

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

May 2017

Quality information

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Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Annual Status Report
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
EU	European Union
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GhG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
NCA	National Character Area
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPZ	Groundwater Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Bridge's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, which covers Bridge Parish in Kent, is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan. It is currently anticipated that the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to Canterbury City Council in 2017.

Key information relating to the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Bridge Parish Council
Title of Plan	Bridge Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Plan
Purpose	<p>The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan.</p> <p>The emerging Bridge Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within Bridge Parish.</p>
Timescale	To 2031
Area covered by the plan	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area covers Bridge Parish in Kent. It is located within the Canterbury City Council area.</p> <p>(Refer to Figure 1.1 below)</p>
Summary of content	The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	<p>Philip Wicker, Clerk to Bridge Parish Council</p> <p>clerk@bridgevillage.org.uk</p>

1.2 Relationship of the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan with the Canterbury District Local Plan

The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan. Following Submission of the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in 2016, and subsequent initial Examination hearings, consultation on Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan was undertaken in February and March 2017.

Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the district, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. The Local Plan seeks to give communities a solid framework within which appropriate community-led planning policy documents, including neighbourhood plans, can be brought forward. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Canterbury District, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

A number of key provisions are set out for Bridge in the latest version of the Local Plan, as follows:

- Bridge is classified as a Local Centre in the settlement hierarchy and a Larger Local Village Centre.
- A new green gap between Canterbury and Bridge is proposed.
- The provision of a new A2 interchange near Bridge will be required as an integral part of development proposals in the area.
- Provision of new housing that is of a size, design, scale, character and location appropriate to the character and built form of Bridge will be supported provided that such proposals are not in conflict with other local plan policies relating to transport, environmental and flood zone protection and design, and the Kent Downs AONB.

The emerging Local Plan does not allocate any sites for housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

1.3 SEA explained

The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by Canterbury City Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.

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

Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e the Regulation 14 version of the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

This scoping report

This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item 1 above. It presents a suggested scope for the SEA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

1.4 SEA 'scoping' explained

Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:

1. Defining the broader context for the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
2. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects);
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and
4. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

1.5 Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1–4 above have been presented under a series of key environmental themes, as follows:

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

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive¹. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under eight themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 9.

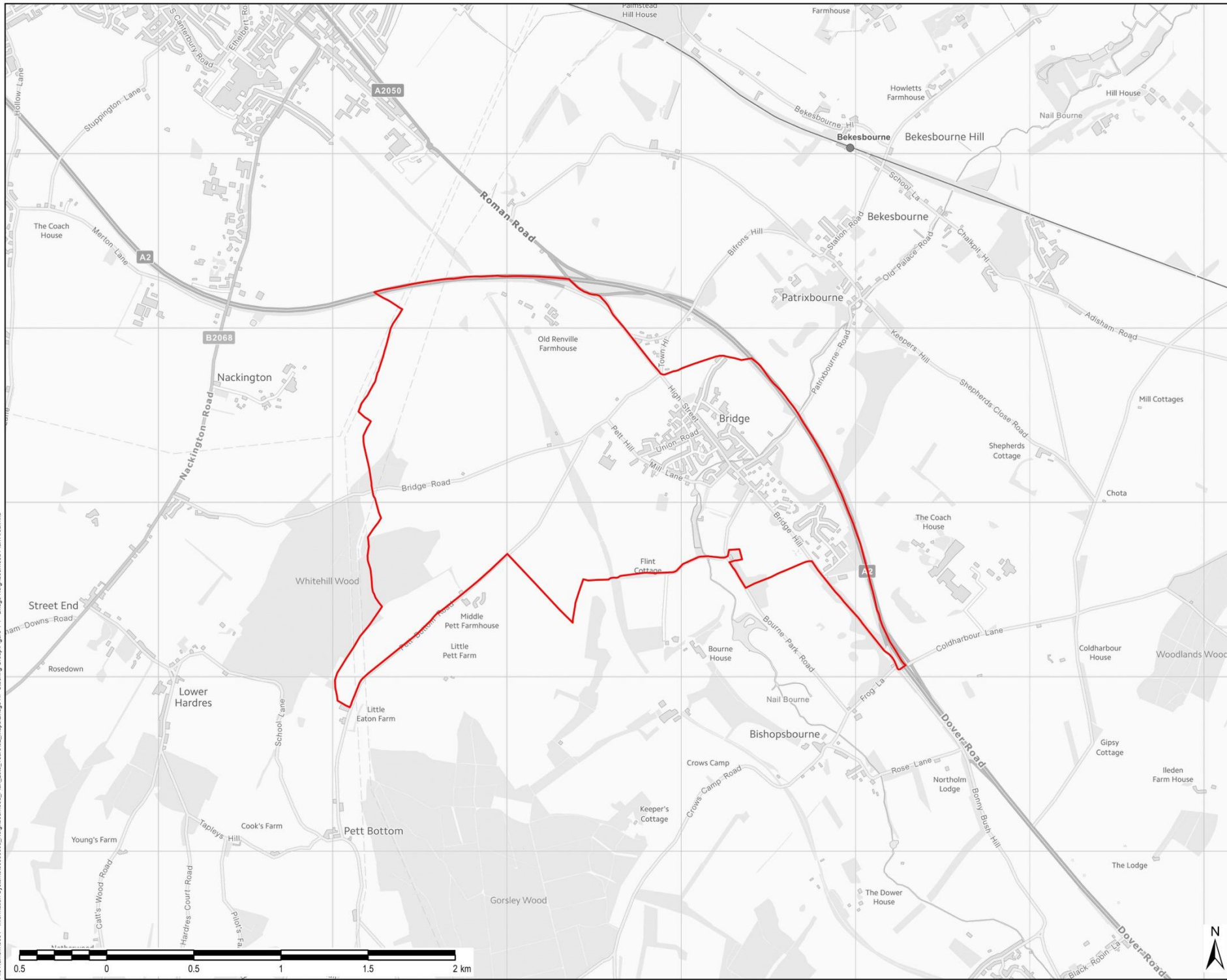
SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

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

The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 9 below.

¹ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors' [our emphasis]

File Name: I:\5004 - Information Systems\538603_Neighbourhood_Plan_Lof_Year02_Maps\Bridges NP Steering Group\Figure 1.1 - Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Area.mxd



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 Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue
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Project Title
BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

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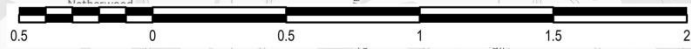
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2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme:

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

2.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The nearest AQMA is located in the centre of Canterbury, approximately 5 km to the north-west.
- Future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along the main routes through Bridge, particularly Bridge Road, Station Road and Bridge Hill.

Due to the absence of significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **air quality has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

2.2 Policy Context

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

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

Released in 2009, the Air Quality Action Plan² for Canterbury district details district-wide actions in addition to specific actions for the one AQMA in the district. As there are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, the following district-wide actions are relevant to this SEA theme:

- Delivery of improvements in emissions standards, where practicable;
- Supporting and promoting the Kent-wide car share scheme;
- Exploring the potential for Car Club schemes in Canterbury;
- Improving the Canterbury local cycle route network;
- Working with relevant City Council departments to ensure that air quality is taken into account in the planning process; and
- Delivery of a planning guidance document to assist with air quality assessments for development proposals.

In terms of the local context, Canterbury City Council is required to monitor air quality across the district under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

² Canterbury District Council (2009) Air Quality Action Plan [online] available from: <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/media/63923/air-quality-action-plan.pdf> [Accessed 10/04/2017]

2.3 Baseline Summary

2.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Canterbury City Council – as part of the Kent and Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network - released an Annual Report³ in July 2016, with the report considering all results and relevant data recorded during 2015 within Canterbury district and Kent as a whole. There are currently no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area, although there is an AQMA located in Canterbury city centre. Air quality in the Parish is therefore generally considered good.

2.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along the main routes into Bridge, placing pressure on the existing highways network.

The goals of improving district-wide sustainable transport options in the most recent Canterbury District Transport Strategy and Canterbury City Council Air Quality Action Plan might lead to improvements in air quality over a wider area.

³ Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership Monitoring Network (2016): 'Kent and Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network – Annual Report 2015', [online] available to download via:
<http://www.kentair.org.uk/Pagesfiles/KMAQMN_2015_Annual_Report_AR2015.pdf > last accessed [21/04/17]

3. Biodiversity

Focus of Theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

3.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Four SSSIs are located in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area: Ileden and Oxenden Woods SSSI (to the east); Chequer's Wood and Old Park SSSI (to the north); Larkey Valley Wood SSSI (to the west); and Lysnore Bottom SSSI to the south.
- The northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the Chequer's Wood and Old Park SSSI.
- There are two Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the Neighbourhood Plan area: Whitehill Wood and Lower Hardres, and the River Nail Bourne. There is also a LWS directly adjacent to the southern border of the Neighbourhood Plan area, Gorsley Wood.

3.2 Policy Context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁴ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

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

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁵ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it

⁴ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf> last accessed [10/04/17]

⁵ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>> last accessed [10/04/17]

signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

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

Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to '*halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people*'⁶.

The emerging Canterbury District Local Plan aims to '*protect and enhance the countryside, acknowledging its own intrinsic value, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife and recognising that a high quality rural environment contributes to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the District*'⁷. Emerging Local Plan policies provide protection for the nationally designated Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (policy LB1) and protection for sites of international conservation importance (policy LB5), including three Ramsar sites at Stodmarsh, Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay, and the Swale. Policy LB6 protects Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), while policy LB8 includes provision to pursue opportunities for biodiversity improvement in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Finally, policy LB9 aims to ensure that development avoids a net loss of biodiversity and/or nature conservation value, especially in areas where there are protected species or links and/or buffers between designated wildlife sites.

3.3 Baseline Summary

3.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

SSSIs and IRZs

Notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Ileden and Oxenden Woods SSSI is 86.45 ha in size and is located to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The citation for the SSSI states⁸:

'The site is representative of east Kent plateau woodland on Upper Chalk and thin chalk drifts. The range of soil types present is reflected in the variety of stand types and the diversity of the ground flora. Two of the stand types represented on this site are nationally rare. The rotational coppicing of large areas, combined in a mosaic with high forest stands adds to the structural diversity of the wood and has resulted in the presence of a very rich breeding bird community, including nightingale (17 pairs in 1985) and hawfinch. Two nationally rare plants also occur.'

⁶ DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed [16/04/17]

⁷ Canterbury District Local Plan, chapter 6. [online] available at: http://canterbury-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/cdlp_2014/cdlp_publication_2014?pointId=1394624366172#section-1394624366172> last accessed [10/04/2017]

⁸ Natural England (no date): 'Ileden and Oxenden SSSI', [online] available via: <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1004508.pdf> => last accessed 12/04/17]

Based on the most recent condition assessment, 85.35% of the SSSI has been classified as 'favourable', while 14.65% is classified as 'unfavourable – recovering'.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The Neighbourhood Plan area does not fall within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for the Ileden and Oxenden Woods SSSI.

Notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Chequer's Wood and Old Park SSSI is 106.7 ha in size and is located to the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The citation for the SSSI states⁹:

'The woodland in the valley is a good example of a base-rich springline alder wood. Unimproved acidic grassland is present on the dry sandy plateau in the western part of the site. In addition a variety of other habitats are present including pedunculate oak-birch woodland, dense scrub and a pond. Some uncommon plants occur and the area also supports a diverse breeding bird community.'

'The mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland gives this site considerable interest. The acidic sandy soils of the plateau contrast with the base-rich peaty soils of the valley bottom. There is consequently a wide variety of plants present.'

The most recent condition assessment suggests that 68.32% of the SSSI is in 'favourable' condition, while 31.68% is in 'unfavourable – recovering' condition.

The northern third of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls within the IRZ for the Chequer's Wood and Old Park SSSI. Development proponents should therefore consults Natural England on risks to the SSSI from infrastructure, oil and gas, air pollution, combustion and discharges.

Larkey Valley Wood SSSI was notified in 1985 under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and is 44.09 ha in size. It lies to the west of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The citation for the SSSI states¹⁰:

'Ash-maple coppice is the predominant woodland type on the slopes of this dry chalk valley. This grades into beech high forest on the thin calcareous soils of the upper slopes with hornbeam coppice on the deeper soils in the valley bottom. The varied ground flora includes a number of uncommon plants. The wood also supports many breeding birds.'

'The ash-maple woodland has a varied coppice layer under pedunculate oak standards. While ash and hazel are the most common coppiced species, field maple, birch, sweet chestnut and wild cherry are also present and hawthorn is a common shrub. In the valley bottom the coppice is more uniform. Hornbeam and hazel are the predominant coppiced species with occasional ash and field maple and a few oak standards. The high forest on the upper slopes is dominated by mature beech with some oak. The shrub layer under the beech is sparse in heavily shaded areas but elsewhere, especially along the woodland edge, there is a variety of species including wild privet, spindle and wayfaring tree; shrubs characteristic of chalk soils.'

Based on the most recent condition assessment, 100% of the SSSI has been classified as 'favourable', The Neighbourhood Plan area does not fall within the SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for the Larkey Valley Wood SSSI.

Finally, Lysnore Bottom SSSI was notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in 1985. The SSSI is due south of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and is approximately 70 ha in size. The citation for the SSSI states¹¹:

⁹ Natural England (no date) Chequer's Wood and Old Park SSSI [online] available via: <
<https://necmsi.esdm.co.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1003485.pdf>> last accessed 12/04/2017]

¹⁰ Natural England (no date) Larkey Valley Wood SSSI [online] available via: <
<https://necmsi.esdm.co.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1000011.pdf>> last accessed 12/04/2017]

*'This is a good example of a traditional coppice-with-standards woodland containing a variety of tree species. Ash-maple and pedunculate oak-hornbeam stands are the main woodland types on the eastern side of the valley. On the western slopes there is ash and sweet chestnut coppice, both with pedunculate oak standards. The site is also noted for the presence of several uncommon plants, particularly the lady orchid *Orchis purpurea*, a species restricted in Britain to Kent.*

The eastern woodlands, Fryarne Park Wood and Mill Bank, are the most varied. Hazel and ash are the most common coppiced species on the chalk soils of the lower slopes with ash and hornbeam on the clay-with-flints soils of the upper slopes. Pedunculate oak and beech standards are present throughout. Other species include birch, field maple, whitebeam and shrubs such as wayfaring tree'.

Based on the most recent condition assessment, 4.62% of the SSSI has been classified as 'favourable'; 61.74% has been classified as 'unfavourable – recovering' and 33.65% as 'unfavourable – no change'. The Neighbourhood Plan area does not fall within the SSSI IRZ for the Lysnore Bottom SSSI.

Locally Important Sites

Whitehill Wood and Lower Hardres (79.82 ha), and the River Nail Bourne (13.27 ha) are both Local Wildlife Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)'support threatened habitats, such as chalk grassland or ancient woodland' and seek to create a better connected landscape of wildlife buffers, corridors and stepping stones¹². They are seen as integral in meeting both local and national targets for biodiversity conservation.

BAP Priority Habitats

In regards to BAP Priority Habitats, there is one small area of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland in the Neighbourhood Plan area at Whitehill Wood, as well as Deciduous Woodland. In addition, there are small areas of the following BAP Priority Habitats:

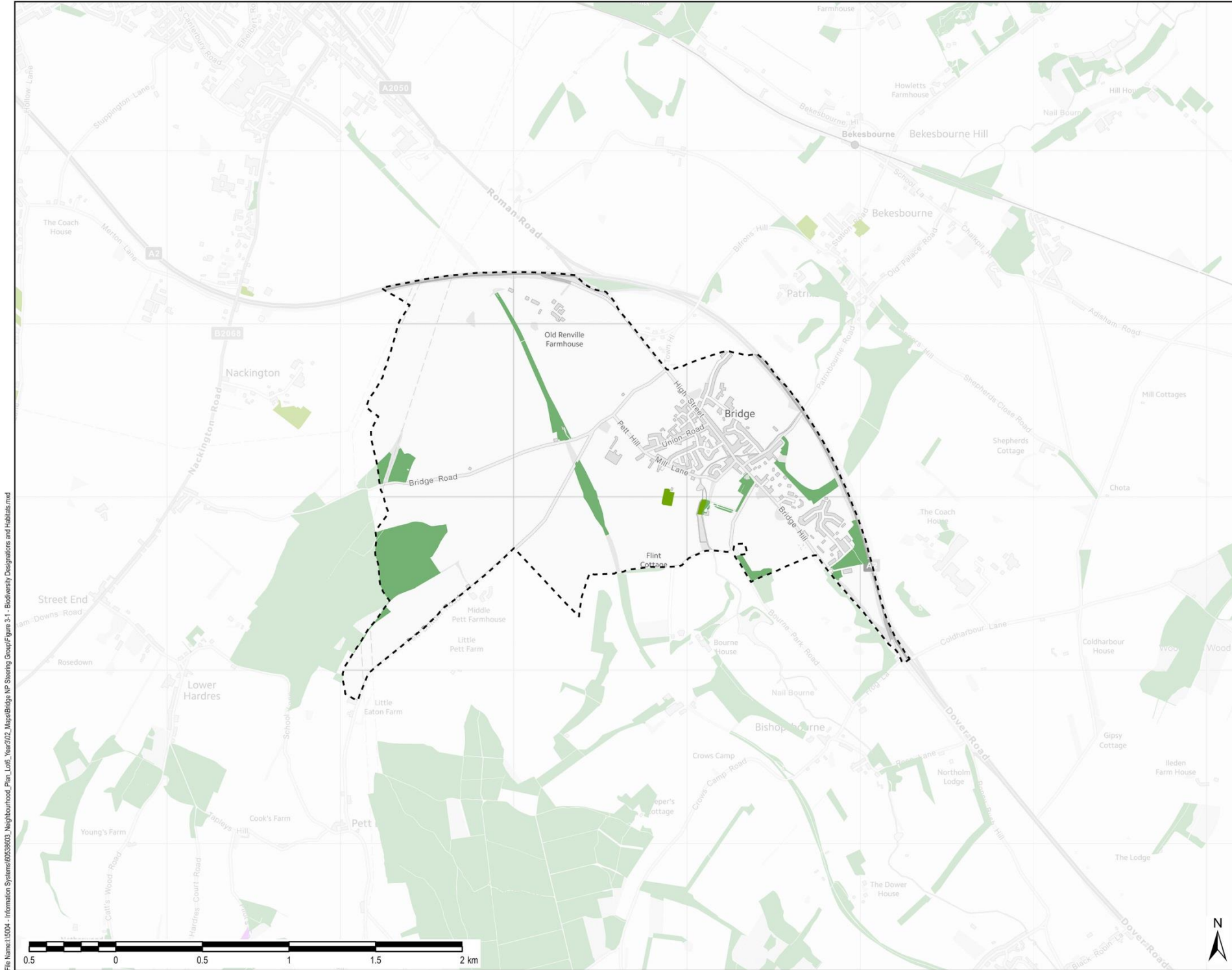
- Wood pasture and parkland; and
- Broadleaved woodland.

3.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressures from housing and infrastructure development in the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the nationally and locally designated sites. This includes a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.

¹¹ Natural England (no date) Lysnore Bottom SSSI [online] available via: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000164.pdf [last accessed 12/04/2017]

¹² Kent Wildlife Trust (2017): 'Local Wildlife Sites', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/local-wildlife-sites>> last accessed [21/04/17]



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LEGEND

- Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats**
 - Deciduous Woodland
 - Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland
 - Traditional Orchard

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Purpose of Issue **DRAFT**

Client **BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Project Title **BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title **BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS AND HABITATS**

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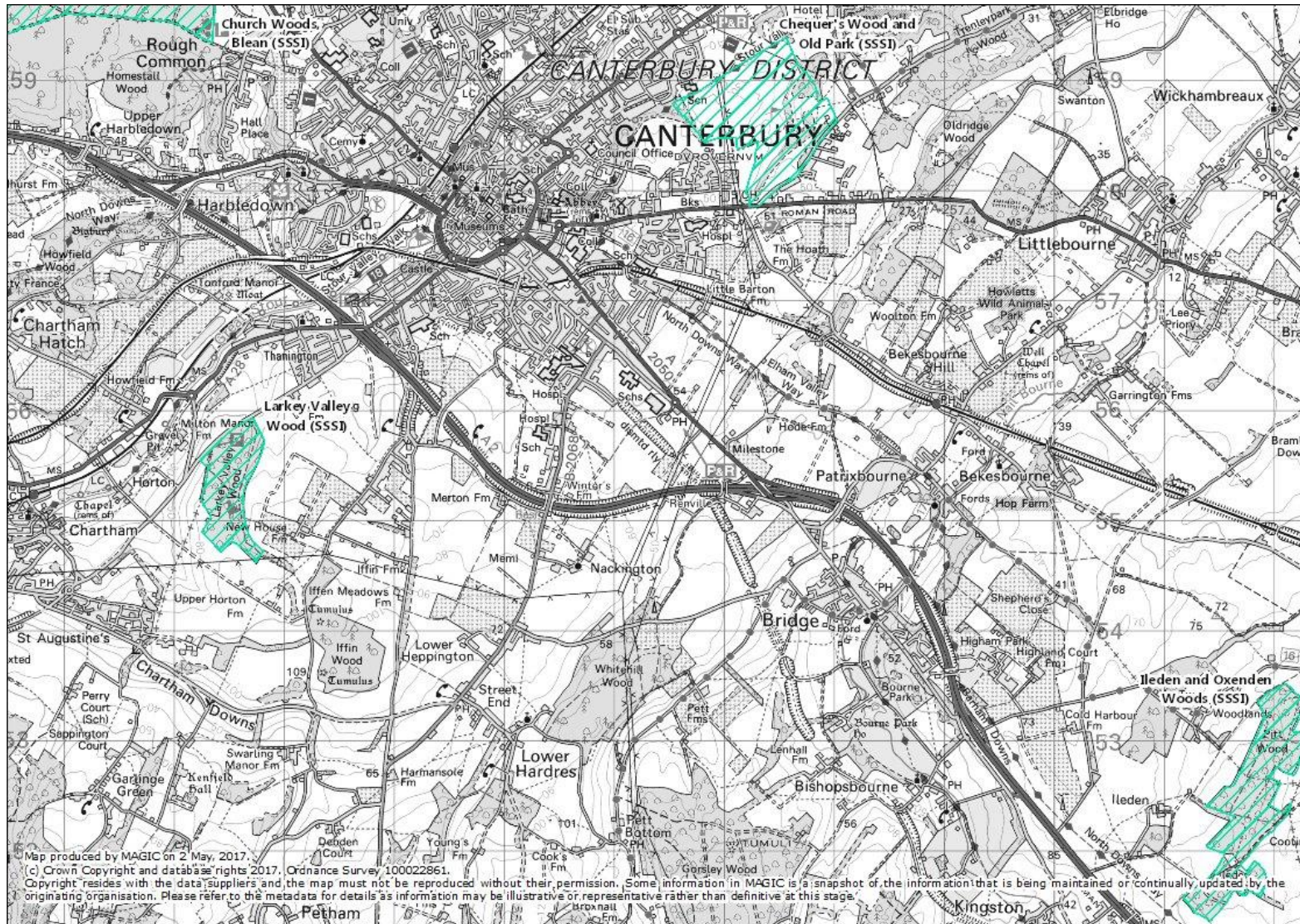


Figure 3.2 SSSIs located in the wider area (source www.magic.gov.uk)

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

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect and support the integrity of the SSSIs present in the wider vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area?• Protect and enhance the local sites of wildlife importance within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including Whitehill Wood and Lower Hardres LWS and the River Nail Bourne LWS?• Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats?• Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?• Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?• Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

4. Climate Change

Focus of Theme:

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

4.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Fluvial flooding and surface water drainage flooding are an issue for the Neighbourhood Plan area. This has the potential to increase as a result of land use change and climate change.
- The most recent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Canterbury City Council identified no Critical Drainage Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Canterbury District has recorded consistently lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita in comparison to the regional and national averages.

4.2 Policy Context

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report to achieve the following:

- *'Based on the latest understanding of current, and future, climate risks and opportunities, vulnerability and adaptation, what should the priorities be for the next UK National Adaptation Programme?'*¹³

The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below:

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

The UK Climate Change Act¹⁴ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

¹³ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> last accessed [15/03/17]

¹⁴ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> last accessed [20/03/17]

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page¹⁵.

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

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008¹⁶. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
 - Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
 - Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in GHG emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁷ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;

¹⁵ Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> last accessed [17/04/17]

¹⁶ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

¹⁷ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹⁸

Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.¹⁹ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) explain the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs, in addition to setting out how risk management authorities will work with communities to manage flood and coastal risk, usually over 6-year cycles. At the regional level, the most recent FRMP for the South East²⁰ covers the period 2015-2021, with the South East River Basin Management Plan²¹ (SERBMP) (2015) developed alongside the FRMP to form an important part of a collaborative and integrated approach to catchment planning for water. The following social, economic and environmental objectives from the FRMP for the South East are relevant:

- Minimise impact to people, property and to critical infrastructure and services from all sources of flooding and coastal erosion, increasing the focus on community resilience;
- Protect and enhance sustainable recreational and amenity opportunities where appropriate, recognising the important contribution of income from these activities to river and coastal management;
- Minimise flood risk impact to the local economy, and seek opportunities to promote economic growth, regeneration and partnership funding;
- Ensure development in areas at risk of flooding is appropriate, does not increase flood risk and reduces risk wherever possible. Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems in development to help reduce pressure on existing drainage networks;
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity, internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites, and promote opportunities to create freshwater habitat when managing flood risk;
- Support climate change adaptation by making space for water, both inland and at the coast;
- Increase partnership working between risk management authorities, communities, landowners and other groups/organisations in the management of flood and coastal erosion risk; and
- Continue appropriate and affordable levels of river, watercourse, tidal and coastal defence maintenance to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property.

In relation to the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan, Chapter 7 (Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Change and Water Resources) Policy CC1 'Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development' and Policy CC2 'Reducing Carbon Emissions from New Development' directly relate to the Climate Change SEA theme.

¹⁸ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹⁹ CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDs – making it happen' [online] available to access via <http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx> last accessed [14/03/17]

²⁰ Environment Agency (2015): 'South East River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan', [online] available to download via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507134/LIT_10220_SOUTH_EAST_FRMP_SUMMARY_DOCUMENT.pdf> last accessed [13/04/2017]

²¹ DEFRA & Environment Agency (2016): 'South East River Basin District River Basin Management Plan', [online] available to download via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/500473/South_East_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf> last accessed [17/04/17]

4.3 Baseline Summary

4.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Contribution to Climate Change

In relation to GhG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change indicates that Canterbury District has had consistently lower per capita emissions total than that of both the South East and England as a whole since 2005. However, Canterbury has observed a smaller percentage decrease in total CO₂ emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (14.5%) in comparison to the South East of England (15.9%) and England (16.6%). See Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012²²

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Canterbury				
2005	2.0	2.4	1.8	6.2
2006	2.0	2.4	1.8	6.2
2007	1.9	2.3	1.8	6.0
2008	1.9	2.3	1.7	5.9
2009	1.7	2.1	1.7	5.4
2010	1.8	2.2	1.6	5.6
2011	1.6	1.9	1.6	5.1
2012	1.7	2.1	1.5	5.3
South East				
2005	2.5	2.6	1.8	6.9
2006	2.5	2.6	1.8	6.9
2007	2.4	2.5	1.8	6.7
2008	2.4	2.4	1.7	6.5
2009	2.1	2.2	1.6	5.9
2010	2.2	2.3	1.6	6.1
2011	2.0	2.0	1.5	5.6
2012	2.1	2.2	1.5	5.8
England				
2005	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2

²² Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> 2005 to 2012 accessed on [13/04/17]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2006	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2007	2.8	2.4	1.7	6.9
2008	2.7	2.4	1.6	6.7
2009	2.4	2.2	1.5	6.1
2010	2.5	2.3	1.5	6.3
2011	2.3	2.0	1.5	5.7
2012	2.4	2.2	1.4	6.0

Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²³. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East of England by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario²⁴ are likely to be as follows:

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

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

- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;

²³ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [14/03/17]

²⁴ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>> last accessed [10/04/17]

- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

Flood Risk

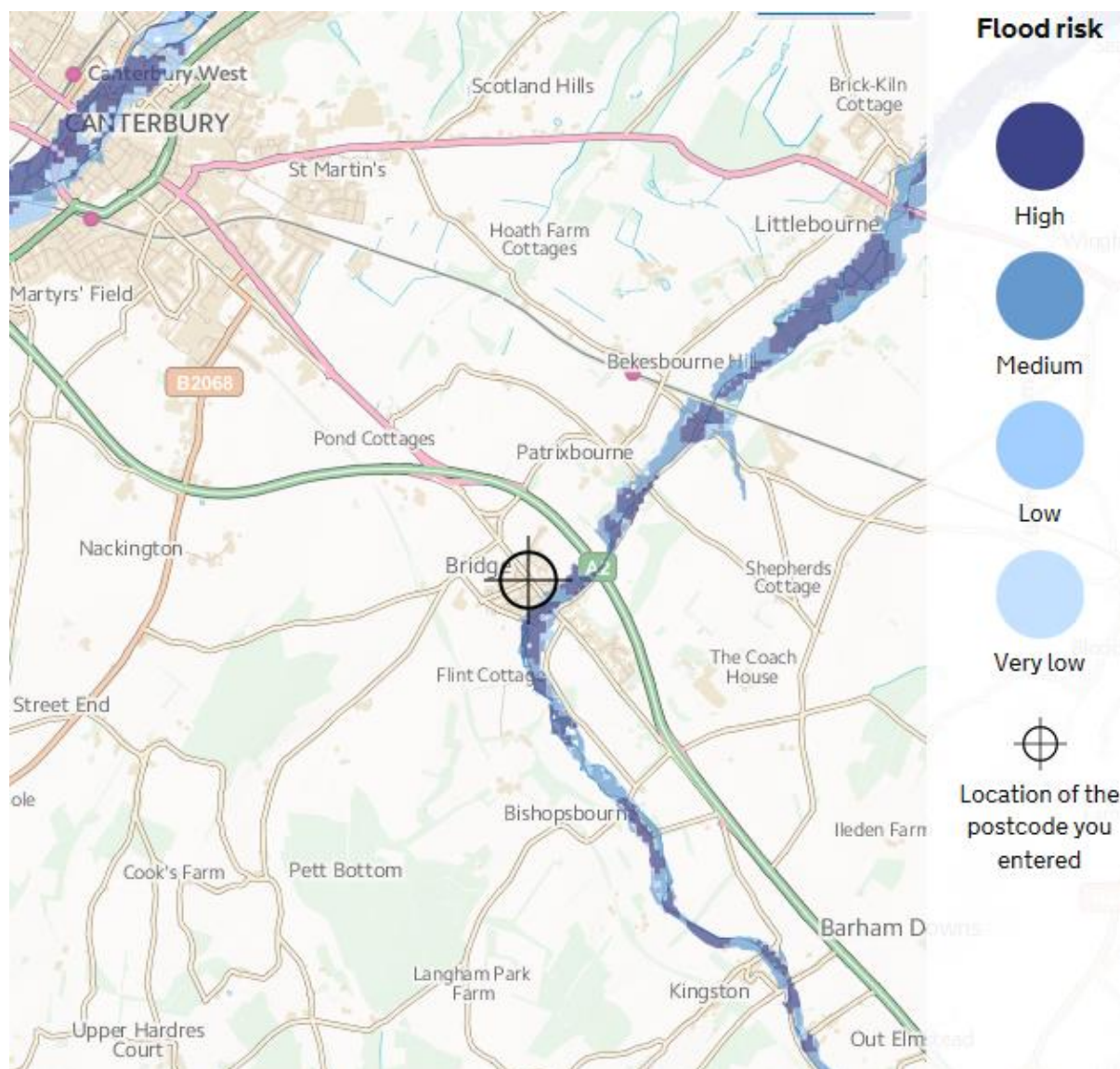


Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁵

As shown in Figure 4.1, land adjacent to the Nail Bourne is within Flood Zone 3 (medium-high risk of fluvial flooding) meaning that they are classified as having a 1% or greater chance (1 in 100 chance) of being affected by river flooding in any given year. In addition, some areas along the Nail Bourne fall within Flood Zone 2 (low-medium risk) meaning that they are classified as having a 0.1-1% chance (1 in 1000 to 1 in 100 chance) of being affected by river flooding in any given year.

²⁵ GOV UK (2017): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available to access from: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/>> last accessed [20/03/17]

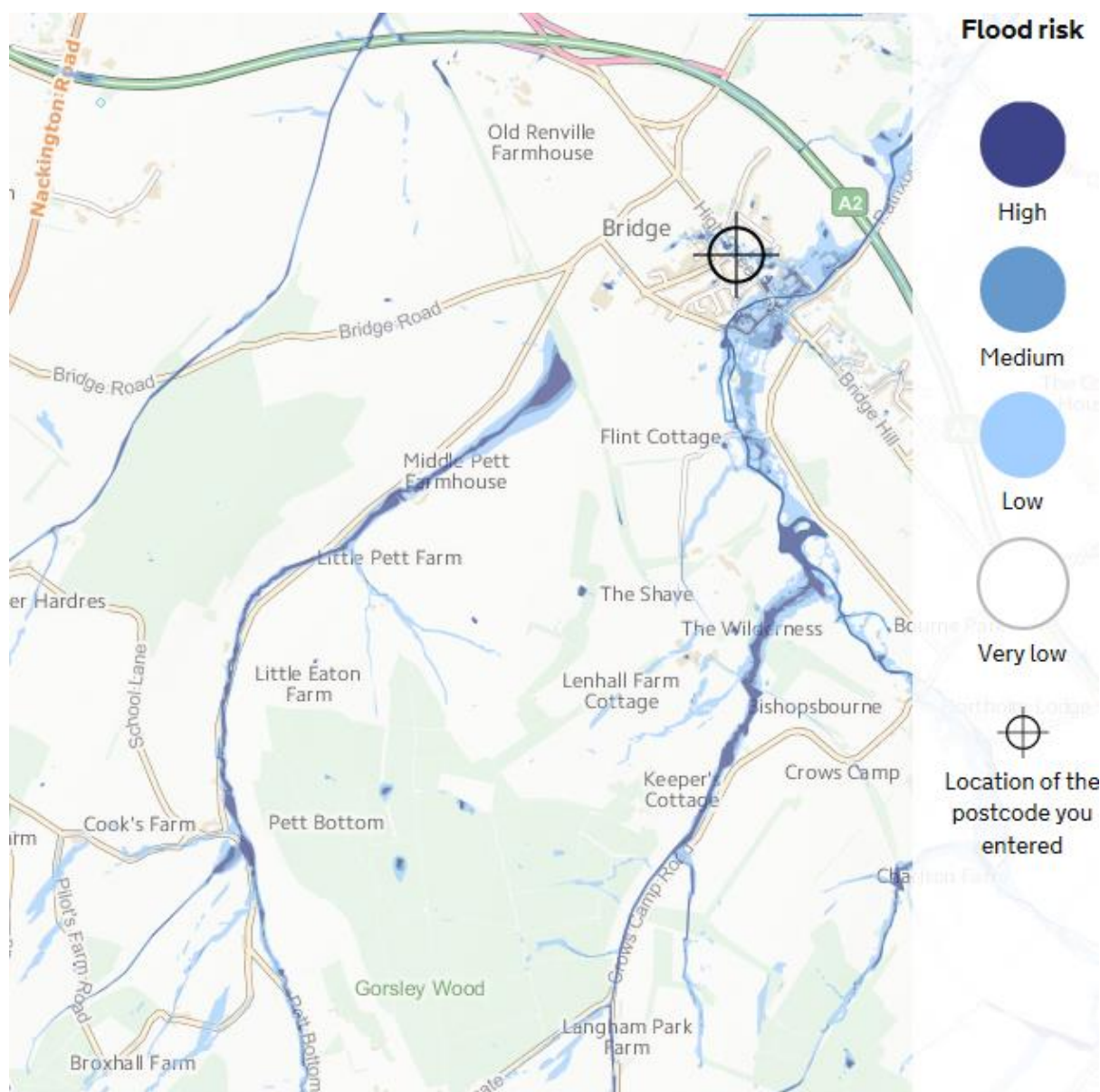


Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area

Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Highlighted in Figure 4.2, land directly adjacent to the Nail Bourne, along with land along Pett Bottom Road, is at medium-high and/or medium-low risk.

Based on the most recent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁶ for Canterbury City Council, published in 2011, there are no Critical Drainage Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and hence there are no surface water management plans currently in place.

4.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

²⁶ Canterbury City Council (2011): 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – August 2011', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/media/942426/CDLP-121-Strategic-Flood-Risk-Assessment-August-2011-Herrington-CCC.pdf>> last accessed [13/04/17]

In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, future development will comprise an increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which may lead to a future increase in overall emissions.

A number of policies within the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan seek to increase the uptake of renewable energy and improve the provision of public and sustainable transport. The effective implementation of such policies has the potential to reduce future emissions within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change, including enhancements to ecological networks?

5. Landscape and Historic Environment

Focus of Theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Setting of cultural heritage assets
- Archaeological assets

5.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the North Downs National Character Area.
- Over half of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, including two Grade II* listed buildings, 41 Grade II listed buildings and one scheduled monument nationally designated for their cultural heritage resource.
- Parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area fall within a Conservation Area, although no Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan has been prepared.

5.2 Policy Context

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

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England²⁷ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) aim primarily to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. They also aim to 'meet the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside, and

²⁷ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx last accessed [15/03/17]

to have regard for the interests of those who live and work there'²⁸. The 2014-2019 Management Plan for the Kent Downs AONB aims to keep the 'qualities and distinctive features of the Kent Downs AONB, the dramatic south-facing scarp, secluded dry valleys, network of tiny lanes, isolated farmsteads, churches and oasts, orchards, dramatic cliffs, the ancient woodlands and delicate chalk grasslands along with the ancient, remote and tranquil qualities' valued, secured and strengthened²⁹.

In relation to the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan, Policy HE1 'Historic Environment and Heritage Assets' directly relates to this SEA theme. Additionally, the following policies within the emerging Local Plan are relevant:

- Policy HE5 Development Affecting and Changes to Listed Buildings;
- Policy HE6 Conservation Areas;
- Policy HE8 Heritage Assets in Conservations Areas;
- Policy H11 Archaeology;
- Policy H12 Area of Archaeological Interest; and
- Policy H13 Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens.

5.3 Baseline Summary

5.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Landscape

The Kent Downs were designated as an AONB in 1968 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent. As such the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should be equivalent.

The majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the AONB (**Figure 5.1**).

Key features of the Kent Downs AONB include:

- Dramatic white chalk cliffs at Dover and Folkestone;
- Orchards, hop gardens, and cobnut platts;
- Ancient woodlands and chalk grassland; and
- Castles, isolated farmsteads and networks of small lanes.

National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the North Downs NCA. The following characteristics from the NCA profile are particularly relevant:

NCA 119: North Downs³⁰

- Traditional, small, nucleated villages, scattered farms, and large houses with timber framing, flint walls and Wealden brick detailing;

²⁸ Landscapes for Life (2017): 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty', [online] available to download via: <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/further-information-about-aonbs.html> > last accessed [21/04/2017]

²⁹ Kent Downs AONB (2014): '@Management Plan 2014-2019', [online] available to download via: http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/uploads/documents/KD_AONB_final_plan_09.09.14.compressed.pdf > last accessed [21/04/2017]

³⁰ Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile 113: North Kent Plain', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2900242?category=587130> > last accessed [13/04/17]

- A chain of chalk hills extending from the Hog's Back in Surrey to the White Cliffs of Dover;
- A broad dip slope that gradually drops towards the Thames and the English Channel;
- Deep valleys cut by the Rivers Stour, Medway, Darent, Wey and Mole;
- Large tracts of mixed arable and horticultural production; and
- Woodland, including ancient woodland, and species-rich chalk grasslands.

Historic Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment. Numerous features are recognised through historic environment designations, including the statutory listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated.

Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Neighbourhood Plan area contains no Grade I listed buildings, two Grade II* and 41 Grade II listed buildings.

The Grade II* listed buildings are as follows:

- Bridge Place; and
- Church of St. Peter.

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England³¹, there is one scheduled monument in the Neighbourhood Plan area, listed below:

- Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Hanging Hill, immediately south west of Watling Street.

There are no registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Historic parks and gardens are noted as a fragile and finite resource by Historic England³², as they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever.

Parts of Bridge are designated a conservation area³³. The conservation covers the length of Bridge village, including several properties in the High Street, Bridge Hill and Patixbourne Road. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the conservation area, and can be developed into a management plan. As of April 2017, a conservation area appraisal or management plan has not been prepared for the Bridge Conservation Area.

Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The latest Heritage at Risk Register³⁴ (2016) includes none of the listed buildings and scheduled monuments located within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. However it should be recognised that the Grade II listed buildings have not been appraised in relation to whether they should be deemed to be 'at risk', and, given the lack of a conservation area appraisal, the Bridge Conservation Area has also not been evaluated.

³¹ Historic England: National Heritage List for England: <<http://list.historicengland.org.uk>> last accessed [17/03/2017.]

³² Historic England (2017): 'Registered Parks and Gardens' [online] available at: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/>> last accessed [10/04/17]

³³ Canterbury City Council (2017): 'Designated Conservation Areas' [online] available at: <<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning/find-out-if-you-need-planning-permission/designated-conservation-areas/>> last accessed [21/04/2017]

³⁴ Historic England (2016): 'Heritage at Risk Register: South East' [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/>> last accessed [10/04/17]

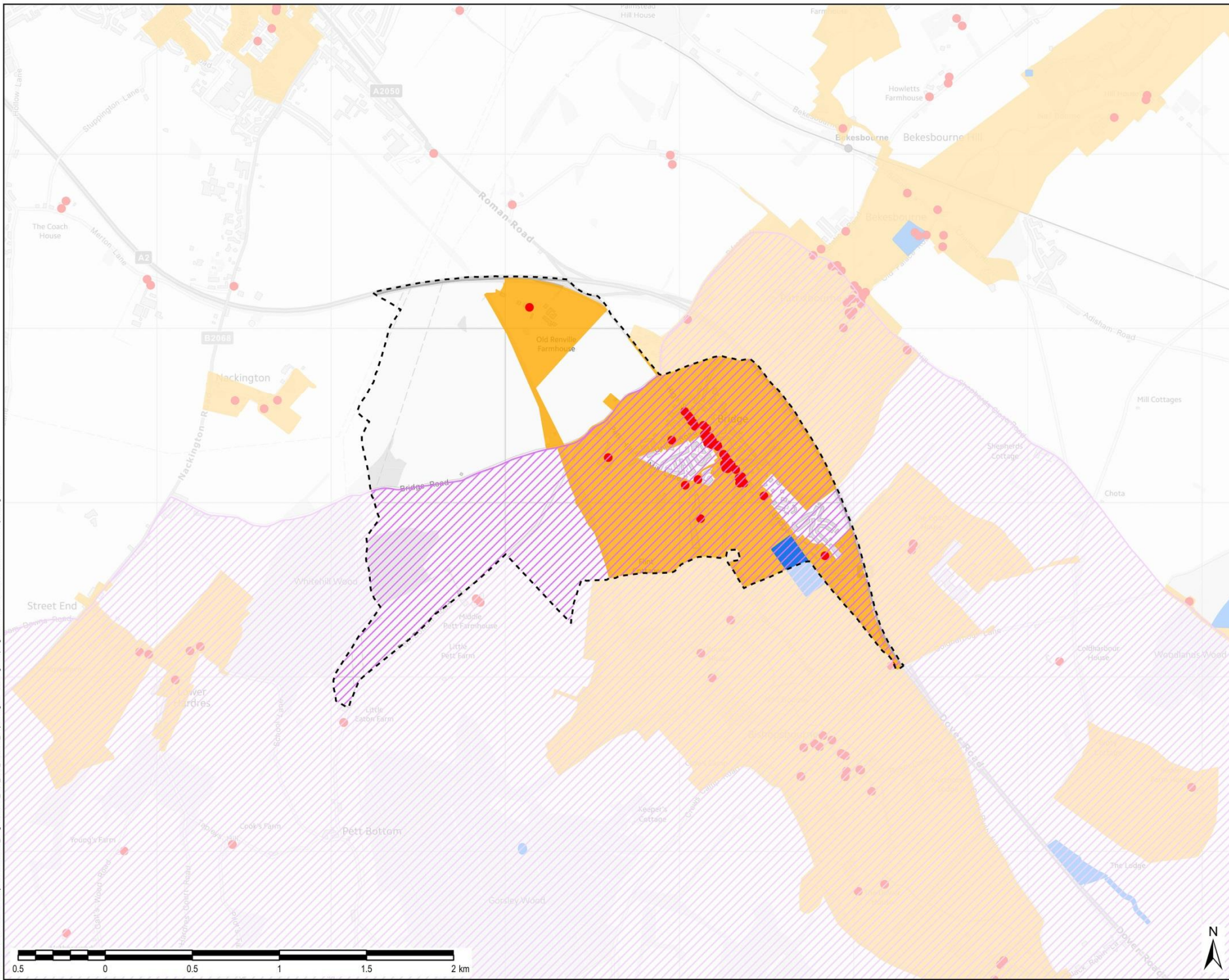
It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas of historic interest and character are seen as important by local communities.

Figure 5.1 shows the designated landscapes and historical sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

5.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to lead to small, but incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area; for instance, through the loss of landscape features and visual impact. However, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there is opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the key features and areas and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance.

Additionally, new development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations, the provisions of the NPPF, and policies within the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.



THIS DRAWING IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUE THAT IT WAS ISSUED FOR AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

LEGEND

- Bridge Neighbourhood
- - - Plan Area
- Listed building
- Record of Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- ▨ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Purpose of Issue **DRAFT**

Client
BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title
BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Drawn CN	Checked JW	Approved NCB	Date 21/04/2017
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AECOM Internal Project No.
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FIGURE 5.1

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest? • Support the integrity of the Bridge Conservation Area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features? • Support the integrity of the Kent Downs AONB? • Conserve and enhance landscape and villagescape? • Support the integrity of the Bridge Conservation Area?

6. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme:

- Soils resource
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

6.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- An agricultural land classification assessment has been undertaken in certain parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with both Grade 1 ('Excellent') and Grade 2 ('Very good') agricultural land present.
- Most parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area are designated as a Groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).

6.2 Policy Context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy³⁵ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

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

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.

³⁵ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [17/03/17]

- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England³⁶, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper³⁷, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England³⁸ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

In relation to the emerging Canterbury District Local Plan, Chapter 7 ('Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Change and Water Resources') includes Policy CC13 Water Resources, which relates directly to the SEA theme.

6.3 Baseline Summary

6.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Quality of Agricultural Land

The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, there are areas of both Grade 1 and Grade 2 Agricultural Land along the northern border of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and also in the south-eastern corner.

Watercourses

The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan area is the Nail Bourne, which flows through Bridge in the eastern side of the Parish.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution. As of April 2017, there is a Zone 3 SPZ over half the Neighbourhood Plan area that stretches from its south-western to north-eastern corner.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater has nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or is thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. NVZs for 2017-2020 started on January 1st 2017³⁹, with most of the north-western corner of the Neighbourhood Plan area designated as a Groundwater NVZ area, defined as water held underground in the soil or in pores and crevices in rock, which has or could have if action is not taken, a nitrate concentration greater than 50mg/l.

³⁶ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from:

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>> last accessed [16/03/17]

³⁷ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>> last accessed [16/03/17]

³⁸ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at:

<<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>> last accessed [16/03/17]

³⁹ GOV.UK (2017): 'Nutrient Management: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones' [online] available to access via:

<<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nutrient-management-nitrate-vulnerable-zones>> last accessed [17/03/17]

6.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improving recycling and composting rates.

In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality has the potential to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and future physical modifications to water bodies.

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Minimise the risks to soils and groundwater? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the Neighbourhood Plan area may comprise Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources?

7. Population and Community

Focus of Theme:

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Homelessness
- Education and skills

7.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Based on the most recent census data available (2011), the population increase within the Neighbourhood Plan area is in keeping with the trends for the South East and England. However, it is 4.3% less than the population increase for Canterbury District.
- There is an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with 37% of residents being over the age of 60, significantly higher than the averages for Canterbury District (25.2%), the South East (23.3%) and England (22.3%).
- Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, there is also a significantly lower percentage of under 24 year old residents (26.6%) relative to Canterbury District (35.1%), the South East (30.2%) and England (30.8%).
- Households within the Neighbourhood Plan area are relatively not deprived (50.6%) in comparison to the local, regional and national averages.
- The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area own a household either outright or by mortgage (72.6%) at a higher rate than the local, regional and national averages.
- Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the largest employment sector are Professional occupations (22.8%), which aligns with the high percentage of Level 4 Qualifications among residents (36.5%), both at a higher rate than the local, regional and national averages.

7.2 Policy Context

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

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.

- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁴⁰ warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.

⁴⁰ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> last accessed [18/04/17]

7.3 Baseline Summary

7.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Population

Table 7.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁴¹

Date	Bridge	Canterbury	South East	England
2001	1,467	135,278	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	1,576	151,145	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	7.4%	11.7%	+7.9%	+7.9%

Between 2001 and 2011 the population of Bridge increased by 7.4%, significantly lower than the 11.7% average for the district but in line with the regional and national rate of 7.9% shown in Table 7.1.

Age Structure

Table 7.2: Age Structure (2011)⁴²

	Bridge	Canterbury	South East	England
0-15	18.7%	16.8%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	7.9%	18.3%	11.2%	11.9%
25-44	16.7%	22%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	19.7%	17.7%	19.9%	19.4%
60+	37%	25.2%	23.3%	22.3%
Total Population	1,576	120,988	8,634,750	53,012,456

As shown in Table 7.2, 26.6% of individuals within Bridge are between 0-24 years of age, significantly lower than the values for Canterbury District (35.1%), the South East (30.2%) and England (30.8%). Additionally, there is a higher proportion of individuals in Bridge aged 60+ in comparison to the District, regional and national levels. The working population of Bridge (aged 25-59) is 36.4%, lower than the values for Canterbury (39.7%), the South East (46.4%) and England (46.9%).

Household Deprivation

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.

⁴¹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

⁴² ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Table 7.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁴³

	Bridge	Canterbury	South East	England
Household not deprived	50.6%	44.1%	47.7%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	33.4%	33.4%	32.2%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	14.1%	18.1%	16.0%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	1.7%	4%	3.7%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.15%	0.46%	0.4%	0.5%

Based on the information shown in Table 7.3, 49.6% of households within Bridge are deprived in at least one dimension. This value is lower than the trend for Canterbury (55.9%), similar to the trend for the South East (52.3%) and notably lower than the trend for England (57.5%). Therefore, as a whole, the South East contains fewer households which are deprived in comparison to the national average.

Housing Tenure

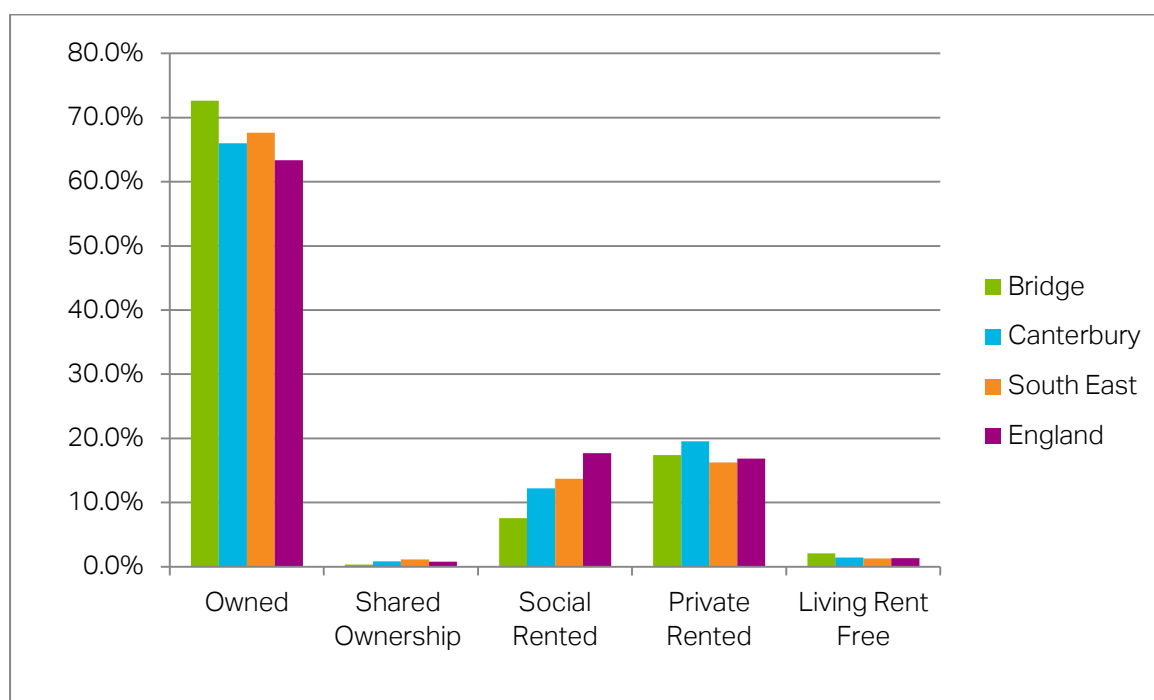


Figure 7.1: 'Tenure by Household' ⁴⁴

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 72.6% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, significantly higher than the values for Canterbury district (66.0%), the South East (67.6%) and England (63.3%). Notably, fewer residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are living in socially or privately rented properties (25%) than in Canterbury (31.7%), the South East (30%) and England

⁴³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011' (Table QS119EW)

⁴⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

(34.5%). Furthermore, 2.1% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are living rent free, which is slightly higher than the local, regional and national trends shown in Figure 7.1.

Education

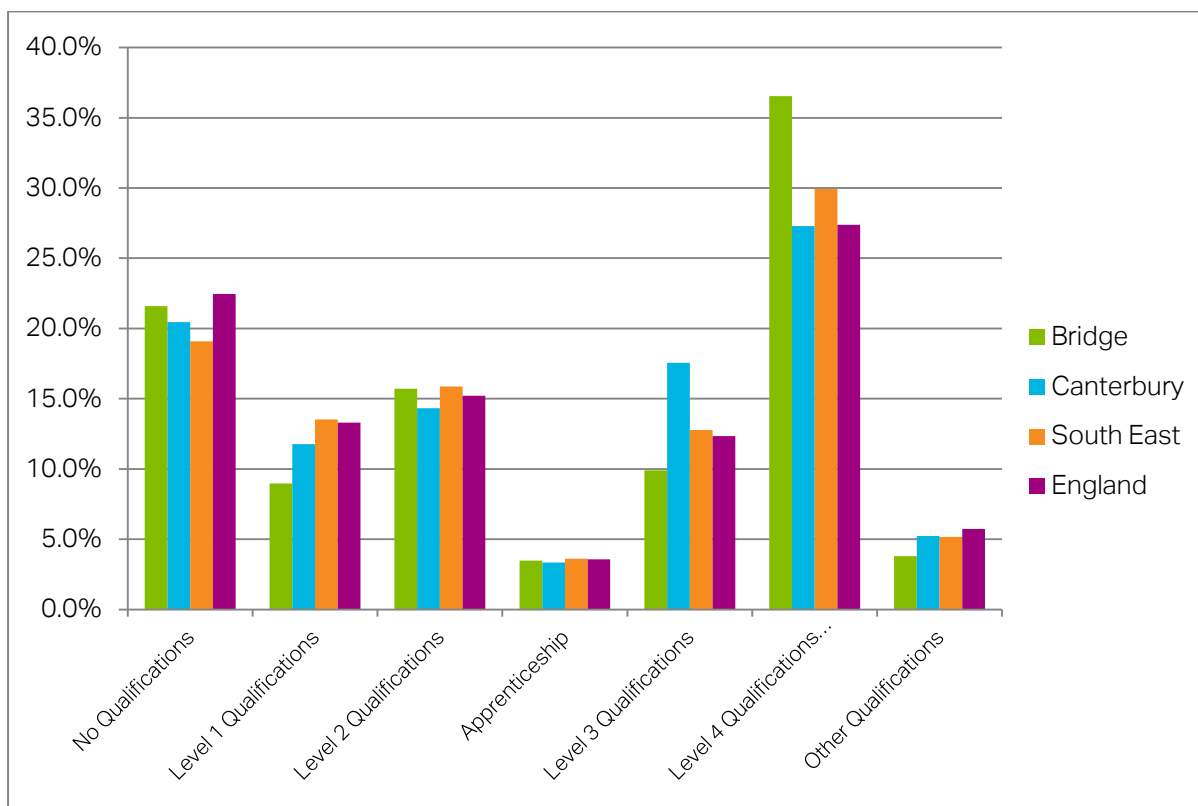


Figure 7.2; 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁴⁵

As Figure 7.2 highlights, within the Neighbourhood Plan area there is a significantly higher number of residents with a Level 4 Qualification and above (36.5%) than Canterbury District (27.3%), the South East (29.9%) and England (27.4%). Conversely, the number of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area with No Qualifications (21.6%) generally aligns with the local and national average, however is notably higher than the South East average (19.1%). For Level 2 Qualifications and Apprenticeships, the number of residents with this level of education within Neighbourhood Plan area aligns with the local, regional and national averages. Notably, the number of residents with Level 1 Qualifications (9.0%) and Level 3 Qualifications (9.9%) within the Neighbourhood Plan area is markedly less than the local, regional and national averages. For Level 3 Qualifications, the Neighbourhood Plan area value is 7.7% less than the Canterbury district average.

Employment

69.4% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are in employment, which is higher than the employment figures for Canterbury District (58.7%), the South East (67.9%) and England (64.7%). The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed within Professional occupations (22.8%), which is higher than the values for Canterbury district (20.5%), the South East (18.7%) and England (17.5%). There are also a notably higher percentage of residents employed as Managers, Directors and Senior Officials within the Neighbourhood Plan area (14.3%) than the local, regional and national averages. The least employed occupation within the Neighbourhood Plan area is Process, Plant and Machine Operatives (3.3%), significantly less than the local, regional and national average, reflecting the areas rural and non-industrial nature. Employment figures are also lower than the local, regional and national averages within the Neighbourhood Plan area for Elementary occupations as well as Sales and Customer Service occupations, as can be seen in Figure 7.3.

⁴⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

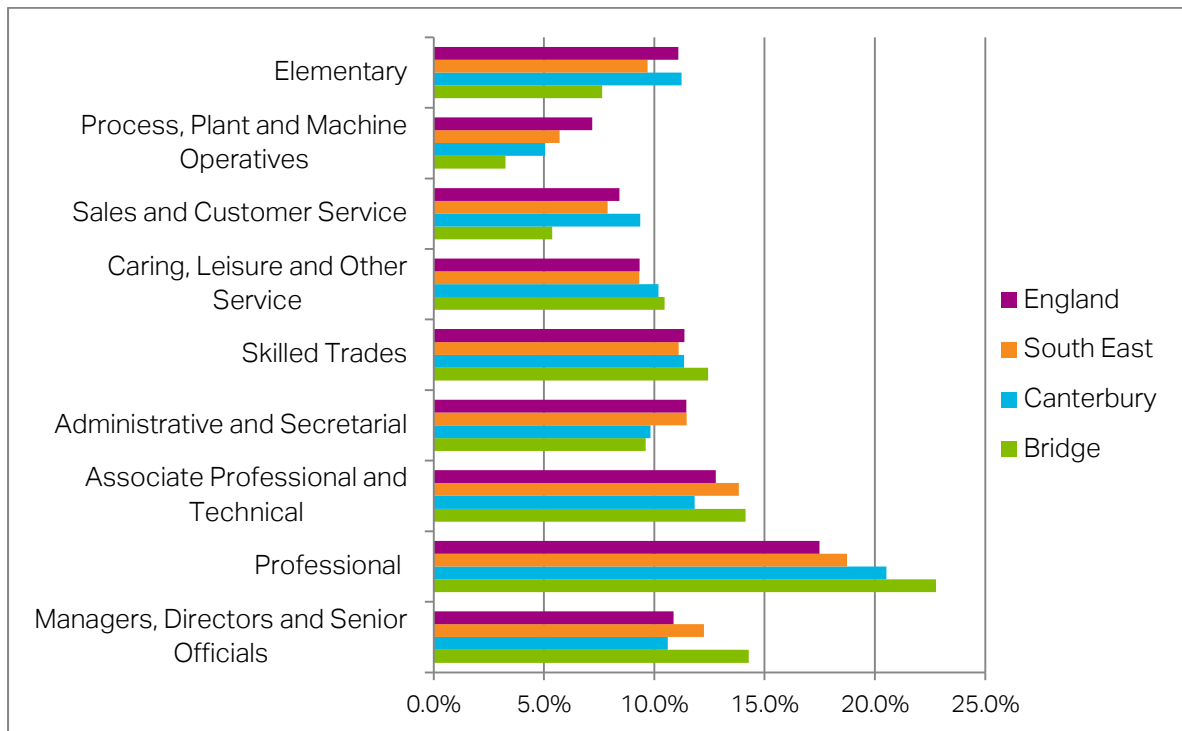


Figure 7.3: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment'⁴⁶

7.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

The population of the Neighbourhood Plan area increased between the years 2001-2011 at approximately the same rate as the regional and national trends, however at a rate 4.3% less than for Canterbury District.

37% of residents are aged 60+ within the Neighbourhood Plan area, indicating the presence of an aging population.

⁴⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Minimise fuel poverty? Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? Support enhancements to the current housing stock? Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

8. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well-being

8.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'very good health' or 'good health', however at a lower percentage in comparison to the local, regional and national average.
- 6.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'bad health' or 'very bad health', which is slightly higher than the local, regional and national average.
- 21.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider their activities limited to some degree, notably higher than the local, regional and national average.
- The relatively low percentage of residents with 'very good health' and 'good health' aligns with the higher percentage of residents that consider their activities to be limited. With a high number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area also being 60+ in age, it can be inferred that age may be factor in lowering health and activity figures.

8.2 Policy Context

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- A core planning principle is to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁴⁷ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

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

⁴⁷ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106>> last accessed [15/03/17]

8.3 Baseline Summary

8.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Health Indicators and Deprivation

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 7. As highlighted in Figure 8.1, 77.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', notably less than the total for Canterbury district (81.4%), the South East region (83.6%) and England as a whole (81.4%).

Comparatively, 6.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report either 'bad health' or 'very bad health', which is slightly higher than the total for Canterbury district (5.2%), the South East (4.4%) and England (5.4%).

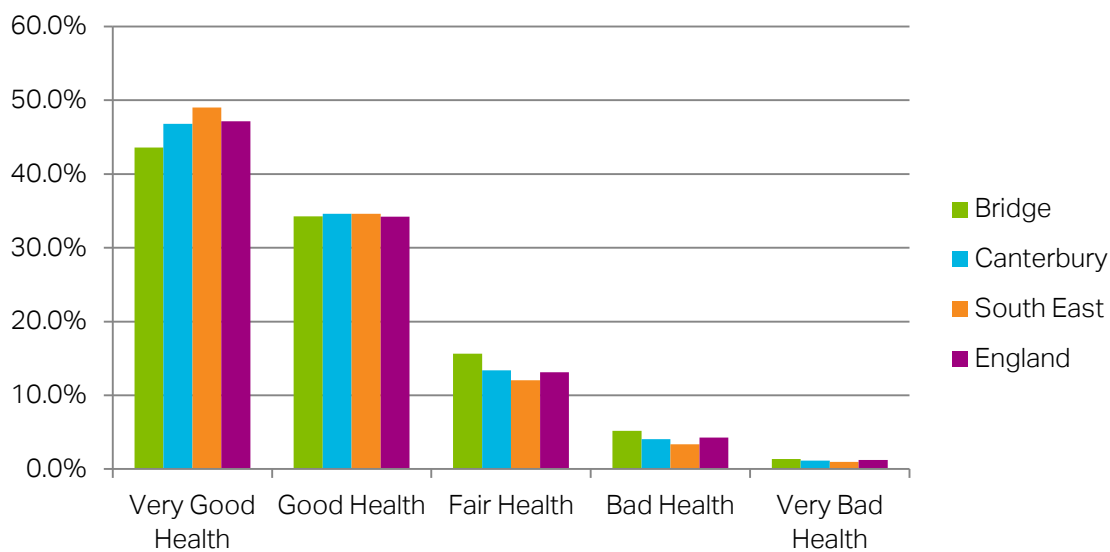


Figure 8.1: 'General Health'⁴⁸

The lower levels of 'very good health' and 'good health' within the Neighbourhood Plan area observed in Figure 8.1 align with the disability data presented in Table 8.1. Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 21.8% of residents report that their daily activities are limited in some way, which is higher than the average for Canterbury District (18.1%), the South East (15.7%) and England (17.6%).

Table 8.1: Disability⁴⁹

	Bridge	Canterbury	South East	England
Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Lot	10.9%	8.2%	6.9%	8.3%
Day-to-Day Activities Limited a Little	10.9%	9.9%	8.8%	9.3%
Day-to-Day Activities Not Limited	78.3%	81.9%	84.3%	82.4%

Summary of Future Baseline

An ageing population has the potential to place additional pressures on health services in the area.

⁴⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health, 2011' (QS302EW)

⁴⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="534 436 1414 504">• Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups?<li data-bbox="534 526 1414 627">• Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards?<li data-bbox="534 649 1414 683">• Reduce noise pollution?<li data-bbox="534 694 1414 728">• Promote the use of healthier modes of travel?<li data-bbox="534 739 1414 772">• Improve access to the countryside for recreational use?

9. Transportation

Focus of Theme:

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

9.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well served by road, with the A2 providing access to Canterbury and the M2 to the north and Dover to the south.
- There are no railway stations within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The closest station is located c.2km north-east of Bridge village, providing access to Canterbury and Dover. Within Canterbury, two railway stations provide services to the rest of Kent and to London.
- A relatively high percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have two or more cars or vans (48.3%), significantly higher than district, regional and national averages.
- Driving in a car or van is most popular method of transport to work (46.3%).

9.2 Policy Context

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

Kent County Council is currently developing its latest Local Transport Plan: *Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031*.

9.3 Baseline Summary

9.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Rail Network

No railway stations are located within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The closest station is located 2km to the north-east in Bekesbourne, an approximate 5 minute drive or 30 minute walk from Bridge. This station provides links to Canterbury to the west and Dover to the east. Within Canterbury, there are two train stations; Canterbury West and Canterbury East. The latter is located closer to Bridge, approximately 10 minutes' drive or 18 minutes' bus journey away. Canterbury West provides linkages to the north-east (Margate) and south-west (Ashford). Canterbury East provides linkages to the north-west (Chatham) and the south-east (Dover). Both provide regular access to London, with high speed services from Canterbury West taking approximately 1 hour to reach St Pancras International.

Bus Network

In regards to the bus network the main service provider is Stagecoach⁵⁰. The two major services that pass through Bridge are service no. 17 (Canterbury – Folkestone) and 89 (Canterbury – Aylesham/Dover). The main bus stops are located by the White Horse Inn. The no. 17 runs every 30 minutes during mornings and hourly in the afternoon. The no. 89 provides two services an hour, one terminating in Aylesham and another with an extended route to Dover⁵¹.

Road Network and Congestion

A crossroad to the north of Bridge is the main point of access to the northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is linked to Bridge/Station Road to the west, Bekesbourne Road to the north and Town Hill to the east. 500m north of the crossroad is the A2, the main strategic route linking the parish with the M2 and Canterbury with Dover. The A2 can also be joined to the south of Bridge via Bridge Hill road, which is the only main route south. To the west and south-west, a series of small lanes provides access to the Downs and small hamlets.

Cycle and Footpath Network

Regional Cycle Route 17 crosses through the Neighbourhood Plan area, traversing west-east. To the west, the route takes in the Kent Downs AONB before reaching Folkestone or Dover. Route 17 links with Regional Cycle Route 16, adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, travelling north-south between Canterbury and Whitfield⁵².

The Elham Valley Way is a 36.21km route between Canterbury and Hythe using existing public rights of way which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area. The North Downs Way trail passes adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Availability of Cars and Vans

Figure 9.1 below highlights the availability of cars and vans within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The proportion of households with no access to a car or van is 12.1%, which is significantly lower than the average for Canterbury District (22.9%), the South East (18.6%) and England (25.8%). The Neighbourhood Plan area has a slightly lower percentage of households with one car or van (39.6%), however it has a significantly higher percentage of two or more cars (48.3%) in comparison to Canterbury district (33.5%), the South East (39.7%) and England (32%).

⁵⁰ Stagecoach (2017): [online] viewed at: <<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>> last accessed [18/04/17]

⁵¹ Stagecoach (2017): '17 Bus Route and Timetable' and '89 Bus Route and Timetable', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>> last accessed [18/04/17]

⁵² Sustrans (no date): 'National Cycle Network Route Map', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>> last accessed [15/03/17]

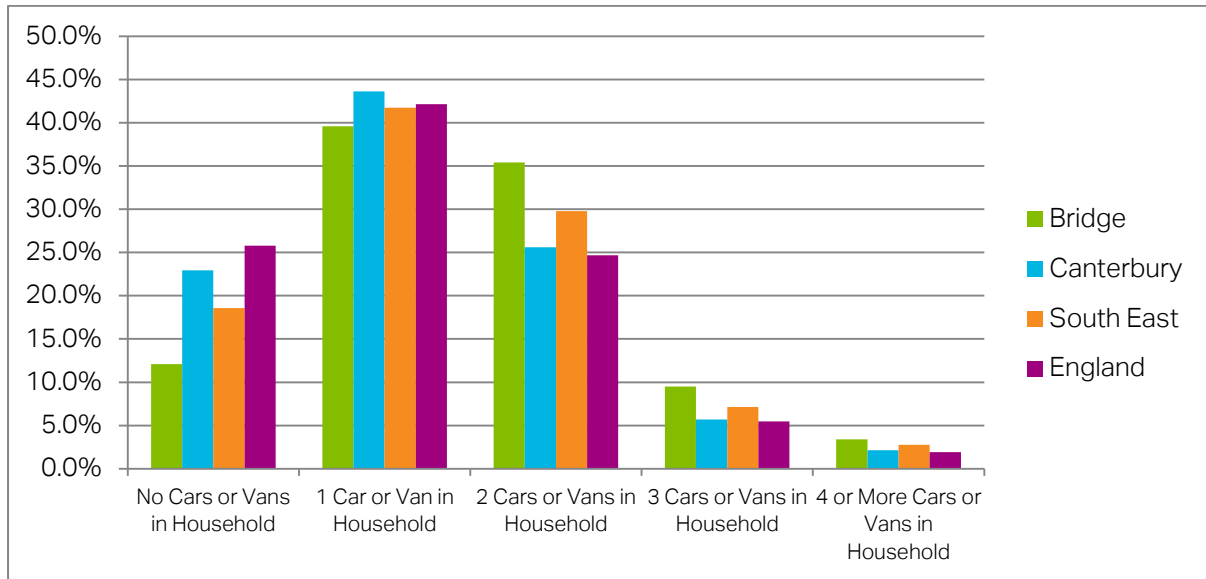


Figure 9.1: 'Car and van ownership'⁵³

Travel to Work

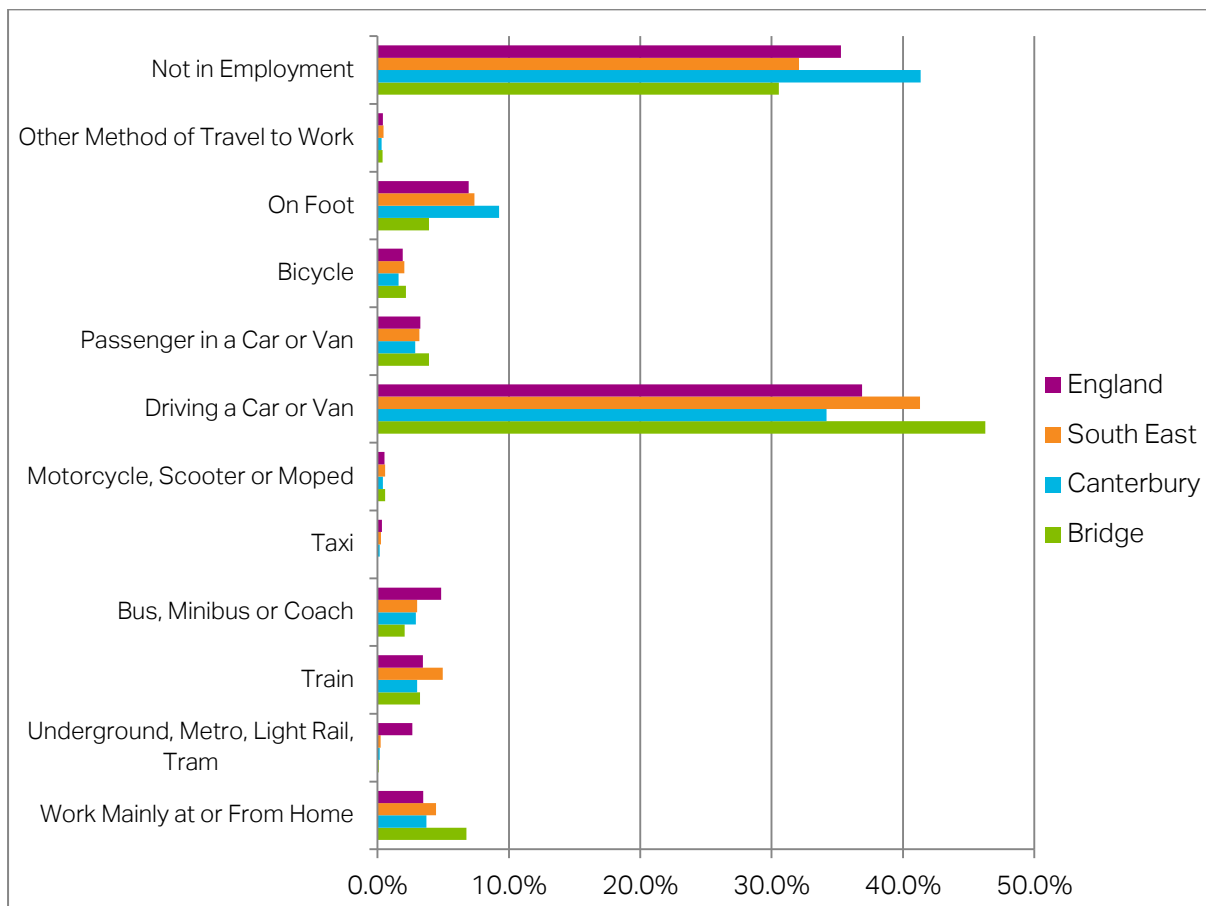


Figure 9.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁵⁴

⁵³ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

⁵⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

Based on the most recent census data, the most popular method of traveling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (46.3%), shown in Figure 9.2. This is significantly higher than the average for Canterbury District (34.2%), the South East (41.3%) and England (36.9%). The second most popular methods of travelling to work within the Neighbourhood Plan area is on foot and passenger in a car or van (both 3.9%). As is typical for a rural area, travelling on foot is significantly lower than the average of Canterbury district (9.3%) and regional and national averages, while the proportion travelling by passenger in a car or van is in keeping with the local, regional and national average. A higher percentage of people within the Neighbourhood Plan area work mainly at or from home (6.8%) than averages for Canterbury District (3.7%), the South East (4.5%) and England (3.5%).

9.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Given the rural nature of the parish, and the lack of a rail station, car use is likely to continue to remain high in the Neighbourhood Plan area. There is likely to be an increase in the proportion of people working from home due to an increase in modern working patterns, including agile and flexible working.

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

10. Next Steps

10.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process⁵⁵

1. Screening;
2. Scoping;
3. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
4. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation;
5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')

The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Neighbourhood Plan, including spatial strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.

Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.

Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report, the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Canterbury City Council for subsequent Independent Examination.

10.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.

The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

10.3 Download and viewing details

The Scoping Report can be downloaded at:

<http://www.bridgevillage.org.uk/nhp.asp>

This consultation period runs from 11th May 2017 until 15th June 2017. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Philip Wicker, Clerk to Bridge Parish Council

clerk@bridgevillage.org.uk

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁵⁵ In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

