Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report – October 2026

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This Strategic Environment Assessment Environment Report has been prepared by Test Valley Borough Council as the responsible authority, in support of the review of the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan.

What is the Plan seeking to achieve?

Introduction

The Broughton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Once 'made' the Plan will have material weight when deciding on planning applications, alongside the Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan (RLP).

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects.

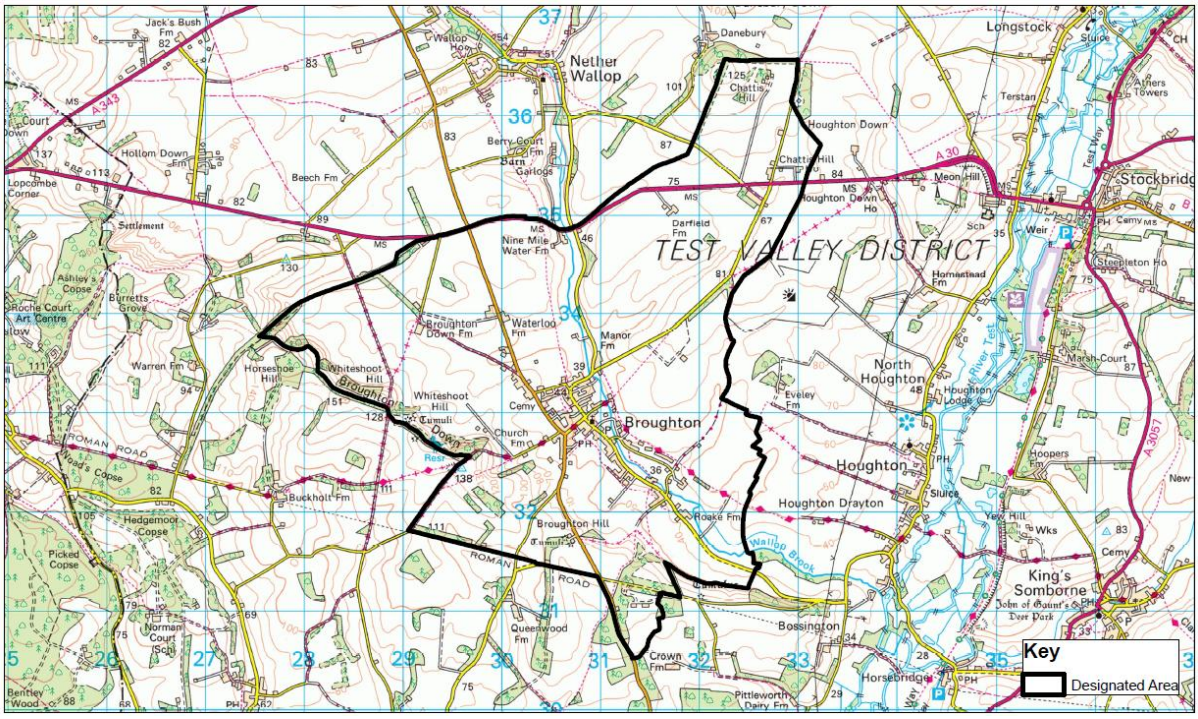
This Report will answer the following three questions:

1. What has plan-making/ SEA involved up to this point? – including in relation to 'reasonable alternatives'.

2. What are the SEA findings at this stage? – i.e., in relation to the draft plan.

3. What happens next?

The map below presents the neighbourhood area.



Strategic planning policy context

The BNP is being prepared in the context of the adopted planning policy framework for Test Valley. The Test Valley Borough RLP was adopted in 2016 and provides the main strategic context for the BNP. The RLP identifies Broughton as a 'Rural Village' in the third tier of the settlement hierarchy. No specific housing allocations are made in Broughton in the RLP, however rural parishes in the Northern Test Valley were allocated an overall figure with no indication of how this might be divided between the parishes. The Broughton Parish Housing Needs Survey (HNS), published in October 2022, concludes that 6 affordable dwellings are required.

A site allocation in Broughton had been identified within the emerging Test Valley Borough DLP, however, on 22 July 2026, the Council resolved to change the direction of the Draft Local Plan, moving from progression under the 'legacy' plan-making system to commencing under the new 'gateway' plan-making system. As the draft Local Plan is now not progressing under the 'legacy' plan-making system, the weight to be attached to it, is as set out in the NPPF paragraph 49 and according to the following three criteria; a) the stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced, the greater the weight that can be given); b) the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and c) the degree of consistency with the relevant emerging plan

policies with the Framework (the more consistent, the greater the weight). In accordance with the NPPF, the relevant policies in the Draft Plans carry limited weight.

Broughton Neighbourhood Plan vision and objectives

The BNP has a clear vision, which is as follows:

"Ensure the rural Parish of Broughton retains its distinctive rural character, continues to be visually attractive as an independent settlement set in unspoilt, tranquil and accessible countryside, characterised by conserved and enhanced heritage assets including listed buildings and the Conservation Area and acting as the focus of local facilities and community life."

To achieve this vision, the following key themes, and objectives for realising the vision have been adopted:

Development, Design and Character

1. Ensure future developments in the Parish are proportionate to the size of the existing settlement, do not lead to coalescence with neighbouring settlements and deliver benefits to the community whilst respecting Broughton's distinctive local character, independence and landscape setting in open countryside.

2. Ensure new developments are of an appropriate type, size, density and design quality, and contribute towards meeting the needs of the community.

3. Ensure new developments reflect the best of the local vernacular utilising varied designs and local materials to retain and enhance the distinctive character of the natural and built environment.

4. Ensure future developments are sited and planned with particular attention to: access to available facilities and services, visual character of the Parish, heritage assets, and infrastructure needs.

5. Deliver smaller homes of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with gardens suitable for people starting out and older people looking to downsize.

6. Allocate a range of available sites to accommodate about 25-30 new homes over the next 17 years providing affordable and market housing.

Environment and Countryside

1. Protect and enhance the rural character of the Parish, the spacious open aspects of the village environs, and the Conservation Area.

2. Protect and improve the biodiversity and water quality of the Wallop Brook chalk stream (a tributary of the River Test) and its environs flowing from the North of the Parish through the water meadows towards the South of the Parish.

3. Conserve and enhance the natural environment by identifying features throughout the Parish including recognised wildlife habitats, ecological corridors and other important elements.

4. Conserve and enhance the natural environment by reducing pollution, managing flood risk and addressing the environmental impacts of new development.

5. Deliver safer and quieter roads, especially the main routes though the centre of the Village.

6. Ensure the key views of the Village, surrounding countryside high points or from within the Village are not adversely affected by new development.

Community, Facilities and Infrastructure

1. Ensure existing facilities and areas of important open space are safeguarded for

current and future generations.

2. Maintain and promote community, cultural services and facilities as significant assets in supporting the Parish as a thriving and sustainable rural community.

3. Ensure fullest possible use is made of active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport, consistent with the rural location, providing connections to existing community facilities by sustainable modes as far as practicable.

4. Protect formal and informal recreational spaces and access to the countryside in order to support the health and wellbeing of the community.

5. Reduce the risk of flooding to existing and new development by ensuring new

development does not take place in areas of flood risk.

6. Protect and retain existing commercial premises and land and provide for economic development which is proportionate to the size and character of the Parish.

What is the scope of the SEA?

Consultation

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 the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. As such, these authorities were consulted in July 2026. Responses were received from all consultation bodies, the

Environment Agency and Historic England both indicated a SEA was required, while Natural England, had no specific comments to make.

The SEA framework

The scope of the SEA is reflected in a list of themes, objectives, and assessment questions, which, taken together indicate the parameters of the SEA and provide a methodological 'framework' for assessment. The full framework which includes assessment questions is provided in the table below.

SEA topic	SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	• Protect and enhance internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats as well as priority habitats and species, including ancient woodland? • Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains and support the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area	• Reduce the number of journeys made by polluting vehicles? • 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 area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	• Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water runoff, 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 area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?

Landscape	To protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape	• Protect and/ or enhance local landscape character and quality of place? • Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity, and settlement character? • Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place? • Protect visual amenity and locally important views in the neighbourhood area? • Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the water setting, or rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?
Historic environment	To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the neighbourhood area	• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings? • Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the Hampshire HER? • Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the neighbourhood area?
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land	• Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of, or hindering of access to mineral resources in the neighbourhood area? • Avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land resources? • Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of, or hindering of access to mineral resources in the neighbourhood area? • Promote the use of previously developed land, vacant & derelict brownfield land opportunities?
	Protect and enhance water quality and use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	• Support improvements to water quality? • 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?
Community wellbeing	Ensure growth in the neighbourhood area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, reducing deprivation, and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.	• Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality and affordable housing? • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities? • Facilitate green infrastructure enhancements? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?

		• Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	• Support the key objectives within the Hampshire Local Transport Plan to encourage more sustainable transport? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Ensure sufficient road capacity to accommodate new development? • Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement? • Facilitate on-going high levels of home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network? • Improve parking facilities? • Lack of EV charging points?

Baseline summaries

Biodiversity and geodiversity: Broughton lies within the River Test catchment, which forms part of the wider River Test ecosystem. Whilst there are no internationally designated sites within the neighbourhood area itself, internationally important habitats occur elsewhere within the catchment and may be sensitive to increased recreational pressure, water abstraction and wastewater discharge associated with new development.

The parish contains a network of priority habitats, including deciduous woodland, hedgerows, grassland and watercourse corridors associated with tributaries of the River Test including Wallop Brook. These habitats contribute to ecological connectivity across the parish and support a range of protected and notable species.

Climate change: Transport is the largest source of carbon emissions within the borough. Census data indicates a high reliance on private car use, reflecting the rural nature of the parish and limited public transport provision. Opportunities also exist to encourage active travel for local journeys, reduce reliance on private vehicles and incorporate sustainable drainage and green infrastructure measures that improve climate resilience.

The neighbourhood area is also vulnerable to the effects of climate change; particularly increased flood risk associated with more frequent and intense rainfall events. The River Test and associated watercourses create local flood risk constraints within parts of the parish. Surface water flooding also affects some low-lying areas.

Landscape: The neighbourhood area lies across the Hampshire Downs and Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs National Character Areas and is characterised by rolling chalk landscapes, open farmland, woodland belts and the Anton river valley to the east and Woodland generally confined to valley slopes, with scattered copses and

shelterbelts (usually of beech or conifer) found on the high downs, and occasional ancient oak woods on the ridgetops to the west.

The settlement of Broughton has a strong rural character and is visually separated from neighbouring settlements by open countryside. Important views identified through the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base include views towards and from Broughton Down.

Historic environment: The parish contains over 76 listed buildings, all are Grade II except for the Grade I, St. Mary's Church. The majority of designated assets are concentrated within the Broughton Conservation Area. There is also potential for below-ground archaeological remains within parts of the parish, reflecting the long history of settlement and land use in the area.

The significance of the parish's historic environment derives not only from individual heritage assets but also from their wider settings, historic street pattern, traditional building materials, landscape context and relationship with surrounding countryside. The Conservation Area plays an important role in preserving the historic character of the village and maintaining its distinctive identity.

Land, soil and water: The Broughton neighbourhood area is predominantly rural in character and is characterised by a mix of agricultural land, watercourses, and areas of settlement focused around the village. The surrounding countryside is largely comprised of agricultural land, much of which is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land, indicating moderate quality agricultural resources.

Development within the parish has historically been concentrated within the existing settlement boundary, meaning that opportunities for the reuse of previously developed land are limited. As a consequence, any future housing growth is likely to require the development of greenfield land at the edge of the village.

The Wallop Brook, a tributary of the River Test, flows through the parish and forms part of the wider River Test catchment, an environmentally sensitive river system of national and international importance. The river and its associated tributaries contribute significantly to local biodiversity, landscape character and water quality.

Community wellbeing: Broughton is a rural village which benefits from a range of community facilities and services that contribute to local quality of life. These include a primary school, village hall which hosts the community shop, places of worship, recreational facilities, GP surgery and a network of public open spaces.

Access to recreation and the surrounding countryside contributes positively to the health and wellbeing of residents. The parish benefits from a network of rights of way, open spaces and recreational facilities which support active lifestyles and social interaction. These assets are important to maintaining the attractiveness and vitality of the community.

Affordability remains a key issue, reflecting wider trends across Test Valley and Hampshire, where house prices and rents can make it difficult for local people to access suitable housing.

Transportation: The Broughton neighbourhood area is predominantly rural in character and residents are highly reliant on private vehicles for day-to-day journeys. The parish has limited public transport provision and no railway station, resulting in many journeys for employment, education, shopping and leisure being undertaken by car.

The village benefits from a network of local roads that connect it to nearby settlements including Stockbridge. However, traffic volumes, vehicle speeds and the suitability of rural roads are identified as issues of concern within the parish.

Opportunities for active travel exist through the network of public footpaths and rights of way, and some key community facilities can be accessed on foot from within the village. However, the rural nature of the area limits opportunities for significant modal shift when compared with more urban locations.

Part 1: Plan-making/ SEA up to this point

Whilst work on the BNP has been underway for some time, the aim here is not to provide a comprehensive explanation of all the work carried out to date, but rather to explain work undertaken to develop and appraise reasonable alternatives.

More specifically, this part of the report presents information on the consideration given to reasonable alternative approaches to addressing a particular issue that is of central importance to the Plan, namely the allocation of land for housing, or alternative sites.

The decision was taken to develop and assess reasonable alternatives in relation to the matter of allocating land for housing, given the following considerations:

- BNP objectives, particularly housing objectives to provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality and affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The delivery of new homes is most likely to have a significant effect compared to the other proposals within the Plan. National Planning Practice Guidance is clear that SEA should focus on matters likely to give rise to significant effects.

Establishing reasonable alternatives

Sites identified through the Test Valley Borough Council Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) in addition to land within the ownership of the Parish Council. In total, 9 sites were assessed, each site was given a rating of either green (suitable), amber (less suitable) or red (not suitable). 3 sites, SHELAA 20, SHELAA 107 and PC2, were deemed potentially suitable for limited development, these sites are considered suitable for housing development.

As shown below, these sites were deemed suitable for limited development. Hence, a total of 2 sites (shown in amber below), are deemed suitable for limited development and can therefore be used to form reasonable alternatives as part of this report.

Reference	Site Name	Capacity	Reason for rejection
SHELAA 20	Land north of School Lane	19	
SHELAA 105	Land northwest of Hayters Farm	20	Location of the site away from the villages facilities does not lend itself to being a sustainable location
SHELAA 107	Coolers Farm Field	19	
SHELAA 116	Land adjacent to Hyde Farm	45	Large site out of scale with the existing settlement pattern resulting in disproportionate growth
SHELAA 127	Old Donkey Field	5	Limited capacity to deliver housing need of 6 dwellings and affordable housing requirement
SHELAA 225	Land at Brightside Farm	6	Limited capacity to deliver housing need of 6 dwellings and affordable housing requirement
SHELAA 273	Land north of School Lane	5	Limited capacity to deliver housing need of 6 dwellings and affordable housing requirement
PC1	Centenary Garden	9	Site identified as public open space where the loss would be considered detrimental to the community
PC2	Land North of Whiteshoot Road	9	

It was determined by the Steering Group that the best approach would be to allocate a combination of smaller sites to deliver the housing to meeting the identified need. Two dominant options emerge at this stage:

• Option 1: Allocate both SHELAA site 20 Land north of School Lane and PC2 Land North of Whiteshoot Road for 28 homes across both sites.

• Option 2: Allocate both SHELAA site 107 Coolers Farm Field and PC2 Land North of Whiteshoot Road for 28 homes across both sites.

A wider range of development approaches were considered, including no allocation and the allocation of multiple smaller sites. However, these options were not considered reasonable alternatives for detailed SEA assessment because:

• Option 3: Allocate a single larger site which would meet the housing need of the parish, this was dismissed due to potential harm to the character of the village.

Option 4: No site allocated through the neighbourhood plan, this was dismissed due to the lack of protection from speculative development a neighbourhood plan without an allocation affords the neighbourhood area.

On this basis, Options 1 and 2 are taken forward for assessment at this stage.

Assessing the reasonable alternatives

Methodology

For each of the options, the assessment examines likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability themes and objectives identified through scoping as a methodological framework. **Green** is used to indicate significant positive effects, whilst **red** is used to indicate significant negative effects. Where appropriate neutral effects, or uncertainty will also be noted. Uncertainty is noted with grey shading.

Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, where there is a need to rely on assumptions 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 considering the criteria presented within Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency, and reversibility of effects.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**No**
Rank	**1**	**2**

Whilst no internationally designated biodiversity sites are located within or adjacent to the neighbourhood area, development has the potential to contribute cumulatively to recreational pressure, water abstraction and wastewater impacts affecting internationally designated sites elsewhere within the wider catchment.

Regarding national designations within the neighbourhood area, it should be noted that the neighbourhood area is also host to Broughton Down SSSI; however, no sites

intersect or are in proximity to this designation. At the local level, there is a network of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Option 2 is adjacent to areas of 'lowland mixed deciduous woodland'. Option 1 is not within proximity of any such designations.

Outside the village of Broughton there is open farmland, hedges, shaws (narrow belts of woodland), solitary trees and woodland, a network of streams (associated with the river Test), and locally valued biodiversity corridors. These features would likely be retained and enhanced through development proposals associated with both options. Option 1 will minimise impacts to the ecological features and networks within the neighbourhood area in comparison to the other option which is adjacent to woodland areas.

At this stage of assessment, the potential for minor negative effects is identified in relation to Option 2, due to its existing ecological connections, though it is recognised that mitigation could reduce the extent of these effects, Negative effects are considered less likely for Option 1, and this is reflected in the ranking of the options.

Climate change

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**No**
Rank	**1**	**2**

Emissions in the Borough are above the county and national averages. In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is the significant contributor to emissions, and the car is the main way of travelling in and beyond the neighbourhood area with car ownership being high.

Therefore, all options located within or adjacent to the built-up area boundary of Broughton, will help limit greenhouse gas emissions from transport through encouraging new development in locations with closer proximity to key amenities and public transport networks. Option 1 is within walking distance of the primary school, helping reduce journey times and emissions linked with daily school journeys. While Option 2 is located closer to the village hall where the community shop is located. Both options are with walking distance of all facilities in the village, however walkability from Option 1 is better as there are established footways within the north of the village.

In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the proposed site allocations through all options are located within Flood Zone 1 and have a low risk from fluvial flooding. Fluvial flood risk in the neighbourhood area largely follows the Wallop Brook. Option 2 is located closest Flood Zones 2 and 3, and there is a large built-up residential area that separates Option 1 and therefore no fluvial flood risk is anticipated through development.

Surface water flooding in the neighbourhood area is also highest in areas directly adjacent to the River Anton. Option 1 and 2 both exhibit 'very low' surface water flood risk and are thus more favourable in relation to adapting to the effects of climate change.

Overall, with Option 1 providing good access to services especially the primary school, the site is considered most likely to support active travel and more sustainable local journeys and reduce per capita emissions in this respect. Similarly, Option 1 proposes growth adjacent to the settlement boundary that is relatively well connected. On this basis, Option 1 is preferred to Option 2. No significant effects are considered likely under any option.

Landscape

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**Uncertain**
Rank	**1**	**2**

In terms of nationally protected landscapes, neither option lies within a nationally designated landscape.

Locally valued views are identified in the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan as recognised in the scope of the SEA. In this regard, Option 2 directly obstruct view 4 identified in the plan (Footpath 7: Across Coolers Farm Field) depending on how much of the site developed. Negative effects could be anticipated in this respect, though it is recognised that these could be mitigated through careful design and layout, and consideration of building heights and massing.

Both Options are adjacent to the village of Broughton. As such, development through these options would help maintain the sense of place for the community. This is particularly true for, Option 1 (Land north of School Lane), while it is considered Option 2 has a greater chance of encroaching into the countryside. Negative effects are considered more likely under this Option, and whilst these effects are unlikely to be significant, they are reflected in the ranking of the options. Development of a lower density that employs sympathetic design measures to protect the rural character could help to reduce such impacts. Land North of Whiteshoot Road is within the heart of the village and is within the settlement boundary where its impact on the landscape is limited.

In summary, both Options have the potential to erode settlement identity, however Option 1 could present a well-designed low-density scheme that is more likely to be accommodated without significant effects for landscape, and as such is ranked most preferably overall.

Historic environment

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**No**
Rank	**1**	**2**

There are a total of 76 Listed Buildings within the neighbourhood area, many of which are in the village, and all are Grade II except for the Grade I St. Mary the Virgin Church. They comprise cottages, farm outbuildings and other built features including a Dovecote and Well House. Most of the listed buildings are in the Conservation Area.

In this regard, Option 2 is located closest to the Listed Buildings along and to the rear of Horsebridge Road. Option 1 is to the north of the village and is not within the setting of any of the listed buildings within the village. The potential for negative effects is therefore identified, and suitable mitigation should be considered in design proposals.

Considering the above, no significant effects are considered likely under Option 1, however while Option 2 could potentially impact the setting of adjacent listed buildings this could still be mitigated against.

Land, soil, and water resources

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**No**
Rank	**1**	**2**

Both Options are predicted to be predominantly underlain by Grade 3 'good to moderate' quality agricultural land, there is however only a limited potential for impacts in relation to soil resources. Both Options are also located entirely on Greenfield land, the larger of which (SHELAA 107) is 1.25 ha. Greater land-take is considered likely under Option 2; however, it is recognised that the scale of proposals which would be taken forward at these locations can potentially limit the impacts to soil resources.

It is important to acknowledge that legal advice from Natural England recommends that new developments should only be permitted if they are nutrient neutral. However, this is a regional issue which is beyond the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan to address.

Options 1 and 2 do not intersect waterbodies and no significant effects are anticipated in this respect. Despite this, it will still be important to ensure that allocations are managed to maintain water quality and riparian habitats, reducing negative impacts on the river system downsteam in the River Test. Given the higher level policy framework that exists and protects water quality in development, no significant effects are considered likely.

Community wellbeing

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**Yes**	**Yes**
Rank	**1**	**2**

All options could contribute to meeting the forecasted housing need over the Plan period, however, any option, in the absence of enhanced policy directions, would be less likely to contribute as significantly to meeting affordable housing needs given the smaller scale development proposed.

Both sites for Option 1 (Land north of School Lane and Land North of Whiteshoot Road) are connected to the village facilities via a footpath and public road, facilities include the primary school, GP surgery, playing fields, parish hall, and village shop. Moreover, this site is close to existing residential development to the south. The alternate Option 2 site (Coolers Farm Field) is situated in a reasonably sustainable location in proximity to the local amenities and services and is also adjacent to existing residential development, however there is no footpath along Horsebridge Road and High Street to the village centre unlike Land north of School Lane. Land North of Whiteshoot Road is within the heart of the village and is well connected to all facilities.

In summary, Option 1 would connect new development better with the village services and amenities available in Broughton. This option is therefore preferred overall to Option 2, which is located further from the village centre. Despite this, all options are likely to result in a positive effect given the contributions to meeting local housing needs.

Transportation

	Option 1	Option 2
Significant effect?	**No**	**No**
Rank	**1**	**2**

With reference to local public transport networks, the neighbourhood area is not connected to the rail network, nor is there a scheduled bus service to the village of Broughton, there is however a Village Bus.

No A roads run through the settlement, Salisbury Road (B3084) runs along the west of the settlement from the north towards Romsey in the south. Option 1 is located along School Lane which leads to Salisbury Road (B3084) which has a footpath and is within walking distance of the village primary school and other services. Option 2 is located off Horsebridge Road, there is no footpath into the village centre; the location of Option 2 is further from many of the services and amenities which may necessitate driving rather

than sustainable modes of transport (including walking or cycling). Land North of Whiteshoot Road is within the heart of the village and is well connected to all facilities.

In summary Option 1 is considered most favourable in relation to the Transportation theme due to proximity to key amenities.

Summary

This assessment has highlighted that all options have the potential to have significant positive impacts in relation to the 'Community Wellbeing' theme, particularly in terms of delivering new housing in areas with good access to services and facilities and encouraging more sustainable and active methods of travel for undertaking some day-to-day activities within the neighbourhood area.

No other significant effects are considered likely at this stage; however, some uncertainty is noted in relation to landscape impacts for both Options. It is recognised that there is potential to reduce landscape impacts through appropriate design, layout, massing, and building heights in proposals for all options; but minor negative effects are still considered likely.

While both Options relate to settlement expansion, Option 2 (Coolers Field Farm) is considered a less sustainable location when compared to Option 1 (Land north of School Lane) which would deliver development in closer proximity to the main service and facility provisions within the neighbourhood area. These factors result in Option 2 performing less favourably in relation to the 'transportation' and the 'climate change' SEA themes.

The scale of development proposed under either Option is not considered likely to lead to significant impacts in relation to biodiversity, but it is noted that Option 2 is adjacent to more ecological features than identified at the site under Option 1. Option 1 is considered to perform marginally better in relation to environmental themes, by having a reduced the scale of development.

Developing the preferred approach

Potential sites - as described in Establishing Reasonable Alternatives, a total of nine sites were considered for development with one forming a reasonable alternative. This was then assessed in further detail looking at constraints and opportunities. Each site does have constraints that need to be overcome through mitigation measures.

Affordable housing - one of the key objectives for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan is to provide sufficient and appropriate high-quality and affordable housing to meet local needs. Based on the housing needs assessment, Test Valley Borough policies for building affordable housing and also through communication with the Borough, it was

established that at least 6 affordable dwellings should be planned for to meet local needs.

For any combination of sites to be chosen for affordable housing under the neighbourhood plan, sustainability (especially in relation to access to local services and public transport) was a key focus, as well as the willingness of the landowner for their land to be developed for this purpose. Both the Land north of School Lane and Land North of Whiteshoot Road sites are within walking distance to the heart of the village and is well connected to all facilities and is close to existing residential development.

Based on potential site capacity for housing, sustainability, known preferences of landowners, detailed local knowledge of the sites and, most importantly, community preferences, the preferred approach was clear to the Steering Committee which was that the Land north of School Lane in combination with the Land North of Whiteshoot Road site should be included in the Plan policy.

Part 2: SEA findings at this stage

The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current 'Submission' version of the BNP. This chapter presents:

• An appraisal of the current version of the BNP under the seven SEA topic headings; and

• The overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

Broughton Neighbourhood Plan policies

Policy Number	Policy Name
HP1	Need, Type and Mix
HP2	Location
HP3	Site Allocation
D&CP1	Design & Character
H&CAP1	Heritage and Conservation Area
VP1	Views
IP1	Infrastructure
CFP1	Community Facilities
CFP2	Footpaths and Local Active Travel
EP1	Green Spaces
EP2	Natural Features
EP3	Wallop Brook
ENP1	Renewable Energy

The assessment identifies and evaluates 'likely significant effects' on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives identified through scoping as a methodological framework.

Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the strategic nature of the policies under consideration and understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a 'no plan' scenario) that is inevitably limited. Given uncertainties there is a need to make assumptions, e.g., in relation to plan implementation and aspects of the baseline that might be impacted. Assumptions are made cautiously and explained within the text (with the aim of striking a balance between comprehensiveness and conciseness). In many instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict 'significant effects', but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) of the draft plan in more general terms.

Assessment of the plan

Biodiversity and geodiversity

There are no international designations (Ramsar, Special Area of Conservation, and Special Protection Area), however, the nationally designated Broughton Down Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is within the neighbourhood area.

The proposed allocation sites are not significantly constrained by biodiversity, the sites are both grassland/scrub and either previously used for agricultural purposes or a former skate park. Both sites are bound by residential development and/or allotment gardens and agricultural land. Whilst biodiversity net gain requirements are expected to provide opportunities for habitat enhancement, the overall biodiversity effects of the plan remain uncertain at this strategic stage. The significance of any positive effects will depend upon the design and implementation of the development and the effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement measures secured through the planning process.

The main policy in the Plan focussing on the matter of biodiversity and nature conservation is EP2 (Natural Features); it indicates proposals that protect and enhance wildlife and species link to the existing green network will be supported where they will cause no damage and promote the planting of new trees. A key feature in the neighbourhood area is the Wallop Brook Anton. Policy EP3 (Wallop Brook) seeks to protect biodiversity along the watercourse and incorporating robust and effective alleviation and mitigation measures for management of rainwater run-off and flood risk arising and avoiding undue adverse impacts on the Brook arising from increased water consumption, foul water discharge, agricultural pollution and recreational pressure.

The protection of green spaces under Policy EP1 (Green Spaces) will also contribute to the wider green infrastructure network, supporting connectivity throughout the plan area.

To maximise biodiversity benefits, the plan should support the delivery of biodiversity net gain through the retention and enhancement of existing habitats, the creation of priority habitats, the strengthening of ecological networks and the incorporation of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure. Policies should encourage on-site biodiversity improvements in the first instance and ensure that habitat enhancements are secured and managed for the long term.

In conclusion, the proposed spatial strategy avoids significant impacts in relation to biodiversity, and the wider plan policies work well to protect and enhance biodiversity where possible. As such, no significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated, and **broadly neutral effects** are concluded as most likely.

Climate change

The biggest contributor to emissions in the district is the transport sector. There is a public electric vehicle charging point at the village hall which can help mitigate this impact. In terms of flooding, the Broughton neighbourhood area is subject to medium and high risk of surface water flooding due to the presence of watercourses, including the Wallop Brook.

In terms of the wider policy framework, Policy D&CP1 (Design & Character) indicates the use of renewable, decentralised and/or low carbon energy generation technology and of rainwater harvesting will be supported where appropriate. This will help to lower carbon emissions in the area whilst also reducing the amount of water consumed and energy used to recycle it. Additionally, Policy CFP2 (Footpaths and Local Active Travel) seeks to encourage active travel (walking and cycling) which may include delivering or fostering enhanced connectivity to community facilities in the village, including the Primary School, which will encourage a modal shift further supporting emissions reductions.

In terms of flooding Policy EP4 (Wallop Brook) seeks to protect biodiversity along the watercourse and incorporating robust and effective alleviation and mitigation measures for management of water pollution and flood risk arising. Policy IP1 (Infrastructure) also seeks drainage proposals to acceptably manage surface water and avoid risk of pollution, soil erosion and damage to wildlife habitats. This reflects the requirements of the NPPF (2026) for mitigation.

In conclusion, the spatial strategy avoids significant effects in relation to climate change adaptation, whilst wider plan policies seek to promote climate mitigation and increase resilience. The plan policies work well to reduce carbon emissions, encourage renewable energy, and manage flood risk. On this basis, no significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated as a result of implementing the plan, and broadly **neutral effects** are concluded as most likely. Minor positive effects may be achieved given the promotion for more renewable energy installations and higher levels of efficiency in development.

Landscape

The Broughton neighbourhood area lies predominantly within the Hampshire Downs National Character Area, the main challenges facing the area are the continued high levels of population and economic growth, the associated demands for water, traffic levels, and further intensification of farming. Locally the neighbourhood area lies predominantly within the Open Chalklands Landscape Character Area (LCA), with River Valley Floor LCA (along the course of River Anton) and Semi-enclosed Chalk and Clay Farmland also present. Key development impacts in these areas include inappropriate management of the characteristic Chalk Hanger woodlands and areas of grassland,

suburbanising influence of built development and roads, including the introduction of inappropriate styles of fencing, signage, lighting and planting, and impact of exposed development on the sense of remoteness. Specifically for the River Valley Floor LCA there are the issues of manicured riverbanks causing loss of aquatic habitat and increasing pressure for recreation.

The larger of the two allocation sites North of School Lane has the potential to be visible northeast from Broughton Dwon. Negative effects could be anticipated in this respect, however it will be in association with the existing settlement, though it is recognised that these could be mitigated through careful design and layout, and consideration of building heights and massing.

The wider policy framework seeks to broadly maintain and enhance the local landscape. HP2 (Location) outlines the need for new development to not have a detrimental effect on the character and setting of the countryside by virtue of its siting, design, size and prominence in the landscape; and to not blight important views of the landscape. EP2 (Natural Features) requires development proposals to protect and where appropriate enhance those natural features which make a significant contribution to the character and amenity of the Neighbourhood Area, namely farmland, woodland, mature trees, hedgerows and ponds and watercourses.

In conclusion, the Plan proposes greenfield development, within a sensitive landscape setting and as such, negative impacts are considered to be likely. However, the plan policies cumulatively work well to reduce the landscape impact that development is likely to have and reduce the potential significance of residual effects. As such, **minor long-term negative effects** are concluded as most likely.

Historic environment

The Broughton Neighbourhood Plan will need to consider the historic environment of the area and ensure policies work to maintain and improve it. The proposed site allocation is not immediately constrained by designated heritage assets. It is considered that any potential for development at Barrow Hill could be mitigated against, including through the use of appropriate screening to reduce the significance of potential impacts. Policy HP2 and HP3 indicate development would be accepted subject to no harm or loss of the significance of the heritage assets of the Parish with particular focus on conservation areas, listed and other important buildings.

The wider Neighbourhood Plan policy framework further supports the protection and enhancement of the local historic environment. Policy D&CP1 (Design and Character) states secure high-quality design that promotes local distinctiveness and character in a manner that complies with the terms of the Heritage policy. Policy H&CAP1 (Heritage and Conservation Area) requires new developments within or adjacent to the Conservation Area and designated and non-designated heritage assets to be aware of

and work with the unique and distinctive character of the Conservation Area and comply with the framework set out in the Broughton Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

In conclusion, the policies within the BNP work well to prevent or mitigate any potential impacts development could have on the historic environment, and no significant impacts are considered likely because of the spatial strategy. As such, no significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated, and broadly **neutral residual effects** are concluded as most likely overall.

Land, soil, and water resources

The proposed allocation site North of School Lane is considered likely to be of 'good to moderate' quality (Grade 3) agricultural land, and the site is not currently actively farmed. It is further noted that the spatial strategy reflects a lack of available brownfield alternatives in the settlement areas.

Policy EP2 (Natural Features) requires the protection and where appropriate enhancement of natural features which make a significant contribution to the character and amenity of the Neighbourhood Area, Policy EP3 (Wallop Brook) indicates water resources will be safeguarded in the neighbourhood area and development proposals will need to demonstrate they will not cause pollution, contamination, or flood risk; to help manage water flows and water quality.

In conclusion, the policies within the BNP work to safeguard natural resources. However, the development proposed will result in the loss of greenfield land at the settlement edge. Given only one development site with existing resolution to grant planning permission is being proposed, **minor negative effects** are concluded as most likely.

Community wellbeing

The proposed site allocations (Policy HP3) relate well with Broughton (both within and as a settlement edge locations) and will deliver the housing need for the neighbourhood area identified through the housing need assessment carried out in 2022. Similarly Policy HP1 (Need, Type and Mix) also uses the outcomes of the housing needs assessment to control the size of future residential developments to provide new homes which meet the needs of residents.

The wider neighbourhood plan policies will bring about positive impacts for Broughton. Notably Policy CFP1 (Community Facilities) and IP1 (Infrastructure); these policies will clearly bring forward benefits by ensuring access to facilities is maintained, and local economic growth is supported and contributing to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood area. Additionally, Policy EP1 (Green Spaces) through designating local green spaces for recreational activities will help to promote physical and mental

wellbeing alongside policy CFP2 (Footpaths and Local Active Travel) seeking to maintain or enhance the network of footpaths and rights of way within the settlement and across the neighbourhood area.

In conclusion, the policies within the BNP work to improve resident wellbeing, delivering new high-quality housing, safeguarding infrastructure, designating green space, and supporting local employment development. As such, it is concluded there will be **significant long-term positive** effects against this SEA theme.

Transportation

The Broughton neighbourhood area experiences issues associated with traffic volumes on narrow lanes and difficulties with access due to poor public transportation. New development has the potential to increase such pressures and proposals should incorporate ways to alleviate this stress. It is also noted that additional development could impact road safety, given the narrow lanes of the neighbourhood area already experiencing busy periods.

The housing allocation policy HP3 chose both sites for the particular reason that they would both be accessible without adding traffic to the historic centre of the village, and would allow for pedestrian and cycle access to the village facilities, which will encourage active and transportation options. Policy D&CP1 (Design & Character) indicates the use of renewable, decentralised and/or low carbon energy generation technology with an eye to encouraging a shift towards electric vehicles and a possible reduction in emissions.

The wider neighbourhood plan policy framework seeks to deliver transport improvements within the neighbourhood area. Policies work to ensure road safety is considered in all development, sustainable travel is encouraged, active transportation links are improved, parking provision is sufficient, and quiet lanes are maintained.

Policy IP1 (Infrastructure) requires information in the form of an Access Assessment or Statement for new developments to demonstrate accessibility, together with any measures proposed to mitigate anticipated transport impacts on all road users, in particular through parking impacts along the rural highway network. Also, policy CFP2 works to protect footpaths and Rights of Way (RoW) in the area by ensuring proposals provide mitigation where they do impact on these RoW. There is also a Community Aspiration for Transport, which although not policy supports and encourages the maintenance and development of public transport to conform to “Policy T1-Managing Movement” of the TVBC Local Plan.

In conclusion, while it is considered that new development in Broughton will increase the stress on the local transportation network the Neighbourhood Plan policy framework seeks to improve existing transport infrastructure and support modal shift.

Measures proposed range from parking provisions to improving active and sustainable transportation links and should cumulatively work to reduce the potential impact of development being proposed through the plan, as well as wider development that may occur over the plan period. As such, impacts are not considered likely to be of significance, and residual **minor negative effects** are concluded as most likely.

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

No significant negative effects are considered likely in implementing the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan. Significant positive effects are likely to arise through the provision of additional housing, including affordable housing delivered in accordance with development plan policies in a suitable location that connects well with the settlement, and the settlements' service and facility provisions.

With minimal constraints identified in relation to the proposed sites, no significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated in relation to the SEA themes of biodiversity, climate change, and historic environment, and broadly neutral effects are concluded in relation to these themes.

Residual minor negative effects are considered likely in relation to landscape, land, soil, and water resources, and transportation. This predominantly reflects the inevitable loss of greenfield land within a sensitive landscape area, and additional cars on the road generating local traffic.

Cumulative effects are considered likely to be positive in relation to the wider housing market area (by contributing to district wide housing needs) but may be negative (though minor) in relation to the landscape.

Recommendations

The following recommendation has been made for the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan:

- The inclusion of a new Mottisfont Bats Policy
- The inclusion of a new Nutrient Neutrality Policy

Further details have been provided in the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Part 3: Next steps

Following submission, the plan and supporting evidence will be published for further consultation and then subjected to Independent Examination. At Independent Examination, the plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the Local Plan.

If the examination leads to a favourable outcome, the plan will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Test Valley Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once 'made', the plan will become part of the Development Plan for Test Valley, covering the defined neighbourhood area.

Monitoring

The SEA regulations require 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring' to be outlined in this report. This refers to the monitoring of likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan to identify any unforeseen effects early and take remedial action as appropriate.

It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by Test Valley Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). No significant negative effects are considered likely in the implementation of the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan that would warrant more stringent monitoring over and above that already undertaken by the Council.

The indicators proposed in the Monitoring Table below provide a proportionate framework for monitoring the environmental effects of the Plan over its lifetime.

SEA Topic	Indicator	Target	Source	Frequency
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Delivery of biodiversity net gain and habitat enhancements associated with development	No net loss of biodiversity. Habitat creation and enhancement measures delivered in accordance with approved permissions.	Planning applications and monitoring reports	Annual
Climate change	Number of renewable energy installations approved within the neighbourhood area	Development incorporates climate mitigation and adaptation measures in line with Neighbourhood Plan policies.	Planning monitoring data	Annual
Landscape	Implementation of landscaping and mitigation measures on allocated sites	Landscape mitigation measures implemented as approved. No significant unforeseen landscape impacts identified.	Planning permissions and site monitoring	Annual

Historic environment	Number of planning permissions affecting designated heritage assets	No significant adverse effects on designated heritage assets arising from development permitted under the Plan.	Planning monitoring data	Annual
Land/soil/water	Development completed on greenfield land and implementation of SuDS measures	Development proceeds in accordance with approved drainage requirements. No significant deterioration in local water management or quality attributable to development.	Planning monitoring data	Annual
Community wellbeing	Number of dwellings completed, including affordable housing provision	Delivery of housing to contribute towards identified local housing needs. Affordable housing delivered where policy requirements apply.	Authority Monitoring Report	Annual
Transportation	Highway safety issues, traffic impacts and improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure	No significant increase in transport-related impacts beyond those anticipated through the SEA. Delivery of proposed connectivity and access improvements where applicable.	Hampshire County Council and planning monitoring	Annual

Should monitoring identify significant adverse effects or outcomes that differ substantially from those anticipated by the SEA, Test Valley Borough Council and Broughton Parish Council should consider whether further mitigation measures or a review of relevant neighbourhood plan policies is required.