

# Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

SA Report to accompany the  
submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan

Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

November 2019

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# Non-Technical Summary

## What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

A sustainability appraisal (SA) has been undertaken to inform the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan. This process has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to 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 Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan?

The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in November 2019.

## Purpose of this SA Report

This SA Report, which accompanies the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan, is the latest document to be produced as part of the SA process. The first document was the SA Scoping Report (March 2019), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community. The second document was an SA site assessment which was designed to inform community consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan. The third document was the SA Report which accompanied Regulation 14 consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan.

The purpose of this SA Report is to:

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

The SA Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Burghclere 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;
- The SA Framework of objectives against which the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan; and
- The next steps for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SA process.

# Assessment of alternative approaches for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

## Housing numbers to deliver through the Neighbourhood Plan

The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan intends for 850 housing units to be built per annum across the wider borough over the plan period. New homes will be built primarily around Basingstoke and the larger settlements of Whitchurch, Overton, Bramley, Kingsclere and Oakley. Policy SS5 of the Local Plan highlights that an additional 150 homes are expected to be delivered through Neighbourhood Planning across the borough, and it will be necessary to identify sites/opportunities to deliver at least ten homes within and adjacent to each of the settlements with defined Settlement Policy Boundaries.

Given Burghclere is identified as a settlement which has a defined Settlement Policy Boundary in the Local Plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have highlighted that at least ten dwellings will need to be delivered through the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan, excluding recent permissions and commitments. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has explored different options for delivering in the region of 10-15 dwellings in Burghclere through the Neighbourhood Plan development process.

## Assessment of sites for potential allocation through the Neighbourhood Plan

To further support the development of a spatial strategy to deliver the 10-15 dwellings proposed in Burghclere for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has considered alternative locations for delivering development in the parish.

To support this process, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group considered nine potential sites for allocation through the Neighbourhood Plan.

To support the consideration of the suitability of these sites for potential allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan, the SA process has undertaken an appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the sites and potential effects that may arise as a result of development at these locations. This SA site assessment was undertaken separately to a site assessment undertaken by the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The locations of the nine sites appraised through the SA process are presented in **Figure 4.1** in the main body of the SA Report. **Tables 4.2 to 4.9** subsequently present the findings of the appraisal.

A summary of the site appraisal findings is presented below.

**Table NTS1: Summary of SA site appraisal findings**

Site	Biodiversity	Climate change	Landscape	Historic Environment	Land, soil and water resources	Population and Community	Transport
Site A	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Site B	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Green	Blue
Site C	Yellow	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Green	Blue
Site D	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Site E	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Blue
Site F	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Site G	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Blue
Site H	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Site I	Yellow	Blue	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
<b>Key</b>							
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)				Red	Likely positive effect		Green
Neutral/no effect				Yellow	Uncertain effects		Blue

### Preferred site allocation for the Neighbourhood Plan

The findings of the site assessments undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan were presented at Neighbourhood Plan consultation events which took place in 2018 and 2019.

These consultation events highlighted that the preferred site for allocating through the Neighbourhood Plan was Site A. In response to this, the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan allocates this 0.89ha site north of Harts Lane for a mix of residential, employment and blue/green infrastructure uses.

## Assessment of the submission version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

The appraisal has concluded that the submission version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community', SA theme. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's focus on the provision of housing of a range of type and tenures to meet local needs, supporting existing and new community facilities, promoting the development of a high quality local green infrastructure network and protecting and enhancing the quality of the public realm and neighbourhood distinctiveness.

A central focus of the Neighbourhood Plan is on conserving and enhancing landscape and villagescape character in the parish, protecting key views and supporting local distinctiveness. It also seeks to protect the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB. In this regard the Neighbourhood Plan will bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' SA theme. This will also, with the design policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, support the parish's historic environment resource. The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate a number of beneficial approaches regarding the 'Biodiversity' SA theme through protecting and enhancing habitats, supporting parish-wide ecological networks (including through enhancements to local green infrastructure networks) and promoting biodiversity net gain.

In terms of the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' theme, the Neighbourhood Plan allocation will lead to the loss of greenfield land. However these effects are unlikely to be significant given the scale of proposed development, and the uncertainty as to whether the land allocated comprises land classified as the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

In terms of the 'Climate Change' SA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out provisions for limiting emissions from built development and introducing provisions which will support climate change adaptation. These are not however considered significant in the context of the SA objectives. Similarly, in relation to the transportation theme, given the limited opportunities for the Neighbourhood Plan to enhance existing poor public transport access in the parish, no significant positive effects have been identified.

## Next steps

This SA Report accompanies the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, Basingstoke and Deane Borough 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 the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

If Independent Examination is favourable, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for Burghclere Parish.

# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area was approved in February 2018, and the plan is being prepared in the context of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029).
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for subsequent Independent Examination in November 2019.
- 1.4 Key information relating to the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 1.1**.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan**

Name of Responsible Authority	Burghclere Parish Council
Title of Plan	Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	<p>The Burghclere 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 Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.</p> <p>The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2036
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Burghclere in Basingstoke and Deane Borough in Hampshire ( <b>Figure 1.1</b> )
Summary of content	The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate development sites to accommodate in the region of 15 new dwellings.
Plan contact point	<p>Richard Carrow, Chairman, Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:r.j.carrow@btinternet.com">r.j.carrow@btinternet.com</a></p>

## Sustainability Appraisal (SA) explained

- 1.5 SA 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 SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SA for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.6 SA 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<sup>1</sup>. It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for Local Plans; however, a Neighbourhood Plan is not a Local Plan and SA is not therefore legally required.
- 1.7 The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). To meet this requirement, the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is undergoing an SA process which incorporates the requirements of the SA Directive. This mirrors the approach undertaken for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan and enables the Neighbourhood Plan development process to consider how it will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.8 The SA has been undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.9 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 draft Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the SA (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.
- 1.10 This SA Report therefore addresses the requirements of 2) above. Chapter 3 discusses the scope of the SA process.

## Structure of this SA Report

- 1.11 This document is the SA Report for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations.
- 1.12 Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

**Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the SA Report in order to meet regulatory<sup>2</sup> requirements**

SA Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... <sup>3</sup>
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</li> </ul>
What is the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant environmental protection <b>objectives</b>, established at international or national level</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
<b>What's the scope of the SA?</b> What is the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan</li> <li>The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</li> <li>Any existing environmental <b>problems</b> which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance</li> </ul>
What are the key issues & objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key <b>problems/issues</b> and <b>objectives</b> that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment</li> </ul>
<b>What has plan-making/SA involved up to this point?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the <b>alternatives</b> dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach)</li> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>alternatives</b></li> <li>Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of <b>alternatives</b> appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the assessment findings at this stage?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likely significant effects associated with <b>the submission version of the plan</b></li> <li>The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing <b>the submission version of the plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>What happens next?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next steps for plan making/SA process.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

<sup>3</sup> 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 Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

### Local Plan context for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the Borough, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. The Local Plan seeks to give communities a solid framework within which appropriate community-led planning policy documents, including neighbourhood plans, can be brought forward. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of 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 Basingstoke and Deane Borough, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 2.2 The current Local Plan is the adopted *Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029)*<sup>4</sup>. It is the overarching planning document that identifies where development will take place, how new jobs will be supported and how the environment of the Borough will be protected and enhanced. It allocates major sites and locations for developments within the Borough.
- 2.3 The Local Plan intends for 850 housing units to be built per annum across the wider borough over the plan period. New homes will be built primarily around Basingstoke and the larger settlements of Whitchurch, Overton, Bramley, Kingsclere and Oakley. Policy SS5 of the Local Plan highlights that an additional 150 homes are expected to be delivered through Neighbourhood Planning across the borough, and it will be necessary to identify sites/opportunities to deliver at least ten homes within and adjacent to each of the settlements with defined Settlement Policy Boundaries.
- 2.4 Given Burghclere is identified as a settlement which has a defined Settlement Policy Boundary in the Local Plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have highlighted that at least ten dwellings will need to be delivered through the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan, excluding recent permissions and commitments
- 2.5 The Local Plan is currently undergoing review, with a Local Plan Update currently early in its preparation. An initial Issues and Options consultation for the new Local Plan is anticipated to take place in mid-2020.

### Vision for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.6 The vision for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan for 2036, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

*"Burghclere village has grown whilst retaining its special rural qualities. Growth has not undermined the landscape and has preserved the character of the parish, village and outlying hamlets, and important views into and from the countryside.*

*"New homes have helped address local need and sustain the demand for cherished community facilities – the Portal Hall, recreation ground and the local schools.*

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<sup>4</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2016): 'Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029)' [online] available at: <<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/1592.pdf>> [accessed 12/02/2019]

*"The design of new homes on the edge of and on infill sites within the village respect the local character of the area. There is a wider range of entry level housing types that enable younger people to find homes and older households to downsize. There are also now more affordable homes in the village.*

*"Technological changes have resulted in increased use of fuel-efficient and electric modes of transport, benefiting the environment. These also allow more working from home rather than reliance on commuting. The growth of new micro-businesses throughout the parish means the parish is more self-contained.*

*"Recognition of the benefits of rural biodiversity has enhanced the connectivity between the village and the countryside. The development of the parish has not only avoided harm to its biodiversity but has also helped create new ecological value.*

*"The tourism potential of the area has been realised and has led to new local employment opportunities. Beacon Hill, Sandham Memorial Chapel and activities at the Recreation Ground continue to thrive. There are improved village car parking facilities."*

- 2.7 To achieve this vision, the following objectives are outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan and are grouped under five themes:

#### Housing

- To help meet housing needs by supporting the delivery of new housing in accordance with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Policy SS5;
- To help meet the need for smaller homes by securing a more appropriate mix of housing in new developments; and
- To ensure any new housing is built on sites and at densities that would not harm the prevailing character of the area in which it is set or the amenity of nearby properties.

#### Design, Heritage and Landscape

- To ensure all new development respects the particular character of the area in which it takes place in terms of design, layout, materials and sustainability; and
- To protect and enhance the parish's heritage, including the North Wessex Downs AONB, listed buildings and other locally important buildings and structures across the parish.

#### Environment

- To protect and enhance the most valued open spaces for the use of the community within and adjacent to the settlement policy boundary; and
- To maintain and improve biodiversity and the quality of the natural environment.

#### Business and Tourism

- To support the local economy and encourage opportunities for smaller businesses to grow and develop in appropriate locations across the parish including the potential for a rural business hub and working from home; and
- To support and encourage tourist attractions without detriment to the amenity of the village and parish.

#### Traffic and Parking

- To make provision for traffic mitigation, improve traffic flow and seek to make the parish's roads safer for all users, including reducing the effects of through traffic including commercial and agricultural vehicles ; and
- To ensure appropriate parking provision is made within any new development and better parking is provided within Burghclere village.

## 3. The Scope of the SA

### SA Scoping Report

- 3.1 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.<sup>5</sup> These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan SA in March 2019.
- 3.2 The purpose of scoping was to outline the ‘scope’ of the SA 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 ‘SA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.
- 3.3 Comments received on the Scoping Report, and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 3.1**.

**Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SA Scoping Report**

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p><b>Natural England</b>  <i>Rebecca Aziz, Sustainable Development Lead Advisor (email response received 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019)</i></p>	
<p>The SEA report sets out a series of key environmental themes including Air Quality, Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Climatic Factors (including flood risk), Landscape, Land, Soil and Water Resources and Health and Wellbeing. We are satisfied that the SEA scoping report appears to consider relevant environmental issues including potential impacts on protected habitats, the North Wessex Downs AONB and Landscape Character Areas, best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land and the potential effects of climate change. The neighbourhood plan should always seek to avoid environmental impacts by directing development away from the most sensitive areas with mitigation considered only when this is not possible. To assist the selection of the less environmentally sensitive sites, reasonable alternative allocations should be assessed within the SA/SEA.</p>	<p>Comments noted. Reasonable alternatives have been considered and appraised through the SA process, presented in Chapter 4 of this report.</p>

<sup>5</sup> In-line with Article 6(3) of the SA 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 programmes.’

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## Consultation response

## How the response was considered and addressed

Natural England has not reviewed the plans listed in detail. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area; Green infrastructure strategies; AONB management plans; Biodiversity plans; Supplementary Planning Documents relevant to designated sites; Rights of Way Improvement Plans; River basin management plans; Relevant landscape plans and strategies.

Comments noted. The relevant policies, plans and programmes are presented in Appendix A, within the 'context review' section for each SA theme.

**Biodiversity and Geodiversity:** This theme should ensure impacts on the following features are considered: Protected species. Ancient woodland and veteran trees. Please see Natural England [standing advice](#) for further information.

Comments noted. The potential impacts to ecological features are considered and appraised in the 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' section in Chapter 5 of the SA report.

**Biodiversity net gain and ecological connectivity:** It should be noted that opportunities can be taken to enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat areas through delivering net gain for biodiversity via the planning process. In some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas. In line with National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 117 and 165, Natural England advises that reference is made to the Hampshire Ecological Network Mapping which can act as a useful tool for targeting appropriate areas for green infrastructure, strengthening areas for nature conservation and reconnecting them with wildlife corridors. The Hampshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has promoted the development of the ecological network mapping for the County (carried out by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre) and has developed an accompanying policy framework which was made available to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Comments noted. The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of opportunities for delivering 'net gains' through development proposals, where possible. This is further discussed and appraised in the 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' section in Chapter 5 of the SA report.

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## Historic England

*Robert Lloyd-Sweet, Historic Places Adviser (email response received 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019)*

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the SEA Scoping report for the Burghclere Neighbourhood plan. I am happy to confirm that we have no comments to make on the report.

Comments noted.

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## Environment Agency

*Thames Sustainable Places Team (email response received 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019)*

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We regret that at present, the Thames Area Sustainable Places team is unable to review this consultation. This is due to resourcing issues within the team, a high development management workload and an increasing volume of neighbourhood planning consultations. We have had to prioritise our limited resource and must focus on influencing plans where the environmental risks and opportunities are highest. For the purposes of neighbourhood planning, we have assessed those authorities who have "up to date" local plans (plans adopted since 2012, or which have been confirmed as being compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework) as being of lower risk. At this time, therefore, we are unable to make any detailed input on neighbourhood plans being prepared within this local authority area.

Comments noted.

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However, together with Natural England, English Heritage and Forestry Commission, we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

Comments noted. The guidance has provided a useful source of reference during the SA process.

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT\\_6524\\_7da381.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328084622/http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/LIT_6524_7da381.pdf)

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

## Key Sustainability Issues

3.5 Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of the SA. These issues are as follows, presented by eight SA themes.

### Air Quality

- Traffic and congestion arising from planned new development within and surrounding the area have the potential to increase emissions.
- However, there are no exceedances or anticipated exceedances of national air quality objectives.
- **Due to the absence of air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the air quality theme was scoped out for the purposes of the SA process.**

### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- There are six nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) located within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area: Greenham and Crookham Commons, Highclere Park, Duncroft Farm Pit, Burghclere Beacon, Old Burghclere Lime Quarry and Ladle Hill.
- Some of the built-up areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area are located within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone for residential and/or rural-residential developments.

- There are numerous Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats present in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are significant opportunities for linking up key habitats in the parish.

## Climate Change

- Any increases in the built footprint of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions in the Neighbourhood Plan area
- The total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita within Basingstoke and Deane are higher than the regional and national totals and the overall percentage reduction of emissions within the Neighbourhood Plan area between 2005 and 2016 was less than regional and national totals.
- There are small areas of land adjacent to the River Enborne and its tributaries which are located within Flood Risk Zone 3, and as such, have a >1% chance of being flooded each year. However, there are no records of major flooding of properties from the River Enborne.
- Within Burghclere, there are some areas of land at medium-high risk of surface water flooding. This includes at Harts Lane opposite Breachfield.
- Flooding from sewerage overflows at Harts Hollow on Harts Lane occurs following periods of intense rainfall, and results from an overwhelming of the parish's sewerage network.
- The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan should seek to increase the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change by supporting and encouraging adaptation strategies.

## Landscape

- The Landscape Character Area for Highclere and Burgclere is described as having some scarce and fragile heathland and forest landscapes. It also has a strong rural and agricultural character. Further development has the potential to impact upon this character.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area lies partially within North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is recognised as a national asset in which its natural and cultural resources are managed in an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs and commons.
- The potential effects of development proposed through the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan may have implications for the overall character, appearance and key views of parts of the parish in the future.

## Historic Environment

- There are a variety of heritage assets within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including three Grade I, two Grade II\* and 52 Grade II listed buildings. There are also ten scheduled monuments within the Neighbourhood Plan area highlighting significant Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement in the area. The Highclere Park registered park and garden is present in the west of the parish Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Development has the potential to affect the significance of heritage assets and their settings, both positively and negatively.
- Not all heritage assets are provided with protection through historic environment designations.

## Land, Soil and Water Resources

- The southern part of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area falls within a designated Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- The ecological quality of the River Enborne is considered to be ‘moderate’.
- In terms of agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area, national provisional quality datasets indicate Grade 3 land, and as part of a precautionary approach it is noted that there is the potential for loss of good quality (Grade 3a ‘best and most versatile’) agricultural land.
- The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan confirms that there are several mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) within the parish, one of which surrounds the existing village of Burghclere.

## Population and Community

- The population of Burghclere increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 than Basingstoke and Deane, the South East of England and England averages.
- Generally, there is a larger proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (26.5%) in comparison to the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (20.5%), the South East of England (23.3%) and England (22.3%).
- There are low levels of deprivation within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Services within the Neighbourhood Plan area limited to two pubs, two churches and four educational establishments.
- There are a large number of small businesses present within the parish.
- 87.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having ‘very good health’ or ‘good health’, similar to the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (85.8%), but higher than the totals for the South East of England (83.7%) and England (81.4%).
- A smaller proportion of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their activities are limited in some way compared to regional and national averages.

## Transportation

- The nearest railway station to the Neighbourhood Plan area is Newbury, approximately 3.1km away from the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.
- Bus services are limited in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well linked to the strategic road network, with access to the M3 and M4 via the A34 and the A339.

## SA Framework

- 3.6 The issues were then translated into an ‘SA Framework’. This SA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline. The SA framework for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is presented below.

**Table 3.2: SA Framework for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan**

SA Objective	Assessment questions
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the status of the nationally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including the Greenham and Crookham Commons, Highclere Park, Duncroft Farm Pit, Burghclere Beacon, Old Burghclere Lime Quarry and Ladle Hill SSSI?</li> <li>• Support the status of the locally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?</li> <li>• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>• Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> </ul>
<b>Climate change</b>	
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of journeys made?</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>• Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?</li> </ul>

### Landscape

<p>Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the quality and integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB and its setting?</li> <li>• Support landscape character of the Landscape Character Areas covering the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> <li>• Support the integrity of local Landscape Character?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?</li> <li>• Protect key views and settlement gateways in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</li> </ul>
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### Historic Environment

<p>Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the historic environment and archaeological assets.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve, enhance and support the integrity of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the archaeology and scheduled monuments within Burghclere?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local diversity and character?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</li> </ul>
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### Land, Soil and Water Resources

<p>Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>• Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land?</li> <li>• Protect the integrity of mineral safeguarding areas?</li> </ul>
<p>Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the amount of waste produced?</li> <li>• Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste?</li> <li>• Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside?</li> <li>• Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?</li> </ul>
<p>Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>• Minimise water consumption?</li> <li>• Protect surface water resources?</li> </ul>

## Population and Community

<p>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.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>• Minimise fuel poverty?</li> <li>• Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li> <li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> </ul>
<p>Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?</li> <li>• Support provision for flexible working practices?</li> </ul>
<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li> <li>• Support enhancements to the current housing stock?</li> <li>• Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>• Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul>
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?</li> <li>• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?</li> <li>• Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?</li> <li>• Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?</li> </ul>

## Transportation

<p>Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</li> <li>• Facilitate working from home and remote working?</li> <li>• Improve road safety?</li> <li>• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?</li> </ul>
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## 4. What has plan making / SA involved to this point?

### Introduction

- 4.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the SA 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.
- 4.2 The 'narrative' of plan-making / SA up to this point is told within this part of the SA Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an assessment of alternative locations for non-strategic scale development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 4.3 The following sections therefore describe how the SA 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 Burghclere 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 / SA work undertaken since 2018

- 4.4 Following the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the Steering Group have undertaken various consultations with residents which aimed to identify the key areas which residents felt were the most pressing issues in the parish. The first consultation event which took place was a 'have your say' afternoon in April 2019, followed by a neighbourhood planning presentation delivered by a planning officer from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and a question / answer session. Over 50 residents attended the 'have your say' afternoon, with over 70 residents attending the presentation and question / answer session. Concerns which were raised included: potential loss of village rural character; the location of future housing; support for smaller affordable homes as opposed to 'big mansions'; and whether the local council might override local opinion.
- 4.5 The second consultation place took place during two drop-in sessions at the Portal Hall in December 2018. Over 80 residents attended the sessions and 53 questionnaires were returned. The responses indicated support for specific types of dwellings, including: affordable housing for first time buyers; suitable housing for older people to live independently; and specialist housing for those with additional needs and for local people to upsize or downsize. Regarding specific allocations, the site preferred was the parcel of land at the SW end of the village (Site A or BUR 006 on the 2018 SHELAA). There was also support for designating green spaces, protecting important views, tourism and additional local business across the parish.
- 4.6 Consultation with local schools, businesses, landowners and other stakeholders took place between February and June 2019.

## Housing numbers to deliver through the Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.7 The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan intends for 850 housing units to be built per annum across the wider borough over the plan period. New homes will be built primarily around Basingstoke and the larger settlements of Whitchurch, Overton, Bramley, Kingsclere and Oakley. Policy SS5 of the Local Plan highlights that an additional 150 homes are expected to be delivered through Neighbourhood Planning across the borough, and it will be necessary to identify sites/opportunities to deliver at least ten homes within and adjacent to each of the settlements with defined Settlement Policy Boundaries.
- 4.8 Given Burghclere is identified as a settlement which has a defined Settlement Policy Boundary in the Local Plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have highlighted that at least ten dwellings will need to be delivered through the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan, excluding recent permissions and commitments. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has explored different options for delivering in the region of 10-15 dwellings in Burghclere through the Neighbourhood Plan development process.

## Assessment of reasonable alternatives for site allocations

- 4.9 To further support the development of a spatial strategy to deliver the 10-15 dwellings proposed in Burghclere for the Neighbourhood Plan, the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has considered alternative locations for delivering housing in the parish.
- 4.10 To support this process, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has considered potential sites for allocation through the Neighbourhood Plan for housing. Work to identify sites considered:
- The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2018;
  - The spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan;
  - A condition whereby the sites should be within or adjacent to the settlement boundary; and
  - Additional criteria relating to deliverability, suitability and viability.
- 4.11 Following this process, nine sites underwent a site assessment.
- 4.12 To support the consideration of the suitability of these nine sites for potential allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan, the SA process has undertaken a separate appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the sites and potential effects that may arise as a result of housing development at these locations. In this context the sites have been considered in relation to the SA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during SA scoping (Chapter 3) and the baseline information. This SA site assessment was undertaken separately to the site assessment undertaken by the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- 4.13 The locations of the nine sites assessed through the SA process are presented in Figure 4.1 below. The tables which follow present a summary of this appraisal and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the seven SA themes.

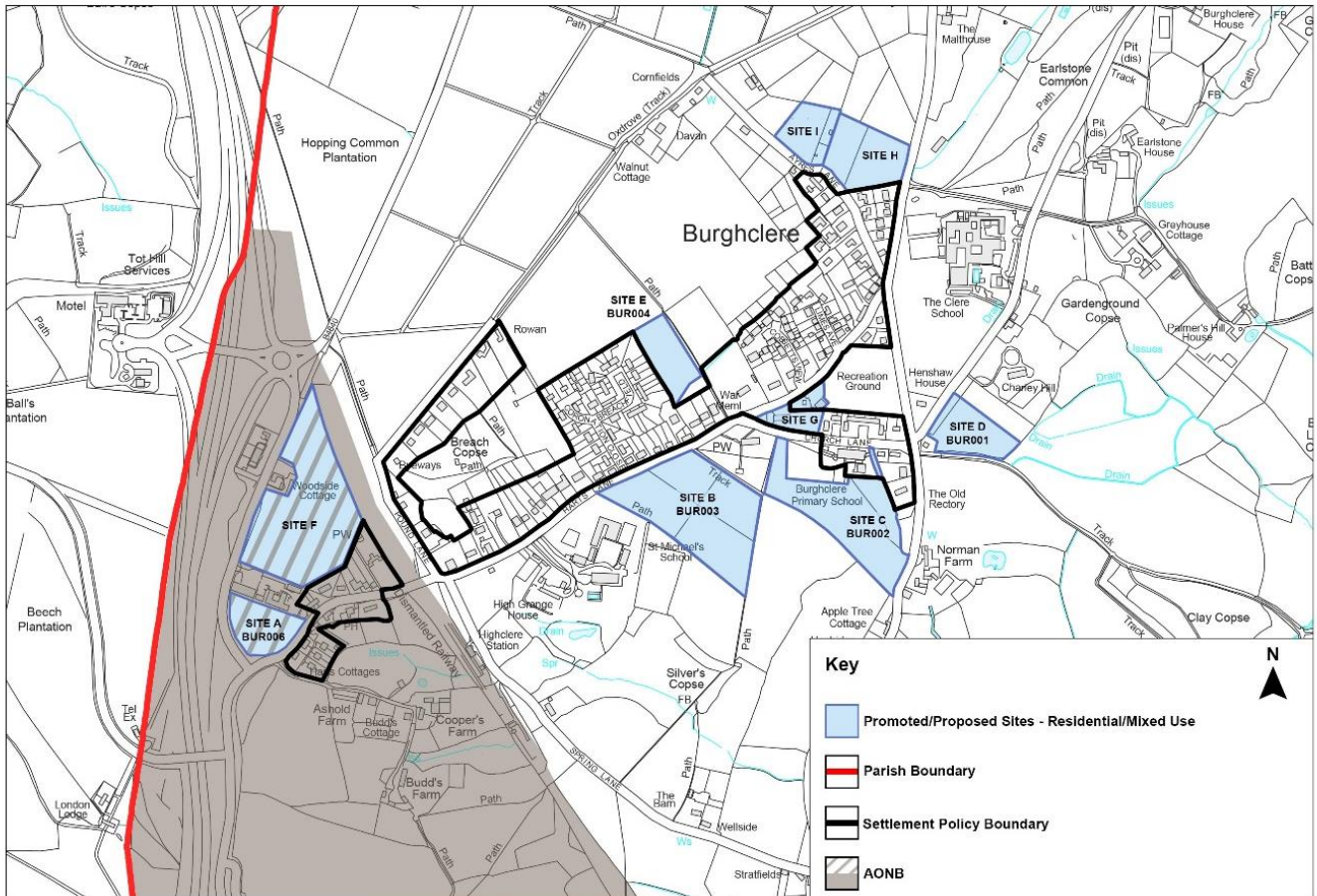


Figure 4.1: Sites assessed for the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan

## SA site assessment findings

4.14 The tables below present a summary of this assessment and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the seven SA themes.

Table 4.1: Site A

SA theme	Commentary, Site A
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for residential, rural residential or non-rural residential development.</p> <p>There are no BAP Priority Habitats on or in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Housing delivery at this location may facilitate opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions.</p>
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial or surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 800m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary to access most services and facilities.</p>
Landscape	<p>The site is located within North Wessex Downs AONB, which is a nationally designated landscape. However, the site is also bounded between two roads (Winchester Road and Harts Lane) and a small business park to the north. It is also only 60 metres away from the A34. Due to roads and the business park surrounding the site, it is not considered to have a high sensitivity within the surrounding landscape. Hedgerows around the border of the site also limit views in and out of the site.</p>
Historic Environment	<p>The site is not within the setting of designated historic environment assets, is not within the setting of a conservation area. Two visible features listed on the Historic Environment Record are located across Harts Lane from the site. These are Holmbush Cottage, which has been listed due to its age (early 19<sup>th</sup> Century) and intactness, and Parsons Corner, which is a former Methodist chapel dating from 1864. Development of the site therefore has the potential to impact on the setting of these features.</p>
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>A detailed Agricultural Land Classification for this site has not been undertaken and there is therefore a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset. The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset shows that the site is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land, however; without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. 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 within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of</p>

SA theme	Commentary, Site A	
	<p>previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>A small area of land located towards the north western corner of the site overlaps with a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.800m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for the services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.800m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>The site is located in close proximity to the A34 and there is easy access onto it via Winchester Road. This will help prevent an increase in traffic through the village. The site is in close proximity to the Carpenters Arms bus stop (c. 100m) which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
<b>Key</b>		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.2: Site B

SA theme	Commentary, Site B	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to an area of Broadleaved and Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat, which is located to the south west of the site. Whilst direct impacts on the woodland areas from land take and fragmentation are not anticipated, disturbance may take place from noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, over the past ten years flooding at the road junction of Harts Lane and Breachfield (which is located adjacent to the site) has increased in regularity with heavy rainfall. This is in part due to surface water runoff from the site and blockages in nearby discharge culverts. Appropriate mitigation measures would therefore be required before development at this site.</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site B	
	The site is located approximately 70m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary.	
Landscape	The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of the AONB. However, the site is open within the surrounding landscape with limited screening from hedgerows. Due to this, there are views from in and out of the village as well as from properties on the other side of Harts Lane opposite the site.	
Historic Environment	The site is approximately 50m from the Church of the Ascension, a Grade II listed building. Therefore, there could be impacts on the setting of this nationally designated historic environment site. However, the site will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>Most of the site is underlain by Grade 3b (moderate quality) agricultural land. This land is not classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Most of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located in close proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.70m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located in close proximity to the services and facilities which are present in Burghclere village centre (c.70m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34 which provides a key route for local people, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to two bus stops on Harts Lane which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
<b>Key</b>		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.3: Site C

SA theme	Commentary, Site C	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>There are no BAP Priority Habitats on or in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Housing delivery at this location may facilitate opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions. opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, parts of the northern boundary of the site are at 'low risk' from surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 50m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary to access most services and facilities.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB. However, the site is fairly open within the surrounding landscape with limited screening from hedgerows. It is also on the edge of an escarpment which allows views to and from Watership Down.</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>The site is approximately 22m from the Church of the Ascension, a Grade II listed building to the west of the site. Directly east of the site lies another three Grade II listed buildings: Norman Farmhouse, Small Barn and Cartshed. Therefore, there could be impacts on the setting of these nationally designated historic environment sites. Development of the site also has the potential to impact on features listed on the historic environment record, including Burghclere Primary School and the Old Rectory.</p>	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Most of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located in close proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.50m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located in close proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.50m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site C	
	<p>and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is approximately 170m from two bus stops on Harts Lane which provides services into Newbury. Although, these services are limited to three services per day.</p>	
Key		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.4: Site D

SA theme	Commentary, Site D	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>There is an area of Broadleaved Woodland BAP Priority Habitat located to the north of the site approximately 44m away. Whilst direct impacts on the woodland areas from land take and fragmentation are not anticipated, disturbance may take place from noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, parts of the southern boundary of the site are at 'low risk' from surface water flooding. The southern boundary is also adjacent to an area of 'medium' and 'high risk' surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 300m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary for key services and facilities outside of the parish.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB.</p> <p>The site is fairly open within the surrounding landscape but is screened from the surrounding roads by hedgerows and trees. There will be some views in from the adjacent property (Reeves Cottage).</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>The site is adjacent to Reeves Cottage which is a locally important heritage feature. Therefore, there could be impacts on the setting of this nationally designated historic environment site. However, the site will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site D	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>A detailed Agricultural Land Classification for this site has not been undertaken and there is therefore a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset. The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset shows that the site is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land, however; without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. 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 within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>The north western section of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.300m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.300m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is approximately 280m from two bus stops on Harts Lane which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
Key		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.5: Site E

SA theme	Commentary, Site E
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to an area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat, which is located to the south of the site. Whilst direct impacts on the woodland areas from land take and fragmentation are not anticipated, disturbance may take place from noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p>
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, parts of the southern boundary of the site are at 'low risk' from surface water flooding. The southern and western boundaries of the site are also adjacent to an area of 'medium' and 'high risk' surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 100m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary for the key services and facilities outside of the parish.</p>
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB.</p> <p>The site has low landscape sensitivity as it is adjacent to existing development on both the western and southern boundary. Development at this site would fit in well with the existing settlement pattern. The site is also well screened from existing trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>However, there will be some views onto the site from existing properties.</p>
Historic Environment	<p>The site is not within the setting of designated historic environment assets, is not within the setting of a conservation area, and will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.</p>
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>A detailed Agricultural Land Classification for this site has not been undertaken and there is therefore a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset. The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset shows that the site is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land, however; without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. 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 within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Most of the site is within a MSA.</p>

SA theme	Commentary, Site E	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.100m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.100m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is approximately 280m from two bus stops on Harts Lane which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
<b>Key</b>		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.6: Site F

SA theme	Commentary, Site F	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to an area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat, which is located on the eastern boundary of the site. Whilst direct impacts on the woodland areas from land take and fragmentation are not anticipated, disturbance may take place from noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, the north east boundary of the site is at 'low risk' from surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 650m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary for most key services and facilities.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site is located within the North Wessex Downs AONB which is a nationally designated landscape. However, the site is bounded to the west by Winchester Road and to the south by a small business park. It is also only 60 metres away</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site F	
	<p>from the A34. Due to the roads and the business park surrounding the site, it is not considered to have a high sensitivity within the surrounding landscape. Hedgerows and trees around the border of the site also prevent views in and out of the site.</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>The site is not within the setting of designated historic environment assets, is not within the setting of a conservation area, and will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.</p>	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>Most of the site is underlain by Grade 3a (good quality) agricultural land, with a small area of Grade 3b (moderate quality) agricultural land in the north eastern section. Therefore, a residential allocation would lead to the permanent loss of best and most versatile land (i.e. Grade 3a land).</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Most of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.650m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.650m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>The site is located in close proximity to the A34 and there is easy access onto it via Winchester Road. This will help prevent an increase in traffic through the village.</p> <p>The site is in close proximity to the Carpenters Arms bus stop (c. 50m) which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
<b>Key</b>		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.7: Site G

SA theme	Commentary, Site G	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>There are no BAP Priority Habitats on or in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Housing delivery at this location may facilitate opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial or surface water flooding. However, there are patches of Harts Lane and Church Lane which are at 'low risk' from surface water flooding which is in close proximity to the site.</p> <p>The site is located within the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB.</p> <p>The site is as at low sensitivity to the surrounding landscape as it is located in the village centre in close proximity to existing developed areas. Due to this, development at this site would fit well with the local villagescape character.</p> <p>There may be some views in from nearby properties and from Burghclere Pre-School which is adjacent to the site.</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>A Grade II Listed Building (Parish Room, and House) is located within the centre of the site. Due to this sensitive design and layout will need to be incorporated within development if the site is taken forward for an allocation. Impacts therefore have the potential to negative unless high quality design and layout is incorporated within new development.</p>	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>The site is a previously developed (brownfield) site. As such, development at this location would lead to the efficient use of land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Parts of the eastern half of the site are within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located in close proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located in close proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site G	
	<p>pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is in close proximity to two bus stops on Harts Lane (c. 195m) which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
Key		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.8: Site H

SA theme	Commentary, Site H	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>On the other side of Well Street to the east of the site lies an area of Broadleaved and Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat. However, residential impact on the site is not likely to impact this due to the BAP Habitat being located on the other side of the road.</p> <p>Housing delivery at this location may facilitate opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, part of the south eastern boundary has been identified as at 'low' and 'medium risk' from surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 450m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary for most amenities.</p>	
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB.</p> <p>The site is as at low sensitivity to the surrounding landscape as it borders existing development to the south and a road to the east. The site is also well screened from hedgerows and trees limiting views in and out.</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>The site is not within the setting of designated historic environment assets, is not within the setting of a conservation area, and will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.</p>	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>The site is underlain by Grade 3a (good quality) agricultural land. Therefore, a residential allocation would lead to the permanent loss of best and most versatile land.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site H	
	<p>previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>The northern half of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.450m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.450m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is in close proximity to a bus stop on Well Street (c. 140m) which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to 3 services per day.</p>	
Key		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.9: Site I

SA theme	Commentary, Site I	
Biodiversity	<p>There are no European or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites within or adjacent or close to the boundary of the site. The site is not within a SSSI impact risk zone for the type of development proposed.</p> <p>There are no BAP Priority Habitats on or in the vicinity of the site.</p> <p>Housing delivery at this location may facilitate opportunities for biodiversity enhancements, such as green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological networks through developer led contributions.</p>	
Climate change	<p>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, although these are unlikely to be significant given the size of the site and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the site is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial or surface water flooding.</p> <p>The site is located approximately 480m from the village centre where there are two pubs, two churches and four schools. An allocation at this location is therefore unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for use of these particular services. However, due to poor public transport links to other services and amenities, use of privately-owned vehicles is likely to be necessary to access most amenities.</p>	

SA theme	Commentary, Site I	
Landscape	<p>The site does not overlap with and is not within the setting of an AONB, However, the site is fairly open and although screened by trees and hedgerows on the southern and eastern boundaries, there are potential for views in from the north and west.</p> <p>Development at this site would also break up the existing villagescape character as it does not directly border existing development.</p> <p>However, if this site was taken forward for development alongside Site H, then there would be a lower impact on the surrounding landscape as it would be in line with the existing settlement pattern.</p>	
Historic Environment	<p>The site is not within the setting of designated historic environment assets, is not within the setting of a conservation area, and will not impact on features listed on the historic environment record.</p>	
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<p>The site is underlain by Grade 3a (good quality) agricultural land. Therefore, a residential allocation would lead to the permanent loss of best and most versatile land.</p> <p>As the site is a greenfield location, development would not make the best use of previously developed land.</p> <p>The site is also located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone.</p> <p>Most of the site is within a MSA.</p>	
Population and Community	<p>Allocation of the site will contribute positively towards meeting local housing needs, through the delivery of affordable housing.</p> <p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.480m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be necessity to travel outside of the Burghclere to access key services and facilities.</p>	
Transportation	<p>The site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.458m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary.</p> <p>In order to access the A34, which is a key route for residents, cars will have to pass through the village centre causing an increase in traffic.</p> <p>The site is in close proximity to a bus stop on Well Street (c. 210m) which provides services into Newbury. These services are however limited to three services per day.</p>	
Key		
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects

Table 4.10: Summary of SA site appraisal findings

Site	Biodiversity	Climate change	Landscape	Historic Environment	Land, soil and water resources	Population and Community	Transport
Site A	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Site B	Blue	Red	Red	Red	Blue	Green	Blue
Site C	Yellow	Blue	Red	Red	Blue	Green	Blue
Site D	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Green	Blue
Site E	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Blue
Site F	Blue	Blue	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Site G	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Blue
Site H	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Site I	Yellow	Blue	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
<b>Key</b>							
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)				Red	Likely positive effect		Green
Neutral/no effect				Yellow	Uncertain effects		Blue

## 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

- 4.15 The findings of the site assessments undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan were presented at the second series of Neighbourhood Plan consultation events which took place in December 2018 (see section 4.5 above).
- 4.16 These consultation events highlighted that the preferred site for allocating through the Neighbourhood Plan was Site A. In response to this, the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan allocates this 0.89ha site north of Harts Lane for a mix of residential, employment and blue/green infrastructure uses.

### Neighbourhood Plan policies

- 4.1 To support the implementation of the vision statement for the Neighbourhood Plan, the submission version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan puts forward 17 policies to guide new development within the Neighbourhood Plan area. These were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering and are listed below in Table 4.11.
- 4.2 The policies, which were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering, are as below. An earlier version of these policies were assessed through the SA process, with findings and recommendations presented in the SA Report accompanying the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan (September 2019).

**Table 4.11: Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan policies**

<b>Policy Reference</b>	<b>Policy Name</b>
Policy B1	Burghclere Settlement Boundary
Policy B2	Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road
Policy B3	Land for Future Development
Policy B4	Residential Garden Land
Policy B5	Housing mix and tenure
Policy B6	Rural Employment
Policy B7	High Quality Design
Policy B8	Sustainable Design Standards
Policy B9	Local Heritage Assets
Policy B10	Landscape
Policy B11	Important Views
Policy B12	Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
Policy B13	Local Green Spaces
Policy B14	Community Facilities
Policy B15	Tourism
Policy B16	Managing Traffic
Policy B17	Car Parking

4.3 These policies are appraised in the following chapter.

## 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 submission version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan. This chapter presents:
- An appraisal of the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan under the seven SA theme headings; and
  - The overall conclusions at this current stage.

### Approach to this appraisal

- 5.2 The appraisal is structured under the seven themes taken forward for the purposes of the SA.
- 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. There are six nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) located within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area: Greenham and Crookham Commons; Highclere Park; Duncroft Farm Pit; Burghclere Beacon; Old Burghclere Lime Quarry; and Ladle Hill. Likewise, there are numerous Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats including deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, lowland calcareous grassland and floodplain grazing marsh. Whilst no significant negative effects on biodiversity can be readily identified for the Neighbourhood Plan, there will be a need for potential effects on biodiversity linked to future development in the Neighbourhood Plan area to be avoided and mitigated. This is reflected by the Neighbourhood Plan which sets out 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 In relation to the SSSIs, sections of the Neighbourhood Plan area overlap with SSSI IRZs for residential, rural residential and rural non-residential development types. However, as the proposed spatial strategy within the Plan seeks to deliver development within the newly defined settlement boundary of Burghclere (see Policy B1), this will help to limit the potential risks to nationally designated sites for biodiversity and geodiversity due to their relative distance from the village.

- 5.7 With regards to the proposed site allocation through Policy B2 'Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road', the nearest SSSI (Highclere Park) is located approximately 400m to the south west of the site at its nearest point. Although the proposed site allocation does overlap with SSSI IRZs for residential and rural-residential development types, the scale of proposals at this location (15 dwellings) will not exceed the thresholds which would require consultation with Natural England. It is also acknowledged that the proposed site allocation does not overlap with the boundaries of a BAP priority habitat. There are three areas of deciduous woodland located approximately 100m to the east, south west and north west of the site, but these areas are unlikely to be impacted by the development during its construction or operational phase. Specifically, the areas of woodland to the south west and north west are located on the opposite side of the A34, with the area to the east located behind existing buildings along Harts Lane.
- 5.8 Published in July 2018, paragraph 170 (d) within the revised NPPF<sup>6</sup> 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 Government's 25-Year Environment Plan<sup>7</sup> which was published in January 2018 and updated in May 2019. In this respect, Policy B12 'Green Infrastructure Network and Biodiversity' highlights that development proposals must deliver net gains to biodiversity assets within the parish, considering the layout of their designs, landscaping schemes and public open space provisions. Likewise, the proposed site allocation on 'Land of Harts Lane / Winchester Road' (see Policy B2) will be accompanied by a biodiversity strategy that delivers on-site net gains through the development. Furthermore, Policy B2 confirms that mature trees and hedgerows will be retained through the development unless their removal is essential. The provision of these policies will ensure that ecological sensitivities are appropriately considered during the planning phases for new development proposals which come forward within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 5.9 Ecological networks within the Neighbourhood Plan area are further supported by Policy B10 'Landscape', confirming that development proposals must avoid having any significant environmental effects on designated environmental assets. Within the policy, specific mention is given to biodiversity opportunity areas, nature improvement areas and habitats of principal importance. Policy B7 'High Quality Design' also states that development proposals in the village will be supported providing they have full regard to several design principles. The important role of broad-leaved trees, mature trees, native hedges, open spaces and wooded areas are acknowledged within these principles. Additionally, Policy B12 (Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity) affirms that development proposals must ensure the protection of local biodiversity assets and contribute to the natural environment by providing habitat resources for wildlife and Policy B4 (Residential Garden Land) highlights that any loss of biodiversity value as a result of the development of residential garden land should be fully mitigated, and measures to enhance biodiversity through habitat creation or improvement are incorporated.
- 5.10 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

- 5.11 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 popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving, with 94.5% of residents having access to at least one car or van. In this respect, Policy B1

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<sup>6</sup> 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 [16/07/19]

<sup>7</sup> 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 [16/07/19]

'Burghclere Settlement Boundary' outlines a spatial strategy which seeks to deliver new development within the most sustainable locations in the parish (i.e. within the village itself), limiting development in the open countryside. Likewise, the proposed site allocation on 'Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road' (see Policy B2) is approximately 800m from services and facilities in the village centre. In this respect, an allocation at this location is unlikely to significantly increase the reliance of privately-owned vehicles for undertaking day-to-day activities within Burghclere.

- 5.12 Climate change mitigation in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be further supported by Policy B8 (Sustainable Design Standards). This sets out a number of provisions which seek to limit new development's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, including through stating that planning applications should demonstrate through a written statement how the delivery of sustainable design standards is integral to the development. The policy also expects development, as a minimum and subject to viability, to achieve the standards required by the National Model Design Code including space standards or any subsequent national requirements. Additionally, the protection of open spaces and habitats within the Neighbourhood Plan area through the provisions of Policy B13 'Green Infrastructure Network and Biodiversity' and Policy B10 'Local Green Spaces' will safeguard natural carbon sequestrators located within the landscape (i.e. trees and hedgerows).
- 5.13 In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the proposed site allocation is not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial or surface water flooding and has a 'very low' risk of surface water flooding. Policy B2 also outlines a requirement for the site to incorporate a sustainable drainage scheme to address any potential effects of surface water run-off. Furthermore, it is expected that the provisions of the NPPF will help to ensure that developments are located away from the areas at the highest risk of flooding.
- 5.14 The protection of open spaces and the development of a high quality green infrastructure network within the Neighbourhood Plan area through the provisions of Policy B12 'Green Infrastructure Network and Biodiversity' and Policy B13 'Local Green Spaces' will also support climate change adaptation. In this context the Natural Environment White Paper recognises that green infrastructure is 'one of the most effective tools available' to manage 'environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves' and the 25 Year Environment Plan highlights that green infrastructure 'brings wider benefits, including sequestering carbon, absorbing noise, cleansing pollutants, absorbing surface water and reducing high temperatures'. As such, the plan's focus on enhancements to green infrastructure provision will be a key contributor to adapting to climate change in the area. Policy B8 (Sustainable Design Standards) seeks to ensure that proposals for development support adaption to climate change, including by "*...making the most of natural systems to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts over the lifetime of the development.*"
- 5.15 These policies will therefore support positive gains with regard to climate change adaptation measures within the Neighbourhood Plan area through, for example, helping to regulate surface water run-off and helping manage extreme weather events.

## Landscape

- 5.16 The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the nationally protected North Wessex Downs AONB which is recognised as an attractive landscape mosaic of farmland, woodland, heaths, downs and commons. A landscape study which has recently been completed by the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has also identified several important viewpoints across the parish, including ten surrounding the built-up village of Burghclere. Views are an important consideration in the planning process, as the scale, height and mass of a development can ultimately impact on important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process. As such, policies within the Neighbourhood Plan have a strong focus on protecting the sense of place and special qualities of Burghclere.

- 5.17 For example, Policy B10 'Landscape' states that development proposals must seek to avoid having any significant environmental effects on designated landscape assets, with specific reference to the North Wessex Downs AONB. Policy B11 'Important Viewpoints' confirms that development proposals which are located within or immediately adjoining an important view will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they would not obstruct or undermine their open character. Policy B7 'High Quality Design' also outlines support for proposals which sustain and enhance the distinctiveness of the village by adhering to several design principles, including several relating to landscape character. Therefore, these policies take a proactive and positive approach to protecting and enhancing the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 5.18 With reference to the proposed site allocation through the Neighbourhood Plan (Policy B2), the 'Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road' site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB. However, it is important to acknowledge that the site is bound between two roads and a business park, adjacent to an existing built-up area, and relatively screened from view due to the hedgerows located along its boundaries. Tranquillity in the area is also affected by noise from the A34. This limits its sensitivity within the landscape. Similarly, the provisions of Policy B2 outline a requirement for a landscape strategy which demonstrates how the layout and heights of buildings have considered the location of the site within the AONB.
- 5.19 In terms of the potential visual impacts associated with the proposed site allocation, the 'Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road' is within proximity to important viewpoint 1 (as shown on Map B within the Neighbourhood Plan). However, the sight line of viewpoint 1 extends to the north west towards Sandham Memorial Chapel, whereas the site is located to the south west and screened by existing buildings. Therefore, the proposed site allocation is unlikely to detract from the visual amenity of this viewpoint.
- 5.20 Along with policies which support the protection of open spaces (see Policy B12 and B13 within the Neighbourhood Plan), the provisions of Policy B1 'Burghclere Settlement Boundary' seek to prevent sprawl into the countryside by focusing development within the existing village. Specifically, Policy B1 states that development proposals outside of the defined settlement boundary will only be supported if they are appropriate to a countryside location. This will support a limitation of effects on the open countryside and safeguard these areas from inappropriate scales of development.

## Historic Environment

- 5.21 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment which is recognised through the diversity of features and areas that are nationally and locally valued for their cultural heritage interest, including: three Grade I, two Grade II\* and 52 Grade II listed buildings, ten scheduled monuments, and Highclere Park registered park and garden which partly overlaps with the western section of the parish. This is reflected by Neighbourhood Plan policies which focus on conserving and enhancing the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings.
- 5.22 For example, the proposed spatial strategy within the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to deliver development within the defined settlement boundary of Burghclere (see Policy B1). 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 village. This is reinforced through the provisions of Policy B7 'High Quality Design', containing several design principles for new development proposals which acknowledge the value and importance of heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Similarly, Policy B6 'Rural Employment' supports the re-use of existing buildings in the countryside providing that the proposals would not adversely affect the character, function and appearance of any buildings of historical interest.

- 5.23 With regards to the proposed site allocation taken forward through Policy B2 'Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road', the site is not within the setting of nationally designated historic environment assets. The Grade II listed 'Laburnum Cottage' is approximately 100m to the east of the site (at its nearest point) but is screened from view by the additional buildings located along Harts Lane. However, two visible features listed on the Historic Environment Record are located across Harts Lane from the site. These are Holmbush Cottage, which has been listed due to its age (early 19<sup>th</sup> Century) and intactness, and Parsons Corner, which is a former Methodist chapel dating from 1864. Development of the site therefore has the potential to impact on the setting of these features. This is recognised by Policy B2, which seeks to ensure a landscape strategy is prepared, and the layout and heights of buildings have full regard to the setting of heritage assets. This will help limit potential effects on these locally important features of historic environment interest.
- 5.24 The Neighbourhood Plan also recognises that not all of the parish's heritage resource is nationally or locally designated, or enjoys statutory protection. In this respect Policy B9 (Local Heritage Assets) identifies a number of buildings in the Parish that, whilst not designated as listed buildings, either have some local heritage value for the purposes of applying Local Plan Policy EM11 on the Historic Environment.
- 5.25 Therefore, it is expected that the integrity and setting of nationally designated and locally significant heritage features in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be adequately protected through plan proposals.

## Land, Soil and Water Resources

- 5.26 In terms of the Neighbourhood Plan allocation at Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road, development of the site will lead to the loss of greenfield land.
- 5.27 Recent detailed agricultural land classification for this site has not been undertaken at this location. As such there is a need to rely on the higher level national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset, which indicates that the site is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land. However, it is uncertain whether this comprises Grade 3a agricultural land (and is therefore classified as the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land) or Grade 3b land (land which is not classified as such). It is also important to note that the national dataset is of very low resolution and may not provide an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality at this location.
- 5.28 In terms of water resources, the site is located within Total Catchment (Zone 3) of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone. A small area of land located towards the north western corner of the site overlaps with a Minerals Safeguarding Area.
- 5.29 The Neighbourhood Plan has a strong focus on green infrastructure enhancements, new planting, and improvements to existing areas of open space (Policy B12 and B13). It also seeks to enhance ecological networks (Policy B12). This will support the capacity of the villagescape and built and natural environment in the Neighbourhood Plan area to help manage surface water run-off (and associated pollutants) and provide regulating ecosystems services which support water and soil quality.
- 5.30 Additionally, Policy BE2 (Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road) seeks to implement a sustainable drainage scheme at the allocation to address the effects of surface water run-off. Policy B8 (Sustainable Design Standards) will help implement design standards which will support land, soil and water resources through make efficient use of natural resources (including water).

## Population and Community

- 5.31 In terms of the delivery of housing through the Neighbourhood Plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have highlighted that at least ten dwellings will need to be delivered in the

- parish during the plan period, excluding recent permissions and commitments. The subsequent version of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to deliver at least 15 dwellings. Given this is anticipated to meet locally objectively assessed housing needs, it is assumed that this growth quantum will, in terms of housing numbers, meet the housing needs arising locally.
- 5.32 The Neighbourhood Plan also seeks to deliver a range of housing types and tenures. In this respect, the policy for the Neighbourhood Plan allocation (Policy B2) seeks to deliver a range of homes, comprising a mix of open market and affordable homes with an emphasis on two and three bed homes suitable for first time buyers, those looking to rent their first home, retired estate workers and downsizers. This will be reinforced by Policy B5 (Housing Mix and Tenure), which seeks to ensure all new residential developments in the parish seek to include in their housing mix a type and tenure suitable for first time buyers, those looking to rent their first home and downsizers, with an emphasis on two and three bed homes. The policy also encourages schemes to give full consideration to deliver some of the affordable housing element through a Community Led Housing model, for which an appropriate lettings policy would be agreed with the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The quality of housing will also be supported by Policy B8 (Sustainable Design Standards) which seeks to promote high quality, sustainable and resource efficient design. This will help address issues such as fuel poverty, promote health and wellbeing, and reduce residents' resource consumption.
- 5.33 These policies will therefore help deliver high quality housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area which is of a range of types and tenures and meets shortfalls in identified local need. The provision of these policies will therefore support a mixed, balanced and inclusive community.
- 5.34 Accessibility to services and facilities is a key influence on the quality of life of residents and community cohesion. In relation to the proposed allocation taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan at Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road, this is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.800m) which will limit the need for residents to travel for the services and facilities provided here. However, amenities in the village are very limited, and there will be a necessity to travel outside of Burghclere to access key services and facilities. This is recognised by Policy B14 (Community Facilities), which seeks to protect the existing community facilities in the village. In this respect the policy highlights 13 key community facilities where loss would be resisted by the Neighbourhood Plan, unless *"it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of the building and ancillary land is no longer viable or that the use can be satisfactorily re-located for the ongoing benefit of the local community"*. The policy also supports proposals to enhance the viability of the community use, including through facilitating the extension or partial redevelopment of the facility.
- 5.35 The Neighbourhood Plan will support the economic vitality of the parish. In this respect Policy B6 (Rural Employment) sets out provisions for supporting land-based rural employment, agricultural diversification and tourism provision. Policy B15 (Tourism) also supports proposals to expand existing tourism facilities in the parish if a set of criteria are met. These provisions will be further supported by the allocation for the Neighbourhood Plan at Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road. In this context an employment scheme consisting of a single storey B1 'flexible workspace' of about 150m<sup>2</sup> forming a 'rural business hub' has been included in the allocation. This recognises the significant number of small businesses which exist in the parish, and the large number of individuals running a business from home.
- 5.36 There is now robust evidence that access to the natural environment improves people's health and wellbeing through encouraging healthy outdoor recreation and relaxation. In this context the enhancement of open space provision in the village promoted by the Neighbourhood Plan will be supported by Policy B12 (Green Infrastructure Network and Biodiversity). This designates a parish Green Infrastructure Network for the purposes of promoting access to the countryside and ecological connectivity throughout the parish. The network comprises Local Green Spaces, informal open spaces, footpaths, woodland and land of biodiversity value including designated environmental and landscape assets. This will be supported by Policy B13 (Local Green Spaces), which will allocate four locations as Local Green Space. The Neighbourhood

Plan allocation also seeks to ensure that formal and informal recreation space, including a Local Equipped Area for Play that is accessible to children from the village, is incorporated within development on the site. In this respect, the enhancements to the parish's green infrastructure networks facilitated through these policies will enhance recreational opportunities, support active lifestyles and promote the health and wellbeing of residents.

## Transportation

- 5.37 In terms of the proposed allocation taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan at the Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road, the site is located at relative proximity to services and facilities in Burghclere village centre (c.800m). This will limit the need for residents to travel for these services and facilities. However, as highlighted above, the services in Burghclere are limited and for other services use of the private vehicle is likely to be necessary. The site is however located in close proximity to the A34 and there is easy access onto it via Winchester Road. It is also located in close proximity to the Carpenters Arms bus stop (c. 100m) which provides services into Newbury. It should be noted though that these services are limited to three services per day.
- 5.38 Recognising that the Neighbourhood Plan is unable to directly improve public transport services in the parish, the policies have a focus on enhancing access by walking and cycling. In this context walking and cycling networks will be supported by the designation of a local Green Infrastructure Network in the parish through Policy 12 (Green Infrastructure Network and Biodiversity). The policy for the allocation at Land off Harts Lane / Winchester Road also seeks to ensure pedestrian and cycling access is provided off Harts Lane to a specification to be agreed with the Highways Authority.
- 5.39 The Neighbourhood Plan also recognises the role of the private car in supporting rural accessibility. In this respect Policy B17 (Car Parking) seeks to ensure that adequate off-street parking is provided with new development. Alongside, the policy supports proposals to establish a new car park in the village. Policy B16 (Managing Traffic) also recognises the impact of traffic on the parish through seeking to mitigate traffic volumes and speed at key locations, including at 'pinch points' in the parish.

## Conclusions at this current stage

- 5.40 The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community', SA theme. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's focus on the provision of housing of a range of type and tenures to meet local needs, supporting existing and new community facilities, promoting the development of a high quality local green infrastructure network and protecting and enhancing the quality of the public realm and neighbourhood distinctiveness.
- 5.41 A central focus of the Neighbourhood Plan is on conserving and enhancing landscape and villagescape character in the parish, protecting key views and supporting local distinctiveness. It also seeks to protect the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB. In this regard the Neighbourhood Plan will bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' SA theme. This will also, with the design policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, support the parish's historic environment resource. The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate a number of beneficial approaches regarding the 'Biodiversity' SA theme through protecting and enhancing habitats, supporting parish-wide ecological networks (including through enhancements to local green infrastructure networks) and promoting biodiversity net gain.
- 5.42 In terms of the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' theme, the Neighbourhood Plan allocation will lead to the loss of greenfield land. However these effects are unlikely to be significant given the

scale of proposed development, and the uncertainty as to whether the land allocated comprises land classified as the 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

- 5.43 In terms of the 'Climate Change' SA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out provisions for limiting emissions from built development and introducing provisions which will support climate change adaptation. These are not however considered significant in the context of the SA objectives. Similarly, in relation to the transportation theme, given the limited opportunities for the Neighbourhood Plan to enhance existing poor public transport access in the parish, no significant positive effects have been identified.

## 6. What are the next steps?

- 6.1 This SA Report accompanies the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, for subsequent Independent Examination.
- 6.2 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 the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 6.3 If Independent Examination is favourable, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for Burghclere Parish.

# Appendix A Context review and baseline

## A1 – Air Quality

### Context Review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>8</sup> (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’<sup>9</sup> 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 SA theme.

In terms of the local context, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is required under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995) to monitor air quality across the Borough, 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<sub>2</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>) and particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>). 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.

Policy EM8 (Commercial Renewable/Low Carbon Energy Generation) and Policy EM12 (Pollution) from the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan relate to the Air Quality SA theme.

### Summary of Current Baseline

As of June 2018, there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Neighbourhood Plan area or within Basingstoke and Deane Borough, as highlighted in the 2018 Air Quality Annual Status

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<sup>8</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>9</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

Report.<sup>10</sup> Air quality has been monitored in Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as part of the local authority review and assessment process since the mid-1990s. Monitoring at locations relevant for public exposure has shown that the annual objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> for nitrogen dioxide concentrations has not been exceeded within Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area; as such the declaration of an AQMA is not required.

There are no recent or anticipated exceedances of national air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

## Summary of Future Baseline

New housing and employment provision within the parish and the wider area, including through the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>. However, this is unlikely to lead to exceedances of air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

## A2 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity

### Context Review

The EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>11</sup> 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<sup>12</sup> (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 scale 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

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<sup>10</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2018) 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) [online] available at: <<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/58083/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Status%20Report%20ASR%202018.pdf>> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>11</sup> European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0244&from=EN> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>12</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

- 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.’
- Take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long term implications for biodiversity.
  - The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)<sup>13</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. It was in part a response to the UK’s failure to halt and reverse the decline of 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; the ‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’<sup>14</sup> 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’.

The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>15</sup> 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.

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<sup>13</sup> HM Gov (2011) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228842/8082.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>14</sup> DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>15</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

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 SA theme.

The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies an objective to 'Protect and enhance the borough's biodiversity and the locally distinctive character of our priority habitats and landscapes, such as the North Wessex Downs AONB, through protection, partnership working, conservation and active management.' The plan presents policies EM3 (Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area) and EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation) which relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SA theme.

## Summary of Current Baseline

### European designated sites

There are no European designated sites within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### Nationally designated sites

#### *Greenham and Crookham Commons*

Notified in March 1994 'Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI' is approximately 280 ha in size and is located on the northern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>16</sup>:

*'This site comprises of an extensive complex of heathland, grassland, gorse scrub, broad leaved woodland and alder-lined gullies. Much of the heathland and grassland has been maintained by regular mowing within the perimeter of the Greenham Common airbase while the woodland and scrub, predominantly on areas outside the airbase perimeter, has developed with little intervention. The site also includes one large ancient coppice woodland, Peckmoor Copse. The heathland and acid grassland at this site make up the single largest tract of these habitats in Berkshire.'*

*Greenham and Crookham Commons occur on a long ridge between the Rivers Enborne and Kennet. The ridge consists of Eocene deposits of acid, sandy clays of the Bagshot Beds overlain by plateau gravels, and seated on heavy impermeable clays of the London Clay. Consequently the soils are a complicated pattern of variable deposits in which free draining soils dominate, but with clay pockets producing extensive seepage zones and springs. These springs give rise to streams creating the small, flushed and waterlogged valleys of alder woodland.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 10.6% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition, 72.3% of the SSSI is in an 'unfavourable-recovering' condition and 17.1% of the SSSI is in a 'unfavourable – No change' condition.

#### *Highclere Park*

Notified in October 1991 'Highclere Park SSSI' is located on the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is approximately 70 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>17</sup>:

*'Highclere Park comprises an extensive open parkland of unimproved grassland with mature trees, pasture woodland and lakes. It is situated in north-west Hampshire where the Tertiary Clay of the Thames Valley abuts the Chalk and Greensand of the North Wessex Downs. The park is the earliest documented estate in Hampshire (AD 749). It was a Medieval Deer Park and later a Roccoco, then*

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<sup>16</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1003118&SiteName=common&countyCode=44&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>17</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Highclere Park SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1005537&SiteName=highclere&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 12/02/19]

*Capability Brown (c.1770) landscaped park. The grassland comprises a combination of calcifugous and calcicolous species which is unique in Hampshire. The mature parkland and wood pasture trees support a rich and diverse lichen and moss flora, with numerous species indicative of its ancient woodland origins. Outside the New Forest, it is one of the two richest sites known in the County for epiphytic lichens. The woodland stand-types are varied and include actively coppiced valley alder. Both the wood and grassland habitats grade into a swamp and fen community fringing two lakes. This matrix of habitats contains many regionally uncommon plants and additionally supports a diverse assemblage of invertebrates, with several notable species.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 41% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition, and 59% of the SSSI is in an 'unfavourable-recovering' condition.

#### *Duncroft Farm Pit*

Notified in October 1991, 'Duncroft Farm Pit SSSI' is a geological SSSI located towards the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area. It is approximately 0.1ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>18</sup>:

*'Duncroft Farm Pit provides the only known exposure of beds of Upper Chalk dipping 25° to the north within the middle limit of the regional fold structure known as the Kingsclere Monocline. This fold is thought to have formed due to accommodation of the Mesozoic cover rocks above major faults in the underlying basement which moved during the Tertiary.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

#### *Burghclere Beacon (more commonly known as Beacon Hill)*

Notified in October 1984, 'Burghclere Beacon SSSI' is located towards the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is approximately 80.1 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>19</sup>:

*'Burghclere Beacon is a dome of chalk grassland crowned by an Iron Age hill fort, at the northern margin of the Hampshire chalk plateau. The site includes an extensive stand of juniper *Juniperus communis*, privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus*, rose *Rosa* spp., bramble *Rubus* spp., wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, which covers c. 20 ha to the west-facing slopes. There is little evidence of juniper regeneration (and some moribund bushes) and the site is probably witnessing a transition from juniper to a mixed scrub community, with the early indications of an eventual succession of woodland. The scrub is unusual on the chalk in lacking a yew *Taxus baccata*/ash *Fraxinus excelsior* component.*

*The open grassland is rich in herbs, with fescues *Festuca ovina* and *Festuca pratensis*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, spring sedge *Carex caryophyllea*, and locally quaking grass *Briza media* as dominants. Abundant herbs include ladies' bedstraw *Galium verum*, hedge bedstraw *G. mollugo*, creeping thistle *Cirsium acaule*, fairy flax *Linum catharticum*, bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, chalk milkwort *Polygala calcarea* and felwort *Gentianella amarella* and several species of orchids. There is a decidedly neutral element in the flora which suggests that the soils may in part be derived from superficial drift or loess.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

#### *Old Burghclere Lime Quarry*

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<sup>18</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Duncroft Farm Pit SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1005588&SiteName=&countyCode=19&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>19</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Burghclere Beacon SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1004436&SiteName=burgh&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 12/02/19]

Notified in March 1985, 'Old Burghclere Lime Quarry SSSI' is a geological SSSI located towards the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area. It is approximately 4.5 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>20</sup>:

*'The disused limeworks at Old Burghclere exhibits various stages in the succession from bare chalk on the steep quarry sides through chalk grassland to scattered and dense scrub. Actively worked into the beginning of this century, some of the quarry faces have not had time to become completely recolonised. Among the opportunist species able to establish themselves in the raw tallus and in the crevices of the solid rock are creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara*, yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata* and ribbed melilot *Melilotus officinalis*.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

### Ladle Hill

Notified in March 1985, 'Ladle Hill SSSI' is a SSSI located towards the south of the Neighbourhood Plan area. It is approximately 10.5 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following<sup>21</sup>:

*'Ladle Hill occupies the steep north and west-facing slopes and the ramparts of a hill fort on the crown of the escarpment. The Site of Special Scientific Interest supports some of the floristically richest chalk grassland on the northern escarpment of the Hampshire Chalk plateau.*

*The earthwork, in particular, is very rich in species, with up to 38/m<sup>2</sup> recorded, including an exceptionally good range of downland grasses and large populations of such rare or local plants as field fleawort *Senecio integrifolius*, chalk milkwort *Polygala calcarea*, hairy rock-cress *Arabis hirsuta*, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*. The escarpment slopes, though species-rich, support fewer species than the earthwork, but some, notably clustered bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, only occur there.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

### SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

SSSI IRZs are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular 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. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. In this context, the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within an IRZ for residential and/or rural-residential developments, including part of the built up area of the village in the vicinity of Harts Lane.

### Locally designated sites

#### Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

In the region of 50 SINCs (also known as Local Wildlife Sites) are present within or in the immediate vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are locally designated sites which are locally important for the conservation of wildlife. They are identified and selected for the significant habitats and species that they contain.

#### Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats

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<sup>20</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Old Burghclere Lime Quarry SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1000417&SiteName=&countyCode=19&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>21</sup> Natural England (no date): 'Ladle Hill SSSI', [online] available to download via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001172&SiteName=Hill&countyCode=19&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&FCAAarea=> [accessed 12/02/19]

Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types and were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

There are a range of Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area, as depicted in **Figure 3.1** overleaf (along with the location of designated sites). The habitats include: deciduous woodland, purple moor grass and rush pastures, lowland calcareous grassland and, in the far north of the parish, floodplain grazing marsh.

## Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species are likely to continue to be offered protection through the higher level planning framework, however they will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area. This has the potential for negative effects on the wider ecological network, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The Neighbourhood Plan provides opportunities to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, undesignated sites, and connections between designated sites and undesignated sites at a localised scale, and at an early stage of planning for future growth. This is particularly relevant in the siting of new smaller scale housing development.



## A3 – Climate Change

### Context Review

The UK Climate Change Act<sup>22</sup> 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:

- The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets' - 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.

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 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<sup>23</sup> contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, identified below:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, wellbeing 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, 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.

Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>24</sup> sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 6 'Protecting and improving the global environment', Goal 4 'A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought' and Goal 7 'Mitigating and adapting to climate change' directly relate to the Climate Change SA theme.

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<sup>22</sup> GOV.UK (2008) Climate Change Act 2008 [online] available at:  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents?\\_sm\\_au\\_="](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents?_sm_au_=) [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>23</sup> GOV.UK (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017 [online] available at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>24</sup> HM GOV (2019) 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>25</sup> (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; 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<sup>26</sup> 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.

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies an objective to 'Minimise our contribution to climate change and its effects through more efficient use of energy and natural resources and increased use of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure, as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change.' The following strategic policies within the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan directly relate to the Climate Change SA theme:

- Policy SD1 (Presumption in favour of sustainable development)
- Policy EM7 (Managing Flood Risk)
- Policy EM8 (Commercial Renewable/ Low Carbon Energy Generation)
- Policy EM9 (Sustainable Water Use)

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<sup>25</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 12/02/19]

<sup>26</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> [accessed 12/02/19]

## Summary of Current Baseline

### *Contribution to climate change*

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change<sup>27</sup> suggests that Basingstoke and Deane Borough has had higher per capita emissions total than that of both the South East and England since 2005. Basingstoke and Deane has also seen a 34.4% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for the South East of England (36.7%) and England (37.6%).

### *Potential effects of climate change*

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team.<sup>28</sup> UKCP09 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 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 for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>29</sup> are likely to be as follows:

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8°C; and
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 16% and summer mean precipitation is -19%.

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

- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction;
- 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;
- 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;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood relating problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

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<sup>27</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>28</sup> Data released 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21684> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>29</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) South West 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23687?emission=medium> [accessed 13/02/19]

## Flood Risk

The majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Flood Zone 1, showing that there is a <0.1% chance (1 in 1000) of river flooding in any given year<sup>30</sup>. There are areas of land adjacent to the River Enborne (on the northern and eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area) which are located within Flood Risk Zone 3, and have a >1% chance of being flooded each year. Completed in 2010, the most recent Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)<sup>31</sup> for the borough of Basingstoke and Deane highlights that flash flooding has occurred along the River Enborne and its tributaries, but there are no records of major flooding of properties, due to its rural nature and small catchment area.

Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with sections of medium-high risk predominantly located around River Enborne and its tributaries<sup>32</sup>.

Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has noted that Harts Hollow on Harts Lane frequently experiences sewerage overflows. This occurs following periods of intense rainfall, and results from an overwhelming of the parish's sewerage network.

## 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.

A Critical Drainage Area (CDA) is a discrete geographic area where multiple and interlinked sources of flood risk causes flooding in one or more Local Flood Risk Zones (LFRZ) during severe weather, impacting people, property and/or local infrastructure. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council may wish to designate their own CDAs (in the absence of any designations from the Environment Agency)<sup>33</sup> within the Neighbourhood Plan area within the future, for reasons such as surface water capacity issues.

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. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions. There is also a need to increase renewable energy development in Basingstoke and Deane, which local and neighbourhood planning can contribute to delivering.

New development has the potential to exacerbate the sewerage overflows at Harts Hollow within the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area.

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<sup>30</sup> GOV.UK (2019): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] available at: <<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>31</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2010): 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework [online] available at: <<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26006/1%20Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment.pdf>> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>32</sup> GOV.UK (2019): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available at: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/>> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>33</sup> GOV.UK (2017): 'Flood Risk Assessment in Flood Zone 1 and Critical Drainage Areas', [online] available to view via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-in-flood-zone-1-and-critical-drainage-areas>> last accessed [13/02/19]

## A4 – Landscape

### Context Review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>34</sup> (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.’
- 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:
  - a. Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
  - b. 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
  - c. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’

The policies contained within Chapter 2 ‘Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes’ environment’ of the Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’<sup>35</sup> directly relates to the Landscape SA theme.

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies an objective to ‘Protect and enhance the borough’s biodiversity and the locally distinctive character of our priority habitats and landscapes, such as the North Wessex Downs AONB, through protection, partnership working, conservation and active management.’ Policy EM1 (Landscape) and Policy EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development) from the Local Plan relates to the Landscape SA theme.

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan<sup>36</sup> sets out the policy framework for the North Wessex Downs and seeks to make the North Wessex Downs:

- A place where actions meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and where people have the skills and energy to adapt to change in ways that respect the unique qualities of the North Wessex Downs and deliver wider environmental, economic and social benefits.

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<sup>34</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>35</sup> HM GOV (2019) 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>36</sup> North Wessex Downs AONB (2013) North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-19 [online] available at: < [http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/uploads/File\\_Management/NWD\\_Docs/About\\_Us/Management\\_Plan/NWD\\_AONB\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2014-19.pdf](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/uploads/File_Management/NWD_Docs/About_Us/Management_Plan/NWD_AONB_Management_Plan_2014-19.pdf)> [accessed 13/02/19]

- A place where the highest environmental quality is seen as a key economic driver and where all economic activity is in harmony with maintenance of the landscape. New buildings and other forms of development display high quality design worthy of one of England's finest landscapes.
- A place with thriving land based and other rural enterprises where the sustainability of the North Wessex Downs is core to the business. Ensuring a countryside rich in wildlife and recreational opportunities while producing high quality products, including sustainable farming that benefits the local economy and surrounding countryside.
- A place with high quality habitats reflecting the distinctive character of the North Wessex Downs and stable and recovering populations of key species. Landscapes that are protected, expanded, linked and under beneficial management better able to respond to the pressures of climate change.
- A place with a rich and conserved cultural landscape where iconic monuments, designated heritage, archaeological sites and historic landscapes such as the Avebury World Heritage Site remain as indelible footprints in an evolving scene, managed to the very highest standards.
- A place where the integrated management of land conserves unpolluted soils and high quality water resources whilst retaining the distinctive seasonal winterbourne flows.
- A place whose character and tranquillity are recognised in development decisions around it, so that the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs is protected.
- A place where development is low-impact and affordable with a distinctive but subtle vernacular building style that combines the best of the old with the best of the new.
- A place with a sense of remoteness and tranquillity; where vast night skies can thrill the eye, unaffected by light pollution.
- A place with vibrant and balanced rural communities, with villages and market towns meeting the needs of local people and visitors where there is great local pride and positive local contribution to the management of the landscape.
- A place that is a nationally recognised centre for sustainable tourism and the responsible enjoyment of the countryside, developed and promoted in ways that are in harmony with the high environmental quality and community needs of the area, helping to underpin the land based and broader rural economy.
- A place with wide public recognition in the AONB and surrounding communities of the protected status and special qualities of the North Wessex Downs. All responsible bodies understanding and respecting the protected status of the AONB in their plans and proposals.
- A place that is a nationally recognised centre for sustainable tourism and the responsible enjoyment of the countryside, developed and promoted in ways that are in harmony with the high environmental quality and community needs of the area, helping to underpin the land based and broader rural economy.

## Summary of Current Baseline

### *North Wessex Downs AONB*

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are designated by the Government for the purpose of ensuring that the special qualities of the finest landscapes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are conserved and enhanced. The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, as confirmed by Section 82 of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act).

Designated in 1972, the North Wessex Downs AONB is the third largest in England, covering 173,000 ha. The vision for the AONB is for a 'vast dramatic, undeveloped and distinct chalk downlands with nationally significant areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, contrasting with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and intimate and secluded valleys, all rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage; a national

landscape that stands apart from the increasing urban pressures that surround it; where people live, work and relax; and where visitors are welcomed and contribute to a vibrant rural economy'. Split into eight distinctive landscape character types (LCT), the southern part of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area which lies within the AONB is covered by the 'Downland with Woodland' LCT, summarised below:

- This LCT is at low elevation and has a thick capping of clay with flints over chalk. It has soft contours and great woodland cover.
- Hedgerows and a mosaic of woodland cover, notably on the clay summits and as sinuous hangers along steeper slopes, create a sense of containment. There are also considerable areas of wood pasture and parkland.
- Agricultural land use is varied, with an intermixing of arable and pasture.
- Small villages nestle in sheltered valleys or are strategically located on ridge tops, with widespread scattered traditional farmsteads.

Key issues identified for the North Wessex Downs AONB regarding landscape are:

- The potential for development beyond the AONB boundary to visually damage or undermine the scale and critical qualities of Landscape Character Areas.
- Maintenance and, where possible, extension of chalk grassland habitat.
- Conserving and enhancing the remoteness and expansive open scale of the downland landscape.
- The need for viable agriculture to continue to contribute to AONB purposes.
- Conserving and enhancing the remote, secluded and relatively undeveloped character of more enclosed and intimate landscapes, including the character of the lanes.
- The need for appropriate woodland management, including the viable use of timber products, particularly for fuel.
- Encouraging restoration of wood pasture landscapes, husbandry and ecology and ensuring future veteran tree succession.
- The dominance of roads, in particular the impact of traffic noise, external lighting, road signs, insensitive materials and clutter on landscape character and people's experience of the landscape as they travel through it.
- Maintaining the pattern of discrete villages set within a quiet rural landscape and ensuring that the views to the surrounding dramatic scarps are undamaged.
- Intense pressure for development throughout the AONB and its setting that threatens the character and quality of its landscape and risks merging of small settlements or encroachment by larger settlements.
- The need to protect and enhance historic sites, buildings and landscapes and their setting.

### *National Character Areas*

The Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area lies across two National Character Areas (NCAs): Thames Basin Heath NCA covers the northern half and Hampshire Downs NCA covers the southern half.

The Thames Basin Heath NCA<sup>37</sup> stretches westwards from Weybridge in Surrey to the countryside around Newbury in Berkshire. The Chalk landscapes in the west extend from this NCA into the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs NCA and Hampshire Downs NCA. Key characteristics of the Thames Basin Heath NCA include:

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<sup>37</sup> Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 129 Thames Basin Heath [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4685559624630272?category=587130> [accessed 13/02/19]

- Plateaux of Tertiary sands and gravels in the London Basin, with intervening river valleys floored by London Clay. In the far west, Chalk forms the Hampshire Downs escarpment and the river beds of the Kennet and Pang.
- High woodland cover, offering an array of colour in the autumn. Conifers and large plantations on former heathland are dominant features in the east, while the west is scattered with small, semi-natural woodlands on ancient sites.
- Acid, leached soils mean that farming on the plateaux is limited to rough pasture, and that alternative land uses (such as forestry, golf courses and horse paddocks) have emerged. Heather, gorse, oak and birch all thrive here. Arable land and improved pasture are found in the valleys, on alluvium.
- Beyond the large areas of heathland and woodland, there is a patchwork of small to medium-sized fields with woods. The legacy of historic hunting forests includes veteran trees, ancient woods, ancient hedgerows and parklands. Historic meadows remain as fragments along watercourses.
- Prehistoric earthworks such as barrows and hill forts mark promontories on the plateaux. Archaeology is well preserved on historic heathland. Mosaics of open heathland and grassland with scrub, secondary woodland and plantation. Valley bogs, ponds and streams enhance diversity.
- Historic commons offer tranquillity and unenclosed views, while other rights of access are enjoyed across farmland, canals and downland.

The Hampshire Downs NCA<sup>38</sup> is part of the central southern England belt of Chalk, rising to 297 m in the north-west on the Hampshire–Wiltshire border. A steep scarp face delineates the Downs to the north, overlooking the Thames Basin, and to the east, overlooking the Weald. The majority of the area is an elevated, open, rolling landscape dominated by large arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils, scattered woodland blocks (mostly on clay-with-flint caps) and shelterbelts. Key characteristics of the Hampshire Downs NCA include:

- The rolling, elevated, chalk arable downland has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views.
- Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes are characterised by extensive open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts, and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks on clay-with-flint caps on some of the steeper slopes.
- In contrast, within the sheltered valleys and to the east of the area, the network of hedgerows, interspersed by numerous areas of oak/ash or hazel woodland coppice and smaller meadow fields, gives a strong sense of enclosure.
- There is widespread evidence of prehistoric settlement on the open downlands, including burial mounds with visually prominent iron-age hill forts. In the valleys, there is evidence of Roman estates and nucleated medieval village settlement patterns, and fieldscapes and farmsteads across the downlands evidence the gradual and planned enclosure from the medieval period.
- The area's distinctive appearance derives from the use of chalk cob (in the west), weatherboarded timber frame and small, handmade local brick with flint in traditional rural buildings and walls surrounding farm courtyards, with thatch surviving in many places.
- The settlement pattern varies between the relatively dense strings of villages along the lower river valleys and the very low-density, nucleated settlements in the upper reaches of the rivers and on the Downs.

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<sup>38</sup> Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 129 Hampshire Downs [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6738147345956864?category=587130> [accessed 13/02/19]

### *Landscape Assessment for Basingstoke and Dean*

A Landscape Assessment for Basingstoke and Deane borough was carried out in 2001.<sup>39</sup> This breaks the borough down into 20 Landscape Character Areas. The Landscape Character Area for Highclere and Burghclere is described as having the following key characteristics:

- Subtle but complex landform, steep in places but generally gently undulating and falling towards the River Enborne in the north, dissected by a network of minor tributary valleys;
- Small-scale mosaic of woodland, some mixed farmland and numerous paddocks, giving an enclosed, intimate character in parts;
- Area west of the A34 lies within the North Wessex Downs AONB and generally has a quiet, rural character away from larger residential areas, apart from some noise and visual intrusion from the A34;
- Generally medium to small-scale fields, with a predominance of pasture, enclosed within an established assarted woodland and intact hedgerow structure with a high proportion of hedgerow trees;
- Examples of scarce and fragile heathland and forest landscapes (e.g. Burghclere and Newtown Common), with evidence of healthy vegetation characteristics in many areas. Also remnants of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland;
- Low intervisibility across the area, with vegetation and the low-lying nature of the landscape containing views; and
- Numerous scattered small villages, hamlets, farmsteads and many residential properties, some accessed through a fairly dense network of narrow lanes. However, the paddocks, together with recent residential development, stud farms and a relatively high local population lend a rather urbanised character.

### *Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Viewpoint Study*

A landscape study has recently been carried out by the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which identified a number of key viewpoints around the built-up village of Burghclere<sup>40</sup>. The locations of the viewpoints are described below:

- Viewpoint 1: From Hart Lane looking North West to Sandham Memorial Chapel
- Viewpoint 2: From FP10, at Ox Drove looking South and South East towards village and Cobbetts View development
- Viewpoint 3: From Harts Lane opposite Hannington and Church View Cottages, looking South East towards the Downs
- Viewpoint 4: From Harts Lane outside Hannington and Church View Cottages, looking East and South East towards the church
- Viewpoint 5: From start of FP10 looking East
- Viewpoint 6: From the top of Silver's Copse (Jacob's Ladder) on FP13 looking North West, North and North East towards the village
- Viewpoint 7: 4 From FP13 where footpath and track from Harts Lane meet, South and South East to enjoy rural views and looking North to Portal Hall (360° view)
- Viewpoint 8: From farm gate opposite The Old Rectory to East and South East to Hannington and Downs

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<sup>39</sup> Landscape Design Associates (2001) Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment: Main Report [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/27452/3%20Landscape%20Assessment%20-%20The%20Landscape%20Character%20Areas.pdf> [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>40</sup> Source: Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

- Viewpoint 9: From gate opposite Henshaw house looking South East over fields towards Downs
- Viewpoint 10: From FP13 looking North to Portal Hall, West to Church, South to East to Ladle Hill, Watership Down and NWD AONB (360° view)

## 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 Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value.

## A5 – Historic Environment

### Context Review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>41</sup> include:

- 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:
  - a. Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
  - b. 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
  - c. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’
- 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.’

Additionally, the National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>42</sup> states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, ‘about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale’ and ‘about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions’.

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<sup>41</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 13/02/19]

<sup>42</sup> GOV (2018) Planning practice guidance [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> [accessed 13/02/2019]

Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', 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'<sup>43</sup> directly relates to the and Historic Environment SA theme.

At the local level, Basingstoke and Deane Local plan identifies an objective to 'Proactively manage the borough's rich historic and built environment to protect and enhance its quality and distinctiveness while accommodating change. This highly varied resource ranges from conservation areas, to listed buildings including the large country houses to numerous brick, flint and timber framed farm buildings and cottages distinctive of our rural areas.' The Local Plan also presents policy EM11 (The Historic Environment) to provide protection for and address the strategic issues in relation to the historic environment.

## Summary of Current Baseline

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 Plan area contains three Grade I, two Grade II\* and 52 Grade II listed buildings. Additionally, the western side of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area crosses Highclere Park which is a Grade I registered park and garden. A small part of Highclere Park is within the western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area

One of the Grade I Listed Buildings (Barn at Manor Farm, Old Burghclere, Burghclere) has been identified as 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register<sup>44</sup>. The building suffers from water ingress and failure joints and is in need of comprehensive repair.

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains ten scheduled monuments. These are all located in the south of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area and are listed below:

- Bowl barrow 100m east of Thorn Down: one of the group known as Seven Barrows. The monument includes a bowl barrow, the southernmost in a linear cemetery of ten Bronze Age round barrows, seven of which are upstanding, and is situated along the floor of a dry valley between Thorn Down and Great Litchfield Down.
- Bowl barrow 150m north east of Thorn Down: one of the group known as Seven Barrows. The monument includes a bowl barrow, one in a linear cemetery of ten Bronze Age round barrows, seven of which are upstanding, situated along the floor of a dry valley between Thorn Down and Great Litchfield Down.
- Two bowl barrows and a ring ditch 250m north east of Thorn Down: part of the group known as Seven Barrows. The monument includes two bowl barrows and a ring ditch, representing a ploughed-down barrow, in a linear cemetery of ten Bronze Age round barrows situated along the floor of a dry valley between Thorn Down and Great Litchfield Down. Seven of the barrows remain as upstanding monuments.
- Three bowl barrows 410m north east of Thorn Down: three of the group known as Seven Barrows. The monument includes three bowl barrows in a cemetery of ten Bronze Age round barrows, seven of which are upstanding, situated along the floor of a dry valley between Thorn Down and Great Litchfield Down.
- Ring ditch 250m NNE of Thorn Down: part of the group known as Seven Barrows. The monument includes a ring ditch, part of a linear cemetery of ten Bronze Age round barrows, seven of which are upstanding, situated along the floor of a dry valley between Thorn Down and Great Litchfield

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<sup>43</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 01/08/18]

<sup>44</sup> Historic England (2019) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> [accessed 15/02/19]

Down. The ring ditch, known from aerial photographs, is visible as soil marks 26m in overall diameter, representing the encircling quarry ditch of a bowl barrow.

- Large univallate hillfort at Beacon Hill. The monument includes a large univallate Iron Age hillfort situated on the summit of Beacon Hill, a ridge of Upper Chalk south of the Kennet valley. Following the contours of the hill, the hillfort measures 300m internally from north-west to south-east.
- A cross dyke and bowl barrow on the northern spur of Beacon Hill. The monument includes a section of a cross dyke of Iron Age date and a Bronze Age bowl barrow on the northern spur of Beacon Hill, a ridge of Upper Chalk south of the Kennet valley. The cross dyke is probably associated with the large univallate hillfort on the summit of Beacon Hill, a little over 200m to the south.
- A bowl barrow on the southern spur of Beacon Hill. The monument includes a bowl barrow of Bronze Age date on the spur running south from the summit of Beacon Hill, a ridge of Upper Chalk south of the Kennet valley. The barrow lies 120m south of the entrance of a large univallate hillfort.
- An unfinished hillfort, a saucer barrow, a disc barrow and sections of two linear earthworks on Ladle Hill. The monument includes an unfinished Early Iron Age hillfort, a disc barrow, a saucer barrow and sections of two linear earthworks of Bronze Age date situated on Ladle Hill.
- A section of a linear earthwork south west of Great Litchfield Down. The monument includes a section of an upstanding linear earthwork south west of Great Litchfield Down.

Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest<sup>45</sup>. There are no conservation areas within the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area.

It should be noted that not all of 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 seen as important by local communities.

The County Historic Environment Record (HER) is the principal record of the historic environment in Hampshire, going beyond the national heritage list to record many non-designated heritage assets. This is identified in both the NPPF and NPPG as an important information source for the historic environment that should be used in planning decisions. The Hampshire HER provides a report detailing all the heritage records within the parish. Summary information from the Hampshire HER is available via the Hampshire HER website, from which it is possible to gain mapping of features listed on the HER. The figure below denotes the records available on the Heritage Gateway for the built up area of Burghclere.

**Figure 6.1** below identifies designated heritage assets and protected landscapes in the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

## Summary of Future Baseline

New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural 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 cultural 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' cultural heritage significance.

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<sup>45</sup> Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/>> last accessed [15/02/19]



## A6 – Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Context Review

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>46</sup> 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.

The EU Water Framework Directive<sup>47</sup> (WFD) drives 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; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>48</sup> (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
  - a. Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
  - b. 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
  - c. 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.'

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<sup>46</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)> last accessed [15/02/19]

<sup>47</sup> European Commission (2016) The EU Water Framework Directive – integrated river basin management for Europe [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html) last accessed [15/02/19]

<sup>48</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

- 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.
- Encourage the effective use of land through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.
- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

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'<sup>49</sup> directly relates to the land, soil and water resources SA theme.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England<sup>50</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper<sup>51</sup>, 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<sup>52</sup> 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<sup>53</sup> 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<sup>54</sup>. 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.

The South East River Basin Management Plan<sup>55</sup> provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. It also informs decisions on land-use planning and

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<sup>49</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>50</sup> DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>51</sup> DEFRA (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/228861/8230.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228861/8230.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>52</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>53</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>54</sup> Directive 2008/98/EC

<sup>55</sup> DEFRA & Environment Agency (2015) Water for life and livelihoods Part 1: South East river basin district River basin management plan [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718337/South\\_East\\_RBD\\_Part\\_1\\_river\\_basin\\_management\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718337/South_East_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

provides baseline classification of water bodies, statutory objectives for protected areas, statutory objectives for water bodies, and a summary programme of measures to achieve statutory objectives.

At the local level, Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan provides policies SS4 (Ensuring a supply of deliverable sites), EM6 (Water Quality), EM9 (Sustainable Water Use), EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development) and EM12 (Pollution) which are relevant to the Land, soil and water resources SA theme.

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Water Cycle Study<sup>56</sup> forms part of the Local Plan and aims to better understand the relationship between development and the water environment around Basingstoke, by examining the potential impacts of future growth on the water cycle. Regarding water quality, it looks at the potential increased generation of sewerage and other wastewater and the potential increased risk to the quality of the water environment.

## Summary of Current Baseline

### *Soil Resources*

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into size 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 detailed classification has been undertaken in the north eastern corner of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area. Of this small area of land that has been classified, it has been classified as a combination of Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3a, Grade 4b and 'Other'. There are also some limited areas classified as Grade 3a and Grade 3b agricultural land located around the built-up village of Burghclere.

Elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan area a detailed classification has not been undertaken for the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area. As such, there is a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset.

The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset<sup>57</sup> shows that the Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly covered by Grade 3 agricultural land, however; without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. 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 within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### *Water Resources*

The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan area is the River Enborne which flows through the northern section of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area and eventually joins the River Kennet.

### *Water Quality*

The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the Kennet and Trib operational catchment<sup>58</sup>, The operational catchment contains 1 waterbody – River Enborne. The River Enborne is classified by the Environment Agency as having 'good' chemical quality, and 'moderate' ecological quality. This is likely to be linked to nitrates; given that the southern end of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area lies within a

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<sup>56</sup> Halcrow (2007) Basingstoke Cycle Study [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ENV06> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>57</sup> 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>> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>58</sup> Environment Agency (2019) Catchment Data Explorer [online] available at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/6> [accessed 15/02/19]

designated Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.<sup>59</sup> The reasons for not achieving 'good' status relates to sewage discharge and agriculture and rural land management.

### *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<sup>60</sup>. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan states that there are several mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) within the parish, one of which surrounds the existing village of Burghclere. Further detail is provided within Hampshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Plan<sup>61</sup>.

## Summary of Future Baseline

Further development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider area.

It is unlikely that small scale development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan area would have a significant impact on the wider area's Nitrate Vulnerable Zone unless agricultural intensification occurs.

Development in the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to lead to losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

## A7 – Population and Community

### Context Review

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>62</sup> (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.

<sup>59</sup> Natural England (2018) Magic Map Application [online] available at: <http://magic.gov.uk/> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>60</sup> GOV.UK (2014): 'Minerals Guidance', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals>> last accessed [11/03/19]

<sup>61</sup> Hampshire County Council (2013): 'Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/safeguarding-resources>> last accessed [16/08/19]

<sup>62</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 09/01/19]

- 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.
- '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 well-being 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.
- 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.
- 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<sup>63</sup> 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.

Policies contained in Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably', Chapter 3 'Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'<sup>64</sup> directly relates to the Population and Communities SA theme.

Other key national messages in relation to health include; Fair Society, Healthy Lives<sup>65</sup> ('The Marmot Review') which 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 there is 'overwhelming evidence that health and

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<sup>63</sup> Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldselect/ldpublic/140/140.pdf> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>64</sup> 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](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>65</sup> The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170106161952/http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106> [accessed 15/02/19]

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<sup>66</sup> 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.

The Basingstoke and Deane Health and Wellbeing Partnership comprises representatives from various local organisations seeking to improve health outcomes for local residents. The partnership published a Shared Plan to Improve Health and Wellbeing in Basingstoke and Deane.<sup>67</sup> The plan aims to support and raise awareness of activities and services in the community, as well as to influence the design of places and systems to make it easier for residents to be and stay well. It identifies 4 priority areas:

- Physical activity;
- Mental wellbeing;
- Positive healthy behaviours; and
- Social connections.

At the local level, Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies the following objectives:

- ‘Facilitate a well-educated and highly skilled local population and workforce with strong connections to the local business community and opportunities to access high quality education and jobs with lifelong learning for all.
- Focus the provision for new housing and supporting infrastructure within a number of development sites around Basingstoke town, with local level housing provision in our other main settlements, and homes which respond to local needs in smaller settlements.
- Ensure that infrastructure is planned for prior to development and delivered alongside development to meet the changing needs of our residents and employers, including the broader infrastructure needs of an increasingly ageing population. This will include the provision of flexible accommodation that responds to varying needs and supports mixed and inclusive communities with the opportunity for social interaction.
- Provide new housing which incorporates a mix of tenure, size and type to meet the borough’s needs and enable accommodation for all, including older people and downsizers, smaller households, families, and resident gypsy and travellers.
- Promote and support successful regeneration and renewal schemes to improve social, built and natural environments, and improve housing and employment areas of poor quality. This will be delivered through a partnership approach and close working with local communities and businesses to address existing pockets of deprivation and reduce inequalities at a neighbourhood level’.

The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies an objective to ‘promote healthy lifestyles by maintaining and enhancing the quality and value of community, health, cultural, leisure and recreational facilities and open spaces that support and provide opportunities for participation in social and physical activity in local communities and good access to health services’. The plan presents policies CN7 (Essential Facilities and Services) and CN8 (Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities), SS5 (Neighbourhood Planning), CN1 (Affordable Housing), CN2 (Rural Exceptions for Affordable Housing), CN3 (Housing Mix for Market Housing), CN4 (Housing for older people/Specialist Housing), CN5 (Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople), CN6 (Infrastructure), CN7 (Essential Facilities and Services), CN8 (Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities), EP1 (Economic Growth and Investment),

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<sup>66</sup> Health and Social Care Act 2012: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted>

<sup>67</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2016) Our shared plan To improve health and wellbeing in Basingstoke and Deane 2016 to 2020 [online] available at: <https://basp.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/77.pdf> [last accessed 15/02/18]

EP3 (Town, District and Local Centres), and EP4 (Rural Economy) ,all of which are relevant to the Population and Community SA theme.

The Basingstoke and Deane Housing and Homelessness Strategy<sup>68</sup> sets out the strategic approach to meet housing needs of those residents who are unable to afford or access a home of a suitable standard.

## Summary of Current Baseline

### Population

The population of Burghclere increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East of England and England averages<sup>69</sup>.

### Age Structure

Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (26.5%) in comparison to the total for Basingstoke and Deane (20.5%), the South East (23.3%) and England (22.3%). In contrast, a lower proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (43.1%) in comparison to the percentages for the borough of Basingstoke and Deane (49.6%), the South East of England (46.4%) and England (46.9%)<sup>70</sup>. Additionally, 30.4% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the younger age categories (0-15 and 16-24), broadly similar to the percentages for Basingstoke and Deane (29.9%), the South East of England (30.2%) and England (30.8%).

### 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, fewer households are deprived in 1 or more dimensions within the Neighbourhood Plan area (44.6%) in comparison to Basingstoke and Deane (48.0%) the South East of England (52.3%) and England (57.5%)<sup>71</sup>. Out of the 44.6% 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.

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<sup>68</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2016) Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2016 to 2020 [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/32000/Housing%20and%20Homelessness%20Strategy%202016-2020.pdf> [accessed 15/02/19]

<sup>69</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

<sup>70</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

<sup>71</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

### *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 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:
  - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
  - Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) 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.

The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within the LSOA Basingstoke and Deane. This LSOA is within the 40% least deprived LSOAs in England.

### *Housing Tenure*

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 71.0% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (67.7%), the South East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%)<sup>72</sup>. There are a lower proportion of residents living within privately rented in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national trends. Additionally, there are a lower proportion of residents living in social rented accommodation in comparison to

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<sup>72</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

Basingstoke and Deane, the South East of England and England. The percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area living in shared ownership accommodation (0.2%) is lower than the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (1.4%), the South East of England (1.1%) and England (0.8%).

### *Education*

Based on the 2011 Census data<sup>73</sup>, 14.8% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, slightly lower than the total for Basingstoke and Deane (15.2%), the South East of England (19.1%) and England (20.7%). Comparatively, 39.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have a Level 4 qualification or above, which is over 10% higher than the total for the South East of England (29.9%) and the total for England (27.4%).

### *Employment*

In regards to employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents<sup>74</sup>:

- Professional occupations (20.4%);
- Managers, directors, senior officials (19.6%) and
- Associate professional & technical occupations (12.5%).

Overall, 52.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, higher than the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (45.8%), the South East of England (44.8%) and England (41.1%). This suggests that the Neighbourhood Plan area has a highly skilled workforce, supported by the percentage of residents with a Level 4 qualification or above.

### *Services*

Services within the Neighbourhood Plan area are limited to two pubs (The Carpenters Arms and The Carnarvon Arms), two churches (Old Burghclere and Church of the Ascension) and four educational establishments (St Michael's, The Clere, Burghclere Primary and Burghclere pre-school).

### *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 Chapter 8. Based on 2011 Census data<sup>75</sup>, 87.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', similar to the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (85.8%), but higher than the South East of England (83.7%) and England (81.4%). Similarly, the percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area considering themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health' is 2.7%, lower than the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (3.5%), the South East of England (4.3%) and England (5.4%).

The total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a little' is broadly similar the regional and national totals<sup>76</sup>. There are a lower number of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' (3.5%) in comparison to Basingstoke and Deane (5.6%), the South East of England (6.9%) and England (8.3%). Overall, 88.0% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their activities are 'not limited', slightly higher than the totals for Basingstoke and Deane (86.5%), the South East of England (84.3%) and England (82.4%).

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<sup>73</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

<sup>74</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

<sup>75</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

<sup>76</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

## Summary of Future Baseline

As the population continues to age, this has the potential to place pressures on wider services and facilities within the timeframe of the Neighbourhood Plan. This could negatively impact on the future vitality of the local community and economy.

Population trends indicate an ageing population. Considering that the area is not deprived in relation to indices such as health deprivation and disability, it is expected that increasing numbers of elderly residents will continue. This can have implications for housing and may indicate a need for more specialist accommodation to meet the needs of the elderly in the future.

Overall levels of deprivation in the Neighbourhood Plan area are likely to remain low.

A large number of people run businesses from home in the Neighbourhood Plan area and there is small business community present.

Health and wellbeing levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally better than regional and national averages with a higher percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health.

A growing and 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.

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.

## A8 – 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 National Planning Policy Framework<sup>77</sup> (NPPF) include:

- 'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
  - a. The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed
  - b. Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised
  - c. Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued
  - d. The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account
  - e. Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.'

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<sup>77</sup> MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf) [accessed 15/02/19]

'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.<sup>78</sup> A draft Transport Strategy is currently being prepared by Basingstoke and Deane and proposes a range of measures for improving transport including:

- Improving access to and within the town centre;
- Creating new developments which are well-planned and integrated with the existing transport network;
- Providing a step change in the quality of local public transport;
- Developing high quality priority strategic walking and cycling corridors;
- Managing journey times and reliability;
- Maintaining strong strategic transport connections; and
- Forward planning of the transport network to meet future needs.

The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan identifies an objective to 'Reduce the need to travel, providing sustainable and fully accessible transport opportunities, and promoting walking and cycling across the borough. Work in partnership to address issues around junction 6 of the M3 and the delivery of strategic transport infrastructure.' The plan provides policies SS10 (Chineham Railway Station) and CN9 (Transport) which are relevant to the Transport SA theme.

## Summary of Current Baseline

### *Rail network*

There are no railway stations within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest stations to the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area are Newbury (approximately 3.2km from the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area) and Newbury Racecourse (approximately 3.1km from the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area). Additionally, Whitchurch station is approximately 6.2km away from the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area and Overton is 6.8km away. Newbury station provides regular services to Reading and London Paddington. Whitchurch and Overton stations provide services into London Waterloo, Basingstoke, Andover and Salisbury.

### *Bus network*

In regard to the bus network, there are relatively limited services running from Burghclere. The 7A bus service runs between Burghclere and Newbury but is restricted to 3 services a day.

### *Road network and congestion*

The Neighbourhood Plan area is well connected with the national road network. The A34 runs north-south along the western side of the parish and is accessed at Tot Hill from the Winchester Road and the B4640. The A34 is the main North-South arterial link from Southampton to Oxford and beyond. North west of Newbury the A34 connects the M4 with routes East to Reading, Heathrow and London, and West to Swindon and Bristol. To the south the A34 bisects the A303 with routes to Basingstoke and London on the M3, and to the West Country. The A339, running between Newbury and Basingstoke, is easily accessible from the north of the parish.

### *Cycle and footpath network*

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<sup>78</sup> Local Transport Act 2008 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/26/contents> [accessed 15/02/19]

The parish has a well-developed public rights of way network. The Brenda Parker Way is a long-distance path which runs across north Hampshire and passes through Burghclere. There are no national cycle routes running through the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan area.

### *Availability of cars and vans*

Based on the 2011 Census data<sup>79</sup>, 94.5% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is significantly higher than the percentages for Basingstoke and Deane (84.8%), 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 (71.7%) is almost 30% higher than the total for Basingstoke and Deane (45.1%), and over 30% higher than the total for the South East of England (39.7%) and over 40% higher than the total for England (32.0%).

### *Travel to work*

The most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (45.8%) which is slightly lower than Basingstoke and Deane (48.2%), but higher than the total for the South East of England (41.3%) and England (36.9%)<sup>80</sup>. A higher percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan work mainly from home in comparison to the regional and national trends. In contrast, a lower proportion of residents walk to work or catch a bus, minibus or coach.

## **Summary of Future Baseline**

A continued reliance on the private car is highly likely within the Neighbourhood Plan area, particularly given the size of the village and its rural nature; residents are likely to continue to travel outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area to access key services and facilities.

Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use given the lack of public transport options.

Given the scale of development likely to come forward through the Neighbourhood Plan area, it is unlikely that this development will contribute to any significant improvements in public transport provision. The limited scale is also unlikely to significantly impact upon the road network and congestion.

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<sup>79</sup> ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

<sup>80</sup> ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

