

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

November 2019

Quality information

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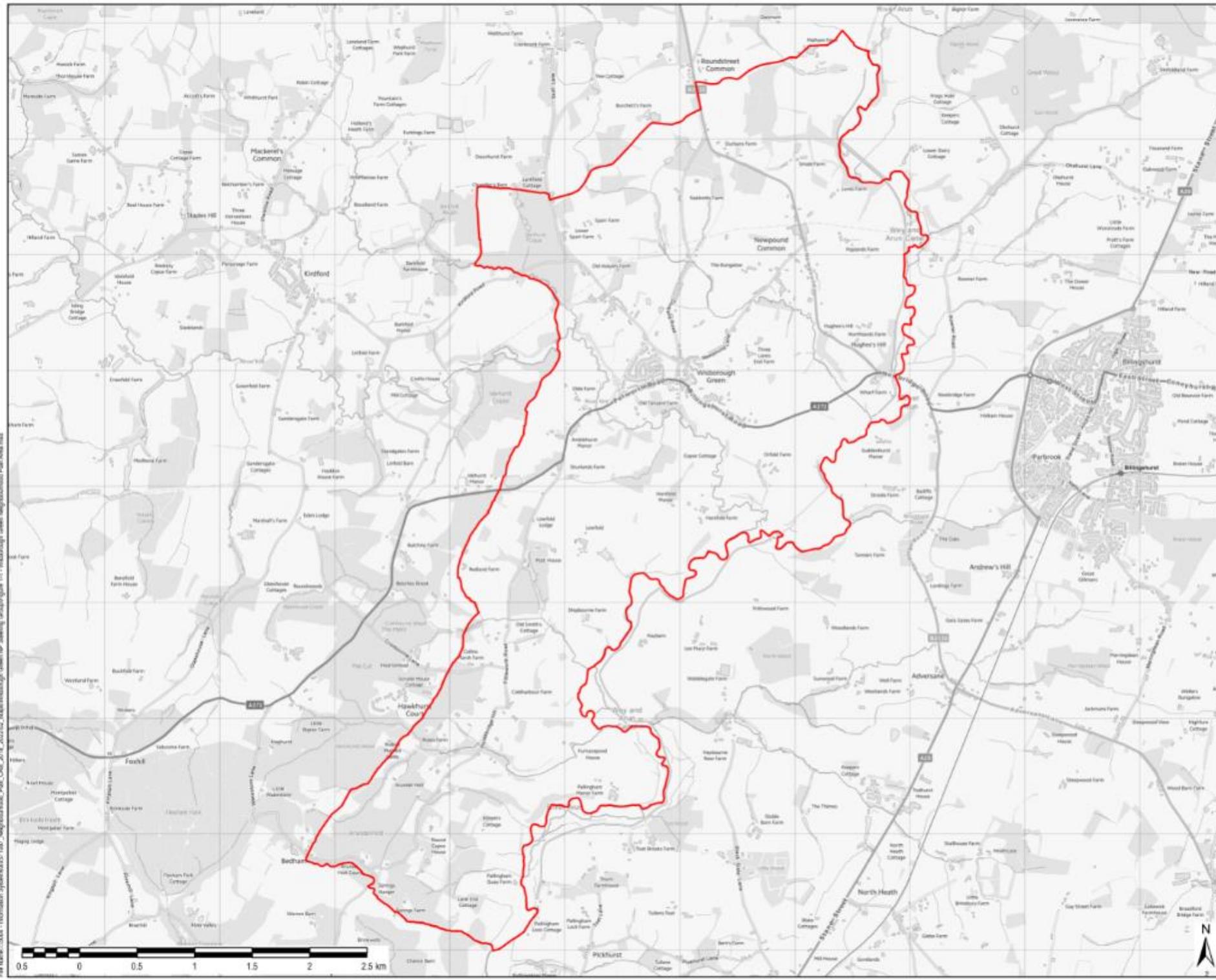
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LEGEND

- Wisborough Green
- Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue: **FINAL**

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FIGURE 1.1

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Wisborough Green's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Wisborough Green 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 Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies (2014-2019), with due regard given to the emerging Chichester Local Plan Review (2016-2035).
- 1.3 It is currently anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Chichester District Council in early 2020.
- 1.4 Key information relating to the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Wisborough Green Parish Council
Title of Plan	Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	<p>The Wisborough Green 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 Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies (2014-2029), with due regard given to the emerging Chichester Local Plan Review (2016-2035).</p> <p>The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2035
Area covered by the plan	The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Wisborough Green in West Sussex (Figure 1.1).
Summary of content	The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Louise Davies, Wisborough Green Parish Council Email address: clerk@wisboroughgreenpc.org

Relationship of the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan with the Chichester Local Plan

- 1.5 The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the 'Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029'¹ (adopted in July 2015), with due regard given to the emerging Local Plan Review. The Local Plan provides the broad policy framework and a long-term strategy to manage development, protect the environment, deliver infrastructure and promote sustainable communities within Chichester District.
- 1.6 In the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area, Wisborough Green is designated as a 'Service Village' within Policy 2 'Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy' of the Local Plan. Outside of Chichester city and the four Settlement Hubs of East Wittering/Bracklesham, Selsey, Southbourne and Tangmere, Policy 2 states that the Service Villages will be the focus of new development and facilities. Provisions will be made for the following:
- Small scale housing developments consistent with the indicative housing numbers set out in Policy 5 'Parish Housing Sites 2012-2029', stated as 60 dwellings for Wisborough Green;
 - Local community facilities, including village shops that meet identified needs within the village, neighbouring villages and surrounding smaller communities, which will help make the settlements more self-sufficient; and
 - Small scale employment, tourism and leisure proposals.
- 1.7 A 'Site Allocations Development Plan Document' (DPD) was prepared to help deliver the housing and employment numbers within the Local Plan. Table 1.1 within the DPD confirms that 57 dwellings will be delivered through extant planning permissions, with a further eleven dwellings achieved through additional housing sites through the 'made' Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan (which was adopted in July 2016). The DPD does not propose any additional allocations within the Neighbourhood Plan area.²
- 1.8 Chichester District Council are in the process of undertaking a review of the Local Plan. The Preferred Approach version of the Chichester Local Plan Review³ (2016-2035) was published for Regulation 18 Consultation between December 2018 and February 2019. Within the emerging Local Plan, Policy S2 'Settlement Hierarchy' also lists Wisborough Green as a 'Service Village'. Policy S5 'Parish Housing Requirements 2016-2035' confirms that small scale housing sites should be identified for the development of an additional 25 dwellings in Wisborough Green Parish over the plan period, to be found within the revision of the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for Chichester, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Chichester, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

¹ Chichester District Council (2014): 'Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/newlocalplan>> last accessed [24/10/19]

² Chichester District Council (2019): 'Site Allocation DPD 2014-2029', [online] available to download via: <<http://chichester.gov.uk/siteallocation>> last accessed [24/10/19]

³ Chichester District Council (2019): 'Chichester Local Plan Review: Preferred Approach (2016-2035)', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/30923/Preferred-approach---consultation-December-2018>> last accessed [24/10/19]

SEA Explained

- 1.10 The Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Chichester District Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.
- 1.11 The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.12 SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.13 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
 - i. 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
 - ii. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

This scoping report

- 1.14 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item 'i' above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

SEA 'Scoping' Explained

- 1.15 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
 - i. Defining the broader context for the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
 - ii. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
 - iii. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
 - iv. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

Structure of this Report

Key sustainability issues

1.16 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps i-iv above have been presented under a series of key environmental themes, as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Climatic Factors (including flood risk)
- Landscape
- Historic Environment
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transportation

1.17 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive⁴. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects. It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under these nine themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives.

1.18 The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 10.

SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

1.19 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework.

1.20 The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 10.

⁴ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

Policy Context

2.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁵ 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.*

2.2 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment'⁶ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25-year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

2.3 At the local level, Policy 39 'Transport, Accessibility and Parking' within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

2.4 Implemented in 2015, the AQAP for Chichester District 'Towards Better Air Quality'⁷ outlines five priority actions for improving air quality across the district, including:

- Priority 1: Measure, model, and report on air quality;
- Priority 2: Strengthen partnerships, seek funds, pool resources and exploit synergies;
- Priority 3: Encourage low emission technology;
- Priority 4: Encourage and foster behavioural change/modal shift; and

⁵ HM GOV (2018): 'Revised National Planning Policy Framework', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework>> last accessed [06/11/19]

⁶ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 20/02/19]

⁷ Chichester District Council (2015): 'Towards Better Air Quality: An AQAP for Chichester District (2015-2020)' [online] available to access via: <<http://chichester.gov.uk/pollutioncontrolairquality>> last accessed [14/04/19]

- Priority 5: Be innovative, capitalise on opportunities and reduce emissions by 1%.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 2.5 Chichester District Council is required to monitor air quality across the district under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.
- 2.6 Released in June 2019, the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)⁸ for Chichester confirms that there are three AQMAs within the district, designated primarily for exceedances in the national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂):
- Stockbridge roundabout at the junction with the A27 and A286;
 - Orchard Street (A286), Chichester; and
 - St Pancras (A286), Chichester
- 2.7 There are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.8 The ASR notes that the road network within the district is vulnerable to air pollution issues associated with congestion. The ASR also notes that one of the key priorities for Chichester District Council over the next year is to complete work on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, enabling the network to be developed and the priorities for infrastructure to be established.

Summary of future baseline

- 2.9 New housing and employment provision within the parish has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂, particularly along the main routes through the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 2.10 Implementation of the aims, objectives and policies contained in the AQAP and the Local Transport Plan (further discussed in Chapter 10), along with the broad air quality mitigation measures for the European designated sites contained within the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)⁹ for the Chichester Local Plan Review, present opportunities to continue to improve air quality within both the Neighbourhood Plan area and the wider district.

Key Sustainability Issues

- There are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the ASR notes that the road network within the district is vulnerable to air pollution issues associated with congestion.
- The ASR confirms that there are three AQMAs within Chichester district, all of which are within the city of Chichester, approximately 30km to the south west of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Emissions associated with road transport (primarily NO₂) are the main pollutant of concern.
- Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

⁸ Chichester District Council (2018): 'Air Quality ASR for Chichester District', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/pollutioncontrolairquality>> last accessed [27/10/19]

⁹ Chichester District Council (2018): 'Habitat Regulations Assessment: Chichester Local Plan Review', [online] available to access via: <<http://chichester.gov.uk/article/30928/Supporting-evidence---Local-Plan-review>> last accessed [27/08/19]

3. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Focus of Theme

- Nature conservation designations
- Geological sites
- Habitats
- Species

Policy Context

3.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy¹⁰ 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'*.

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

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to *'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment' including by 'helping to improve biodiversity.'*
- *'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value [...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape 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*
 - 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.'*

3.3 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)¹¹ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of

¹⁰ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf last accessed [27/06/18]

¹¹ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> last accessed [19/09/18]

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.

3.4 Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*¹².

3.5 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan¹³ 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.

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

3.7 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the biodiversity and geodiversity SEA theme:

- Policy 48 'Natural Environment'; and
- Policy 49 'Biodiversity'.

¹² DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed [19/0918]

¹³ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 19/09/18]

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

European designated sites

- 3.8 Located alongside the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, 'The Mens' Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹⁴ was designated in April 2005 and covers an area of approximately 200 ha. Primarily an area of broad-leaved deciduous woodland, the Annex I habitats that is the primary reason for the selection of the site is 'Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrub layer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*); Beech forests on acid soils'. Likewise, the Annex II listed Barbastelle bat (*Barbastella barbastellus*) is present as a qualifying feature, but not as a primary reason for the selection of the site.
- 3.9 The European Site Conservation Objectives¹⁵ for 'The Mens' SAC seek to maintain or restore:
- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
 - The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;
 - The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;
 - The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;
 - The population of qualifying species; and
 - The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
- 3.10 Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS). Although the IPENS project closed in 2015, the SIP for 'The Mens'¹⁶ provides a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the SAC.
- 3.11 Specifically, the SIP outlines the priority actions required to improve the condition of the site, with timescales for several actions ongoing until 2020. Priority issues and actions are grouped into the following six categories: forestry and woodland management, habitat connectivity, invasive species, change in land management, air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, and public access / disturbance.

Nationally designated sites

- 3.12 Sharing an overlapping designation with 'The Mens' SAC, 'The Mens' Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was notified in July 1986 under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The citation for the SSSI states¹⁷:

"The Mens remains as one of the most extensive examples of Wealden Woodland in West Sussex. It is important for its size, structural diversity and the extremely rich fungal and lichen floras which occur here. The wood supports a diverse community of breeding birds and is the locality of a nationally endangered species of fly.

"Much of the woodland lies on Weald Clay although in some places Paludina limestone outcrops at the surface. The woodland is predominantly high forest of sessile and pedunculate oak

¹⁴ JNCC (no date): 'The Mens Special Area of Conservation', [online] available to access via:

<<https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0012716>> last accessed [27/10/19]

¹⁵ Natural England (2014): 'European Site Conservation Objectives for The Mens SAC (UK0012716)', [online] available to access via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5642356338458624>> last accessed [27/10/19]

¹⁶ Natural England (2015): 'Site Improvement Plan: The Mens (SIP242)', [online] available to access via:

<<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5548316158853120>> last accessed [27/10/19]

¹⁷ Natural England (no date): 'The Mens SSSI', [online] available to access via:

<<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1000537>> last accessed [27/10/19]

(*Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur* respectively), beech *Fagus sylvatica* holly *Ilex aquifolium* and locally, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, birches *Betula spp.* and wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis*. Beech dominates the lighter soils over an understorey of holly and yew *Taxus baccata*. On the heavier clay soils oak-ash woodland occurs over a mixed shrub layer which includes hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

"The Mens has one of the richest lichen floras in the south-east, including several species closely associated with ancient woodlands. The site also supports a rich bryophyte flora (mosses and liverworts), with a number of locally rare species such as the moss *Brachydontium trichodes*. In addition, The Mens is one of the richest woods in the country for fungi with three species of *Russula* for which this is the only known site. Two other species have been recorded from only two other sites in Britain.

"The Mens has an important insect fauna. Many rare beetles (*Coleoptera*) are found here together with one species of fly *Chelostoma curvinervis* which is endangered with extinction. Woodland butterflies and moths (*Lepidoptera*) are also well represented here and include such notable species as the purple emperor *Apatura iris* and the orange footman moth *Eilema sororcula*."

- 3.13 Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2008 and 2013, 97.33% of the SSSI was classified as being in a 'favourable' condition, with the remaining 2.67% of the SSSI classified as 'unfavourable – declining'.

- 3.14 Designated in May 1998 and covering an area of approximately 17 ha, the Upper Arun SSSI borders the eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, incorporating the River Arun. The citation for the SSSI states¹⁸:

"The Upper Arun consists of a 13km length of the River Arun, flowing south across the weald clay and lower greensand between New Bridge, Billingshurst and Stopham Bridge, Pulborough. It supports an outstanding assemblage of breeding dragonflies including several rare species.

"The Upper Arun is relatively unpolluted and supports a diverse riverine flora. This, together with a varied river structure caused by cattle trampling and other erosion, has resulted in an extremely complex habitat upon which the dragonflies depend for breeding, feeding and resting sites. Common clubrush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* and reed canarygrass *Phalaris arundinacea* are abundant, together with sedges *Carex spp.*, water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* and yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea*. The river banks are largely vegetated with grasses such as tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* together with nettle *Urtica dioica* and docks *Rumex spp.* In places the banks have been trodden-in by cattle and are bare of vegetation.

"Fifteen species of dragonfly breed within the river, including the nationally rare scarce chaser *Libellula fulva*, for which this is the best stretch of river in West Sussex. Also found are the notable species club-tailed dragonfly *Gomphus vulgatissimus*, brilliant emerald *Somatochlora metallica* and the hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*."

- 3.15 Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2011, 100% of the SSSI was classified as being in an 'unfavourable – recovering' condition.
- 3.16 A further two SSSIs are within 1km from the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: Coppedhall Hanger SSSI (to the north east) and Bognor Common Quarry SSSI (to the south west).

¹⁸ Natural England (no date): 'Upper Arun SSSI', [online] available to access via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1000768> last accessed [27/10/19]

- 3.17 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with a SSSI IRZ for one or more of the development types likely to be taken forward through the Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential development types).

Locally important sites

- 3.18 There are several Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)¹⁹ located within or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, most of which share overlapping designations with the European and nationally designated sites. These are: Dunhurst and Northup Copses SNCI; Wisborough Green Pastures SNCI; Blackhouse Copse Complex and Meadows SNCI; Badlands Meadows, Badland Hanger and Brickkiln Common Complex SNCI; Bignor Hangar SNCI; Flexham Park SNCI; and the Wey and Arun Canal, River Arun and adjacent meadows SNCI.
- 3.19 There are areas of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland fens, lowland meadows and traditional orchard. There are also several areas of ancient woodland within the parish.
- 3.20 **Figure 3.1** below shows the designated wildlife sites and BAP priority habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of future baseline

- 3.21 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.
- 3.22 The Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them. It will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of housing, employment and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised both within the Neighbourhood Plan area and in the surrounding areas.
- 3.23 European protected sites are particularly sensitive to air quality and water quality issues, coastal squeeze, loss of functionally and recreational pressures. Regarding air quality, exceeding critical values for air pollutants may result in changes to the chemical status of habitat substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering vegetation structure and composition of habitats. Additionally, the nature, scale, timing and duration of some human activities can result in the disturbance of birds (i.e. – the notifying features of the European protected sites within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area) at a level that may substantially affect their behaviour, and consequently affect the long-term viability of their populations.

¹⁹ Chichester District Council (2019): 'My Chichester District', [online] available to access via: <<https://mydistrict.chichester.gov.uk/>> last accessed [27/10/19]

Key Sustainability Issues

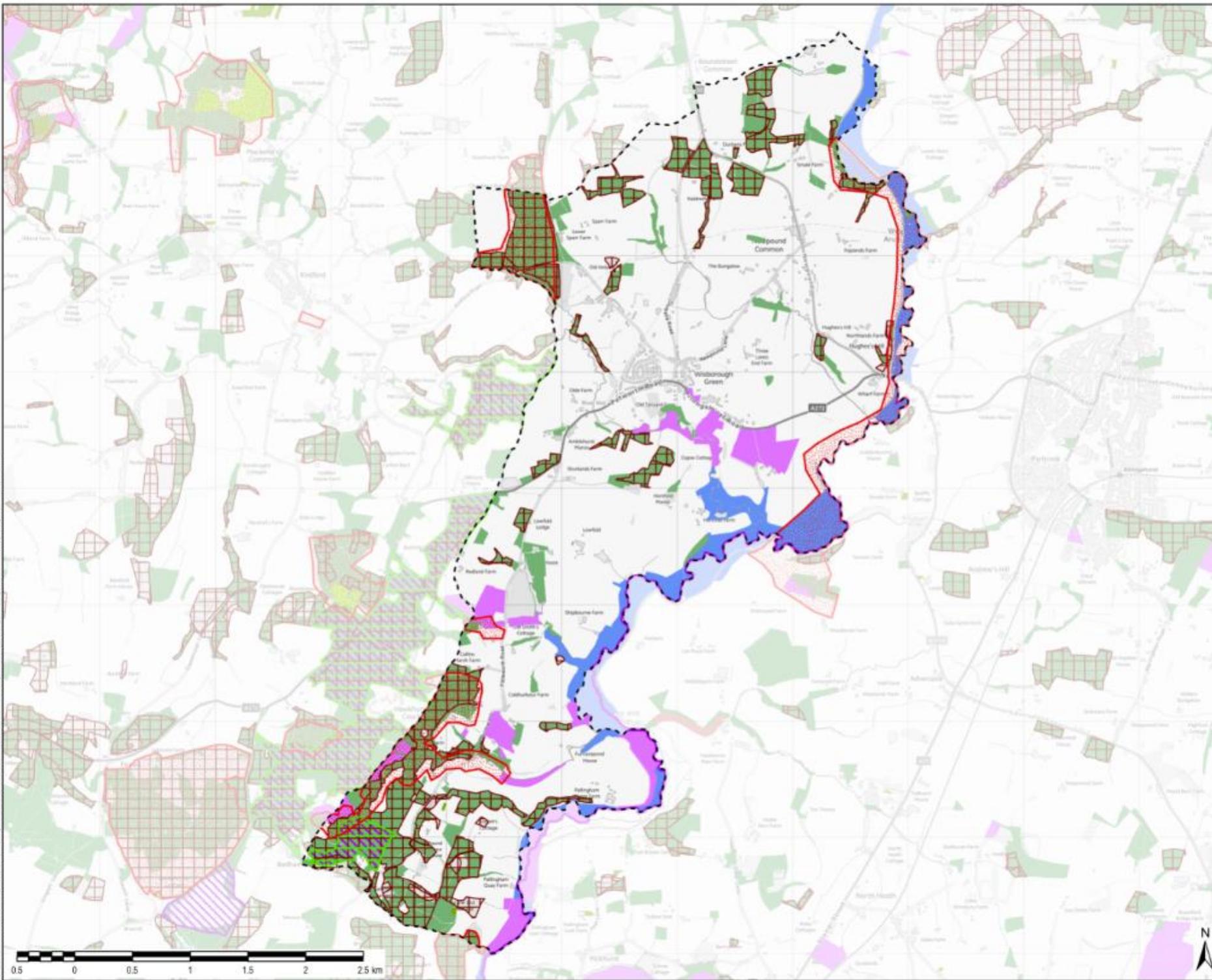
- The integrity of 'The Mens' SAC is threatened by a variety of factors, including: forestry and woodland management, habitat connectivity, invasive species, change in land management, air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, and public access / disturbance.
- 'The Mens' SSSI is located alongside the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The whole of the parish overlaps with a SSSI IRZ for the development types likely to be taken forward through the Plan (i.e. residential, rural residential and rural non-residential).
- A further two SSSIs are within 1km from the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Plan area, namely: 'Coppedhall Hanger' SSSI (to the north east) and 'Bognor Common Quarry' SSSI (to the south west).
- At the local level, there are several SNClS located either within or within proximity to the parish, containing habitats and species listed in the annexes of both the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).
- Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area include: coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland fens, lowland meadows, traditional orchard, and ancient woodland.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme?

SEA objective Assessment Questions

<p>Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geodiversity</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the European designated sites located within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Support the status of the nationally and locally designated sites within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Protect and enhance priority habitats and species, including those listed in the annexes of the European Habitats Directive and the European Birds Directive? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
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LEGEND

- Wisborough Green
- Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Ancient Woodland
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats**
- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Deciduous Woodland
- Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Lowland Meadows
- Traditional Orchard

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Purpose of Issue: **FINAL**

Client: **WISBOROUGH GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Project Title: **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE WISBOROUGH GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title: **BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS AND HABITATS**

Drawn CN	Checked JW	Approved TS	Date 15/10/2019
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Rev: **01**



4. Climate Change

Focus of Theme

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

Policy Context

4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below²⁰ :

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

4.2 The UK Climate Change Act²¹ 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.

4.3 The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

²⁰ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> last accessed [20/09/18]

²¹ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> last accessed [19/09/18]

- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page 22.

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

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

4.5 The Flood and Water Management Act²³ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).²⁴

4.6 Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.²⁵ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

²² Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> last accessed [19/09/18]

²³ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>> last accessed [19/09/18]

²⁴ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

²⁵ CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDs – making it happen' [online] available to access via <http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx> last accessed [19/09/18]

4.7 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014–2029 directly relate to the climate change SEA theme:

- Policy 40 'Sustainable Design and Construction';
- Policy 41 'Off-site Renewable Energy'; and
- Policy 42 'Flood and Water Management'

4.8 Implemented by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), the Climate Change Adaptation Plan²⁶ for the National Park seeks to:

- Assess the current and predicted impacts of climate change in relation to their purposes and statutory functions;
- Conduct an assessment of the risks and opportunities this presents to the assets of the National Park and the business of the Authority; and
- Prepare an action plan that includes proposals for adaptation responses that adequately address the risks presented by climate change.

4.9 The SDNPA and its partners have a key role in meeting the challenges and opportunities that climate change may present. The Adaptation Plan sets out how this will be achieved, including a longer-term action plan which the SDNPA will continually monitor and review.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Contribution to climate change

4.10 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Chichester has higher per capita emissions than West Sussex but is broadly in line with per capita emissions covering the South East of England and England since 2005 (see **Table 4.1**). Chichester has seen a 33.7% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for West Sussex (36.6%), the South East of England (36.7%) and England (37.6%).

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2016²⁷

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Chichester				
2005	3.4	3.0	3.2	8.6
2006	3.2	3.0	3.2	8.3
2007	3.1	2.8	3.2	8.0
2008	2.9	2.6	2.9	7.8
2009	3.1	2.8	2.8	7.3

²⁶ South Downs National Park Authority (2019): 'Climate Change Adaptation Plan', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/sdnpa-climate-change-adaptation-plan/>> last accessed [06/11/19]

²⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2018) 2005 to 2016 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions – data tables [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>> [accessed 12/04/19]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2010	3.1	2.8	2.8	7.6
2011	2.9	2.4	2.8	6.9
2012	3.0	2.6	2.7	7.1
2013	2.8	2.5	2.6	6.8
2014	2.3	2.1	2.7	5.9
2015	2.5	2.0	2.7	6.0
2016	2.2	1.9	2.8	5.7
West Sussex				
2005	2.5	2.6	2.4	7.1
2006	2.4	2.6	2.3	6.9
2007	2.4	2.5	2.3	6.7
2008	2.3	2.4	2.1	6.5
2009	2.1	2.2	2.1	5.9
2010	2.2	2.4	2.0	6.2
2011	2.0	2.0	2.0	5.6
2012	2.1	2.2	1.9	5.7
2013	1.9	2.1	1.9	5.5
2014	1.5	1.8	1.9	4.8
2015	1.6	1.7	1.9	4.8
2016	1.4	1.6	1.9	4.5
South East				
2005	3.0	2.5	2.6	7.9
2006	3.0	2.5	2.6	7.8
2007	2.8	2.4	2.6	7.6
2008	2.7	2.4	2.4	7.3
2009	2.4	2.2	2.3	6.6
2010	2.4	2.3	2.3	6.8
2011	2.2	2.0	2.2	6.2
2012	2.2	2.2	2.2	6.3

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2013	2.1	2.1	2.1	6.1
2014	1.7	1.7	2.2	5.4
2015	1.6	1.7	2.2	5.3
2016	1.4	1.6	2.2	5.0
England				
2005	3.8	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.8	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.6	2.4	2.2	8.1
2008	3.5	2.4	2.1	7.8
2009	3.0	2.1	2.0	7.0
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.2
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.5
2012	2.9	2.1	1.9	6.8
2013	2.8	2.0	1.9	6.6
2014	2.4	1.7	1.9	5.9
2015	2.3	1.6	1.9	5.7
2016	2.0	1.5	1.9	5.3

Potential effects of climate change

4.11 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team²⁸. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on 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.

4.12 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for South East England during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows²⁹:

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

²⁸ The data was released on 26th November 2018: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [12/04/19]

²⁹ Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available to access via: <<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps>> last accessed [12/04/19]

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

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

Flood risk

4.14 The areas at highest risk of flooding in Wisborough Green cover areas of land adjacent to the watercourses of the River Arun and the River Kird. These areas are in Flood Zone 3, representing areas that have a 1% (1 in 100) or greater annual flood risk. Likewise, there are some isolated areas of land adjoining the settlement of Wisborough Green which are within Flood Zone 2, as shown below in **Figure 4.1**.

4.15 Surface water flooding is also a risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area (**Figure 4.2** below), with high risk areas predominantly covering agricultural fields which lie adjacent to the existing watercourses. Within the village itself, the existing road network is vulnerable to surface water flood risk issues, particularly along Newpound Lane. The West Sussex Local Flood Risk

Management Strategy gives an overview of sources of flooding in the West Sussex area³⁰. With surface water flooding causing the most regular impact to communities.

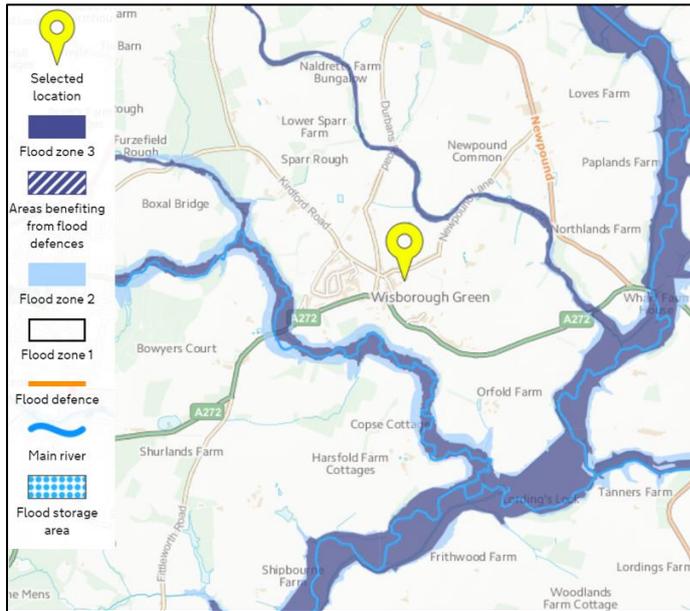


Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area³¹

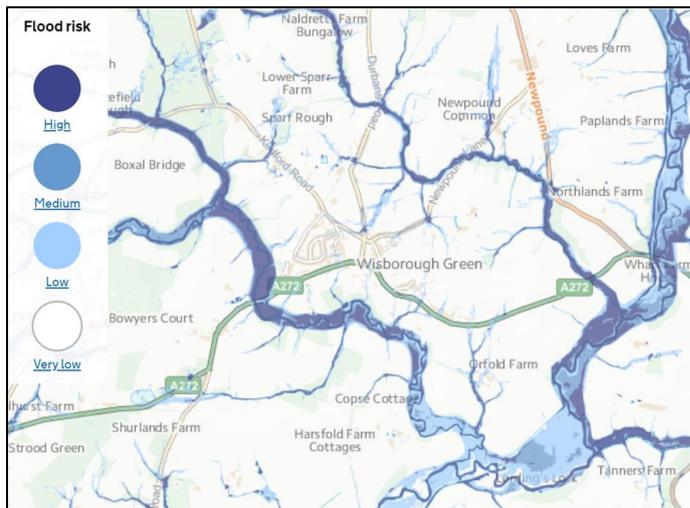


Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area³²

Summary of future baseline

4.16 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.

³⁰ West Sussex County Council (2014) 'West Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013-2018)', [online] available at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1595/local_flood_risk_management_strategy.pdf> [accessed 27/10/19]

³¹ GOV UK (2019): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] available at: <<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>> [accessed 13/08/19]

³² GOV UK (2017): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available to access from: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/>> [accessed 13/08/19]

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

Key Sustainability Issues

- Any increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions in Wisborough Green.
- Chichester has seen a 33.7% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, lower than the reductions for West Sussex (36.6%), the South East of England (36.7%) and England (37.6%).
- The areas at highest risk of flooding in Wisborough Green cover areas of land adjacent to the watercourses of the River Arun and the River Kird. These areas are in Flood Zone 3, representing areas that have a 1% (1 in 100) or greater annual flood risk.
- Within the village itself, the existing road network is vulnerable to surface water flood risk issues, particularly along Newpound Lane.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
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"> • Reduce the number of journeys made and the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
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"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?

5. Landscape

Focus of Theme

- Internationally and nationally protected landscapes
- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Visual amenity

Policy Context

- 5.1 The European Landscape Convention³³ of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. The convention was adopted in October 2000 and is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscapes.
- 5.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- *'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.'*
 - 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:*
 - protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils*
 - 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*
 - remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'*
- 5.3 Adopted in July 2019, the South Downs Local Plan³⁴ (2014-2033) sets out how the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) will manage development over the plan period, based on the two statutory purposes and duty for national parks, namely:
- Statutory Purpose: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;

³³ Council of Europe (2000): 'European Landscape Convention', [online] available to access via: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape> last accessed [06/11/19]

³⁴ South Downs National Park Authority (2019): 'South Downs Local Plan 2014-2033', [online] available to access via: https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/south-downs-local-plan_2019/local-plan/ last accessed [06/11/19]

- Statutory Purpose: To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public; and
 - Duty: To seek to foster the social and economic well-being of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of their statutory purposes.
- 5.4 As listed within the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan, the general policies for conservation for this nationally protected landscape are as follows³⁵:
- Policy 1: Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape and its setting, in ways that allow it to continue to evolve and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other pressures.
 - Policy 2: Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives to focus on enhancing the key ecosystem services delivered by the National Park.
 - Policy 3: Protect and enhance tranquillity and dark night skies.
 - Policy 4: Create more, bigger, better-managed and connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park, which deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife.
 - Policy 5: Conserve and enhance populations of priority species in and around the National Park, delivering targeted action where required.
 - Policy 6: Favour natural functions and processes in and around the National Park where they support the value and resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, coastal and estuarine habitats.
 - Policy 7: Actively promote more joined-up and sustainable management of the coast, including the defined area of the Sussex Heritage Coast, through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
 - Policy 8: Focus the prevention, control and eradication of invasive non-native species on those that are most harmful to biodiversity.
 - Policy 9: The significance of the historic environment is protected from harm, new discoveries are sought and opportunities to reveal its significance are exploited.
 - Policy 10: Improve the management of heritage assets, particularly focusing on those that are 'at risk', including from crimes against heritage.
- 5.5 The policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the landscape SEA theme.
- 5.6 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the landscape SEA theme:
- Policy 45 'Development in the Countryside'.

³⁵ South Downs National Park Authority (2013) 'South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan', [online] available at: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNP-Partnership-Management-Plan-2014-19.pdf> [accessed 16/09/19]

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

South Downs National Park

5.7 Designated in 2009 and covering an area of approximately 1,653 km², the South Downs National Park overlaps with the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The South Downs National Park Authority highlight the following special characteristics:

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

National Character Areas

5.8 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. Most of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the 'Low Weald' NCA, with land towards the southern extent of the parish is within the 'Wealden Greensand' NCA. Taken from their respective profiles, a summary of the key characteristics of the NCAs is provided below:

5.9 'Low Weald' NCA³⁶

- Broad, low-lying, gently undulating clay vales with outcrops of limestone or sandstone providing local variation;
- The underlying geology has provided materials for industries including iron working, brick and glass making, leaving pits, lime kilns and quarries. Many of the resulting exposures are critical to the understanding of the Wealden environment;
- Field boundaries of hedgerows and shaws (remnant strips of cleared woodland) enclosing small, irregular fields and linking into small scattered linear settlements along roadsides or centered on greens or commons. Rural lanes and tracks with wide grass verges and ditches;
- Small towns and villages are scattered among areas of woodland, permanent grassland and hedgerows on the heavy clay soils where larger 20th-century villages have grown around major transport routes;
- Frequent north-south routeways and lanes, many originating as drove roads, along which livestock were moved to downland grazing or to forests to feed on acorns;
- The Low Weald boasts an intricate mix of woodlands, much of it ancient, including extensive broadleaved oak over hazel and hornbeam coppice, shaws, small field copses and tree groups, and lines of riparian trees along watercourses. Veteran trees are a feature of hedgerows and in fields.

³⁶ Natural England (2013): 'Low Weald NCA Profile 121 (NE450)', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/12332031?category=587130> last accessed [27/10/19]

- Many small rivers, streams and watercourses with associated watermeadows and wet woodland;
- Abundance of ponds, some from brick making and quarrying, and hammer and furnace ponds, legacies of the Wealden iron industry; and
- Traditional rural vernacular of local brick, weatherboard and tile-hung buildings plus local use of distinctive Horsham slabs as a roofing material. Weatherboard barns are a feature. Oast houses occur in the east and use of flint is notable in the south towards the South Downs.

5.10 'Wealden Greensand' NCA³⁷

- There are extensive areas of ancient mixed woodland of hazel, oak and birch, with some areas having been converted to sweet chestnut coppice in past centuries;
- Semi-natural habitats include: remnant lowland heathland, mostly concentrated in West Sussex, Hampshire and West Surrey; the wetlands associated with the River Arun in West Sussex; and unimproved acid grasslands found in commons, parklands, heathland and other areas of unimproved pasture;
- Fields are predominantly small or medium, in irregular patterns derived from medieval enclosure. Boundaries are formed by hedgerows and shaws, with character and species reflecting the underlying soils;
- Agricultural land comprises a mosaic of mixed farming, with pasture and arable land set within a wooded framework; and
- Surface water is an important feature across the Greensand, with many streams and rivers passing through the NCA: The Western Rother, Wey, Arun, Medway and the Great and East Stour.

5.11 Implemented in October 2005 by West Sussex County Council, the 'Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape'³⁸ aims to protect and enhance the landscape as an asset for future generations, outlining visions for the five national character areas (NCAs) which characterise the county. In the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the vision statements for the 'Low Weald' and 'Wealden Greensand' are to ensure that:

5.12 'Low Weald'

- The characteristic mixture of pastures, woodlands, hedges and shaws, particularly within the shallow valleys of rivers and treelined streams, provides an intimate and secluded landscape;
- The agricultural landscape so characteristic of the Low Weald is maintained, owners and managers signed up to continuous landscape renewal as part and parcel of the husbandry of the land;
- Woodland in the Low Weald is flourishing, with many new large and small woodlands and hedgerows, enclosing glades and meadows and linked to existing woodlands, hedges and shaws;
- The characteristic settlement pattern of scattered villages, hamlets, some dispersed settlement and farmsteads is evident;
- New development of high quality is well integrated with, and sits comfortably within, existing towns and villages and the wider landscape;

³⁷ Natural England (2013): 'Wealden Greensand NCA Profile 120 (NE465)', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5331490007154688?category=587130> last accessed [27/10/19]

³⁸ West Sussex County Council (2005): 'Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape', [online] available to download via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/landscape-character-assessment-of-west-sussex/> last accessed [19/08/19]

- The local distinctiveness of villages and their settings is evident, with a return to the greater availability and use of traditional local materials; and
- The urban fringe combines a distinctive landscape character (including a combination of open spaces, woodlands, and hedgerows) with well-managed land uses.

5.13 'Wealden Greensand'

- The characteristic mixture of enclosing woodland and farmland is being maintained and strengthened;
- Distinctive characteristics such as sunken lanes and woodland hangers on steep ground are retained, remnant heathlands are protected and extended, and parkland is conserved and managed. New development is of high quality, well integrated with, and sitting comfortably within, existing towns and the wider landscape;
- Long views from the higher ground which presently convey a sense of tranquillity are uncompromised by visible major new development;
- The local distinctiveness of villages and their settings is evident, with a return to the greater availability and use of traditional local materials; and
- Mineral extraction sites are assimilated into the landscape and worked out sites are restored to locally characteristic habitats and land uses.

Local Landscape Character

5.14 The West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)³⁹ describes the variations in character between different areas and types of landscape in the county. It provides an evidence base for local development frameworks and plans, articulating what people perceive as distinctive and special about all landscapes in Chichester. Additionally, it also sets out strategies and guidelines for the protection, management and planning of the landscape. The Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with the 'LW2: North Western Low Weald' LCA (majority of the central, western and northern sections of the parish), the 'LW3: Upper Arun Valley' LCA (eastern section of the parish, surrounding the River Arun) and the 'WG4: North Western Ridges' LCA (including land towards the southern extent of the parish). The following characteristics, changes and sensitivities (of key relevance to Wisborough Green) described below:

5.15 LW2: North Western Low Weald LCA⁴⁰

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating pastoral landscape;
- Dense network of medium sized woodlands, shaws and hedges with mature hedgerow trees;
- Mature and over-mature oak trees;
- Woodlands often following winding streams;
- Ancient semi-natural woodland and old woodland pasture;
- Oak – hazel coppice;
- Small and medium sized fields of predominantly pasture with some larger arable fields;
- Wealden villages, some centred on village greens, scattered farmsteads and cottages;
- Varied local building materials of stone, brick, weatherboard and half-timber;

³⁹ West Sussex County Council (2003): 'Landscape Character Assessment of West Sussex', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/landscape-and-environment/landscape-character-assessment-of-west-sussex/>> last accessed [19/08/19]

⁴⁰ West Sussex County Council (2003): 'Land Management Guidelines: North Western Low Weald', [online] available to access via: <<http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/environment/heritage/LW2.pdf>> last accessed [27/10/19]

- Dominant east-west pylon line; and
- Winding narrow lanes linking scattered hamlets and farmsteads.

Key Issues

- Poor hedgerow and woodland management;
- Localised loss and fragmentation of hedgerows;
- Over-maturity and decline of hedgerows and field trees;
- Poor pond management;
- Decline in traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing;
- Introduction of large farm buildings;
- Changes in farming practices resulting in silt and sand run-off, causing loss of topsoil and siltation issues in streams;
- Localised issues of traffic on rural roads;
- Introduction of non-native, exotic plant species into the landscape giving a suburban, manicured feel in places; and
- Former individual farmsteads have been converted to residential use.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- Loss of tranquillity;
- Loss of individual trees in fields and hedgerows;
- Over maturity of hedgerow trees with little evidence of new young trees;
- Changes in farming practices leading to the expansion or addition of modern farm buildings;
- Unsympathetic development, changes in settlement pattern and addition of suburban features; and
- Quality of public rights of way network vulnerable to reduced drainage management and increased use.

5.16 LW3: Upper Arun Valley LCA⁴¹

Key Characteristics

- Mostly narrow valleys with undulating valley sides;
- Lush valley bottoms with small, drained, irregularly shaped pastures;
- Occasional curving strips of woodland on valley sides;
- Tightly meandering and steeply banked river and stream courses;
- A few widely dispersed small farms on elevated valley sides;
- The Wey and Arun Junction Canal;
- Mostly rural unspoilt character; and
- Distinctive stone and brick bridges.

Key Issues

- Introduction of concreted sections on river banks;

⁴¹ West Sussex County Council (2003): 'Land Management Guidelines: Upper Arun Valley', [online] available to access via: <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/environment/LW3.pdf> last accessed [27/10/19]

- Possible pressures for engineered flood defences;
- Loss of hedgerows and woodland on valley sides;
- Decline in traditional land management;
- Localised visual impact of horse paddocks;
- Pressure for further urban development; and
- Potential for increased recreational pressures.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- Small-scale incremental changes eroding rural character;
- Maintenance of historic character made up of dispersed historic farm and manor buildings, stone bridges and small irregular fields;
- Loss of riverside trees and vegetation;
- Any development which would damage the integrity of valley floor or sides;
- Unsympathetic flood defences;
- Changes in agricultural practices – pasture improvement and land drainage;
- Expansion of horse paddocks;
- Changes to river banks and drainage for wildlife by unsympathetic reprofiling; and
- Any large scale housing / commercial development.

5.17 WG4: North Western Ridges LCA⁴²

Key Characteristics

- Prominent, wooded sandstone ridges and plateaux;
- Dense woodland cover with coniferous forestry and chestnut on higher slopes;
- Amongst the woodland are areas of fragmented heathland;
- Pasture and rough grazing in clearings and at the woodland edges;
- Hidden valleys and streams in deep gullies within the upper catchments;
- Narrow, twisting and often deeply-sunken lanes;
- Scattered, isolated farmsteads and small groups of cottages;
- Localised linear, suburban development along roads;
- Historic parkscapes; and
- Small horse paddocks and small ponds.

Key Issues

- Poor woodland management leading to an even-aged structure;
- Loss of heathland due to scrub, woodland and rhododendron invasion;
- Ancient woodland plant communities gradually dying out under conifer plantations;
- Decline in traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing.
- Increasing traffic and suburbanisation along some roads;

⁴² West Sussex County Council (2003): 'Land Management Guidelines: North Western Ridges', [online] available to access via: <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/environment/heritage/WG4.pdf> last accessed [27/10/19]

- Neglect of some parkland landscapes;
- Increasing pressure from a wide variety of recreational activities;
- Gradual loss of locally distinctive building styles and materials; and
- Expansion of horse paddocks.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- Long views from high ground have a high sensitivity to the impact of new urban development, modern farm buildings, masts and pylons and new roads;
- Loss of woodland along ridge slopes and ridge tops;
- Heathland remnants and significant areas of rich woodland biodiversity are vulnerable to loss and change;
- Erosion of narrow country lanes;
- Loss of parkland features such as specimen trees and tree belts; and
- Cumulative impacts of small-scale changes.

Chichester District Council's Landscape Capacity Study

5.18 Completed to contribute to the evidence base for the emerging Chichester Local Plan (2016-2035), the aim of the Landscape Capacity Study⁴³ (LCS) was to consider the capacity of distinctive areas outside of the South Downs National Park with a view to informing decision making. Split into sub-areas, the LCS considers areas in the northern section of the district, the area surrounding Chichester and on the Manhood Peninsula. Within the LCS, Sub-Area 166 'River Kird and Southern Setting' and Sub-Area 167 'Wisborough Green Settled Low Weald'⁴⁴ encompass the Neighbourhood Plan area, with several key characteristics and key qualities noted within the assessment. A summary of the assessment findings are as follows:

- Sub-Area 166 'River Kird and Southern Setting': visual sensitivity (medium / low); landscape sensitivity (high); wider landscape sensitivity (high); landscape value (medium); landscape capacity (low); and
- Sub-Area 167: 'Wisborough Green Settled Low Weald': visual sensitivity (medium / high); landscape sensitivity (high); wider landscape sensitivity (medium / high); landscape value (medium / high); landscape capacity (low).

Tree Preservation Orders

5.19 Implemented by local planning authorities, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value. When considering 'amenity' the local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria⁴⁵:

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

⁴³ Chichester District Council (2018): 'Landscape Capacity Study', [online] available to access via:

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=31028&sm_au=iVV4v4JSJSr0tFJfkMMGvK6FH3tTM> last accessed [06/11/19]

⁴⁴ Chichester District Council (2019): 'Landscape Capacity Study – Section D: Sub-Area Reports, North East', [online] available to access via: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=31929&sm_au=iVV4v4JSJSr0tFJfkMMGvK6FH3tTM> last accessed [06/11/19]

⁴⁵ GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Preservation Orders – General', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>> last accessed [19/08/19]

5.20 In this context, Chichester District Council have allocated several TPOs within the Neighbourhood Plan area, shown below in **Figure 5.0**. Individual trees are represented by a green square with crosses and groups of trees are represented by a grey polygon or line.

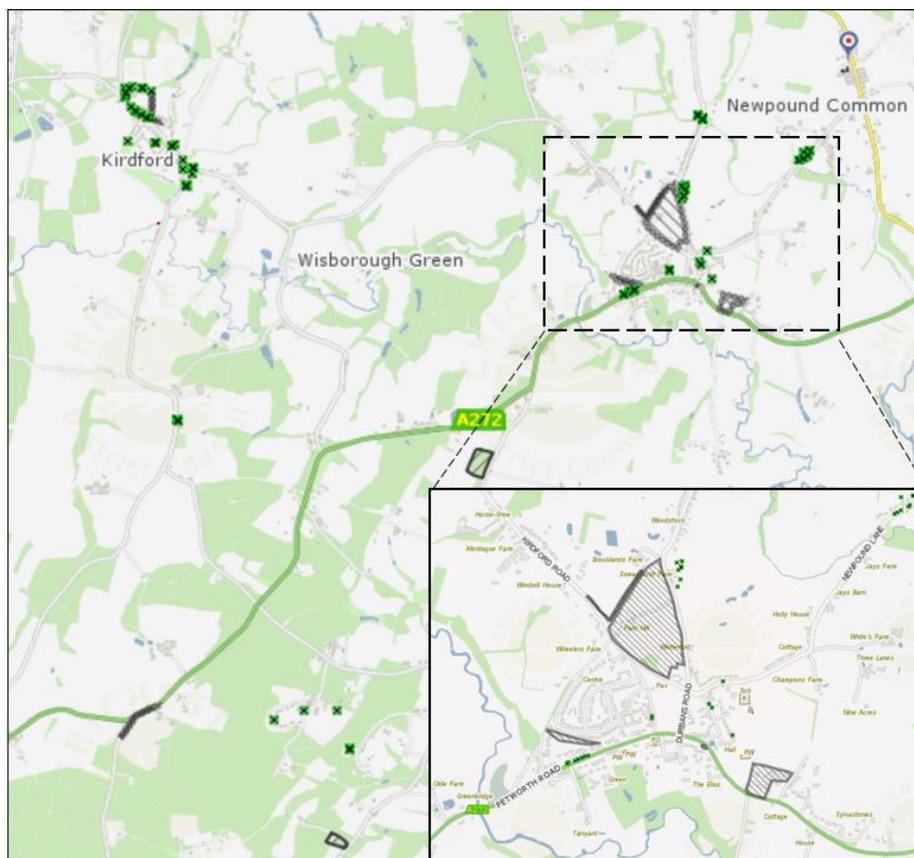


Figure 5.0: TPOs (individual and areas) within the Neighbourhood Plan area⁴⁶

Visual Amenity

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

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

Summary of future baseline

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

5.24 In the absence of the plan, inappropriate levels of development within the open countryside could negatively impact upon the landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character and setting of the South Downs National Park and three LCAs.

⁴⁶ Chichester District Council (2018): 'My Chichester District Mapping', [online] available to access via: <http://mydistrict.chichester.gov.uk/mycdc.aspx> last accessed [19/08/19]

Key Sustainability Issues

- The South Downs National Park overlaps with the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, containing several special qualities which classify its distinctiveness and value.
- Most of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the 'Low Weald' NCA, with land towards the southern extent of the parish is within the 'Wealden Greensand' NCA.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with the 'LW2: North Western Low Weald' LCA, the 'LW3: Upper Arun Valley' LCA and the 'WG4: North Western Ridges' LCA, with a variety of landscape sensitivity issues identified within the land management guidelines prepared alongside the assessment for West Sussex.
- Within the Landscape Capacity Study, Sub-Area 166 'River Kird and Southern Setting' and Sub-Area 167 'Wisborough Green Settled Low Weald' encompass the Neighbourhood Plan area, containing several key characteristics and key qualities.
- Chichester District Council have allocated several Tree Preservation Orders in the Neighbourhood Plan area in the interest of their amenity value.
- The views across the Neighbourhood Plan area are an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the South Downs National Park, in line with the Partnership Management Plan and Local Plan? • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and villagescape features within the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?

6. Historic Environment

Focus of Theme

- Designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets
- Locally important heritage assets
- Historic character of the Neighbourhood Plan area

Policy Context

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

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

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

6.3 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England⁴⁷ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

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

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

⁴⁷ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx> last accessed [20/0918]

⁴⁸ Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1', [online] available to download via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
 - Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- 6.6 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)⁴⁹ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.
- 6.7 Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)⁵⁰ provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:
- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
 - Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 6.8 Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)⁵¹ outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.
- 6.9 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the historic environment SEA theme:
- Policy 46 'Alterations, Change of Use and/or Re-use of Existing Buildings in the Countryside; and
 - Policy 47 'Heritage and Design'.

⁴⁹ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

⁵⁰ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition', [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

⁵¹ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment', [online] available to download via:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>> last accessed [11/12/18]

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Historic Development of Wisborough Green

- 6.10 The Wisborough Green Conservation Area Appraisal (further discussed in the next section) provides the following overview for the historic development of Wisborough Green.

“The area around Wisborough Green seems to have been used for nomadic hunters in the Bronze Age, between 1700 and 500 BC, as evidenced by the discovery of a number of flint implements of the period. During the Iron Age, the availability of iron ore led to iron smelting, and, in the Romano-British period, a similar availability of clay meant that pottery was also made locally.

“St Peter’s Church was built on a small mound on the eastern edge of the village from the late 11th century onwards, with a tower, chancel and north aisle which date to the 13th century. It is of course possible that there was an earlier church on the site, perhaps relating to Saxon farmsteads in the area, as can be found in nearby Kirdford (a Saxon charter of 898 AD refers to Kirdford as Cynered’s ford). Local residents report that the village was once one of the early medieval ‘hundreds’ of West Sussex.

“Between the 11th and the early 14th century, much of the surrounding woodland was cleared for farming, a process that continued into the period from 1300 to about 1600, when timber was felled to provide one of the raw materials for glass making – Kirdford and Wisborough Green were both important centres. Glass making was a very expensive process and the technology for this industry was brought in by French glass makers who protected the secrets of their trade assiduously. Iron making was also important at this time, again using local timber as well as local ironstone which was quarried out of the greensand ridges around the village.

“After the importance of glass and iron making declined at the beginning of the 17th century, agriculture once again became the principal occupation. The principal crop was corn, although towards the end of the 18th century more mixed farming became more prevalent. During the 19th century, a number of new buildings were added to the village, including a new school and an adjoining schoolmaster’s house which were built in c1830. The school was rebuilt in c1900 (and is not listed) but the headmaster’s house remains and has been converted into a house – it is listed grade II. In 1867 St Peter’s Church was thoroughly restored by William Butterfield, a renowned Victorian architect who was famous for his neo-Gothic churches. Non-Conformism was also represented in Wisborough Green, with the provision of a Zoar Chapel on the south side of Petworth Road. This was originally built originally in 1753 and was then rebuilt in 1820 – it is now listed grade II.

- 6.11 From the mid-19th century onwards, new housing was provided between The Luth and Petworth Road, and a new primary school was built in the 1970s. In 1955 the former Workhouse was converted into the Village Hall, providing a useful focus to village life. The close proximity of the A272 means that the village supports a number of shops and other facilities, including two public houses. Cricket on the Green is a popular summer activity.”

Designated Heritage Assets & Areas

- 6.12 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 the Grade I listed ‘The Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula’ along with 94 Grade II nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.

6.13 Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England⁵². Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the conservation area and can be developed into a management plan. In this respect, the Wisborough Green Conservation Area encompasses the open green spaces of Wisborough Green, a concentration of historic properties along the A272 to the south and dispersed historic development to the north of the Green. This includes the village's largest residential property, an unlisted mid-19th century house called Wisborough Park House which sits in a large garden with adjoining parkland. Completed in September 2010, the Character Appraisal identifies the following key positive features of the Conservation Area⁵³:

- Rural conservation area set on rising land above the River Kird which flows around the west and south of the village;
- Historic development is centred around the southern part of Wisborough Green, close to A272;
- Attractive views across the open green spaces in the village centre;
- Mature trees and a variety of mainly brick or stone boundary walls, with most of the historic buildings set well back from the main road, although around the Green they are located closer to the street;
- A number of 17th century or earlier timber-framed farm houses and more modest cottages;
- Further 18th and 19th century brick and stone cottages;
- Some stuccoed higher status village houses, such as The White House and Wisborough Park House;
- Use of timber framing, Wealden greensand stone, red and blue brick, timber weather-boarding, handmade clay tiles (roofs and walls), and Horsham stone slate.
- St Peter's Church sits on a mound and dominates the eastern end of the village;
- The Three Crowns Public House on Petworth Road provides a commercial core to the village, with the Village Shop and Post Office a little further along the main road, as well as an estate agency, kitchen shop and hairdressers;
- Some historic wrought iron fencing facing Petworth Road; and
- Spacious plots, the village pond, mature trees, thick hedging, and open green spaces all provide a rural character.

6.14 The principal issues and site specific improvements which are considered as needing to be addressed by the Management Proposals are as follows:

- Changes are needed to the existing conservation area boundary;
- Despite the 30 mph speed limit along the A272, there is a need to control the traffic through the conservation area;
- The protection and enhancement of the rural character of the conservation area;
- The control of minor alterations on the unlisted houses and cottages;

⁵² Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed [19/08/19]

⁵³ Chichester District Council (2010): 'Wisborough Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24659/Conservation-Area-Character-Appraisals#wisborough>> last accessed [28/10/19]

- The protection and enhancement of the front gardens and front boundaries;
- A review is needed of the statutory and local list;
- Signage and parking area to former tea rooms and 'Zest' site adjoining Old Mill Cottage, Petworth Road;
- Parking area in front of Wisborough Kitchens;
- Cricket pavilion – various detrimental features; and
- Car parking in School Road.

6.15 In order to address these principal issues and site specific improvements, several management proposals are listed within the Conservation Area Appraisal which seek to protect and enhance its special qualities. This includes six recommended actions, summarised below:

- Designate six additional sections of Wisborough Green as part of the conservation area, as part of a boundary review process;
- As opportunities arise, the Parish Council, District Council and County Council will continue to seek ways of improving pedestrian safety and reducing traffic speeds in Wisborough Green, whilst protecting the special character of the Wisborough Green Conservation Area.
- The District Council will ensure that all new development within or on the edges of the conservation area is carefully designated and sympathetic to its surroundings;
- The District Council will consider serving an Article 4 Direction on the Wisborough Green Conservation Area, to cover all unlisted dwelling houses;
- The District Council will continue to protect traditional front boundaries from demolition and will encourage property owners to replace traditional boundaries where they have been lost, as well as the provision of traditional boundaries in appropriate places; and
- The District Council, in association with the Parish Council, will consider drawing up a Local List for the Wisborough Green Conservation Area.

6.16 Forming part of the evidence base for the current 'made' Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan, there are eleven character area appraisals which have been completed for distinctive areas of the parish. They include a summary of their key features, along with associated maps of the buildings of interest and important viewpoints which contribute to the setting of these areas. These areas are as follows⁵⁴:

- Area A: Historic Core;
- Area B: Estates and Wyatt House;
- Area C: Petworth Road;
- Area D: Billingshurst;
- Area E: Durbans Road;
- Area F: Kirdford Road;
- Area G: Newpound Lane;
- Area H: Newpound;
- Area I: Outlying Rural Area - south of A272 (excluding South Downs National Park);
- Area J: Outlying Rural Area – north of A272; and
- Area K: South Downs National Park Area.

⁵⁴ Wisborough Green Parish Council (2018): 'Neighbourhood Plan Supporting Evidence: Character Area Appraisals', [online] available to access via: <<http://www.wisboroughgreen.org/pc-np-evidence-extended/>> last accessed [28/10/19]

Heritage at Risk

- 6.17 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at risk'. According to the 2018 Heritage at Risk Register for the South East, none of the designated heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Plan area are at risk⁵⁵. However, it is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether the seven Grade II listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan area are at risk.
- 6.18 **Figure 5.1** (above) shows the location of the listed buildings and conservation area within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Locally important Heritage Features

- 6.19 It should be noted that not all the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are important by local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value. Following a high-level review of the Historic Environmental Record (HER) for West Sussex (accessed via the Heritage Gateway)⁵⁶, there are 37 listed heritage features which are located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Wey and Arun Canal, glass houses and furnaces, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint working sites, brickyards and brickworks, limekilns, and parkscapes.

Summary of future baseline

- 6.20 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings. Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I and 94 Grade II listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. It is currently not possible to determine whether the Grade II listed buildings are 'at risk'.
- Completed in September 2010, the Wisborough Green Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan identifies several key positive features, principal issues and site specific improvements to be addressed through recommended actions.
- The HER for West Sussex contains records of 37 locally important heritage features within the parish, including the Wey and Arun Canal, glass houses and furnaces, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint working sites, brickworks and brickworks, limekilns, and parkscapes.
- There are eleven character area appraisals which have been completed for distinctive areas of the parish. This includes a summary of their key features and an associated map of the buildings of interest and important viewpoints contributing to the setting of these areas.

⁵⁵ Historic England (2018): 'Heritage at Risk Register for the South East' [online] available to download via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2018-registers/> last accessed [19/08/19]

⁵⁶ Heritage Gateway (2019): 'Historic Environmental Record for West Sussex', [online] available to access via: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> last accessed [19/08/19]

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting?• Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings?• Support the integrity and the historic setting of sites of archaeological or historic interest recorded on the West Sussex HER?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment?• Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes?• Provide a positive strategy for the conservation and enhancement of the area's historic environment by guiding development proposals to address issues identified as threats to the character or appearance of the Wisborough Green Conservation Area?• Guide development proposals to secure remediation of issues identified as affecting the conservation area and prevent cumulative impacts?

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme

- Quality of agricultural land
- Water resources and water quality
- Mineral safeguarding areas

Policy Context

- 7.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁵⁷ 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.
- 7.2 Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:
- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
 - Promote the sustainable use of water;
 - Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;
 - Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
 - Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.
- 7.3 Completed in December 2015, the updated South East River Basin District Management Plan⁵⁸ sets out the current state of the water environment, the pressures facing the water environment, the environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters, a programme of measures and actions needs to achieve the objectives, and the progress since the 2009 plan.
- 7.4 Key messages from the NPPF include:
- *'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; and*
 - 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.'*

⁵⁷ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [29/06/18]

⁵⁸ DEFRA & Environment Agency (2015): 'South East River Basin Management Plan (Part 1)', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan>> last accessed [14/04/19]

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

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

7.6 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England⁵⁹, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁶⁰, 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 England⁶¹ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

7.7 In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁶² recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

7.8 The National Waste Management Plan⁶³ 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 Directive⁶⁴. This includes an assessment of the

⁵⁹ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from:

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>> last accessed [20/09/18]

⁶⁰ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>> last accessed [20/09/18]

⁶¹ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>> last accessed [20/09/18]

⁶² DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf [accessed 01/03/19]

⁶³ DEFRA (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf [accessed 01/03/19]

⁶⁴ Directive 2008/98/EC

need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.

7.9 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the historic environment SEA theme:

- Policy 40 'Sustainable Design and Construction'
- Policy 42 'Flood Risk and Water Management'; and
- Policy 53 'District Canals'.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Soil resources

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

7.11 In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, a detailed classification has not been undertaken in some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset⁶⁵ shows that most of the undeveloped land in the parish is predominantly underlain by areas of Grade 3 (good to moderate) agricultural land. For land classified as Grade 3 land, without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether all the agricultural land is 'best and most versatile' (BMV).

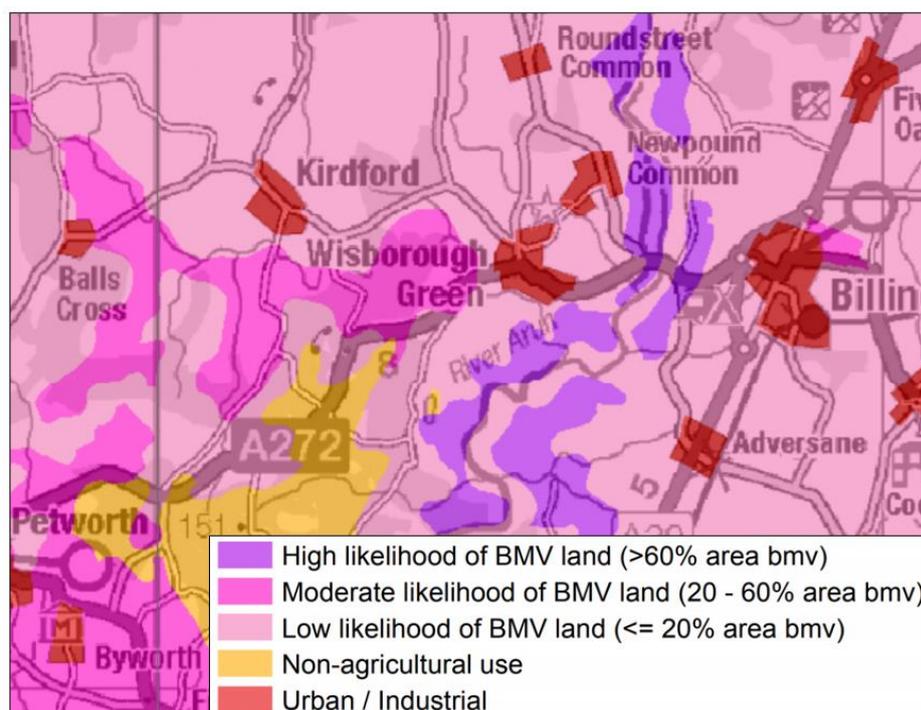


Figure 7.1: Percentage likelihood of BMV land within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area

⁶⁵ Natural England (2018) Agricultural Land Classification map London and the South East (ALC007) [online] available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=5954148537204736> last accessed [19/08/19]

- 7.12 However, based on the results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment'⁶⁶, there are areas of the parish that have a high likelihood of containing BMV land (aligning to the trends in the national dataset). This is shown below in **Figure 7.1** above.
- 7.13 Nonetheless, 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

- 7.14 The water resources located within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area include:
- The River Arun (including the Wey and Arun Junction Canal) navigating along the eastern boundary of the parish; and
 - The River Kird, a tributary of the River Arun, which extends west to east through the central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 7.15 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this regard, other than a small area of land at the southern extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the whole of the parish is within the 'River Arun (u/s Pallingham)' Surface Water NVZ.

Water quality

- 7.16 Wisborough Green is located within the South East River Basin District, overlapping with the 'Arun and Western Streams' Management Catchment and the 'Rother Western' and 'Arun Upper' Operational Catchments. None of the water bodies within the 'Rother Western' Operational Catchment pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area. Comparatively, there are 14 water bodies within the 'Arun Upper' Operational Catchment, two of which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area: 'Arun (U/S Pallingham)' and the 'Kird'.
- 7.17 Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer⁶⁷ classifies the Arun (U/S Pallingham) as having a 'good' chemical status and a 'moderate' ecological status. The overall classification for the waterbody in 2016 was 'moderate'. The reasons for not achieving good status (RNAGs) are primarily attributed to the following activities: poor soil management, poor nutrient management and sewage discharge (continuous)⁶⁸.
- 7.18 Likewise, the Catchment Data Explorer classifies the Kird as having a 'good' chemical status and a 'poor' ecological status. The overall classification for the waterbody in 2016 was 'poor'. The RNAGs are primarily linked to the following activities: poor nutrient management, sewage discharge (continuous), conservation and heritage, reservoir / impoundment, and drought⁶⁹.
- 7.19 The Wisborough Green Parish Wildlife Group are currently completing surveys along with River Kird with a view to understanding and protecting the integrity of the Upper Arun SSSI.

⁶⁶ Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land – Strategic scale map London and the South East', [online] available to access via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6056482614804480?category=5208993007403008> last accessed [19/08/19]

⁶⁷ Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer', [online] available to access via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/> [accessed 27/08/19]

⁶⁸ Environment Agency (2019): 'Arun (U/S Pallingham) Overview', [online] available to access via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB107041017950> last accessed [27/10/19]

⁶⁹ Environment Agency (2019): 'Kird Overview', [online] available to access via: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB107041012300> last accessed [27/10/19]

Mineral resources

- 7.20 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 importance⁷⁰.
- 7.21 Adopted in July 2018, the Joint Minerals Local Plan⁷¹ covers the period to 2033 and provides the basis for making consistent decisions about planning applications for mineral activities throughout the county. Appendix E confirms the location of the five mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) throughout West Sussex, which includes: Sharp Sand and Gravel, Soft Sand (including potential Silica Sand), Brick Clay Resource, Chalk, and Building Stone. In this context, the Neighbourhood Plan area potentially overlaps with the Soft Sand (including potential Silica Sand) MSA, Brick Clay Resource MSA and Building Stone MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E.

Summary of future baseline

- 7.22 Future development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, waste water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider area.
- 7.23 In the absence of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification assessment for most of Wisborough Green, it remains uncertain whether new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area will lead to losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Most of the undeveloped land surrounding the existing village is underlain by areas of Grade 3 (good to moderate) agricultural land. However, without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether all the agricultural land is BMV.
- The water resources located within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area include the River Arun (along with the Wey and Arun Junction Canal), and the River Kird.
- Other than a small area of land at the southern extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the whole of the parish is within the 'River Arun (u/s Pallingham)' Surface Water NVZ.
- In terms of water quality, the overall classification in 2016 for the River Arun was defined as 'moderate', with the overall classification for the River Kird defined as 'poor'.
- The RNAGs for both watercourses are primarily linked to the following activities: poor soil management, poor nutrient management and sewage discharge (continuous).
- The Neighbourhood Plan area potentially overlaps with the Soft Sand (including potential Silica Sand) MSA, Brick Clay Resource MSA and Building Stone MSA. However, it is difficult to be certain due to the scale of the map presented within Appendix E.

⁷⁰ GOV.UK (2014): 'Minerals Guidance', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals>> last accessed [11/03/19]

⁷¹ West Sussex County Council (2018): 'Joint Minerals Local Plan', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/minerals-and-waste-policy/joint-minerals-local-plan/>> last accessed [27/10/19]

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme?

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote the use of previously developed land?
- Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land?
- Protect the integrity of mineral safeguarding areas?

Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Reduce the amount of waste produced?
- Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste?
- Maximise opportunities for local management of waste to minimise export of waste to areas outside?
- Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?

Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support improvements to water quality?
- Minimise water consumption?
- Protect surface water resources?

8. Population and Community

Focus of Theme

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- Housing mix and affordability
- Education and skills
- Employment
- Community assets

Policy Context

8.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

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

- Ensuring that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ and taking a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.
- 8.2 The ‘Ready for Ageing?’ report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁷² 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.
- 8.3 At the local level, Policies 1-7 and 26-38 within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the population and community SEA theme, with the following policies of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan area:
- Policy 1 ‘Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development’;
 - Policy 2 ‘Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy’;
 - Policy 5 ‘Parish Housing Sites 2012-2029’;
 - Policy 6 ‘Neighbourhood Development Plans’;
 - Policy 26 ‘Existing Employment Sites’;
 - Policy 29 ‘Settlement Hubs and Village Centres’;
 - Policy 30 ‘Built Tourist and Leisure Development’;
 - Policy 31 ‘Caravan and Camping Sites’;
 - Policy 33 ‘New Residential Development’;
 - Policy 34 ‘Affordable Housing’; and
 - Policy 38 ‘Local and Community Facilities’.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Population

Table 8.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁷³

Date	Wisborough Green	Chichester	South East	England
2001	1,360	106,445	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	1,414	113,794	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	+4.0%	+6.9%	+7.9%	+7.9%

⁷² Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>> last accessed [21/09/18]

⁷³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table UV102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

- 8.4 As shown in **Table 8.1**, the population of Wisborough increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to Chichester, the South East of England and England averages. Approximately 1.2% of the population of Chichester District lives within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Age structure

Table 8.2: Age Structure (2011)⁷⁴

	Wisborough Green	Chichester	South East	England
0-15	16.0%	16.4%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	8.0%	10.1%	11.2%	11.9%
25-44	19.2%	21.1%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	24.3%	20.5%	19.9%	19.4%
60+	32.6%	32.0%	23.4%	22.3%
Total Population	1,414	113,794	8,634,750	53,012,456

- 8.5 Generally, there are a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (32.6%) in comparison to the total for the South East of England (23.4%) and England (22.3%), as shown in **Table 8.2**. However, this total broadly aligns to the percentage for Chichester (32.0%).
- 8.6 In contrast, a lower proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (43.5%) in comparison to the totals for the South East of England (46.4%) and England (46.9%). However, this total is higher than the percentage for Chichester (41.6%).
- 8.7 Additionally, 24.0% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the younger age categories (0-15 and 16-24), lower than the totals for Chichester (26.5%), the South East of England (30.2%) and England (30.8%).

Household deprivation

- 8.8 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.

⁷⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

Table 8.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁷⁵

	Wisborough Green	Chichester	South East	England
Household not deprived	50.4%	48.6%	47.7%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	34.6%	33.5%	32.2%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	14.0%	14.9%	16.0%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	1.0%	2.8%	3.7%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%

8.9 Based on the information presented in **Table 8.3**, fewer households are deprived in one or more dimensions within the Neighbourhood Plan area (49.6%) in comparison to the totals for Chichester (51.4%), the South East of England (52.3%) and England (57.5%). Out of the 49.6% 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.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

8.10 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (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.

8.11 Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:

⁷⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

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

8.12 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 2019, 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.

8.13 The Neighbourhood Plan area primarily overlaps with three LSOAs⁷⁶:

- Chichester 002D covers the village and the northern section of the parish and is one of the top 40% least deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- Chichester 002C covers the central section of the parish and is one of the top 50% least deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- Chichester 005F covers the southern section of the parish and is one of the top 40% least deprived neighbourhoods in England.

Housing tenure

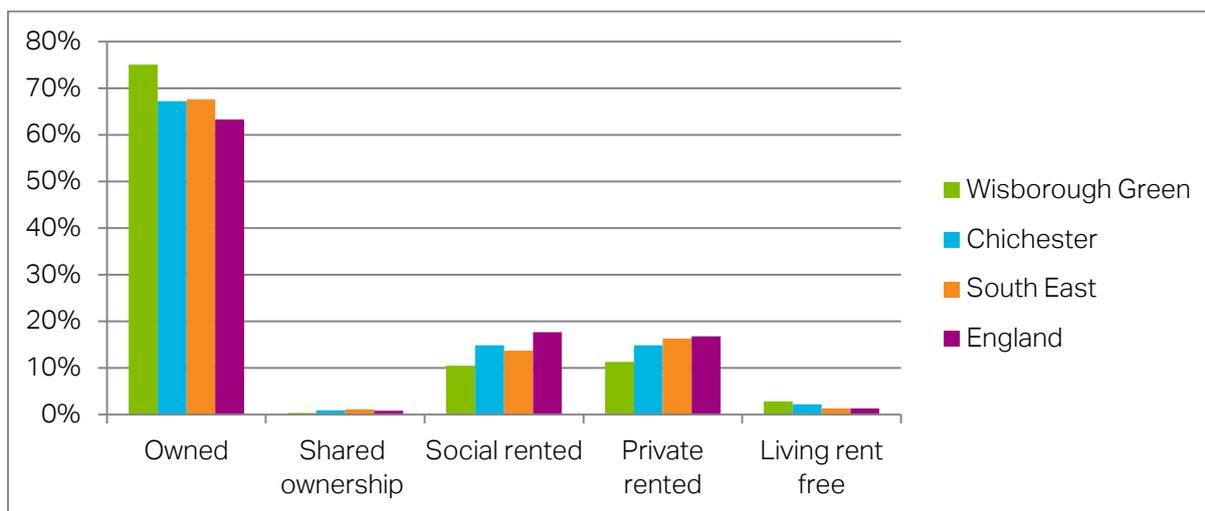


Figure 8.1: 'Tenure by Household' ⁷⁷

8.14 Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 75.0% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for Chichester (67.2%) and the South East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%).

8.15 As shown in **Figure 8.1**, a lower proportion of residents live within social rented housing and private rented in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national trends.

8.16 3.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area live in rent-free accommodation or shared ownership accommodation, which is similar to the total for Chichester (3.1%) but higher than the totals for the South East of England (2.4%) and England (2.1%).

⁷⁶ DCLG (2019): 'Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available to access via: http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html# last accessed [27/10/19]

⁷⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

Education

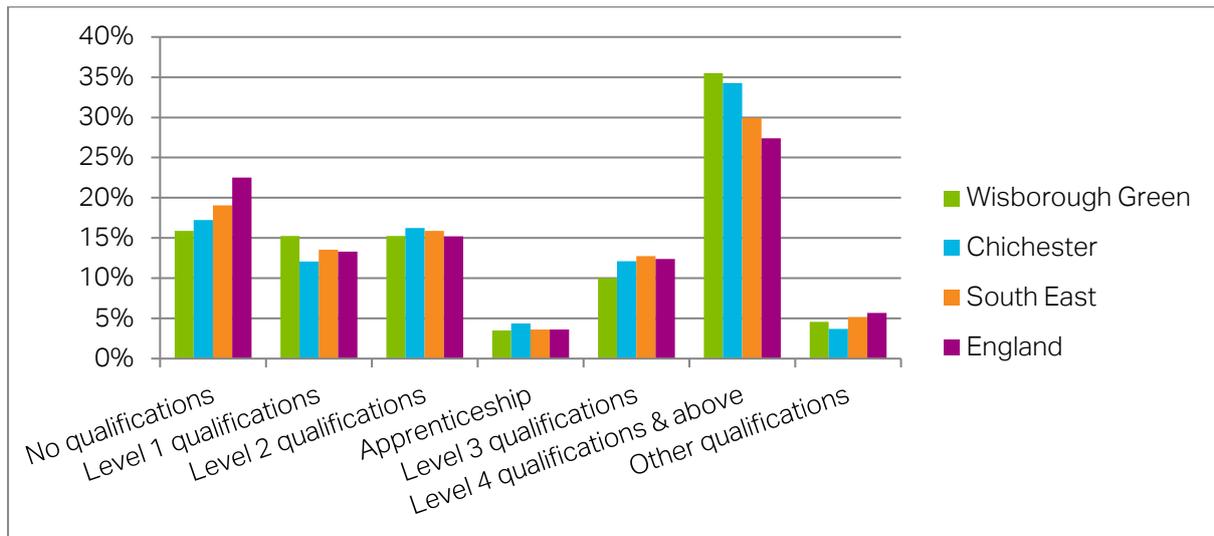


Figure 8.2: 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁷⁸

8.17 Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 8.2**, 15.9% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, lower than the total for Chichester (17.2%), the South East of England (19.1%) and England (22.5%).

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

Employment

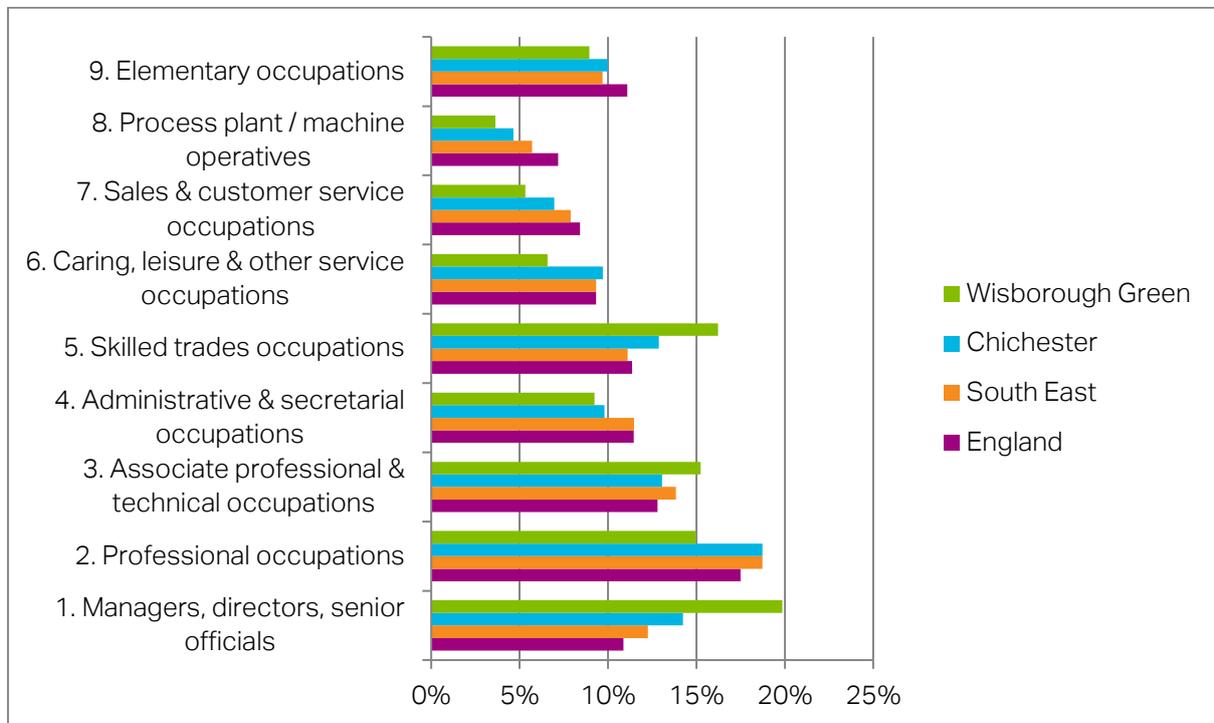


Figure 8.3: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment'⁷⁹

⁷⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

⁷⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

- 8.19 Regarding employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents:
- Managers, directors and senior officials (19.9%).
 - Skilled trades occupations (16.2%); and
 - Associate professional and technical occupations (15.2%).
- 8.20 Overall, 51.3% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, which is at least 10% higher than the totals for Chichester (40.2%), the South East of England (37.2%) and England (35.0%). This is highlighted in **Figure 8.3** above.

Community Assets

- 8.21 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the Parish's sense of identity. This includes: The Parish Church of St Peter ad Vincula, the Cricketers Arms Public House, Wisborough Green Primary School, Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green Stores and Post Office,
- 8.22 Additionally, there are open areas of significance within the neighbourhood Plan area which are demonstrably special to a local community, for example: because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value and/or biodiversity value.

Summary of future baseline

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

Key Sustainability Issues

- The population of Wisborough Green increased at a lower rate between 2001 and 2011 in comparison to Chichester, the South East of England and England averages.
- Wisborough Green has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the parish's sense of identity.
- There are also open areas of significance within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Generally, there are a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (32.6%) in comparison to the total for the South East of England (23.4%) and England (22.3%).
- The Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with three LSOAs: Chichester 002C, 002D, and 005F.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
<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"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities?
<p>Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Support a reduction in the proportion of second homes?
<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"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Support a reduction in the proportion of second homes?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and wellbeing

Policy Context

9.1 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- *'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'*
- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

9.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁸⁰ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

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

9.4 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014-2029 directly relate to the health and wellbeing SEA theme:

- Policy 45 'Development in the Countryside';

⁸⁰ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <
<https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf>> last accessed [24/09/18]

- Policy 48 'Natural Environment';
- Policy 49 'Biodiversity';
- Policy 52 'Green Infrastructure'; and
- Policy 54 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation'.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

9.5 At the regional level, the 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) summary for West Sussex⁸¹ provides a variety of statistics relating to the following themes: environment, population, assets and health/wellbeing, and provides a section on each broad life-stage of the population: childhood (starting well), working age (living well) and older age (ageing well). Summary of the key challenges as follows:

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

9.6 Published for public consultation in December 2018 and reflecting the outcomes of the JSNA, the consultation draft of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 (JHWS) outlines a variety of aims which focus on the most important issues across the county, with an overall vision as follows⁸²:

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

Public Health Profile for Chichester

9.7 Published in July 2018 by Public Health England, the public health profile for Chichester District outlines the following key trends⁸³:

- Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average;

⁸¹ West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (2018): 'JSNA Summary', [online] available to access via:

<<https://jsna.westsussex.gov.uk/updates/west-sussex-jsna-summary-2018/>> last accessed [22/08/19]

⁸² West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (2018): 'Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24 (Consultation Draft)', [online] available to access via: <<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/public-health/jhw-strategy-consultation/>> last accessed [22/08/19]

⁸³ Public Health England (2018): 'Public Health Profile for Chichester', [online] available to access via: <<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/>> last accessed [22/08/19]

- Life expectancy is 3.9 years lower for men and 3.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Chichester than in the least deprived areas;
- Estimated levels of adult physical activity are better than the England average; and
- The rate of people killed or seriously injured on roads is worse than average.

Health indicators and deprivation

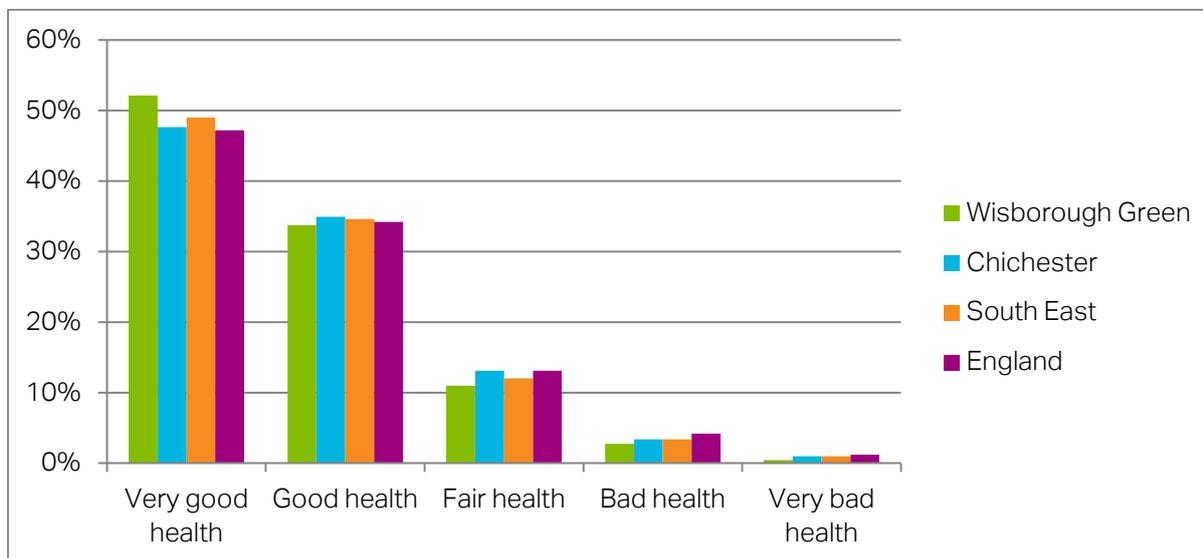


Figure 9.1: 'General Health'⁸⁴

9.8 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. As highlighted in **Figure 9.1**, 85.9% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', higher than the totals for Chichester (82.6%), the South East of England (83.6%) and England.

9.9 Comparatively, 3.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health', lower than the totals for Chichester (4.3%), the South East of England (4.3%) and England (5.4%).

9.10 The total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a little' broadly aligns with the total for Chichester but is higher than the totals for the South East of England and England, shown in **Table 9.1** below. In contrast, the total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' is lower than the regional and national totals.

Table 9.1: Disability⁸⁵

	Wisborough Green	Chichester	South East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	4.9%	7.3%	6.9%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	10.7%	10.2%	8.8%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	84.4%	82.5%	84.3%	82.4%

⁸⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

⁸⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

Summary of future baseline

- 9.11 Health and wellbeing levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health, and a low percentage of residents reporting that their activities are limited in some way.
- 9.12 However, an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area might place future pressures on health services in the area. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the long term.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The 2018 Public Health Profile for Chichester states that the rate of people killed or seriously injured on roads in the district is worse than average.
- The JSNA highlights that annual changes in the 65+ population averaged +2,500 per year between 2002 and 2017, projecting averages of +4,800 per year between 2017 and 2032.
- Based on 2011 Census data, 85.9% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', higher than the totals for Chichester (82.6%), the South East of England (83.6%) and England.
- Within Wisborough Green. 15.6% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their daily activities are limited in some way.

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Address the key challenges identified in the JSNA for West Sussex? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Protect and enhance access to nature via greenspace and footpaths? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?

10. Transportation

Focus of Theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

Policy Context

10.1 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.

10.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:

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

10.3 At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. In this regard, the West Sussex LTP3 2011-2026 is a strategic policy tool through which the council exercises its responsibilities for planning, management and the development of transport in the county⁸⁶. The four strategies within the LTP3 that guide the Council's approach to maintaining, managing and investing in transport include: promoting economic growth, tackling climate change, providing access to services, employment and housing, and improving safety, security and health.

⁸⁶ West Sussex County Council (2011): 'West Sussex LTP3', [online] available to access via: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/roads-and-travel-policy-and-reports/west-sussex-transport-plan-2011-26-ltp3/> last accessed [15/04/19]

10.4 At the local level, the following policies within the Adopted Chichester Local Plan: Key Policies 2014–2029 directly relate to the transportation SEA theme:

- Policy 8 'Transport and Accessibility'; and
- Policy 39 'Transport, Accessibility and Parking'.

Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Rail network

10.5 There are no railway stations within Wisborough Green parish. The nearest mainline railway station connecting residents to the national network is in the settlement of Billingshurst, located approximately 3.5km to the east of the village. Operated by Southern Railway, the station is on the 'Arun Valley Line' with typical off-peak services between Monday and Saturday including approximately two trains per hour to London Victoria and Bognor Regis⁸⁷. Although services do run on Sundays, these are reduced to one per hour. The services also connect to the settlements of Barnham, Arundel, Amberley, Pulborough, Horsham, Crawley, along with Clapham Junction and Gatwick Airport.

Bus network

10.6 Within the village, there are bus stops located along Kirdford Road and the A272 (adjacent to School Road) which connect residents to the local bus network. Operated by 'Compass Travel', the main service through the Neighbourhood Plan area is Route 64, connecting residents to Loxwood, Plaistow, Billingshurst and Horsham. In Billingshurst, the service stops at two locations along the A272 which are approximately 1km to the north of Billingshurst railway station⁸⁸. Service frequency is limited to four journeys per week (Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri), and there are no services on the weekend.

Road network and congestion

10.7 The A272 passes through the Neighbourhood Plan area and is the primary transport link both into and out of Wisborough Green. This provides connectivity to Billingshurst (approximately 2km to the east), Petworth (approximately 6km to the south west) and Midhurst (approximately 15km to the south west). To the north of the village, the B2133 and a network of 'C' roads connect the Neighbourhood Plan area to Plaistow, Ifold and Loxwood (approximately 5km to the north). The A29 is accessible at Billingshurst, providing connections to the national network.

10.8 Regarding congestion issues, the A272 is sensitive to traffic issues during peak times of year (i.e. holiday seasons), during rush hours (i.e. weekday mornings and evenings) and at weekends, particularly at Newbridge.

Cycle and footpath network

10.9 A comprehensive Public Rights of Way network serves the Neighbourhood Plan area, with several footpaths throughout the parish connecting to hamlets and local woodlands⁸⁹. The 'Wey-South Path' navigates alongside the River Arun and is described as follows⁹⁰:

⁸⁷ National Rail (2019): 'Billingshurst Station – Live Departures', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/BIG/details.aspx>> last accessed [28/10/19]

⁸⁸ Compass Travel (2019): 'Bus Timetables – West Sussex – Route 64', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.compass-travel.co.uk/compass-timetables/bus-timetables/>> last accessed [28/10/19]

⁸⁹ Bing (2019): 'OS Map', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.bing.com/maps>> last accessed [28/10/19]

⁹⁰ Long Distance Walkers Association (2019): 'The Wey-South Path', [online] available to access via: <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/ldp/members/show_path.php?path_name=Wey-South+Path> last accessed [28/10/19]

“The Path follows the towpath of the Godalming Navigation along the River Wey to its confluence with the Wey & Arun Junction Canal, crossing the North Downs Way National Trail near the start. The Wey-South Path heads south-east at Stone Bridge towards the disused Wey and Arun Junction Canal. Wherever possible the Wey South Path route follows the towpath, supplemented by paths, roads and disused railway, to reach and continue beside the Arun Navigation to the River Arun whence the path continues to meet the South Downs Way National Trail above Amberley. Several sections of the canals have been restored. The canals were originally built for military purposes to provide a waterway linking the Thames and the south coast but were soon supplanted by the railways and some sections fell into disrepair.”

10.10 In terms of the cycle network, the Neighbourhood Plan area is not connected to any of the routes which form part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network⁹¹. Although the nearest Route, the 223, passes between the settlements of Horsham and Billingshurst, it is not accessible from either of these settlements. Comparatively, Route 20 and Route 21 are accessible via the settlement of Crawley which is approximately 30km to the north east of Wisborough Green.

Availability of cars and vans

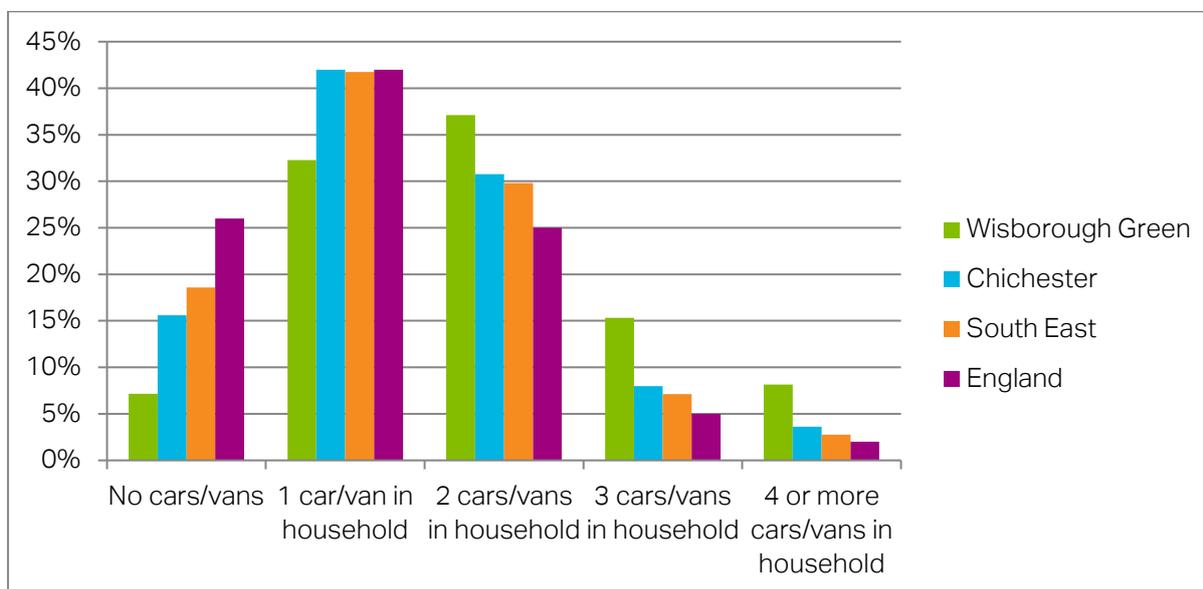


Figure 10.1: ‘Car and van ownership’⁹²

10.11 Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 10.1**, 92.8% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for Chichester (84.4%), the South East of England (81.4%) and England (74.2%).

10.12 Likewise, the total number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area which have access to at least two cars or vans (60.6%) at least 15% higher than the totals for Chichester (42.4%), the South East of England (39.7%) and England (32.0%).

⁹¹ Sustrans (2019): ‘National Cycle Network Map’, [online] available to access via: <<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>> last accessed [28/10/19]

⁹² ONS (no date): ‘Car or Van Availability 2011’, (Table QS416EW)

Travel to work

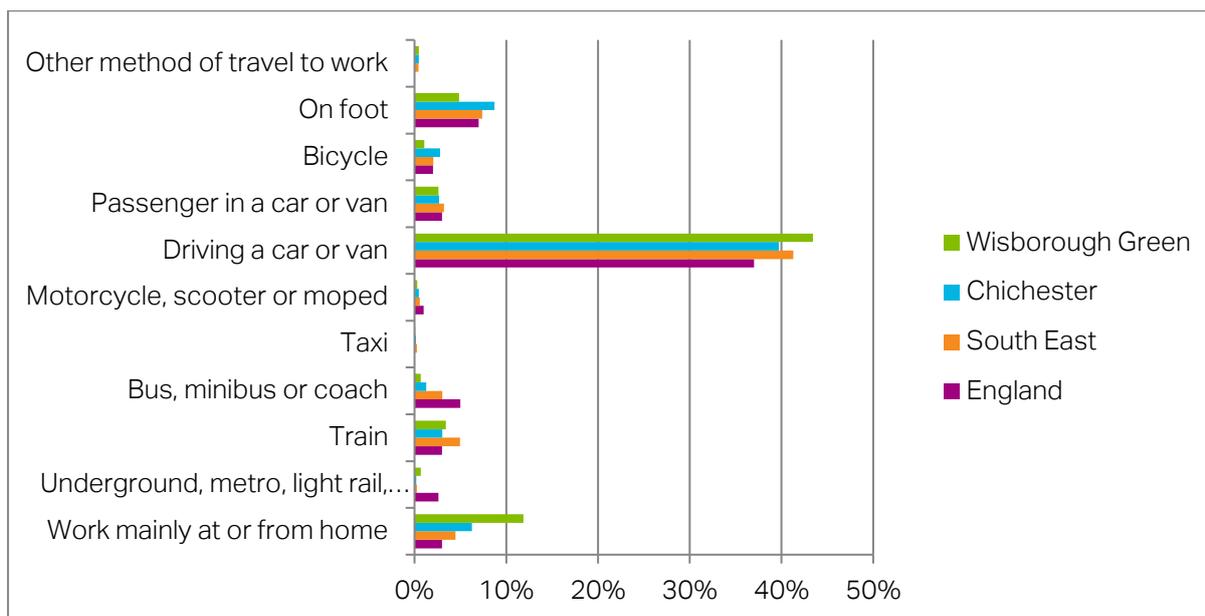


Figure 10.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁹³

10.13 As shown in **Figure 10.2**, the most regularly used method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (43.4%) which is greater than the totals for Chichester (39.7%), the South East of England (41.3%) and England (37.0%).

10.14 A lower percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan catch a train, bus, minibus, coach, walk or cycle to work (10.0%) in comparison to the totals for Chichester (15.8%), the South East of England (17.4%) and England (17.0%).

Summary of future baseline

10.15 New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan area, principally at junctions on key routes. This is likely to continue to be more pronounced at weekends and during peak times of year (i.e. holiday seasons) due to the influx of visitors to the area for the South Downs National Park.

10.16 Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the relative inaccessibility of the neighbourhood Plan area via public transport, particularly in the absence of a train station.

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

⁹³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

Key Sustainability Issues

- There are no railway stations within Wisborough Green parish. The nearest mainline railway station connecting residents to the national network is in the settlement of Billingshurst, located approximately 3.5km to the east of the village.
- Regarding the bus network, service frequency is limited to four journeys per week (Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri), and there are no services on the weekend.
- Based on 2011 Census data, 92.8% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is higher than the totals for Chichester (84.4%), the South East of England (81.4%) and England (74.2%).
- The total number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area which have access to at least two cars or vans (60.6%) at least 15% higher than the totals for Chichester (42.4%), the South East of England (39.7%) and England (32.0%).
- The A272 is sensitive to traffic issues during peak times of year (i.e. holiday seasons), during rush hours (i.e. weekday mornings and evenings) and at weekends, particularly at Newbridge.
- A lower percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan catch a train, bus, minibus, coach, walk or cycle to work (10.0%) in comparison to the totals for Chichester (15.8%), the South East of England (17.4%) and England (17.0%).

What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the key objectives within the Local Transport Plan for West Sussex? • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

11. Next Steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 11.1 The five stages of the SEA process⁹⁴ are identified below. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process.
- i. Screening;
 - ii. Scoping;
 - iii. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
 - iv. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation;
 - v. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures concerning monitoring')
- 11.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the plan, including alternative spatial strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (the Neighbourhood Plan group) so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 11.3 Once the draft ('submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 11.4 Following submission to Chichester District Council, and consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan will be put forward for Independent Examination.

Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 11.5 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 11.6 The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 11.7 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.
- 11.8 The consultation period runs from Thursday 7th November 2019 to Thursday 12th December 2019. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Ryan Putt, AECOM
- Email address: ryan.putt@aecom.com
- 11.9 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁹⁴ In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

