

Ashington Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability Report

**Draft to accompany the Pre-Submission
(Regulation 14) Consultation Version of the
Ashington Neighbourhood Plan**

March 2019

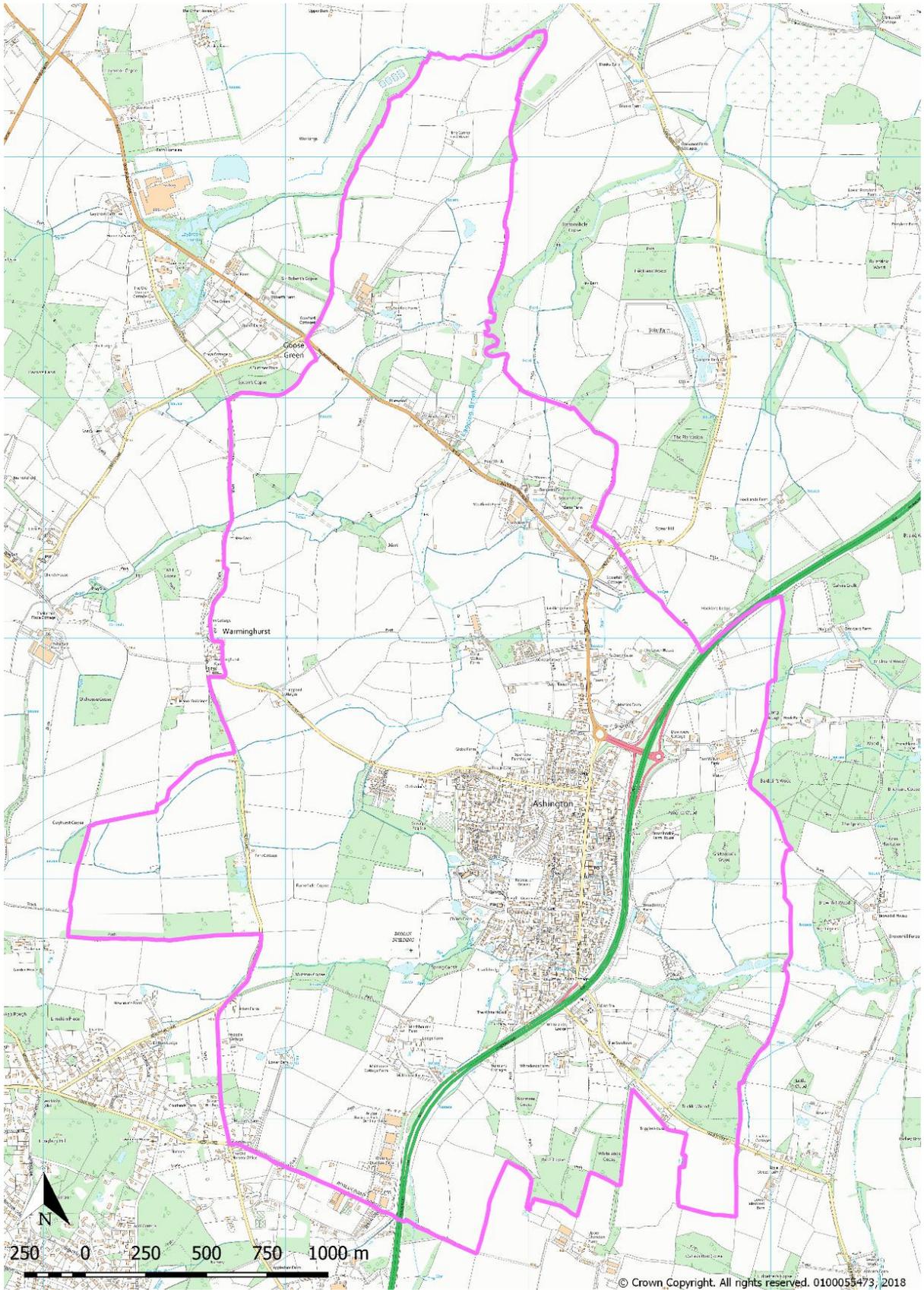
1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Sustainability Report has been prepared to support the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation Version. It demonstrates how the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') contributes towards the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.2 Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term environmental, social and economic issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:
- Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.3 One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process.
- 1.4 The Plan can help to achieve sustainable development as it aims to ensure that development meets the needs of people living and working in the Neighbourhood Area, while at the same time helping to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are minimised.

The Plan

- 1.5 The designated Neighbourhood Plan Area is shown in Figure 1.1 and is contiguous with the parish boundary.

Figure 1.1: Ashington Neighbourhood Plan designated area (purple)



- 1.6 The Ashington Neighbourhood Plan has been developed through working and engaging with the local community. A Vision and Objectives document was put together in September 2017 to focus on addressing the needs of the community in the built up area. In order to deliver its objectives, they were sorted under particular themes:

Theme 1: Transport and movement

- Reduce reliance on private car by enhancing sustainable transport options, particularly walking and community buses.
- To improve parking for cars in order to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Theme 2: Environment

- Conserve and enhance heritage assets.
- Protect the green and rural nature of the parish and its links to the countryside.
- Ensure that all new development is designed to protect and enhance the landscape, reduce or minimise flood risk, promote biodiversity and positively enhance the parish wherever opportunities exist

Theme 3: Community and Economy

- Improve the range of community facilities and focus them in a new 'heart of the community' in Ashington village.
- Create new commercial space and premises that provides for the needs of new and existing businesses.

Theme 4: Housing Needs

- Contribute to the HDPF requirement for new homes by providing housing that meets the current and future needs of the parish, maximising opportunities for development of sustainable sites.

- 1.7 Each of the objectives has been assessed against the strategic objectives of the Horsham District Planning Framework and it has been determined that there are no conflicts. This assessment is presented in Appendix A.

Policy context

- 1.8 The Plan has been prepared having regard to national policy and to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the local development plan. At the national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) establishes the scope and purpose of neighbourhood plans. At the local level, the development plan comprises the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF).
- 1.9 Appendix B provides a summary of the programmes, plans and other documents which influence the Plan.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 To consider sustainability issues, data was collected about the Neighbourhood Area on a wide range of matters from a wide range of sources which the Parish Council considers provide accurate information. This information has enabled the environmental, social and economic baseline in the Neighbourhood Area to be established. Alongside this, the issues which have been identified by the Parish Council or raised by the community (consisting of residents, workers, institutions, landowners, businesses, students, visitors and tourists) have been summarised.
- 2.2 The assessment follows a logical sequence which uses the sustainability objectives of higher level policy – contained in the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015) – along with the issues and challenges facing Ashington to inform the objectives of the Plan. This ensures that the objectives of the Plan do not either contradict wider sustainability objectives or compromise the ability to achieve those objectives, either in the Neighbourhood Area or more widely.
- 2.3 Using this framework of sustainability objectives, it is then possible to assess the effects of the policies within the Ashington Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Neighbourhood Plan against each of these objectives. Each policy is assessed for its impacts which can either be positive, negative or neutral along a six-point scale as shown below:

++	The policy is likely to contribute significantly towards the sustainability objective
+	The policy is likely to contribute positively towards the sustainability objective, although not significantly
0	The policy is considered to have no significant positive or negative effect
-	The policy is likely to detract from the achievement of the sustainability objective, although not significantly
--	The policy is likely to detract significantly from the achievement of the sustainability objective
?	The policy has an uncertain relationship to the sustainability objective. Alternatively, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.

- 2.4 In addition, the assessment also considers a ‘do nothing’ scenario under which the Plan has not been prepared.

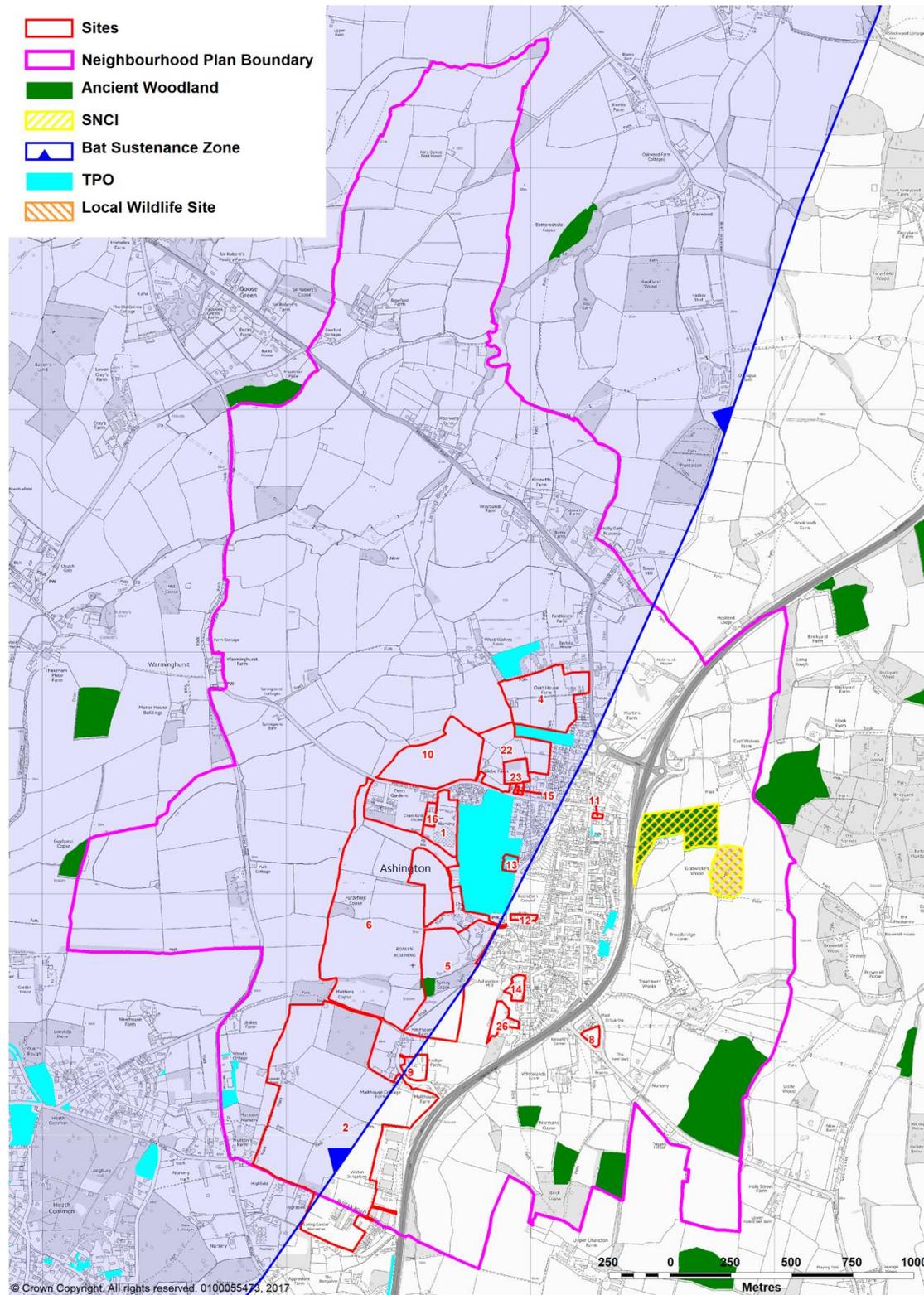
3 BASELINE CONDITIONS

- 3.1 This section summarises the baseline conditions against which the Plan will be assessed to determine whether it contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 3.2 For a small area such as the Ashington Neighbourhood Area, gathering data to establish a comprehensive quantitative baseline position is challenging and would demand significant resources. The Parish Council therefore considers that, in establishing the baseline conditions, it is proportionate to use existing data, where available, supplemented by qualitative assessment.
- 3.3 The information was compiled from a wide range of information sources. Firstly information came from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and associated work conducted to support it. As part of the widespread consultation work to support the plan this has included feedback from a range of consultees. There are also a number of key reports relevant to the environment of the area and some of their key findings have been summarised here – they are referenced through the text, as are various data sources used to provide maps and statistics. This section presents topics relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan and while it seeks to be comprehensive only the key issues are included to keep the document manageable.
- 3.4 In addition, the Parish Council has undertaken extensive consultation with local residents and organisations to help identify existing problems in the area.
- 3.5 It should be noted that the maps in this section all show the location of the sites considered for allocation as part of the development of the plan. The process of assessing sites and the assessment itself is addressed in more detail in Section 5.

Nature conservation and biodiversity

- 3.3. The largest concentration of ancient woodland is in the south-east of the Plan area. There are also a number of areas outside the Plan area boundary. There is one small area of ancient woodland in or close to the village (and the potential development sites) but the majority is more distant from the village and on the other side of the A24 trunk road.
- 3.4. There are two Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), both away from the village and on the other side of the A24. These SNCI are also classified as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).
- 3.5. There are some large areas with blanket Tree Preservation Orders and most are located in the centre of the settlement. The largest area covered by a blanket TPO is around site 13, an open area of green space very close to Ashington community centre and Ashington Church of England (primary) School. However, a blanket TPO cover does not necessarily mean that the whole site is covered by trees; the large area in the village is predominantly open space.
- 3.6. All of the above features are shown in Figure 3.1, with more detail of the built up area of Ashington village in Figure 3.2.

Figure 3.1: Key environmental features – parish



- 3.7. A bat sustenance zone is located in the western part of the parish, which refers to the area surrounding the communal bat roost within which development can be assumed to affect the commuting and foraging habitat of bats using the roost. All species and their roosts are protected by UK and European law, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1961 (WCA) and in the UK and the Habitats Directive in the EU. There are 18 species of bat in the UK, all of which have been recorded in Sussex.
- 3.8. Information from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (2016) shows sightings of the following since 2006:
- 8 protected species
 - 12 European protected species
 - 45 rare species (not including bats, birds or otters)
 - 10 bats
 - 109 birds
 - 25 BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species (not including bats or birds)
 - 11 invasive alien species
- 3.9. The list below shows the protected species names in more detail. These are in no particular order and include:
- Mole Cricket
 - Great Crested Newt
 - Slow-worm
 - Common Lizard
 - Grass Snake
 - Adder
 - European Water Vole
 - Hazel Dormouse

Landscape

- 3.10. Ashington is a predominantly rural area, characterised by gently undulating wooded farmland with fields separated by hedgerows. The parish has a land area of 805 hectares (Office for National Statistics, 2011). The A24 dual carriageway runs through the middle of the parish from north to south. A suburban character is seen to the west of the A24, comprising mainly residential properties.
- 3.11. According to the Horsham District Landscape Capacity Assessment (Horsham District Council, April 2014, page 95), the landscape around the village lies within the Low Weald National Character Area, and falls within Horsham District Landscape Character area G1: Ashurst and Wiston Wooded Farmlands. Overall, development would be likely to be visually prominent as a result of the relatively open character of the area and because of the visual prominence of ridgelines and rising ground. There is a risk that development around the

edge of the settlement would create the impression of incursion into open countryside, as this area has high visual sensitivity and low capacity to absorb small-scale housing developments.

Air and Climate

- 3.12. There are no air quality management areas (AQMA) in the parish of Ashington. The nearest AQMA is in the village of Storrington, around 4 miles away which was designated on the basis of nitrogen dioxide exceedances at relevant receptor locations through the centre of the village. Nitrogen dioxide results are the most significant in AQMA in the UK, which result from emissions in road transport and can irritate lung airways to those who are sensitive to air pollutants.

Water

- 3.13. Ashington is within the flood catchment of the River Adur and many of its streams run through the parish. The main streams are shown in Figure 3.3, which are within Flood Zone 2 or 3. However, only two of the potential development sites have all or part of their area within these zones.
- 3.14. Figure 3.4 shows the areas prone to surface water flooding and the chance of this happening once every 30 years, every 100 years or every 1000 years. This shows that significant areas across the parish are susceptible to surface water flooding. Close to Ashington village, areas to the north and west of the built up area are particularly at risk.

Figure 3.3: Flood Risk Areas

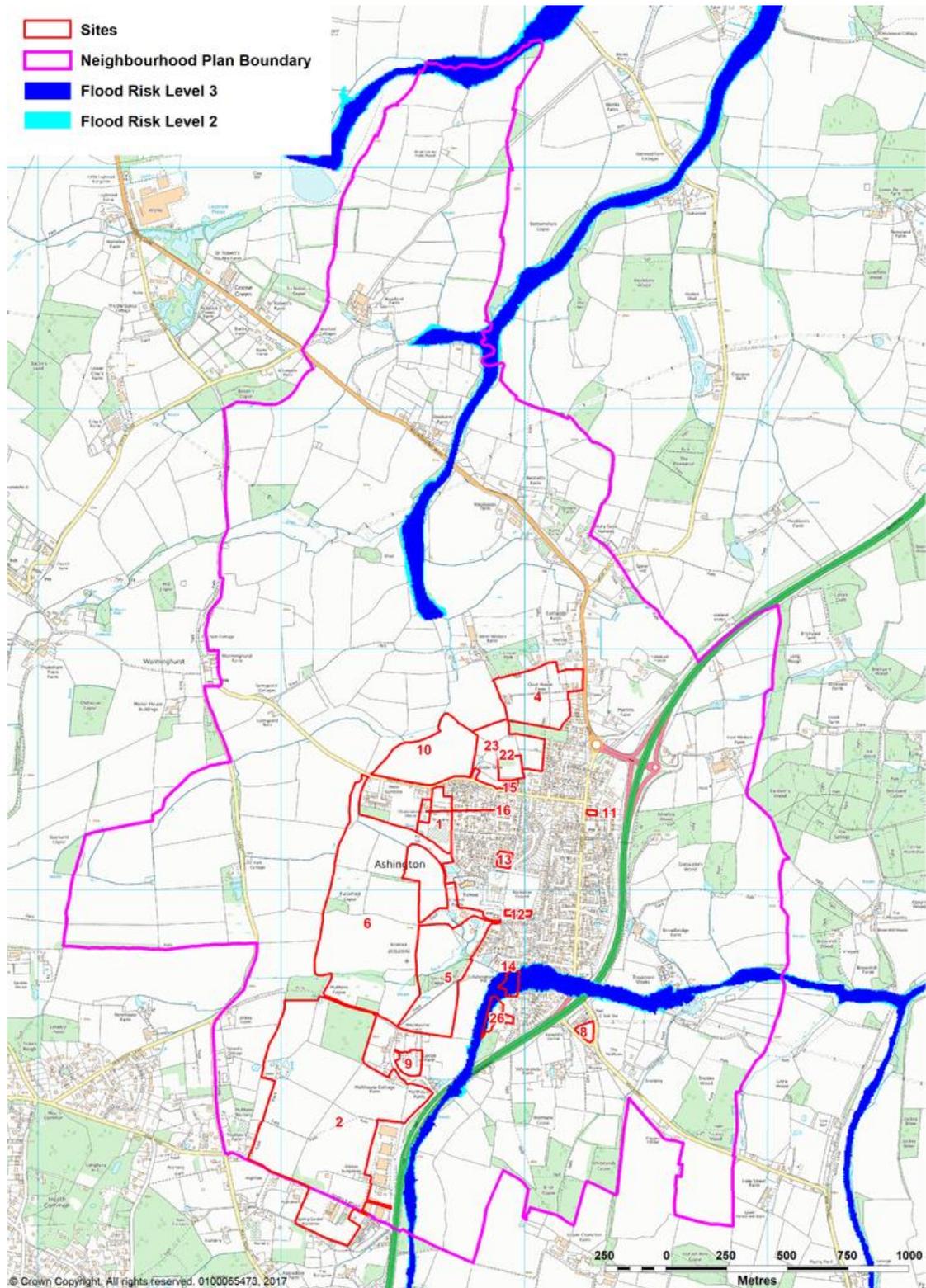
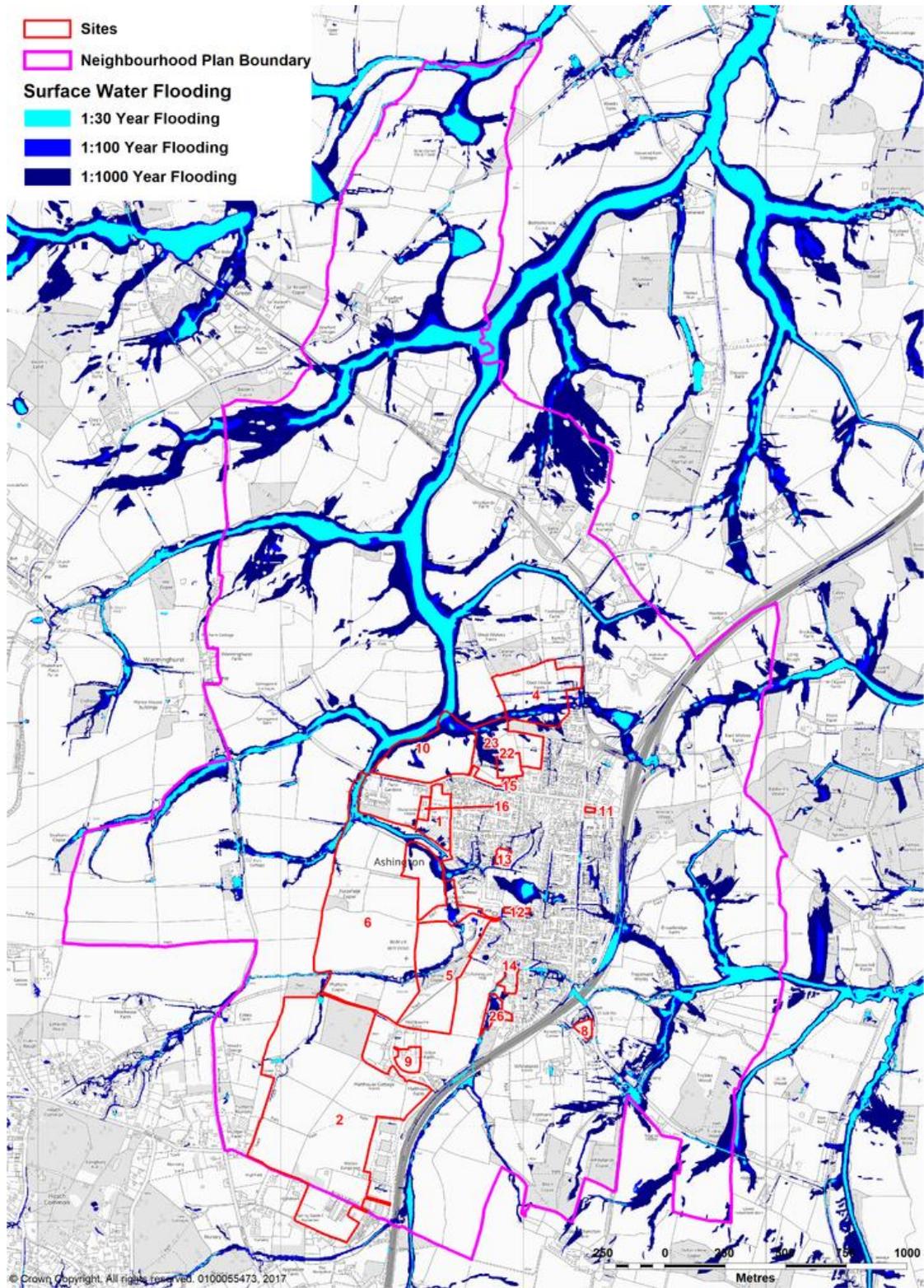


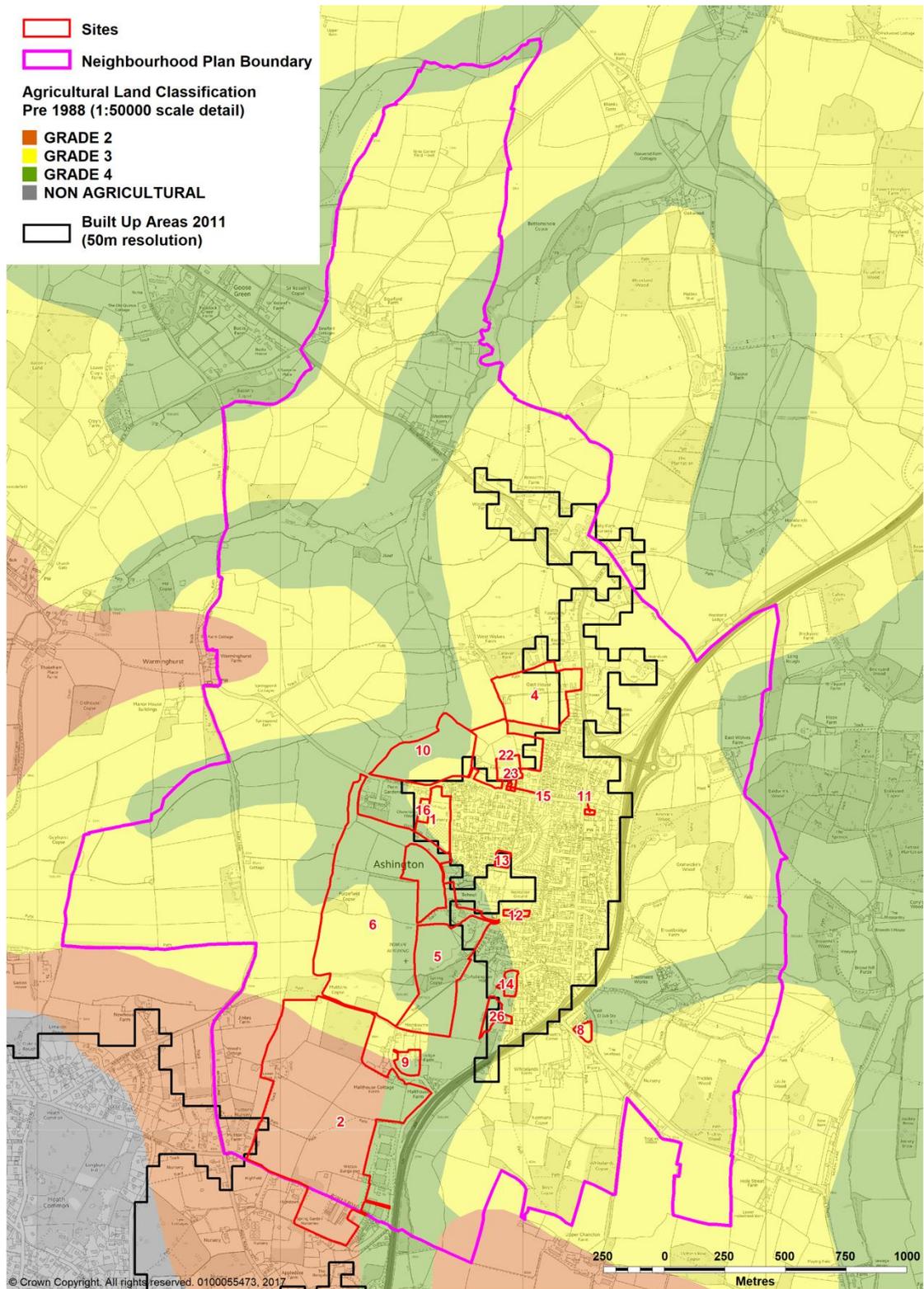
Figure 3.4: Surface Water Flooding areas



Soil and Geology

- 3.15. Information from the National Soils Map (National Soil Resources Institute, 2001, Cranfield University, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>) highlights that the majority of Ashington is formed of loamy and clayey soils. These are slowly permeable, seasonally wet and slightly acid but base-rich with impeded drainage. 20% of England is covered with this type of soil and so is relatively common.
- 3.16. Towards the south west of Ashington, soils are freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. Fertility is lower here and grasslands are more common than woodlands.
- 3.17. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. Published by Natural England, the ALC provides a classification in 5 grades using a number of criteria including climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, structure, texture, chemicals, stoniness). The scales ranges from 1 (high quality) to 5 – poorest.
- 3.18. The NPPF (paragraph 112) states that relevant planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. 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 higher quality. The ALC for Ashington is shown in Figure 3.5 below.
- 3.19. This shows that the majority of agricultural land in the parish is Grade 3 and 4 (good to moderate), with a small area in the south and west Grade 2 (very good). The Grade 3 and is divided into Grades 3a and 4b, with Grade 3a being ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land. However, data is not available to identify the split of Grade 3 land.
- 3.20. It should be noted that land within the built-up area as identified is not considered to represent agricultural land.

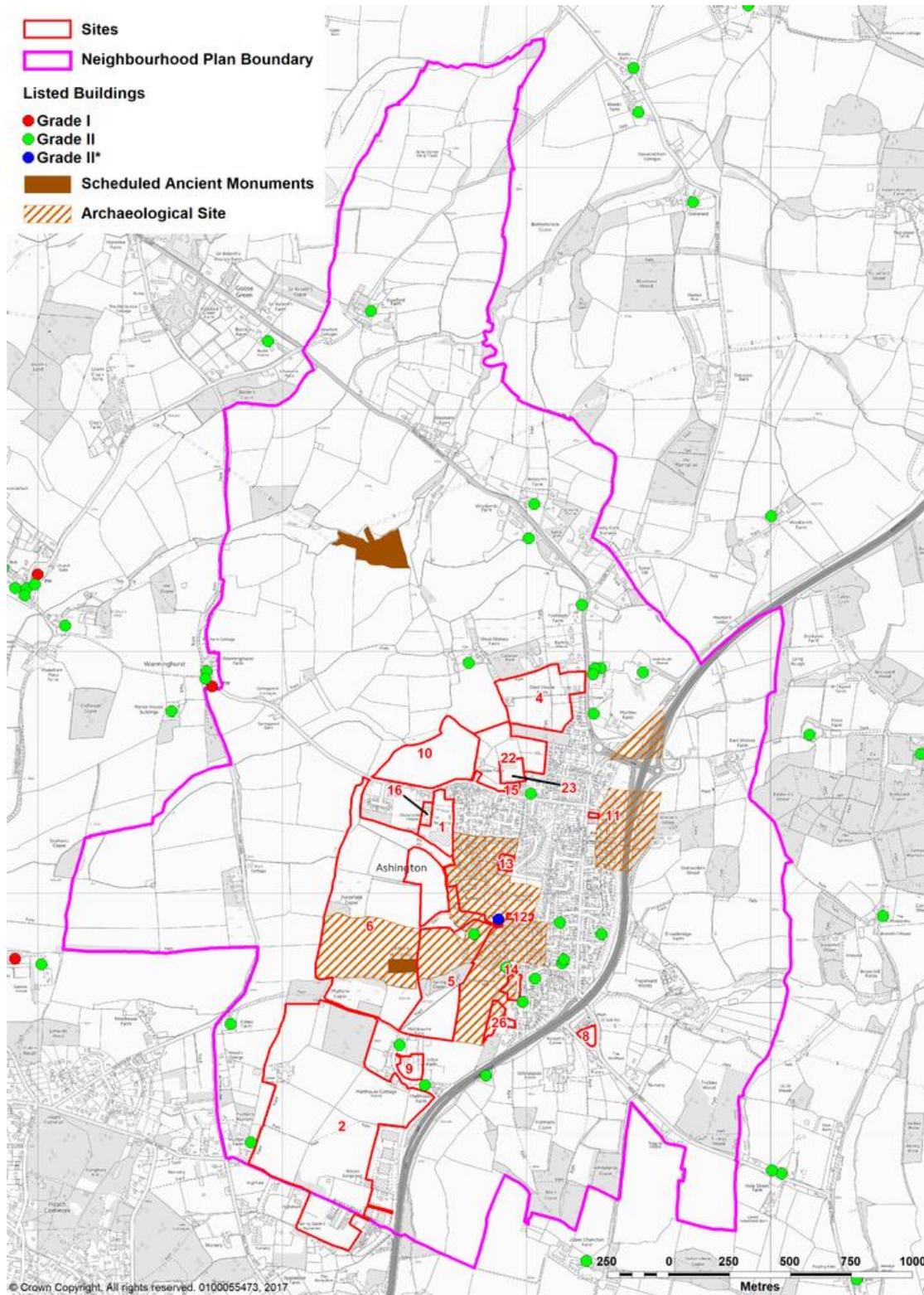
Figure 3.5: Map of Agricultural Land Classification



Heritage

- 3.21. There are a number of heritage features in the Plan area, as shown in Figure 3.6. There are two Scheduled Monuments in the parish. This defines and selects a carefully chosen sample of nationally important archaeological sites.
- 3.22. The first is the Roman building that is 200 yards north west of Spring Copse. Despite some partial disturbance from cultivation in the past, the building survives well as below-ground archaeological remains (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005826>).
- 3.23. The second scheduled monument is a moated site and associated earthworks north west of West Wolves Farm, in the north part of Ashington. This exhibits a range of associated features including the pond bays and ridge and furrow cultivation often found in medieval monuments where domestic aristocratic or religious buildings would have stood.
- 3.24. The Plan area contains 24 Grade II listed buildings. The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul is Grade II* listed and forms a central point of the village. There is one Grade I listed building, located to the far west of the majority of potential development sites and the built up area. This is shown in Figure 3.6.
- 3.25. There are no Historic Environmental Records (HER) in Ashington parish.

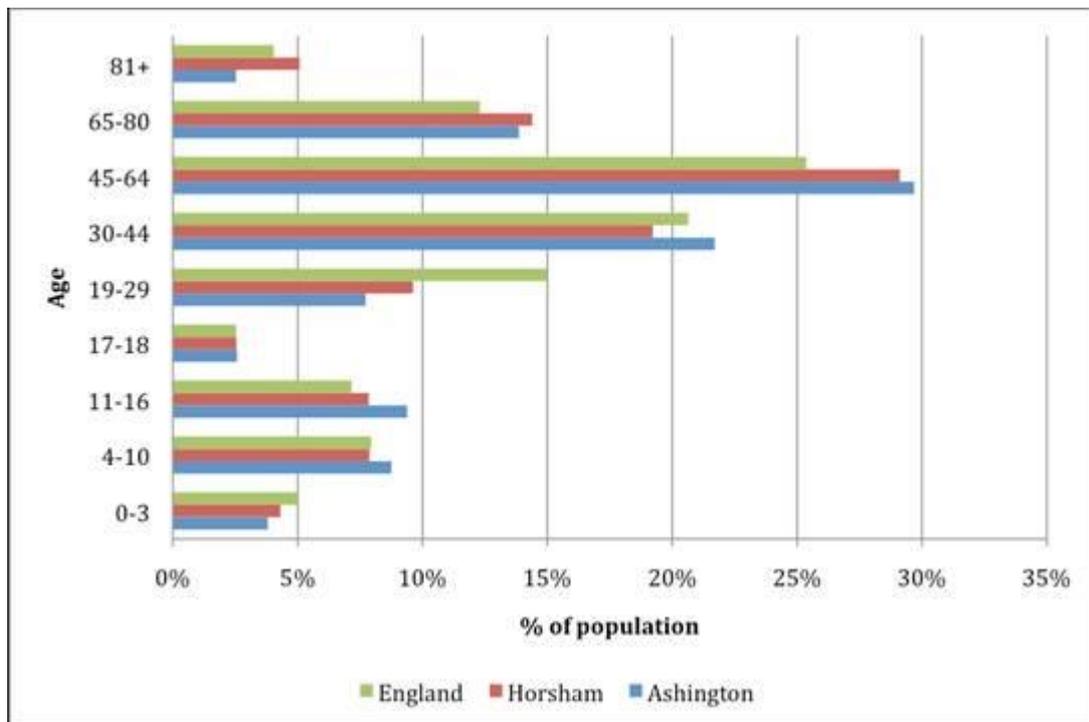
Figure 3.6: Listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments



Social and economic indicators

- 3.26. The 2011 Census recorded that the population of Ashington parish as 2,526 persons, living in 1,010 household spaces. In 2016, the population estimate (source: Office for National Statistics) was 2,654, and so has grown by 128 persons or 5%. This number could reflect the number of new houses built over the period.
- 3.27. The average age of residents was 40.5 years. Figure 3.7 shows the modal group being between 45-64 years, signifying a movement towards an ageing population.

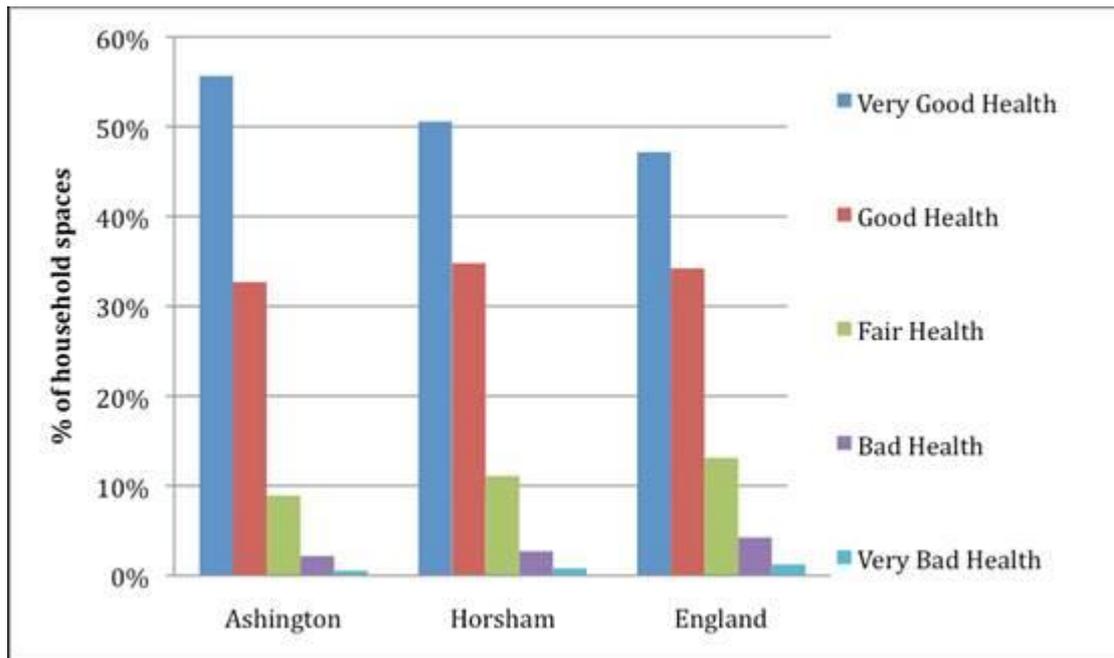
Figure 3.7: Population by age



Source: 2011 Census

- 3.28. Housing in Ashington is dominated by detached housing, representing 53% of the housing stock. This is much higher than in Horsham and England, at 39% and 22% respectively. The proportion of semi-detached housing is nearly equal in Ashington to that of Horsham and England.
- 3.29. A barrier for access to housing is housing prices. The average value of a property in Ashington stood at £472,349 in December 2017. These high prices reflect the value of the majority of detached homes sold. This is a fall of 0.59% over a 12-month period (<https://www.zoopla.co.uk/house-prices/west-sussex/ashington/>).
- 3.30. 56% of Ashington's population are in very good health, compared with 51% and 47% in Horsham district and England respectively. Only 3% of people in Ashington are in bad or very bad health, slightly below that in Horsham (4%) and England (5%). This is illustrated in Figure 3.8.

Figure 3.8: General Health



Source: 2011 Census

Roads and transport

- 3.31. The main road for access into the village is from the A24 carriageway. There are two points of access, one in the north and one in the south. The A24 carries significant volumes of traffic which does create noticeably increased levels of noise on the eastern edges of the village.
- 3.32. The roads in the centre of the village reflect its history and a significant number are very small and therefore inappropriate for carrying anything other than a low level of local traffic. Rectory Lane and London Road are particularly busy roads.
- 3.33. There is no train station in Ashington. There is one bus service, the number 23, which connects Crawley, Horsham, Ashington and Worthing and provides hourly services from Monday to Saturday and a service every two hours on Sundays.

Infrastructure

- 3.34. Ashington has the following community infrastructure assets focused within Ashington village:
- A primary school
 - A pre-school
 - A village community centre
 - A church
 - Various recreational spaces used for formal and informal recreation, including play areas
 - One pub, one restaurant and one take-away

- A range of shops
- A village club

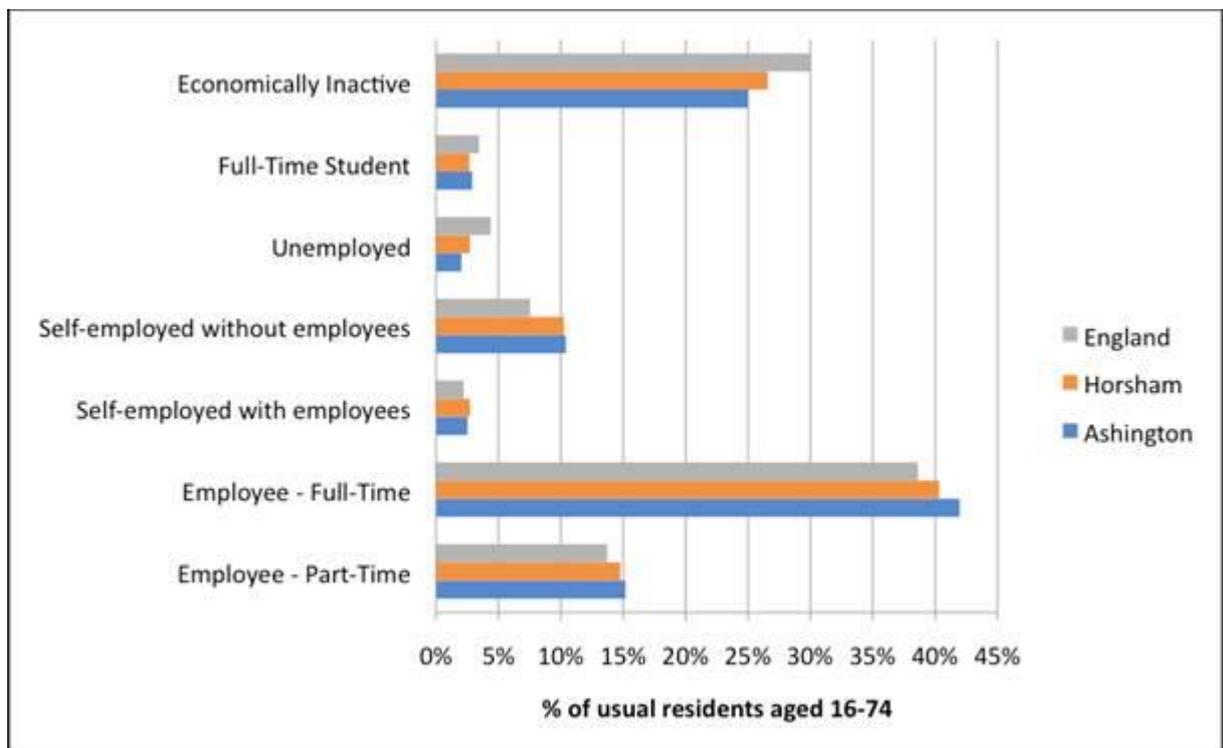
3.35. There is no medical surgery in Ashington parish, so residents are mainly registered with one of the nearest surgeries in either Steyning, Storrington or Pulborough. Dentists and opticians are also only available outside the parish.

Economic characteristics

3.36. The proportion of Ashington's population at working age (16 to 74) in full-time employment is high, at 42%, compared with 39% in Horsham and 29% across England. Of this age group, 75% are economically active.

3.37. Economic inactivity levels are lower than the district and national figures. The unemployed population in Ashington is 2%, compared with 3% in Horsham and 4% across England. Figure 3.9 shows this information from the 2011 Census.

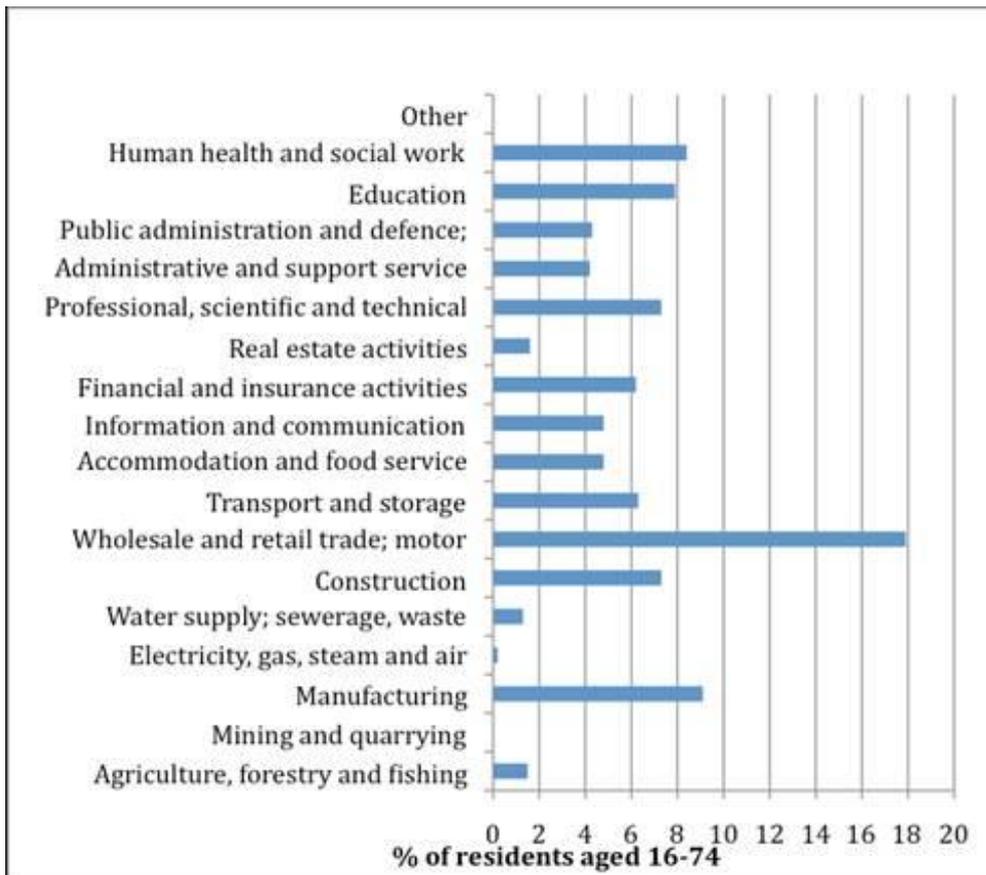
Figure 3.9: Economic activity



Source: 2011 Census

3.38. Ashington has the highest proportion, 18%, of residents in the wholesale and retail trade including motor repair. Manufacturing has the second highest percentage with 9% working in this industry. This is shown in Figure 3.10 below.

Figure 3.10: Type of industry of Ashington working population



Source: 2011 Census

4 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 4.1 The United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 sought to help Governments rethink economic development and find ways to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. Since this time, these same Governments and the United Nations have continued to develop this thinking and policy action, making eco-efficiency a guiding principle for business and governments alike. This has particularly focused on the following:
- Patterns of production - particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste - are being scrutinized in a systematic manner by the UN and Governments alike;
 - Alternative sources of energy are being sought to replace the use of fossil fuels which are linked to global climate change;
 - New reliance on public transportation systems is being emphasized in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smog;
 - There is much greater awareness of and concern over the growing scarcity of water.
- 4.2 The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to stimulate action in these areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet that came out of the 1992 Earth Summit. The SDGs are listed in Appendix C. From these SDGs come the objectives that are needed to collectively ensure development is sustainable.

SWOT analysis

- 4.3 Table 4.1 has been informed by the issues identified in the Neighbourhood Plan engagement events and consultation, and the baseline information collected in Section 3.

Table 4.1: SWOT analysis of issues facing Ashington Neighbourhood Area

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of community feeling, clubs and organisations • Existing commercial centres – shops, food outlets plus business centres • Surrounding countryside and agriculture • Petrol station and associated services • Utilities, fast broadband some mobile coverage • Community Centre and play facilities e.g. skatepark, court, play areas • Primary School • Church • Broad spread of house types and sizes • Access to mainline rail networks and road links • Views into and out of the village • Pre-school provision – two playgroups, one nursery • Access to countryside • Heritage – many Listed and historic buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability of village – what will happen if it grows too big • Shortage of lower cost housing/downsizing opportunities • Shortage of playing fields • Flooding problems - particularly at Mill Lane • Parking issues • Lack of Village focal point/centre • Ageing population • Low number of younger adults • Lack of provision for young people • Speeding traffic • Noise from A24 • Lack of local employment opportunities • Street car parking • Size of sewers • Limited retail opportunities • Patchy mobile reception • No medical facilities • Some old community buildings • Reliant on private cars – limited transport options (public and sustainable) • No homes for elderly – care, sheltered
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve recreational pursuits – multi-sports court, green gym • Improve community buildings – youth club, sports pavilion, scout hall • Improve public transport and roadways • Improve parking/cycle and bridleways • Develop new businesses – retail and employment • Develop brownfield sites • Retain green corridors • Tourism • Mobile coverage • Protect locally historic buildings • Prepare for increased future need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable to large scale developments • Infrastructure not keeping pace with housing • Infill of green spaces and loss of agricultural land • Loss of village atmosphere • Lack of parking • Loss of trees, hedgerow • Increase in noise and pollution • Further cuts to public transport • Loss of community facilities to private sector • Loss of business/retail sites to residential use • Unadopted roads – poor future maintenance

Key issues

- 4.4 There are a number of sustainability issues and challenges facing the parish. While Ashington parish offers a high quality environment to residents and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to manage and seek to resolve a series of issues over its lifetime if the parish is to continue to be successful while respecting its outstanding landscape setting.

- 4.5 In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan (and as a consequence a lack of vision and strategy for Ashington), there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the parish, as well as contributing to a reduction in the potential benefit to the community.

Table 4.2: Challenges and impacts of not having a neighbourhood plan

Challenges facing Ashington Parish	Effect of not having a neighbourhood plan
Problems with transport such as lack of sustainable options, safety/safe crossings and limited parking infrastructure	Increased reliance on private car, leading to isolation of those unable to afford a car. Increased emissions and traffic on the roads, leading to a congested and unsafe environment.
Poor quality of existing community infrastructure such as Youth Club, sports provision, Scout Hall and play areas (and no healthcare provision)	Residents will visit neighbouring centres for these facilities and will have more incentives to move to other areas to meet their needs. This will further increase dependence on cars to get to these areas.
No provision to allow local businesses and the economy in the centre	Could see decline of employment base locally, which could lead to derelict and under-used business sites (already seen at Chanctonbury Nurseries and Ashington Mill). Few employment opportunities for residents meaning they have to travel further afield to access jobs.
Lack of a village centre. Retail units are scattered with poor parking	Issues of parking and lack of accessibility to village centre discourage people to go there.
Loss of countryside, green space, natural features and recreation space to new development	Could result in unnecessary loss of agricultural land due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications. Could also result in detrimental impacts on the landscape and loss of important recreational space.
Flooding issues particularly at Mill Lane	Development could be brought forward which creates significant problems for users when areas adjacent to Mill Lane are flooded.
The preservation of important heritage assets	Could result in unnecessary impacts on important heritage assets due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications
Lack of affordable home provision for young people and elderly	No suitable sites for housing for local people would be delivered. The village would not adequately support the ageing population and their needs.
Risks of high level of development due to large amounts of land being available	Lack of control of development. Housing numbers should match identified needs to be delivered in Ashington in identified suitable locations.

5 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

- 5.1 Planning Practice Guidance states that, in order to demonstrate that a draft neighbourhood plan contributes to sustainable development, “...sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan...guides development to sustainable solutions”¹.
- 5.2 In order to ensure that the Plan contributes to sustainable development it is necessary to review the consistency of its objectives against recognised sustainability objectives at the following scales:
- i. World
 - ii. National
 - iii. Local

World sustainability objectives

- 5.3 As explained in Section 4, the objectives of the Plan have been informed by the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and specifically its 17 SDGs (listed in Appendix C). Every policy in the Plan contributes to at least one of the SDGs, with most policies contributing to multiple SDGs. None of the policies in the Plan are considered to have a negative impact on the achievement of the SDGs.

National sustainability objectives

- 5.4 At a national level, the NPPF establishes the sustainability objectives which development plans must have regard to. Table D1 in Appendix D assesses how the series of relevant issues that have been raised through the development of the Plan relate to the objectives of the NPPF. This then provides a clear ‘roadmap’ as to the types of objectives that the policies in the Plan need to be guiding development towards.
- 5.5 Table D1 demonstrates that, of the 13 objectives in the NPPF, the Plan is addressing issues of relevance to achieving 12 of these objectives. With regard to the other objective, ‘Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals’ is not a matter within the scope of a neighbourhood plan.

Local sustainability objectives

- 5.6 In order to demonstrate that the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, it is necessary to identify sustainability objectives to enable an assessment to be made of the Plan. Whilst there are objectives established at the strategic level through the HDPF, for a neighbourhood plan that must confine the matters it deals with to local issues, these are most appropriately established at the local level. The sustainability criteria are shown in Table D2 in Appendix D.

¹ Paragraph: 072 Reference ID: 41-072-20140306

- 5.7 The Assessment Framework is the methodology which will enable the environmental, social and economic sustainability impacts and equalities, health and crime and disorder effects and of the policies in Plan to be analysed, compared and critically assessed.
- 5.8 For a small area such as the Ashington Neighbourhood Area, gathering of data to establish a comprehensive quantitative baseline position is challenging. Where data is available this has been used and has been presented in Section 3. However, in most cases the baseline position has been assessed qualitatively.
- 5.9 Many of the specific impacts of the policies are theoretically capable of measurement i.e. they are quantitative indicators. However, such indicators can only be measured when the policy is in place and has been applied over a period of time. For the purpose of this assessment of sustainability, these indicators have been applied qualitatively as follows:
- i. severity of impact;
 - ii. number of people affected;
 - iii. extent of area affected;
 - iv. short, medium and long-term timescales e.g. of effect or exposure, and consequences;
 - v. likelihood of impact happening;
 - vi. technical feasibility, commercial viability and deliverability of policy.
- 5.10 This is shown for each policy in the Table 5.1. The qualitative scoring system used to assess the likely effects is shown below:

++	The policy is likely to contribute significantly towards the sustainability objective
+	The policy is likely to contribute positively towards the sustainability objective, although not significantly
0	The policy is considered to have no significant positive or negative effect
-	The policy is likely to detract from the achievement of the sustainability objective, although not significantly
--	The policy is likely to detract significantly from the achievement of the sustainability objective
?	The policy has an uncertain relationship to the sustainability objective. Alternatively, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.

- 5.11 The Plan should be read as a whole as no policy applies in isolation (for example, there are other policies in the Plan that protect open space and these will apply alongside policies encouraging development). The approach to the assessment recognises this issue and key policies that seek to enhance positive effects or mitigate the negative effects are noted in the commentary.

Table 5.1: Summary of assessment of the contribution the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan makes to sustainable development

Sustainability objective									Commentary, including assessment against 'Do Nothing' scenario
Policy	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	
ASH1: Overall spatial strategy for Ashington	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy gives clear direction as to where development should be focused, promoting the use of sites throughout the Area and setting guidelines on what constitutes appropriate development in the area. There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects of this policy. These include ASH8, 10, 11 and 12. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects are likely to be felt across the entire plan area, most particularly on the sites allocated for development. These impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. Under the 'do nothing scenario', appropriate locations for development will not be identified, causing sprawl into the countryside. This will affect the character of the village. Development could impact on the green areas surrounding the village and harm biodiversity.
ASH2: Increasing walking in Ashington	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	++	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy gives clear guidelines on how to promote walking through encouraging safe walkways with the aim of reducing traffic flow. There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects of this policy. These include ASH5 and 8. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects will be felt by residents, workers, and visitors. These impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. Under the 'do nothing scenario', less sustainable methods of transport will be used (private car) for short journeys which increases the level of pollution in the area and affects the health of residents as well as the safety of pedestrians.

Sustainability objective									Commentary, including assessment against 'Do Nothing' scenario
Policy	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	
ASH3: Parking Provision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy gives guidance on how to provide an adequate amount of car parking and cycle parking facilities in new developments. There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. These include ASH2, 10, 11 and 12. The effects are likely to be localised to the specific locations where the new developments come forward. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan. These impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, new developments will not meet the parking needs of the residents. Parking will be concentrated on the street, providing an unsafe environment for crossing the road.
ASH4: Local Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy seeks to ensure that opportunities are taken to conserve and enhance Ashington's built heritage. There are no other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects are likely to be localised to the specific locations where the heritage assets are located. These impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the important and unique heritage of the Area is further diminished as the built environment falls into a greater level of disrepair or individual buildings are lost. The policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.
ASH5: Landscaping and Countryside Access	++	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy maintains and enhances the natural environment through giving guidelines on what constitutes appropriate development in the countryside. There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. These include ASH1, 10, 11 and 12.

Sustainability objective									Commentary, including assessment against 'Do Nothing' scenario
Policy	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects are likely to be relatively localised, enjoyed mainly by local residents and through the areas where this policy is likely to have greatest effect. Overall the effects are not considered to be significant. Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, development could result in the loss of key features of the countryside. This policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.
ASH6: Noise Impacts	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy helps to mitigate against noise pollution which is caused by the A24. There are no other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects or mitigate the negative effects of this policy. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects are likely to be localised to development adjacent to the A24. Given the scale of development expected, these impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. Under the 'do nothing scenario', development may have to be located away from the A24 road on greenfield land of higher environmental quality. This could have a detrimental impact on the landscape and result in sprawl of the village. This policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.
ASH7: Addressing Local Flooding	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This policy mitigates against flood issues in a specific location where significant issues have been identified. There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects of this policy. These include ASH12. The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. The effects are likely to be relatively localised, particularly in the Mill Lane Area. Overall the effects are not considered to be significant.

Sustainability objective									Commentary, including assessment against 'Do Nothing' scenario
Policy	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the likelihood of flooding increases in this area which could impact on the amenity of residents and their property.
ASH8: Ashington Community Cluster	0	0	0	+	0	++	++	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy designates an area for community facilities which aims to serve the needs of the community through providing adequate facilities. • There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects of this policy. These include ASH1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12. • The effects are likely to occur throughout the lifetime of the Plan as individual development projects come forward. • The effects are likely to be relatively wide spread, enjoyed by all the local residents of Ashington that choose to those use the facilities • Overall the effects are not considered to be significant. • Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the pressure on existing community facilities in Ashington will increase and new provision is likely to be spread more widely, reducing the potential to encourage increased walking to access them.
ASH9: Small-Scale and 'move-on' employment development	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy encourages proposals which provide small-scale office/workspace and locates them in particular areas of Ashington. • There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects of this policy. These include ASH1, 2, 8 and 11 • The effects are likely to be localised to the specific locations where the employment sites are. However, the wider benefits to the economy will be experienced by a number of local residents, particularly if new businesses offer services of benefit to local residents. • The effects are likely to occur as individual development projects come forward. • These impacts individually and cumulatively are not likely to be significant. • Under the 'do nothing' scenario, there is the possibility that the economy of Ashington could suffer as there would be limited employment uses in the Area.
ASH10: Chanctonbury Nursery	-	0	++	0	0	+	+	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy allocates a development site within the settlement boundary of Ashington. The policy itself ensures development cannot come forward unless a number of matters are addressed, for instance, affordable housing and community infrastructure provision on site.

Sustainability objective									Commentary, including assessment against 'Do Nothing' scenario
Policy	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. These include ASH1, 2, 5 and 6. • The effects are likely to occur when development comes forward and is completed • Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the housing requirements may not be met or there is a possibility that speculative development could come forward on the edge of Ashington which could affect the Area's natural beauty and landscape setting. This policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.
ASH11: Land West of Ashington School	-	-	++	+	0	+	+	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy allocates a development site within the settlement boundary of Ashington. The policy itself ensures development cannot come forward unless a number of matters are addressed, for instance, affordable housing and provision of community and employment uses on site. • There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. These include ASH1, 2, 5, 6 and 9. • The effects are likely to occur when development comes forward and is completed • Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the housing requirements may not be met or there is a possibility that speculative development could come forward on the edge of Ashington which could affect the Area's natural beauty and landscape setting. This policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.
ASH12: Land at Church Farm House	+	-	++	0	+	+	0	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy allocates a development site within the settlement boundary of Ashington. The policy itself ensures development cannot come forward unless a number of matters are addressed, for instance, affordable housing on site and flood mitigation provision. • There are a number of other policies that seek to enhance the positive effects and mitigate the negative effects of this policy. These include: ASH1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. • The effects are likely to occur when development comes forward and is completed. • Under the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the housing requirements may not be met or there is a possibility that speculative development could come forward on the edge of Ashington which could affect the Area's natural beauty and landscape setting. This policy will have a positive effect but this will not be significant.

Summary of impacts of individual policies

- 5.12 Table 5.1 demonstrates that the policies in the Plan will have a range of impacts across each of the 18 sustainability objectives that underpin the Plan and which align with world, national and local sustainability objectives. None of these impacts, whether positive or negative, are assessed as likely to be significant. This is because of the size of the Area and the limited likely scale of new development.
- 5.13 As shown in Table 5.1, the effects of the policies in the Plan against the established sustainability criteria are predominantly positive. The negative effects are not significant and are largely capable of mitigation through specific actions relating either to political leadership, technology or lifestyle changes. In addition, other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and Horsham District Planning Framework (2015) will also serve to mitigate these negative effects.
- 5.14 When compared with the 'Do Nothing' scenario of not having a Plan, all the policies apart from one are likely to have a positive effect, although none are considered to be significant. Even where Plan policies have been assessed to have a neutral impact against an individual sustainability criterion, this can have a positive effect when compared with the 'Do Nothing' scenario because the policy could be preventing the baseline situation from worsening.

Scale of growth

- 5.15 The Ashington Neighbourhood Plan Group worked closely with officers from Horsham District Council to ascertain the contribution which Ashington was expected to make to delivering the housing requirements of the Horsham District Planning Framework. To inform what represents an appropriate contribution towards this district-wide requirement of at least 1,500 dwellings by 2031 (to be delivered through neighbourhood planning), Ashington Parish Council commissioned a local Housing Needs Survey which recommended that between 123 and 200 new dwellings should be planned for over the period 2017 to 2031. In order to fully address these needs and to ensure that the community infrastructure priorities can be delivered in full, the Plan allocates approximately 225 dwellings on three sites (Policies ASH10, 11 and 12).
- 5.16 The Sustainability Appraisal has tested the impact of planning for higher housing numbers (in excess of meeting Ashington's needs in full whilst making a significant contribution towards addressing the district-wide requirement of 1,500 dwellings to be allocated through neighbourhood plans) and lower housing numbers (thereby failing to meet Ashington's needs in full and making a lower contribution towards addressing the district-wide requirement). This is shown in Table 5.2.
- 5.17 Table 5.2 shows that planning for the level of growth in the Neighbourhood Plan has positive effects, some of which are significant. It does have some negative effects but these are not considered to be significant. By contrast, planning for a lower level of growth has the same limited detrimental effects but no positive effects. Planning for a higher level of growth would have the same significant positive effects as the Neighbourhood Plan level of growth, but there would also be some significant negative impacts as well.
- 5.18 It is therefore considered that planning for the level of growth in the Neighbourhood Plan represents the most sustainable approach when considered against reasonable alternatives.

Table 5.2: Assessment of impact of planning for different levels of housing

Sustainability objective	1/Env - preserve and enhance natural beauty	2/Env - protect the landscape setting	3/Soc - ensure that housing addresses the need	4/Econ - maximise potential and existing employment	5/Env - protect the identity through conserving heritage	6/Soc - ensure the community has a healthy lifestyle	7/Soc - provide range of community facilities	8/Soc - improve safety and sustainability of movement	Commentary
Scenario									
Meet housing need in full through site allocations	-	-	++	0	0	0	+	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scenario enables the housing needs of Ashington to be addressed in full and also for Ashington to contribute to at least 15% of the district-wide HDPF housing requirement. This is considered to represent a significant positive effect. The scenario has a negative effect on the preservation of natural beauty and landscape but this is not likely to be significant. The scenario has a positive effect in terms of the community infrastructure it can secure but this is not likely to be significant.
Allocate sites that do not meet full housing needs	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scenario would mean that the housing needs of Ashington would not be addressed in full and Ashington would make a limited contribution to the district-wide HDPF housing requirement. This is considered to represent a negative effect but this is not considered to be significant because of the number of other locations which could address at least district-wide housing requirements. The negative effects would be more localised in Ashington. The scenario has a negative effect because it will mean less community infrastructure can be secured. This effect is not considered to be significant.
Allocate sites well in excess of full housing requirement	--	--	++	0	0	0	+	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scenario enables the housing needs of Ashington to be addressed in full and also for Ashington to contribute a substantial proportion to the district-wide HDPF housing requirement. This is considered to represent a significant positive effect. The scenario could have a negative effect on the preservation of natural beauty and landscape due to the likelihood that this would require significant amounts of greenfield land on the edge of Ashington village, which could result in significant sprawl of the village. Depending on the scale of growth, this could have a significant negative effect. The scenario has a positive effect in terms of the community infrastructure it can secure. However, it is unlikely that any such growth will be of a scale that provides significant additional community infrastructure therefore the positive impact is not likely to be significant. The scenario has a negative effect on the safety and sustainability of movement. The potential sprawl of the village would increase the number of people that are further away from the Community Cluster, increasingly the likelihood that short journeys will be taken by car, which decreases pedestrian safety and detrimental effects on the environment. This negative effect is not considered to be significant.

Locations for development

- 5.19 The process of site selection involved a comprehensive approach of site identification and assessment. Possible sites for development were gleaned from two sources:
- The HDC Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) process
 - A separate Call for Sites process undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan
- 5.20 In total 28 sites were submitted and assessed.
- 5.21 Sites were then reviewed to establish whether there were any sites that were clearly unavailable and/or unsuitable and/or undeliverable. Sites were excluded if they were smaller than 0.1 hectares, not adjacent to the settlement boundary or if they were put forward for a specific type of development which did not meet the objectives of the Plan or the HDPP. Sites were also excluded if they subsequently gained planning permission. In total, 13 sites were excluded for one or more of these reasons.
- 5.22 The remaining 15 sites were then subject to the sustainability assessment. Two of these sites were amalgamated which reduced the number of individual site assessments to 14.
- 5.23 For each sustainability objective, the assessment considered the merits of each site against set criteria. A traffic light system (red-amber-green) was used to provide an overall judgement of the site against that criterion. In the summary, an overall judgement was made on the following scale:
- The site is appropriate for development
 - The site has minor constraints (that can be overcome)
 - The site has significant constraints
 - The site is unsuitable for development
- 5.24 Where necessary, a commentary was provided for each judgement.
- 5.25 The site assessment proforma is shown in Appendix E and the assessments are in Appendix F.
- 5.26 The results of the site assessment process were that, of the 14 sites, a total of 3 sites were considered appropriate for development:
- Site 1: Chanctonbury Nurseries
 - Site 5: Land at Church Farm/Spring Copse (subsequently referred to in the Neighbourhood Plan as 'Land west of Ashington School')
 - Site 6: Church Farm House
- 5.27 Figure 5.2 shows the full location and scale of all the sites put forward and considered through the assessment. Given the significant number of sites and their location, both within the built up area of Ashington and adjacent to most boundaries around the village, the approach adopted to site allocation and the sites selected for allocation are considered to represent a reasonable alternative to the allocation of other sites.

6 OVERALL CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The assessment in Section 5 demonstrates that the policies in the Plan make a positive contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development. They are expected to have a number of positive effects but none of these are expected to be significant.
- 6.2 There are a small number of potential negative effects in individual criterion in a limited number of policies. However, none of these negative effects are significant and all are considered capable of being mitigated in full.
- 6.3 This gives confidence that the policies in the Plan will contribute to sustainable development.

Appendix A

Objectives of the Ashington Neighbourhood Plan compared with the spatial objectives of the Horsham District Planning Framework Spatial Objectives

Neighbourhood Plan Core Objectives	Horsham District Planning Framework Spatial Objectives
Theme 1: Transport and Movement	
<p>Reduce reliance on private car by enhancing sustainable transport options, particularly walking and community buses.</p> <p>To improve parking for cars in order to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>	<p>Ensure that new development minimises carbon emissions, adapts to the likely changes in the future climate and promotes the supply of renewable, low carbon and decentralised energy.</p>
Theme 2: Environment	
<p>Conserve and enhance heritage assets.</p> <p>Protect the green and rural nature of the parish and its links to the countryside.</p> <p>Ensure that all new development is designed to protect and enhance the landscape, reduce or minimise flood risk, promote biodiversity and positively enhance the parish wherever opportunities exist.</p>	<p>To locate new development in sustainable locations that respect environmental capacity and which have appropriate infrastructure, services and facilities in place, or where these can realistically be provided; and to encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield sites in sustainable locations.</p> <p>To safeguard and enhance the character and built heritage of the district's settlements and ensure that the distinct and separate character of settlements, are retained and, where possible, enhanced and amenity is protected.</p> <p>Identify and preserve the unique landscape character and the contribution that this makes to the setting of rural villages and towns and ensure that new development minimises the impact on the countryside.</p> <p>To safeguard and enhance the environmental quality of the district, ensuring that development maximises opportunities for biodiversity and minimises the impact on environmental quality including air, soil, water quality and the risk of flooding.</p>
Theme 3: Community and Economy	
<p>Improve the range of community facilities and focus them in a new 'heart of the community' in Ashington village.</p>	<p>To meet employment needs, create opportunities to foster economic growth and regeneration, and maintain high employment levels in the district which help reduce commuting distances.</p>

<p>Create new commercial space and premises that provides for the needs of new and existing businesses.</p>	<p>To protect and promote the economic viability and vitality of Horsham town, the smaller market towns and the rural centres and promote development which is appropriate within the existing hierarchy and diversity of settlements in the district.</p> <p>To promote a living and working rural economy where employment opportunities exist which reduce the need for residents to travel, including reducing commuting distances, and facilitate and promote innovation in business including such as high speed broadband.</p> <p>To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, secure the provision of additional accessible community services, facilities, open space and infrastructure throughout the district in accordance with local and district needs.</p>
<p>Theme 4: Housing Needs</p>	
<p>Contribute to the HDPF requirement for new homes by providing housing that meets the current and future needs of the parish, maximising opportunities for development of sustainable sites.</p>	<p>Provide a range of housing developments across the district that: delivers the target number of new homes; respects the scale of existing places; and so far as is possible caters for the needs of all residents, including the delivery of a range of housing sizes and types including affordable housing.</p>

Appendix B Summary of relevant plans and programmes

International context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
EU Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds Directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC)		
To conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance by the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. This was designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats.	Identifies endangered habitats and species requiring protection and need for re-establishment of denuded biotopes. Protected areas should be created, maintained and managed.	Plans should take account relevant SPA and SAC sites. If negative impacts are anticipated appropriate assessments should be undertaken. Above protecting the integrity and interest of European sites, the NP should consider objectives to protect and if possible, enhance biodiversity.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)		
To expand the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve 'good status' for all waters by 2015. • Water management should be based on river basins and a 'combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards. • Water management should include the closer involvement of community. 	Prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, provide protection and improve ecological condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015 (or later subject to specific criteria). • meet the requirements of WFD protected areas • promote sustainable use of water • conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water • progressively reduce or phase out pollutants that pose significant threats to the aquatic environment / groundwater • help mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts. 	The Plan should consider any significant hydrological / hydrogeological factors and ensure integration with existing catchment management plans. Plan should consider including objectives to protect and enhance water resources, quality and ecological function.
EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (2008/50/EC)		
Establishes limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)/oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀). Maintain ambient air quality in areas where it is good and improve it in others.	Sets limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead.	The Plan should consider (where relevant) the levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air. Plan should consider maintaining ambient air quality and including objectives with the aim of reducing air pollution and, where possible, enhancing air quality in respect of key pollutants.
EU Waste Directive (2008/98/EC)		
Sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, recovery. It	Requires that waste be managed without endangering human health and harming the environment, and in particular	The Plan should consider how future development and land use in the Area reduces waste and

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
explains when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a secondary raw material (so called end-of-waste criteria), and how to distinguish between waste and by-products.	without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals, without causing a nuisance through noise or odours, and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.	manages it and its impacts sustainably.
EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution		
Establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them. It recommends that current legislation be modernised, be better focused on the most serious pollutants and that more is done to integrate environmental concerns into other policies and programmes.	Aims to cut the annual number of premature deaths from air pollution-related diseases by 40% by 2020 (using 2000 as the base year).	The Plan should consider how its policies contribute to reducing air pollution.
Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, European Commission 2010		
The European strategy for achieving growth up to 2020 focuses on: - smart growth, through the development of knowledge and innovation; - sustainable growth, based on a greener, more resource efficient economy; and - inclusive growth, aimed at strengthening employment, and social and territorial cohesion.	75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D. The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right). The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	The Plan needs to ensure that it has regard to the overarching objectives relating to economic growth.

National context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018)		
Achieving sustainable development means: an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; 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;	Supports local and national targets with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.	Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). SA Objectives should reflect the core planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF. The Plan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible • contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall

Key objectives	Key targets/ indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
<p>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 well-being; and</p> <p>an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.</p>		<p>decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</p>
The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011		
<p>To encourage/ensure waste arises/is dealt with further up the waste hierarchy. Divert waste disposal away from landfill.</p>	<p>Target of 50% of household waste to be recycled.</p>	<p>Plan must have regard to the amended waste hierarchy. Policies and objectives should where possible encourage waste to be re-used, recycled or have value / energy recovery. If possible the Plan should discourage landfilling of waste.</p>
UK Climate Change Act 2008		
<p>The Act introduced a statutory target for reducing carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Target of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 34% by 2020.</p>	<p>Planning can make a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by influencing the location, scale and character of development. The plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions and greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>
The Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice) 2011		
<p>Mainstreaming the value of nature across society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature; • creating 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; • strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and • showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. 	<p>The process identifies the need to develop a set of key indicators to track progress</p>	<p>The Plan should consider how it can best contribute towards highlighting the value of nature and ensuring that it is protected and enhanced.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/ indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services		
<p>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. These outcomes will be delivered through action in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea • putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy • reducing environmental pressures • improving knowledge 	<p>A series of priority actions have been identified to deliver the four identified actions.</p>	<p>The Plan should consider how it can best contribute towards protecting and enhancing ecological networks</p>
Flood and Water Management Act 2010		
<p>Improve the management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses. To protect water supplies.</p>	<p>Local Authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood maps and plans. EA to prepare Local flood risk management strategies.</p>	<p>The Plan should take account of flooding and water management issues and strategies and consider the inclusion of policies / objectives to reduce flood risks and other impacts on the water environment.</p>
Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011		
<p>Government-wide plan for action on climate change at domestic and international levels.</p>	<p>Includes a range of sector-based plans and targets for low carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building • transport • industry • electricity • agriculture, land use, forestry and waste 	<p>The Plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions.</p>
Mainstreaming sustainable development 2011		
<p>This refreshed vision builds upon the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 SD strategy, recognising the needs of the economy, society and the natural environment, alongside the use of good governance and sound science.</p>	<p>Promises a new set of indicators from DEFRA that link initiatives and include wellbeing.</p>	<p>Plan should take account of climate change and promote sustainability through sustainable, low carbon and green economic growth.</p>
Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate, Defra 2010		
<p>Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.</p>	<p>Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.</p>	<p>Seeks to reduce air pollution by focusing on the synergies between air quality and climate change.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/ indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
The South East Biodiversity Strategy (South East England Biodiversity Forum) 2009		
Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity.	Provides a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets through biodiversity opportunity areas and habitat and species targets.	The NP should consider objectives to protect and where possible, enhance biodiversity.
South East River Basin Management Plan		
Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the South East River Basin District and the actions that will address them.	By 2015, 18% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element. By 2015, 23% of surface waters will be at good or better ecological status/ potential and 33% of groundwater bodies will be at good status. In combination 23% of all water bodies will be at good status by 2015. At least 47% of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological status by 2015.	The NP needs to consider the impact of proposed development on water quality.

County/ Local Context:

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026		
To improve quality of life for the people of West Sussex via four key strategies to maintain, manage and invest in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting economic growth • tackling climate change 	Indicators include: congestion, mode of travel to work and school, cycling trips, accessibility, road traffic accidents, road and footway maintenance, street lighting,	The Plan should consider policies / objectives which contribute to transport sustainability. This should go beyond reducing carbon emissions to include economic

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing access to services, employment & housing improving safety, security & health 	highway structures, road flooding, air quality and transport emissions.	growth, safety, pollution, traffic reduction and access to services.
West Sussex Waste Local Plan 2014		
To facilitate a continuing decline in the reliance on disposal to land and the aspiration is that there will be 'zero waste to landfill' by 2031.	To only make provision for a declining amount of landfill over the plan period with 'zero waste to landfill' by 2031.	The Plan should consider how, within the context of a growing population in Horsted Keynes, waste generation can be minimised and it can be ensured that Horsted Keynes contributes towards the target of zero waste to landfill.
West Sussex County Council - Building A Sustainable Future: A strategy for delivering the corporate priority 2012		
This Strategy focuses on four key priority areas that address the main challenges facing West Sussex County Council. The four priorities for action are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce carbon emissions adapt to a changing climate use resources efficiently and effectively make sustainability business as usual. 	The Strategy contains information about why these areas are a challenge to the County and sets out actions and 'clear and challenging targets against each priority'.	Plan should consider including objectives / policies to support reductions in carbon emissions, and consider adaptation to a changing climate and the efficient use of resources.
Sustainable Community Strategy for West Sussex 2008 - 2020		
Cross cutting strategy aiming to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relieve the pressures on the road network explore opportunities for renewable energy integrate water resource requirements in new development reduce carbon footprint improve waste management to reduce waste generation and increase recycling. make best use of innovation and new technology to reduce harmful emissions improve access for all to the natural and historic environment and a range of sporting, leisure, cultural and arts activities. 	No specific targets.	The Plan should consider including policies / objectives that help meet the key objectives.
Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan		
Maintain and, where practicable, enhance the wildlife and habitats that provide the natural character and diversity of Sussex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority habitats and species in Sussex Set realistic and ambitious targets and timescales for priority habitats and species and to monitor progress towards them 	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre inventory statistics for species and habitats e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare Species Inventory Biodiversity Action Plan Species Inventory Pond Inventory. 	Plan should include consider including policies / objectives to: enhance (where possible) the wildlife and habitats that give rise to West Sussex's natural character and diversity.

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise public awareness and encourage involvement in biodiversity action. 		
West Sussex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2010		
<p>The main objective of the SFRA is to provide flood information so that an evidence and risk based sequential approach can be made when making planning decisions in line with the NPPF. It also aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cover a wide spatial area and look at flood risk today and in the future support sustainability appraisals of the local development frameworks identify further investigations that may be required to assess specific development proposals. 	<p>The assessment investigates flood risk issues for specific sites and makes recommendations.</p>	<p>The Plan should take into account the SFRA's sequential testing guidance and should consider inclusion of objectives related to flood risk.</p>
The South East Biodiversity Strategy (South East England Biodiversity Forum) 2009		
<p>Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife. Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners. Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change. Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity.</p>
South East River Basin Management Plan		
<p>Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the South East River Basin District and the actions that will address them.</p>	<p>Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the South East River Basin District and the actions that will address them.</p>	<p>Prepared under the Water Framework Directive, the plan is about the pressures facing the water environment in the South East River Basin District and the actions that will address them.</p>
A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape - West Sussex County Council 2005		
<p>1: ensure high quality new development which contributes to and reinforces landscape character 2: conserve and enhance historic landscape character 3: ensure the maintenance and renewal of the agricultural landscape 4: conserve and enhance semi-natural habitats including securing the future of woodlands, hedgerows and trees as distinctive landscape features 5: promote and celebrate the value and variety of the West Sussex landscape.</p>		<p>Plan should be consistent with supporting the objectives in the strategy.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation – West Sussex County Council and others, 2010		
To identify areas or units of land based on their key historic landscape attributes.		The Plan should ensure that areas of historic landscape character are preserved and enhanced.
Using Less, Living Better - West Sussex Environment and Climate Change Board, 2012		
Helping to reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2025.	None	The Plan should seek to reflect, where possible, the actions proposed and the outcomes that are envisaged.
Horsham District Planning Framework 2015 - adopted		
<p>Multiple objectives under the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic prosperity • High quality of life • Opportunities for all • Valued natural and historic environment • A green sustainable place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Housing • Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation • Natural and Built Environment • Climate Change • Infrastructure and Transport 	The Plan should contribute towards the delivery of the social, economic and environmental needs of the district and be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the HPDF.
Horsham District Landscape Capacity Assessment, 2014		
Ensure that decisions about the location and scale of new development as far as possible takes into consideration the relative ability of the new varied landscape around and between settlements (excluding South Downs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transparent, consistent and objective assessment of landscape capacity of land around settlements • Identify areas where new development could be accommodated 	The Plan should ensure the character of the landscape is preserved and enhanced within the District.

Appendix C Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to stimulate action in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. The SDGs are:

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

(Source: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

Appendix D Assessment of effects of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Table D1: NPPF objectives and issues relevant to Ashington

NPPF objective	Relevant issues in Ashington
1. Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable home provision for young people and elderly • Risks of high level of development due to large amounts of land being available
2. Building a strong, competitive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No provision to allow local businesses and the economy in the centre
3. Ensuring the vitality of town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No provision to allow local businesses and the economy in the centre • Lack of a village centre. Retail units are scattered with poor parking.
4. Promoting healthy and safe communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality of existing community infrastructure such as Youth Club, sports provision, Scout Hall and play areas (and no healthcare provision)
5. Promoting sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems with transport such as lack of sustainable options, safety/safe crossings and limited parking infrastructure
6. Supporting high quality communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
7. Making effective use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of countryside, green space, natural features and recreation space to new development
8. Achieving well designed places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks of high level of development due to large amounts of land being available
9. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding issues particularly at Mill Lane
10. Conserving & enhancing the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of countryside, green space, natural features and recreation space to new development
11. Conserving & enhancing the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preservation of important heritage assets

Three objectives in the NPPF have been excluded:

- Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals – matters relating to minerals are not within the scope of a neighbourhood plan
- Supporting high quality communications – this was not a matter raised by the community through the development of the neighbourhood plan
- Protecting Green Belt land – the Neighbourhood Area does not have any Green Belt land

In addition, the element of Objective 10 relating to coastal change has been excluded because it is not relevant given the location of the Neighbourhood Area.

Table D2: Sustainability assessment framework

Sustainability theme	Objectives	Indicators
1/Env	To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Ashington in terms of its geology, landform, soils, biodiversity, water systems and climate	Change in area of ancient woodland/SNCI sites within the parish. Change in area of County Wildlife Sites within the parish Change in area of ancient woodland in parish Change in area of priority habitats within the parish (data from Sussex Biological Records Office) Change in area/grade of agricultural land classification (ALC) land lost. Number of developments in flood zone 1.
2/Env	To protect the landscape setting of Ashington village through use of land with a low landscape impact and by focusing development on previously developed land	Number of planning applications granted in areas with low landscape capacity. Number of planning applications granted in areas that would affect historic landscape character. Development on previously developed land.
3/Soc	To ensure that housing addresses the needs of the existing community of Ashington before addressing wider needs	Mix of housing built by dwelling size. Number of people with a local connection on the Housing Register that are newly housed. Number of affordable homes completed.
4/Econ	To maximise the potential of existing employment/employers and support the need for new employment opportunities.	Number of existing businesses retained. Number of new businesses in the parish. Number of local start-ups. Number of new jobs likely to be created. Number of businesses and dwellings (for home workers) with access to superfast broadband. Quality of mobile phone service and coverage.
5/Env	To protect the identity and local distinctiveness of Ashington by conserving and enhancing the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings	Number of listed buildings demolished or redeveloped. Loss of archaeological remains. Number of trees with TPOs removed.
6/Soc	To ensure that the community has a high quality and healthy lifestyle.	Census figures on change in long term illness and general health. Number/area of green spaces within walking distance of homes. Levels of use of formal green spaces within the parish.

Sustainability theme	Objectives	Indicators
		Number of formal recreation facilities within walking distance of homes. Number of homes experiencing unacceptable levels of noise.
7/Soc	To ensure the provision of a range of community facilities that provide for the needs of the community	Number of community facilities within the parish.
8/Soc	To improve safe and sustainable movement around the parish and to the village centre by a range of modes	Levels of traffic at key junctions in the village. Number and distance of new footpaths/cyclepaths. Speed data from police. Accident data from police. Number of safe crossing points serving the key village services. Number of safe crossing points of A24.

Appendix E Ashington Neighbourhood Plan site assessment proforma

Sustainability criteria	Site [no.] Site name
Site Location	
Size of site (hectares)	
Potential nos of dwellings	
Deliverability - landowner willing to release the site	
Context	
Proposed development	
Current and previous uses (mixed use or previously developed land)	
Surrounding land uses	
Site boundary	
General character - open countryside/rural/suburban	
Topography - flat/sloping or undulating/steep gradient	
Adjacent to BUAB	
Housing	
Able to accommodate affordable housing	
Able to provide a range of housing types, sizes and tenures	
Community Facilities and Access to Services	
Distance to schools (primary and secondary)	
Distance to village centre/shop(s)	
Distance to open space/recreation facilities	
Distance to open space/recreation facilities	
Loss of community/recreation facilities/cultural	
Opportunity to provide open space/ recreation/ community facility	
Biodiversity	
European designation - SAC/SPA/Ramsar	
National designation - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Local designation - SNCI/LNR	
Veteran Trees	
Ancient woodland	
Tree Preservation Order (within site/ boundary)	
Record of protected species/habitats	
Opportunity to enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure	
Hedgerows	
Landscape	
Views into site (wide/framed/screened/long/short)	
Views out of the site (wide/framed/screened/long/short)	
Inter village gap	
Opportunity to enhance landscape	
Heritage	
Distance to Listed Building	
Conservation Area - within or nearby	

Distance to Scheduled Monument	
Archaeological Areas	
Transport	
Distance to public transport (minimum hourly service)	
Access to highway	
Site generate significant additional traffic/congestion	
Pedestrian access	
Public rights of way (PROW) present	
Access by bike	
Economic Development	
Distance to employment sites	
Loss of employment site	
Opportunity for employment	
Flooding	
Within Flood zone 1, 2 or 3 (low risk)	
Surface water flooding issues	
Local flooding issues	
Environmental Quality	
Water quality issues	
Air quality issues	
Any local noise issues	
Agricultural land classification	
Potential contaminated land	
Other issues	
Other issues	
SUMMARY	

Appraisal framework:

Red	
	Significant impact likely
Amber	
	Potential impact
Green	
	Minimal impact likely
White	
	No Issue/Neutral impact
Purple	
	Not relevant

Appendix F Ashington Neighbourhood Plan site assessments (under separate cover)

The individual site assessments have been published under separate cover.

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