

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report

Charlton Parish Council

November 2020

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Rosie Cox Environmental Planner	Alastair Peattie Associate	Nick Chisholm-Batten Associate	Nick Chisholm-Batten Associate

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Prepared for:

Charlton Parish Council

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 117 901 7000
aecom.com

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Non-technical summary

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

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

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

What is the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan?

The CNP presents a plan for Charlton for the period to 2029. The Designated Area, for the purpose of the CNP, covers the Parish of Charlton in Test Valley borough (**Figure 1.1**)

The CNP has been prepared in the context of the adopted Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 (TVBRLP) and the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan. The CNP sets out a vision and a range of policies for the CNP area, relating to a range of topics, including creating a diverse and resilient economy which is supported by attractive, healthy and affordable places to live, and improving and protecting the area's natural, built and historic environment.

It is currently anticipated that the CNP will undergo referendum in May 2021. This is in line with the newly revised PPG which sets out changes that have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.¹ New paragraph 107 states that referendums will be postponed in line with the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 until 6 May 2021.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report, which accompanies the submission version of the CNP has been produced as part of the SEA process.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

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

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the CNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the CNP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the CNP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the CNP;

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (2020) Planning Practice Guidance: Neighbourhood Planning [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#coronavirus>

- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the CNP; and
- The next steps for the CNP and accompanying SEA process.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the CNP

A key element of the SEA process is the appraisal of ‘reasonable alternatives’ for the CNP. The SEA Regulations are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the ‘*plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan*’.

As the delivery of new housing development through the CNP is what is most likely to have a significant effect on SEA objectives, it was determined that this issue should be the primary focus of the consideration of alternatives through the SEA process. Case-law (most notably *Friends of the Earth Vs. Welsh Ministers, 2015*) has established that planning authorities may apply discretion and planning judgement when determining what should reasonably be the focus of alternatives appraisal, recognising the need to apply a proportionate approach and ensure an SEA process/ Environmental Report that is focused and accessible.

The potential site options for delivering development in line with the CNP objectives, will directly or indirectly influence the topic areas set out in **Chapter 3** and the Steering Group’s preferred approach.

Establishing reasonable alternatives (site options)

Sites potentially in contention for allocation through the CNP were identified by the Steering Group through a Site Assessment (2019), which considered the following sources:

- 2014 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
- 2018 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)

It is noted that no call for sites was undertaken due to the recent call for sites undertaken by TVBC.

Of the nine sites considered by the Steering Group, five were discounted for a number of reasons, including where sites have now been developed, and due to potential impact on the landscape (see **Table 4.1** in the main report for more details). The following four sites have subsequently been carried forward for further consideration through the SEA process:

- Land to the North of Goch Way;
- Land at Rear of Hatherden Road;
- Land to east of Foxcotte Lane; and
- Land at Enham Lane

The SEA process has subsequently undertaken an appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the four sites and potential effects that may arise as a result of housing development at these locations (see **Table NTS.1** and summary findings overleaf). The locations of these sites are presented in **Figure 4.1** of the main report.

Table NTS.1 Reasonable alternative site options – summary findings

SA theme		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Biodiversity	Rank	=	=	=	=
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
Climate change	Rank	1	3	2	3
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
Landscape	Rank	2	3	4	1
	Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes – negative	No
Historic environment	Likely effect	1	2	4	3
	Rank	No	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Land, soil and water resources	Rank	2	3	1	3
	Significant effect?	Yes – negative	Yes – negative	Yes – negative	Yes – negative
Population and communities	Rank	2	2	3	1
	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
Health and wellbeing	Rank	2	2	3	1
	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
Transportation	Rank	2	3	4	1
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No

Summary:

The assessment has identified the potential for significant negative effects as a result of development at all the options against the land soil and water resources SEA theme, in light of the permanent loss of greenfield and high-quality agricultural land. Significant negative effects have also been identified for Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) in relation to landscape, given its location on the edge of the settlement, with the potential to extend into the open landscape to the west, affecting ‘moderate’ and ‘significant’ views.

The assessment concludes that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is worst performing in relation to the majority of SEA themes. This is predominantly given that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is constrained by historic assets, is of highest landscape sensitivity, and is located furthest from the village core, with reduced opportunity to encourage active travel – particularly given the adjacent ‘commuter through route’ Foxcotte Road/ Lane. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) however does perform better than other options in relation to the climate change and land, soil and water SEA objectives. This is given the loss of lower quality agricultural land than other options, and lower risk of flooding.

The assessment identifies the potential for significant positive effects under all options against the population and communities’ and health and wellbeing SEA themes. All options will deliver new homes to meet local needs; and support the growth of sustainable, healthy communities with access to services, facilities and green infrastructure.

Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is generally ranked higher across the socio-economic SEA themes than Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane). This is predominantly due to its greater potential to integrate with the existing settlement form; access to services, facilities, and sustainable travel; and opportunities to support active travel. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) however performs more positively than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) in relation a number of environmental themes; i.e. Option A is not constrained by heritage assets or flood risk, and is of lower quality agricultural land than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road).

All options perform equally in relation to biodiversity given options are not constrained by nationally or locally designated assets nor do options contain significant biodiversity on site. All options perform equally in terms of the potential to impact upon European designated sites within the Solent; as identified through the HRA (2020).

Developing the preferred approach

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have provided the following information, as shown in **Table NTS.2**, outlining the reasons for the selection or rejection of the four site options. This is based on the Site Assessment Report (2019), community feedback and the SEA findings.

Table NTS.2: Outline reasons for selecting or rejecting alternatives

Site option	Allocated?	Reasons for selection or rejection
Option A: Land to the North of Goch Way	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land at Goch Way is currently under development for 85 dwellings following an appeal APP/C1760/A/14/2222867 granted (2015). Option A forms the remainder of the site (to the north west - as identified in the SHLAA/ SHELAA), and would therefore act as a natural extension to the development current being progressed. Previous Appeal and Local Plan Inspectors found that the site as a whole could be developed without undue harm to the landscape setting.
Option B: Land at Enham Lane	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site outside of the Settlement Area The site suffers from surface water flooding and potential mineral extraction constraints. Archaeology Impact of Public Rights of Way Landscape impact to the north Potential minerals extraction area
Option C: Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Settlement Area Previously refused for 202 dwellings under application ref 14/02064/OUTN and appeal withdrawn. Further application 15/01582/ OUTN for Outline application for residential development of 175 dwellings, highways and associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping was refused on 4th Dec 2015 for a number of reasons (see decision notice). It is considered that little has changed since the previous refusal reasons. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being an unsustainable form of development within the countryside Loss of agricultural land Impact on landscape character Loss of hedgerow and trees Less than substantial harm to the setting of designated heritage assets without sufficient public benefit to outweigh the harm Lack of legal agreement to secure the following: highway improvements, affordable housing, public open space improvements, primary school capacity, public art and sustainable drainage measures.
Option D: Land at rear of Hatherden Road	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Settlement Area The site suffers from surface water flooding and potential mineral extraction constraints. Archaeology Impact of Public Rights of Way Landscape impact to the north Access Setting of designated heritage assets

Table NTS.2 shows that of the site options assessed, Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as suitable for allocation through the CNP. Option performs well against SEA objectives (see **Table NTS.1**) and aligns most positively with the objectives of the CNP.

Assessment of the CNP

Utilising the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SEA, the SEA process has assessed the 21 policies put forward through the CNP for guiding development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Environmental Report has presented the findings of the assessment under eight SEA themes.

The assessment concludes that potential significant effects arising from plan implementation are predominately positive. These relate to the delivery of new housing to meeting local needs, protection of village character, settlement identity, and the extensive green infrastructure resource, and support for a modal shift towards active travel where possible. These are likely to bring about multiple benefits for the local community, resident health and wellbeing, landscape, historic environment, and biodiversity.

Negative effects relate to the overall loss of greenfield/ BMV agricultural land at Land to the north of Goch Way.

Next steps

Following consultation on this Environmental Report, any representations received will be reviewed and taken into account. The Environmental Report will then be submitted to the Examiner for their consideration.

If the Independent Examination is favourable, the CNP will be subject to a referendum, organised by TVBC. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the CNP, then the Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made'. Once made, the CNP will become part of the Development Plan for Charlton village.

1. Introduction


- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan (CNP).
- 1.2 The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan has been 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 of the adopted Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 (TVBRLP) and the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan.
- 1.3 The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan area is defined by the existing Parish boundary as depicted in **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan area was designated in September 2016, although the boundary changed in May 2019 as part of a boundary review. The designated area was formally amended in January 2020.
- 1.5 The key information relating to the CNP is presented below in **Table 1.1**.

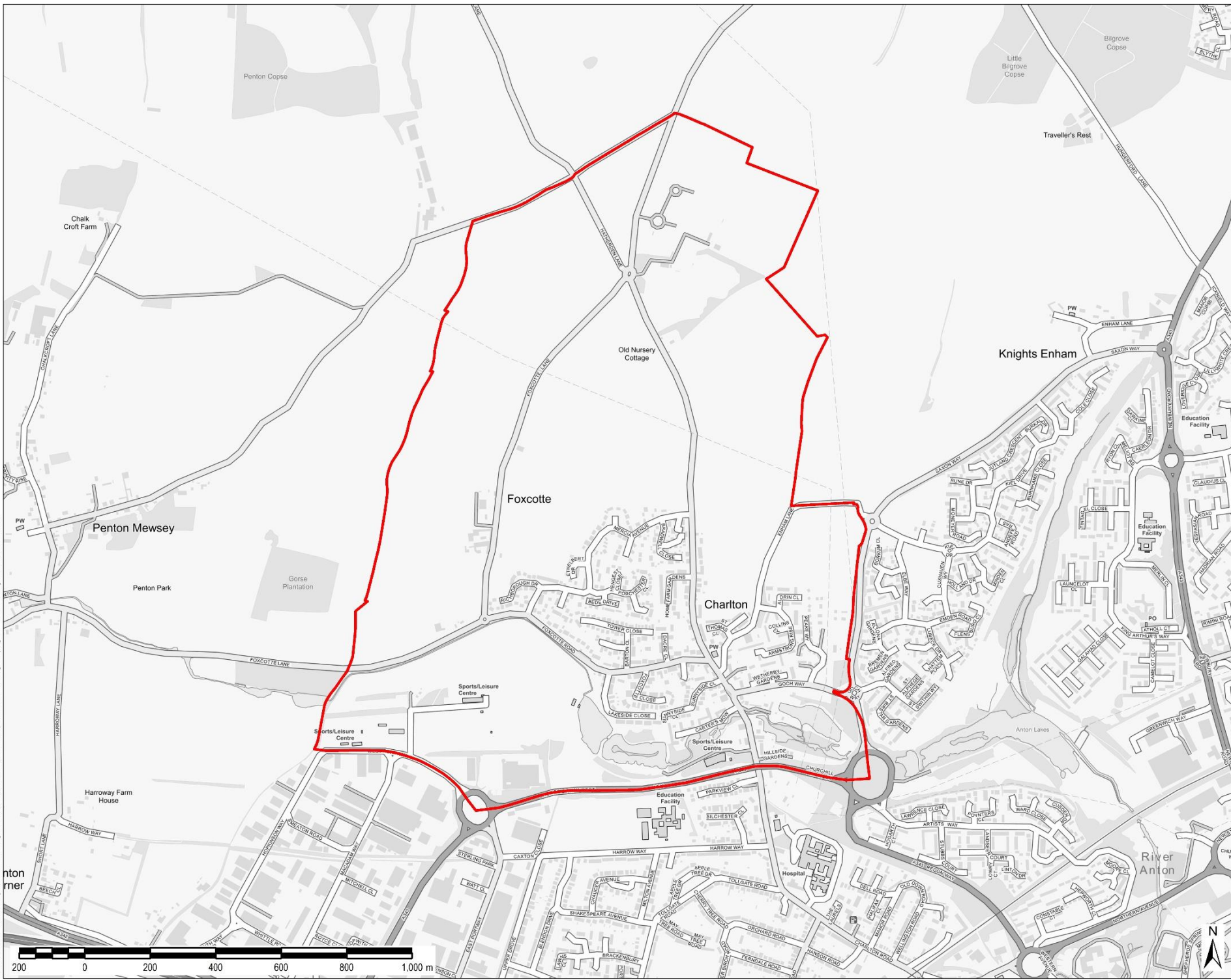
Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the CNP

Name of Responsible Authority	Charlton Parish Council
Title of Plan	Charlton Neighbourhood Plan (CNP)
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The CNP 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 Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 (TVBRLP) and the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan.</p> <p>The CNP will be used to guide and shape development within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	2020 - 2029
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the Parish of Charlton in Test Valley (Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The CNP will set out a vision, objectives, strategy and range of policies to guide future development within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Clive Ward, Steering Group member cllrward@charltonvillage.org.uk

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LEGEND

 Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area



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Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
SEA FOR THE CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Drawn CN	Checked JW	Approved RC	Date 23/09/2020
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File Name: 152004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood Plan_CRB_2018_2022\02_Maps\Charlton NP Steering Group\Figure 1.1 - Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area.mxd

SEA explained

- 1.6 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the CNP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.7 The CNP was submitted for Examination on 15th April 2020 and was accompanied by an SEA and HRA screening opinion (October 2019) prepared by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC). The screening opinion concluded that the CNP was not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.8 However, as part of the Regulation 16 process, Natural England (May 2020) raised the issue of waste water from the proposed allocation (50 dwellings) in the CNP. After further investigation, it was confirmed that the waste water from the plan area is discharged into the Fullerton Waste Water Treatment Works, which then discharges into the River Test. The River Test is in the Solent Catchment area. Natural England therefore believe there is uncertainty as to whether the CNP has the potential for a likely significant effect on European designated sites within the Solent.
- 1.9 Given the uncertainty raised, a screening opinion addendum was prepared (June 2020) by TVBC. The screening opinion addendum concluded that the CNP could have a negative impact on European designated sites within the river catchment, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is required. Given the need for Appropriate Assessment, the Council also concluded that a full SEA should be carried out (as Regulation 5 (3) of the SEA Regulations states that a SEA should be carried out if a plan is determined to require an Appropriate Assessment).

The SEA Regulations

- 1.10 The SEA has been undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.11 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.12 In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:
 1. What's the scope of the SEA?
 2. What has Plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 - o 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised for the plan.
 3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?
 - o i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 4. What happens next?
- 1.13 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present the information to be provided within the report'. **Table 1.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

This Environmental Report

- 1.14 This document is the Environmental Report for the CNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as presented in **Table 1.2**.

Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory² requirements

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

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

2. Local Plan context and vision for the CNP

- 2.1 The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) is being prepared in the context of the adopted Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 (TVBRLP)⁴ and the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan.
- 2.2 The TBBRLP was adopted in 2016 and forms the main part of the Development Plan for Test Valley. The document sets out a vision for the future development within the borough, including the core objectives underpinning the policies and proposals which form the overall spatial strategy.
- 2.3 The CNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019).
- 2.4 Additionally, the NPPF states that “*local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans*” according to set criteria which includes its stage of preparation. Whilst the emerging Next Local Plan is not yet adopted, it underwent ‘Refined Issues and Options’ Regulation 18 consultation in July 2020,⁵ and contributes to the strategic context of the CNP.
- 2.5 The adopted Revised Local Plan does not provide a specific housing needs figure for Charlton. However, the Settlement Hierarchy set out in Policy COM2 classifies Charlton as a Key Service Centre. Table 7 within the Revised Local Plan sets out the following ‘associated scale of development’ for Key Service Centres:
- Strategic allocations;
 - Windfalls;
 - Replacement dwellings;
 - Community-led Development;
 - Rural Affordable Housing sites (Stockbridge only);
 - Strategic Employment Sites; and
 - Small scale employment development.
- 2.6 It is noted that the emerging Next Local Plan Refined Issues & Options consultation document indicates that the current settlement hierarchy will be reviewed. This will include a review of services and facilities within each settlement, which have been used to inform the current hierarchy, together with the classification of different categories within the hierarchy and the assumptions taken to defining these. The revised settlement hierarchy will be set out in the Preferred Options Local Plan Consultation alongside more detailed policies and proposals, anticipated in early 2021.
- 2.7 The adopted Revised Local Plan (2016) does not specifically allocate sites for development within Charlton, nor is a housing number identified for the parish. It states that “*Parish Councils may wish to bring forward Neighbourhood Development Plans which include proposals for additional development. The choice of sites could be either within or outside of settlement boundaries provided that the site selection takes into account the principles of sustainable development and the relevant policies within the Local Plan.*”

⁴ Test Valley Borough Council (2016) Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd>

⁵ Test Valley Borough Council (2020) Next Local Plan: Refined Issues and Options Consultation 2020 [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/next-local-plan-refined-issues-and-options-consultation-2020>

- 2.8 Furthermore, the emerging New Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Document (2020) states *“The next Local Plan will take account of the emerging Neighbourhood Plans in the Borough as well as providing the strategic policy framework for future Neighbourhood Plans.”*

Long-term vision and objectives for the CNP

- 2.9 The long-term vision for the CNP, which was established during earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

“Charlton Village has a distinct sense of identity as a village community. It wants to preserve this while evolving in such a way that it meets the developing needs of its residents – young, old and families.”

- 2.10 The long-term vision is underpinned by the following eight objectives:

1. A continuing programme of community consultation and engagement to enable residents' views to influence the evolution of the village.
2. Developing and promoting policies that enhance the village environment – its housing and commercial properties, its green spaces, and its network of footpaths and cycle paths and maintaining them in a well-kept and safe state.
3. Encouraging the development and redevelopment of properties within the settlement/parish boundary which is sympathetic to the evolving character of the village.
4. Ensuring that development and redevelopment is sustainable, respects the needs of residents and includes the appropriate infrastructure improvements to support any proposed changes (e.g. medical, roads, transport).
5. Preserving the historic sites (recognised by English Heritage as of national importance) of Charlton Village with Foxcotte and the character of these sites, in particular the ancient burial ground.
6. Resisting the urbanisation of the village environment and enhancement of the rural landscape.
7. Promoting biodiversity in its wildlife habitats.
8. Ensuring that Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council is apprised of the views of residents on matters not within the ambit of the Neighbourhood Plan itself, such as traffic, education and social policies.

3. The scope of the SEA

- 3.1 The purpose of scoping is to outline the 'scope' of the SEA through setting out:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the CNP;
 - Baseline data against which the CNP can be assessed;
 - The key sustainability issues and opportunities for the CNP; and
 - An 'SEA Framework' of objectives against which the CNP can be assessed.
- 3.2 The scoping information is presented in **Appendix A** with the key issues and opportunities and SEA framework presented below.
- 3.3 The SEA Regulations require that: *"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies"*. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.⁶ We are inviting the consultation bodies to comment on the scoping information and SEA framework at this stage.

Key issues and opportunities

- 3.4 Drawing on the review of the policy context and baseline information a range of key issues and opportunities have been identified and are set out below.

Air quality

- Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and the minimal level of growth likely to be delivered through the plan, the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.

Biodiversity

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is not constrained by internationally designated biodiversity sites. The two nearest Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)/Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are Porton Down SPA/ SAC and Sailsbury Plain SPA/SAC located over 10km from the parish boundaries.
- European sites further than 10km from could be affected by the CNP through hydrological pathways. This includes Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton water SPA and Ramsar. The conservation objectives, vulnerabilities and wider inter-dependencies of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, and the Solent Maritime SAC should be considered by any new development.
- There are no Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the Anton Lakes Nature reserve SSSI is adjacent to the parish boundary.
- In terms of local designations, Charlton Lakes Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) falls within the Plan area. There are also Priority Habitats present including woodland, deciduous woodland and broadleaved woodland.
- The SSSI, SNIC and priority habitats within and adjacent to the Plan area host a variety of plant and animal species that contribute to biodiversity and support ecological connectivity. These areas should be retained and enhanced in development. Support should also be given for net-gain where possible.

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

- The Neighbourhood Plan can also maximise opportunities to support multiple benefits from biodiversity, such as climate resilience.

Climate change

- National emissions data indicates that Test Valley borough demonstrates a declining trend with regards to emissions, this is similar to that of Hampshire, the South East and England as a whole. However, reduction over the past three years has been slower than all other comparators.
- Areas of high fluvial flood risk broadly align with the Charlton Lakes and its tributaries. Surface water flood risk in the Plan area is notably high, particularly at Hatherden road and the Goch way roundabout. Development proposals will need to deliver sufficient mitigation to minimise the risk of flooding from all sources.
- The largest contributor towards emissions in 2017 was the transportation sector. Subsequently, any development in the Plan area should consider the need to provide access to sustainable or low carbon travel options, that meet the needs of consumers and improves mobility, whilst also reducing emissions.
- The Neighbourhood Plan should seek to maximise opportunities to support Council actions in tackling climate change. This may include through encouraging renewable energy technologies in small-scale developments in the parish or improving access to sustainable travel options.

Landscape

- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within two landscape types according to the Test Valley Borough Landscaped Assessment (2018) : LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland and LCT5 River Valley Floor. These types define the character of the Neighbourhood Plan area in relation to its topography and drainage, land cover and land use, field and woodland pattern, building distribution, transport pattern and historic features, aesthetic and sensory features. Each LCA is sensitive to change, owing to their defining natural and historic environment features.
- The potential effects of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan may have implications for the overall character and appearance of the landscape in the future.

Historic environment

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a number of heritage assets including nine grade II listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Foxcott Deserted Village).
- The parish does not contain a Conservation Area, although parts of the parish to the west may be considered to fall within the setting of the Conservation Area at Penton Mewsey. This is reflected within the Pentons Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2010), and should be considered by development coming forward in the west of the parish.
- There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however Penton Mewsey Lodge and its parkland is located adjacent to the parish to the west.
- The local character and appearance of the wider built form within the Neighbourhood Plan area is of local significance. There is the potential for future development to adversely impact designated and undesignated heritage assets through insensitive design, layout or massing.
- The Heritage at Risk register has indicated no 'at risk' buildings or sites within the Plan area.
- There is the potential for future development to provide beneficial enhancement of heritage assets or their settings within the Plan area, particularly through public realm and access improvements or opportunities to better reveal the significance of an asset.

Land, soil and water resources

- The main river system serving the borough is the River Test, which is a mainly chalk fed watercourse. It has a number of tributaries of which the Anton and Pilhill Brook, in addition to the Charlton River, which are most relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area. Any new development should be sensitive of these main water features. Disruption to the quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources could potentially detriment drinking water sources in the Plan area. The quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources is important to ensuring that drinking water and watercourse status can be maintained at a high level.
- Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification datasets indicate that land within the Neighbourhood Plan area is a mix of largely Grade 2 to the north of the parish, with Grade 3a/b elsewhere outside of the urban area. It is therefore noted that there is the potential for loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) (Grades 1 – 3a) agricultural land as a result of new development within the parish.

Population and community

- The majority of residents fall within the 45 to 74 age brackets which represents an aging population. Where possible, the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to maximise opportunities for better accessibility and availability of health services.
- The majority of residents own their homes, with very limited shared ownership and lower rates of private and social rented properties. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment (2019) found that there is a shortage of affordable housing to meet the community needs in addition to appropriate housing to meet the needs of an aging population. The delivery of homes through the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to address affordable housing needs.
- In terms of deprivation, the Neighbourhood Plan area scores highly, making it one of the 10% least deprived parishes in England. There are however issues with Education, Skills and Training as there are significantly lower numbers of residents with higher level qualifications. This is reflected in the socio economic classification for the parish. Opportunities for residents to access education and employment should be supported where possible.
- In terms of primary and secondary education, the nearest catchment infant and junior schools are approximately 2km from the closest residential properties in Charlton (in terms of viable walking routes). In terms of secondary schools however, the closest catchment school is Harrow Way Community School at approximately 750m from the nearest dwellings. The Hampshire School Places Plan (2020) states that it has planned sufficiently for the future, however it is recognised that this is not parish specific.

Health and wellbeing

- The health of residents is broadly average, with residents supported by good access to health services. There is a GP service 0.6km from Charlton within Andover, and the nearest hospital for general treatment (including maternity units) is Andover War Memorial Hospital (0.6km). It is therefore considered that future growth could support and sustain the health and wellbeing of residents.
- In general, the Plan area hosts a range of services and facilities for residents; this includes two shops, a leisure facility, café, playschool, sports centre, gym, beauty treatments centre, vets, etc.
- There are a number of areas of public open space including children's play areas and sports pitches. There are also areas around the lakes which are accessible to the public. Future development offers the potential to maintain and improve living standards in the Plan area through high-quality development that integrates with the natural environment; including the local green infrastructure offer.

- In light of the parish's ageing population, it will be important to protect and enhance identified local assets, including green spaces and opportunities for recreation and community engagement. This will benefit residents over the long term.

Transportation

- Hatherden Road and Foxcotte Road/ Lane are the main transport routes extending through the Plan area. Both of these routes have high traffic flows and previous large scale planning applications have caused concerns to local residents in terms of increased traffic flows and safety issues on narrow lanes. New development should therefore be directed towards sustainable locations, with the potential to encourage active travel where possible, to avoid exacerbating existing congestion/ safety issues.
- The southern extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area is approximately 700m from Andover train station, which has regular services to major centres including London Waterloo, Exeter, Basingstoke and Salisbury. There are two bus services within the Plan area which connect with Andover bus station, train station and the hospital. Andover bus station provides residents with access to Heathrow Airport, London, Salisbury, Birmingham and Basingstoke. Opportunities to improve accessibility to these sustainable transport modes should be maximised where possible; recognising that there is currently a high dependency on the private vehicle.

SEA Framework

3.5 The key issues and opportunities were then translated into an 'SEA Framework'. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the assessment of likely significant effects on the baseline. The SEA framework for the CNP is presented below in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1: SEA Framework

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support water quality at European designated sites in the Solent? • Protect and enhance nationally and locally designated sites in and around the parish? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Avoid habitat fragmentation or loss? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the quality and integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB and its setting? • Support landscape character of the landscape character areas covering the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve the capacity for landscape features to accommodate new development through considerate planning? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?
Historic environment	Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance 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 access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?

Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land? • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Promote the use of vacant & derelict brownfield land opportunities?
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Support measures which seek to minimise water consumption? • Ensure the timely provision of wastewater infrastructure? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development? • Protect groundwater and surface water resources from pollution? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?
Population and communities	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of new and improved community facilities and amenities? • Support and contribute to the improvement of employment offer and associated infrastructure within the Plan area, such as high quality broadband for remote working? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents, including older residents, and residents with specialist needs?
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<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?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Health and Wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<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? 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?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? Ensure sufficient road capacity to accommodate new development? Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian movement? Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? Facilitate working from home and remote working? Improve road safety? Reduce the impact on residents from the road network? Improve parking facilities?

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

- 4.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include:
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
 - The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives/ an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.
- 4.2 The 'narrative' of plan-making/ SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report.

Establishing the reasonable alternatives

- 4.3 As the delivery of new housing development through the CNP is what is most likely to have a significant effect on SEA objectives, it was determined that this issue should be the primary focus of the consideration of alternatives through the SEA process. Case-law (most notably Friends of the Earth Vs. Welsh Ministers, 2015) has established that planning authorities may apply discretion and planning judgement when determining what should reasonably be the focus of alternatives appraisal, recognising the need to apply a proportionate approach and ensure an SEA process/ report that is focused and accessible.
- 4.4 The potential sites for delivering development in line with the CNP objectives, will directly or indirectly influence the topic areas identified at **Section 3.1** and the Steering Group's preferred approach.

Local planning framework

- 4.5 As discussed in **Section 2.1**, the CNP is being prepared in the context of the adopted Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 (TVBRLP) and the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan.
- 4.6 The TVBRLP classifies Charlton as a Key Service Centre; however, it is recognised that the settlement hierarchy is currently being reviewed through the emerging Test Valley Borough Next Local Plan.
- 4.7 The adopted Revised Local Plan (2016) does not specifically allocate sites for development within Charlton, nor is a housing number provided for the parish. The Revised Local Plan states that *"Parish Councils may wish to bring forward Neighbourhood Development Plans which include proposals for additional development. The choice of sites could be either within or outside of settlement boundaries provided that the site selection takes into account the principles of sustainable development and the relevant policies within the Local Plan."*
- 4.8 Furthermore, the emerging Next Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Document (2020) states *"The next Local Plan will take account of the emerging Neighbourhood Plans in the Borough as well as providing the strategic policy framework for future Neighbourhood Plans."*

Housing number

- 4.9 A Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) was commissioned and produced by AECOM (2019), which recommended a housing need of 16 dwellings per annum or 292 dwellings over the Neighbourhood Plan period. Deducting past completions between 2011 and 2017 reduced this figure to 200 dwellings in the Parish over the remaining Plan period. As a settlement with only 853 dwellings, this would represent a 34% increase in housing stock, which the Steering Group feel would be significant change within this short Plan period. Furthermore, this would be in contrast to the majority of villages of this size, where a 5-10% increase is typically seen.

- 4.10 The Steering Group and local residents have therefore concluded, through community consultation, that a remaining housing figure of around 50 new homes over the Plan period would best reflect the needs of the parish. In addition to the 92 dwellings (85 emerging at Goch Way and 7 others) already constructed, this would total 142 dwellings over the Plan period, representing approximately a 17% increase in dwellings.
- 4.11 The decision to reduce the housing figure to 50 dwellings has been agreed with TVBC. This is confirmed within TVBC's response to the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Examination - Examiner's Clarifying Questions (2020) (question 10).
- 4.12 Taking the above into account, it is considered that alternatives should be explored through the SEA to deliver the indicative requirement of 50 dwellings, while also helping to meet the wider objectives of the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.13 The first step in establishing reasonable alternatives that can achieve this need is to identify site options.

Site options

- 4.14 In June 2019 the Steering Group carried out a Site Assessment to identify sites potentially suitable for allocation through the Neighbourhood Plan. A number of possible sites for residential development around Charlton were identified at the beginning of the process from the following sources:
- 2014 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
 - 2018 Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)
- 4.15 This resulted in a total of eight sites. One further site within the Parish boundary was also considered potentially suitable and therefore was also taken forward for assessment. It is noted that no call for sites was undertaken due to the recent call for sites undertaken by TVBC.
- 4.16 **Table 4.1** below lists all nine sites identified and assessed by the Steering Group.

Table 4.1 Sites assessed through the Site Assessment

Site name	SHLAA ref	Size (ha)	Indicative capacity	Taken forward for further consideration through the SEA process?
Land at Goch Way	019	2.5	85	No - Site currently being developed
Land to the North of Goch Way	Part 019	3.6	50	Yes
Land at Charlton Nursery	032	4.18	30	No - site currently being developed
Land at Rear of Hatherden Road	041	1.36	54	Yes
Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	042	8.3	220	Yes
Land at Enham Lane	130	4.06	115	Yes
Land at west of Foxcotte Lane	149	44	1320	No - site isolated from the existing settlement area, outside of the settlement boundary.
Land at Foxcotte Manor Farm	155	40	1200	No – site is outside of the settlement boundary projecting prominently into countryside to the north/west.
Land at Foxcotte Lane	169	0.3	10	No - Site very small in size and would not meet housing needs in full

4.17 Of the sites considered in **Table 4.1**, the Steering Group have discounted five for a number of reasons, including where sites have now been developed, and due to potential impact on the landscape. The following four sites are being carried forward for further consideration through the SEA process:

- Land to the North of Goch Way;
- Land at Rear of Hatherden Road;
- Land to east of Foxcotte Lane; and
- Land at Enham Lane.

4.18 The SEA process has undertaken a comparative appraisal of the key environmental constraints present at each of the four site options and potential effects that may arise as a result of housing development at these locations (see **Table 4.2** below). The locations of these sites are presented in **Figure 4.2** overleaf.

Table 4.2 site options considered through the SEA process

Option	Name	Size (ha)
A	Land to the North of Goch Way;	3.6
B	Land at Enham Lane	4.06
C	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	8.3
D	Land at rear of Hatherden Road	1.36

LEGEND

- Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Site Option
- Option A: Land to the north of Goch Way
- Option B: Land at Enham Lane
- Option C: Land to the east of Foxcotte Lane
- Option D: Land at Rear of Hatherden Road

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Purpose of Issue
DRAFT

Client
CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
SEA FOR THE CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROWTH OPTIONS

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
CN	JW	RC	23/09/2020
AECOM Internal Project No. 60571087		Scale @ A4 1:7,500	

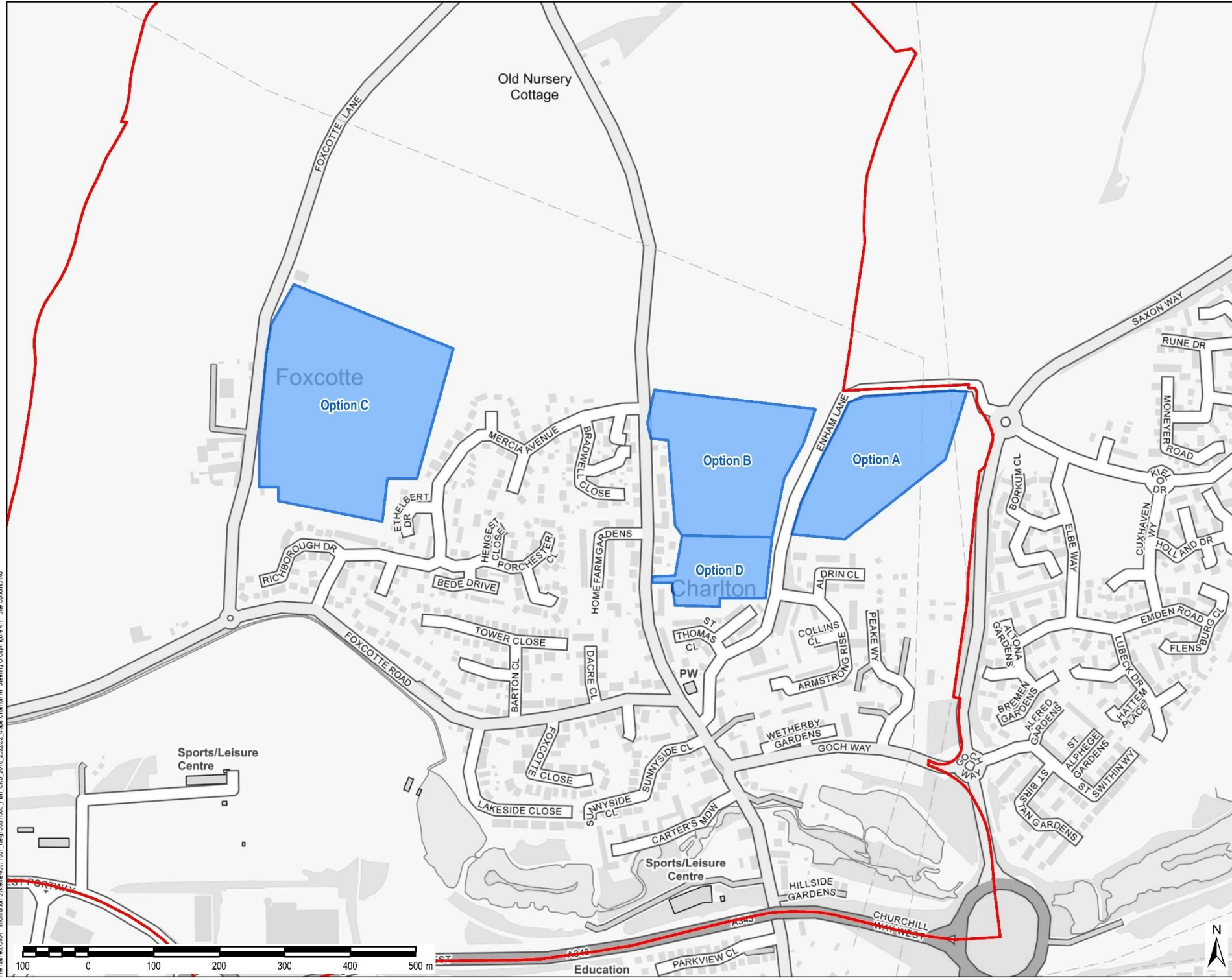
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AECOM
Middlesex
AECOM UK, Basingstoke
Hampshire, RG24 7PP
Tel: 01256 312500
Fax: 01256 310211
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FIGURE 4.1



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5. Assessing the reasonable alternatives

- 5.1 Following on from the previous chapter, four sites are established as reasonable options to deliver against the aims for growth in the parish. This chapter presents the summary findings for the assessment of these options, with detailed findings presented in **Appendix B**.

Methodology

- 5.2 For each of the options, the assessment examines likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives identified through scoping (see **Appendix A**) as a methodological framework. **Green** is used to indicate significant positive effects, whilst **red** is used to indicate significant negative effects.
- 5.3 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, where there is a need to rely on assumptions in order to reach a conclusion on a 'significant effect' this is made explicit in the appraisal text.
- 5.4 Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects based on reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms and to indicate **a rank of preference**. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to distinguish between them in terms of 'significant effects'. Numbers are used to highlight the option or options that are preferred from an SEA perspective with 1 performing the best.
- 5.5 Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Regulations.⁷ So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency and reversibility of effects.

Summary assessment findings

- 5.6 The options established for assessment are as follows:
- Option A: Land to the North of Goch Way
 - Option B: Land at Enham Lane
 - Option C: Land to east of Foxcotte Lane
 - Option D: Land at rear of Hatherden Road
- 5.7 **Table 5.1** overleaf presents summary findings for the assessment of these options, with detailed findings presented in **Appendix B**.

⁷ Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Table 5.1 Reasonable alternative site options – summary findings

SA theme		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Biodiversity	Rank	=	=	=	=
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
Climate change	Rank	1	3	2	3
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
Landscape	Rank	2	3	4	1
	Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes – negative	No
Historic environment	Likely effect	1	2	4	3
	Rank	No	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Land, soil and water resources	Rank	2	3	1	3
	Significant effect?	Yes – negative	Yes – negative	Yes – negative	Yes – negative
Population and communities	Rank	2	2	3	1
	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
Health and wellbeing	Rank	2	2	3	1
	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
Transportation	Rank	2	3	4	1
	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No

Summary:

The assessment has identified the potential for significant negative effects under all options against the land soil and water resources SEA theme, in light of the permanent loss of greenfield and high-quality agricultural land. Significant negative effects have also been identified for Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) in relation to landscape, given its location on the edge of the settlement, with the potential to extend into the open landscape to the west, affecting ‘moderate’ and ‘significant’ views.

The assessment concludes that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is worst performing in relation to the majority of SEA themes. This is predominantly given that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is constrained by historic assets, is of highest landscape sensitivity, and is located furthest from the village core, with reduced opportunity to encourage active travel – particularly given the adjacent ‘commuter through route’ Foxcotte Road/ Lane. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) however does perform better than other options in relation to the climate change and land, soil and water SEA objectives. This is given the loss of lower quality agricultural land than other options, and lower risk of flooding.

The assessment identifies the potential for significant positive effects under all options against the population and communities’ and health and wellbeing SEA themes. All options will deliver new homes to meet local needs; and support the growth of sustainable, healthy communities with access to services, facilities and green infrastructure.

Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is generally ranked higher across the socio-economic SEA themes than Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane). This is predominantly due to its greater potential to integrate with the existing settlement form; access to services, facilities, and sustainable travel; and opportunities to support active travel. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) however performs more positively than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) in relation a number of environmental themes; i.e. Option A is not constrained by heritage assets or flood risk, and is of lower quality agricultural land than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road).

All options perform equally in relation to biodiversity given options are not constrained by nationally or locally designated assets nor do options contain significant biodiversity on site. All options perform equally in terms of the potential to impact upon European designated sites within the Solent; as identified through the HRA (2020).

Developing the preferred approach

5.8 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have provided the following information, set out in **Table 5.2**, which outlines reasons for the selection or rejection of the four site options. This is based on the Site Assessment Report, community feedback and the SEA findings.

Table 5.2: Outline reasons for selecting or rejecting alternatives

Site option	Allocated?	Reasons for selection/ rejection
Option A: Land to the North of Goch Way	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land at Goch Way is currently under development for 85 dwellings following an appeal APP/C1760/A/14/2222867 granted (2015). Option A forms the remainder of the site (to the north west, as identified in the SHLAA/ SHELAA), and would therefore act as a natural extension to the development current being progressed. Previous Appeal and Local Plan Inspectors found that the site as a whole could be developed without undue harm to the landscape setting.
Option B: Land at Enham Lane	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site outside of the Settlement Area The site suffers from surface water flooding and potential mineral extraction constraints. Archaeology Impact of Public Rights of Way Landscape impact to the north Potential minerals extraction area
Option C: Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Settlement Area Previously refused for 202 dwellings under application ref 14/02064/OUTN and appeal withdrawn. Further application 15/01582/ OUTN for Outline application for residential development of 175 dwellings, highways and associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping was refused on 4th Dec 2015 for a number of reasons (see decision notice). It is considered that little has changed since the previous refusal reasons. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being an unsustainable form of development within the countryside Loss of agricultural land Impact on landscape character Loss of hedgerow and trees Less than substantial harm to the setting of designated heritage assets without sufficient public benefit to outweigh the harm Lack of legal agreement to secure the following: highway improvements, affordable housing, public open space improvements, primary school capacity, public art and sustainable drainage measures.
Option D: Land at rear of Hatherden Road	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Settlement Area The site suffers from surface water flooding and potential mineral extraction constraints. Archaeology Impact of Public Rights of Way Landscape impact to the north Access Setting of designated heritage assets

- 5.9 **Table 5.2** shows that of the site options assessed, Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as suitable for allocation through the CNP. The Option performs well against SEA objectives (see **Table 5.1**) and aligns most positively with the objectives of the CNP.

Current approach in the CNP and the CNP policy framework

- 5.10 To support the implementation of the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan discussed in **Section 2.9**, the current version of the CNP puts forward 21 policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 5.11 The policies, which were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering, are set out in **Table 6.1** below.

Table 6.1 Charlton Neighbourhood Plan policies

Housing

Policy CNP1	Settlement Boundary/ Built up Area
Policy CNP2	Land to the North of Goch Way
Policy CNP3	Housing Mix
Policy CNP4	Retirement and Nursing Homes

Natural Environment

Policy CNP5	Landscape Character and Setting
Policy CNP6	Setting of the Local Gap
Policy CNP7	Important Views
Policy CNP8	Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors
Policy CNP9	Public Rights of Way
Policy CNP10	Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment
Policy CNP11	Charlton Lakes
Policy CNP12	Local Green Space
Policy CNP13	Flooding and Drainage

Built Environment

Policy CNP14	Design
Policy CNP15	Sustainable Construction and Future Infrastructure Provision
Policy CNP16	The Historic Environment

Community

Policy CNP17	Community and Sports facilities – Retention and Enhancement
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Local Business and Employment

Policy CNP18	Retention of Local Shops and Businesses
Policy CNP19	Employment

Transport and Highways

Policy CNP20	Access and Road Safety
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Development Delivery

Policy CNP21	Delivery and Pre-Application Engagement on Major Development Proposals
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6. What are the SEA findings at this stage?

Introduction

- 6.1 The aim of this chapter is to present assessment findings in relation to the submission version of the CNP. This chapter presents:
- An appraisal of the CNP under the eight SEA theme headings; and
 - The overall conclusions at this current stage and any recommendations.

Methodology

- 6.2 The assessment is structured under the eight SEA themes taken forward for the purposes of the SEA and that are linked to the SEA objectives, see **Appendix A**.
- 6.3 For each theme ‘significant effects’ of the CNP on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect ‘characteristics’ are described within the assessment as appropriate.
- 6.4 Every effort is made to identify/ evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

Assessment of the CNP

Biodiversity

- 6.5 In terms of European designated sites, while there are no sites within 10km of the parish, it is considered through the CNP Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (2020)⁸ that an increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment, and changes in land use resulting from growth within the parish could result in changes in hydrology at European sites over 10km away. Furthermore, it has been confirmed by TVBC that any new site allocation within the parish would be processed at Fullerton Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), which discharges into the River Test, which ultimately drains into the Solent. This includes the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar and the Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There are existing problems of eutrophication within the Solent as a result of nitrate discharges from wastewater treatment works and agricultural runoff arising from rivers draining into the Solent.
- 6.6 Natural England's June 2020 guidance⁹ on nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region states that *“Until [ongoing] work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.”* The HRA (2020) therefore states that *“a likely significant effect from the 50 additional homes proposed in the NP cannot be ruled out and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required in order to meet the Habitats Regulations.”*
- 6.7 The AA concludes that:

⁸ Land Use Consultants (2020) HRA of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment

⁹ Natural England (2020) Guidance on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality in the Solent Region [online] available at:

“In order to ensure that the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan does not result in adverse effects on integrity of European sites, it is recommended that an additional requirement is added to Policy CNP2 to ensure nutrient neutrality of the development:

Development will be required to confirm the nitrogen budget and set out specific and appropriately located mitigation measures that will be implemented in order to ensure development is nutrient neutral from the start of its operational phase. Such mitigation measures must be secured for the duration of the development's effects. A financial contribution to strategic mitigation measures may be an appropriate alternative to direct provision of mitigation. In this case it will be necessary to liaise with Test Valley Borough Council and Natural England to confirm an appropriate mitigation scheme to which the contributions will be directed and to ensure any contributions are sufficient to fully mitigate the impacts of the development on the Solent internationally designated sites.

The supporting text of the policy should also be updated to explain the potential for wastewater treatment from the new residential development to adversely affect the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar and the Solent Maritime SAC due to nitrates discharged into the River Test, and to highlight the mitigation options available, as briefly described above [...].

Providing wording to this effect is included in the neighbourhood plan, no adverse impacts on integrity of European sites are expected.”

- 6.8 The SEA supports the conclusions and recommendations of the HRA, which should be incorporated to mitigate against potential residual negative effects.
- 6.9 In terms of nationally designated biodiversity sites, Anton Lakes National Nature Reserve (NNR) is located adjacent to the parish boundary, approximately 550m from the site allocation ‘Land to the north of Goch Way’. It is considered that the potential for direct effects on the NNR is limited given the distance from the site allocation and the scale of growth proposed. Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) does however have the potential to lead to indirect positive effects on the NNR and wider biodiversity resource; requiring new development to *“Maximise opportunities to enhance biodiversity in line with policy CNP 10, with particular consideration given to the provision of bat and bird boxes, wildlife corridors, e.g. all gardens built with interconnections for hedgehogs and connected to surrounding areas.”* Policy CNP10 (Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment) recognises the need to *“Include measures to provide wildlife corridors in order to maintain, retain and secure connectivity of the wider network”*.
- 6.10 *The ‘wider network’ within the Neighbourhood Plan area includes Charlton Lakeside Site of Important Nature Conservation (SINC) and the River Anton; a chalk stream fed by high quality water, which supports a rich and diverse array of wildlife. TVBC, the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust have formed a partnership to improve the river corridor for wildlife and people. This is reinforced at the local level through Policy CNP10, which requires proposals to “demonstrate how they have taken account of the key issues raised in The River Anton Enhancement Strategy will be given support where they comply with other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.”*
- 6.11 The Plan area’s rich biodiversity resource also includes Charlton Lakes, a public open space located in the centre of Charlton Parish, dominated by two large lakes fed by a tributary of the River Anton. The Lakes are highly valued for their wildlife, reflected through Policy CNP11 (Charlton Lakes). In line with Policy CNP11, development in the Lakes area will only be supported where it *“avoids detriment to the integrity of the local ecology by incorporating appropriate measures in development proposals; and Contributes to the aims and objectives of the River Anton Enhancement Strategy 2008-2013 (as amended).”* In addition, development is supported where it *“directly promotes nature conservation”*, which will likely lead to long term positive effects in terms of extending and improving the area’s valued green and blue infrastructure network.
- 6.12 More broadly, biodiversity assets are protected and enhanced through the CNP policies which seek to maintain and where possible enhance the highly valued, natural environment. Policy CNP8 (Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors) and Policy CNP10

(Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment) seek to ensure the existing network of green spaces and corridors that flow through Charlton are preserved and where possible strengthened. Furthermore, the local community have expressed the need to “*restore, maintain, and prevent damage to priority habitats, ancient trees, woodlands, amenity trees and hedgerows in the parish*”; which again is reflected through Policy CNP8 and CNP10. Adopting a holistic approach to planning for green infrastructure is anticipated to deliver positive effects in the long-term.

- 6.13 In line with Policy CNP0, all development proposals are required to “*deliver a biodiversity net gain for the parish.*” It is considered that embedding the principle for biodiversity ‘net gain’ will improve resilience to current and future pressures, as identified through the NPPF (2019) and the Governments 25-year Environment Plan (2018). In terms of implementing the net-gain requirement, Policy CNP10 is supplemented by Policy CNP8; which states that proposals should “*conserve existing natural and green, corridors and [create] new ones, using landscape features and habitats, such that the development has a net positive impact on the environment*”. Ensuring opportunities for net-gain are capitalised upon both at the site level and strategically, will support ecological connectivity throughout the new development and wider surrounds, leading to significant long-term positive effects.
- 6.14 Also of note is Policy CNP12 (Local Green Space), which could lead to positive effects by virtue of protecting 13 multifunctional green spaces present within the parish. Whilst the main policy intent relates to recreation and amenity, there are likely to be secondary effects in relation to biodiversity by virtue of maintaining natural spaces for wildlife.
- 6.15 In terms of the site allocation at Land to the North of Goch Way, the site is wholly greenfield land and does not hold any significant biodiversity value on site based on current evidence. However, Natural England’s Habitat Network¹⁰ does identify the site allocation as falling within a Network Expansion Zone.¹¹ Land within this zone is identified as having the potential for expanding, linking/joining networks across the landscape i.e. conditions such as soils are potentially suitable for habitat creation for specific habitats. Action to improve connections between existing habitat networks can therefore be targeted here. In this respect, and as set out above, the wider CNP policy framework performs positively through seeking to preclude the loss of trees and hedgerows from new development; precluding impacts on key ecological linkages; and supporting connectivity and net-gain where possible.
- 6.16 Overall, the CNP is predicted to have a residual **neutral** effect on biodiversity. It is recognised that there is the potential for positive effects to be delivered in the long term through, for example, securing measurable net gains for biodiversity and planning holistically for green infrastructure. This however is uncertain at this stage.

Climate change

- 6.17 The climate change SEA objectives have a dual focus of reducing the contribution of the Neighbourhood Plan area to climate change and supporting resilience to the potential effects of climate change, particularly flooding. In practice, development plans can contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by minimising greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment. Adapting to the effects of climate change includes ensuring development is directed away from areas at greatest risk of flooding, limiting effects of extreme weather and reducing urban heat island effects.
- 6.18 In terms of adapting to climate change, the CNP performs well overall; focussing growth away from areas of fluvial and surface water flood risk. However, while the site allocation is not at risk of flooding, the CNP recognises that flooding in the Plan area has had a significant impact in the past and aims to minimise the likelihood of flooding and drainage overflow problems by all means. As such, Policy CNP13 (Flooding and Drainage) states that “*Development will be supported where it is demonstrated that surface water drainage will not add to the existing site*”

¹⁰ Natural England (2019) Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats) (England) [online] available at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fceb93850462454ab3fb5acce2be35b_0

¹¹ ¹¹ Natural England (2020) National Habitat Network Maps: User Guidance [online] available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/Habitat%20Network%20Mapping%20Guidance.pdf

runoff or cause any adverse impact to neighbouring properties and the surrounding environment.”

6.19 Well planned green infrastructure can help an area adapt to and manage the risks of climate change (including flood risk). Enabling and providing for green infrastructure within the Neighbourhood Plan area is therefore a key way in which the CNP can help to promote climate change adaptation measures. Protecting and enhancing the parish’s extensive green infrastructure resource is a key focus of the CNP policy framework; with the following policies performing particularly positively in this respect:

- Policy CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors;
- Policy CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment;
- Policy CNP11 Charlton Lakes; and
- Policy CNP12 Local Green Space.

6.20 These policies recognise the multi-functional benefits of strengthening green infrastructure networks locally, including assisting carbon sequestration and promoting walking and cycling through the attractive public realm. Notably Policy CNP8 supports new development where proposals:

- *“Conserve existing natural and green, corridors and creating new ones, using landscape features and habitats, such that the development has a net positive impact on the environment;*
- *Improving and adding trees, wetlands, grassland, parks, woods, orchards and allotments; and*
- *link the new development to the natural areas of Charlton, the Lakes and the surrounding countryside, providing access for people and wildlife and improving access to nature for both existing and new residents”*

6.21 The domestic sector is a contributing factor which can be influenced by plan policies, and in line with national and local targets, the CNP seeks to reduce emissions, reflecting Test Valley’s ambitions of *“eliminating our carbon footprint as soon as possible, [...] before the government target of 2050.”*¹² The CNP highlights that *“Latest technologies in design, construction and sustainability are at the centre of Charlton’s future construction requirements within the Neighbourhood Plan period”*, with Policy CNP15 (Sustainable Construction and Future Infrastructure Provision) requiring that *“any new developments of in excess of five new dwellings must secure at least 10% of their total regulated energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.”*

6.22 Water efficiency is also a key consideration for the parish; given that the Environment Agency’s Final Classification (2013) categorises Charlton falls as an area of ‘serious water stress’. In light of the NPPF (2019) and Revised Local Plan (Policy E7 Water Management), the CNP seeks to encourage, through Policy CNP15, higher water efficiency standards in new development. The approach set out in Policy CNP15 aligns with the Southern Water ‘Target 100’ programme to reduce average per capita water consumption to 100 litres per person per day by 2040¹³, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply. This is anticipated to lead to positive effects, supporting sustainable development throughout the plan period.

6.23 It is further noted that site specific requirements in this respect are set out through Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way). In line with Policy CNP2 *“any proposed development should demonstrate how consideration has been given to renewable energy, water efficiency and the impact of climate change with regard to sustainable design (in conjunction with Policy CNP15)”*.

¹² Test Valley Borough Council (2019) Climate Emergency declared in Test Valley [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/news/2019/sep/climate-emergency-declared-in-test-valley#:~:text=Test%20Valley%20Borough%20Council%20has,on%20September%204%20in%20Romsey>.

¹³ Southern Water (2020) Water for life – Target 100 [online] available at: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/target-100>

- 6.24 Provisions set out in Policy CNP20 (Access and Road Safety) and Policy CNP9 (Public Rights of Way) (supplemented by the wider CNP policy framework) are likely to be effective at reducing emissions from transport; targeting local improvements that can support sustainable transport, and supporting a modal shift and active travel opportunities. In this respect, there is little to add to the discussion presented below, under the 'Transportation' SEA theme. In terms of support for lower-emission vehicles (i.e. Electric Vehicles), it is recognised that *"it is not the intention of the Parish Council to provide public charging points at this stage."* Furthermore, *"Future reviews of the Plan will review the demand and potential locations within the parish if needed."*
- 6.25 It is considered that the CNP is likely to have a **minor positive effect** overall, taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. The CNP seeks to deliver sustainable development that supports the longevity of the village; ensuring proposals contribute to Test Valley's carbon neutral target through providing high standard, efficient design and construction in the long-term.

Landscape

- 6.26 Charlton village is situated to the northwest of the larger settlement of Andover. A key objective of the CNP is to address residents' concerns that the identity of the village has been eroded; that the village will be subsumed, and that the future of the village will be lost. This concern stems in part from the Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment (2018), which sets out that *"In view of the elongated and simple linear form of the landscape features within this part of the character area, combined with its overall openness, visual separation is dependent on maintaining the undeveloped character of the farmland between Andover and these villages [Charlton]. There is very little in the way of significant belts of vegetation or variation in topography to provide enclosure or natural screening."*¹⁴
- 6.27 Policy CNP1 (Settlement Boundary/ Built up Area) therefore seeks make a clear distinction between the built-up area of the village and Andover through defining a new settlement boundary. In line with Policy CNP1, development which consolidates the built form of the village within the settlement boundary will be supported and encouraged; whereas proposals for inappropriate development distributed in the countryside surrounding the village, will not be supported.
- 6.28 The identify of Charlton will be further protected through Policy CNP6 (Setting of the Local Gap). The need to protect land to the north and northeast of the Local Gap Between Penton Mewsey and Charlton (designated by TVBC) is evidenced through the CNP supporting documents; including the Character Appraisal and Viewpoint Assessment. This land *"performs an important role in defining the settlement character of the area and separating settlements at risk of coalescence."*
- 6.29 Retaining this land through Policy CNP6 is therefore considered to lead to long term positive effects given its high-quality landscape value (as evidenced by the Character Appraisal and Viewpoint Assessment), in addition to its contribution to the setting of the Local Gap; notably maintaining the *"integrity of the gap"* and the *"physical and/ or visual separation"* between settlements. Positive effects may also be delivered in terms of planning for green infrastructure.
- 6.30 Charlton's landscape, countryside and rural areas will be further protected against inappropriate development through Policy CNP5 (Landscape Character and Setting). In line with Policy CNP5 new development will be required to *"protect or enhance the landscape setting of Charlton taking account of other policies and findings within the Neighbourhood Plan, the Charlton Character Appraisal, TVBC Landscape Assessment/ Landscape Visual Impact Assessment and other relevant documents as set out in the Local Plan"*. Other CNP policies in this respect include Policy CNP7 (Important Views), which requires that key views identified as important to the community through the Charlton Viewpoint Assessment (2019), are protected and where possible enhanced. Specifically, *"proposals outside the settlement boundary will be expected to demonstrate that they will not have an adverse impact on the identified views."*

¹⁴ Terrafirma Landscape Architects (2018) <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

- 6.31 In terms of the site allocation Land to the North of Goch Way; while the site is wholly greenfield on the northern edge of the settlement, any proposal will be required to *“optimise site layout to minimise the visual impact of the development from the open countryside to the north.”* The site allocation policy (Policy CNP2) sets out a number of landscape focussed criteria for the site; including requiring that the site be developed as *“low density housing appropriate to the edge of the countryside location”*; and that *“Development must not adversely intrude into important views as identified in Policy CNP7”*. This will contribute positively towards reducing potential adverse effects on the local villagescape, protecting rural views and setting.
- 6.32 Policy CNP2 is further supplemented by Policy CNP14 (Design), which sets landscaping design requirements for development in the wider plan area. Policy CNP14 requires that *“In accordance with the identified character areas, new development must demonstrate that careful consideration has been given to: appropriate massing, scale, layout, appearance and landscaping of proposals; the impact upon important views; the height of proposed buildings, which should not normally exceed two storeys (as set out within the Character Appraisal); [and] the impact upon important views”*.
- 6.33 The CNP also requires that green spaces within housing areas and recreational spaces such as Charlton Lakes are adequately protected. Protecting and enhancing the parish’s vast green infrastructure network and providing support for net-gain is likely to enhance local character with the potential for minor long-term positive effects. The following policies perform particularly positively in this respect:
- Policy CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors;
 - Policy CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment;
 - Policy CNP11 Charlton Lakes; and
 - Policy CNP12 Local Green Space.
- 6.34 Overall, while the CNP will lead to loss of greenfield land at the settlement edge; there is likely to be limited potential for residual adverse effects once proposed mitigation has been taken into account. Through landscape led design and masterplanning, proposed growth is anticipated to be in keeping with landscape and villagescape character and will not detract from overall settlement identity. Furthermore, the wider CNP policy framework protects village distinctiveness, characteristic views and visual connectivity between the parish and surrounding countryside; maintaining and enhancing the local green infrastructure offer. **Neutral effects** on the landscape are therefore considered overall.

Historic environment

- 6.35 In terms of heritage assets present within the CNP area, Charlton has nine listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Foxcotte Deserted Medieval Village). The site allocation Land to the North of Goch Way is not constrained by heritage assets (designated or non-designated), however Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) does require that building and landscape design *“draw on references from the natural and historic local environment as set out in section 8.0 [of the CNP] and the Character Appraisal Zones 1 and 2 and Landscape Character Area 9A”*. Character Appraisal Zones and Areas reflect the Test Valley Landscape Character Appraisal (2018) discussed above under the Landscape SEA theme.¹⁵ Of note, the appraisal land management guidelines for Character Area 9A include *“Conserve and enhance parkland and other historic features”*. This is reinforced through Policy CNP16 Historic Environment, which sets out support for new development proposals *“where they include appropriate measures to safeguard the designated heritage assets of the Plan area.”*
- 6.36 The Charlton Village Character Assessment (2019) has been prepared by local residents, and defines the character of the parish’s built up area within eleven character areas. The assessment identifies key issues to be addressed through the CNP policy framework, which is reflected predominately through Policy CNP14 (Design). Policy CNP14 requires that *“in accordance with the identified character areas, new development must demonstrate that*

¹⁵ Terrafirma Landscape Architects (2018) <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

careful consideration has been given to [...] the setting of designated heritage assets". Furthermore, *"Support will be given to development which reflects local building styles and detailing, and which uses traditional materials such as brick, tile and flint, especially within the setting of heritage assets and in Character Zone 1, 2 and 10."* It is considered that using local evidence to identify area specific issues, and targeting these issues through the CNP policy framework, will lead to long term protection and enhancement of the local historic environment; delivering positive effects overall.

- 6.37 While not within the CNP area, it is considered that Policy CNP6 (Setting of the Local Gap) may deliver to positive effects for the wider historic environment; *"[contributing] to the setting of the Local Gap and Penton Mewsey Conservation Area"*, to the west of the parish. In terms of heritage assets within the CNP area; maintaining the setting of the Local Gap may also provide a level of protection to the two Scheduled Monuments located within the proposed area along Foxcotte Lane/ Road.
- 6.38 Overall, it is considered that the CNP, alongside the higher-level policy suite, provides a robust framework for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. Residual **neutral effects** are anticipated overall.

Land, soil and water resources

- 6.39 Policy CNP2 allocates Land to the North of Goch Way for the development of 50 new homes adjacent to existing and emerging residential development to the south and east of the site. As the site is wholly greenfield land, development has the potential to lead to long-term negative effects with regards to efficient land use. In terms of agricultural land quality, the Charlton Village Character Assessment (2019) maps this information for the village. The map determines the site to be of Grade 3a quality, which is best and most versatile (Grades 1 to 3a), and therefore has the potential to lead to long term negative effects due to the permanent loss of this resource.
- 6.40 It is however considered that supporting biodiversity and facilitating enhancements to green infrastructure provision in the Neighbourhood Plan area will likely improve the quality of land and water resources. This will promote the ability of natural processes to support soil and water quality. Key policies in this regard are set out below:
- Policy CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors;
 - Policy CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment;
 - Policy CNP11 Charlton Lakes;
 - Policy CNP12 Local Green Space; and
 - Policy CNP17 Community and Sports facilities – Retention and Enhancement.
- 6.41 As discussed under the climate change SEA theme above, the parish falls within an area of 'serious water stress'. Although the Parish Council is not the planning authority in relation to water or wastewater development proposals, to ensure consistency with the NPPF and to facilitate sustainable development, support for essential infrastructure is provided through the CNP. Policy CNP15 (Sustainable Construction and Future Infrastructure Provision) therefore seeks to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to meet infrastructure requirements, in line with the Southern Water 'Target 100' programme. Managing water resources in a sustainable manner is considered to lead to positive effects in the long term.¹⁶
- 6.42 Taking the above into consideration, it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a **minor negative effect** in relation to the land, soils and water resources SEA theme. This is due to the permanent loss of greenfield, high quality agricultural land.

¹⁶ Southern Water (2020) Water for life – Target 100 [online] available at: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/target-100>

Population and communities

- 6.43 Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) seeks to deliver 50 new homes to the north east of the existing settlement, meeting in full the identified housing need figure for the parish over the CNP period. Proposed growth will lead to long term significant positive effects, as set out in Policy CNP2, “[providing] *“a range and mix of new homes (including starter homes and adaptable housing for those wishing to downsize)”*”. This is supplemented through Policy CNP3 (Housing Mix), which requires proposals make provision for *“a. A mix of dwelling sizes and types on development sites of 5 or more dwellings; and b. A mix that reflects the requirements set out in the Charlton Parish Housing Needs Assessment (HNA).”* In terms of specialist groups, a significant issue highlighted through the HNA was Charlton’s ageing population. The CNP recognises the demands this places on local health, transport and housing; and therefore sets criteria through Policy CNP4 (Retirement and Nursing Home) for the likely future need for increased nursing and retirement home provision.
- 6.44 It is considered that policies CNP2 - 4 will lead to long term positive effects through ensuring a good mix of different dwelling types, helping to meet a range of housing needs within the community. This will provide the opportunity for those with a local connection to remain in the village in homes more suited to their needs, as well as simultaneously providing opportunities for new young families, and affordable housing for others wishing to join the community. This in turn will help to support local facilities, businesses and the overall vitality of the village.
- 6.45 Support for local services and facilities is further delivered through Policy CNP17 (Community and Sports Facilities) and CNP19 (Retention of Local Shops and Businesses). Specifically, Policy CNP17 states that *“new developments must provide or contribute towards facilities, including the enhancement of existing facilities”*, while Policy CNP18 prevents change of use *“unless it can be demonstrated that the use is no longer viable”*.
- 6.46 In terms of employment, while the village is in easy reach of the Portway and Walworth Industrial estates (to the south west of the village - recognised for its local employment offer) it is noted that there is limited existing and potential employment in the parish overall. Furthermore, the CNP highlights that most residents of employment age out-commute to larger centres such as Salisbury, Basingstoke or London (via train - Andover rail station is within walking distance of the village).
- 6.47 The CNP highlights that with the proximity of the industrial estates, the easy access to commuting, and the more recent increase in home-working; there is limited demand for increased employment opportunities to be based in the village. Policy CNP18 (Retention of Local Shops and Businesses) and CNP19 (Employment) do however seek to protect and enhance the commercial employment mix, providing support for the retention of existing businesses (where possible), and for the provision of new small-scale businesses where it is compliant with the other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. This will lead to positive effects in terms of supporting economic growth of the village, and sustaining a level of local employment opportunities.
- 6.48 Positive effects are also anticipated through the delivery of new homes in a sustainable location. The site allocation is well connected to the village centre, with access to local services/ facilities in both Charlton and Andover; supporting active travel. Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) seeks to ensure development is appropriately planned and facilitate integrated, safe access to the village centre; while maximising opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. These requirements are further supplemented by Policy CNP14 (Design) which requires *“appropriate massing, scale, layout, appearance and landscaping of proposals”* recognising the need to sustain connectivity between Charlton and Andover; and protect village distinctiveness.
- 6.49 Overall it is considered that the CNP is likely to have a **significant positive effect** in relation to the population and communities SEA theme; meeting Charlton’s local housing needs in full, and ensuring that the type of housing being developed is likely to support the various needs of the local community. Furthermore, the CNP supports the vitality and viability of the plan area through delivering growth in a sustainable location; supporting a high quality, accessible public realm; and protecting and enhancing community infrastructure and local businesses.

Health and wellbeing

- 6.50 The health and wellbeing of residents will be supported by the CNP policies which support a high quality public realm, local distinctiveness and landscape/ villagescape character. This has been discussed to some extent under the 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' SEA themes above. In this context maintaining and enhancing the attractiveness of the Neighbourhood Plan area will positively affect residents' quality of life, contributing to the satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood as a place to live.
- 6.51 Policies CNP5 – 12, CNP14 and CNP20 are all of relevance; notably Policy CNP14 (Design) requires that *“development, extensions, alterations and replacement dwellings should be to a high standard of design, in keeping with the character of the area as identified within the Charlton Character Appraisal.”* As discussed above, a number of the CNP policies draw upon the village character appraisal to ensure the qualities of the parish that make the place unique and are of value to local residents, are protected and where possible, enhanced. Furthermore, in line with Policy CNP7 (Important Views) *“Special attention should be made to preserving [...] notable views as defined on the Viewpoint Assessment.”* The delivery of development that is sympathetic to Charlton's sensitive built and rural environment will likely lead to long term positive effects through supporting neighbourhood satisfaction and sense of place.
- 6.52 The CNP will further support community wellbeing by delivering growth in sustainable locations. Notably Policy CNP2 (Land to the north of Goch Way) requires development to *“Provide safe access to the site with particular attention to integrating the site into the wider Public Right of Way network”*. This could encourage residents to make healthy choices in relation to many of their regular journeys within the village (i.e. accessing health services and education in Charlton and Andover).
- 6.53 PRoW can also make a meaningful contribution to health and wellbeing through providing regular access to the natural environment. This is of particular importance in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and increased proportion of residents working from home, which in turn has increased the value of accessible green space. The site allocation performs particularly positively in this respect; given the extensive green infrastructure resource present. To the east is Saxon Fields Playground, and to the south is Anton Lakes and Anton Lakes Playground. It is also noted that the emerging (currently under construction) play area at Peake Way, immediately adjacent to the site, is designated as a Local Green Space through Policy CNP12 (Local Green Space). It is therefore considered that new residents will have suitable access to a range of leisure and sport facilities; supporting active and healthy lifestyles.
- 6.54 The Environment Bill sets out an intention to *“introduce a mandatory requirement for biodiversity net gain in the planning system, to ensure that new developments enhance biodiversity and create new green spaces for local communities to enjoy”*. This is reflected through Policy CNP10 (Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment) which, as discussed above, requires all proposals for development to demonstrate how they will *“deliver a net gain in biodiversity.”*
- 6.55 Policy CNP10 is supplemented by the wider CNP policy framework, which focuses on connecting and strengthening the parish's green infrastructure resource; recognising its multiple benefits, from recreation to wildlife. Policy CNP11 (Charlton Lakes), CNP8 (Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridor) are notable in this respect; given the importance of the lakes to both residents and visitors for their leisure and biodiversity value. Policy CNP8 (Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors) seeks to *“link new development to the natural areas of Charlton, the Lakes and the surrounding countryside, providing access for people and wildlife and improving access to nature for both existing and new residents”*. Supporting the parish's attractive and wildlife-rich green spaces (or 'green infrastructure') will likely lead to long term positive effects; creating better places for people and supporting a high-quality public realm with engaged, social communities.
- 6.56 Overall, it is considered that the CNP is likely to have residual **minor long term positive effects** in relation to the health and wellbeing SEA theme.

Transportation

- 6.57 The CNP recognises that any new development will bring more people, vehicles, and additional vehicle movements to the village; with the potential to exacerbate existing road safety issues. Policy CNP 9 (Public Rights of Way) and CNP20 (Access and Road Safety) therefore seek to ensure that any new development does not adversely impact upon traffic flow or areas where the road system is currently constrained (i.e. Hatherden Road, Foxcotte Road/ Lane); nor adversely affect the safety or accessibility for walkers and cyclists.
- 6.58 Furthermore, new development will be supported where it enables sustainable travel choices to be made. Policy CNP9 states that *“the creation of new permissive and public rights of way will be supported”*, while Policy CNP20 supports development *“where it makes provision for the use of sustainable modes of transport for local journeys, complies with other development plan policies, the objectives of the Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan and/ or the Hampshire County Council Walking and Cycling Strategies”*.
- 6.59 In terms of the site allocation, as discussed above under a number of SEA themes; Land to the North of Goch Way is sustainably located, with good access to local services, facilities, local employment opportunities, and community/ green infrastructure. The site is well connected to the PRoW network, and also is within walking distance of a bus stop and Andover railway station; supporting the uptake of active/ sustainable travel which may lead to a reduced reliance on the private vehicle. Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) sets requirements to ensure the long-term sustainability of the site; recognising the local transport/ accessibility pressures set out above. Notably, Policy CNP2 requires that development *“Provide safe access to the site [...] integrating the site into the Public Right of Way Network”*, *“provide an appropriate access which minimises traffic through the village”*, and *“provide sufficient on-plot parking for residents of the new development to minimise on-street parking”*. These measures are likely to mitigate against any potential adverse effects; reducing the number of vehicle movements, supporting accessibility throughout the village, and addressing local safety concerns.
- 6.60 It is considered that designing green infrastructure features within new development will likely enhance connectivity across development sites and to the wider area, further supporting active travel. Policy CNP2 (Land to the North of Goch Way) is considered to lead to positive effects in this respect, requiring development to *“Maximise opportunities to enhance biodiversity”*. This supplements wider CNP policies CNP8 (Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors), CNP10 (Biodiversity and Enhancement of the Natural Environment) and CNP12 (Local Green Space). Notably Policy CNP8 seeks to *“link new development to the natural areas of Charlton, the Lakes and the surrounding countryside”*. There is the potential for minor long term positive effects in this respect.
- 6.61 Overall, in light of the above it is considered that the CNP is likely to have an overall **neutral effect** in relation to the transport SEA theme.

Conclusions

- 6.62 In conclusion, potential significant effects arising from plan implementation are predominately positive; relating to the delivery of new housing to meeting local needs, protection of village character, settlement identity, and the extensive green infrastructure resource, and support for a modal shift towards active travel where possible. These are likely to bring about multiple benefits for the local community, resident health and wellbeing, landscape, historic environment, and biodiversity.
- 6.63 Negative effects relate to the overall loss of greenfield/ BMV agricultural land at Land to the north of Goch Way.

7. Next steps

- 7.1 Following consultation on this Environmental Report any representations received will be reviewed and taken into account. The Environmental Report will be then be submitted to the Examiner for their consideration.
- 7.2 If the Independent Examination is favourable, the CNP will be subject to a referendum, organised by TVBC. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the CNP, then the Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made'. Once made, the CNP will become part of the Development Plan for Charlton village.

Appendix A Scoping Information

Introduction

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

One of the key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations is that:

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.

As eluded to in **Section 3.1** of the main report, this Appendix outlines the 'scope' for the SEA. Developing the scope for the SEA has involved the following steps:

1. Reviewing the broader **policy context** for the CNP and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
2. Establishing the **baseline** for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the CNP), in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
3. Identifying **key issues and opportunities** that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
4. 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 Appendix

This appendix is structured as follows:

1. Policy context
2. Baseline information
3. Key issues and opportunities
4. SEA framework

1. Policy context

The key policy context for the CNP has been set out below, structured by SEA theme.

Air quality

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁷ 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.'*

¹⁷ HM GOV (2018): 'Revised National Planning Policy Framework', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/revised-national-planning-policy-framework>

- *‘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.

The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 transpose into UK law the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) which sets legally binding limits for outdoor concentrations of major air pollutants which impact public health.

The government published the ‘UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations’ in July 2017.¹⁸ This is the air quality plan for bringing nitrogen dioxide within statutory limits in the shortest possible time. The plan identifies that *“the link between improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions is particularly important”* and that consequently the UK government is determined to be at the forefront of vehicle innovation by making motoring cleaner.

Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’¹⁹ 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.

The government published the ‘UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations’ in July 2017.²⁰ This is the air quality plan for bringing nitrogen dioxide within statutory limits in the shortest possible time. The plan identifies that *“the link between improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions is particularly important”* and that consequently the UK government is determined to be at the forefront of vehicle innovation by making motoring cleaner.

The Clean Air Strategy 2019 identifies how government will tackle all sources of air pollution and is aimed at complementing the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan. The strategy proposes new goals to cut public exposure to particulate matter pollution and sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. The proposed measures include new legislation and new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem, including through the creation of ‘Clean Air Zones’.

In February 2020, the UK government updated the Clean Air Zone²¹ Framework (2017)²² which sets out the principles for the operation of Clean Air Zones England and provides the expected approach to be taken by local authorities when implementing and operating a Clean Air Zone. Clean Air Zones bring together local measures to deliver immediate action to improve air quality and health with support for cities to grow while delivering sustained reductions in pollution and a transition to a low emission economy. Where a Clean Air Zone is introduced it will be identified in the local plans and policies, and local transport plan at the earliest opportunity to ensure it is consistent with wider ambition.

Local Planning Authorities are required to publish annual Air Quality Annual Status Reports (ASRs) to discharge their monitoring obligations under Part IV of the Environment Act (1995). Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and Part II of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate Air Quality Management Areas

¹⁸ DEFRA (2017) ‘UK plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide concentrations’ [online], available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633269/air-quality-plan-overview.pdf

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

²⁰ DEFRA (2017) ‘UK plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide concentrations’ [online], available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633269/air-quality-planoverview

²¹ Defined as: *‘an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality and resources are prioritised and coordinated in order to shape the urban environment in a way that delivers improved health benefits and supports economic growth’.*

²² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2020) Clean Air Zone Framework: Principles for setting up Clean Air Zones in England [online] available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/863730/clean-air-zone-framework-feb2020.pdf

(AQMAs) if improvements are necessary. Where an AQMA is designated, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) must then be put in place.

The Test Valley Air Quality ASR (2020)²³ includes the results of on-going monitoring of air quality pollutants within the Borough where emissions from a range of sources could adversely impact sensitive receptors. The ASR concludes:

- No exceedances of the current Air Quality Objectives have been identified; and
- The overall trends in the data have shown a steady improvement in air quality.

The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD (2011 – 2029)²⁴ contains proposed policies for determining planning applications and identifying strategic allocations for housing, employment and other uses. The following policy of the revised Local Plan directly relate to the Air Quality theme:

- **Policy E8: Pollution**

The Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation²⁵ was published in June 2020. The document sets out the issues which the council will be focusing on in preparing the next Local Plan. In this respect, Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life) directly refers to the air quality theme, as follows:

“There are a number of mechanisms for considering air quality. The next Local Plan’s role will be to consider this matter in relation to new development, including schemes that could potentially generate pollution as well as thinking about emissions associated with transport.” (paragraph 7.45).

Biodiversity

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy²⁶ 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’.

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 SIPs provide a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 sites. Additionally, SIPs outline the priority actions required to improve the condition of the sites, with timescales for a number of actions ongoing until 2020. Priority actions are grouped into categories, reflecting the issues faced by the Natura 2000 sites.

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.’

²³ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): ‘Air Quality Status Report (2020)’ [online] available at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/10194/2020%20Air%20Quality%20Status%20Report.pdf>

²⁴ Test Valley Borough Council (2011): ‘Revised Local Plan (DPD)’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd>

²⁵ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): ‘Next Local Plan - Refined Issues and Options Consultation’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/next-local-plan-refined-issues-and-options-consultation-2020>

²⁶ European Commission (2011): ‘Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020’, [online] available to access via: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf

- '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*'.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)²⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

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

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan²⁸ (BAP) identifies priority species and habitats requiring conservation action. Although the UK BAP has been superseded, BAP priority species and habitats have been used to draw up statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England.

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*'²⁹.

The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan³⁰ 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.

²⁷ Defra (2012): 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper)', [online] available to access via:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

²⁸ JNCC (2007) UK BAP priority species [online] <http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/page-5717>

²⁹ DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed [18/03/20]

³⁰ HM GOV (2018): 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', [online] available to access via: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf last accessed [18/03/20]

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.

The Test Valley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (2008)³¹ provides a framework for the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Borough and has been prepared in accordance with planning regulations.

The Test Valley Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy (2014)³² seeks to provide a framework for bringing together the work of a number of organisations who have an interest in and responsibilities for GI.

The following policy of the Revised Local Plan directly relates to the Biodiversity theme:

- Policy E5: Biodiversity

In addition, the Revised Local Plan Topic Paper (2014) for Policy E5³³ details further information regarding biodiversity value and its preservation in the area.

Chapter 7 of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life) directly refers to the Biodiversity theme, as follows:

"The next Local Plan will need to set out policies for the approach to internationally, nationally and locally designated wildlife sites. This will be in line with legal requirements and national policy."
(paragraph 7.34)

Climate change

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 requires 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 below³⁴:

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

The UK Climate Change Act³⁵ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 means that there is now in place a legally binding target of net zero by 2050. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

³¹ Test Valley Borough Council (2008): 'The Local Biodiversity Action Plan'

³² Test Valley Borough Council (2014): 'The Test Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/planning-policy-guidance>

³³ Test Valley Borough Council (2014): 'Topic Paper Policy E5: Biodiversity' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/revised-local-plan-topic-papers>

³⁴ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to access via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>

³⁵ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

- Commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. This includes reducing emissions from the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), which currently account for about 20% of the UK's emissions. The 100% target was based on advice from the CCC's 2019 report, 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' and introduced into law through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.
- The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Act requires the Government to assess the risks and opportunities from climate change for the UK, and to prepare for them. The Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee advises on these climate change risks and assesses progress towards tackling them. The associated 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.

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.*'

The Clean Air Strategy released in 2019 sets out the Government plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution. The strategy sets out proposals in detail and indicates how devolved administrations intend to make their share of emissions reductions, and complements the Industrial Strategy, Clean Growth Strategy and 25 Year Environment Plan.

In May 2019, the UK Parliament declared a climate emergency, with a view to explicitly acknowledging that human activities are significantly affecting the climate, and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be paramount. This declaration has been mirrored by several local planning authorities across the country.

Department for Transport (2020) Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020)³⁶ sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050.

In February 2020, the government announced a new £5 billion 5-year funding package to overhaul bus and cycle links for every region outside London.³⁷ This builds on the Government's determination to make buses work better for their passengers. The details of these programmes will be announced in the upcoming National Bus Strategy, to be published later in 2020, and follows the allocation of £170 million to support more electric buses, increase rural mobility and trial new 'Superbus' services.

Cycle routes will also see a major boost across the country with over 250 miles of new, high-quality separated cycle routes and safe junctions in towns and cities to be constructed across England, as part of the multibillion pound package announced.

The Test Valley Climate Emergency Action Plan (updated June 2020)³⁸ followed Test Valley's declaration of a climate emergency in September 2019. Test Valley Borough Council has committed to identifying steps they can take to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible before the Government target of 2050.

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relates to the Climate Change theme:

- Policy SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Policy E7: Water Management
- Policy T1: Managing Movement

The following chapters of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relate to the Climate Change theme:

- Chapter 2 (Context): 'Climate Change'
- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): 'Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy'
- Chapter 8 (Infrastructure and Community Facilities): 'Transport, Communications and Movement'

Landscape

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework³⁹ (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).

³⁶ Department for Transport (2020) Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876251/decarbonising-transport-setting-the-challenge.pdf

³⁷ Department for Transport (2020) Major boost for bus services as PM outlines new vision for local transport [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-boost-for-bus-services-as-pm-outlines-new-vision-for-local-transport>

³⁸ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): 'Climate Emergency Action Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/environmentandsustainability/climate-emergency-action-plan>

³⁹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

- 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.
- The government attaches great importance to Green Belts, whose fundamental aim is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. The general extent of Green Belts is established and can only be altered in exceptional circumstances through preparation or review of a Local Plan.

National Character Area (NCA) Profiles are published by Natural England and divide England in 159 distinct natural areas based on their landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, historic, cultural and economic characteristics.⁴⁰ NCAs follow natural features in the landscape and are not aligned with administrative boundaries. NCA profiles describe the features which shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character.

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan⁴¹ states the intention to work with relevant authorities to deliver environmental enhancements within all 159 NCAs across England. Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes', Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the Landscape.

The North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan (2019)⁴² presents objectives and policies that partners can apply to help conserve and enhance this nationally important landscape.

The Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment (2010)⁴³ outlines the unique landscape areas in the district.

The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment (2018)⁴⁴ constitutes a review of the Landscape Character Assessment that was published in 2004 (the 2004 Assessment).

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Landscape theme:

- Policy E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough
- Policy E3: Local Gaps
- Policy E4: Residential Areas of Special Character

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Climate Change theme:

- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): 'Landscape'

Historic environment

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

⁴⁰ Natural England (2012) 'National Character Area profiles' [online] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁴¹ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁴² North Wessex Downs Partnership Team (2019): 'North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/publications-resources/aonb-management-plan.html>

⁴³ Hampshire County Council (2018): 'Landscape Character Assessment' [online] available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment>

⁴⁴ Test Valley Borough Council (2018): 'The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment' [online] available at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

- 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).
- 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.

These messages are supported by the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁴⁵ which itself includes the key message that local authorities should set out in their Local Plans a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment which recognises that conservation is not a passive exercise and that identifies specific opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.

Along with the policies contained within Chapter 2 ‘Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes’, Goal 6 ‘Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment’ of the Government’s ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’⁴⁶ directly relates to the Historic Environment.

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

Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2019)⁴⁷ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development and provides information on the relationship with local and neighbourhood plans and policies. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
- Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of Conservation Areas.
- Clearly identifying those issues that threaten the area’s character or appearance and that merit the introduction of management measures.

⁴⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2016), Planning Practice Guidance ^[online], available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

⁴⁶ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁴⁷ Historic England (2019): ‘Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1’ [online] available from: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/>

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)⁴⁸ 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.

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)⁴⁹ 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 contribute to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)⁵⁰ 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.

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Landscape theme:

- Policy E1: High Quality Development in the Borough
- Policy E4: Residential Areas of Special Character
- Policy E9: Heritage

In addition, the Revised Local Plan Topic Paper (2014) for Policy E9⁵¹ details further information regarding heritage value and its preservation within the wider area.

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Climate Change theme:

- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): 'Historic Environment'

Land, soil and water resources

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁵² (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.

⁴⁸ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

⁴⁹ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>

⁵⁰ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment' [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>

⁵¹ Test Valley Borough Council (2014): 'Topic Paper Policy E9: Heritage' [online] available at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/revised-local-plan-topic-papers>

⁵² MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

- Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
- Prevent new or existing development from being ‘adversely affected’ by the presence of ‘unacceptable levels’ of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate ‘despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’.
- Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously developed or ‘brownfield’ land.
- Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.
- Planning policies and decisions should ‘give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs’, and ‘promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.’
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- Ensure that, wherever possible, development helps to improve local environmental conditions including water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.

Since July 2017 the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) requires Local Planning Authorities to publish a Brownfield Land Register, and review it at least once a year, in order to identify all previously developed sites with potential for delivering new development. This is to help achieve maximum planning value and efficiency from available land, whilst avoiding unnecessary land take at greenfield sites.⁵³ Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.⁵⁴

The Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan was published in 2018 and presents the ‘goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it’.⁵⁵ The implementation of this plan aims to achieve clean air, clean and plentiful water, reduced risk from environmental hazards, and managed exposure to chemicals. Specific policies and actions relating to environmental quality include:

- Improving soil health and restoring and protecting our peatlands;
- Respecting nature in how we use water;
- Reducing pollution; and
- Maximising resource efficiency and minimising environmental impacts at end of life.

Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England⁵⁶ sets out a vision for soil use in England which includes better protection for agricultural soils, protecting stores of soil carbon, improving the resilience of soils to climate change and preventing soil pollution. The essential message in relation to development is that pressure on soils is likely to increase in line with development pressure and the planning system should seek to mitigate this.

⁵³ MHCLG (2017) Guidance: Brownfield Land Registers [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/brownfield-land-registers>

⁵⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁵⁵ DEFRA (2018) 25 Year Environment Plan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

⁵⁶ DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>

The Water Framework Directive⁵⁷ (2000) requires a management plan to be prepared for water catchment areas to inform planning and help meet objectives and obligations in areas such as water efficiency and sustainable drainage.

The Water White Paper 2011⁵⁸ 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.

The Government's Water Strategy for England⁵⁹ (2008) provides strategy for the water sector up until 2030, which aims to sustainably deliver secure water supplies and an improved and protected water environment. It sets out actions within the following areas:

- Water demand;
- Water supply;
- Water quality;
- Surface water drainage;
- River and coastal flooding;
- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Charging for water; and
- Regulatory framework, competition and innovation.

Water for life⁶⁰ (2011) 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.

The National Waste Management Plan⁶¹ 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 Directive⁶². This includes an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.

The EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires member states to identify areas where groundwater has nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or is thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. These areas are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) and as such are recognised as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. Member states are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination.

The Test Valley Contaminated Land Strategy (2017)⁶³ This strategy is a revision of previous strategies published in 2001 and 2007 and focuses resources in dealing with land contamination to three priority areas, namely:

- Identifying land contamination through the Development Management system and thereby protecting new and existing sensitive developments from historic land contamination.
- Monitoring private water drinking supplies to identify potential sources of ground contamination and thereby protecting the consumers of such drinking water supplies.

⁵⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy.

⁵⁸ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

⁵⁹ Defra (2011) Future Water: the Government's Water Strategy for England [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

⁶⁰ Defra (2011) Water for life [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

⁶¹ 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

⁶² Directive 2008/98/EC

⁶³ Test Borough Council (2017): 'Contaminated Land Strategy' [online] available at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/land-contamination>

- Working in partnership with the Environmental Agency and other regulatory bodies to identify potential sources of contamination that might impact upon the River Test, its tributaries and other sensitive ecological habitats.
- The Hampshire Waste and Minerals Plan (2013)⁶⁴ replaces the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Core Strategy (the 'Core Strategy') which was adopted in July 2007 and the 'saved' policies from the Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Minerals and Waste Local Plan (1998).

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Landscape theme:

- Policy E8: Pollution
- Policy E7: Water Management
- Policy COM15: Infrastructure

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Land, Soil and Water Resources theme:

- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): 'Water Supply and Quality'
- Chapter 8 (Infrastructure and Community Facilities): 'Utilities'

Population and communities

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁶⁵ (NPPF) include that planning policies should:

- Provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship, whilst guarding against the unnecessary loss of community facilities and services.
- Retain and develop accessible local services and community facilities in rural areas.
- 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.
- Enable and support health lifestyles through provision of green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- Ensure 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'.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁶⁶ identifies that:

- Local Planning Authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area or functional economic market area in line with the duty to cooperate. This is because such needs are rarely constrained precisely by local authority administrative boundaries.
- Local planning authorities should secure design quality through the policies adopted in their local plans. Good design is indivisible from good planning and should be at the heart of the plan making process.
- A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one which supports healthy behaviors and supports reductions in health inequalities. It should enhance the physical and mental health of the community.

⁶⁴ Hampshire County Council (2013): 'Hampshire Waste and Minerals Plan' [online] available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan>

⁶⁵ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁶⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at:

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

- Green infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Local Plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks. Where appropriate, supplementary planning documents can set out how the planning, design and management components of the green infrastructure strategy for the area will be delivered.

The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report *Ready for Ageing?* (2013)⁶⁷ warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says 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 says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

The Test Valley’s Housing Strategy (2020 – 2025)⁶⁸ is a high level plan that sets the course for the council’s services to develop in partnership in the coming years. It sets out our vision for housing, with inclusive actions the Council and partners will deliver and that are designed to ensure we meet the housing aspirations of Test Valley’s residents.

The Test Valley Council Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (2020-2023)⁶⁹ sets out the key priorities for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in Test Valley over the next 3 years.

Test Valley’s Corporate Plan (2019- 2023) sets out four strategic aims for maintaining and improving quality of life in Test Valley over the next four years and beyond with regards to:

- **Town Centres:** to adapt and be attractive, vibrant, and prosperous places;
- **Communities:** to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths;
- **People:** to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations; and
- **The Local Environment:** for current and future generations.

The Test Valley Economic Development Strategy (2017)⁷⁰ is one of several strategies which the council has prepared to demonstrate how its 4 corporate priorities will be delivered. It explains why and how the Council supports the Test Valley economy. Additionally, the Test Valley Economic Development Strategy (2016-19)⁷¹ Action Plan sets out the specific strategic actions necessary to achieve the Borough Council’s vision.

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Population and Community theme:

- Policy LHW1: Public Open Space
- Policy CS1: Community Safety
- Policy ST1: Skills and Training
- Policy COM1: Housing Provision 2011 – 2029
- Policy COM7: Affordable Housing
- Policy COM8: Rural Exception Affordable Housing

⁶⁷ 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/>

⁶⁸ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): ‘Housing Strategy 2020-25’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/housing-development/housing-policy-and-research#:~:text=The%20Housing%20Strategy%202020%20to,us%20to%20achieve%20our%20aims.>

⁶⁹ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): ‘Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (2020-2023)’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/housingoptions/homelessoratrisk/preventing-homelessness-rough-sleeping-strategy-2020-2023?displaypref=large>

⁷⁰ Test Valley Borough Council (2017): ‘Test Valley Economic Development Strategy’ [online] available at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport/test-valley-economic-development-strategy-2016-19>

⁷¹ Test Valley Borough Council (2017): ‘Test Valley Economic Development Strategy 2016-19 Action Plan’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport/test-valley-economic-development-strategy-2016-19>

- Policy COM9: Community Led Development
- Policy COM10: Occupational Accommodation for Rural Workers in the Countryside
- Policy COM13: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- Policy COM14: Community Services and Facilities
- Policy COM15: Infrastructure
- Policy LE7: Nursing Estate
- Policy LE18: Tourism

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Population and Community theme:

- Chapter 5 (Living in Test Valley (Housing and Communities)
- Chapter 6 Working in Test Valley (Town Centres and Local Economy)
- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): Public Open Space and Green Infrastructure)
- Chapter 8 (Infrastructure and Community Facilities)

Health and wellbeing

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.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁷² (‘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”.

Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020) has been produced by the Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation to mark 10 years on from the landmark study Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review).⁷³

⁷² The Marmot Review (2011): ‘The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning’, [online] available to access via: <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>

⁷³ Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years on (2020) [online] available to access via <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

The report highlights that:

- people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health;
- improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women;
- the health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas; and
- place matters – for example living in a deprived area of the North East is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.

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.

The Test Valley Borough Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (2014)⁷⁴ updates the previous document (2004) and sets out strategic guidance with site-specific priorities for the future delivery of outdoor sport pitch facilities across Test Valley Borough (Test Valley).

The Green Infrastructure Strategy for Test Valley (2014 – 2019)⁷⁵ outlines what is important within the borough, what opportunities there are to improve current GI provision, to identify how and where improvements could be made and to establish a framework for their delivery.

The Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy (2015 – 2029)⁷⁶ sets out a strategy for facilities within the borough. The focus for the strategy is not just about developing major new facilities but maintaining and improving existing provision, delivering on a number of key themes, detailed below:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of the population
- Increasing participation in active sport
- Delivering long term sustainable facilities
- Providing easy access to facilities and activities for residents
- Providing facilities that are affordable to both residents and the Council

The Test Valley Access Plan SPD (2015)⁷⁷ sets out a strategy that will positively contribute to improving access to facilities and services within Test Valley (excluding Romsey and Andover which have their own Town Access Plans) and was developed in consultation with Parish Councils. It acts as a mechanism for allocating and directing funding towards these improvements.

The Cycle Strategy and Network Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015)⁷⁸ sets out the proposed approach to improve facilities for cyclists, including a network of potential cycle routes across the Borough.

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Health and Wellbeing theme:

- Policy COM14: Community Services and Facilities
- Policy LHW1: Public Open Space
- Policy CS1: Community Safety

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Health and Wellbeing theme:

⁷⁴ Test Valley Borough Council (2014): 'Playing Pitch Strategy' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-leisure>

⁷⁵ Test Valley Borough Council (2014): 'Green Infrastructure Strategy'

⁷⁶ Test Valley Borough Council (2015): 'Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy' [online] available at:

⁷⁷ Test Valley Borough Council (2015): 'Test Valley Access Plan SPD' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-documents/test-valley-access-plan-spd>

⁷⁸ Test Valley Borough Council (2015): 'Test Valley Cycle Strategy and Network SPD' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/cyclingwalking/cyclestrategyspd>

- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): Public Open Space and Green Infrastructure)
- Chapter 8 (Infrastructure and Community Facilities)

Transportation

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework⁷⁹ (NPPF) include:

- Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:
 - a. The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
 - a. Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised;
 - b. Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
 - c. The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account; and
 - d. 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.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁸⁰ identifies that it is important for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications in developing or reviewing their Local Plan so that a robust transport evidence base may be developed to support the preparation and/or review of that Plan.

The Transport Investment Strategy - Moving Britain Ahead (2017)⁸¹ sets out the Department for Transport's approach for future investment decisions and priorities. At the local level, the strategy relies on devolved decision-making where local communities have the power and will be backed by funding. Investment aims to achieve a transport network that is reliable, well-managed, safe, and works for everyone. The transport system should also provide smooth, fast and comfortable journeys, and have the right connections in the right places.

The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (2016)⁸² sets out the objectives that the DfT are working towards to meet the following walking and cycling ambition for England:

"We want to make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey"

The objectives and target set to measure progress towards the 2040 ambition are to:

- Double cycling, where cycling activity is measured as the estimated total number of bicycle stages made each year, from 0.8 billion stages in 2013 to 1.6 billion stages in 2025;
- Reverse the decline in walking activity;

⁷⁹ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779764/NPPF_Feb_2019_web.pdf

⁸⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

⁸¹ Department for Transport (2017) Transport Investment Strategy - Moving Britain Ahead [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-investment-strategy>

⁸² Department for Transport (2016) Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512895/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy.pdf

- Reduce the rate of cyclists killed or seriously injured on England's roads, measured as the number of fatalities and serious injuries per billion miles cycled, each year; and
- Increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school.

The Test Valley Access Plan SPD (2015)⁸³ sets out a strategy that will positively contribute to improving access to facilities and services within Test Valley (excluding Romsey and Andover which have their own Town Access Plans) and was developed in consultation with Parish Councils. It acts as a mechanism for allocating and directing funding towards these improvements.

The Cycle Strategy and Network Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2015)⁸⁴ sets out the proposed approach to improve facilities for cyclists, including a network of potential cycle routes across the Borough.

The following policies of the Revised Local Plan directly relate to the Transportation theme:

- Policy COM15: Infrastructure
- Policy LE18: Tourism
- Policy T1: Managing Movement
- Policy T2: Parking Standards
- Policy T3: Park & Ride at Bargain Farm, Nursling

The following chapter of the Emerging Local Plan Refined Issues and Options Consultation document directly relates to the Transportation theme:

- Chapter 7 (Enjoying Test Valley, Environment and Quality of Life): Public Open Space and Green Infrastructure)
- Chapter 8 (Infrastructure and Community Facilities)

⁸³ Test Valley Borough Council (2015): 'Test Valley Access Plan SPD' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-documents/test-valley-access-plan-spd>

⁸⁴ Test Valley Borough Council (2015): 'Test Valley Cycle Strategy and Network SPD' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/cyclingwalking/cyclestrategyspd>

2. Baseline information

An evidence baseline review for the Charlton scoping report was produced by Charlton Parish Council in April 2019. This is presented overleaf.

CHARLTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Evidence Base Review

DRAFT

DOCUMENT ISSUE SHEET

Project:	Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Evidence Base Review		
Author:	S Brentnall	Project No:	088 0417 SB
Client:	Charlton NP Steering Group		

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BLUESTONE PLANNING
 SUITE 5 ENTERPRISE CENTRE,
 BDGS 41/42 SHRIVENHAM 100 BUSINESS PARK,
 MAJORS ROAD, WATCHFIELD, SN6 8TZ
 T: 01793 782635
 E: jeremy@bluestoneplanning.co.uk

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1 BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

CONTEXT

- 1.1 Charlton Parish is located towards the western end of the Test Valley. On 20th March 2014 Charlton Parish lodged an application with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Test Valley Borough Council - to designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area incorporating the entire parish area.
- 1.2 During the publicity period up to the 13th June 2014, six bodies responded (Natural England, Highways England, Historic England, National Grid, Network Rail and the Health and Safety Executive), none raised issues that required to be addressed prior to the designation of the Plan area.
- 1.3 The LPA wrote to the Parish Council on the 8th August 2014 confirming the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 1.4 This report was commissioned by the Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as one of the initial information gathering exercises (alongside a household questionnaire).

PURPOSE

- 1.5 This report presents the findings of a review of data covering a range of aspects that contribute to the ‘characteristics’ of Charlton Parish and which are thus important in providing a firm foundation to support the subsequent production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish area.

SCOPE

- 1.6 This report is not intended to be the only source of evidence to underpin the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, indeed the process of gathering evidence will continue throughout the neighbourhood planning process.
- 1.7 This report brings together a range of data and information from publicly available sources to provide background to the environmental, physical, social, commercial, historic and transportational characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

SOURCES

- 1.8 This report has drawn on a range of sources include local and national planning policy documents, Environment Agency on-line mapping resources, Government on-line mapping resources, data held by other agencies and establishments including Hampshire Police, Natural England and commercial organisations such as www.crashmap.co.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

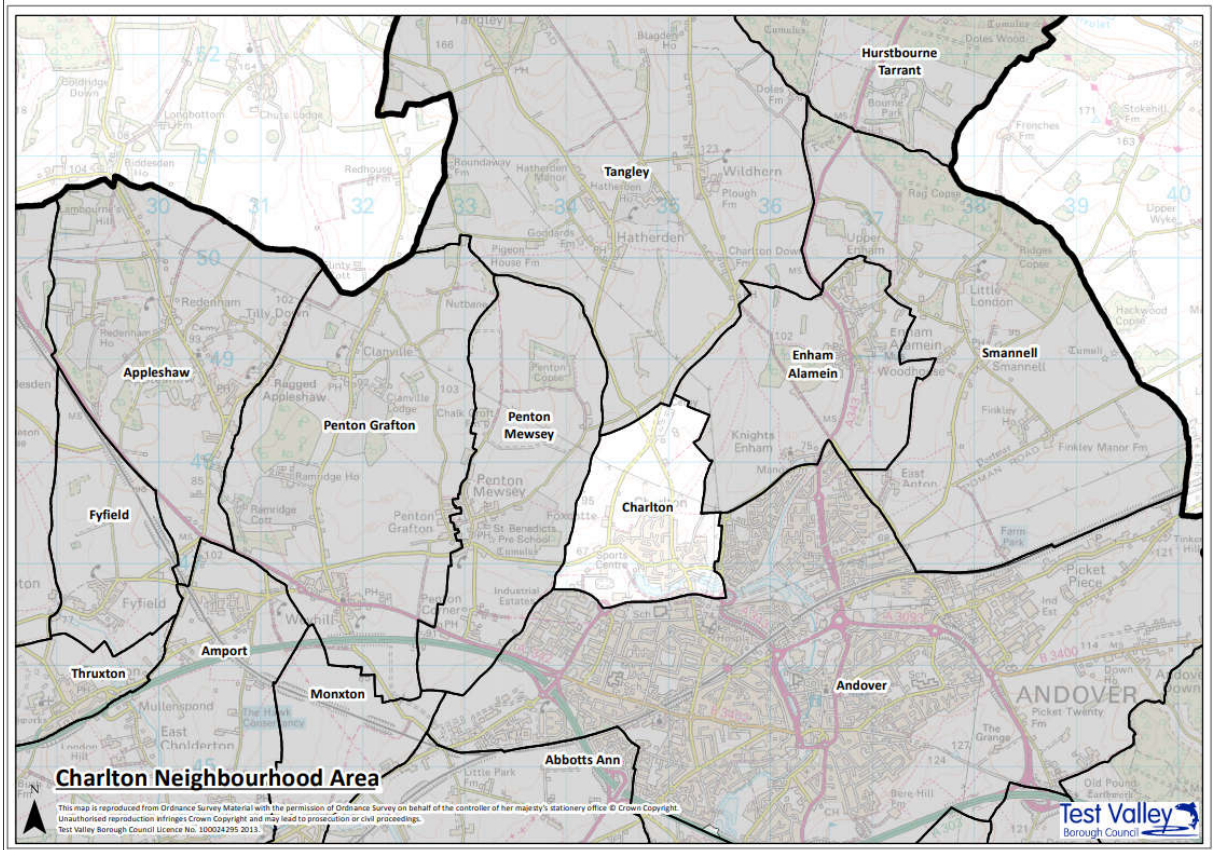
- 1.9 This report has been prepared jointly by Bluestone Planning and by members of the Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who have contributed several sections of the report.
- 1.10 The report's authors are grateful to the Test Valley Borough Council's Neighbourhood Planning and Housing teams for assisting in providing various datasets.

2 THE LOCALITY

GEOGRAPHY

2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area encompasses approximately 236 hectares of land across the Parish of Charlton (see Figures 1 and 2). The Parish is situated in northern Test Valley and to the northwest of Andover town. It is separated from the town by land alongside Charlton Lakes and Charlies Lake (formerly Peril Lake), which form part of the tributaries and streams of the River Anton, a chalk stream fed by exceptionally high quality water, supporting a rich and diverse variety of wildlife.

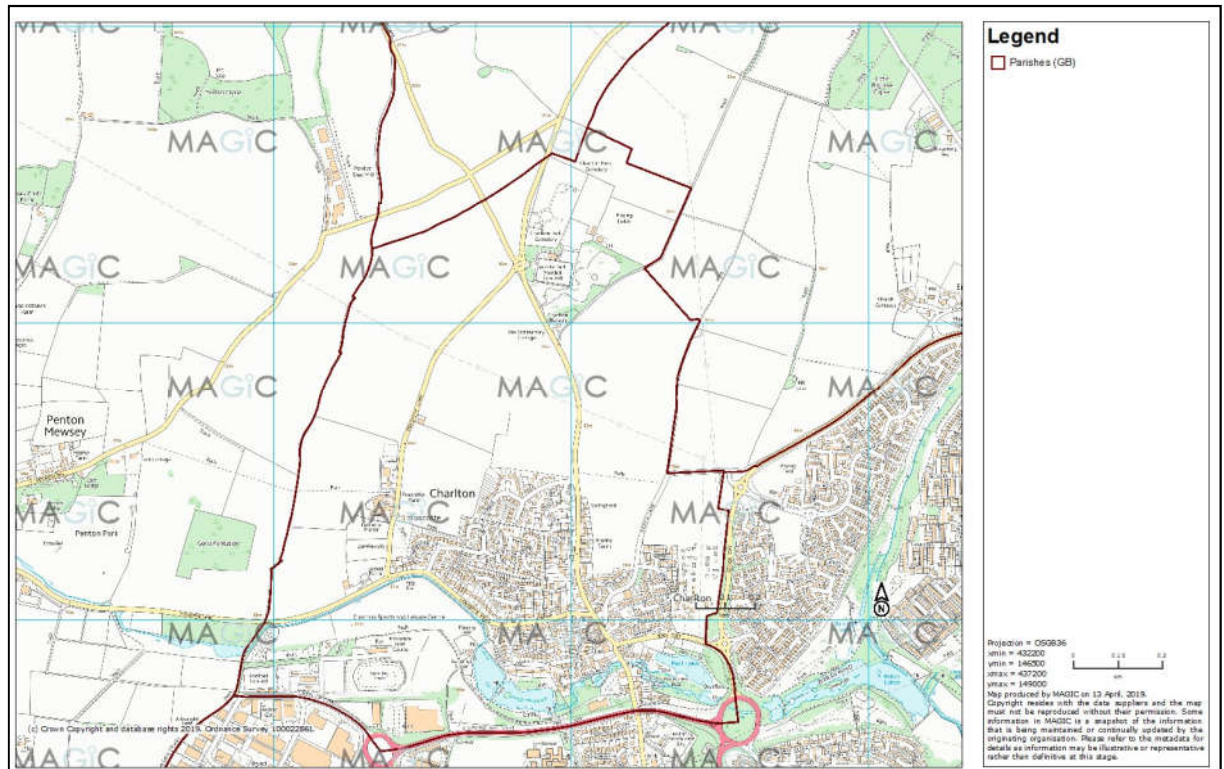
Figure 1 – Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area



(Source: Reproduced from Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area Application. © Crown copyright 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

2.2 Today the area known as the Test Valley is located within the administrative area of the District Council of the same name, in Hampshire.

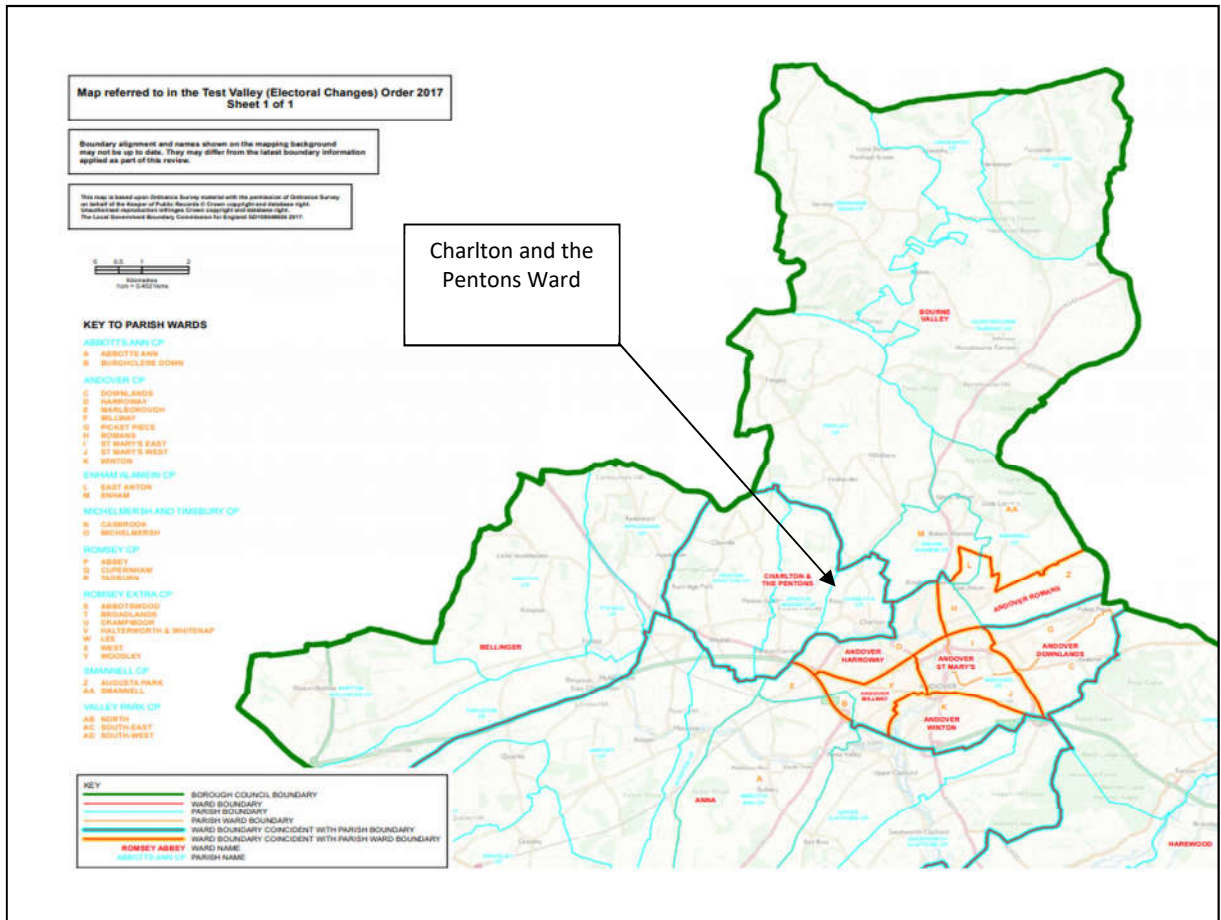
Figure 2 – Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area in Context



(Source: Magic Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2019)

2.3 The Parish is located in the central part of Test Valley. Charlton Parish is administered by a Parish Council, and originally formed part of the Charlton electoral ward within the Test Valley District's administrative area. This however has now been altered and Charlton is part of the Charlton and the Pentons Ward as depicted in Figure 3. This is a significant change for the parish as it is now no longer part of the Andover administrative area.

Figure 3 –Electoral Ward Map

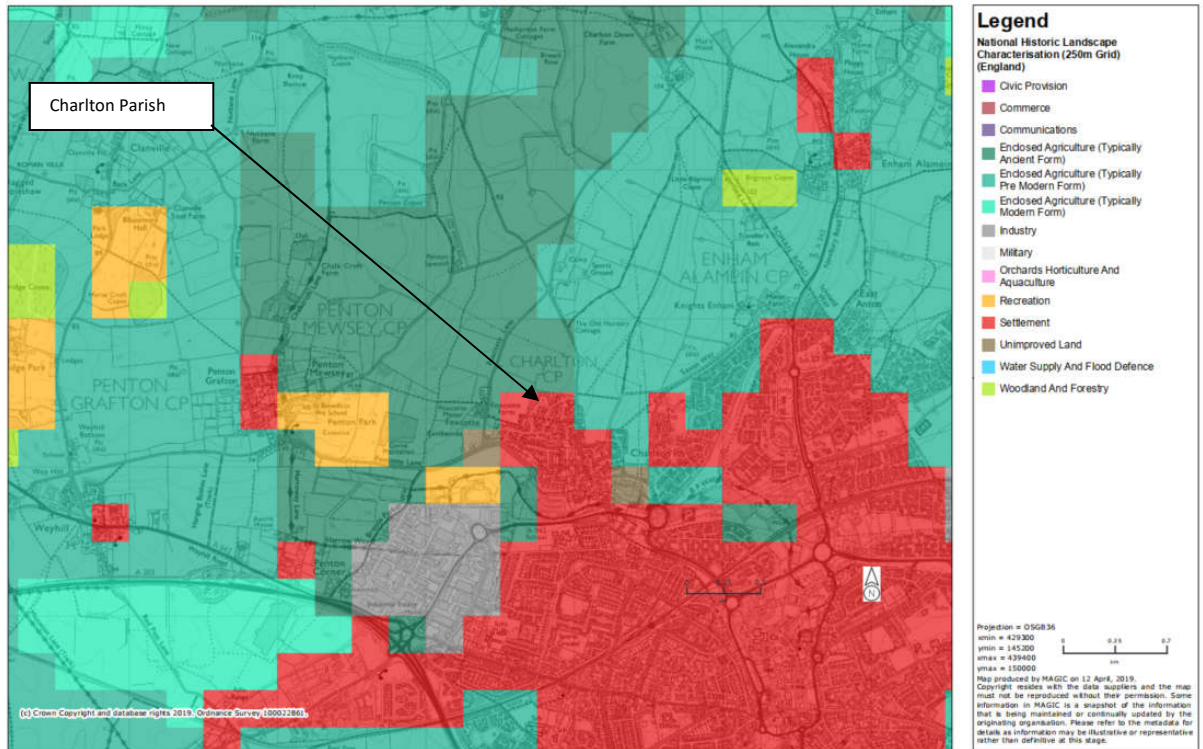


(Source: Local Government Boundary Commission Ward Map, 2019)

LAND USE

- 2.4 The land uses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area vary from the main settlement area, in the south of the parish, to the central and northern areas, which are predominantly rural in nature with only sporadic buildings.. The National Historic Landscape Characterisation classified the various land uses as depicted in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4 – National Historic Landscape Characterisation



(Source: National Historic Landscape Characterisation; www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

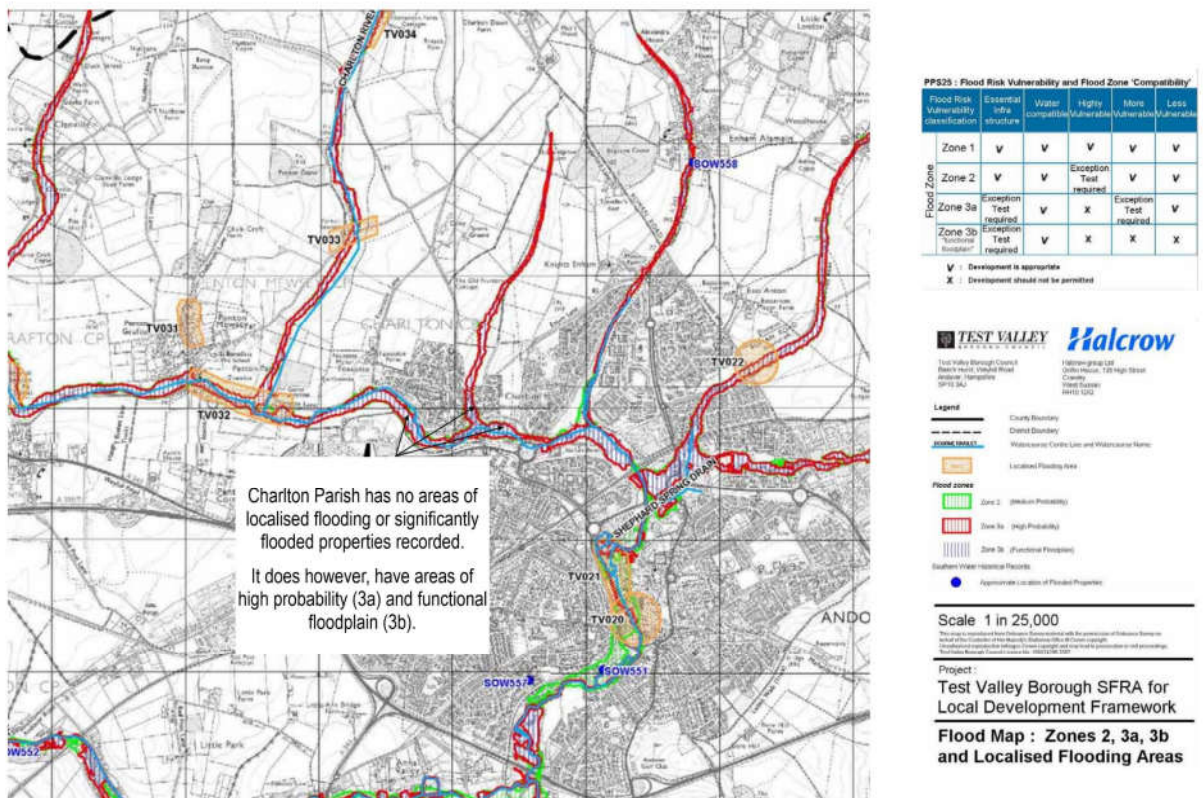
2.5 From a review of recent aerial photography, there are few significant changes to have taken place since the study, with the exception of an increase in built up areas within the Parish.

WATER RESOURCES

2.6 The main river system serving the Borough is the River Test, which is a mainly chalk fed watercourse. It has a number of tributaries of which the Anton and Pilhill Brook, in addition to the Charlton River are the most relevant.

2.7 The watercourses forming the boundaries of, and partly running through the Neighbourhood Plan Area are prone to flooding in various locations. The 2007 Halcrow/ Test Valley Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) report provides further details (see figure 5 below). Additional up to date information is also available on the Environment Agency’s flood mapping website: <http://tinyurl.com/EA-Flood-Maps> with the most recent versions shown in figure 6 and 7

Figure 5 – Historical Flooding



(Source: Test Valley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Maps Halcrow 2007 © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

2.8 The following details from the 2007 SFRA are relevant to the Plan area:

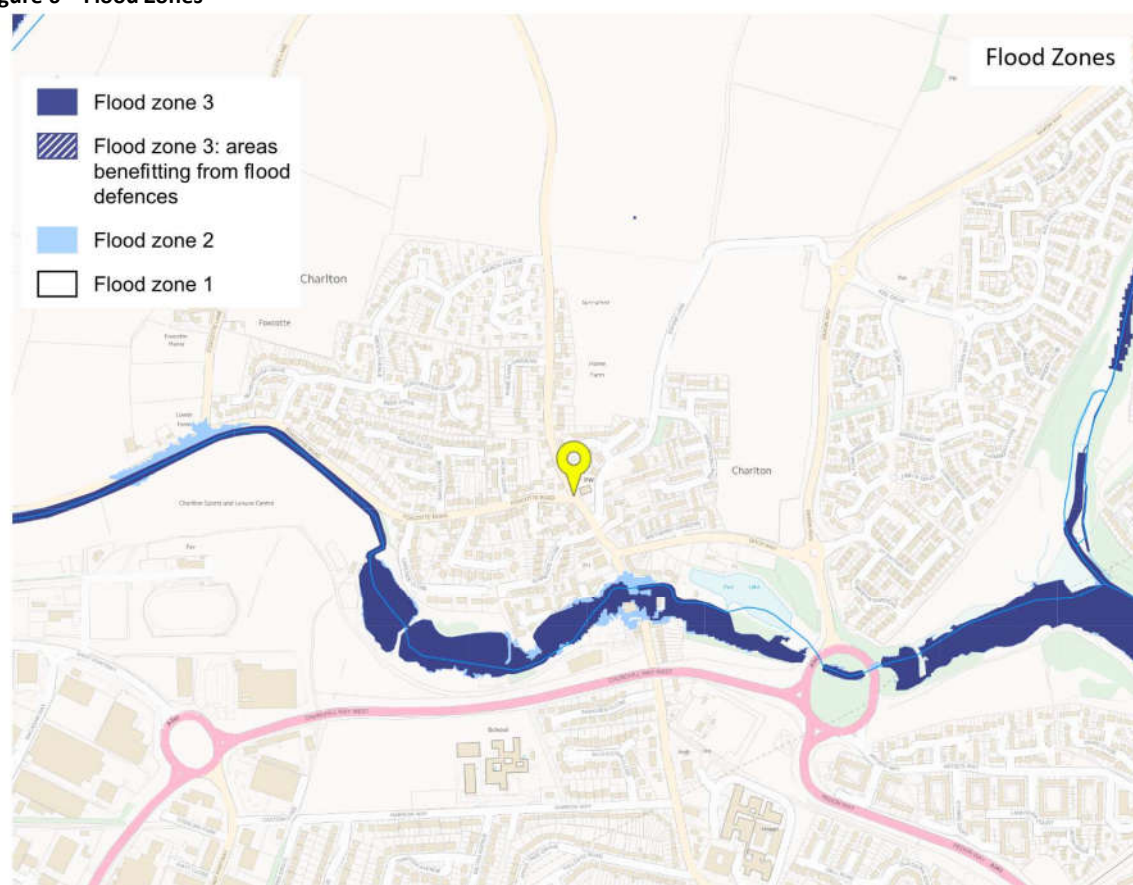
“7.2.2 In the chalk areas, permanent watercourses are absent in all except the deepest valleys. Chalk is a major aquifer capable of absorbing large amounts of rainfall and releasing it slowly over a long period. This buffering effect together with the mainly rural nature of the chalk area means that the Hampshire Avon, and the upper and middle parts of the Test and associated tributaries, which are mainly spring fed by the chalk aquifers, have relatively narrow ranges of flows in a normal year and generally do not flood in response to short to medium duration heavy rainfall.

After prolonged rainfall the water table in the chalk aquifer can rise to the ground surface causing springs to erupt in the valley floors and the creation of ephemeral watercourses, and indeed the upper reaches of many of the Test’s tributaries have this characteristic. These effects can lead to “groundwater flooding” lasting for several months in very wet winters. Public supply and agricultural water abstraction from the chalk tends to increase the chalk’s buffering effect, thereby suppressing the frequency at which ephemeral watercourses and springs occur.

However, when the water table is sufficiently high for the aquifer to flow freely into the valleys, the runoff from the chalk can be similar to that from a generally impermeable catchment. Snow melt and rainfall on a frozen Upper Chalk catchment also can lead to rapid surface water runoff to the river system and widespread valley flooding.”

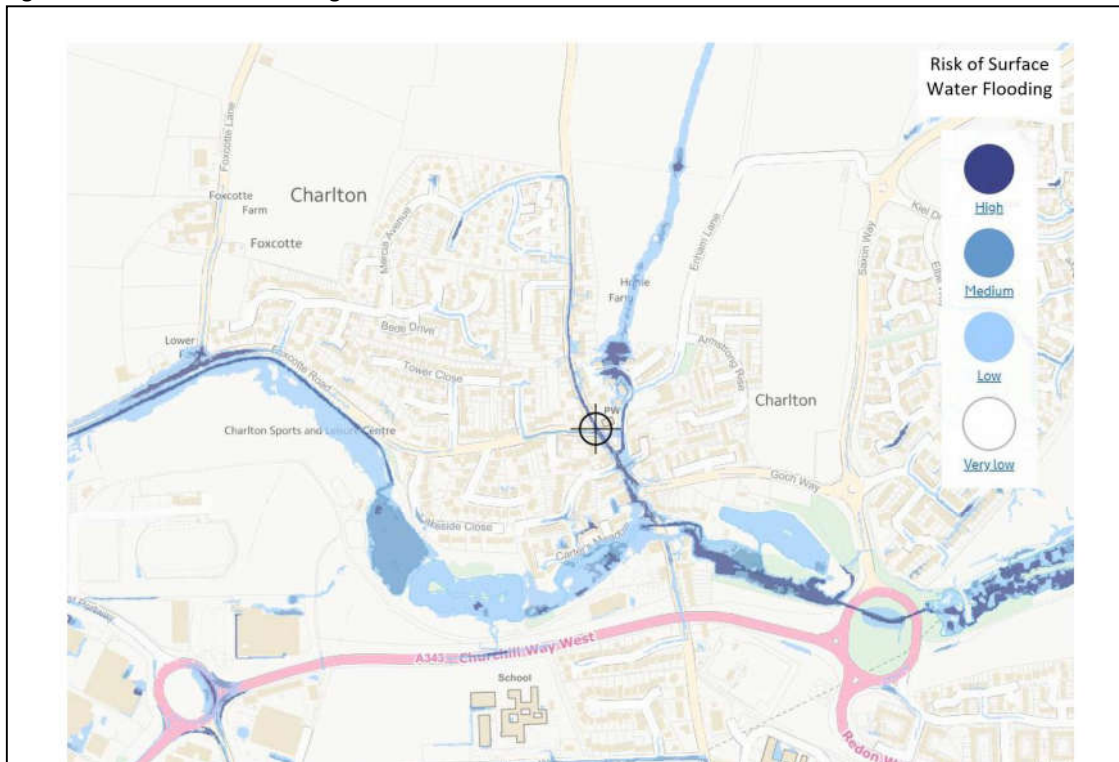
- 2.9 The report lists a number of notable flood events relating to Andover (including Charlton); these are listed as: 1852, winter of 1913-1914, winter of 1927-1928, 1935, 1937, August 1938, March 1947 (snow melt on frozen ground), 1951, November 1974, April 1993, winter of 1995, July 1999, winter of 2000-2001, winter of 2002-2003.

Figure 6 – Flood Zones



(Source: Extracts from Environment Agency Flood Maps; © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

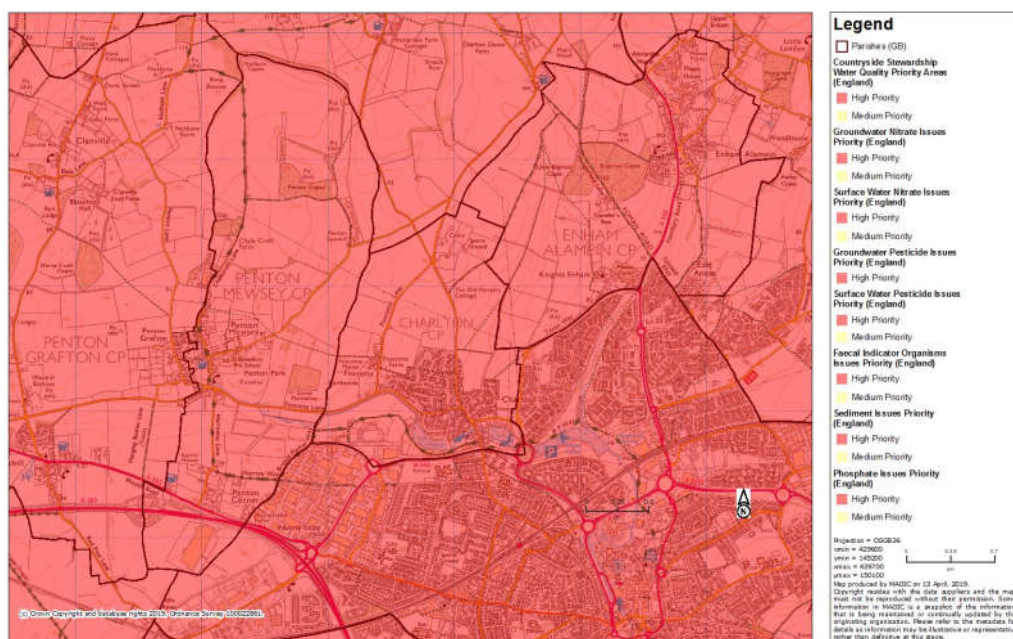
Figure 7 – Surface Water Flooding



(Source: Extracts from Environment Agency Flood Maps; © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

There are Groundwater Protection Zones (GPZs) underlying the Neighbourhood Plan Area according to the EA mapping resource. In addition, all of the Neighbourhood Plan Area also lies within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (see figure 8). These zones are areas where the land use causes pollution of the water. Action is targeted in these zones to address pollution so that extra treatment of water can be avoided.

Figure 8 – Drinking Water Safeguard Zone

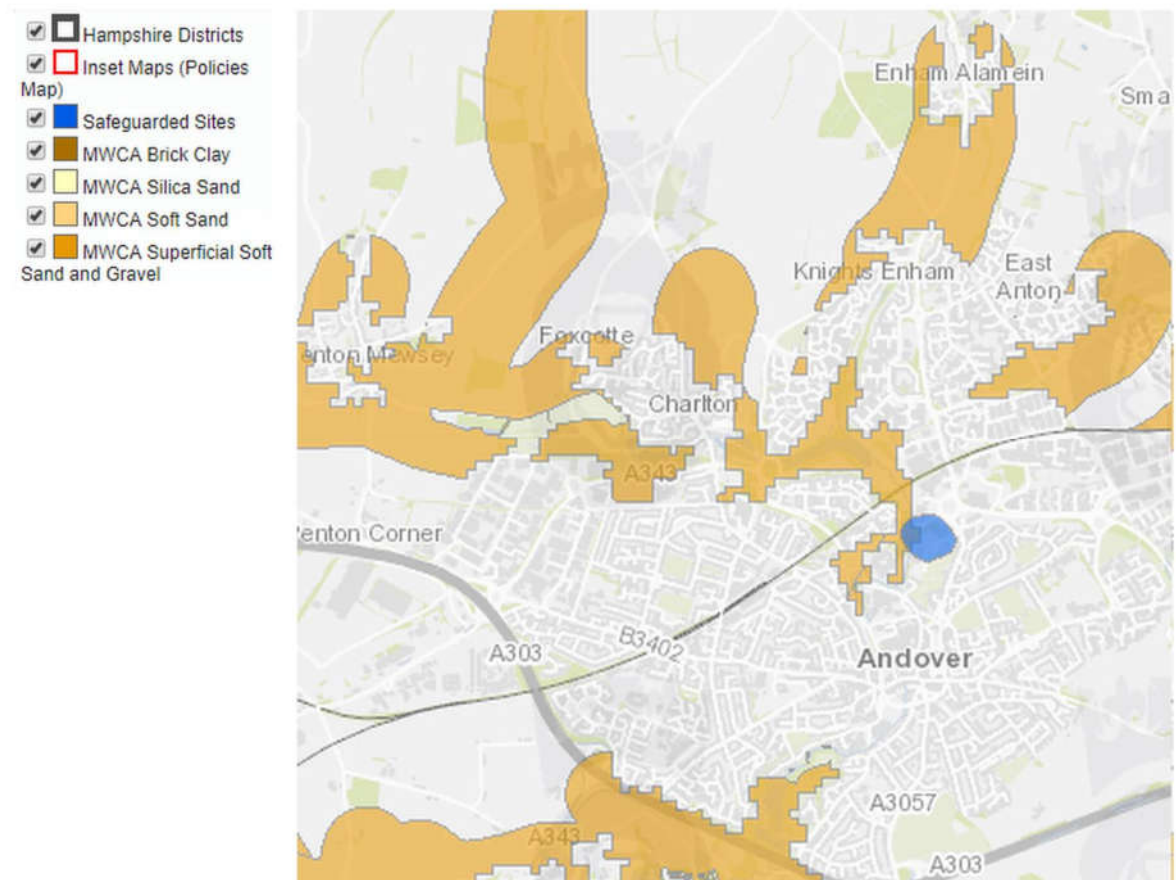


Mapping, MAGIC, © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

GEOLOGY / MINERALS / WASTE

- 2.10 Much of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is made up of chalk and deposits of clay with flints, with dry river valleys with gravel on the valley floor. The river valley floor area has an underlying geology consisting of river deposits of alluvium with side areas of river terrace gravel deposits, deposited over the solid geology of chalk or sands, clays and gravels (see figure 9).

Figure 9 – Bedrock Designations



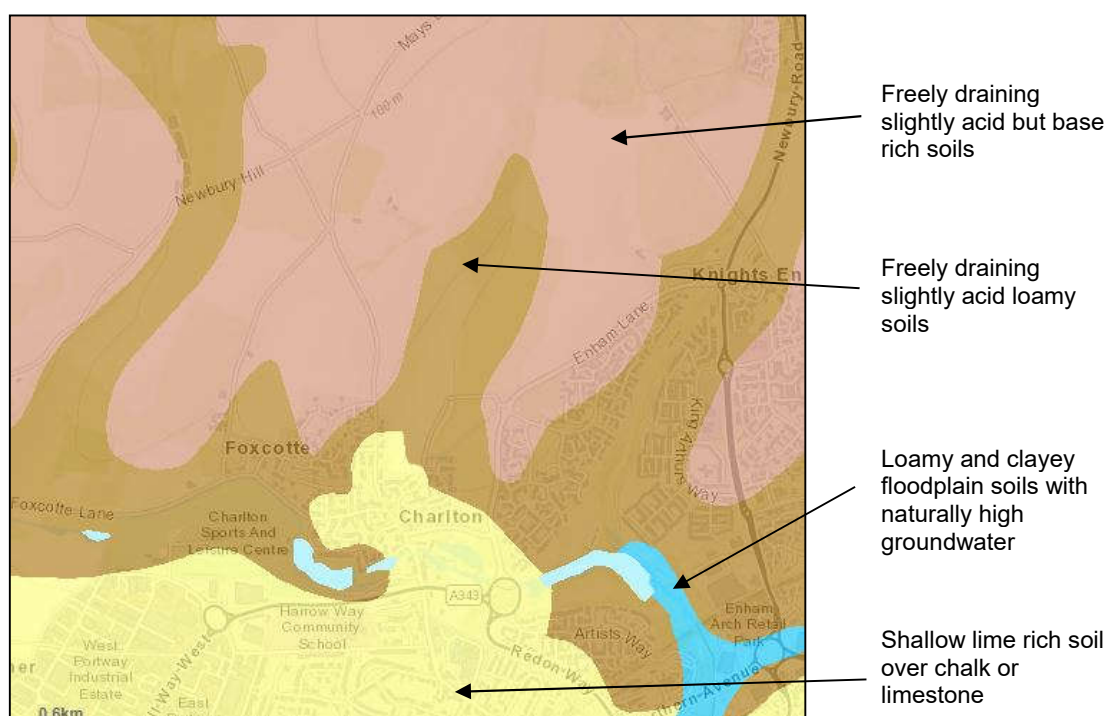
© Crown Copyright and database rights 2016. HCC 100019180. Licence No. 2008/202 British Geological Survey NERC. All rights reserved

- 2.11 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains superficial soft sand and gravel deposits.
- 2.12 There are no waste issues affecting the whole Parish including the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

SOILS

- 2.13 The soils found in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are equally as diverse as the underlying geology. In the northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area the Soilscales website (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales>) confirms that the main soil type is freely draining and slightly acid but has a base of rich soils – see figure 10 below.
- 2.14 To the south of the Parish there is a central band of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. To the south of Charlton largely centred around the built up area, the soils are characterised as being shallow, lime rich soils over chalk or limestone.

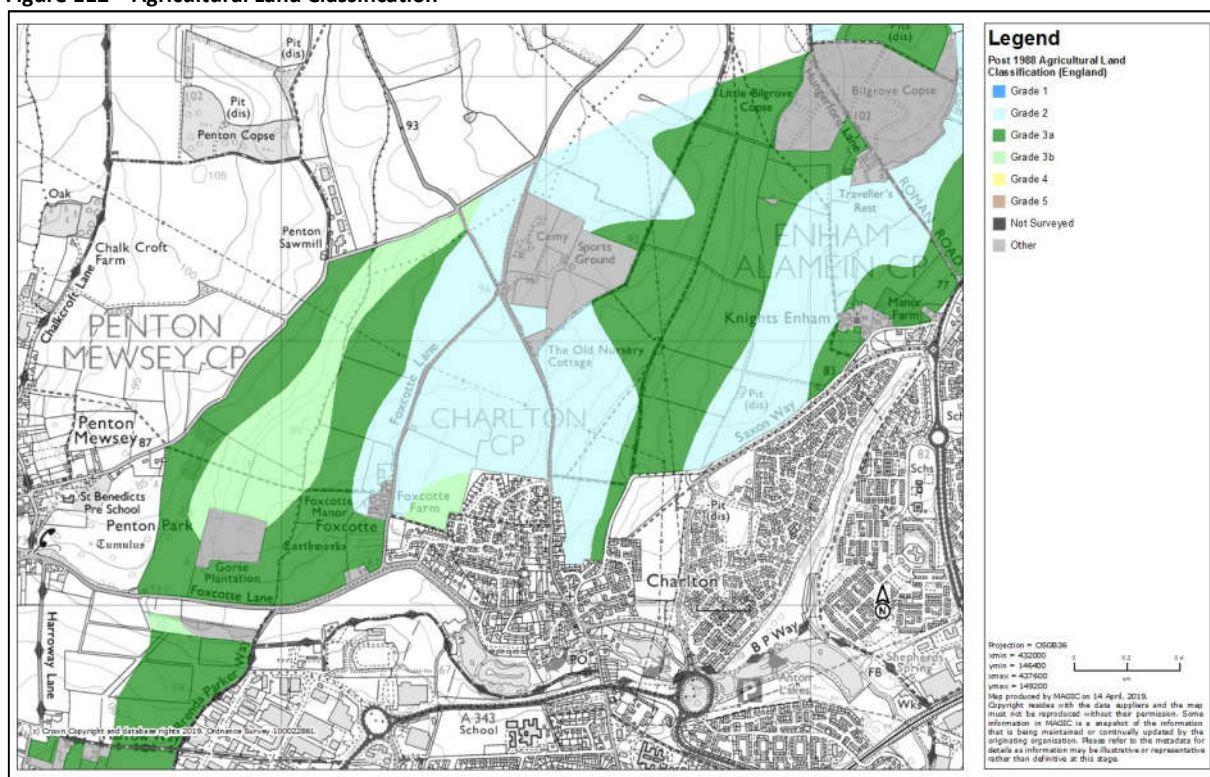
Figure 10 – Extract from Soilscales Map



(Source: Soils Data © Cranfield University (NSRI) and for the Controller of HMSO 2019)

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Figure 112 – Agricultural Land Classification



(Source: Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification Mapping, MAGIC, © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

- 2.15 The grading of agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan Area shows (figure 12) a mix of largely Grade 2 to the north of the parish, with Grade 3a/b elsewhere outside of the urban area.
- 2.16 Grade 2 agricultural land is considered to be very good quality with minor limitations which could affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. On such land, there are a wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops which can be grown. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

CLIMATE

- 2.17 The Met Office records¹ provide data for average weather conditions at Middle Wallop, the nearest climate station to the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The data is an average of the individual years' data for the period 1981 to 2010.

¹ Met Office (2017) *Average Records for Brize Norton*, [Online]. Available: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcnvd2bqt> [30/03/17]

- 2.18 The average annual maximum temperature is 14.3 degrees centigrade, and the average annual minimum temperature 6.3 degrees centigrade (ranging from an average of 22.1 degrees in July to 1.3 degrees in February).
- 2.19 There is an average of 46.5 days of air frost per year. This is to be contrasted with the total number of sunshine hours on average across the year of 1627.
- 2.20 Average annual rainfall is 779 mm. There are 121 days of rainfall where more than or at least 1mm rain falls.
- 2.21 Annual average windspeeds measured at 10m above ground level is 8.0 knots.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 2.22 Data for the characterisation of the locality of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is good. No gaps have been identified.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 2.23 The quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources is critically important and key to ensuring that drinking water and watercourse status can be maintained at a high level.
- 2.24 Whilst the presence of the sandy soil does not generally present challenges for construction, there are issues in areas which are prone to flooding. Gradually, the sand used as a foundation can be washed away and may affect development and building costs to mitigate for this.
- 2.25 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a large amount of high quality agricultural land, which when combined with good average weather conditions provide good agricultural yield, the loss of which would need to be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.26 Removal (or planting) of vegetation has the potential to induce significant ground heave (swelling) or shrinkage, which can disrupt levels and damage structures. The effects of the local geology on development will be of consideration in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

3 SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

3.1 The population of the parish was recorded in the 2011 Census as being:

- 1,947 persons (48.4% male; 51.6% female)
- Test Valley Borough - 116,398 persons (48.9% male; 51.1% female)

(Source: ONS Population Density Dataset, 2011 (QS102EW))

3.2 The ONS Lower Layer Super Output Area mid-year 2017 population estimates (published October 2018) estimate Test Valley's population to be 123,957 or an increase of just under 6.5% in the six years since the 2011 census.

3.3 Pro rata, it could be assumed that the population for the Parish has therefore increased by a similar amount - in this case 6.5% which would equate to 127 people on average. Clearly where housing developments have taken place they would need to be factored into any future assessments. In that respect, the most notable scheme was for the proposal for 85 dwellings at Goch Way in Charlton that was approved in 2012, and which has since been constructed.

3.4 The age structure of the Parish populations is revealing in the differences between them. The percentage of residents within various age brackets is reproduced in the table below.

Age Bracket	Charlton Parish	South-East	England
0 – 9	8.1%	11.8%	11.9%
10 – 19	10.7%	12.1%	12.1%
20 – 29	8.9%	12.3%	13.7%
30 – 44	16.9%	20.4%	20.6%
45 – 59	24.3%	19.9%	19.4%
60 – 74	21.7%	15%	14.6%
75 – 84	6.4%	5.8%	5.5%
85 – 89	2.2%	1.6%	1.5%
90+	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%
Median Age	48	40	39

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table KS102EW, Age Structure)

3.5 This reveals that within the Neighbourhood Plan Area age profiles for children between 0 - 9 years is lower than the equivalent Regional and England figures. Similarly, they are also lower when compared against the 10 – 19, 20 – 29 and 30 – 44 age groups.

3.6 Conversely, the proportion of adults between the ages of 45 – 59 and 60 - 74 is much higher when compared to the South-East and equivalent England figures, this is true

of all age groups up to 90+, indicative of an average age older than the regional and national averages.

3.7 The approximate social grade within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is derived from ONS data table QS611EW which is part of the 2011 census.

Table 2 - Approximate Social Grade (All Household Reference persons aged 16 - 64)		
Social Grade	Charlton Parish	Test Valley
AB	24.38%	30.0%
C1	40.46%	31.2%
C2	22.97%	20.4%
D/E	12.19%	18.3%
Approximated Social Grade (total)	100%	100%

(Source: 2011. Census Table QS611EW)

3.8 The grading is taken from the occupation of the head of the household and is categorised as follows:

- AB - upper middle / middle class, higher / intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
- C1 - lower middle class, supervisory or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
- C2 - skilled working class, skilled manual workers
- D - working class, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers
- E - non-working, casual or lowest grade workers, pensioners, and others who depend on the welfare state for their income

3.9 The key characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are that there are significantly lower social grade AB and DE within the Parish in comparison to the rest of Test Valley. Class C1 is conversely significantly higher.

HOUSING

3.10 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains 853 dwellings according to the 2011 census. The following table comprises a breakdown of the Council Tax banding.

Council Tax Band	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	SE Region
A	0.23%	5.1%	8.82%
B	6.09%	17.1%	0.02%
C	24.14%	26.2%	25.87%
D	36.44%	18.8%	20.10%
E	24.02%	15.7%	13.23%
F	6.90%	9.2%	8.00%
G	2.18%	7.0%	6.39%
H	0.00%	0.9%	0.91%
TOTAL	100.00%	100%	100%

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics/ Test Valley Profile)

3.11 Banding is based on the open market capital value of the relevant property on the 1 April 1991. In the Test Valley Borough the bands were divide as follows:

- A - up to and including £40,000
- B - £40,001 - £52,000
- C - £52,001 - £68,000
- D - £68,001 - £88,000
- E - £88,001 - £120,000
- F - £120,001 - £160,000
- G - £160,001 - £320,000
- H - more than £320,000

3.12 The banding points of the most expensive properties (bands F, G and H) are at a lower proportion in the Charlton Parish compared to the figures for Test Valley as a whole and the South East. Instead, there are significantly more band D and E properties in comparison with less properties within the lower bands A and B.

3.13 The range of house types is described in detailed in ONS table KS401EW (tables 4 and 5). These demonstrate that there are more detached and terraced properties in the parish than the average for Test Valley and the South East, with a much lower range of flats and apartments.

	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	S E Region
Whole House or Bungalow; Detached	335	18581	1037388
Whole House or Bungalow; Semi-Detached	245	15467	1022394
Whole House or Bungalow; Terraced (Including End-Terrace)	182	9612	829923
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Purpose-Built Block of Flats or Tenement	69	5536	598222

Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Part of a Converted or Shared House (Including Bed-Sits)	2	903	149158
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; In Commercial Building	6	396	41190
Caravan or Other Mobile or Temporary Structure	0	541	25898

(Source: 2011 Census Table KS401EW)

	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	S E Region
Whole House or Bungalow; Detached	39.93%	36.41%	28.01%
Whole House or Bungalow; Semi-Detached	29.20%	30.31%	27.60%
Whole House or Bungalow; Terraced (Including End-Terrace)	21.69%	18.83%	22.41%
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Purpose-Built Block of Flats or Tenement	8.22%	10.85%	16.15%
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; Part of a Converted or Shared House (Including Bed-Sits)	0.24%	1.77%	4.03%
Flat, Maisonette or Apartment; In Commercial Building	0.72%	0.78%	1.11%
Caravan or Other Mobile or Temporary Structure	0.00%	1.06%	0.70%

(Source: 2011 Census Table KS401EW)

3.14 Household sizes are important as there is clearly significantly more 2 person households than the average (see tables 6 and 7).

	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	South East	England
All Household Spaces	839	49407	3555463	22063368
1 Person in Household	213	13065	1023154	6666493
2 People in Household	356	18258	1247950	7544404
3 People in Household	116	7933	551773	3437917
4 People in Household	119	7177	492843	2866800
5 People in Household	26	2157	167581	1028477
6 People in Household	8	629	53824	369186
7 People in Household	0	134	11742	88823
8 or More People in Household	1	54	6596	61268

(Source: 2011 Census Table QS406EW)

	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	South East	England
All Household Spaces	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1 Person in Household	25.39	26.44	28.78	30.22
2 People in Household	42.43	36.95	35.10	34.19

3 People in Household	13.83	16.06	15.52	15.58
4 People in Household	14.18	14.53	13.86	12.99
5 People in Household	3.10	4.37	4.71	4.66
6 People in Household	0.95	1.27	1.51	1.67
7 People in Household	0.00	0.27	0.33	0.40
8 or More People in Household	0.12	0.11	0.19	0.28

(Source: 2011 Census Table QS406EW)

3.15 The tenure of the different households in the Neighbourhood Plan Area parish of Charlton are shown in table 8.

Tenure	Charlton	Test Valley	England
Owned; total	86.5%	70.3%	63.3%
Shared ownership	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%
Social rented; total	4.9%	14.4%	17.7%
Private rented; total	6.9%	12.9%	16.8%

Source: Census 2011, AECOM Calculations

3.16 The data reveals a number of interesting points; owned properties are significantly higher than the average and may well be reflective of the average age of the parish residents, which is also higher than average, and so the affordability of housing being more reasonable in the past or the passage of time has enabled occupants to gain a footing on the housing ladder.

3.17 The level of social and private rented properties in the Neighbourhood Plan Area is significantly lower than Test Valley on average but this may solely be affected by the availability of housing stock.

3.18 At the time of undertaking, Charlton formed part of the Andover wards and therefore any housing need data is historically included within the overall need of the town. Whilst as of 13 November 2018, 2,106 households were registered on Test Valley Borough Council's Housing Register, it cannot be ascertained as to the actual level of need within the Parish without a detailed local survey. It should be noted however that

Charlton was seen as a desirable location by those on the register, with 548 applicants stating that Charlton was an area of preference.

- 3.19 With regard to sale prices and affordability, the Housing Needs Assessment produced by AECOM indicates a:

“lack of affordability is acute at the lower end of the income spectrum and, while it eases slightly at the median point, for sale market dwellings are still well beyond the means of people at this level of household income.

Based on median and lower quartile household incomes in the district of £20,238 and £12,501 respectively, it can be supported that a mix of housing tenures would be required to meet the appropriate needs of the community, both for rent and leading to home ownership.

From the affordability analysis we have done it is apparent that only those households in the Upper Quartile are able to access sale dwellings without subsidy. This means the majority of households must choose from alternative tenures, either Private Rent, or an AH tenure. Given the majority of dwellings in the NA are privately owned, this suggests a significant misalignment with community need.

The new NPPF acknowledges that Build to Rent dwellings have a role to play in providing affordable market homes, and may contribute to AH need where they include a component of Affordable Private Rent. It is therefore appropriate for policy in Charlton to support Build to Rent development.

It is notable however, that rents for entry-level PRS dwellings remain higher than median household incomes, indicating the majority of households are likely to require some form of subsidised housing. As set out earlier in this study, it is therefore appropriate that the accent is placed on the provision of AH. As shown in the Affordable Housing Model, a target of 40% would make substantial in-roads into the overall need for AH over the Plan Period.”

- 3.20 With regard to tenure split the AECOM report recommend a tenure split model to take into account these factors:

“It is appropriate given the relationship between household income and affordability thresholds; it seems appropriate the accent should be on Social and Affordable Rent dwellings, with Shared Ownership dwellings available to those seeking a route to home ownership, and an alternative to PRS dwellings.”

HEALTH

- 3.21 The health of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is generally comparable to the average for the Region or England (tables 9 and 10).

Health Status	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
Very Good	903	4,232,707	25,005,712
Good	704	2,989,920	18,141,457
Fair	257	1,037,592	6,954,092
Bad	66	291,456	2,250,446
Very Bad	17	83,075	660,749
Totals	1947	8,634,750	53,012,456

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS302EW)

Health Status %	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
Very Good	46.38	49.0	47.2
Good	36.16	34.6	34.2
Fair	13.20	12.0	13.1
Bad	3.39	3.4	4.2
Very Bad	0.87	1.0	1.2
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS302EW)

- 3.22 The availability of health services in the locality is reasonably good for a rural area. Data held on the NHS website (<http://www.nhs.uk/service-search>) provides details of the nearest facilities as well as general information about each facility.
- 3.23 The data indicates that there are 15 GP practices within 10 miles of the Parish of Charlton. The nearest is The Andover Health Care Medical Practice (0.4 miles).
- 3.24 There are 13 pharmacies within 10 miles of Charlton. The nearest is in Andover (0.4 miles).
- 3.25 The nearest accident and emergency services are located at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital (13.2 miles).
- 3.26 The nearest hospital for general treatment (including maternity units) is Andover War Memorial Hospital (0.4 miles).

3.27 There are 8 dental practices within 10 miles of Charlton; the nearest is Bupa Dental Care in Andover (1.1 miles). Of those 10 practices, 2 are recorded as accepting new adult patients that are exempt from paying for care.

DEPRIVATION

3.28 The Neighbourhood Area statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (2011) assess households by deprivation 'dimensions'. Whilst these are not the full multiple deprivation indices, they are nevertheless useful as general indicators. The indicators are:

- Employment
- Education
- Health and disability
- Housing

3.29 Tables 11 and 12 show data from table QS119EW of the 2011 Census records showing the four dimensions of deprivation for the parish.

Deprivation	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
Not deprived in any dimension	130	1,695,912	9,385,648
Deprived in 1 dimension	72	1,145,825	7,204,181
Deprived in 2 dimensions	36	569,744	4,223,982
Deprived in 3 dimensions	2	129,939	1,133,622
Deprived in 4 dimensions	1	14,043	115,935
Totals	241	3,555,463	22,063,368

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS119E)

Deprivation (%)	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
Not deprived in any dimension	53.9	47.7	42.5
Deprived in 1 dimension	30	32.2	32.7
Deprived in 2 dimensions	14.9	16.0	19.1
Deprived in 3 dimensions	0.8	3.7	5.1
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.4	0.4	0.5
Totals	100.0	100.0	100.0

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS119E)

3.30 This data shows that the Neighbourhood Plan Area has a higher proportion of households not deprived in any of the four dimensions when compared with the England and SE Regional figures.

3.31 In all of the four dimensions the Neighbourhood Plan Area has a comparable percentage of households in deprivation compared to the Region and England as a whole.

EDUCATION

3.32 The 2011 Census data reveals the following statistics in relation to educational attainment within the Neighbourhood Plan Area:

Educational Attainment	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
No Qualifications	313	1,333,955	9,656,810
1 – 4 O-Levels/CSEs/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma	671	2,471,595	14,476,106
NVQ Lvl 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic Skills	129	492,083	3,549,205
5+ O-Levels (passes)/CSE (Grade 1)/GCSE. Diploma. Welsh Baccalaureate, Int, Diploma	613	2,727,031	14,770,857
NVQ Lvl2, intermediate GNVQ, City & Guilds Craft, BTEC first/general diploma, RSA diploma	268	984,776	6,471,092
Apprenticeship	184	455,870	2,723,419
2+ A-lvls/VCEs, 4+ As Lvl Higher School Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma	256	1,501,322	7,989,853
NVQ Lvl3, Advanced GNVQ, City & Guilds ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma	234	741,971	4,701,028
Degree, Higher Degree	181	1,305,654	7,472,181
NVQ Lvl4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level	108	317,850	1,878,697
Professional Qualifications	253	1,119,717	6,072,830
Other Vocational / Work Related Qualifications	375	1,258,611	7,315,650
Foreign Qualifications	34	429,796	2,776,829
Residents aged 16 and over	1,672	6,992,666	42,989,620

(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS502EW)

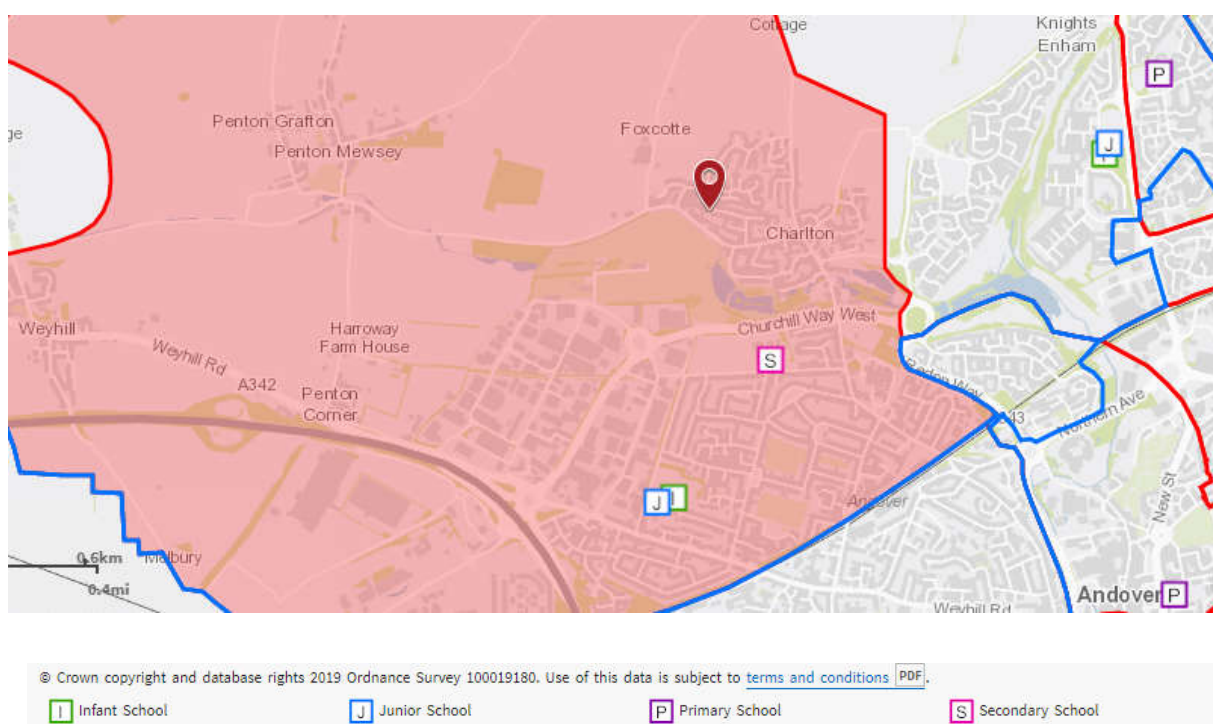
Educational Attainment	Charlton Parish	SE Region	England
No Qualifications	18.72	19	22
1 – 4 O-Levels/CSEs/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma	40.13	35	34
NVQ Lvl 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic Skills	7.72	7	8
5+ O-Levels (passes)/CSE (Grade 1)/GCSE. Diploma. Welsh Baccalaureate, Int, Diploma	36.66	39	34
NVQ Lvl2, intermediate GNVQ, City & Guilds Craft, BTEC first/general diploma, RSA diploma	16.03	14	15
Apprenticeship	11.00	7	6
2+ A-lvls/VCEs, 4+ As Lvl Higher School Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma	15.31	21	19
NVQ Lvl3, Advanced GNVQ, City & Guilds ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma	14.00	11	11
Degree, Higher Degree	10.83	19	17
NVQ Lvl4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level	6.46	5	4
Professional Qualifications	15.13	16	14
Other Vocational / Work Related Qualifications	22.43	18	17
Foreign Qualifications	2.03	6	6
Residents aged 16 and over	1,672	6,992,666	42,989,620

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(N.B. numbers do not total 100% as respondents were able to indicate more than one answer)
(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS502EW)

- 3.33 The percentage of those surveyed achieving a degree or higher degree, or professional qualifications, is above that for the Region and England. Those with no qualifications are below both the national and regional averages.
- 3.34 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains no schools. As you can see from figure 12, the nearest catchment infant and junior schools are some 2km from the closest residential properties in Charlton in terms of viable walking routes. In terms of secondary schools however, the closest catchment school is Harrow Way Community School at approximately 750m from the nearest dwellings.

Figure 12 – School Catchment Areas



- 3.35 The 2016-20 Pupil Place Plan² remarks that at present, the Andover Town primary schools have a 2% surplus of places (as of October 2016). Although pupil numbers are set to increase through planned significant housing development in the area, it is forecast that the surplus by 2021 will have risen to 5%. This includes the provision of a new 2 form entry primary school at East Anton.

² Hampshire County Council (November 2016) 2017 – 2021 The Hampshire School Places Plan

3.36 The above forecasts taken from the 2016-20 Pupil Place Plan, take the following factors into account when forecasting school places:

- “numbers of children living in area;
- numbers of children attending local schools;
- % participation rates for numbers joining each phase of schooling;
- known housing developments and likely pupil yield;
- in-year migration to and from local schools ‘pushback’ – children being ‘pushed back’ to their local schools as preferred schools fill from their own catchment demand.”

3.37 The assumptions do not, however, allow for additional non-strategic Local Plan allocation sites or Neighbourhood Plan housing allocations, or significant windfalls. The lack of any school provision within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is a significant factor which needs to be taken into account in the future.

3.38 The 2016 Ofsted inspection reports³ rated both Portway Infant and Junior Schools, as well as Harrow Way School as ‘Good’ in all areas of assessment, giving them a Grade 2. An assessment of Good / Grade 2 means that “*These are very positive features of a school. A school that is good is serving its pupils well.*”

3.39 Further and Higher education may be accessed locally at Andover College and beyond at Sparsholt College and the University of Winchester.

3.40 The Charlton and District Pre-School is also located within St Thomas’ Church Hall and runs every weekday morning as well as Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

RELIGION

3.41 The diversity of different religions followed within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is limited, but not significantly different to the South East Region and England figures:

Religion	Parish	South East
Christian	70.36%	59.8%
Buddhist	0.15%	0.5%
Hindu	0.05%	1.1%
Jewish	0%	0.2%
Muslim	0.15%	2.3%
Sikh	0%	0.6%
Other religions	0.62%	0.5%
No religion	20.54%	27.1%

³ Ofsted (2016) *Charlton with Compton Beauchamp Primary School Inspection Report* [Online]

Not stated	8.12%	7.4%
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(Source: 2011 Census Neighbourhood Statistics Table QS208EW)

- 3.42 This reflects the semi rural nature of the area and the limited influence of the larger conurbations in the surrounding areas on the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 3.43 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains St Thomas' Church (C of E), which is part of the Pastrow Benefice. There is a regular Sunday service as well as other family services and events.

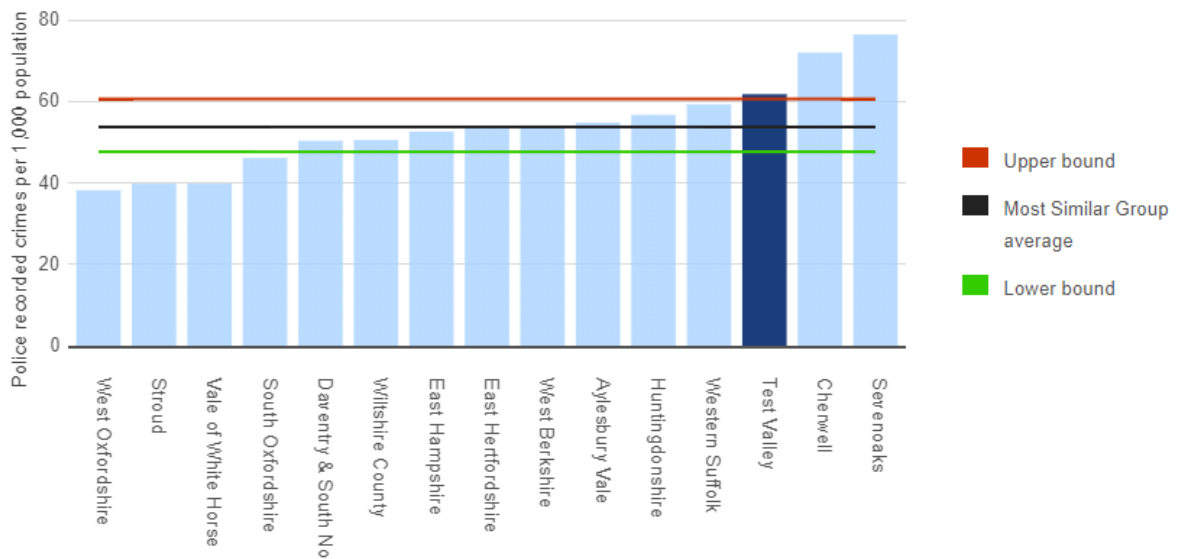
CRIME

- 3.44 The NP area is situated within the Andover North area of the Hampshire Constabulary with a breakdown of crime type highlighted in table 16.

Crime Type	Total	Percentage
Anti-social behaviour	41	12.54%
Bicycle theft	0	0.00%
Burglary	44	13.46%
Criminal damage and arson	31	9.48%
Drugs	6	1.83%
Other crime	6	1.83%
Other theft	65	19.88%
Possession of weapons	3	0.92%
Public order	20	6.12%
Robbery	0	0.00%
Shoplifting	9	2.75%
Theft from the person	0	0.00%
Vehicle crime	18	5.50%
Violence and sexual offences	84	25.69%

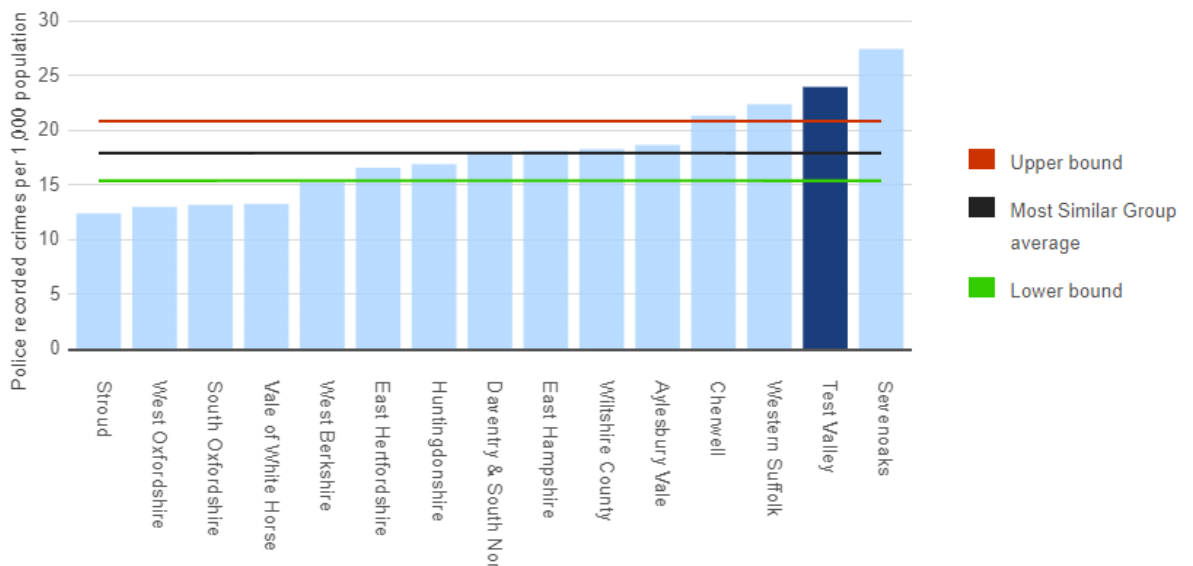
- 3.45 The latest data for the year ending September 2018, confirms that the general crime rate in Test Valley was higher than normal for the group of comparable areas with the highest factors shown in figures 13, 14, 15, and 16 . Within Hampshire however, Test Valley has one of the lower crime rates in the County at 61.74% compared to a County average of 80.86%.

Figure 13 - Test Valley Crime Rate - General



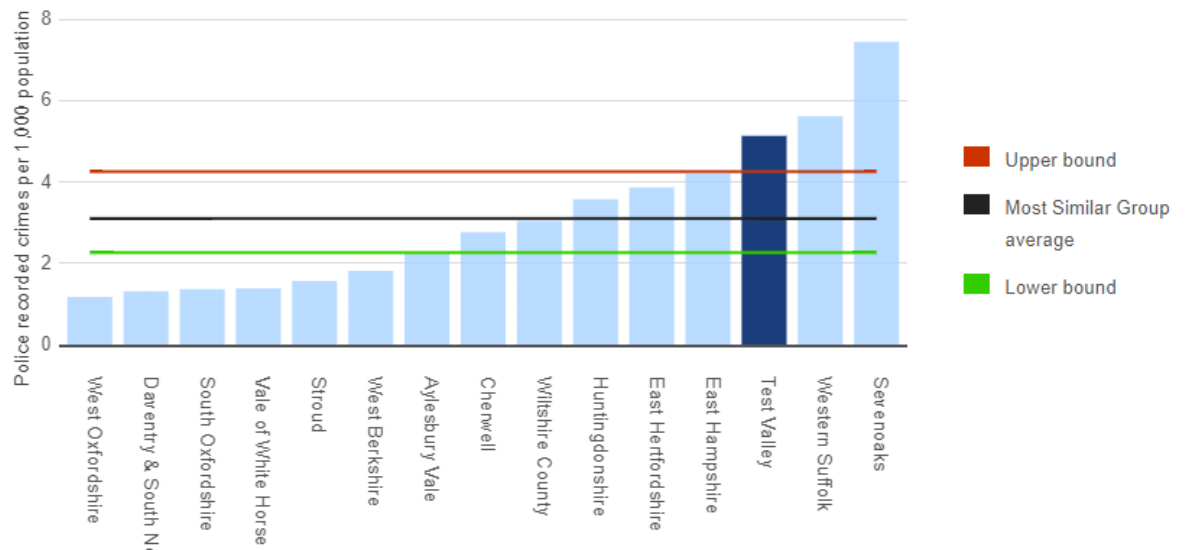
(Source: Neighbourhood Policing Data = <http://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N378/crime/>)

Figure 14- Test Valley Crime Rate – Violence and Sexual Offences



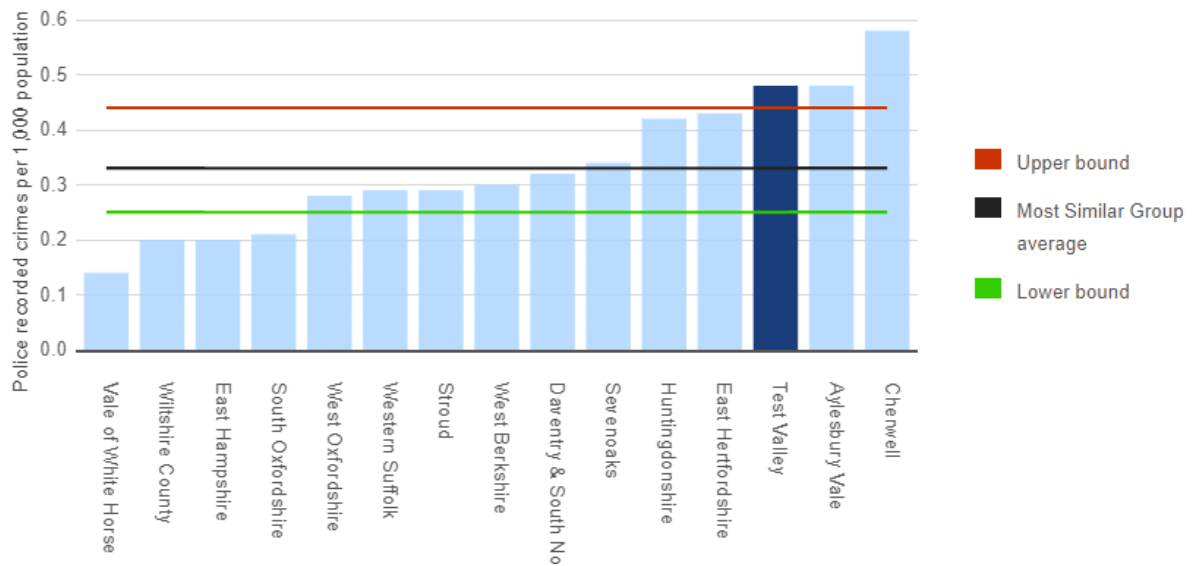
(Source: Neighbourhood Policing Data = <http://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N378/crime/>)

Figure 15- Test Valley Crime Rate – Public Order



(Source: Neighbourhood Policing Data = <http://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N378/crime/>)

Figure 16- Test Valley Crime Rate – Robbery



(Source: Neighbourhood Policing Data = <http://www.police.uk/thames-valley/N378/crime/>)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

3.46 The evidence base for the 2016 Local Plan assessed the settlements in terms of the range of facilities available. The Policy COM2: Settlement Hierarchy Topic Paper (2014) set out Settlement Hierarchy Criteria based on the NNPf requirements. Individual settlements were analysed based on the range of facilities they contain and their accessibility (see table 16).

Table 17- Settlement Hierarchy Criteria

Settlement Hierarchy Criteria	
Criteria	Description
Food Store	Access to a food store within the settlement - includes supermarkets, village stores or petrol stations (with a shop selling fresh food).
Other Shop	Access within the settlement to a store providing for other daily needs. Examples include newsagents, pharmacy, greengrocer and butcher.
Education access	A primary school within the settlement. A secondary school access within easy reach by cycle, foot or public transport.
Health facility	Provision of doctors' surgery facility in the settlement.
Leisure facilities	Outdoor facilities such as playing fields and play areas.
Rail station	A station in the settlement with regular daily service to a major centre.
Public transport provision	- 1 for a village to be on a bus route operating hourly or more frequently, Monday - Saturday. - 2 for a village to have a bus route which operates less frequently. - 3 for a village to have access to a Cango service. The settlement is only counted as sustainable where it scores a 1.
Job Ratio	Local employment opportunities - the ward in which the settlement is located has a job ratio greater than 0.5 i.e. half a job per economically active person in the ward (aged 16 to 65).
Public House	A public house within the village.
Community facility	Provision of built facilities for social interaction e.g. Village halls and social clubs.

(Source: Test Valley Local Plan Topic Paper COM2 Settlement Hierarchy 2014

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/2567/EB-LC-20-Topic-Paper-COM2-Settlement-Hierarchy-RLP.pdf>)

- 3.47 It was subsequently assessed that Charlton was considered as a Key Service Centre 'given its close proximity to Andover and level of facilities'. Table 18 however shows that in terms of point score the criteria score is considerably lower. It should be noted that although Chilworth appears on this list, it is because of its employment role as a basis for the University of Southampton Science Park.

Table 18- Key Service Centres

Key Service Centres			
Settlement	Level of Public Transport	Job Ratio	TOTAL (1 point per heading)
Nursling & Rownhams	H	1.39	9
Stockbridge	M	0.38	9
North Baddesley	H	0.15	8
Valley Park	M	0.16	8
Charlton	H	0.19	6
Chilworth	L	1.39	4

Note: Key criteria score includes level of public transport and job ratio.

3.48 Charlton also appeared in the category of Rural Villages (see table 19), where it appears on equal footing in terms of points with many other villages

Table 19- Rural Villages

Rural Villages			
Settlement	Level of Public Transport	Job Ratio	TOTAL (1 point per heading)
Abbots Ann	H	0.29	6
Ampfield	H	0.39	6
Amport	M	0.44	3
Appleshaw	L	0.51	5
Awbridge	M	0.27	4
Barton Stacey	M	0.39	6
Braishfield	M	0.39	5
Broughton	M	0.38	7
Charlton	H	0.19	6
Chilbolton	M	0.38	4

3.49 The Topic Paper included the analysis of each as shown in table 20.

Table 20- Settlement Analysis

Appendix 1 - Extent to which Settlements meet the selection Criteria												
Settlement	Level of Public Transport	Job Ratio¹	Food Store	Other shop	Health Facility	Leisure Facility	Rail Station	Public House	Community Facility	Primary School	Secondary School	TOTAL (1 point per heading)
Abbots Ann*	H	0.29	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	6
Ampfield*	H	0.39	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	6
Amport*	M	0.44	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3
Appleshaw	L	0.51	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	5
Awbridge	M	0.27	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	4
Barton Stacey	M	0.39	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	6
Braishfield*	M	0.39	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	5
Broughton*	M	0.38	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	7
Charlton	H	0.19	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	6
Chilbolton*	M	0.38	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	4
Chilworth*	L	1.39	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	4
Dunbridge	M	0.39	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	3
Enham Alamein*	M	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	5
Fyfield	M	0.51	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	3
Goodworth	M	0.29	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	5
Clatford*												
Grateley	M	0.44	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	7

3.50 The assessment highlights that the settlement was scored comparably to other settlements of a similar size, but clearly, its proximity to Andover was the deciding factor with regard to it being differentiated. It is worth noting that since the 2014 survey the 'other shop' has since closed and therefore the settlement would now score 5 points. Whether this would be sufficient to change its designation to a Rural Village can only be ascertained during the preparation of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

3.51 This seemingly minor change however could have a significant impact on the future development of the parish. Whilst larger Rural Villages and Key Service Centre Settlements were all allocated a settlement boundary. With regard to the Key Service Centres specifically, it was considered that these were 'identified as the most sustainable locations for proposed allocations and therefore have been subject to review for potential allocations in the Sustainability Appraisal'. Within these Service Centres, it was proposed that the following scale of development would be acceptable:

- Strategic allocations
- Windfalls
- Replacement dwellings
- Community-led Development
- Strategic Employment Sites
- Small scale employment development

3.52 A full assessment of the services and facilities within the parish is recommended, in addition to whether the level of public transport and job ratio remain as originally assessed.

CLUBS

3.65 There are various clubs and activities available to residents in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. These largely relate to St Thomas's Church, the Leisure/ Salto Centre, Football and Rugby Clubs, but also include Brownies and Guides, keep fit, dance and the Womens' Institute.

COMMUNICATIONS

3.66 The settlements within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are served by telephone services. The Parish is also served by fibre broadband coverage which provides superfast

access to the internet for many residents, but not all; parts of the parish have variable access speeds.

- 3.53 Local magazines and information guides are distributed in the area as well as a monthly Parish Newsletter. There is also a village website and a Community News and Events Page for Charlton on Facebook which is a group for residents, both of which carry information.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 3.54 The majority of data is based on information provided by the Census 2011, Neighbourhood Statistics, and therefore doesn't necessarily reflect the more up-to-date profile of the Parish which has grown since 2011 through the development of a further 90+ dwellings.. The data provided by the AECOM report, does not include local statistics. Further parish survey work should be undertaken to ensure that any gaps are updated accordingly.

ISSUES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 3.55 There are several issues that may be relevant to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.56 There are significantly less residents identified as social grade AB and DE than the rest of Test Valley in the Parish. Class C1 is conversely significantly higher. The majority of residents fall within the 45 to 74 age brackets which denote an aging population. This combined with a lower than average number of children could have significant effects for the future. Where possible, the Neighbourhood Plan should consider any relevant employment, housing and community policies to address issues for the future in this regard.
- 3.57 The housing stock is dominated by those in bands D and E with a much lower proportion of the most expensive properties (bands F, G and H) as well as the less expensive bands (A and B) in the Neighbourhood Plan Area compared to the rest of Test Valley and the South East. There is a predominance for detached and terraced housing, with limited apartments and flats. This is generally reflective of the Council Tax data.
- 3.58 The majority of residents own their homes, with very limited shared ownership and lower rates of private and social rented properties. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment found that there is a shortage of affordable housing to meet the community needs in addition to appropriate housing to meet the needs of an aging population.

Local survey work should be undertaken to ascertain, whether the demand for housing reflects the housing stock available including appropriate tenure. Future Neighbourhood Plan policies will need to use this data to focus on the future needs of residents and providing for projected demands accordingly.

- 3.59 The health of residents is broadly average and there appears to be good access to services, which are outside of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This is clearly dependent on continued public transport provision.
- 3.60 In terms of deprivation, the Neighbourhood Plan Area scores highly, making it one of the 10% least deprived parishes in England. There are however issues with Education, Skills and Training as there are significantly lower numbers of residents with higher level qualifications. This is reflected in the socio economic classification for the parish.. Given the nature of the parish it is unlikely that any Neighbourhood Plan policies could address the imbalance in this regard.
- 3.61 In terms of school education, there is no such provision within the parish and residents have to travel to neighbouring areas. Whilst the Hampshire School Places Plan states that it has planned sufficiently for the future, it is not parish specific. It should be noted however that any large-scale future development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area could have a significant impact on primary level education. Policies should ensure that appropriate and sustainable school provision should be provided for the future where relevant to development proposed.
- 3.62 The parishioners either consider themselves as largely Christian or of no religious affiliation. There is one place of worship in the parish, which is Church of England. Other religious denominations are catered for further afield in Andover, but given the statistics for the Neighbourhood Plan Area it is not considered that there are any issues which present future concern.
- 3.63 A full assessment of the services and facilities within the parish is recommended, in addition to whether the level of public transport and job ratio remain as originally assessed. An up to date position on the level of sustainability in relation to the needs and future requirements of residents is required to inform Neighbourhood Plan policies accordingly.

4 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section sets out the evidence that supports the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan policies relating to economic activity within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. It calls on data sourced at national, regional & district level that, given the modest number of businesses within the Parish, is of only limited relevance, and hence where possible & necessary will be supplemented with locally sourced data in an endeavor to fill any gaps.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- 4.2 In respect of a rural parish such as Charlton the relevant section of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework⁴ states the following:

“Planning policies and decisions should enable:

- a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings;*
- b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;*
- c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside; and*
- d) the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.”*

- 4.3 These policies resonate with the issues in the local area, not least because they are very much targeted at communities such as Charlton. By contrast, the economic policies at County and Borough level are all embracing and slanted toward the delivery of high-quality jobs. These have a particular bias toward the larger urban areas, which given the proximity to Andover, are particularly of relevance for Charlton and the Neighbourhood Plan Area as is highlighted in the following sections.

COUNTY APPROACH

- 4.4 In the introduction to the latest revision of the Hampshire County Council' Strategic Plan 2017-2021⁵, it is stated that there are four main strategic aims of which, in regard to the

⁴ DCLG (2019) *National Planning Policy Framework* - Chapter 6, para 83 [online]
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/strategiesplansandpolicies/corporatestrategy/>

economy, the outcome is envisaged to maintain strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity. This is to be achieved by:

- *“Attracting increased inward investment and promoting Hampshire’s global Competitiveness*
- *Improving Hampshire’s connectivity*
- *Supporting businesses to start and grow, helping to create more jobs*
- *Helping people into work and to develop and maintain skills*
- *Planning and delivering appropriate development and infrastructure.”*

DISTRICT APPROACH

4.5 The adopted Test Valley Local Plan⁶ sets out:

“Andover is the home to a number of large employers including Simply Health (HSA), Stannah and Twinings. Its strength lies with its manufacturing and its location on the transport network. However, Andover currently lacks many of the characteristics associated with a competitive economy, including high value jobs and strong links with universities.*

Rural Test Valley has the highest out-commuting rate of the three areas and a smaller workforce and business base⁶³. The rural economy continues to diversify in response to changes in the agricultural sector with tourism having an important impact.

The Council wants to maintain and grow a successful and healthy local economy which provides a range of employment opportunities for its residents. Its approach to addressing the economic issues of the Borough is to increase the opportunities to work and live within the Borough, to make best use of existing employment sites and to improve the range of skills available within the Borough.”

4.6 The Local Plan further reveals a number of policy initiatives, which of particular relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan Area and are to:

- Support the rural economy through the use of existing buildings and sites for employment.
- Re-develop the Walworth and Portway Business Parks (adjacent to the NP area).
- Supporting the development of skills within the local labour force.

⁶Test Valley: An Economic Profile, 2006, Hampshire County Council (HCC), 2007

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

4.7 Being a semi-rural community, the businesses located within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are limited in number, and fall mainly into one of a small number of categories:

- **Agriculture Based:** Farming contributes a small part to the local economy, although the land surrounding the settlement is agricultural, it does not support a significant number of workers.
- **Leisure Industry:** Charlton has a significant amount of leisure facilities for the size of the Parish. The Charlton / Charlies Lakes and Leisure Centre alone provide a significant amount of employment for local people.
- **National Companies:** Part of the parish boundary contains the Britax factory and customer service centre. This provides significant employment for the area. Other employers such as Tesco provide employment in their Tesco Express food store. A new crematorium is also under construction and operated by Pure Cremations, which includes the relocation of their head office from Newbury to Charlton.
- **Home working/ small businesses:** As with many rural communities, home-working is increasing in the Parish with at least 20-home based businesses, ranging from garden design to ironing provision, decorating to educational consultancy. Other small employers such as Foxcotte Veterinary Practice provide locally based employment.

4.8 Appendix A contains a list of businesses within the Parish.

Table 21 - Economic Activity by Employment Group				
		Charlton	Test Valley	England
Economically active	Total	72.7%	73.4%	69.9%
	Employee: Full-time	45.2%	42.8%	13.7%
	Employee: Part-time	14.7%	14.7%	38.6%
	Self-employed	8.2%	10.7%	9.8%
	Unemployed	1.8%	2.5%	4.4%
	Full-time student	2.8%	2.6%	3.4%
Economically inactive	Total	27.3%	26.6%	30.1%
	Retired	19.1%	15.5%	13.7%
	Student	2.8%	3.4%	5.8%
	Looking after home or family	2.6%	4.0%	4.4%
	Long-term sick or disabled	2.3%	2.4%	4.1%
	Other	0.5%	1.3%	2.2%

(Source: Economic Activity, 2011 Census (KS601EW/ AECOM Calculations))

Table 22 – Economic Activity by Occupation		
	Charlton Parish	Test Valley
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1.02%	1.5%
B Mining and quarrying	0.00%	0.1%
C Manufacturing	11.53%	9.7%
D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.17%	0.4%
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.25%	0.6%
F Construction	7.29%	7.4%
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	14.41%	16.0%
H Transport and storage	3.47%	4.1%
I Accommodation and food service activities	2.97%	4.1%
J Information and communication	4.58%	5.0%
K Financial and insurance activities	6.61%	5.9%
L Real estate activities	0.93%	1.6%
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	5.76%	6.8%
N Administrative and support service activities	3.64%	4.5%
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	6.69%	7.7%
P Education	7.71%	9.4%
Q Human health and social work activities	6.78%	10.5%
R,S Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	4.49%	4.4%
T Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods - and services - producing activities of households for own use	0.08%	0.2%
U Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	0.08%	0.0%

(Source: Industry, 2011 Census (KS605EW) Percentages)

- 4.9 The most prominent occupations are those relating to the retailing and repair of vehicles, followed by manufacturing, education, construction and health and social work.
- 4.10 When looking at commuting locations and distances, a significant proportion of Charlton residents work less than 10km from home (52.5%). The proportion of those travelling between 10-30km equates to 16.1% with those residents travelling 30km and over in Charlton amounting to 14.8%. The proportion of those working from home is lower in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (9.7%) compared to Test Valley (12.4%) and slightly lower than the rest of England (10.3%). Whilst the latter trend is likely to increase in the future, this may reflect the aging population of the parish, who may be more used to working traditional hours within their work environment rather than at home. It may also reflect the prevalent type of work in the parish and that such workplaces may not offer appropriate home working options.

- 4.11 The majority of long-distance commuter flows of less than 10km are to destinations such as Andover and Winchester. Considering the large flows of commuting to Andover, in addition to Newbury and Winchester, it is necessary to pay attention to future development and economic growth at these destinations as they could generate further demand for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan Area and potentially exacerbate transport problems.

EVIDENCE GAPS

- 4.12 A better understanding of the seeming lack of benefit from, or awareness of, enterprise funding by businesses within the Neighbourhood Plan Area could prove of assistance when finalising the Plan policies. As could an understanding of the make-up of the workforce employed within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and the nature and location of the employment of residents as a whole. These are issues that should be addressed by conducting an appropriate survey of current employers, while also seeking supplementary feedback from all residents as part of the intended wider consultation.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 4.13 It is evident from the above that the economy in the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area is sound and contributes positively toward achieving the stated aims of both the County and Borough Councils. The evidence suggests this is due in part to local residents being employed outside the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area, and suggests also that it is the rural nature of the area that makes it an attractive place to live.
- 4.14 The policies of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will need to take full account of this so that while the economic policies are structured to encourage growth within the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area. Growth that does occur will need to be consistent with the overall objectives of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it does not detract from the attractiveness of the area as a place to live.
- 4.15 Thought should be given to the means by which the above-identified issues might be addressed through land use based policies in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1 This section of the report describes the natural resources in the area of the Neighbourhood Plan and its surroundings.

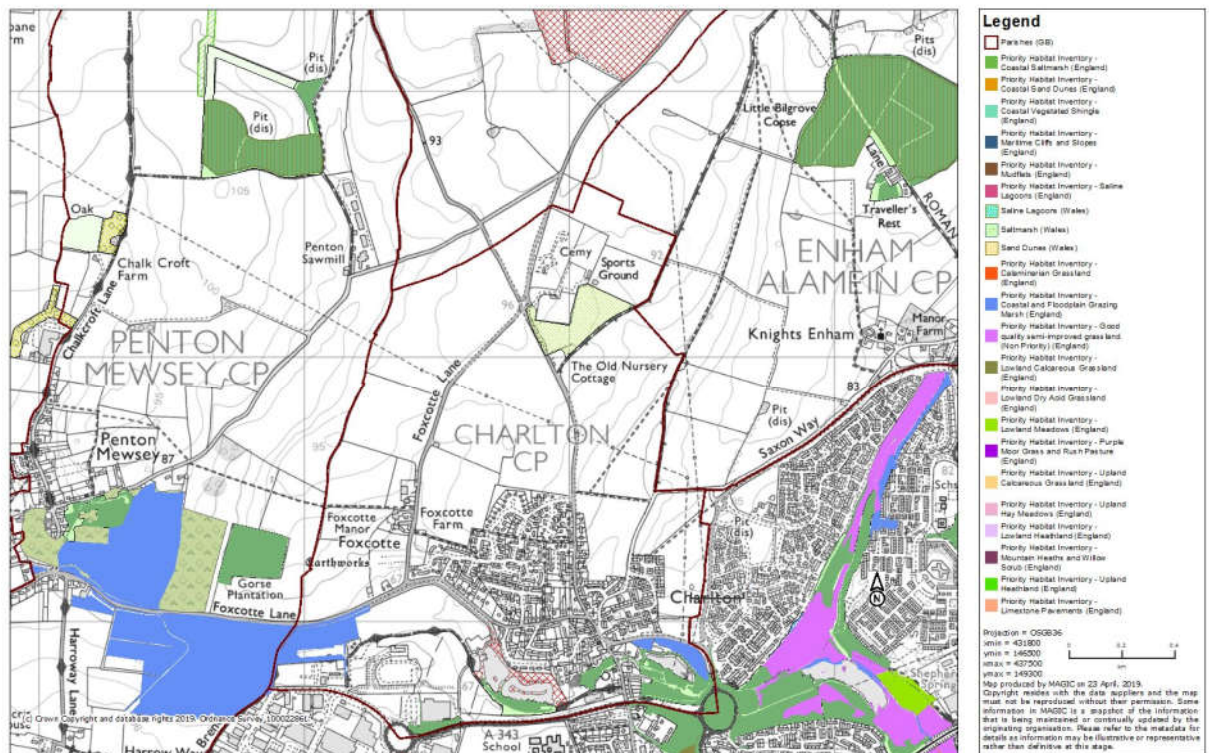
HABITATS

5.2 Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a small range of habitats including a number of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 'priority habitats', see figure 17. These are regarded as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

5.3 Charlton Parish contains a variety of deciduous woodland habitat around the lakes area, with a low density woodland area to the south of Foxcotte Park.

5.4 Beyond the wooded areas there are also areas of BAP floodplain grazing marsh and Lowland meadows and pasture also adjacent to the lakes.

Figure 17 – Habitats



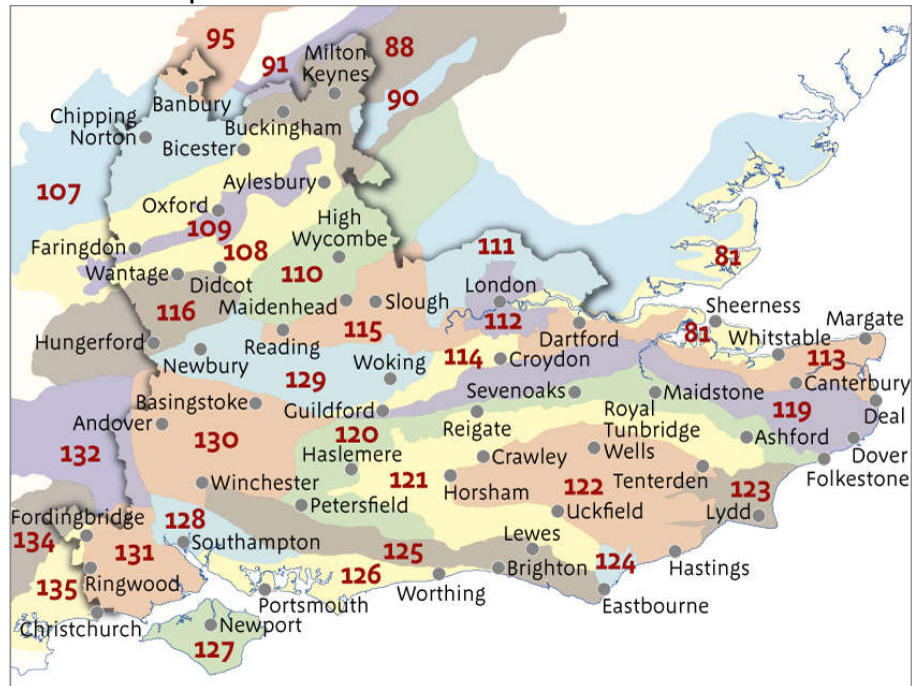
(Source: Priority Habitat Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

5.5 The Neighbourhood Plan Area falls within the Hampshire Downs (130) National

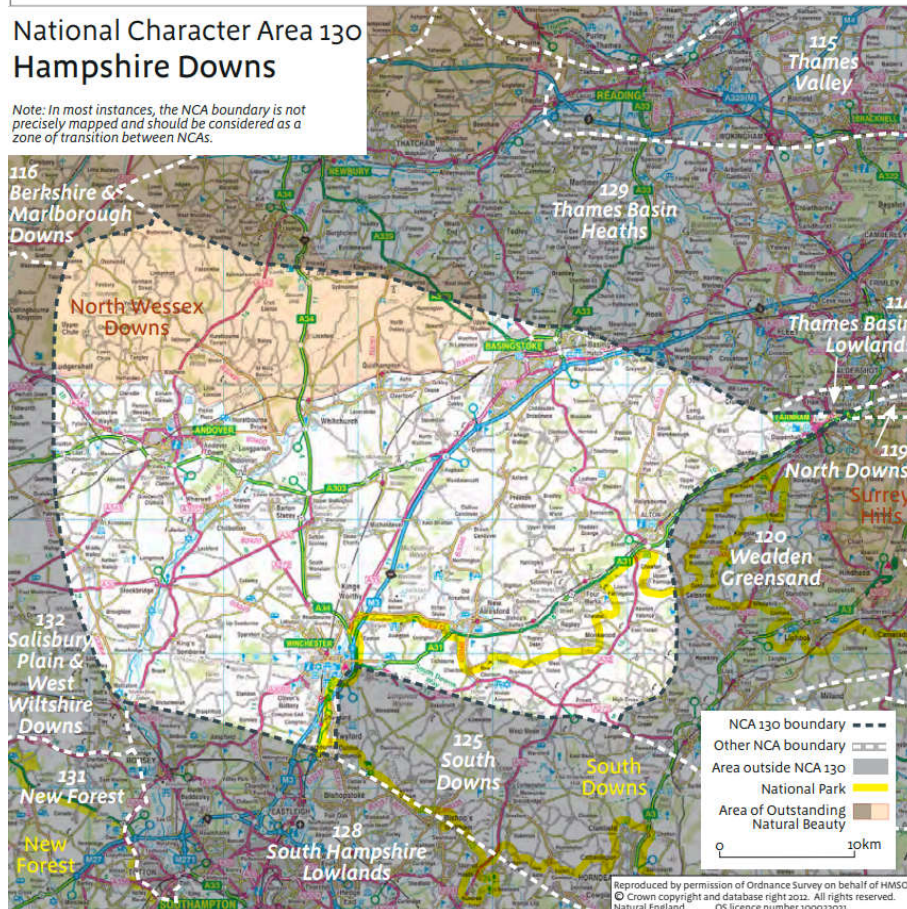
Landscape Character Areas⁷ as show in figure 18.

Figure 18 – National Landscape Character Areas



National Character Area 130
Hampshire Downs

Note: In most instances, the NCA boundary is not precisely mapped and should be considered as a zone of transition between NCAs.



(Source: Natural England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london>)

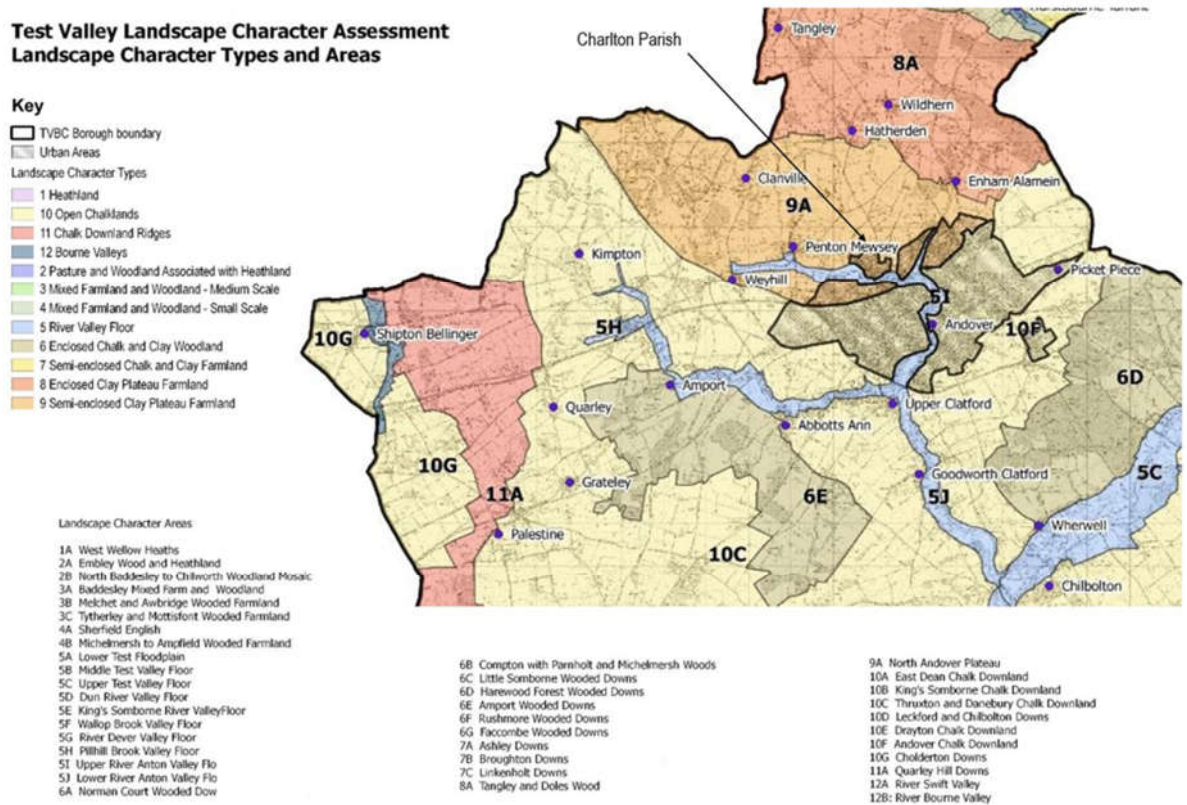
⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london>

- 5.6 The Natural England Character Area Profile for area 130 states that: *“The Hampshire Downs are part of the central southern England belt of Chalk, rising to 297 m in the north-west on the Hampshire–Wiltshire border. A steep scarp face delineates the Downs to the north, overlooking the Thames Basin, and to the east, overlooking the Weald. The majority of the area is an elevated, open, rolling landscape dominated by large arable fields with low hedgerows on thin chalk soils, scattered woodland blocks (mostly on claywith-flint caps) and shelterbelts.*

The Chalk is a large and important aquifer; hence groundwater protection and source vulnerability designations cover most of the area, and catchment sensitive farming – to control pollution, run-off and soil erosion – is a vital activity. The aquifer feeds several small streams flowing north and east, but the dominant catchment of the area is that of the rivers Test and Itchen, which flow in straight-sided, relatively deeply incised valleys across most of the National Character Area. The Itchen is a Special Area of Conservation and, with the Test, is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. These rivers, with the watermeadows, peat soils, mires and fens of their flood plains, are the most important habitats of the area. The valleys are also home to the main settlements, the local road system and important economic activities such as watercress growing and fly fishing. The water, supplied by the chalk aquifer feeding these catchments, is also the main ecosystem asset of the area, providing high-quality water to large populations in Andover, Basingstoke (both post-Second World War expanded towns that accommodate the London overspill population.”

- 5.7 The Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment was originally produced in 2004 and updated in 2018. There are two different landscape types identified within the Neighbourhood Plan Area: LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland and LCT5 River Valley Floor, see figure 19.
- 5.8 LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland is a mix of medium and open tracts of large scale arable fields, with smaller fields of pasture associated with the settlements and dry river valleys. Settlements are long and linear, generally located within the more fertile valleys.

Figure 19 – Local Landscape Types



(Source: Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/evidence-base-environment/> / © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AONB

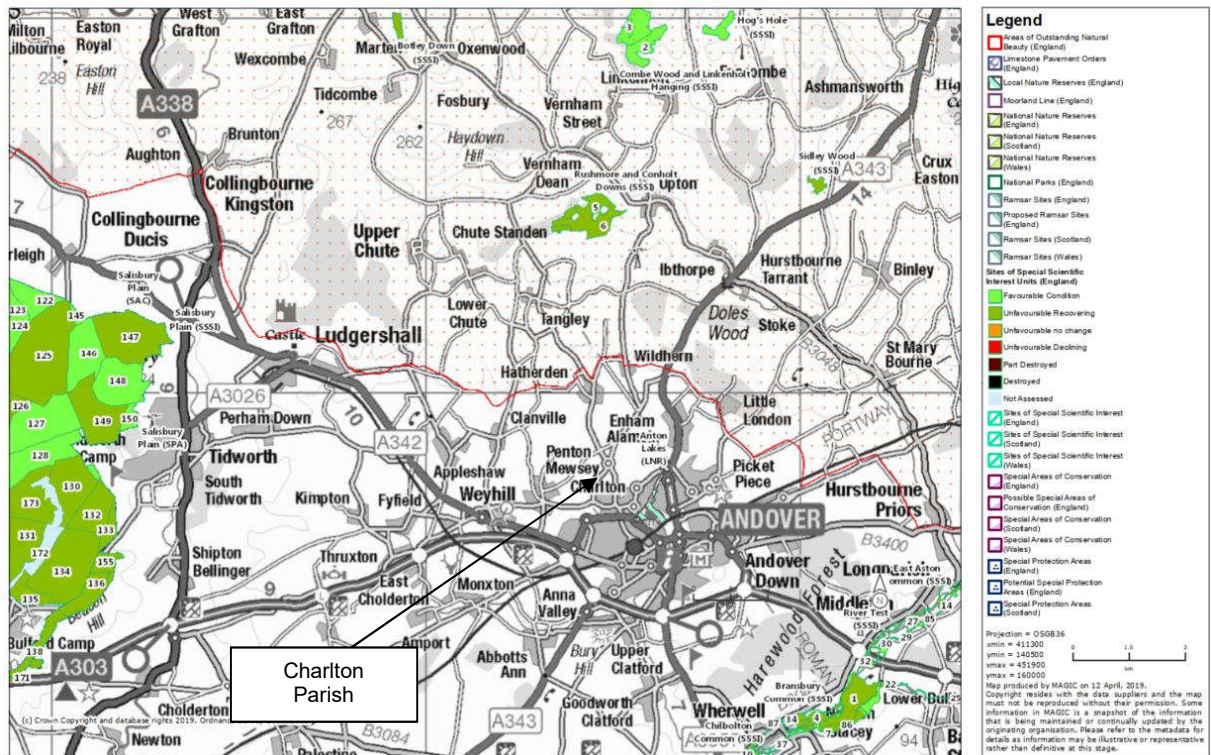
5.9 The parish lies to the south of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Any development of the northern parts of the parish could potentially affect the setting of the AONB and need to be considered.

NATURE RESERVES

5.10 There are no protected areas within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. There is however a local nature reserve: Anton Lakes adjacent to the Parish boundary.

5.11 At the international level are the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar Sites and Biosphere reserves. No protected locations are within ten kilometres of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Figure 208 – SACs / SPAs / Ramsar sites / NNRs



(Source: SAC / SPA / NNR / Ramsar site Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS Licence No 100051806)

5.12 Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA lies over 12km from the nearest part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. With Porton Down SPA some 11km to the southwest.

5.13 Paragraph 3.46 of the Test Valley Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment⁸, commenting on the Salisbury Plain SAC, concludes by saying that:

Salisbury Plain is the largest area of open chalk grassland in north-west Europe. It is owned by the Ministry of Defence and used intensively for military training. The SAC interest is in the chalk grassland and the juniper scrub community supported within these areas.

While the high use of the site by heavy military vehicles and other activity suggests that the grassland is robust (when dry), research¹⁸ suggests that chalk grassland is significantly less resistant to repeat trampling by vehicles and that calcareous grasslands are far slower to recover from habitat disturbance (at least 50 years) than other types of grassland. Disturbance has also been shown to benefit exotic plant species. Additionally, nutrient enrichment has consequences for soil fauna and vegetation composition – dog fouling remains a key issue in areas of public access. The particularly nutrient-rich nature of dog faeces and the large volumes of faeces and

⁸ Test Valley Borough Council (2014) Habitat Regulations Assessment. [Online]. Available: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/evidence-base/habitat-regulations-assessment>

urine on some sites result in eutrophication, loss of species diversity and an increase in vegetation height.

The research suggests that small-scale but acute disturbance events can have significant effects on plant community composition, and can have wider reaching impacts on other aspects of site management.

In summary, for the SAC designation, habitat deterioration can be caused by:

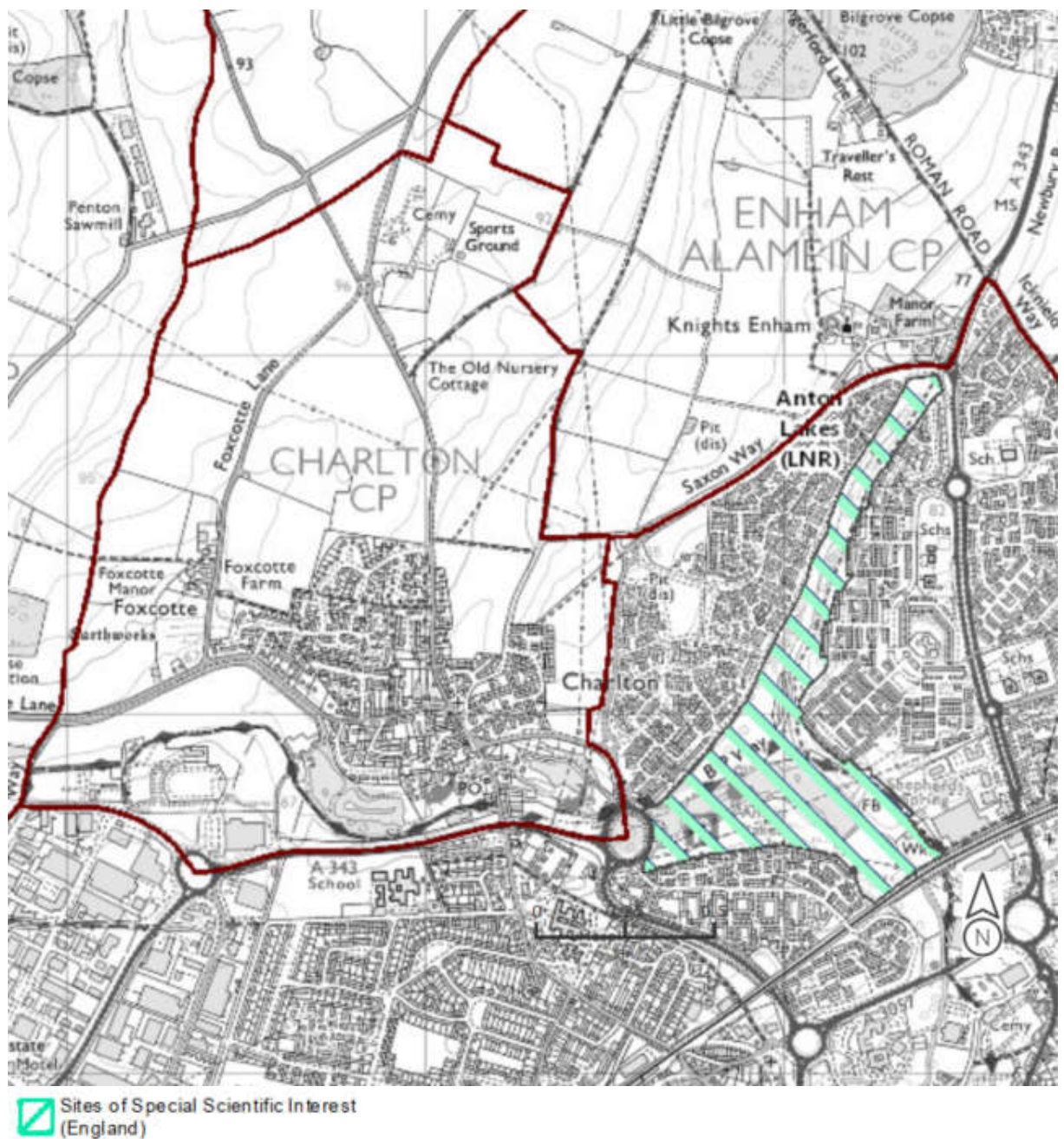
- *infrastructure (road) development*
- *vehicle movements*
- *recreational use (including dogs and horses)*

With respect to Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA, these sites are largely within Wiltshire. As a result of concerns over impacts on these sites from increasing residential development close to these sites, Wiltshire Council has implemented a process whereby developer contributions from new developments support on-going conservation work related to the features that these sites sustain. The level of contributions has been set such that the likely small numbers of dwellings within Test Valley that are within the acknowledged zone of influence where such affects may arise from would also be accommodated. Therefore, COM1 is considered unlikely to have a significant effect on Salisbury Plain.”

5.14 With regard to Porton Down, the Test Valley Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment concludes:

“Porton Down (designated for stone curlew and thus potentially susceptible to increased recreational disturbance) is not publically accessible. Therefore it is considered unlikely that any effects flowing from the plan would affect this site.”

Figure 21 – National Nature Designations



(Source: SSSI Mapping www.magic.gov.uk © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 OS Licence No 100051806)

5.15 There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan Area – Anton Lakes (see figure 21). With 4 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation also adjacent:

- Andover Ring Road (Hogarth Court Bank) – (a site which supports one or more notable species)
- Anton Lakes - Lakes & Surrounds (Areas of open freshwater, fens, flushes,

seepages, springs, inundation grasslands etc and community wildlife site)

- A343 Britax Roundabout (Agriculturally unimproved grasslands)
- Churchill Way West, Andover (Grasslands which have become impoverished through inappropriate management but which retain sufficient elements of relic unimproved grassland to enable recovery)

5.16 Other locations where wildlife may be observed within the Neighbourhood Plan Area include the Charlton Lakes area. A phase 1 ecological survey of the area was undertaken in 2016. It concluded that the site had potential for:

- Crayfish (general precautions for crayfish species only)
- Grass snakes
- Common breeding birds
- Hobby and red kite
- Bat species
- Hedgehogs
- Otters

5.17 Within the Neighbourhood Plan Area as a whole, a number of protected species have been recorded and indeed further details may be obtained from the Hampshire Environmental Records Centre. The Magic Map database identifies records within the Neighbourhood Plan Area of the following species (NB this list is not exclusive):

- Lapwing
- Red Shank
- Various bat species

5.18 It should also be noted that there have been two major applications for housing development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area within the last ten years. The first was for up to 202 dwellings at land to the north of Foxcotte Tower, Foxcotte Lane (14/01661/SCRN) and the second was the Goch Way development for 85 dwellings (13/01034/SCRN). Both of which were subject to screening opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011.

5.19 In terms of ecological impacts, the opinion on the site to the north of Foxcotte Tower found no particular ecological interest on site (other than trees and hedgerows with potential for bat roosts), but potential for impacts on the Rooksbury Mill Nature Reserve,

Charlton Lakes and River (although not significant). The overall effects of a development of this scale in this location was considered not to be significant.

- 5.20 With regard to the Goch Way site, it was concluded that the site was over 13km from the nearest site of international importance or nature conservation and development of the scale proposed was unlikely to have a significant impact on the ecology of the site and its surroundings which could not be fully mitigated.

INFORMATION GAPS

- 5.21 Data for this aspect of the characterisation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is good, but there is a notable gap in local level data on landscape and visual characteristics of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 5.22 This could be critical in determining the capacity of the Neighbourhood Plan Area to absorb development in the future and to determine the areas where new development could lead to greater or lesser degree of impacts on the landscape character of the area as well as the integrity of the local and nationally important landscapes within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 5.23 There are no areas or locations within the Neighbourhood Plan Area which are of great landscape or ecological importance other than a small Site of Importance for Nature Conservation located at Charlton Lakes. The northern part of the parish could however be considered to fall within the setting of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Anton Lakes Nature reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is adjacent to the parish boundary. The two nearest Special Areas of Conservation/Special Protection Areas are sited in excess of 10km from the parish boundaries.
- 5.24 Given the above and the findings of the Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Revised Local Plan, in addition to screening opinions for proposed housing sites around the edge of the settlement, it is considered unlikely that detailed consideration will need to be given to the effect of future development within the Neighbourhood Plan Area on the natural environment unless the level of development is significant.

6 BUILT ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN & HERITAGE

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a range of heritage assets which reflects the diversity of this historic landscape. The village was first documented in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) as Chernelton(e), which meant farm of the Free Peasants. However an earlier Anglo Saxon settlement was uncovered during the construction of Goch Way, with finds of 6th Century pottery and other artefacts, domestic features and evidence of structures. This is now known as Foxcott and details of this settlement can be found in the Scheduled Ancient Monument section below.

6.2 The National Planning Policy (NPPF) defines a heritage asset as:

“A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).”

6.3 Historic England maintains the official list of protected buildings or sites, which is known as The National Heritage List for England (NHLE). It contains a current register of all nationally protected historic buildings or sites in England. The defined Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a large number of designated heritage assets which are described in further detail below.

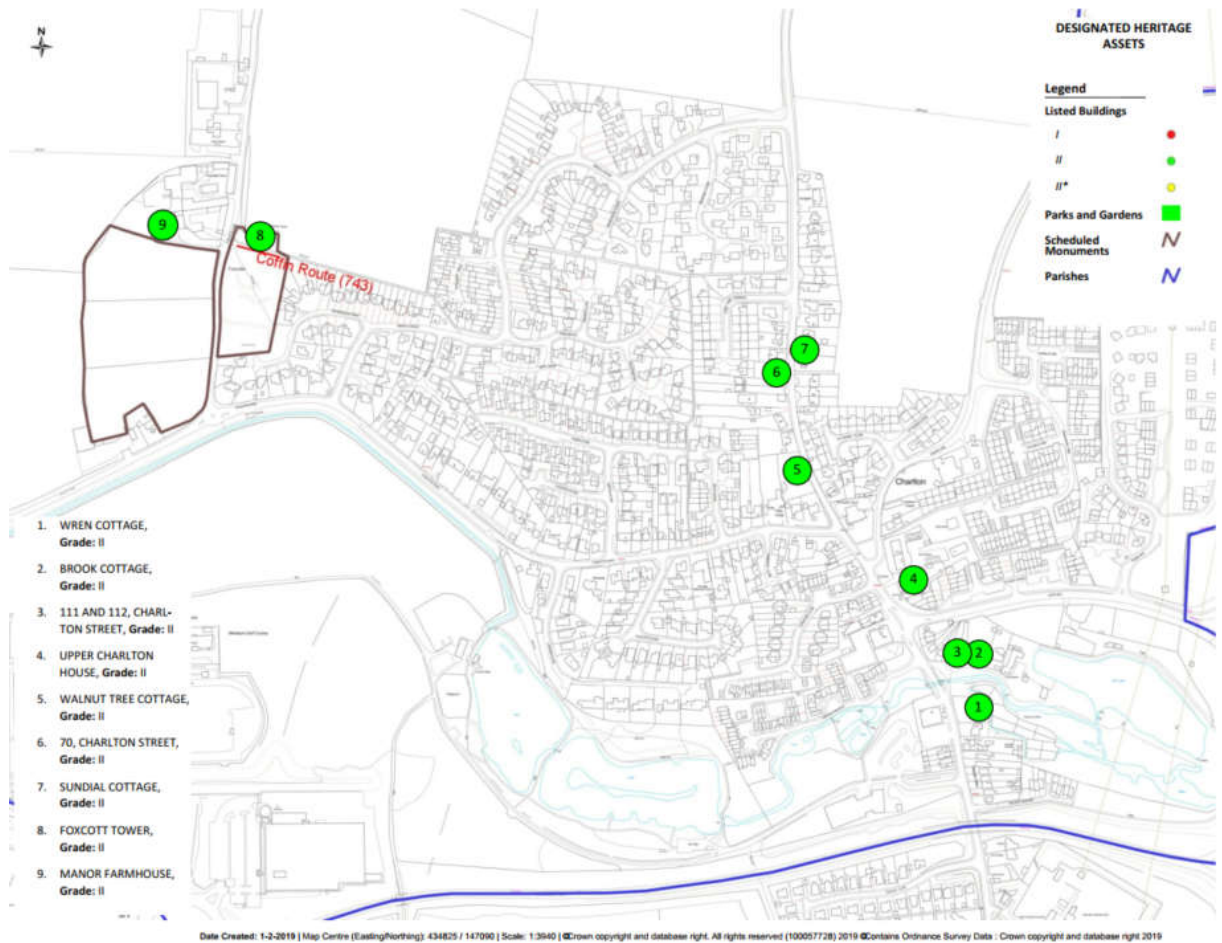
LISTED BUILDINGS

6.4 With regard to listed buildings the Neighbourhood Plan Area contains 9 Grade II buildings (see Figure 22 and Appendix B for details of these buildings).

6.5 There is a range of Grade II listed buildings within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, these comprise cottages, farmhouses and the former church.

6.6 Geographically, the Listed Buildings can be subdivided into buildings within the historic core of Charlton (7 buildings) and those within the hamlet of Foxcott (2 buildings).

Figure 22 – Location of Listed Buildings



REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

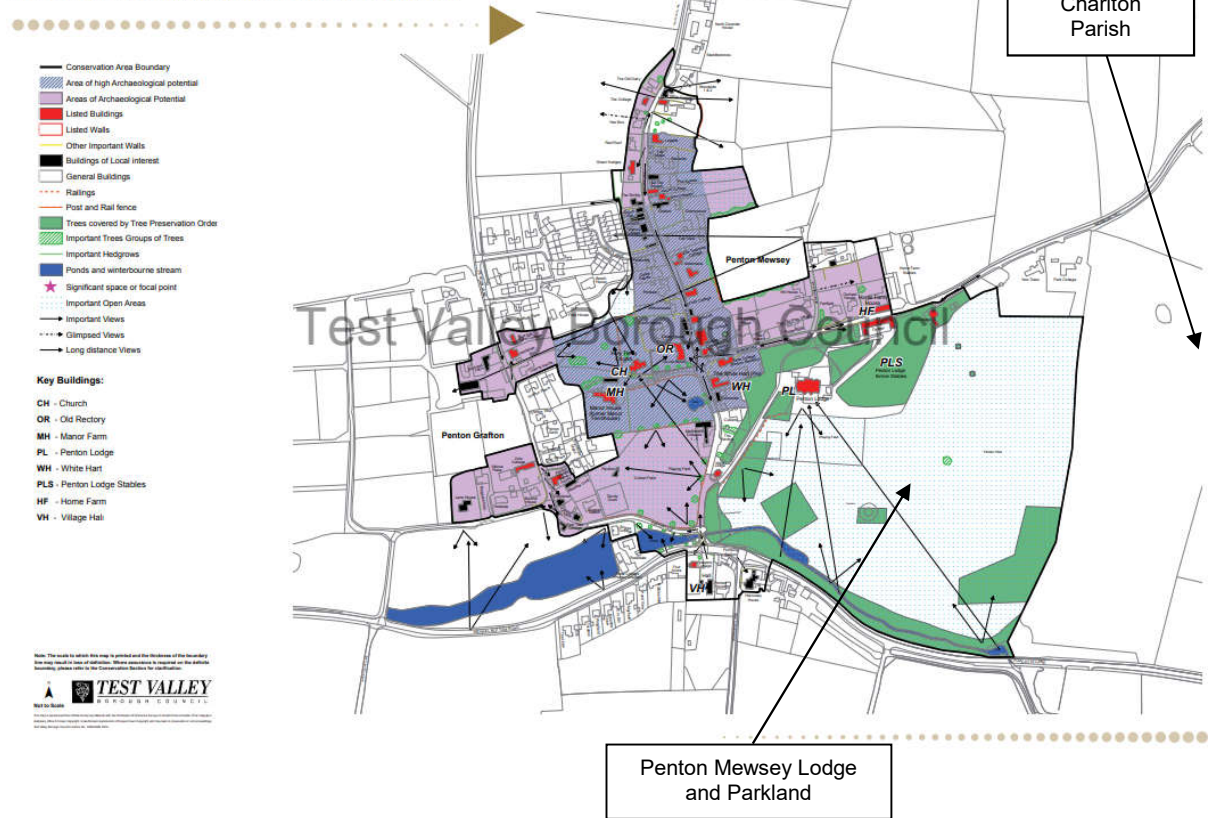
6.7 Historic England also maintains the record of Registered Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains no assets of this type, however Penton Mewsey Lodge and its parkland in the adjacent parish to the west are listed and could potentially be impacted by development on the western edge of Charlton parish

CONSERVATION AREAS

6.8 Charlton does not have a conservation area, although parts of the parish to the west, may be considered to fall within the setting of the Conservation Area at Penton Mewsey, relevant maps can be located in Appendix C..

Figure 22 – Location of Listed Buildings

The Pentons Conservation Area Character Appraisal



6.9 The Conservation Area designation seeks to record and protect the features that contribute towards the special character or appearance of that area, which not only includes the built form, but important landscape features and views as well as its wider setting.

6.10 The Pentons Conservation Area was confirmed on the 5th March 1982. It encompasses both the villages of Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton beyond.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

6.11 There is one significant scheduled monument situated within the Plan Area:

Foxcott(e) deserted medieval village (originally known as Fucsescote (Fox Earths)), is a deserted village visible under rough pasture as earthworks showing the outlines of crofts and other enclosures. Although found in the late 1950s, excavations only took place when the development of the dwellings at Richborough Drive was proposed in the later 1970s. These showed a Saxon settlement which developed considerably in the 13th and 14th Centuries spreading down Foxcotte Lane and then along the Charlton Road. Settlement continued up to the 19th century

- 6.12 According to the Domesday survey of 1086, the estate of Foxcotte was held as two manors for approximately 12 families: one manor was the now deserted settlement of Foxcotte. It was listed as being situated to the northwest of Andover, with the southern boundary formed by the Portway Roman road and intersected by the River Anton and the Harroway, an ancient trackway.
- 6.13 Foxcott(e) has never been in a parish in its own right with the estate boundary having changed little since mapping dating back to 1614. The chapel and manor house were the dominant buildings within the settlement, which gently sloped uphill, away from the streams of the Anton River.

Figure 24 – Location of Foxcotte Estate

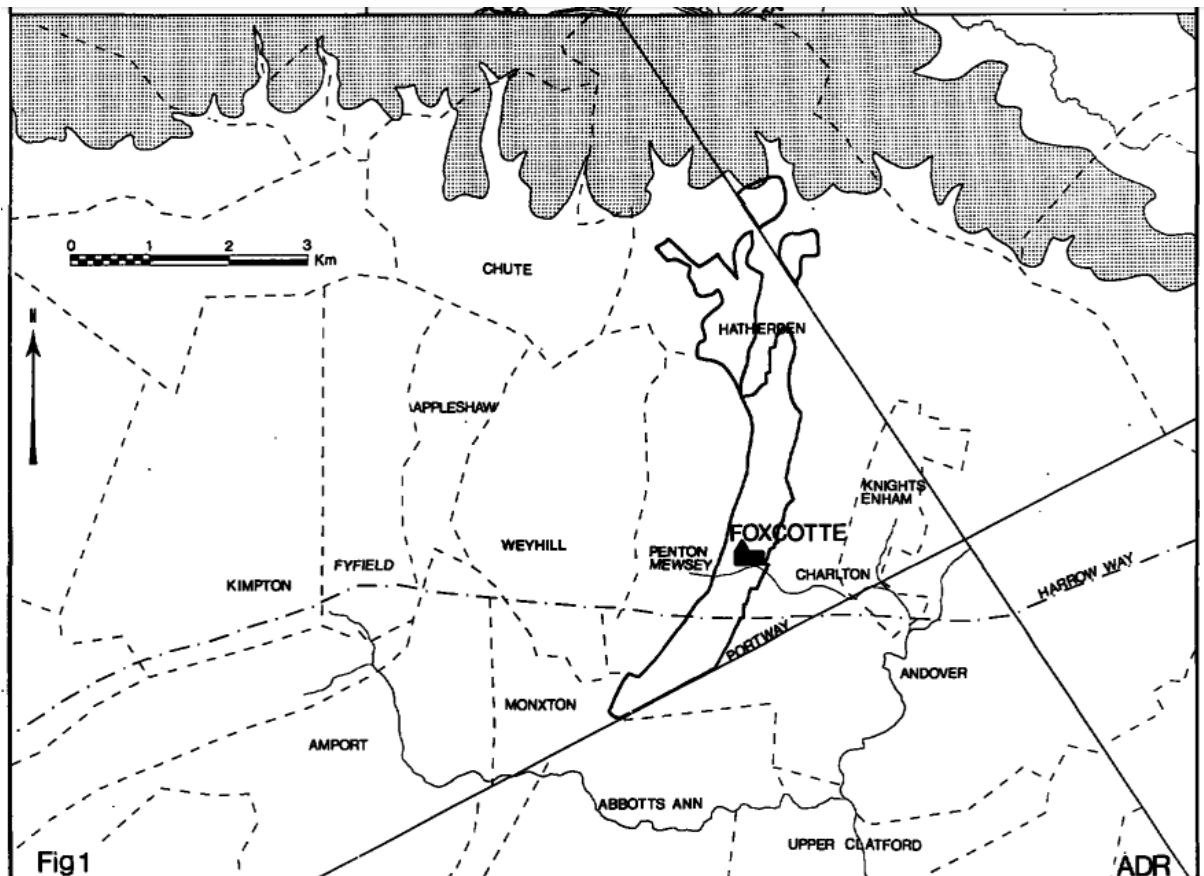


Fig 1. The location of the Foxcotte estate in north Hampshire. Parish boundaries are shown as prior to 1858. The Foxcotte estate boundary, marked in bold outline, is shown as in 1614. Land over 150m is shown stippled.

- 6.14 In the screening opinion for 'up to 202 dwellings at land to the north of Foxcotte Tower, Foxcotte Lane' (14/01661/SCRN), the site location was adjacent to both the Listed Foxcotte Tower and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Foxcott village and was therefore considered a sensitive site under the 2011 regulations.

- 6.15 The Scheduled Ancient Monument's significance lies in its buried archaeology but has some above ground features as well.. The screening opinion concluded that the proposal for up to 202 houses would be likely to have an impact on heritage assets, which would need to be carefully considered in any planning application. Upon submission of planning 14/02064/OUTN for up to 202 dwellings and the subsequent application 15/01582/OUTN for 175 dwellings. It was found on both occasions that irrespective of the public benefits *"The proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the setting, and thereby significance, of Foxcotte Tower, Manor Farmhouse and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Foxcotte Deserted Medieval Village."*

Figure 25 – 1614 map of Foxcotte Village



Fig 2b. The 1614 map of the area shown in Fig 2a.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 6.16 There are numerous non-designated assets which include a wide array of remains reflecting the earlier Anglo Saxon settlement.
- 6.17 Other assets have been identified through local studies and are contained with the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (formerly the 'Sites and Monuments Record').

This contains data of all historical and archaeological sites in the county. The details of which are included as Appendix D.

LOCAL BUILT CHARACTER

- 6.18 Much of the older cottages and houses are no longer evident in the parish. Those that remain however mainly date from the 18th/ 19th Century and are generally constructed of brick, brick and flint, or rendered and painted brick or cob and have clay tile, slate or thatched roofs. As most of the historic buildings in the village core were built from the late 18th Century onwards, there are few instances of timber framing.
- 6.19 Brick built dwellings often have decoration in the form of contrasting headers, or brickwork which has been rendered or painted. Paint colours are generally restricted to subtle shades of cream, grey or off white.
- 6.20 The use of brick and flint for building frontages (and associated garden walls) is quite common. Flint naturally occurs within the nearby downland chalk landscape and was widely used as a local building material up to the 20th Century. The flints as usually 'knapped', providing a flat/ regular outer surface. Bricks are then used to create the structural elements in the form of quoins on the corners of buildings and around door and window openings. This is evident on a number of buildings within the parish.
- 6.21 Weatherboarding is a detail not found commonly within the parish.
- 6.22 There are a number of examples of thatched cottages originally utilising long straw, but largely being replaced by combed wheat reed.
- 6.23 Clay tiles (mainly handmade) are also commonly used in the village, with natural slate used from the 19th Century onwards.
- 6.24 Boundaries to plots are generally traditionally formed by brick / flint walls or hedgerows. There has also been a move towards less appropriate modern boundary treatments most notably close boarded fencing.
- 6.25 The historic development pattern is of a much lower density than the modern developments, although many of the original plots have now been subdivided.. Historic buildings are generally sited on the street frontage with little or no front garden, whereas modern properties are often well set back into the plot with gardens, drives or parking to the front.

INFORMATION GAPS

6.26 There is no character appraisal currently available or being undertaken at the time of writing to inform the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The lack of such information may be significant and further work to address this omission may be required.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

6.27 The Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a number of heritage assets including grade II listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Foxcott Deserted Village) of exceptional importance. Nearby Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens are also a feature. Such a range of assets needs to be carefully considered with regard to their sensitivity to the pressure of new development. Therefore new development requires an approach which will recognise both the conservation and enhancement of the heritage asset itself as well as its setting.

6.28 Previous applications for development within close proximity of Foxcott Deserted Village have been refused for a number of reasons, but in all cases one of the key reasons has always been the less than substantial harm to the setting and significance of designated heritage assets.

6.29 The local character and appearance of the built form within the Neighbourhood Plan Area is also significant and not solely limited to those parts of the parish that lie within the setting of designated Penton Mewsey Conservation Area and Registered Park.

6.30 All of the above considerations are matters which are likely to be material to future plan-making and planning decisions within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and require further consideration.

7 SPORTS, RECREATION AND LEISURE

7.1 This section sets out the evidence that supports the intended Charlton Neighbourhood Plan policies relating to open space within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Given the nature of the topic, much of the evidence is derived from local sources.

LEISURE FACILITIES

7.2 Although Charlton is a semi-rural community, it has a significant number of leisure facilities within the National Park Area:

- Charlton Sport and Leisure Centre including; sports pitches, BMX track and Pitch and Putt Golf.
- Sports Academy, tennis and netball courts
- Salto Health Club, ICan and Gymnastics Centre
- Recreation Ground with pavilion
- Astro turf
- Skate park
- Provision for Children & Teenagers
- Rugby club
- Football and social club

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

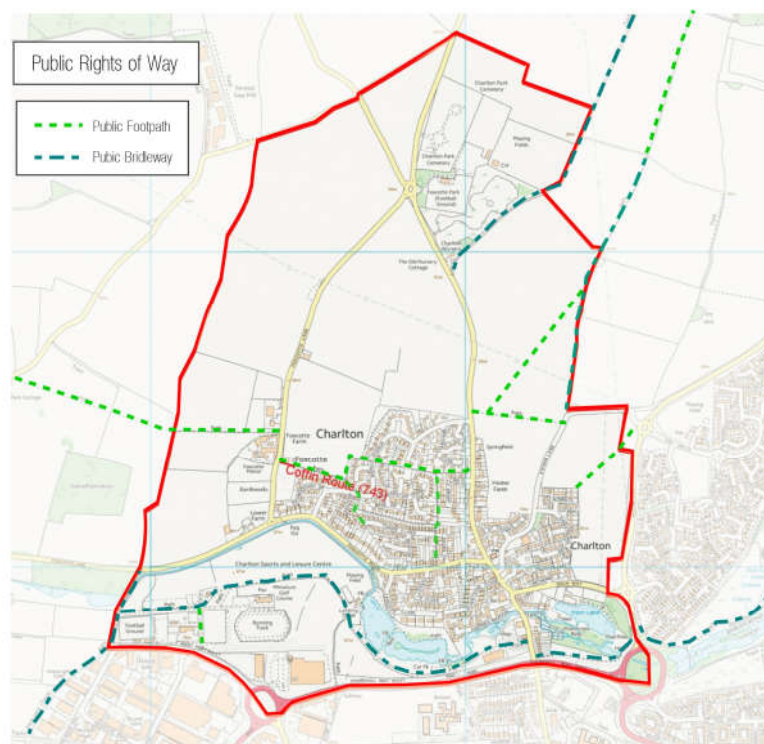
7.3 There are any number of Public Rights of Way within the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area, whether footpaths, byways or bridleways, the most notable of these being the Coffin Route and Brenda Parker Way. The latter is a 78-mile route which crosses Hampshire from Aldershot to Andover, with the final section crossing the southern boundary of the Parish alongside Charlton Lakes.

7.4 The Hampshire Countryside access plan 2015-2025 sets out a number of objectives:

- To focus existing and future resources on those routes which provide the most benefit to residents, visitors and the local economy.
- To enable a greater response to local needs through working with others.
- To ensure that information on finding paths and using them responsibly, and on managing public access, is widely available and easily understood.

- 7.5 The Public Rights of Way are recorded on the Hampshire Definitive Map⁹, which is dated from 2008; more recent data can be sourced from the Countryside Access Map¹⁰. Figure 20 below contains an amended extract from the Countryside Access Map depicting rights of way within and adjacent to the Plan area.

Figure 26 – Rights of Way



COMMON LAND & PUBLIC ACCESS LAND

- 7.6 There is no common land or open access land with the Neighbourhood Plan Area, nor is there a general 'right to roam'. There are a number of areas of public open space including children's play areas and sports pitches. There are also areas around the lakes which are accessible to the public. Such areas need detailed assessment to ascertain the level of public accessibility and usage.
- 7.7 The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Area offers excellent opportunities for outdoor pursuits such as walking, off-road cycling, and horse riding as a result of the many footpaths and bridleways that can be found throughout the area.

INFORMATION GAPS

⁹ Hampshire County Council Countryside Service Definitive Map & Statement 2006 [online] available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitivemap>

¹⁰ Hampshire County Council Countryside Service Countryside Access Map [online] available at: <http://localviewmaps.hants.gov.uk/LocalViewMaps/Sites/ROWOnline/>

- 7.8 There is a need to consult residents on their usage and preferred use of public open spaces, particularly that around the Charlton lakes.
- 7.9 There is a need to verify that all Public Rights of Way are recorded & accessible, while determining the standard of maintenance in order that relevant parties can be made aware of where improvements are necessary.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 7.10 The availability and demand for sports, leisure and recreational facilities can be regarded as a land use planning matter. This is particularly important for the Parish as the facilities draw a large number of users from further afield.
- 7.11 The Neighbourhood Plan could develop policies to address related issues such as the future development of additional facilities, maintenance of current facilities and the potential for management plans.

8 TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC

TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

8.1 Hatherden Road and Foxcotte Road/ Lane are the main through routes. Both of these routes have high traffic flows and previous large scale applications have caused concerns to local residents about increased traffic flows on the narrow lanes, particularly HGVs. A speed watch report carried out on behalf of Charlton Parish Council for one week in June 2017 showed that there were 29,000 vehicle movements per week along Hatherden Road in one direction alone.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

8.2 Charlton Village is served by 2 bus routes see figure 27. The No 3 bus route travels from the bus station to Charlton via Artists Way. The current service is every weekday and Saturday with approximately 16 services per day. The No 10 service runs from the Bus Station, via Weyhill Road (Beech Hurst), the Railway Station, the Hospital, and has a local stop outside the Tesco store in Charlton. It continues via Goch Way to service the Saxon Fields estate, before retracing its route via Charlton Village.

Figure 27 – Bus Routes and Frequency



MODE OF TRAVEL TO WORK

8.3 Table 23 below sets out the travel to work data from the ONS 2011 census. It reveals interesting data in many respects:

Method	Charlton Parish	Test Valley	South East
Work Mainly at or From Home	3.10%	4.8%	4.5%
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram	0.13%	0.1%	0.2%
Train	1.68%	2.3%	5.0%
Bus, Minibus or Coach	1.68%	1.6%	3.0%
Taxi	0.07%	0.3%	0.3%
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped	0.54%	0.5%	0.6%
Driving a Car or Van	51.92%	47.3%	41.3%
Passenger in a Car or Van	3.64%	3.7%	3.2%
Bicycle	2.02%	2.0%	2.0%
On Foot	5.12%	7.2%	7.4%
Other Method of Travel to Work	0.40%	0.5%	0.5%
Not in Employment	29.70%	29.6%	32.1%

(Source: Method of Travel to Work, 2011 Census (QS701EW) Percentage)

8.4 Only 3% of all residents in the parish work mainly from home, compared to the Borough average of just under 5% and the South East average of nearly 4.5%.

8.5 An understandably lower percentage of residents travel to work by bus / minibus / coach (1.68%) this is directly comparable to the total in the Borough, but less than the South East average of 3.0%. This reflects the rural location of the Neighbourhood Plan Area and the relative paucity of public transport options locally.

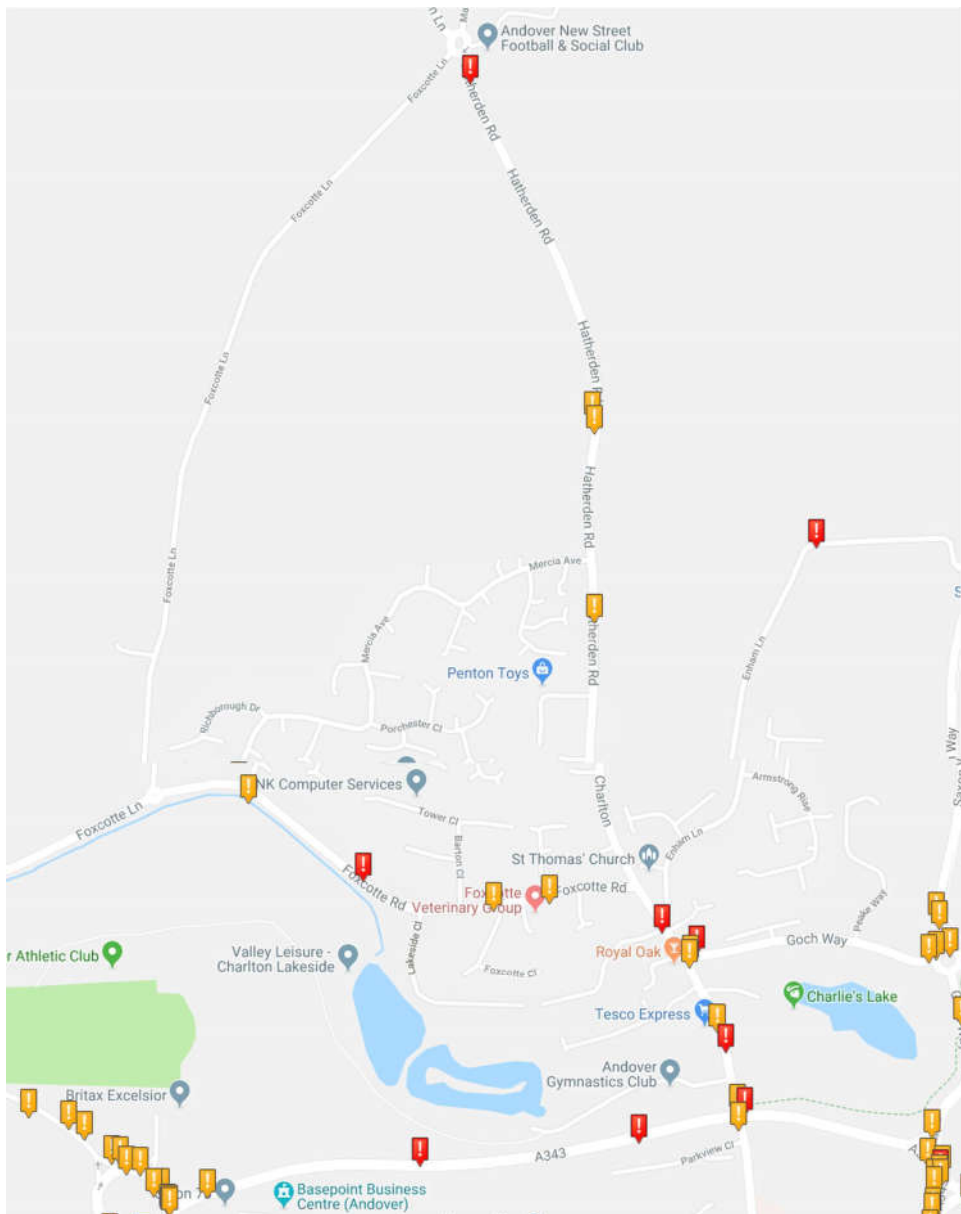
8.6 As would be expected, this leads to a higher than usual percentage of residents travelling to work in private cars / vans (over 51.92% compared to a Borough average of 47.3% and a South East average of 41.3%).

ACCIDENT DATA

8.7 Data supplied by Crashmap.com identifies 37 vehicle accidents within the Neighbourhood Plan Area between 2008 and 2018.9 were recorded as 'serious' – defined as where at least one person is seriously injured but no person (other than a confirmed suicide) is killed. 28 were recorded as 'slight', i.e. accidents in which at least one person is slightly injured but no person is killed or seriously injured.

8.8 Figure 28 highlights where the accidents recorded are concentrated which for example could be looked at in more detail so improvements could be planned via any appropriate new development.

Figure 28 – Vehicle Accident Locations



Source Crash Map data 2008-2018 <http://www.crashmap.com/Search>

INFORMATION GAPS

- 8.9 Other than the speed watch report, it has not been possible to obtain any traffic counts for Foxcotte Road/Lane through the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This would be useful data to obtain in order to gain a better understanding of the traffic flows, particularly as these are narrow country lanes.
- 8.10 Any additional residential development in these areas may have direct and indirect impacts on traffic flows through the Neighbourhood Plan Area and such data would help to better understand the implications on any future growth.

ISSUES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 8.11 The data on transport and traffic has revealed issues which could be addressed through the development of land use based policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, in particular where road safety and traffic flows are concerned.

9 NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 This study has established a baseline for the Neighbourhood Plan Area against which to assess future progress (or otherwise) in the local planning of the area.
- 9.2 It has also identified issues which may be of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan process, and where Neighbourhood Plan policies could be developed if the community feel it appropriate and / or necessary to do so.
- 9.3 The next step in the process will be to take this study forward as part of the evidence base supporting the emerging Neighbourhood Plan when it is published for consultation.
- 9.4 The evidence set out in this report may be used to inform the scope and content of policies to be included in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A EMPLOYERS IN THE PARISH OF CHARLTON

- a. The Royal Oak.
- b. Salto Gym and iCan complex.
- c. Two shops ((i)Tesco (with a Post Office embedded) and a (ii) convenience store).
- d. The Charlton Leisure facility principally sub-contracted by TVBC (including fishing and leisure lake, café, pitch and putt, crazy golf).
- e. Charlie's Lake and café (private fishing).
- f. Truly Scrumptious, a beauty treatments centre located in a converted barn on the Foxcotte Road.
- g. An outstanding playschool (using the Church building).
- h. Andover Sports Centre in the north of the plan area (including rugby, football, archery).
- i. A crematorium (from 2019) on the Hatherden Road.
- j. Pressure Care Management – medical equipment for the aged and less able.
- k. Britax – Child car seats & nursery products manufacturers. (Located on the edge of the Portway Industrial Estate and not seen by the villagers as part of the village).
- l. Body complex – Sports Therapy
- m. Foxcotte Veterinary Practice

APPENDIX B LISTED BUILDING DETAILS

70, CHARLTON STREET

- **List Entry Number:** 1093489
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** 70, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/16 No 70 II C17, early C19. One storey and attic, 2 windows. Hipped thatched roof with eyebrows to dormers (with cills at eaves level). The north gable has exposed timber-framing but the front walling is of flint with brick dressings (all painted). Modern casements and plain door.

UPPER CHARLTON HOUSE

- **List Entry Number:** 1093490
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** UPPER CHARLTON HOUSE, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/18 Upper Charlton House 24.2.50 [formerly listed as No 104 Small Farm] GV II C18. Symmetrical front (west) of 2 storeys, 3 windows. Tile roof, (at the rear a catslide) with a hipped roofed 2 storeyed central projection, and 2 hipped dormers. Massive tapered stack at the north gable. The front is of stucco, with a first floor band. Sashes of 3 lights (except above the central door). The doorway has a moulded canopy on carved brackets, architrave, and 6 panelled door (2 top glazed). The side elevations are of red brickwork, English bond, with some exposed timber framing to the rear outshot. Flanking brick walling to the forecourt.

MANOR FARMHOUSE

- **List Entry Number:** 1093496
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** MANOR FARMHOUSE, FOXCOTE STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NW ANDOVER FOXCOTTE STREET 1/39 Manor Farmhouse II Formerly Foxcott Farm. C18. Symmetrical facade (south) of 2 storeys and basement, 3 windows. Hipped tile roof, brick dentil eaves. Red brick walling in Flemish bond, rubbed flat areas, stone cills. Sashes in reveals. The doorcase has a canopy on carved brackets, panelled reveals, fanlight, 6-flush panelled door, and steps flanked by wrought-iron rails.

SUNDIAL COTTAGE

- **List Entry Number:** 1236093
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** SUNDIAL COTTAGE, 88, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/15 No 88 (Sundial Cottage) II C17, C18 and modern. Two storeys, 2 windows. Half-hipped thatched roof. The upper gables have exposed timber framing, but the walling is mainly of painted brickwork in

Flemish bond, cambered ground-floor openings. Modern casements. Plain door, with a modern thatched hood on posts.

WALNUT TREE COTTAGE

- **List Entry Number:** 1236097
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** WALNUT TREE COTTAGE, 66, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/17 No 66 (Walnut Tree Cottage) II Formerly known as Small House 70 yds NW of church. C18. Symmetrical front (south) of 2 storeys, 3 windows. Hipped thatched roof. Stucco walling, first floor band, plinth. Sashes in reveals, of 3-lights to the ground floor. Lattice porch with a thatched roof.

BROOK COTTAGE

- **List Entry Number:** 1236646
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** BROOK COTTAGE, CHARLTON, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SP 927 ANDOVER Brook Cottage Charlton II House. Early 17th Century timber-framed lobby entrance, house refronted in late 18th Century and refenestrated in late 20th Century. Front faced in flintwork with red brick quoins with lacing courses to left and panels to right. Hipped thatched roof with red brick chimney-stack having some 17th Century bricks to base. 2 storeys 3 windows. Large 20th Century tripartite casements with shutters to ground floor. Modern brick and glazed porch. Catslide roof to rear. Interior has exposed box framing with midrail. Dining room has central spine beam with 2 inch chamfers and run out stop to one end and open fireplace retaining entrance to bread oven and salt niche. Lounge, formerly parlour, has spine beam with 2 1/2 inch chamfer and lambs tongue and quirk stop and 18th Century brick fireplace. Roof is of through purlin type with large tie beam, collar beam and 3 vertical posts. Rustic type rafters. Some diagonal tension braces. Very wide floorboards.

FOXCOTT TOWER

- **List Entry Number:** 1264704
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** FOXCOTT TOWER, FOXCOTE STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NW ANDOVER FOXCOTTE STREET 1/40 Foxcott Tower (formerly 24.2.50 listed as ruined Church at Foxcott) II Circa 1840. The surviving part of a church, which was a restoration of a medieval building. Pyramid tile roof. Squared and knopped flint walling, with stone dressings; eaves band, bands to the 2 stages and plinth, diagonal buttresses, stair turrets, lancet openings (coupled below a circular light and above a doorway on the south side). A modern 2 storeyed structure is attached on the north side.

111 AND 112, CHARLTON STREET

- **List Entry Number:** 1264754
- **Heritage Category:** Listing

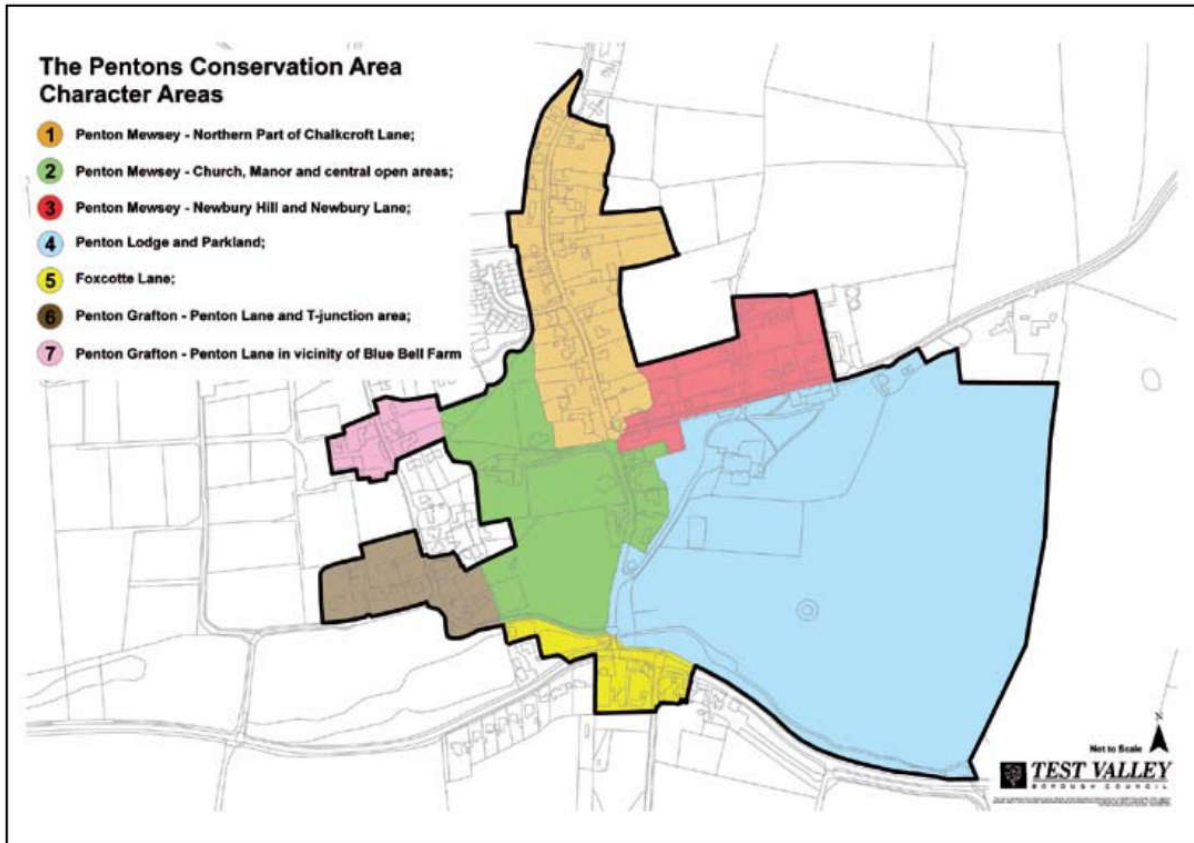
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** 111 AND 112, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/19 Nos 111, and 112 II C16, C18, early C19. A timber-framed building, now two cottages, of one storey and attic, 4 windows. Hipped thatch roof, catslide at rear, eyebrow dormers above first floor windows (with cills at eaves level). No 111 has flint walling with brickwork bands and quoins, covered by rendering on No 112. Casements, two small unglazed wooden windows in the former rear (now internal) wall. Central plain door, with thatched canopy on poles; west end has a curved ground floor with a door (once a larger window). Central stack of the late C17 inserted into the frame building. Was once the Buck and Dog Public House.

WREN COTTAGE

- **List Entry Number:** 1339261
- **Heritage Category:** Listing
- **Grade:** II
- **Location:** WREN COTTAGE, 114, CHARLTON STREET, Charlton, Test Valley, Hampshire
- **Description:** SU 34 NE ANDOVER CHARLTON STREET 2/20 No 114 (Wren Cottage) II Late C18. Symmetrical front of one storey and attic, 2 windows. Hipped thatched roof, brought to a low eaves over the north-side outshot, eyebrows. Walling of flint with red brick bands and quoins rubbed flat arches, high plinth. Casements. Boarded door in solid frame.

APPENDIX C CONSERVATION AREA MAP(S)

There are no conservation areas with the NP area, but there is Penton Mewsey, which is adjacent to the parish and development may impact upon its setting.



APPENDIX D HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Supplementary baseline information

While the baseline review is comprehensive, there are areas where additional baseline information is needed to ensure that all topics in Annex I of the SEA directive have been sufficiently considered. This specifically relates to air quality, biodiversity, and climate change, and therefore supplementary information is set out below in relation these SEA themes:

Air quality

There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) designated in Charlton Parish, or the wider borough of Test Valley.

The 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for the borough⁸⁵ identified that trends for nitrogen dioxide tube monitoring in the area are either stable or downward at all 17 sites and there is no evidence that the Annual Mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide may exceed the specific Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m³. The council have also assisted the Highways Agency and undertaken monitoring in six further sites. Based on the findings of this report, Test Valley Borough Council has found no evidence that the levels of any other relevant pollutants may exceed the specific Air Quality Objectives.

The 2020 AQSR⁸⁶ concludes that “TVBC has not identified any significant changes to current sources of pollution or identified any new significant sources of pollution since the publication of the Council’s 2019 ASR.”

Biodiversity

There are no European sites within the Charlton Neighbourhood area, nor within a 10km buffer of this. The CNP boundary in relation to European designated sites are shown in **Figure 208** of the CNP Evidence Base Review (see above). The CNP Evidence Base Review references the findings of the HRA for the Test Valley Local Plan (2014), which concludes that “it is considered unlikely that any effects flowing from the plan would affect this site.” However, it is now considered by Natural England that European sites further than 10km from could be affected by the CNP, for example through hydrological pathways.

The HRA Appropriate Assessment for the CNP (September 2020) highlights that wastewater generated from the CNP new site allocation would be processed at Fullerton Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), which discharges into the River Test, which ultimately drains into Southampton Water and the Solent. Natural England’s June 2020 guidance⁸⁷ on nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region states that:

“There are high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus input to [the Solent] with sound evidence that these nutrients are causing eutrophication at these designated sites [...] impacting on the Solent’s protected habitats and bird species.”

Therefore, *“Until [ongoing] work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.”*

The Natural England guidance states that the nutrient neutrality approach applies to developments where the treated effluent discharges (eventually) into any of the following Solent international sites:

- Solent Maritime SAC;
- Solent and Southampton water SPA and Ramsar;
- Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Ramsar; and
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA and Ramsar.

⁸⁵ Test Valley Borough Council (2019): ‘Air Quality Status Report (2019)’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/10081/2019%20Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Status%20Report.pdf>

⁸⁶ Test Valley Borough Council (2020): ‘Air Quality Status Report (2020)’ [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/10194/2020%20Air%20Quality%20Status%20Report.pdf>

⁸⁷ Natural England guidance on achieving nutrient neutrality in the Solent Region (June 2020) [online] available at <https://www.push.gov.uk/2020/06/11/natural-england-published-nutrient-calculator-and-updated-guidance-on-achieving-nutrient-neutral-housing-development/>

Of relevance to the CNP area is Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton water SPA and Ramsar.

Solent Maritime SAC

The Solent is a complex site encompassing a major estuarine system on the south coast of England. It is 11325.09 in size and was designated in April 2005.⁸⁸ The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime with double tides, as well as for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive areas of intertidal mudflats, often supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, saltmarshes and natural shoreline transitions, such as drift line vegetation. The SAC forms part of the Solent & Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar.

All four species of cordgrass found within the UK are present within the Solent and it is one of only two UK sites with significant amounts of the native small cordgrass *Spartina maritima*. The SAC contains rich intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle beaches and adjacent coastal habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbeds and damp woodland.

Qualifying features include:⁸⁹

- H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- H1320 *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)
- H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- S1016 *Vertigo moulinsiana*: Desmoulin's whorl snail
- H1130 Estuaries
- H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines
- H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")
- H1150 Coastal lagoons
- H1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

Key vulnerabilities for the site include public access/ disturbance, coastal squeeze, water pollution, changes in species distributions, and climate change.

Solent and Southampton water SPA

The Solent and Southampton water SPA is 5401.12 in size, designated in October 1998.⁹⁰ The site comprises of estuaries and adjacent coastal habitats including intertidal flats, saline lagoons, shingle beaches, saltmarsh, reedbeds, damp woodland, and grazing marsh. The diversity of habitats support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations and an important assemblage of rare invertebrates and plants.

Qualifying features include:⁹¹

- A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose
- A052(NB) *Anas crecca*: Eurasian teal

⁸⁸ Natural England (date unknown) Designated sites view - Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas Solent Maritime SAC [online] available at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030059&SiteName=solent&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&HasCA=1&NumMarineSeasonality=0&SiteNameDisplay=Solent%20Maritime%20SAC>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Natural England (date unknown) Designated sites view - Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas Solent and Southampton Water SPA

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9011061&HasCA=1&NumMarineSeasonality=9&SiteNameDisplay=Solent%20and%20Southampton%20Water%20SPA>

⁹¹ Ibid.

- A156(NB) *Limosa islandica*: Black-tailed godwit Waterbird assemblage
- A176(B) *Larus melanocephalus*: Mediterranean gull
- A191(B) *Sterna sandvicensis*: Sandwich tern
- A192(B) *Sterna dougallii*: Roseate tern
- A193(B) *Sterna hirundo*: Common tern
- A195(B) *Sterna albifrons*: Little tern
- A137(NB) *Charadrius hiaticula*: Ringed plover

Key vulnerabilities for the site include public access/ disturbance, coastal squeeze, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine), water pollution, changes in species distributions, and climate change.

Climate change

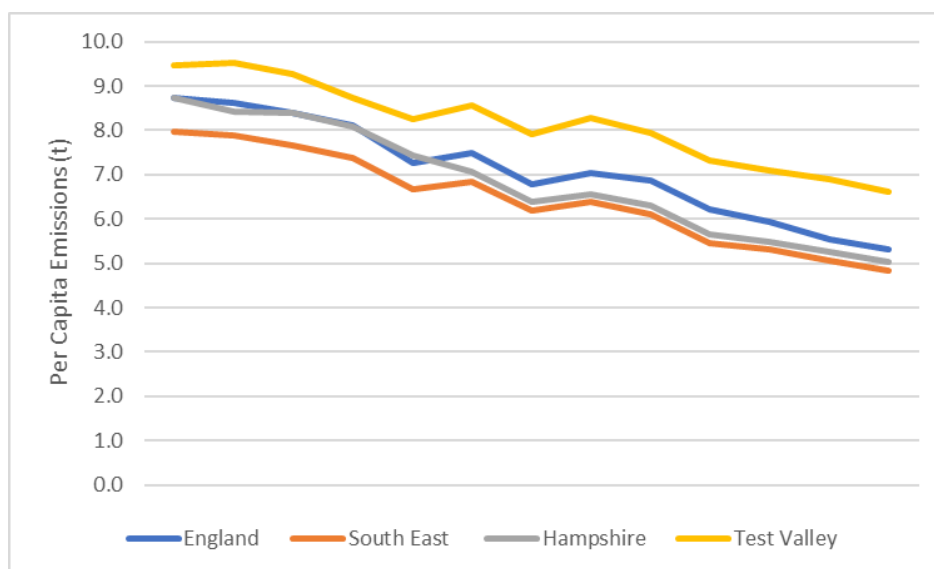
Areas of high fluvial flood risk broadly align with the Charlton Lakes, situated just south of the main settlement, as well as tributaries which border Foxcotte Lane in the south west (shown in **Figure 6** of the appendix).

Surface water flooding in the plan area ranges from low to high, following similar patterns aligned with fluvial flood risk. Areas of highest risk are located within the main settlement, particularly at Hatherden road, and the main roundabout at Gotts Way, shown on **Figure 7** of the appendix.

CO₂ emissions from the built environment are monitored and recorded at a Local Authority level. In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that Test Valley has had broadly higher per capita emissions than the South East of England since 2005 (shown in **Figure A.1**, below).

Additionally, Test Valley demonstrates a similar declining trend with regards to emissions, particularly within the past three years (a reduction of 10.8%). However, emissions have declined at a faster rate in Hampshire (12.3%), the South East (13.1%) and the Nation as a whole (17.0%). The highest contributing sector towards CO₂ emissions in 2017 was the Transport sector, primarily driven by emissions from road transport (A roads).

Figure A.1: Carbon dioxide emissions per capita, 2005- 2017⁹²



The Met Office projections (2018) predict that the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for the South East of England during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows⁹³:

⁹² UK Gov (2017): 'Local Authority CO₂ emissions estimates 2005-2017 (kt CO₂) - Full dataset' [online] available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

⁹³ Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps> [accessed 23/02/20].

- The central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 1°C and 2°C; and
- The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of 0 to +20% in winter and -10% to -30% in summer.

3. Key issues and opportunities

Drawing from the Evidence Base Review (2019), supplementary information, and policy context, we've identified key issues and opportunities for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are set out below, structured by SEA theme.

Air quality

- Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and the minimal level of growth likely to be delivered through the plan, **the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

Biodiversity

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is not constrained by internationally designated biodiversity sites. The two nearest Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)/Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are Porton Down SPA/ SAC and Salsbury Plain SPA/SAC located over 10km from the parish boundaries.
- European sites further than 10km from could be affected by the CNP through hydrological pathways. This includes Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton water SPA and Ramsar. The conservation objectives, vulnerabilities and wider inter-dependencies of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, and the Solent Maritime SAC should be considered by any new development.
- There are no Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, the Anton Lakes Nature reserve SSSI is adjacent to the parish boundary.
- In terms of local designations, Charlton Lakes Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) falls within the Plan area. There are also Priority Habitats present including woodland, deciduous woodland and broadleaved woodland.
- The SSSI, SNIC and priority habitats within and adjacent to the Plan area host a variety of plant and animal species that contribute to biodiversity and support ecological connectivity. These areas should be retained and enhanced in development. Support should also be given for net-gain where possible.
- The Neighbourhood Plan can also maximise opportunities to support multiple benefits from biodiversity, such as climate resilience.

Climate change

- National emissions data⁹⁴ indicates that Test Valley borough demonstrates a declining trend with regards to emissions, this is similar to that of Hampshire, the South East and England as a whole. However reduction over the past three years has been slower than all other comparators.
- Areas of high fluvial flood risk broadly align with the Charlton Lakes and its tributaries. Surface water flood risk in the Plan area is notably high, particularly at Hatherden road and the Gotts way roundabout. Development proposals will need to deliver sufficient mitigation to minimise the risk of flooding from all sources.
- The largest contributor towards emissions in 2017 was the transportation sector. Subsequently, any development in the Plan area should consider the need to provide access to sustainable or low carbon travel options, that meet the needs of consumers and improves mobility, whilst also reducing emissions.

⁹⁴ UK Gov (2018): 'Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Local Authority Areas' [online] available at: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/emissions-of-carbon-dioxide-for-local-authority-areas>

- The Neighbourhood Plan should seek to maximise opportunities to support Council actions in tackling climate change. This may include through encouraging renewable energy technologies in small-scale developments in the parish or improving access to sustainable travel options.

Landscape

- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within two landscape types according to the Test Valley Borough Landscaped Assessment (2018)⁹⁵: LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland and LCT5 River Valley Floor. These types define the character of the Neighbourhood Plan area in relation to its topography and drainage, land cover and land use, field and woodland pattern, building distribution, transport pattern and historic features, aesthetic and sensory features. Each LCA is sensitive to change, owing to their defining natural and historic environment features.
- The potential effects of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan may have implications for the overall character and appearance of the landscape in the future.

Historic environment

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a number of heritage assets including nine grade II listed buildings and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Foxcott Deserted Village).
- The parish does not contain a Conservation Area, although parts of the parish to the west may be considered to fall within the setting of the Conservation Area at Penton Mewsey. This is reflected within the Pentons Conservation Area Character Appraisal (2010)⁹⁶, and should be considered by development coming forward in the west of the parish.
- There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however Penton Mewsey Lodge and its parkland is located adjacent to the parish to the west.
- The local character and appearance of the wider built form within the Neighbourhood Plan area is of local significance. There is the potential for future development to adversely impact designated and undesignated heritage assets through insensitive design, layout or massing.
- The Heritage at Risk register⁹⁷ has indicated no 'at risk' buildings or sites within the Plan area.
- There is the potential for future development to provide beneficial enhancement of heritage assets or their settings within the Plan area, particularly through public realm and access improvements or opportunities to better reveal the significance of an asset.

Land, soil and water resources

- The main river system serving the borough is the River Test, which is a mainly chalk fed watercourse. It has a number of tributaries of which the Anton and Pilhill Brook, in addition to the Charlton River, which are most relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area. Any new development should be sensitive of these main water features. Disruption to the quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources could potentially detriment drinking water sources in the Plan area. The quality of both sub-surface and surface water resources is important to ensuring that drinking water and watercourse status can be maintained at a high level.
- Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification datasets indicate that land within the Neighbourhood Plan area is a mix of largely Grade 2 to the north of the parish, with Grade 3a/b elsewhere outside of the urban area. It is therefore noted that there is the potential for loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) (Grades 1 – 3a) agricultural land as a result of new development within the parish.

⁹⁵ Test Valley Borough Council (2018): 'Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment' [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

⁹⁶ Test Valley Borough Council (2010) Pentons Conservation Area Character Appraisal [online] available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/attach/2838/The-Pentons-Character-Appraisal.pdf>

⁹⁷ Historic England (2019): 'Heritage at Risk' available at: <https://englishheritage.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7b85d3427e14588a9760eaa4f8a88d0>

Population and community

- The majority of residents fall within the 45 to 74 age brackets which represents an aging population. Where possible, the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to maximise opportunities for better accessibility and availability of health services.
- The majority of residents own their homes, with very limited shared ownership and lower rates of private and social rented properties. The AECOM Housing Needs Assessment (2019) found that there is a shortage of affordable housing to meet the community needs in addition to appropriate housing to meet the needs of an aging population. The delivery of homes through the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to address affordable housing needs.
- In terms of deprivation, the Neighbourhood Plan area scores highly, making it one of the 10% least deprived parishes in England. There are however issues with Education, Skills and Training as there are significantly lower numbers of residents with higher level qualifications. This is reflected in the socio economic classification for the parish. Opportunities for residents to access education and employment should be supported where possible.
- In terms of primary and secondary education, the nearest catchment infant and junior schools are approximately 2km from the closest residential properties in Charlton (in terms of viable walking routes). In terms of secondary schools however, the closest catchment school is Harrow Way Community School at approximately 750m from the nearest dwellings. The Hampshire School Places Plan (2020) states that it has planned sufficiently for the future, however it is recognised that this is not parish specific.

Health and wellbeing

- The health of residents is broadly average, with residents supported by good access to health services. There is a GP service 0.6km from Charlton within Andover, and the nearest hospital for general treatment (including maternity units) is Andover War Memorial Hospital (0.6km). It is therefore considered that future growth could support and sustain the health and wellbeing of residents.
- In general, the Plan area hosts a range of services and facilities for residents; this includes two shops, a leisure facility, café, playschool, sports centre, gym, beauty treatments centre, vets, etc.
- There are a number of areas of public open space including children's play areas and sports pitches. There are also areas around the lakes which are accessible to the public. Future development offers the potential to maintain and improve living standards in the Plan area through high-quality development that integrates with the natural environment; including the local green infrastructure offer.
- In light of the parish's ageing population, it will be important to protect and enhance identified local assets, including green spaces and opportunities for recreation and community engagement. This will benefit residents over the long term.

Transportation

- Hatherden Road and Foxcotte Road/ Lane are the main transport routes extending through the Plan area. Both of these routes have high traffic flows and previous large scale planning applications have caused concerns to local residents in terms of increased traffic flows and safety issues on narrow lanes. New development should therefore be directed towards sustainable locations, with the potential to encourage active travel where possible, to avoid exacerbating existing congestion/ safety issues.
- The southern extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area is approximately 700m from Andover train station, which has regular services to major centres including London Waterloo, Exeter, Basingstoke and Salisbury. There are two bus services within the Plan area which connect with Andover bus station, train station and the hospital. Andover bus station provides residents with access to Heathrow Airport, London, Salisbury, Birmingham and Basingstoke. Opportunities to improve accessibility to these sustainable transport modes should be maximised where possible; recognising that there is currently a high dependency on the private vehicle.

4. SEA Framework

The SEA Framework has been developed based on the key issues and opportunities set out above. The Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging CNP will be assessed consistently using the framework.

The SEA objectives and assessment questions proposed for the CNP SEA are presented below in **Table A.1**.

Table A.1: SEA Framework

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support water quality at European designated sites in the Solent? • Protect and enhance nationally and locally designated sites in and around the parish? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Avoid habitat fragmentation or loss? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new

		<p>development in the Neighbourhood Plan area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape	<p>Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the quality and integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB and its setting? • Support landscape character of the landscape character areas covering the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve the capacity for landscape features to accommodate new development through considerate planning? • Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to the sense of place and visual amenity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?
Historic environment	<p>Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance 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 access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land? • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Promote the use of vacant & derelict brownfield land opportunities?
	<p>Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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?

	<p>Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Support measures which seek to minimise water consumption? • Ensure the timely provision of wastewater infrastructure? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development? • Protect groundwater and surface water resources from pollution? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?
<p>Population and communities</p>	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of new and improved community facilities and amenities? • Support and contribute to the improvement of employment offer and associated infrastructure within the Plan area, such as high quality broadband for remote working? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents, including older residents, and residents with specialist needs?
	<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>	<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? • 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?
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</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? • 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?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?• Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?• Ensure sufficient road capacity to accommodate new development?• Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian movement?• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?• Facilitate working from home and remote working?• Improve road safety?• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?• Improve parking facilities?

Appendix B Assessment of reasonable alternatives

Reasonable alternative site options to deliver the short-term housing need for Charlton are established in **Chapter 4** of the main report. Four site options are identified for assessment and this appendix presents the detailed assessment of those options. Summary findings are also presented in **Chapter 5** of the main report.

Methodology

For each of the options, the assessment examines likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives identified through scoping (see **Appendix A**) as a methodological framework.

Green is used to indicate significant positive effects, whilst **red** is used to indicate significant negative effects.

Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, where there is a need to rely on assumptions in order to reach a conclusion on a 'significant effect' this is made explicit in the appraisal text.

Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects based on reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms and to indicate a **rank of preference**. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to distinguish between them in terms of 'significant effects'. Numbers are used to highlight the option or options that are preferred from an SEA perspective with 1 performing the best.

Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Regulations.⁹⁸ So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency and reversibility of effects.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives

The options established for assessment are set out in **Table AB.1** below:

Table AB.1 sites considered through the SEA process

Option	Name	Size (ha)
A	Land to the North of Goch Way;	3.6
B	Land at Enham Lane	4.06
C	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	8.3
D	Land at rear of Hatherden Road	1.36

Table AB.2 overleaf presents the detailed findings for the assessment of these options.

⁹⁸ Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Table AB.2 Assessment of alternative site options for Charlton

Biodiversity				
Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	=	=	=	=
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No

Discussion In terms of European designated sites, while there are no sites within 10km of the parish, it is considered through the CNP Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Appropriate Assessment (AA) (2020)⁹⁹ that an increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment, and changes in land use resulting from growth within the parish could result in changes in hydrology at European sites over 10km from the parish. Furthermore, it has been confirmed by TVBC that any new site allocation within the parish would be processed at Fullerton Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), which discharges into the River Test, which ultimately drains into Southampton Water and the Solent (which includes a number of European sites). Existing problems of eutrophication in the Solent are due to nitrate discharges from wastewater treatment works and agricultural runoff arising from rivers draining into the Solent.

Natural England's June 2020 guidance¹⁰⁰ on nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent region states that *"Until [ongoing] work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status."* It is therefore considered that all options have the potential to lead to adverse effects as a result of wastewater implications. This may include in-combination effects with other development with wastewater implications in the catchment of the River Test and wider Solent catchment area. The AA however concludes that with suitable policy requirements (requiring development to confirm the nutrient budget and provide sufficient mitigation to neutralise this), the Charlton NP would not lead to any adverse effects on integrity of any European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans. Neutral effects are therefore anticipated for all options overall.

In terms of national designations, Anton Lakes National Nature Reserve (NNR) is located adjacent to the parish boundary, approximately 550m from Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), 700m of Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), and 1.3km from Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane). In light of the distance from options and the relatively low level of growth proposed, the potential for development to impact upon the NNR as a result of any of the options is limited.

Options are also located in reasonably proximity to locally designated Anton Lakes (a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)); being within 450m of Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane), 550m of Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), and 650m of Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way). As above, the potential for direct effects on the lakes is limited given the lack of hydrological connectivity from options and the relatively low level of growth proposed. However, it is considered that there is the potential for options to enhance the local biodiversity resource with supporting green infrastructure and habitat creation, which may lead to minor positive effects. For example, development proposals could focus biodiversity net gain requirements in creating ecological corridors and increasing habitat connectivity within and surrounding the site option.

In this context, it is noted that Natural England's Habitat Network¹⁰¹ identifies all sites as falling within a Network Expansion Zone¹⁰². The land is identified as having the potential for expanding, linking/ joining networks across the landscape, i.e. conditions such as soils are potentially

⁹⁹ Land Use Consultants (2020) HRA of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment

¹⁰⁰ Natural England (2020) Guidance on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality in the Solent Region [online] available at:

¹⁰¹ Natural England (2019) Habitat Networks (Combined Habitats) (England) [online] available at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fceb93850462454ab3fb5acce2be35b_0

¹⁰² Natural England (2020) National Habitat Network Maps: User Guidance [online] available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/Habitat%20Network%20Mapping%20Guidance.pdf

Biodiversity

suitable for habitat creation for specific habitats. Action in this zone to improve connections between existing habitat networks can be targeted here.¹⁰³

None of the options contain any designated sites or appear to have any significant sensitivity in terms of biodiversity

It is difficult to differentiate between the options in terms of biodiversity, given all are equally constrained by potential impact on European sites within the Solent, none are constrained by nationally or locally designated sites, and all have the potential to deliver biodiversity enhancement at the site level. As such, the difference between options at this stage is negligible.

Climate change

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	1	3	2	3
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No

Discussion In terms of climate change adaptation, all options are located in flood zone 1 which is of low risk of flooding. It is however noted that Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) contain areas at medium/ high risk of surface water flooding, extending through the centre of both options north to south. Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) could be delivered alongside development at both Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) to help reduce the potential residual negative effects. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) are less constrained by flood risk although SuDS are still recommended to manage surface water run-off in new development.

A significant bearing on per capita emissions relates to transport and accessibility. All options are reasonably well located in terms of access to Charlton village and the neighbouring town of Andover. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performs least positively of the options in this respect given its location on the western extent of the village, most distant from the village core. Options A (Land to the north of Goch Way), B (Land at Enham Lane) and D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) however perform well due to their location adjoining the village core and town to the east; providing suitable access. As such these options are considered to best promote accessibility to local services and facilities, and local public transport connections that are available within the village and neighbouring town of Andover. All options are relatively accessible to Charlton overall.

It is noted that moderate scale development at any of the options presents an opportunity to achieve ambitious building emissions standards, deliver low carbon heat and power supply infrastructure and take a wide range of other steps in support of decarbonisation. It is therefore considered that opportunities to respond to transport and domestic emissions could be specifically supported through all options.

In light of the above, it is considered that all options have the potential to lead to minor positive effects in relation to climate change, by minimising per capita CO₂ emissions either from the built environment or from transport. The ranking of the options reflects a) the accessibility of options, and b) the surface water flood risk constraint at Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), requiring a greater need for mitigation in this respect.

Landscape

Option	A	B	C	D
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¹⁰³ Ibid.

Landscape

	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	2	3	4	1
Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Yes – Negative	No

Discussion All options are greenfield sites, consisting of agricultural land. Within the Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2018), all options fall within the LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland landscape character type.¹⁰⁴ This character type is identified as a mix of medium and open tracts of large scale arable fields, with smaller fields of pasture associated with the settlements and dry river valleys. Of particular relevance to the options, proposed development guidelines for the area include to “*Minimise visual intrusion into the adjacent countryside*”.

Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) are approximately 3km south of the North Wessex Downs AONB, and given the open nature of the landscape north of the options, have the potential to impact on the setting of the AONB. However, given the distance from the AONB and the existing built development of Charlton, it is anticipated that any residual impact, in light of higher level policy and the guidance of the AONB management plan (2019)¹⁰⁵, would not be significant.

Taking each option in turn, Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is located between two large existing housing areas to the east and south west, and there is housing currently being developed to the south within the wider ‘site boundary’. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is open in part to the north, with the potential to hold important local views; however, it is noted that previous Appeal and Local Plan Inspectors found that the site as a whole (i.e. with the inclusion of Option A) could be developed without undue harm to the landscape setting.¹⁰⁶

Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) has the potential to set precedent for further growth to the north and west; however, it is recognised that the option extends to the natural boundary of Elham Lane to the west and Saxon Way roundabout to the east, which may reduce opportunities for further growth.

Option B (Land at Enham Lane) is located adjacent to existing residential development to the west, forming the built up area of Charlton; and therefore is well connected to the existing settlement. However, there is open greenfield land to the south, north and east. Development has the potential to impact upon open landscape to the north, affecting the rural nature of the village. Development may also set precedent for further growth to the north and east, which could in turn further impact upon the rural character of the parish.

Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is most disconnect from the settlement of all options, located on the western extent of the main settlement, bound to south and east by existing residential development, with open landscape to the north and east. It is considered that extending the settlement to the west into the open landscape would alter the overall settlement pattern with the potential to impact upon valued views; as further discussed below. Development may also set precedent for further growth to the north.

Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is considered to be in-fill development. Bound on three sides by residential development within Charlton village, development of the option would be in keeping with the existing built form, with limited effect on views or settlement pattern.

In terms of potential impact of growth on local views, the Charlton Village Character Assessment includes a viewpoint analysis for the parish. The assessment maps 20 viewpoints which have been assessed by the residents as to whether it provides amenity value. This can be recreational, historical or landscape character. In terms of the options, views along the western edge of the parish, including along the western boundary of Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) are largely considered to be of ‘moderate’ to ‘significant’ value. This corresponds with the fact that they largely consist of open, long distant, wide ranging views and fall within the

¹⁰⁴ Terrafirma Landscape Architects (2018) <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

¹⁰⁵ North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners (2019) North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019 – 2024 [online] available at: <https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/publications-resources/aonb-management-plan.html>

¹⁰⁶ Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Site Assessment (2019)

Landscape

Local Gap or its setting. Views identified along the northern boundary of Option B are 'moderate value', while no important views are identified at Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) or Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road). There are however 'moderate value' views identified to the north of Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) further along Enham Lane.

Overall, it is considered that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is worst performing of the options with the potential for residual significant negative effects. This is given its location on the edge of the settlement, with the potential to extend into the open landscape to the west, affecting 'moderate' and 'significant' views. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane) perform relatively on a par with each other given both are well-connected to existing built form (or emerging built form in the case of Option A), but have the potential to impact upon the open character and rural setting to the north of the village. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is however ranked higher of the two options as Option B (Land at Enham Lane) holds 'moderate value' views; as identified through the viewpoint analysis.

Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is best performing given the site is best connected to the existing settlement, with no important local views identified; and therefore limited potential to impact upon the wider landscape, and village setting.

Historic environment

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	1	2	4	3
Significant effect?	No	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain

Discussion In terms of designated heritage assets, Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is located adjacent to Foxcotte deserted medieval village Scheduled Monument and Foxcotte Tower Grade II Listed Building (both situated along the southwestern boundary). Option D is located 50m east of Grade II Listed Building Sundial Cottage, with a further Grade II Listed Building, 70 Charlton Street, 100m east of the option. Development at Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) therefore have the potential impact upon the setting and significance of the assets, with the potential for residual adverse effects. It is however noted that there is an element of uncertainty at this stage with regards to both options, as the nature and significance of the residual effect will be dependent on the design and layout of development.

The TVBC SHLAA (2014) identifies Option B (Land at Enham Lane), Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) as having potential archaeological interest on site. Development at these options therefore has the potential to affect the preservation of archaeological remains. In line with Historic England's guidance (2018), an archaeological statement will likely be required to be demonstrate if there is a risk to the deliverability of proposed development due to the archaeology present.¹⁰⁷

Within the Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2018), as discussed above, all options fall within the LCT9 Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland landscape character type.¹⁰⁸ In terms of the historic landscape, land management guidelines include "Conserve and enhance parkland and other historic features".

Overall, it is considered that Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) performs most positively of the options given it is not constrained by designated or non-designated heritage assets or features. Option B (Land at Enham Lane) performs more positively than Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) as it is not constrained by

¹⁰⁷ Historic England (2018) Site allocations [online] available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/planning/site-allocations-information-sheet-v2pdf/>

¹⁰⁸ Terrafirma Landscape Architects (2018) <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/treesandlandscape/landscape-character-assessment-documents>

Historic environment

designated heritage assets; although the potential impact on the local archaeological resource is recognised. In terms of Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), there is potential for residual negative effects given the proximity to assets; with Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performing least positively given multiple assets are present within the setting of the option. It is however considered that effects are uncertain at this stage and will depend on the design and layout of development.

It is also noted that there is the potential for options to lead to positive effects overall, for example through improvements to the existing urban areas around the options, increased access, or opportunities to better reveal the significance of heritage assets.

Land, soil and water resources

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	2	3	1	3
Significant effect?	Yes – Negative	Yes – Negative	Yes – Negative	Yes – Negative

Discussion All of the options will result in the loss of greenfield land with the potential for long-term negative effects in relation to efficient land use.

In terms of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a), the Charlton Village Character Assessment (2019) maps this information for the village.¹⁰⁹ Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) are both identified as Grade 2 agricultural land; Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) includes both Grade 2 and 3b, and Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is wholly Grade 3a. As such it is considered that the development of all options will lead to the permanent loss of BMV agricultural land; and subsequently significant long-term negative effects in relation to this SEA theme.

There are Groundwater Protection Zones (GPZs) underlying the Neighbourhood Plan area. In addition, the parish also lies within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSZ).¹¹⁰ These zones are areas where the land use can cause pollution of the water. Given zones cover the entirety of the Plan area, and all options will deliver the same level of growth, all options perform equally. While it is considered that residential development is unlikely to significantly affect water quality, where necessary, development proposals should ensure that suitable mitigation is available.

In terms of the local mineral resource, much of the parish is made up of chalk and deposits of clay with flints, with dry river valleys with gravel on the valley floor. Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) are located within a Minerals Consultation Area (MCA) for soft sand which is a vital resource for the construction industry.¹¹¹ It is essential that new development avoids sterilising or obstructing future access to potentially winnable deposits of soft sand. Therefore, any future proposals at either option would need to consult with Hampshire County Council to ensure the risk of this is minimised.

Overall, all options have the potential to lead to long term significant negative effects in the long term due to the permanent loss of greenfield, BMV agricultural land. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performs most positively as it is not wholly made up of BMV land, and is not within a MCA. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is the next best performing as it is also not within a MCA and includes Grade 3a land, which although is BMV, is of lower quality than that of Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) (Grade

¹⁰⁹ Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in conjunction with Bluestone Planning (2019) Character Assessment Charlton Village [online] available at: <http://www.charltonvillage.org.uk/community/charlton-parish-council-12680/neighbourhood-plan/#>

¹¹⁰ Environment Agency (2020) Check for Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and NVZs map [online] available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/farmers/>

¹¹¹ Hampshire County Council (2013) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan [online] available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan>

Land, soil and water resources

2). Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) are worst performing overall.

Population and community

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	2	2	3	1
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive

Discussion All options perform equally in terms of providing sufficient housing to meet the identified needs of the community, as it is assumed that all options will deliver the same quantum of growth. Long-term significant positive effects are predicted in this respect. In terms of mix of types and tenures of housing, this will ultimately be reliant on policy directions and development interest and therefore the options cannot be differentiated in this respect at this stage.

All options are reasonably well located in terms of access to Charlton village and the neighbouring town of Andover. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performs least positively of the options in this respect given it is location on the western extent of the village, most distant from Andover. However, there is a public footpath extending along the southern boundary of the option, connecting the site with the village centre. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) are best performing due to their location adjoining the village core and town of Andover to the south; providing suitable access to local services, facilities and amenities. Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is closest to the village centre, while Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) have suitable access via public footpaths extending across the middle, and to the south of options respectively.

In terms of access to education, Harrow Way Community School and Infants School are located to the south of the parish, within walking distance of all options; 15 minute walk (1.1km) from Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), 17 minute walk (1.4km) from Option B (Land at Enham Lane), and 23 minute walk (1.9km) from Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane).

All options have good access to bus stops which are located within 400m of all options, connecting options with Andover (frequent services) and Winchester (infrequent services). All options are also reasonably well located to Andover train station, located a 22 minute walk (1.8km) from Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), a 28 minute walk (2.2km) from Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), and a 30 minute walk (2.4km) from Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane). It is however recognised that a 30 minute walk may be unachievable for some residents, notably the elderly; which may rely on the bus or private vehicle for access.

While the parish does have a local employment offer, being a semi-rural community, businesses are limited. Agriculture, leisure, and the national 'britax' factory and service centre on the edge of the parish (connected to the Portway and Walworth Industrial estates) are the main employers. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is best located to the industrial estates on the south east of Charlton village; however, all options are within walking distance. A significant proportion of residents commute out of the parish to Andover and larger centres such as Salisbury, Basingstoke and Winchester; utilising the rail service at Andover to access London. As set out above, all options are able to access the train station (via walking or the bus); however, it is recognised that a significant proportion of residents drive to both the train station and to neighbouring centres for employment.

Small businesses/ home working is increasing in the parish with at least 20-home based businesses currently in operation. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic it is recognised that a significantly greater proportion of residents have been forced to work from home and travel less, supporting increased levels of self-containment. As such, options that have good access to the village centre amenities and open green space (including access to the PRow network),

Population and community

perform particularly positively; supporting healthy, vibrant communities. All options perform well in this respect (discussed further under health and wellbeing). It is however recognised that the extent to which this represents lasting behaviour change is not known at this stage.

Overall, all options are considered to promote accessibility to local services and facilities, and local public transport connections that are available within the village and neighbouring town of Andover. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) perform most positively in terms of supporting sustainable growth of the village and promoting inclusive communities. In terms of further ranking the options, Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is considered best performing given it is closest to the existing village core (including local facilities and services) and will most positively integrate with the community.

Health and wellbeing

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	2	2	3	1
Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive

Discussion All options provide opportunities to access the extensive Public Right of Way (PRoW) network extending throughout the village. PRoW can make a meaningful contribution to both health and wellbeing through regular exercise and access to the natural environment. As discussed above, this is of particular importance in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and increased proportion of residents working from home, which in turn has increased the value of accessible green space. Positive effects in this respect are increased where options have access to recreation and sports facilities; notably to the west of the parish, south of Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane), is Andover BMX Track, Andover Athletic Club, Andover Town Football Club, Charlton Lakeside Golf Club, Sports Pitches, a playground, and Charlton Leisure and Fishing Lakes. South of Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is Anton Lakes, Andover Gymnastics Club, and Charlie's Lake, and there is also accessible woodland alongside Enham Lane, immediately adjacent to options to the east; while directly east of Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) is Saxon Fields Playground. South of Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), and southwest of Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is also Anton Lakes and Anton Lakes Playground. It is therefore considered that all options have suitable access to a range of leisure and sport facilities; supporting active and healthy lifestyles.

In terms of access to health services, Andover Health Care Medical Practice is located to the south of the parish; walking distance from all options. Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is a 15 minute walk (1.1km) from the Health Centre, Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane) are a 17 minute walk (1.3km), and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is a 23 minute walk (1.9km). The nearest hospital is Andover War Memorial Hospital; again walking distance from all options. Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is a 10 minute walk (800m), Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B are a 12 minute walk (1km), and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is a 19 minute walk (1.4km).

In light of distances to services, facilities and amenities, it is considered that Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), followed by Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane) deliver growth at locations that would enable walking and cycling to the village and neighbouring town centre, including education and health services; to which a large number of regular journeys would likely be made. This could encourage residents to make healthy choices in relation to many of their regular (likely daily) journeys. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) may encourage some healthy travel choices, although access is arguably more constrained to some extent.

Health and wellbeing

Overall, Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is identified as best performing given it is most well integrated with the existing settlement, has excellent access to Charlton and Andover – including health and recreational facilities – and would likely encourage the uptake of active travel for short journeys. Despite being slightly less well located to the village core Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane) also perform well for the reasons set out above, with the potential for significant effects. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is worst performing of the options, however is also likely to support healthy travel choices locally, with residual effects also positive overall.

Transportation

Option	A	B	C	D
	Land to the north of Goch Way	Land at Enham Lane	Land to east of Foxcotte Lane	Land at rear of Hatherden Road
Rank	2	3	4	1
Significant effect?	No	No	No	No

Discussion As noted in relation to several SEA themes, the options are likely to provide reasonable support for active travel (walking and cycling), with Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), followed by Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B, considered to perform most strongly on the basis of directing growth close to services and facilities at the village centre. This will help reduce the need to travel by ensuring that many day-to-day needs can be fulfilled without having to travel to other service centres. Focussing growth at Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) could enable walking and cycling connections to the village centre, though the site is furthest from the village core, on the western extent of the settlement.

In terms of access to sustainable travel, all options also have good access to bus stops which are located within 400m of all options, connecting options with Andover (frequent services) and Winchester (infrequent services). All options are also reasonably well located to Andover train station, located a 22 minute walk (1.8km) from Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), a 28 minute walk (2.2km) from Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), and a 30 minute walk (2.4km) from Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane). It is however recognised that a 30 minute walk may be unachievable for some residents, notably the elderly; which may rely on the bus or private vehicle. Nonetheless, it is considered that all options have the potential to reduce the reliance on the private vehicle to some extent. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performs most weakly in relation to promoting sustainable transport and reducing the need to travel on the basis that it focusses growth at the site furthest from the village centre.

In terms of travel to work, while the parish does have a local employment offer, being a semi-rural community, businesses are limited. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is best located to the industrial estates located to the south east of Charlton village; however, all options are within walking distance. A significant proportion of residents commute out of the parish, to Andover and larger centres such as Salisbury, Basingstoke and Winchester; utilising the rail service at Andover to access London. As set out above, all options are able to access the train station (via walking or the bus); however, it is recognised that a significant proportion of residents drive to both the train station and to neighbouring centres.

Hatherden Road (adjacent to Option B (Land at Enham Lane)) and Foxcotte Road/ Lane (adjacent to Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane)) are the main through routes for out-commuters. Both have high traffic flows and previous large scale applications have caused concerns to local residents about increased traffic flows on the narrow lanes, particularly HGVs. Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) therefore have the potential to exacerbate adverse effects in this respect.

Given the active travel opportunities and sustainable transport connectivity between Charlton and Andover; Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), followed by Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and then Option B (Land at Enham Lane), most positively supports the uptake of sustainable travel to work. It is also noted that increased levels of home-working in

Transportation

light of the Covid-19 pandemic will likely lead to reduced traffic at peak times. However the extent to which this represents lasting behaviour change is not known at this stage.

Overall, it is considered that Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road), followed by Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way), and subsequently Option B (Land at Enham Lane) perform most strongly in relation to the transport SEA theme. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) performs least strongly.

Summary:

The assessment has identified the potential for significant negative effects as a result of development at all the options against the land soil and water resources SEA theme, in light of the permanent loss of greenfield and high-quality agricultural land. Significant negative effects have also been identified for Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) in relation to landscape, given its location on the edge of the settlement, with the potential to extend into the open landscape to the west, affecting 'moderate' and 'significant' views.

The assessment concludes that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is worst performing in relation to the majority of SEA themes. This is predominantly given that Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) is constrained by historic assets, is of highest landscape sensitivity, and is located furthest from the village core, with reduced opportunity to encourage active travel – particularly given the adjacent 'commuter through route' Foxcotte Road/ Lane. Option C (Land to east of Foxcotte Lane) however does perform better than other options in relation to the climate change and land, soil and water SEA objectives. This is given the loss of lower quality agricultural land than other options, and lower risk of flooding.

The assessment identifies the potential for significant positive effects under all options against the population and communities' and health and wellbeing SEA themes. All options will deliver new homes to meet local needs; and support the growth of sustainable, healthy communities with access to services, facilities and green infrastructure.

Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) is generally ranked higher across the socio-economic SEA themes than Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) and Option B (Land at Enham Lane). This is predominantly due to its greater potential to integrate with the existing settlement form; access to services, facilities, and sustainable travel; and opportunities to support active travel. Option A (Land to the north of Goch Way) however performs more positively than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road) in relation a number of environmental themes; i.e. Option A is not constrained by heritage assets or flood risk, and is of lower quality agricultural land than Option B (Land at Enham Lane) and Option D (Land at rear of Hatherden Road).

All options perform equally in relation to biodiversity given options are not constrained by nationally or locally designated assets nor do options contain significant biodiversity on site. All options perform equally in terms of the potential to impact upon European designated sites within the Solent; as identified through the HRA (2020).

