. Objective H4.2 suggests that affordable units delivered on-site should be generally indistinguishable from market dwellings. This will positively contribute to the creation of mixed, balanced and sustainable communities.

5.42 Accessibility to services and facilities is a key influence on the quality of life of residents and community cohesion. The proposed site allocations are in good proximity to the services and facilities in Westergate. The allocations are also accessible to key public transport links from the village centre (via Lidsey Road and Westergate Street). Accessibility will be further supported by the Neighbourhood Plan's focus on supporting the vitality of the parish and new community provision. This includes through Policy LC5 'Protection of Assets of Community Value' which seeks to enhance the quality of community infrastructure and protect these assets from loss or harm. These assets are identified in Schedule A which accompanies the Neighbourhood Plan. Policy LC8 'School Facilities' outlines support for developments that lead to the provision or improvement of facilities for children to attend primary school in Aldingbourne, subject to compliance with other relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.43 The Neighbourhood Plan also seeks to promote the economic vitality of the Neighbourhood Plan area and support employment opportunities. In this respect, Policy EE1 'Supporting Existing Employment and Retail' outlines support for proposals which would upgrade or extend these areas providing that the impact on the surrounding amenities and properties is acceptable, and subject to other Neighbourhood Plan policies. Additionally, Policy EE3 'Support for New Commercial Uses' encourages proposals for new commercial development, subject to complying with other Neighbourhood Plan policies. The local economy will be further enhanced by the provisions of Policy EE6 'Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Activities' which encourages proposals for new facilities, and through Policy EE7 'Rural Buildings' which supports proposals for the reuse, conversion or adaptation of rural buildings for small businesses (all subject to the conditions and criteria listed in the policies). This is reaffirmed through Policy LC9 'Allocation for Camping / Touring Caravans Site'.

5.44 Employment and economic opportunities will also be supported by Policy EE8 'Communications Infrastructure', stipulating that all new residential, employment and

commercial development must be designed to connect to high quality communications infrastructure to improve connectivity within the parish. This will support running a business from home and home working. Policy EE2 'Retention of Employment Land' affirms that proposals for the redevelopment or change of use of land or buildings in employment or service trade use to non-employment uses will not be permitted, unless the existing use can be shown to be no longer viable. This is reaffirmed through Policy EE4 'Local Shopping Facilities'.

5.45 Overall therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to have significant positive effects in relation to the Population and Communities SEA theme through delivering housing which meets local needs, by promoting social inclusion, and through supporting community vitality.

Health and Wellbeing

5.46 Reflecting the outcomes of the JSNA for West Sussex, the Public Health Profile for Arun District contains a variety of key statistics which help to build an understanding of the community needs. The findings indicate that there are lower levels of physical activity across the district (63.9%) in comparison to the regional total (69.8%) and the national total (66.3%). Additionally, the JSNA highlights that the annual changes in the 65+ population is projected to rise from +2,500 (between 2002 and 2017) to +4,800 (between 2017 and 2032). In this respect, the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan will being a range of benefits for the health and wellbeing of residents within the parish, as well as addressing some of the key statistics within the health profile.

5.47 Recognising the prevalence of an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area, Policy LC1 'Support Independent Living' encourages proposals for new, converted and extended independent living and care homes in the parish (subject to other Neighbourhood Plan policies). Policy LC2 'Healthcare Facilities' supports proposals for new medical facilities. This is important in the local context, as the quality and availability of housing is an important contributor to health and wellbeing. In this regard, Objective H2.1 within Policy H2 'Housing Mix' states that sites which are close to a shop will be particularly suited for older and younger residents who do not have access to a car. Similarly, Objective H2.2 also indicates that new dwellings should be adaptable for differing needs, particularly for assisting and responding to the needs of an ageing population in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Policy H4 'Affordable Housing' requires proposals of at least 10 dwellings to include 40% affordable units, with Objective H4.1 affirming that a lower percentage of affordable dwellings would only be considered if developers can clearly demonstrate that a 40% target would not be viable.

5.48 More broadly, the Neighbourhood Plan policies will bring a range of further benefits for health and wellbeing. The main impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan's policies on health and wellbeing will be through protecting and enhancing the Neighbourhood Plan area's high-quality environment and public realm and green infrastructure provision. This will support physical and mental health and wellbeing. Key policies in this regard include Policy H8 'Outdoor Space' affirms that all new dwellings must include an outdoor space of adequate size and quality, either as a private garden or shared amenity area, to improve the recreational offer within the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is reaffirmed through Objective H8.2 within the Policy. Furthermore, Policy H9 'Attention to Detail' seeks to ensure the highest quality design is delivered, appropriately locating and integrating features into proposals. Policy LC6 'Designation of Local Green Spaces' will protect areas which are demonstrably special to the local community and hold a local significance. These areas are listed in Schedule B of the Neighbourhood Plan, with proposals for development only acceptable in special circumstances. This is reaffirmed through Policy LC7 'Local Open Space' for the areas listed in Schedule C of the Neighbourhood Plan. Moreover, Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services', Policy EH6 'Protection of Trees and Hedgerows' will retain and enhance features enjoyed by residents for recreation and wellbeing.

5.49 Supporting community cohesion and quality of life, Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation confirms that proposals for the two site allocations will be expected to provide funding to deliver improvements to the Aldingbourne Sports and Community Centre (through Section 106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy). The provision of buildings for community use will also be supported through Policy LC3 'Provision of Buildings

for Community Use' providing that the impact to residential amenity is acceptable. Likewise, Policy LC4 'Provision of Allotments' seeks to increase the availability of allotment plots within the parish for the benefit of residents. Policy LC3 also encourages such proposals providing that their design and scale are in keeping with the local character. Furthermore, Policy H7 'Development in the Vicinity of Businesses' is not supportive of proposals for new development in these locations where they would be inherently noisy. In this respect, Objective H7.1 acknowledges that such proposals should be appropriately sited and located away from residential developments to minimise noise intrusion.

5.50 Policy GA1 'Promoting Sustainable Movement' and Policy GA2 'Footpath and Cycle Path Network' requires development proposals to retain existing footpaths and cycle routes, extending or improving them where possible to reduce the impact of the private car. This will encourage active travel and healthier lifestyles within the Neighbourhood Plan area through maintaining and improving accessibility to alternative transport modes. These elements are further discussed within the 'Transportation' appraisal below.

Transportation

5.51 Each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce, adopt and regularly review their Local Transport Plan (LTP) through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. In this regard, the West Sussex LTP3 2011-2026 is a strategic policy tool through which the council exercises its responsibilities for planning, management and the development of transport in the county[14]. The four strategies within the LTP3 that guide the Council's approach to maintaining, managing and investing in transport include: promoting economic growth, tackling climate change, providing access to services, employment and housing, and improving safety, security and health.

5.52 With reference to the Neighbourhood Plan area, there is a need to ensure that developments have good accessibility to a range of services and facilities. This is encouraged through the proposed site allocations in Policy H1 'Provide Housing to Meet District Council Allocation' which are within walking distance to services and facilities in Westergate. Additionally, applications for infill development or the redevelopment of sites within the built up area boundary (see Policy H6 'Windfall Development') will be supported in principle, providing that the proposal creates safe and accessible environments that offer good access via a range of transport modes. The policy also acknowledges that any new development with a significant traffic impact will only be supported if that impact can be mitigated via developer contributions to measures agreed with the highway authority. This will ensure that new developments are situated in the most sustainable locations in terms of the relative distance to local centres, supporting the creation of inclusive communities and encouraging alternative options of transportation for undertaking day-to-day activities.

5.53 Supporting modal shift, Policy GA1 'Promoting Sustainable Movement' states that development proposals that would increase travel demand will be supported where they can demonstrate that they would extend or improve walking and cycling routes, be located in places accessible to public or community transport, and if they would not result in the loss of any existing footpaths or cycle paths. This is reinforced through Policy GA2 'Footpath and Cycle Path Network'. Furthermore, proposals for all new commercial and employment development through Policy EE9 'Sustainable Commercial and Employment Buildings' shall be designed to provide secure storage for bicycles.

5.54 In terms of congestion, key concerns include the volume of traffic on the A29 and queues arising from the Woodgate level crossing. The safety of pedestrians along the A29 is also a concern, particularly for children walking or cycling to school. Policy GA3 'Parking and New Development' states that proposals must provide adequate parking in accordance with the relevant standards. The policy also seeks to resist proposals that would result in a loss of parking spaces (either on or off street). Additionally, Policy EE6 'Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Activities' is supportive of such proposals providing that it can be demonstrated that the

[14] West Sussex County Council (2011): 'West Sussex LTP3', [online] available to access via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/roads-and-travel-policy-and-reports/west-sussex-transport-plan-2011-26-ltp3/> last accessed [17/09/19]

local road network is capable of accommodating the additional traffic movements and adequate parking is provided on the site. These provisions are also stipulated in Policy EE7 'Rural Buildings' regarding proposals for the reuse, conversion or adaptation of rural buildings for small businesses. Therefore, these policies will tackle congestion and traffic issues experienced in Aldingbourne.

Conclusions at this current stage

5.55 The assessment has concluded that the current version of the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community' SEA theme. This relates to the focus of the Neighbourhood Plan on safeguarding and enhancing community infrastructure, facilitating the delivery of housing which meets local needs and through supporting economic vitality by enhancing the prospects for employment locally. The Neighbourhood Plan is also likely to lead to positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' SEA themes. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's emphasis on protecting and enhancing the special qualities of the parish, supporting the quality of the public realm, and through incorporating high-quality and sensitive design through new development proposals.

5.56 The Neighbourhood Plan will also bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Health and Wellbeing' SEA theme, linked to its promotion of improved and accessible network of footpaths, enhancements to green infrastructure and open space provision to encourage active lifestyles, and the facilitation of flexible and easily adaptable dwellings for all residents.

5.57 Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan will bring positive effects in relation to the 'Biodiversity' SEA theme through retaining habitats, enhancing ecological networks and delivering net gain. However, given the approaches taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will help limit potential effects from new development areas rather than secure significant enhancements, these impacts are less likely to comprise significant positive effects overall. Furthermore, it is recommended that the relevant wording is inserted into Policy EH2 'Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services', or another appropriate policy within the Neighbourhood Plan, as indicated within the HRA.

5.58 Regarding the 'Climate Change' SEA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan will potentially lead to positive effects through supporting development proposals which tackle flood risk issues, deliver renewable energy generating infrastructure and include low carbon energy sources to address the climate crisis. However, this is dependent on the extent to which development proposals incorporate these mitigation and adaptation measures through design. The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches regarding the 'Transportation' SEA theme, given its focus on reducing traffic congestion, supporting a modal shift towards sustainable transport and by ensuring that new developments provide appropriate access to local services and facilities.

5.59 Likewise, the Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches for the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SEA themes through the implementation of objectives which seek to limit pollution and improve the environmental quality of the parish. However, these are not considered to be significant in the context of the SEA process given the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and the scale of proposals. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan facilitates the delivery of 85 dwellings on two predominantly greenfield sites which are underlain by BMV agricultural land. This has the potential to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the significance of the loss of BMV land is reduced in the context of the amount of land take required through strategic allocation SD5 'Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate' in the Arun Local Plan.

6. What are the next steps?

6.1 This Environmental Report accompanies the Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.

6.2 Following consultation, any representations made will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and the Neighbourhood Plan and Environmental Report will be updated as necessary. The updated Environmental Report will then accompany the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, Arun District Council, for subsequent Independent Examination.

6.3 At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with local planning policy.

6.4 If the Independent Examination is favourable, Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Arun District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the parish.

Appendix A Context Review and Baseline

A1 – Air Quality

Context Review

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

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

Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'[15] sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

Prepared in 2019, the Air Quality Annual Status Report for Arun District[16] outlines five priority actions for improving air quality across the district, including:

- Working with the county council to ensure traffic light sequencing operates at optimum efficiency, and promoting road traffic calming and routing away from residential and other areas where the public may suffer significant exposure;
- Increasing education, raising awareness and the availability of air quality information and incentivising people to change their travel behaviour;
- Cut Engine – Cut Pollution" signs where there are periodic stationary traffic queues at level crossings, capitalising on opportunities and reduce emissions by 1%;
- "Travelwise" schemes to promote sustainable transport to include more car share schemes and alternatives to the car, promotion of school and work travel plans, development and promotion of cycle routes; and
- Working closely with planners and agencies to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are implemented for new developments and due consideration is given to air quality issues.

At the local level, policies within the 'Quality of the Environment' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

[15] HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 20/02/19]
[16] Arun District Council (2019): 'Annual Status Report' [online] available to access via: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jijm4n14175.pdf&ver=14424 > last accessed [05/09/19]

Summary of Current Baseline

Arun District Council is required to monitor air quality across the district under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.

The 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for Arun confirms that there are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan, though the report also highlights that there is concern over increasing NO_2 levels from road traffic exhaust emissions. These emissions are the main source of air pollution in the district. Currently, the air quality is deemed 'good' and the national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) are being met[17].

Summary of Future Baseline

New housing and employment provision within the parish, including through the Arun Local Plan, has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO_2, particularly along the main routes through the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Implementation of the aims, objectives and policies contained in the Arun Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan (discussed in Chapter 10), present opportunities to continue to improve air quality within both the Neighbourhood Plan area and the wider district.

A2 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Context Review

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy[18] was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

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

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

[17] Arun District Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report [online] available to access via: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jijm4n14175.pdf&ver=14424> last accessed [17/09/19]
[18] European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf> last accessed [27/06/18]

b) *Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.*

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)[19] sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*[20].

The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan[21] sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:

- Using and managing land sustainably;
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme.

At the local level, policies within the 'Natural Environment' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the biodiversity and geodiversity SEA theme.

[19] Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> last accessed [19/09/18]
[20] DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services> last accessed [19/0918]
[21] HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 19/09/18]

Summary of Current Baseline

European designated sites

There are no European designated sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest European designated sites, Pagham Harbour Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area (SPA) are located approximately 7km to the south west of the parish. However, part of the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan overlaps with the 12km buffer zone for the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels Special Area of Conservation[22] (SAC), which supports populations of Barbastelle *(Barbastella barbastellus)* and Bechstein's bat *(Myotis bechsteinii)*.

Nationally designated sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located directly to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: 'Halnaker Chalk Pit' SSSI and 'Eartham Pit, Boxgrove' SSSI.

Designated in February 1992 and covering an area of approximately 6.37 ha, Halnaker Chalk Pit SSSI consists of a partly vegetated pit in the Upper Chalk with peripheral areas of scrub and woodland. The SSSI is important as the joint location of the largest population of a nationally rare plant species in Great Britain. Specifically, the citation for the SSSI states[23]:

"The floor of the chalk pit has a very thin layer of soil providing comparatively few nutrients. In addition, the chalk is freely draining and these factors combine to result in a relatively harsh environment. The pit is characterised by areas of bare chalk and a patchy stunted vegetation including such species as creeping bent grass *(Agrostis stolonifera)*, hoary plantain *(Plantago media)* and scarlet pimpernel *(Anagallis arvensis)*.

"This site is most significant for its population of the nationally rare and vulnerable broad-leaved cudweed *(Filago pyramidata)* with 10,000 plants (1990 figures) comprising approximately 50% of the total British population. The only other site with a comparable population is at Cuxton, Kent. This plant is typically found as a cornfield flower but as a result of modern agricultural practice has been almost extirpated. However, the chalk pit provides a sufficiently suitable habitat for the plant to reach a height of a few centimetres and seed freely. Other flowering plant species found on the pit floor include wild basil *(Clinopodium vulgare)* and wild parsnip *(Pastinaca sativa)*."

Based on the most recently completed condition assessments undertaken in 2011, 100% of the SSSI was classified as 'Favourable'.

Designated in March 1997 and covering an area of approximately 9.76 ha, Eartham Pit, Boxgrove SSSI is noted for its geological interest. Specifically, the citation for the SSSI states[24]:

"Interest at the site stems from the evidence for several climatic events shown by the nature of the deposits and the interglacial mammal fauna present within the intertidal sediments. In addition to this an important archaeological horizon has been identified on the surface of the intertidal deposits which would at one time have been a beach.

"The recent excavations at the site have suggested a pre-Hoxnian age for the site as opposed to the Hoxnian age normally associated with the raised shoreline in the area. The combination of archaeology and Middle-Pleistocene fauna at this site has important implications for Pleistocene and Palaeolithic chronology in Britain and Northern Europe.

"The excavations at Eartham Pit have yielded important climatic information for the MiddlePleistocene and are considered as internationally important due to the juxtaposition of the fossiliferous sediments with the archaeological evidence, particularly the human remains."

[22] JNCC (no date): 'Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC', [online] available to access via: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030337> last accessed [16/09/19]
[23] Natural England (no date): 'Halnaker Chalk Pit SSSI', [online] available to access via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006507> last accessed [16/09/19]
[24] Natural England (no date): 'Earthham Pit, Boxgrove SSSI', [online] available to access via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s2000065> last accessed [16/09/19]

Based on the most recently completed condition assessments undertaken in 2011, 100% of the SSSI was classified as 'Favourable'.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan area does not overlap with SSSI IRZs for the types of development which are likely to come forward (i.e. residential, rural residential, rural non-residential).

Locally important sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) may be established by Local Authorities in consultation with English Nature under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and are habitats of local importance. Located directly to the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area, 'The Brookes (Bersted Brooks)' LNR was designated in July 2010 and covers an area of approximately 19.11 ha[25]. Primarily consisting of meadows, ponds, reed beds and riverine woodland, the LNR is regarded as a key habitat area supporting ecological connectivity of fauna and flora species.

There are two Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within the Neighbourhood Plan area, referred to in the Aldingbourne Evidence Base as Ar01 and Ar09:

- Fontwell Racecourse (Ar01), covers an area of approximately 14.2 ha and comprises unimproved and species rich grassland which species-rich swards.
- Slindon Bottom (Ar09), is a site of ancient and semi-natural woodland, conifers and mixed plantations including Pedunculate Oak *(Quercus robur)*, Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)* and Beech *(Fagus sylvatica)*.

There are a variety of BAP Priority Habitats located within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, good quality and semi-improved grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland fens, lowland meadows, and traditional orchard.

Requested by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in September 2013, the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SBRC) data for the parish of Aldingbourne confirms that there is a network of chalk streams within the northern half of the Neighbourhood Plan area (shown below in **Figure 3.0**). The SBRC report states the following[26]:

"All chalk streams are fed from groundwater aquifers which means they have clean, clear water and relatively stable water temperatures. These unique conditions along with their chalk geology, support a rich diversity of wildlife including important fish populations and many other specialist species. Sussex chalk streams often occur in small gulleys which are much more wooded than most other headwater chalk streams".

The SBRC report also states that the following key species are associated with chalk streams: Fool's Water-cress *(Apium nodiflorum)*, Blunt-fruited Water-starwort *(Callitriche obtusangula)*, Brook Water Crowfoot *(Ranunculus peltatus)*, Lesser Water-parsnip *(Berula erecta)*, Brown Trout *(Salmo trutta)*, White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)* and Southern Damselfly *(Coenagrion mercurial)*.

Figure 3.1 (overleaf) shows the designated wildlife sites and BAP priority habitats located within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

[25] Natural England (no date): 'The Brooks (Bersted Brooks) LNR', [online] available to access via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteLNRDetail.aspx?SiteCode=L1481372> last accessed [16/09/19]
[26] Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (2013): 'Desktop Biodiversity Report: Land at Aldingbourne Parish', [online] available to access via: <https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/aldingbourne-parish-council/evidence-base-2016/> last accessed [16/09/19]

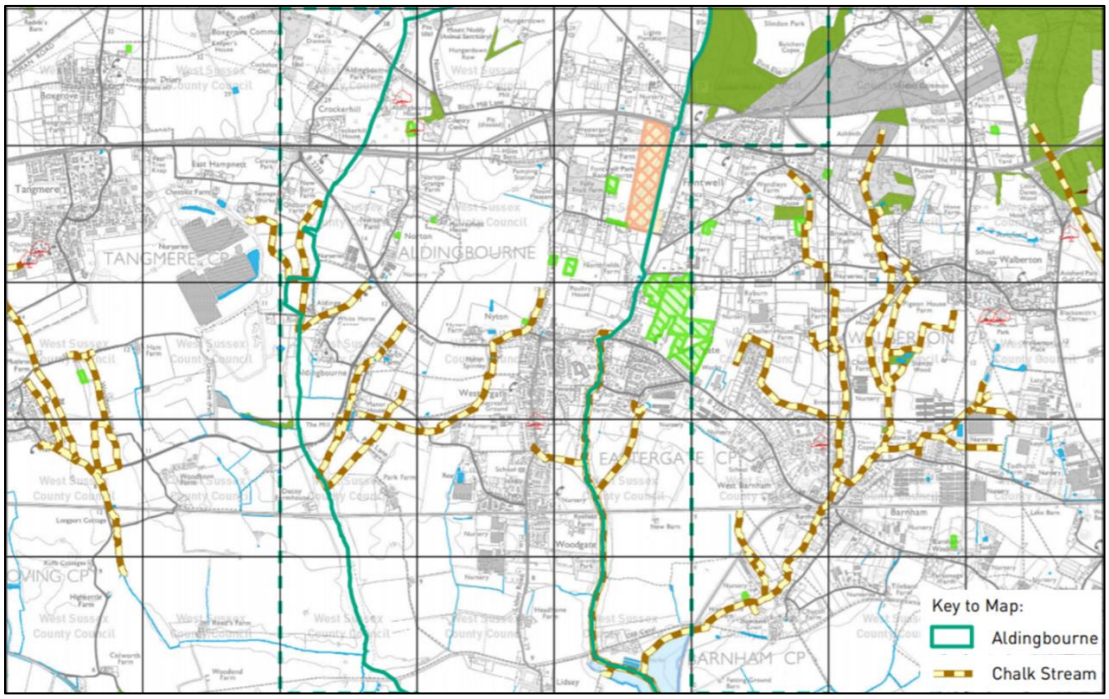
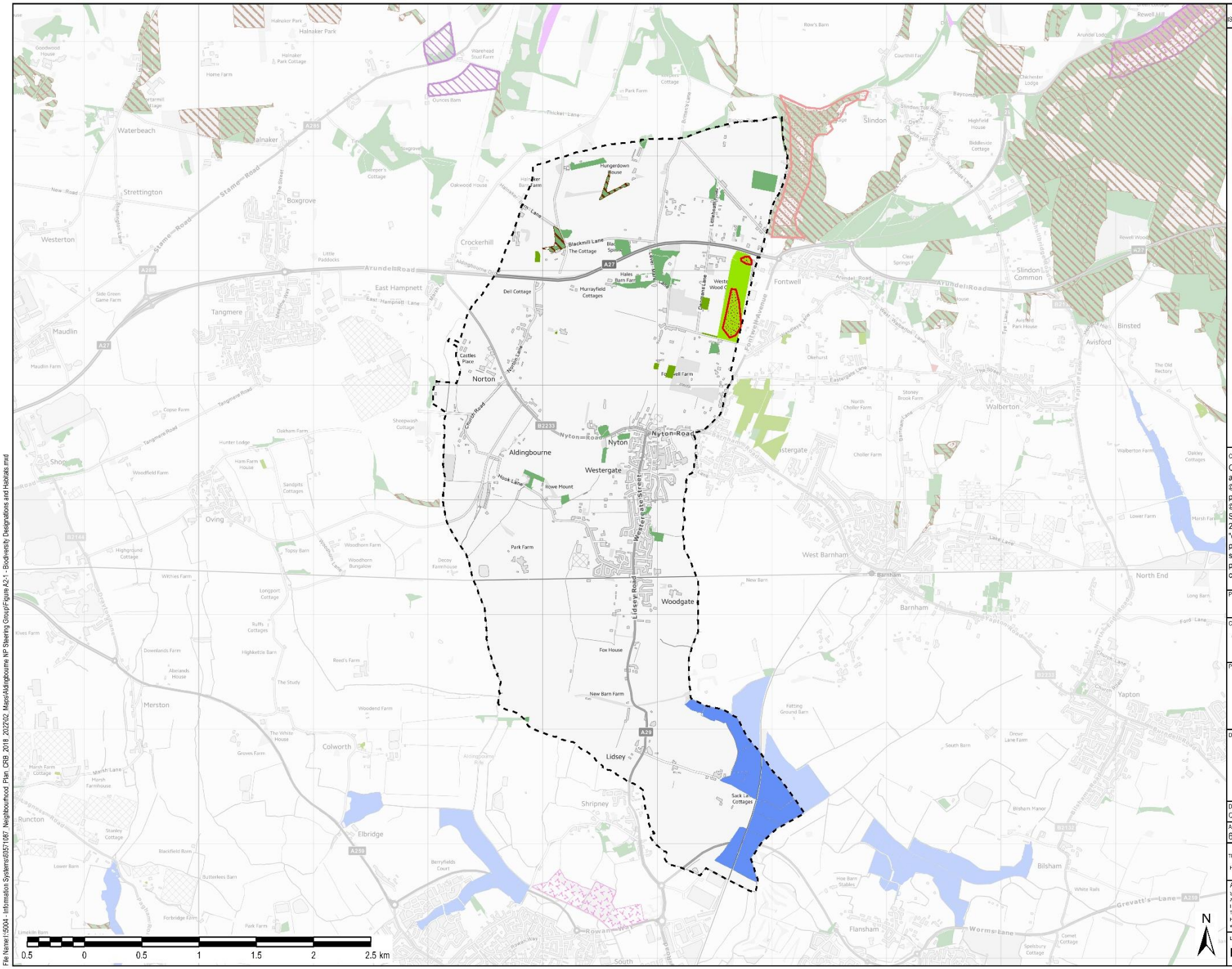


Figure A2.0: Location of chalk streams within the Neighbourhood Plan area (taken from the SBRC report)

Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.

The Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them. It will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised both within the Neighbourhood Plan area and in the surrounding areas.



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Lowland Meadows
- Traditional Orchard

Copyright
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019
© Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2019
© Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019, NB This national dataset is "indicative" not "definitive". Definitive information can only be provided by individual local authorities and you should refer directly to their information for all purposes that require the most up to date and complete dataset

Purpose of Issue
FINAL

Client
ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS AND HABITATS

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	10/09/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A3
60571087	1:30,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING AECOM'S EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO SUCH USE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
Scott House
Alencon Link, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG21 7PP
Telephone: (+353) 1 238 9000
Fax: (+353) 1 238 9201
www.aecom.com

Drawing Number
FIGURE A2.1

Rev
01

File Name: I:\5004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_2022\02_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure A2.1 - Biodiversity Designations and Habitats.mxd

A3 – Climate Change

Context Review

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below[27] :

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

The UK Climate Change Act[28] was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page 29.

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

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'mitigating and adapting to climate change' and 'moving to a low carbon economy.' 'The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience;

[27] GOV UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> last accessed [20/09/18]
[28] GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> last accessed [19/09/18]
[29] Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/> last accessed [19/09/18]

encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'

- 'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.'
- 'Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.'
- Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). 'Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'

The Flood and Water Management Act[30] highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).[31]

Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.[32] This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

At the local level, policies within the 'Design' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the climate change SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Contribution to climate change

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Arun has lower per capita emissions than West Sussex, the South East of England and England since 2005. Arun has seen a 36.2% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for West Sussex (36.6%), the South East of England (36.7%) and England (37.6%)[33].

Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team[34]. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on

[30] Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> last accessed [19/09/18]
[31] N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.
[32] CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDs – making it happen' [online] available to access via <http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx> last accessed [19/09/18]
[33] Department of Energy and Climate Change (2018) 2005 to 2016 UK local and regional CO2 emissions – data tables [online] available at:: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016> [accessed 14/09/19]
[34] The data was released on 26th November 2018: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/> last accessed [14/09/19]

simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for South East England during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows[35]:

- The central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 2ºC and 3ºC; and
- The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of +20 to +30% in winter and -10% to -20% in summer.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:

- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- Increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100-year floods;
- Changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- Changes to global supply chain;
- Increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- An increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

Flood risk

Sections of Oving Road and Hook Lane in the settlement of Aldingbourne partly fall within Flood Zone 3, with a corridor of land covering the western section of the settlement between St Mary's Church and Church Road also within Flood Zone 3[36]. These areas have a 1% (1 in 100) or greater annual

[35] Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available to access via: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps> last accessed [14/09/19]
[36] GOV UK (2019): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] available at: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/> [accessed 06/09/19]

flood risk. Completed in 2014 by Aldingbourne Parish Council, '*The Flood Risk Implications of Strategic Development at Barnham / Eastergate / Westergate'* highlights the Neighbourhood Plan area is a Coastal Plain extending from the foot of the South Downs to the current sea coast[37].

Additional areas with the highest risk of flooding in the Neighbourhood Plan area include areas of land surrounding the coastal and floodplain grazing marshes. These habitats are near the Brookes LNR and connect to streams that feed into the Aldingbourne Rife, which passes from north to south along the western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area and into the Bilsham Rife and the Lidsey Rife (to the south east).

The West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy gives an overview of sources of flooding in the West Sussex area[38]. In the Arun District the main source of fluvial flooding is the River Arun, Aldingbourne Rife and Ferring Rife. The strategy estimates around 495 properties are at risk of surface water and coastal flooding combined across Aldingbourne, Westergate and Eastergate.

Completed in 2016, the Arun District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment highlights that there has been a series of flooding events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the most significant in 1993, 2000 to 2001 and 2002 to 2003 after heavy rainfall over an extensive period. However, the most significant flood event directly within the Neighbourhood Plan area was in February 2014, where approximately 8 properties were flooded in Aldingbourne along Northfield Lane. The report also highlights that there are areas within the Neighbourhood Plan currently within Flood Zone 2 may become part of Flood Zone 3a in the future due to the effects of climate change[39].

Surface water flooding is a risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a low-to-medium risk of flooding from the Aldingbourne Rife surrounding Westergate and Woodgate and a high risk in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan along the A27 Arundel Road[40].

Summary of Future Baseline

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. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

In terms of climate change contribution, per capita greenhouse gas emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies, including electric cars and busses. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

A4 – Landscape

Context Review

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

- 'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty […]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.'

[37] Aldingbourne Parish Council (2014) 'The Flood Risk Implications of Strategic Development at Barnham / Eastergate / Westergate'. [online] available at https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/media/4290/raa_bew_flood_risk_report_part_1_2.pdf [accessed 16/09/19]
[38] West Sussex County Council (2014) 'West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013-2018)', [online] available at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1595/local_flood_risk_management_strategy.pdf> [accessed 17/09/19]
[39] Arun District Council (2016) 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment', [online] available at: https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jijm4n9414.pdf&ver=9270 [accessed 16/09/19]
[40] Environment Agency (2019): 'Long term flood risk map' [online] available to access via: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map> last accessed [30/08/19]

- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for 'conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.'
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments 'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).'
- 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
    - *i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils*
    - *ii. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*
    - *iii. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'*

As listed within the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan, the general policies for conservation for this nationally protected landscape are as follows[41]:

- Policy 1: Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape and its setting, in ways that allow it to continue to evolve and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other pressures.
- Policy 2: Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives to focus on enhancing the key ecosystem services delivered by the National Park.
- Policy 3: Protect and enhance tranquillity and dark night skies.
- Policy 4: Create more, bigger, better-managed and connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park, which deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife.
- Policy 5: Conserve and enhance populations of priority species in and around the National Park, delivering targeted action where required.
- Policy 6: Favour natural functions and processes in and around the National Park where they support the value and resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, coastal and estuarine habitats.
- Policy 7: Actively promote more joined-up and sustainable management of the coast, including the defined area of the Sussex Heritage Coast, through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
- Policy 8: Focus the prevention, control and eradication of invasive non-native species on those that are most harmful to biodiversity.
- Policy 9: The significance of the historic environment is protected from harm, new discoveries are sought and opportunities to reveal its significance are exploited.
- Policy 10: Improve the management of heritage assets, particularly focusing on those that are 'at risk', including from crimes against heritage.

At the local level, policies within the 'Settlement Structure & Green Infrastructure' section and the 'Natural Environment' sections of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the landscape SEA theme.

[41] South Downs National Park Authority (2013) 'South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan', [online] available at: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNP-Partnership-Management-Plan-2014-19.pdf [accessed 16/09/19]

Summary of Current Baseline

South Downs National Park

Designated in 2009 and covering an area of approximately 1653 km^2, the South Downs National Park overlaps with the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The South Downs National Park Authority highlight the following special characteristics:

- Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views;
- A rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species;
- Tranquil and un-spoilt places;
- An environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise;
- Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences;
- Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage; and
- Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area.

National Character Areas

National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to their character. The Neighbourhood Plan area is within the South Coast Plain NCA, with land directly to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area located within the South Downs NCA. The NCA profile for the 'South Coast Plain'[42] lists several key characteristics, with the following of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan area:

- The underlying geology of flinty marine and valley gravels extends for several miles inland to the dip slope of the South Downs and the South Hampshire Lowlands. This gives rise to deep and well-drained high-quality soils;
- In places, streams and rivers flow from the higher land of the Downs to the sea;
- There are stretches of farmed land between developed areas, often with large arable fields defined by low hedges or ditches; and
- Along the exposed, open coastal plain and shoreline, tree cover is limited to isolated wind-sculpted woodlands and shelterbelts.

Implemented in October 2005 by West Sussex County Council, the 'Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape'[43] aims to protect and enhance the landscape as an asset for future generations, outlining visions for the five national character areas (NCAs) which characterise the county. In the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the vision statements for the 'South Coast Plan' are to ensure that:

- High-quality new development is well-integrated with existing towns and the wider landscape;
- The urban fringe combines a distinctive landscape character (including a combination of open spaces, woodlands, and hedgerows) with well-managed land uses which benefit residents and visitors in town and country alike;
- A strong network of woodlands and hedgerows forms green corridors within the gaps between the coastal towns, providing informal recreational opportunities and helping to connect the towns and their residents within the wider landscape;
- Productive farmland and permitted horticultural uses are set within a strong landscape framework of woodlands, shelterbelts and hedgerows. Agriculture adopts sympathetic farming and land

[42] Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile: 126 South Coast Plain (NE525)', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4923911250640896?category=587130> last accessed [19/08/19]
[43] West Sussex County Council (2005): 'Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape', [online] available to download via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/landscape-character-assessment-of-west-sussex/> last accessed [19/08/19]

management methods, contributing to landscape renewal and biodiversity, including conserving wetlands and pastureland;

- Extensive new areas of mudflats, salt marsh and coastal grazing marsh are established within coastal inlets, as an important part of coastal retreat schemes;
- The historic and inspiring long views so characteristic of the coastal plain, to Chichester Cathedral and its downland backdrop, to other church towers and spires, to Arundel and its castle and cathedral, and from the coast to the downs, are maintained; and
- The local distinctiveness of villages and their settings continues to be evident, with a return to the greater availability and use of traditional local materials.

Local Landscape Character

Landscape character plays an important part in understanding the relationship between people and place, identifying recognisable and distinct patterns in the landscape which make one area different from another. Landscape character can assist in the assessment of the likely significance of effects of change resulting from development and the value of landscape, both in visual and amenity terms.

Completed in 2006, the Arun Landscape Study identifies landscape types and areas at an appropriate scale to understand the localised variation in character with the objective of providing the framework for the assessment of sensitivity, value and capacity. The Study classifies the Neighbourhood Plan area into seven distinctive Landscape Character Areas (LCA), with a summary of their key characteristics, sensitivities and capacities below[44].

- LCA 11: Lidsey Coastal: Rural arable landscape, some ecological and heritage value provides separation between Shripney and Westergate. Landscape Sensitivity – Substantial; Landscape Capacity – Low.
- LCA 12: Park Farm Upper Coastal Plain: Almost entirely arable fields of varying size, with the area broken up by railway and road. Landscape Sensitivity – Substantial; Landscape Capacity – Low.
- LCA 13: Westergate Western Fringe: Patchwork of urban edge land uses, contained by boundary vegetation, on upper coastal plain adjacent to existing settlement. Landscape Sensitivity – Moderate; Landscape Capacity – Medium / High.
- LCA 14: Westergate Eastern Fringe: Mixed urban edge uses adjacent to settlement but on valley side and open to wider landscape, part of separation between Westergate and Barnham. Landscape Sensitivity – Substantial; Landscape Capacity – Low / Medium.
- LCA 15: Norton Upper Coastal Plain: Enclosed rural landscape unrelated to settlement with heritage value. Landscape Sensitivity – Substantial; Landscape Capacity – Low.
- LCA 16: Fonntwell Eastergate Mosaic: Small scale landscape, area contains ancient woodland, ecological and heritage interest and Fontwell Racecourse. Provides separation between Westergate and Barnham. Landscape Sensitivity – Moderate; Landscape Capacity – Medium.
- LCA 18: Ryebank Rife: Rural rife landscape in floodplain, some ecological interest. Landscape Sensitivity – Substantial; Landscape Capacity – Low / Medium

Reflecting the results of the Landscape Study, five out of the seven LCAs either have a ‘low’ or ‘low to medium’ capacity for change. Additionally, six out of the seven LCAs have been classified as having a ‘substantial’ landscape sensitivity.

Tree Preservation Orders

Implemented by local planning authorities, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value. When considering ‘amenity’; the local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria[45]:

[44] Aldingbourne Parish Council (2016) ‘Neighbourhood Development Plan Landscape Appraisal’, [online] available at: https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/media/4296/adc_landscape_study___appraisal.pdf [accessed 16/09/19]
[45] GOV.UK (2014): ‘Tree Preservation Orders – General’, [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas> last accessed [16/04/19]

- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public; and
- Individual, collective and wider impact: considering the importance of the trees or woodlands in relation to their cultural or historic value, contribution to and relationship with the landscape and/or their contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

In this context, Arun District Council have allocated several TPOs within the Neighbourhood Plan area[46].

Visual Amenity

The views across the parish are an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process. Changes, such as development and landscape change can see these views degraded overtime.

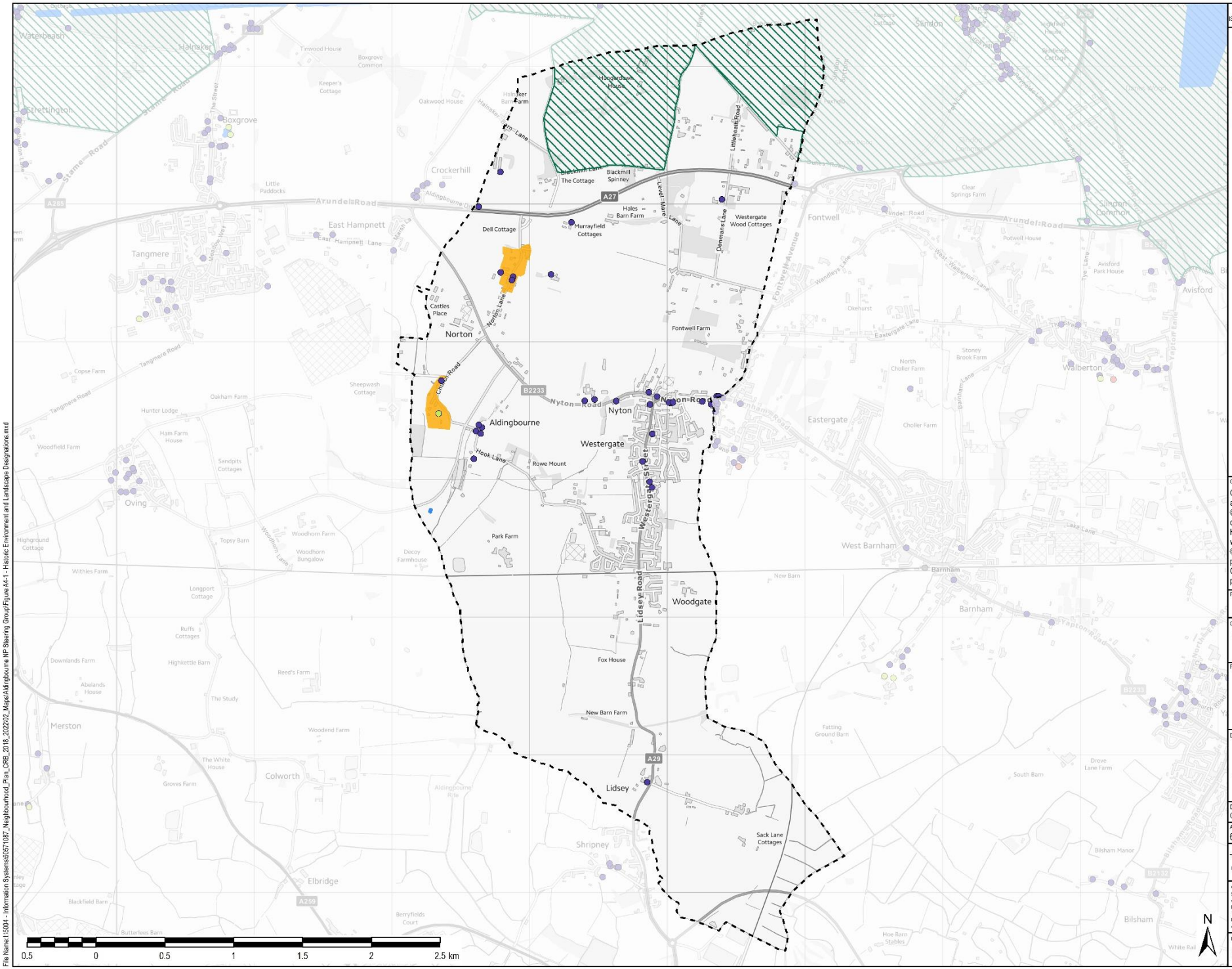
Figure 5.1 (overleaf) shows the landscape designations within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and villagescape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.

In the absence of the plan, inappropriate levels of development within the open countryside could negatively impact upon the landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character and setting of the Neighbourhood Plan area, along with the special qualities of the South Downs National Park and the seven LCAs.

[46] Arun District Council (2019) Tree Preservation Orders GIS Map. [online] available to access via: https://www1.arun.gov.uk/webapps/wml/ last accessed [16/09/19]



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Aldingbourne Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Record of Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- South Downs National Park

Listed Building

- Grade I
- Grade II*
- Grade II

Copyright
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown Copyright and database right 2019
© Historic England 2019. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019 The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 20/08/2019
© Natural England material is reproduced with the permission of Natural England 2019
Conservation Areas digitised inidicatively from data provided by Historic England

Purpose of Issue
FINAL

Client
ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE ALDINGBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RP	10/09/2019

AECOM Internal Project No.	Scale @ A3
60571087	1:25,000

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF AECOM'S APPOINTMENT BY ITS CLIENT. AECOM ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY USE OF THIS DOCUMENT OTHER THAN BY ITS ORIGINAL CLIENT OR FOLLOWING ALL CONSENTS EXPRESSLY GRANTED IN SUCH ISSUE, AND ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS PREPARED AND PROVIDED.

AECOM
Scott House
Alençon Link, Basingstoke
Hampshire RG21 7PP
Telephone (01256) 312200
Fax (01256) 312201
www.aecom.com

Drawing Number
FIGURE A4.1

Rev
01

File Name: I:\5004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_2022\02_Maps\Aldingbourne NP Steering Group\Figure A4-1 - Historic Environment and Landscape Designations.mxd

A5 – Historic Environment

Context Review

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

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Plans should set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- 'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss of less than substantial harm to its significance.'

The policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's ''A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England[47] sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others.

Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2016)[48] outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
- Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)[49] provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.

[47] HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx> last accessed [20/0918]
[48] Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1', [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/> last accessed [11/12/18]
[49] Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/> last accessed [11/12/18]

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)[50] provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- Step 2: Asses the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)[51] outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant of issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.

At the local level, policies within the 'Building Conservation & Archaeological Heritage' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the historic environment SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Historic Character of Aldingbourne

Dating back to the Roman times, the settlement within Aldingbourne is based around an area close to the Rife *('bourne')* on the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The parish church of St Mary's formed the centre of Aldingbourne parish and it was here that the settlement initially grew. Hook Lane was the meandering cattle track joining the settlements of Aldingbourne and Westergate, with various footpaths also connecting Westergate with the parish Church and the hamlet of Woodgate.

Westergate is characterised by a diversity of housing types, including small apartment blocks, Edwardian terraces, semi and detached houses from Victorian to modern, small modern estates and former Council housing. This is intermingled with old farmhouses and thatched cottages from the original dairy farming era (some are of Tudor origin).

The Brighton to Portsmouth South Coast railway was built in 1846, there was a station at Woodgate, which served as Bognor's station until the opening of the branch line from Barnham junction to Bognor in 1864, when Woodgate Station was then closed.

There is little woodland in the parish, but due to the necessity for land drainage, many ditches remain. These are usually lined with hedgerows containing mature hedgerow trees, often of oak and ash. In recent years there has been an increase in small parcels of land being used for equestrian purposes, in addition to the establishment of unauthorised mobile home/caravan sites in rural parts of the parish.

Designated Heritage Assets

Listed Buildings

Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Neighbourhood

[50] Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition', [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/> last accessed [11/12/18]
[51] Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment', [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/> last accessed [11/12/18]

Plan area contains 30 Grade II and one Grade I nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. The Grade I listed building is 'The Parish Church of St Mary' which was designated in 1958.

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England[52], there is one scheduled monument within the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: 'The Keep of Tote Copse castle; 400m north of Decoy Farmhouse'. The scheduled monument includes part of the buried remains of Tote Copse castle and was designated in 1955.

Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest. Conservation Area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England[53]. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the Conservation Area and can be developed into a management plan. In this context, there are two designated conservation areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area: 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane' (further discussed below). Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are proposing a new conservation area at the northern end of Hook Lane and Park Lane due to the heritage interest of the five listed buildings and the scheduled monument which are within and within the setting of the proposed area.

Church Road is one of the main routes running through the parish. The Conservation Area contains two listed buildings, St Mary's Church (Grade 1) and Aldingbourne Lodge (Grade II), and comprises an attractive, historic, self-contained and linear group of buildings in an open rural setting. The unobstructed open views from Oving Road and the approach road (Church Road) into the settlement are particularly impressive, enhanced by the pale colour wash of most of the buildings. The mixtures of plain clay and slate roofs, together with chimneys, are important features[54]. The following opportunities for enhancement are noted:

- Overhead telephone / power lines re-routed underground;
- Replacement of modern joinery with joinery of more traditional design to the street elevations of 10-12, 18 and 20-22 Church Road; and
- Use of interior rather than exterior television aerials.

Norton is a small rural settlement lying to the south of the A27 between Tangmere and Fontwell. There is a variety in building form, style, age and materials. Some of the larger buildings within the Norton Lane Conservation Area e.g. Norton House and East Norton House are set well back in their own extensive grounds. There is brick and flint boundary walling of various heights within the conservation area, along with mature hedges, trees and verges. A series of gentle curves in Norton Lane provide a pleasant and attractive sense of enclosure. Additionally, the open spaces between Letterbox Cottage and Norton Grange Farm contribute to the rural character and setting of the settlement. The agricultural basis of the settlement is reflected in surviving farming estate cottages, a farmhouse and two working farms[55]. The following opportunities for enhancement are noted:

- Overhead telephone / power lines re-routed underground;

[52] Historic England: National Heritage List for England: [online] available at <http://list.historicengland.org.uk> last accessed [22/0919]
[53] Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to download from: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/> last accessed [20/09/18]
[54] Aldingbourne Parish Council, Church Road Conservation Area [online] available at: https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/about-aldingbourne/church-road-conservation-area/ last accessed [16/09/19]
[55] Aldingbourne Parish Council, Norton Lane Conservation Area [online] available at: https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/about-aldingbourne/norton-lane-conservation-area/ last accessed [22/0819]

- When appropriate, release asbestos clast farm buildings at East Norton and Norton Grange Farm with buildings clad in appropriately coloured material; and
- Use of interior rather than exterior television aerials.

It is important to note that conservation area appraisals have not been prepared for 'Church Road' and 'Norton Lane' therefore it is not currently possible to gain an in-depth understanding of the special interest of the areas.

Heritage at Risk

Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at risk'. According to the 2018 Heritage at Risk Register for South East England[56] none of the heritage assets within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area considered to be 'at risk',

However, it is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether the two Grade II listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan are at risk.

Figure 5.1 (above) shows the location of the scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered park and garden, and conservation area within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Locally important heritage features

It should be noted that not all the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are important by local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value for local people.

Following a high-level review of the Historic Environmental Record (HER) for West Sussex (accessed via the Heritage Gateway)[57], there are 89 records within Aldingbourne parish including several Neolithic sites, Roman artefacts and roads, Palaeolithic sites, Iron Age pottery and a large number of distinctive buildings which contribute to the character and setting of the surrounding areas.

Summary of Future Baseline

New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

A6 – Land, Soil and Water Resources

Context Review

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy[58] presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

[56] Historic England (2018): 'Heritage at Risk Register for South East England', [online] available to download at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2018-registers/> last accessed [02/09/19]
[57] Heritage Gateway (2019): Historic Environmental Record for West Sussex', [online] available to access via: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> last accessed [02/09/19]
[58] European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [29/06/18]

Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
- Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

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

Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England[59], which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper[60], which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England[61] recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England[62] recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

The National Waste Management Plan[63] provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive[64]. This includes an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.

At the local level, policies within the 'Soils, Horticultural and Equine Development' section, 'Water' section, 'Natural Resources & Minerals Safeguarding' section and 'Waste Management' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the land, soil and water resources SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Soil Resources

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. In this context, there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, a high-level classification has been undertaken in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset[65] identifies areas of Grade 1, Grade 2, and some Grade 3a[66] agricultural land towards the south. There is a small section classed as 'Other' land (Other land primarily in non-agricultural use) in the central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

It is also important to note that the national dataset is of very low resolution and may not necessarily provide an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality across the whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, based on the results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment'[67], greater than 60% of the areas surrounding Aldingbourne have a high likelihood of containing BMV land (aligning to the trends in the national dataset).

[59] Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> last accessed [20/09/18]
[60] Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf> last accessed [20/09/18]
[61] Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf> last accessed [20/09/18]
[62] DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf [accessed 01/03/19]
[63] DEFRA (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf [accessed 01/03/19]
[64] Directive 2008/98/EC
[65] Natural England (2018) Agricultural Land Classification map London and the South East (ALC007) [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=5954148537204736> last accessed [22/08/19]
[66] Aldingbourne Parish Council (2015) Agricultural Land Classification Map produced from magic (2015) available to download via: <https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/aldingbourne-parish-council/evidence-base-2016/> [17/09/19]
[67] Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land – Strategic scale map London and the South East', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6056482614804480?category=5208993007403008> last accessed [19/08/19]

Water Resources

The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan is the Aldingbourne Rife, which flows from north to south, where the watercourse eventually drains into the Sussex TRaC.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan area is within the 'Aldingbourne Rife' Surface Water NVZ. However, it is useful to note that as the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate land for residential development and potential employment areas, such uses are not considered to increase the risk of pollution to the NVZ.

Water Quality

Aldingbourne is located within the South East River Basin District, overlapping with the 'Arun and Western Streams' Management Catchment and the 'Western Streams' Operational Catchment. There are eight water bodies within the Operational Catchment, one of which passes through the Neighbourhood Plan area: Aldingbourne Rife.

Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer[68] classifies the Aldingbourne Rife as having a 'good' chemical status and a 'poor to moderate' ecological status. The reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) are primarily attributed to the following activities: sewage discharge, poor soil/nutrient management, groundwater abstraction, transport/land drainage and contaminated land.

Mineral Resources

Mineral resources are defined as natural concentrations of minerals or, in the case of aggregates, bodies of rock that are, or may become, of potential economic interest due to their inherent properties. They make an essential contribution to the country's prosperity and quality of life. Since minerals are a non-renewable resource, minerals safeguarding is the process of ensuring that non-minerals development does not needlessly prevent the future extraction of mineral resources, of local and national importance[69].

Adopted in July 2018, the Joint Minerals Local Plan[70] covers the period to 2033 and provides the basis for making consistent decisions about planning applications for mineral activities throughout the county. Appendix E confirms the location of the five mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) throughout West Sussex, which includes: Sharp Sand and Gravel, Soft Sand (including potential Silica Sand), Brick Clay Resource, Chalk, and Building Stone. In this context, the Neighbourhood Plan area likely overlaps with the Sharp Sand and Gravel MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E.

Summary of Future Baseline

Future 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 continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider area.

Due to the prevalence of BMV agricultural land within sections of the undeveloped areas surrounding Aldingbourne, new developments which are located outside of the existing town will likely lead to losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

[68] Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer', [online] available to access via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/> [accessed 22/08/19]
[69] GOV.UK (2014): 'Minerals Guidance', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals> last accessed [04/09/19]
[70] West Sussex County Council (2018): 'Joint Minerals Local Plan', [online] available to access via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/minerals-and-waste-policy/joint-minerals-local-plan/> last accessed [22/08/19]

A7 – Population and Community

Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; 'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'
- To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies 'should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.'
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' and taking a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change[71] warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.

At the local level, policies within the 'Sustainable Place' chapter, 'Living Place' chapter and the 'Prosperous Place' chapter of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the population and community SEA theme.

[71] Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> last accessed [21/09/18]

Summary of Current Baseline

Population

The population of Aldingbourne increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to Arun, the South East of England and England averages. Approximately 2.6% of the population of Arun live within the Neighbourhood Plan area[72].

Age Structure

Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (28.6%) in comparison to the total for the South East of England (23.4%) and England (22.3%). However, this total is lower than the percentage for Arun (33.9%).

In contrast, a lower proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (44.7%) in comparison to the totals for the South East of England (46.4%) and England (46.9%). However, this total is higher than the percentage for Arun (41.3%).

Additionally, 26.7% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the younger age categories (0-15 and 16-24), higher than the total for Arun (24.8%) but less than the totals for the South East of England (30.2%) and England (30.8%)[73].

Household Deprivation

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Based on 2011 Census data[74], fewer households are deprived in one or more dimensions within the Neighbourhood Plan area (49.2%) in comparison to the regional and national trends. Out of the 49.2% of households which are deprived in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority are deprived in one or two dimensions, which is similar to the regional and national averages.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities**.**
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also

[72] ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)
[73] ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)
[74] ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level**.**
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
    a. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
    b. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment**: The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
    c. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
    d. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
    1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
    2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) [75] are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.

There are four LSOAs which are either wholly or partly located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: Arun 003D and Arun 003E (both within the northern half) and Arun 003C and Arun 012B (both within the southern half). All the four LSOAs are amongst the top 50% least deprived LSOAs in England based on the 'Overall IMD' domain. However, Arun 003D, Arun 003E and Arun 012D are all amongst the top 40% most deprived LSOAs in England within the 'Barriers to Housing and Services' domain. These three LSOAs cover the majority of the settlements of Aldingbourne, Westergate and Shripney.

Housing Tenure

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 81.3% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for Arun (73.8%), the South East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%).

Based on 2011 Census data[76], a lower proportion of residents live within social rented and privately rented housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national trends.

1.3% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area live in rent-free accommodation or shared ownership accommodation, which is slightly lower than the totals for Arun (2.0%), the South East of England (2.4%) and England (2.1%).

Education

Based on 2011 Census data[77], 15.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, lower than the total for Arun (17.2%), the South East of England (19.1%) and England (22.5%).

[75] DCLG (2015): Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available to access via: <http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/idmap.html> last accessed [17/09/19]
[76] ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)
[77] ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

Comparatively, 35.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have a Level 4 qualification or above, which is higher than the total for Arun (34.3%), the South East of England (29.9%) and the total for England (27.4%).

Employment

Regarding employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents[78]:

- Professional occupations (16.7%);
- Managers, directors and senior officials (14.2%); and
- Associate professional and technical occupations (13.2%)

Overall, 44.0% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, greater than the totals for Arun (35.9%) and England (41.1%) but similar to the total for the South East of England (44.8%).

Community Assets

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the parish's sense of identity. Within Aldingbourne, such assets include: Aldingbourne Country Centre, Denmans Gardens, two community sports centres, GP surgery, local stores / post office, a school, and St Mary's Church.

Additionally, there are open areas of significance within the neighbourhood Plan area which are demonstrably special to a local community, for example: because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value and/or biodiversity value. The draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan highlights that there are several local green spaces and local open spaces within the parish.

Summary of Future Baseline

As the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area continues to age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community and economy of certain parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst also placing additional pressures to existing services and facilities. The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

A8 – Health and Wellbeing

Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; 'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'
- 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.

[78] ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives[79] ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

At the local level, policies within the 'Health, Recreation & Leisure' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the health and wellbeing SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

At the regional level, the 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) summary for West Sussex[80] provides a variety of statistics relating to the following themes: environment, population, assets and health/wellbeing, and provides a section on each broad life-stage of the population: childhood (starting well), working age (living well) and older age (ageing well). Summary of the key challenges as follows:

- Year-on-year changes in the 65 and over population, averaging +2,500 per year between 2002 and 2017, with a projected average of +4,800 per year between 2017 and 2032;
- In 2016/2017, 19.3% of adults were estimated to be physically inactive;
- 60% of adults and 29% of 10/11-year olds are overweight (including obese);
- Violent crime (as measured by the rate of recorded violent crime including sexual offences per 1,000 population) has been increasing in West Sussex, and nationally, in recent years. In 2016/17 there were a total of 13,567 recorded offences compared with 9,740 in 2014/15;
- The rate of people killed or seriously injured on the roads remains high in West Sussex. The rate for 2014-16 of 56.8 per 100,000 is significantly higher than England (39.7) and the 4th highest amongst comparable authorities; and
- It is estimated that 117,400 adults (aged 16+) in West Sussex are likely to have a common mental health problem, namely: generalised anxiety disorder, depression, phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder or a panic disorder.

Published for public consultation in December 2018 and reflecting the outcomes of the JSNA, the consultation draft of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (JHWS) outlines a variety of aims which focus on the most important issues across the county, with an overall vision as follows[81]:

[79] The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: < https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf > last accessed [24/09/18]

[80] West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (2018): 'JSNA Summary', [online] available to access via: <https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/updates/west-sussex-jsna-summary-2018/> last accessed [22/08/19]

[81] West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (2018): 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24 (Consultation Draft)', [online] available to access via: <https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/public-health/jhw-strategy-consultation/> last accessed [22/08/19]

"West Sussex is a good place in which to grow up, achieve, raise a family and grow old, in strong, safe and sustainable communities – it is a place where improved health and wellbeing is experienced by all our residents, and the health and wellbeing gap between communities is reducing."

Public Health Profile for Arun District

Published in July 2018 by Public Health England, the public health profile for Arun district outlines the following key trends[82]:

- Life expectancy for both men and women is slightly higher than the England averages;
- Life expectancy is 9.5 years lower for men and 8.2 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Arun than in the least deprived areas; and
- Estimated levels of adult physical activity (63.9%) are lower than the regional total (69.8%) and the national total (66.3%) based on 2017/18 data.

Health indicators and deprivation

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in section A7. Based on 2011 Census data[83], 82.1% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', broadly aligning to the totals for the South East of England (83.6%) England (81.4%) but higher than the total for Arun (78.8%). Additionally, 5.0% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health', lower than the totals for Arun (5.7%) and England (5.4%), but higher than the total for the South West of England (4.3%).

The total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited either 'a little' or 'a lot' (17.7%) broadly aligns with the total for England (17.6%). Comparatively, the total for the Neighbourhood Plan area is higher than the total for the South East of England (15.7%) and lower than the total for Arun (21.1%)[84] .

Summary of Future Baseline

Health and wellbeing levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health, and a low percentage of residents reporting that their activities are limited in some way.

However, an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area may increase the reported cases of disability, reduce the levels of good health, and place future pressures on health services in the wider area. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing to key population groups (i.e. elderly population).

Obesity is also seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

A9 – Transportation

Context Review

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

[82] Public Health England (2018): 'Public Health Profile for Arun', [online] available to access via: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles> last accessed [17/09/19]
[83] ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)
[84] ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

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

At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. In this regard, the West Sussex LTP3 2011-2026 is a strategic policy tool through which the council exercises its responsibilities for planning, management and the development of transport in the county[85]. The four strategies within the LTP3 that guide the Council's approach to maintaining, managing and investing in transport include: promoting economic growth, tackling climate change, providing access to services, employment and housing, and improving safety, security and health.

At the local level, policies within the 'Transport' section of the Adopted Arun Local Plan 2018 directly relate to the transportation SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Rail network

There are no railway stations within Aldingbourne parish. The nearest mainline railway station connecting residents to the national network is in the settlement of Barnham, approximately 2km to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This station is a stopping point along the West Coastway line between Brighton and Southampton. Trains operated by 'Southern' also regularly depart for London Victoria (via Gatwick Airport), Portsmouth, Littlehampton and Bognor Regis[86].

Bus network

Regarding the bus network, local bus services connecting the parish include Stagecoach route 66 between Bognor and Walberton, along with the Compass 85A between Arundel and Chichester. The 'Transport' evidence base document completed to support the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan notes that the use of these bus services to connect with rail services is limited due to the low frequency of these services[87].

Road network and congestion

The 'A27' passes through the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, connecting residents to the settlements of Arundel (to the east) and Chichester (to the west). The 'A29' passes north to

[85] West Sussex County Council (2011): 'West Sussex LTP3', [online] available to access via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/roads-and-travel-policy-and-reports/west-sussex-transport-plan-2011-26-ltp3/> last accessed [17/09/19]
[86] Trainline (2019): <https://www.thetrainline.com/stations/barnham> last accessed [18/09/19]
[87] Aldingbourne Parish Council (2016): 'Transport Map', [online] available to access via: <https://aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk/media/4303/transport_map.pdf> last accessed [17/0919]

south through the Neighbourhood Plan area, through the settlements of Fontwell, Westergate, Woodgate and Shripney, before reaching Bognor Regis at the coastline.

Along with a network of 'C' roads, the B2233 extends east to west through the central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, connecting to the settlements of Norton, Eastergate and Barnham.

In terms of congestion, key concerns include the volume of traffic on the A29 and queues arising from the Woodgate level crossing. The safety of pedestrians along the A29 is also a concern, particularly for children walking or cycling to school.

Cycle and footpath network

A comprehensive Public Rights of Way network serves the Neighbourhood Plan area, with numerous footpaths and bridleways linking between the settlements of Aldingbourne, Westergate and Shripney.

In terms of the cycle network[88], there are no routes which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest route (number 2) passes through Bognor Regis and Chichester.

Availability of cars and vans

Based on 2011 Census data, 91.7%% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for Arun (80.5%), the South East of England (81.4%) and England (74.2%)[89].

Likewise, the total number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area with access to at least two cars or vans (39.5%) is higher than the totals for Arun (27.0%), the South East of England (29.8%) and England (25.0%).

Travel to work

The most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (51.7%) which is greater than the totals for Arun (41.1%), the South East of England (41.3%) and England (37.0%)[90].

A lower percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan catch a train, bus, minibus, coach or walk to work (6.9%) in comparison to the totals for Arun (10.9%), the South East of England (15.4%) and England (15.0%).

Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan area, principally at junctions on key routes. This is likely to continue to be more pronounced at weekends and during peak times of year (i.e. rush hours) due to the influx commuters passing through the area. This is particularly significant in the local context, due to the pressures from the local road network (particularly from the A29).

Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the relative inaccessibility of the neighbourhood Plan area via public transport, particularly in the absence of a train station and with the limited frequency of bus service connecting to the neighbouring station at Barnham.

Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by the LTP, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations.

[88] Sustrans (2019): 'National Cycle Network Map', [online] available to access via: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/> last accessed [17/09/19]
[89] ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)
[90] ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

aecom.com