

BOUGHTON

MONCHELSEA

**BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA
NEIGHBOURHOOD
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2031**

MADE 14TH JULY 2021

This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by a Steering Group on behalf of Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

Digital copies of this document can be downloaded from:

www.boughtonmonchelseapc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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WELCOME TO THE BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

“Change is the only constant in life”, said the Greek philosopher Heraclitus two and a half thousand years ago – and he was right.

Our parish is not the same as it was 50 years ago, or the same as it will be in 50 years’ time. People will change, and so will the way they live – the buildings they live in, the jobs they do, how they enjoy their spare time, the environment which surrounds them and how they use it, and the way they get around.



Edwardian Church Street



Present Day Church Street



Village Green 1900



Village Green 2018

In this Neighbourhood Development Plan we are taking the opportunity given to us in planning law to set out how we think the parish should develop in the years to 2031, in a way which keeps what we value most, and enables us and future generations to continue to adapt to changes in society.

Our plan focuses on physical changes, because these are the things which can be influenced by a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Social and other changes are important too, but this document is not the place to consider them.

In this Plan you can find out:

- What local people think is important in their local environment
- How we have translated this into a Vision for the future
- Our suggested planning policies, to be used in deciding planning applications, and our identified sites for future housing development
- How these relate to important national and local planning policies

Following consultation with the community in 2018 and 2019 the draft plan was amended to take comments into account and was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for further consultation and formal Examination. The plan has been amended in line with the recommendations of the independent Examiner.

To quote Benjamin Franklin,

“To fail to plan is to plan to fail”.

Thank you for helping us plan for our future.

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

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Boughton Monchelsea Parish looking North

SECTION 1.0

OUR VISION FOR BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA TOWARDS 2031

Our Vision, developed with our community, is that the Neighbourhood Development Plan should influence development to **'Meet the demands of the modern community whilst protecting and enhancing a sustainable rural environment.'**

This is how we would like Boughton Monchelsea to be in the future. Our Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the whole of Boughton Monchelsea parish, from the edge of Maidstone in the north to the rural area south of Heath Road, with Boughton village in the middle. In more detail, the Vision of Boughton Monchelsea in the future is of a quietly vibrant rural community, physically distinct from Maidstone and its suburbs and more than a dormitory suburb. Boughton Monchelsea village continues to be attractive with its heart based around the village green and Church Street, set within and relating well to its surrounding rural landscape. This will be assisted by better pedestrian and cycle links throughout the Parish and linking to the wider area.

The Parish will see some development over the period of the Plan. Any development will not be visually intrusive. The Quarries is a good example of this, set in a hollow and hidden from view from the higher countryside yet with pleasing streetscene within it.

A strong principle is that individual developments should be of a scale appropriate to the village and its surroundings. Further large housing estates tacked onto the edge of Boughton Monchelsea village and onto the southern edge of Maidstone are not considered appropriate.

The landscape setting of the parish is important to local people and we will work to maintain this and improve its protection where possible.

To help make sure that Boughton Monchelsea village retains its community spirit, the village will need to upgrade its community facilities. It will enable modern facilities where different groups, businesses, educational and other organisations can meet in convivial surroundings that are well designed, appropriate for their context and energy efficient so as to be cost effective to run.

The aim of this Plan is to help guide and manage development in the face of challenges, so that the Vision is achieved.



Boughton Monchelsea Primary School



Village Hall

The Vision is an important statement of how Boughton Monchelsea might change overall but more specific measures are needed to judge how successful this change will be. These are the Objectives of the Plan, set out below.

The following Objectives reflecting the views of the community are proposed for this plan:

Objective 1: Managing landscape and development to be more sustainable and ensure better resilience to social, economic and climate change

- Managing the landscape and waterways, economy and growth in ways which support the social aspects of the community and is appropriate to this rural Parish.
- All new development must be sustainable¹ in its location, visual impact and environmental performance, and have either a neutral affect or improve either the appearance or performance of the environment.

Objective 2: Landscape setting of rural settlements

- Preserving the character and appearance of the village of Boughton Monchelsea and its satellite hamlets, particularly preventing them merging into the suburbs of Maidstone and losing their separate identity.
- Also contributing to the setting of Maidstone town, which is surrounded by countryside and high-quality landscape and penetrated by corridors of open land which also offer recreational opportunities, as noted in the Local Plan.
- Supporting and influencing national and local measures to improve the protection of local landscape particularly in relation to the Greensands Ridge the Weald of Kent and Loose Valley.

Objective 3: Rural environment

- Maintaining green open space for agriculture, food-based production, biodiversity, and resilience to climate change and for sport and recreation, landscape value and setting.
- Enhancing networks for movement by cycle and on foot to, from, through and within the Parish.

Objective 4: Rural economy

- Maintaining and enhancing local businesses, particularly related to the traditional land based economy of the area.

Objective 5: Design and impact of new housing

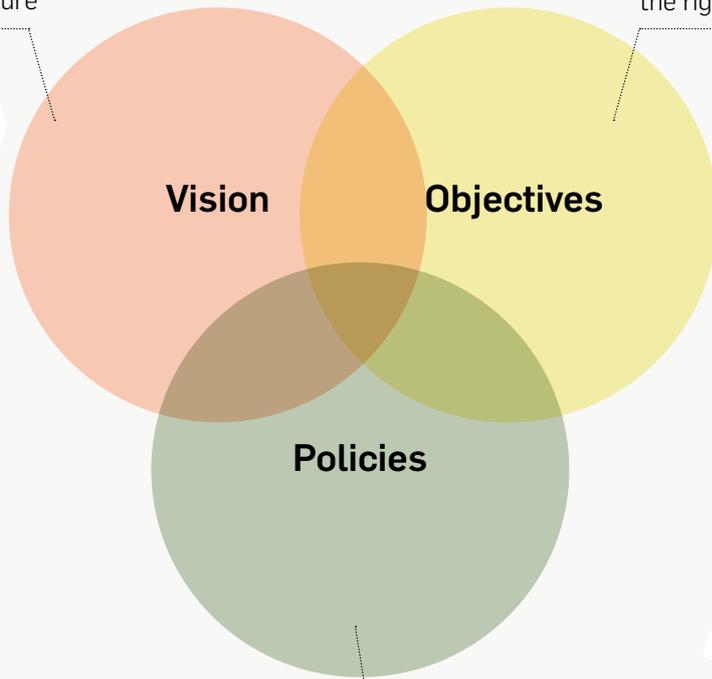
- Housing developments must be sustainable, meet the needs of the local community and be in keeping with the existing properties in the village and parish thus preserving the rural atmosphere for future generations.

¹ Sustainable development – development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It has economic, social and environmental components. The NPPF sets out what the government considers to be sustainable development in practice in the planning system.

DIAGRAM 1
The Relationship between Vision, Objectives & Policies

Describes in general terms how the community would like the area to be in future

Describes in more detail aspects of the Vision, so that it is possible to check whether things are moving in the right direction



Statements used to guide decisions on planning applications in order to help achieve the Objectives and the Vision

Policies which apply Parish-wide, policies for Health and Wellbeing, for Rural Housing and for Local Rural Economy are set out in Section 5 of this Plan

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VISION, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

OUR VISION FOR BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA TOWARDS 2031

'Meet the demands of the modern community whilst protecting and enhancing a sustainable rural environment.'

Objective 1: Managing landscape and development to be more sustainable and ensure better resilience to social, economic and climate change

- Managing the landscape and waterways, economy and growth in ways which support the social aspects of the community and is appropriate to this rural Parish.
- All new development must be sustainable in its location, visual impact and environmental performance, and have either a neutral affect or improve either the appearance or performance of the environment.

Relevant Policies:

- PWP 1. Ensuring a sustainable and resilient community
- PWP 2. Priority Local Landscape
- PWP 3. Protection of Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- PWP 4. Provision for new housing development
- PWP 6. Sustainable connections
- PWP 7. Sustainable Drainage Systems and Water Management
- PWP 8. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- PWP 10. Lighting
- PWP 11. Protecting woodland areas and planting native tree and hedgerow species
- PWP 12. Biodiversity in New Development
- PWP 14. Separation of Settlements, Gateways and Long Views
- PWP 15. Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy
- HWB 1. Supporting local community facilities
- RH 1. Location of new residential development
- RH 2. Affordable housing
- RH 3. Redevelopment and/or remodeling of existing affordable housing provision
- RH 4. Housing allocations
- RH 5. Identified sites for housing development
- RH 6. Design of new housing development
- LRE 1. Rural economy
- LRE 2. Development relating to existing businesses

Objective 2: Landscape setting of rural settlements

- Preserving the character and appearance of the village of Boughton Monchelsea and its satellite hamlets, particularly preventing them merging into the suburbs of Maidstone and losing their separate identity.
- Also contributing to the setting of Maidstone town, which is surrounded by countryside and high-quality landscape and penetrated by corridors of open land which also offer recreational opportunities, as noted in the Local Plan.
- Supporting and influencing national and local measures to improve the protection of local landscape.

Relevant Policies:

- PWP 2. Priority Local Landscape
- PWP 3. Protection of Non-Designated Heritage Assets
- PWP5. Improving landscape and amenity access between South Maidstone and Boughton Monchelsea

PWP 14. Separation of Settlements, Gateways and Long Views

RH 7. Residential Annexes

RH 8. New dwellings in open countryside

Objective 3: Rural environment

- Maintaining green open space for agriculture, food-based production, biodiversity, and resilience to climate change and for sport and recreation, landscape value and setting.
- Enhancing networks for movement by cycle and on foot to and within the Parish.

Relevant Policies:

PWP 2. Priority Local Landscape

PWP 5. Improving landscape and amenity access between South Maidstone and Boughton Monchelsea

PWP 9. Local fibre or internet connectivity

HWB 2. Allotments

RH 1. Location of new residential development

RH 7. Residential Annexes

RH 8. New dwellings in open countryside

LRE 1. Rural economy

Objective 4: Rural economy

- Maintaining and enhancing local businesses, particularly related to the traditional land based economy of the area.

Relevant Policies:

LRE 1. Rural economy

LRE 2. Development relating to existing businesses

Objective 5: Design and impact of new housing

- Housing developments must be sustainable, meet the needs of the local community and be in keeping with the existing properties in the village thus preserving the village atmosphere for future generations.
- The scale of any new development must be in keeping with the established pattern of development in the village which has been successfully assimilated on single plots or smaller sites.

Relevant Policies:

RH 1. Location of new residential development

RH 2. Affordable housing

RH 5. Identified sites for housing development

RH 6. Design of new housing development

RH 9. Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

PWP 3. Protection of Non-Designated Heritage Assets

PWP 13. Transport Assessments and increased parking provision

SECTION 2.0

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Localism Act 2011 has given communities the right to shape their future development locally, by producing Neighbourhood Development Plans containing planning policies to help decide planning applications.

The Localism Act provides that a Neighbourhood Development Plan developed by a community, if passed by an independent examination and approved by a local referendum, shall be adopted by the Local Planning Authority, giving it legal status.

On 29th October 2012, the Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Plan Area, which follows the parish council boundary and covering the whole parish, (as shown on Map 1, page 9) was approved by Maidstone Borough Council. Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council is the qualifying body entitled to prepare the Plan on behalf of the community.

Since that time much work has been done to understand the community's concerns and hopes, and how a Neighbourhood Development Plan can address these. The Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Development Plan:

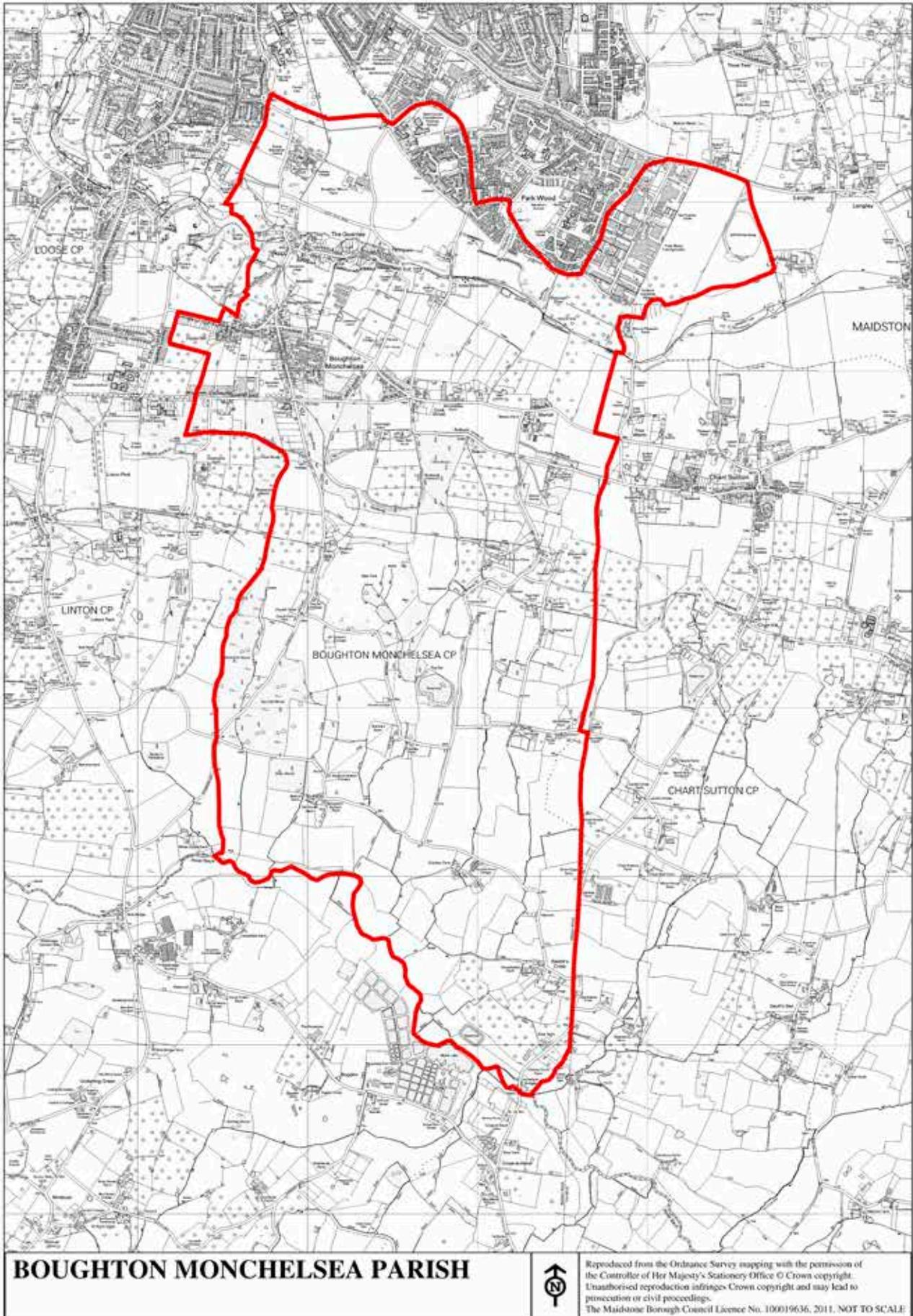
- Reflects community-wide views,
- Brings them together with local information and data
- and expresses them in formal planning policies

which aim to improve their quality of life and make the Parish of Boughton Monchelsea an even better place to live and work, for now and future generations.

The Plan covers the period to 2031 to correspond with the period of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017.

In this document you will find information on all three aspects set out above. Following community consultation in 2018 and 2019, and a formal Examination, the plan has been amended in line with the recommendations of the independent Examiner.

MAP 1
Neighbourhood Plan Area approved 29 October 2012



The next stage is a local referendum and if the plan is approved by the community it will become part of the development plan, which is the statutory planning policy framework, having the same legal status as the Maidstone Borough Local Plan. This means it would have significant weight when Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) are taking decisions about planning applications, and informing the shape of developments at design stage for developers. It will be the starting point for deciding **what** development should take place locally, in **which** location, and the **type** and **quality** of that development.

The plan has been produced by a Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council, community volunteers, RTPi's Planning Aid and with the help of planning consultants from Community Spirit Partnership CIC and Mole Ember Ltd and Landscape Architects Colvin & Moggridge.

The Boughton Monchelsea Neighbourhood Development Plan should be read as a whole and in conjunction with other policies within the Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2017 as formally adopted by the Council, and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)² (2018 & 2019) and National Planning Practice Guidance³ (NPPG) (2014 as updated from time to time) which set out the strategic and national policy frameworks respectively. Wherever possible explanations of technical terms have been given in footnotes, but where longer explanations are necessary they are included in the Glossary in Section 7.



The Village Green

² The NPPF, reviewed in 2018 and updated in February 2019, sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these must be applied. Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan policies must be in conformity with the NPPF.

³ The NPPG is practice guidance, providing advice on how to implement the national planning policies set out in the NPPF. It is web-based, and updated from time to time.

SECTION 3.0

BACKGROUND TO THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.1. A BRIEF HISTORY

The Village of Boughton Monchelsea lies on a ragstone ridge situated between the North Downs and the Weald of Kent and has commonly been called Quarry Hills. Over the centuries its main commerce has been ragstone, arable, orchards, woodland, hops, cobnuts and pastureland. The wider parish has an elongated shape from north to south, taking in different types of geology and landscape.

The village name comes from a corruption of the name of the Norman family given the manor after the Conquest: Montchensie who held the manor in the late 12th century, and the Anglo Saxon Boc Tun (Beech Tree settlement) ⁴. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Boltone, then Bouton, Bocton, and probably via Bocton de Montchensie to the current Boughton Monchelsea. The suffix using the family name seems to have been added in this area of Kent, possibly to differentiate multiple Boctun's. ⁵

Some of the earliest history of Boughton Monchelsea is in the Iron Age settlement at Quarry Wood Camp (Camp Field). There are traces of an outer rampart on Parsonage Farm (on the edge of Park Wood) constructed by the Belgae about 40 AD possibly as a defence against the Roman invasion in 43 AD.

The foundations of a Roman bathhouse were discovered in 1841 near Brishing Court, also a Roman villa at Brishing and a cemetery at Lockham. The Quarries were worked extensively in Roman times and the villa and bathhouse could well have belonged to the quarry owner. Ragstone (a type of sandstone) was worked here; stone for building of Westminster Abbey, the present-day Houses of Parliament and the repair of Rochester Castle came from here and its use locally is visible in ragstone walls. The last quarry closed in 1960.

The village church, dedicated to St Peter, was originally built in the late 11th or 12th centuries, and is a historic building listed Grade II*.



Early 20th century quarrymen pose at Beresfords Quarry

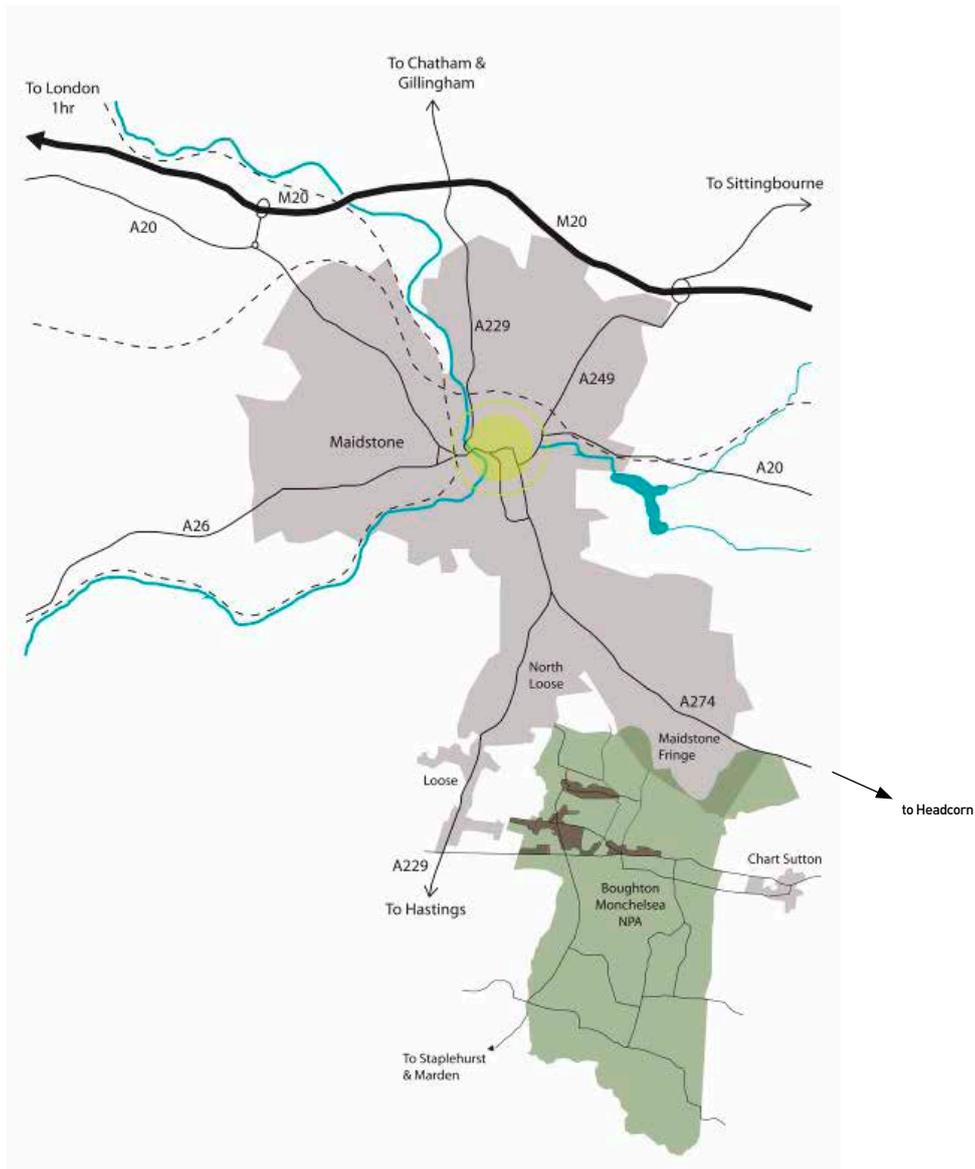


St Peter's Church

⁴ Boughton Monchelsea Explored, Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council, 1989

⁵ Upon the Quarry Hills, Paul Hastings, 2000

ILLUSTRATIVE MAP 2
Boughton Monchelsea Parish & Local
Settlements within its Wider Context



3.2. WHY WE NEED A NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: CURRENT CHALLENGES

In its long and diverse history the Parish of Boughton Monchelsea has faced many pressures, and during the period covered by this Neighbourhood Development Plan and beyond, further challenges as well as opportunities will need to be addressed. Many of these challenges are the same as that have existed in previous years, in particular the growth of Maidstone, housing the population, the impact of private motorised transport on an essentially medieval road network, and changes in agriculture, but the headwinds of change are now stronger than ever.

The biggest challenge facing the future of Boughton Monchelsea is to protect the character of the area as a rural parish, with its main village, satellite hamlets, farmsteads and local businesses, whilst allowing it to continue to evolve in a sensitive manner.

Another challenge for the future is that the village does not have the infrastructure to support the needs of a growing population and ageing residents. There needs to be a balance in supporting those who have been a part of the community for a long time, whilst ensuring that future generations' interests are also catered for. This will then enable the parish to be more sustainable for decades and centuries to come.

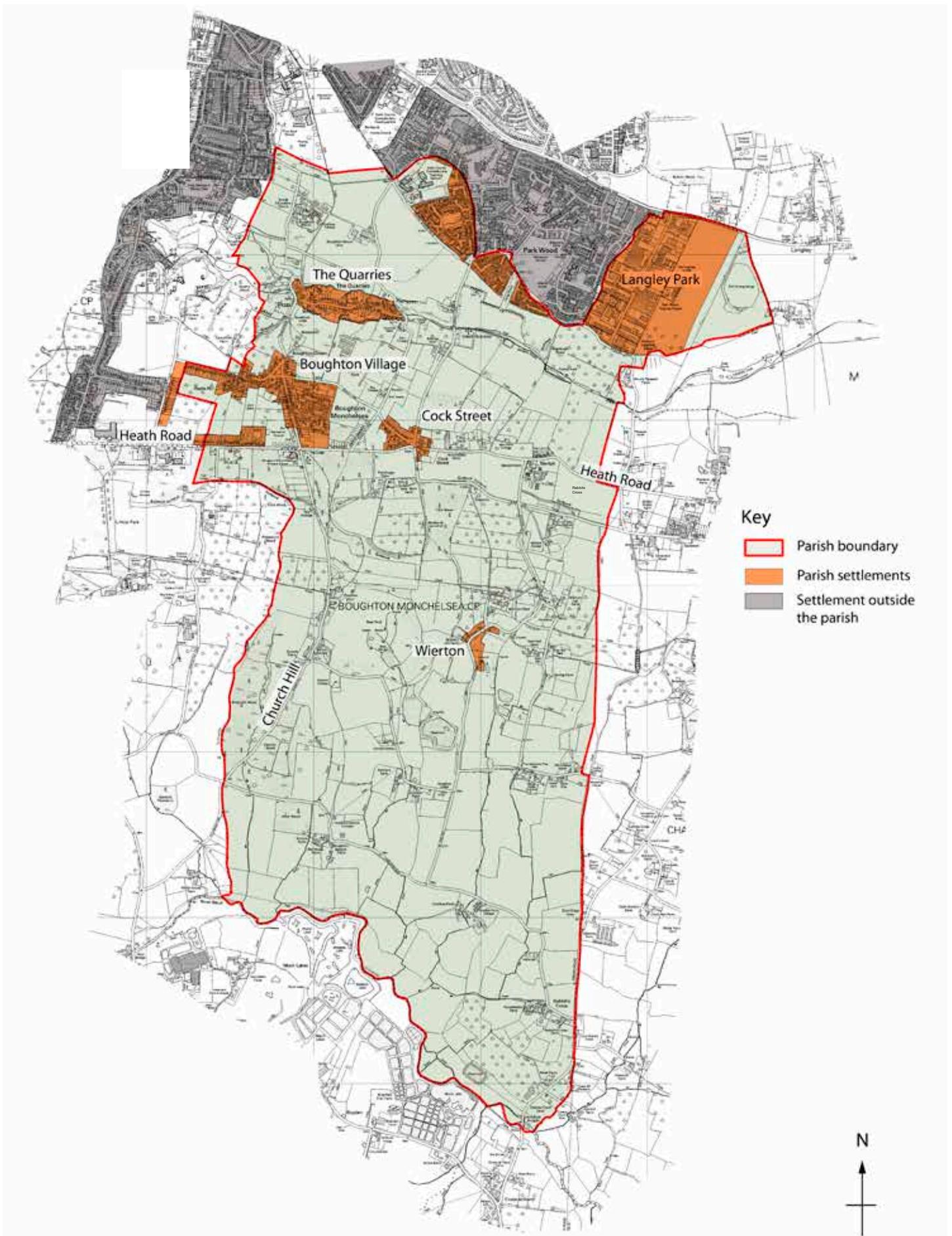
A further challenge, which faces us all, is climate change. Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council is producing a Parish Action Plan to address the actions which can be taken locally. This Neighbourhood Development Plan includes policies which assist in this, in line with national planning policy which identifies addressing climate change as a core land use planning issue.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan provides for the first time the force of planning legislation for Boughton Monchelsea's community to map out the land use of the 2,820 acres that makes up the Parish, and to locally determine the balance set out in the Vision.

The parish is bounded to the north by urban Maidstone's southern fringe and new development at Langley Park Farm; on the east by Chart Sutton; on the west by Loose and to the south by Staplehurst and Marden (See Map 2, page 12). Maidstone's proximity to the parish and its position as one of Kent's natural residential growth points will continue to exert development pressure, particularly on greenfield land in Boughton Monchelsea that abuts Maidstone's southern urban fringe.

This Neighbourhood Development Plan makes provision for future development in the parish, but does not accept as inevitable the long term continuous urban spread of Maidstone into the northern part of the parish, nor that it will eventually result in the northern part of the parish becoming another suburb of Maidstone similar to the experience of other parishes with adjoining boundaries to Maidstone. The overall approach of the Plan is set out in Objective 2, to limit urban spread and coalescence of settlements, an objective which was identified by the local community.

MAP 3 INDICATIVE
Settlements and Key Locations in the Parish



This approach is set in the context of decisions taken in previous years. In 1994 the Parish Council formed the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust (BMAT) 'to preserve open land and amenities for the benefit of the village'. The Trust, by both purchasing land and endeavouring to negotiate realistic and legally binding agreements with landowners, has successfully attempted to insure against inappropriate development within certain areas of the parish. (Map 5, page 23) While this has been achieved through legal agreements rather than by planning policy, it nevertheless influences the Neighbourhood Development Plan both through the availability of development land, and amenity land for the landscape setting of both Boughton Monchelsea and Maidstone and the recreation and enjoyment of the public. An additional role of BMAT land, and one of increasing importance, is to provide opportunities for the Parish Council to address climate change issues through its use and management of BMAT land.

The Parish Council (in 2017) commissioned renowned landscape architects Colvin and Moggridge to produce a masterplan and management plan for the parish including the BMAT land to guide its future use and enhancement. This approach is believed to be unique for a parish, certainly within Maidstone Borough, and provides a long-term framework for land management to benefit biodiversity and the wider environment as well as the local community.

As in many Kent parishes there is no single nucleated medieval village at Boughton Monchelsea (see Map 3, page 14). Instead settlement is concentrated in scattered locations at Boughton Green (locally known as Boughton village); The Quarries; Wierton, Cock Street, Marlpits and Rabbit's Cross⁶. There is also development along the northern edge of the parish which is more urban in nature, including development currently underway at Langley Park Farm.

While aiming to maintain their separate physical identity, this Plan also aims to facilitate community integration of the settlements in the parish, in particular the new areas of development allocated in the MBC Local Plan at Langley Park Farm and adjoining area south of Sutton Road, part of which lies within the Parish, with those established developments to the south. In part this will be achieved through policies in the Parish Wide Policies and Health and Well-Being Policies (Section 5 of the Plan).

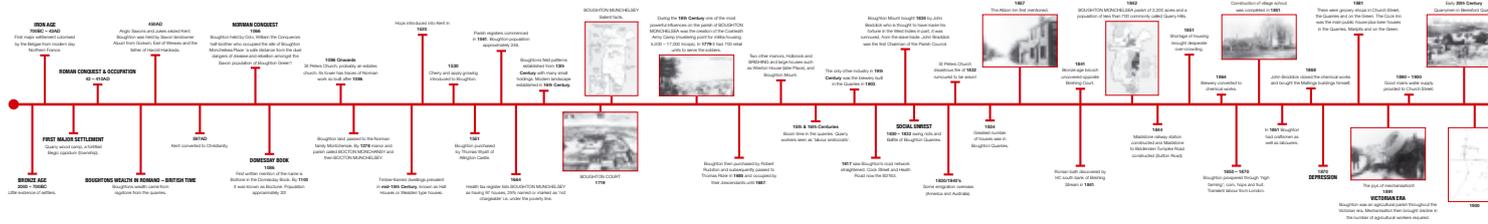
The implementation of these and other policies will be assisted by the control exercised over the BMAT land as it is important not only to the protection of the overall rural character of the area but plays a role in assisting community integration. Enhanced footpaths and cycleway routes on this land will play an important role in developing physical links as well as protecting and maintaining this important rural asset for the benefit of all residents.

A crucial part of the Plan contains policies to meet the varying housing needs of the community, and there is also support for economic development which is compatible with the character of the area and the Vision for it.

The job of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to manage development in the most appropriate way for the area. Our Plan and BMAT land will together manage proposed development in a coherent response that will achieve the best outcomes for the Parish and its residents.

The policies set out in this Plan address the community's Vision and Objectives and the relationship between them is set out in Diagram 1 on page 5.

⁶ KCC and partners have produced the following tool to guide development of historic farmsteads:
www.highweald.org/look-after/buildings/farmsteads-and-hamlets.html



3.3 KEY THEMES OF THE PLAN – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

A key aspect of neighbourhood planning is that the plan is built “from the bottom up”, with the views of the local community shaping the content of the plan.

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council has a long tradition of proactive local management and has produced several successful Parish Plans to guide their actions. The latest Parish Plan (2011) informed the first public workshop, a three day event in October 2013, that forms the basis of this Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Following the workshop a series of engagement events were held with residents and businesses between 2013 and 2015, and local people provided ideas and projects. A great amount of interest was generated through public meetings and regular newsletters. The return rate for the public questionnaire was considered to be extremely high. Images on this page and opposite are taken from earlier engagement events.

The engagement has been very positive. Lots of ideas came forward, were refined as more people became engaged and ideas turned into projects and policies. Further details of continuous engagement with the local community are set out in the Consultation Statement, which accompanied the plan submitted for examination.

A Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and Working Groups made up of volunteers working with Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council prepared this Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Groups’ individual topic papers, based on local views, have formed the foundation for this Plan

The key points arising from the consultations are the wishes of local people for:

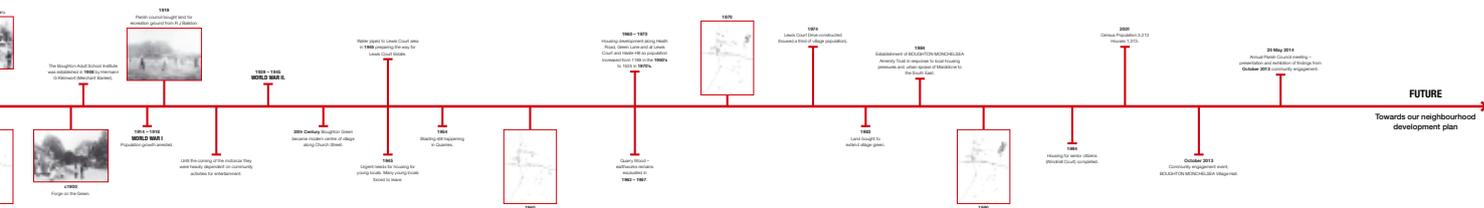
- continued and greater care in stewardship of the natural environment.
- new housing is required and is accepted subject to being relevant to the parish.
- local people are suggesting measures that will make the area more resilient to climate change
- and provide a stronger economic base.

Informal community consultation on a draft of the Plan was carried out in May-June 2018, and the responses were broadly supportive. Comments made in formal consultation in 2019 were taken into account in preparing the plan for submission for Examination.

Where change is necessary it must be sensitive and appropriate to the local area

These key themes have been developed into Objectives which policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will help to achieve. (for more detail see Section 1.0 Vision).

your house built? • When did you move to the village? • Copies of any interesting photos, newspaper cuttings etc? • Tell us your stories!



NB: See Appendix 6 for larger timeline



3.4 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND MAIDSTONE & NATIONAL PLANNING POLICIES

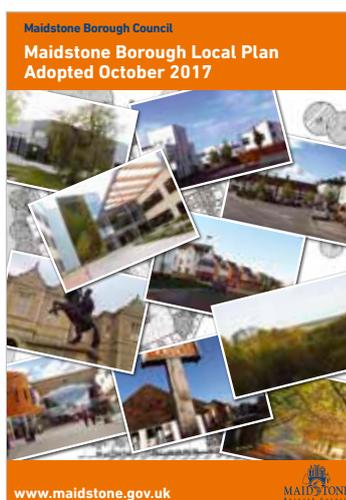
Between 2015 and 2017 there was a “pause” in the process of preparing the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. This was because the attention of the Steering Group was focussed on crucial stages in the preparation of Maidstone Borough Council’s overarching borough-wide Local Plan. It was important that the views collected as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan process were used to influence the borough-wide Local Plan, because in planning law a Neighbourhood Development Plan needs to be in “general conformity” with the strategic policies of the relevant Local Plan.⁷ The Local Plan sets out important matters such as the role of the village in the overall district and the amount of new development which the parish is expected to provide for.

Much of the parish is also covered by Mineral Safeguarding Areas, for gravel and Kentish Ragstone, under the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-2030. This does not prevent development which is allocated in an adopted development plan, and a variety of small scale developments.

Regulations also state that every Neighbourhood Plan must also be in general conformity with national planning policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Details of how the Neighbourhood Plan meets these requirements are set out in the Boughton Monchelsea Basic Conditions Statement which accompanied the plan submitted for examination.

Boughton Monchelsea village has a rural, landscape setting and, despite its location close to Maidstone, has few services and amenities. For example there is no rail line, very poor bus service and no GP or other health provision. In the previous Maidstone Local Plan (2000) it was classified as a ‘village in the countryside’ which meant that the village and its surrounding hamlets would only support natural growth.



⁷ Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

The Neighbourhood Plan process has not identified an overwhelming wish to accommodate only the needs of local people or those with a local connection. Equally however, it has been strongly felt by the community that Boughton Monchelsea parish and village is not an appropriate location for significant growth in housing that will make a major contribution to accommodating the wider housing needs of Maidstone Borough. Boughton Monchelsea is a village and lacks the services to support such growth. Indeed, Boughton Monchelsea's proximity to Maidstone has inevitably had the effect of restricting its growth and the growth of services in the village. People from the wider catchment look to Maidstone for many of their basic services, not to Boughton Monchelsea.

During the process of developing the new Maidstone Borough Local Plan the Parish Council and wider parish consultees considered that Boughton Monchelsea does not perform the function of a Rural Service Centre with many facilities, and made this point strongly as part of the consultation on the Borough Local Plan.

Subsequently the adopted Borough Local Plan categorised Boughton Monchelsea as a "Larger Village", providing some day-to-day services for the community, as opposed to a more significant Rural Service Centre. As a Larger Village Boughton Monchelsea is expected to make some provision for development, and a number of sites in the vicinity are proposed in the Borough Local Plan for housing, some of which have now been built or are under construction.

These are in addition to the proposed development at Langley Park which is at the northern boundary of the parish and on the southern edge of Maidstone, is within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and which is currently being built, and the adjacent proposed development south of Sutton Road, part of which lies in the parish, and land at Kent Policing Training School.

The Maidstone Borough Local Plan identifies the following sites for housing developments in the parish. They are illustrated on Map 4 (note that this does not show associated areas of open space).

- Langley Park, Sutton Road MBC Local Plan policy H1(5)
- South of Sutton Road (part in parish) MBC Local Plan policy H1(10)
- Kent Policy Training School, Sutton Road MBC Local Plan policy H1(28)
- Boughton Mount, Boughton Lane MBC Local Plan policy H1(52)
- Lyewood Farm, Green Lane MBC Local Plan policy H1(54)
- Junction of Church Street and Heath Road MBC Local Plan policy H1 (53)



Village Bus, 1921

The first three of these sites lie within the Maidstone Urban Area and the last two are close to the village centre and have either been completed or are under construction in late 2019. The Maidstone Borough Local Plan expects Boughton Monchelsea to provide development on all these sites, as well as appropriate development on garden land and brownfield land ⁸ within settlement boundaries, as well as conversions.

The job of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to manage development coming through the Maidstone Borough Local Plan in the most appropriate way, protecting heritage, landscape and environmental features of value. One key aspect of this is that increasing housing and population brings the need for improved facilities to serve the population, and it is important that local infrastructure is improved in line with development. The Neighbourhood Development Plan includes a policy (PWP 15) on the use of developer contributions made through both planning obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy ⁹ as well as policies to protect areas of value (eg PWP2, PWP11, PWP12).

In addition, a former nut platt west of Church Street and immediately north of the recreation ground was given planning permission in March 2017 for 18 residential units for people over the age of 55 years, outside the Local Plan process. This permission was not issued until September 2018 when the relevant planning obligation was finally signed. This was a locally contentious proposal, and should the planning permission lapse it is not identified in this Neighbourhood Development Plan as a preferred site for housing.

While a Neighbourhood Development Plan cannot make proposals for less housing than the Local Plan, it can propose more if this is desired by the local community, is justified, and meets the legal requirements for neighbourhood planning (also known as the “basic conditions”).

In planning law, the most recent plan to be made takes precedence, and so once this Neighbourhood Development Plan has completed the full process of examination, referendum, and being “made” (ie adopted) by Maidstone Borough Council, it will take precedence over the Maidstone Borough Local Plan in specifics for the parish where there is any conflict between the two plans.

⁸ For definition of brownfield, see Glossary

⁹ Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area in order to pay for infrastructure. (Source: NPPF) Maidstone Borough Council introduced CIL in October 2018.

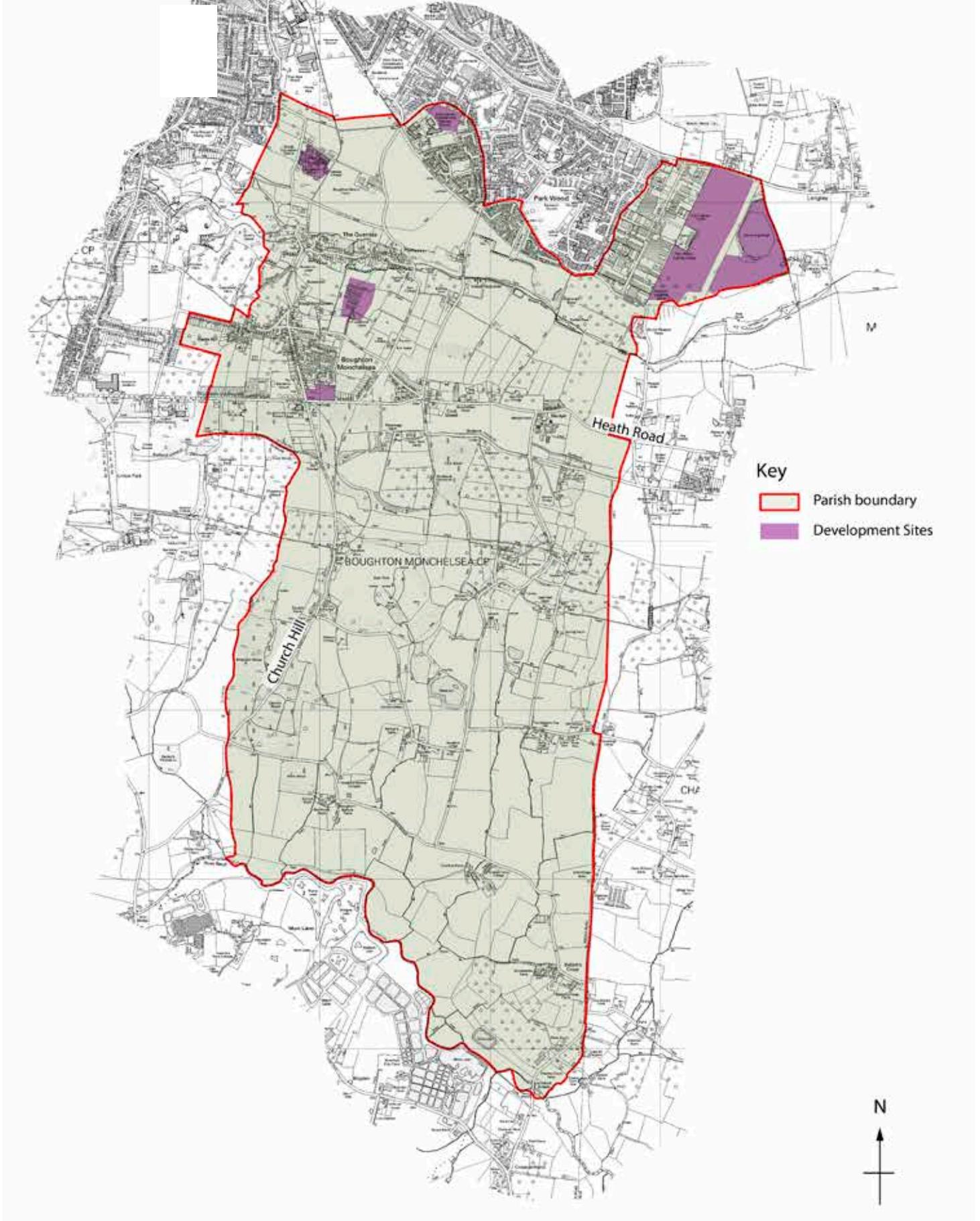
Planning obligation: A legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal (Source: NPPG)

MAP 4 INDICATIVE

Housing Development Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan Area

Note: This map does not show areas of open space associated with developments.

Detailed boundaries can be seen on Maidstone Borough Council's Policies Map.



3.5 PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION AND KEEPING IT UP TO DATE

It is important that any plan is kept up to date, and the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be monitored to check that policies are effective, and reviewed as necessary to keep it up to date. The relationship with the Local Plan is important because evolving Government policy and the continuing pressure for housing in the wider area means that the Maidstone Borough Local Plan is currently being reviewed to cover the period 2019-2037. It is presently envisaged that the Local Plan Review will be adopted in late 2022, and the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan will then need to be considered. If necessary, the neighbourhood plan will be reviewed to ensure that it remains an important part of the statutory development plan for the Parish.

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council will work in partnership with landowners, developers and other stakeholders seeking to develop within the Neighbourhood Development Plan area to guide and encourage development that meets the aims of this Plan.

In particular, it is anticipated that a number of policies will be put into action through the management of BMAT land and projects on that land. This Plan is not the place to detail projects. Map 5, page 23 illustrates land which is either owned freehold by BMAT, or in other cases BMAT has the right to buy it subject to certain conditions being fulfilled.

It is important that local infrastructure keeps pace with development. Maidstone Borough Council has introduced a Community Infrastructure Levy on new development across the borough given planning permission from October 2018. This applies to most forms of new development including new housing. A proportion of the levy (15% capped at £100 per existing dwelling in each financial year where there is no Neighbourhood Plan in place and 25% with no cap where there is a Neighbourhood Plan in place) will be passed to Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council and can be spent on community infrastructure projects. National regulations and guidance explain the detail of how this works. These are complex, but in summary, charges are collected by Maidstone Borough Council from the developer on commencement of development.

The neighbourhood funding element can be spent on wider range of things than the proportion retained by Maidstone Borough Council (which must be spent on infrastructure). The neighbourhood element can be spent on supporting the development of the area by funding:

- The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

Policy PWP 15 of this Neighbourhood Plan is relevant.

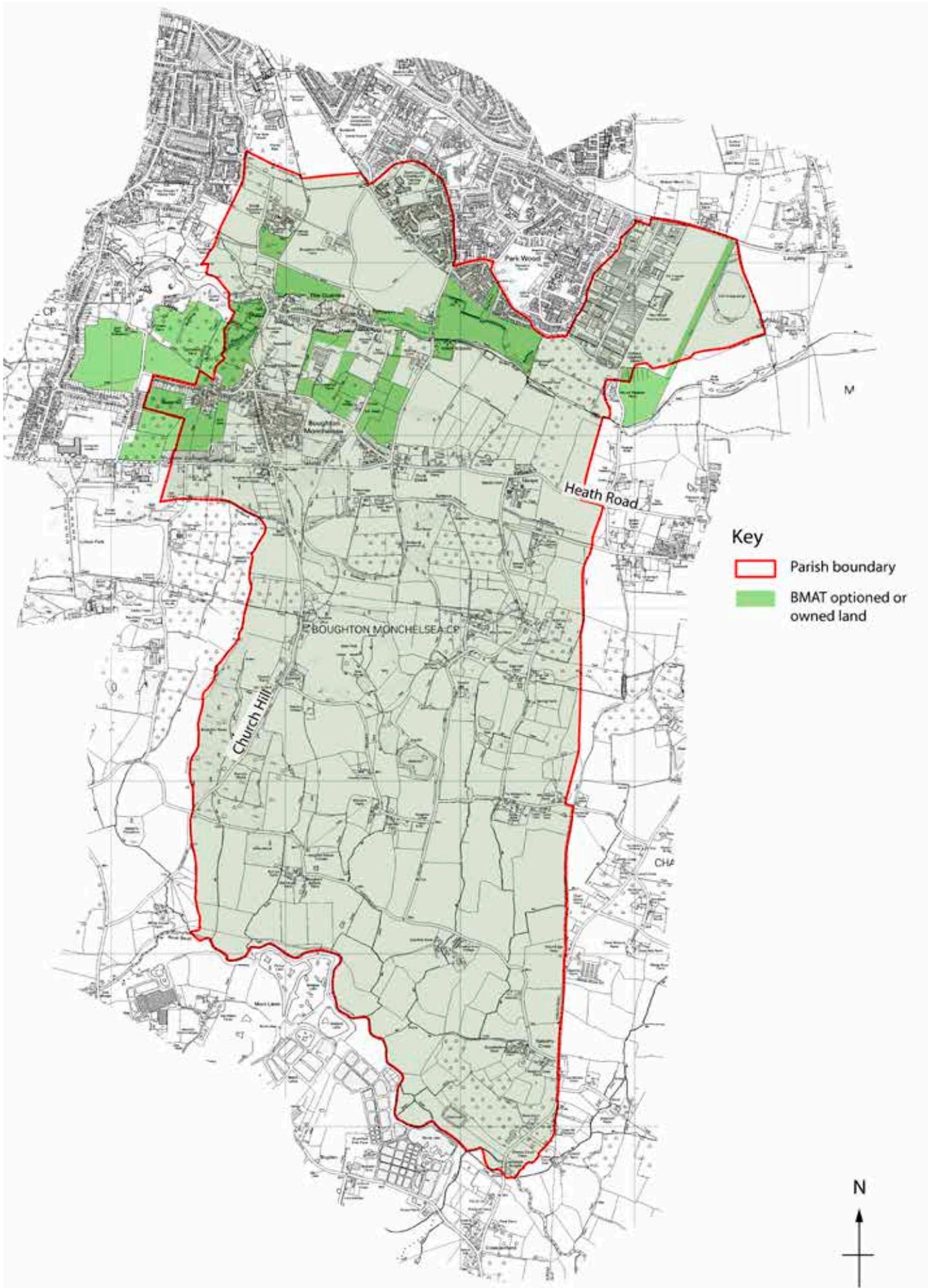
Planning obligations may also be used to bring about wider improvements in the area associated with development.

Key issues which will be monitored, in association with information collected by Maidstone Borough Council, are:

- The number, type and location of housing development given planning permission, and completed
- Affordable housing provided and its occupation by people with a local connection
- The degree to which new development includes features such as sustainable drainage and energy efficient installations
- Changes in the amount and location of nut platts, traditional orchards, coppiced woodland, ancient woodland, roadside tree belts and corner woodlands and the provision of native species in landscaping schemes
- Improvements in sustainable transport connections within the parish and connecting to Maidstone

It is anticipated that monitoring information will be publicly reported by the Parish Council annually.

MAP 5 INDICATIVE
BMAT (Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust) Land



SECTION 4.0

ABOUT OUR PARISH

This section of the Plan sets out, in words, photographs and illustrative maps, a summary of some of the most important characteristics of our parish which have informed and shaped the policies set out in Section 5.

4.1 POPULATION PROFILE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

Population

The 2011 Census gives a population for Boughton Monchelsea Parish of 3,313. The Parish has a lower proportion of people aged between ages 65 and 85+ than the Maidstone Borough, Kent County, South East region and national areas. It has a higher proportion than these areas of people aged 25 – 44 years.

Ethnicity

The 2011 Census identified that the population of the parish of is mostly homogenous, with 98.6% of the population comprising white people. 2.5% classified themselves as White, Other. 0.7% identified themselves as white gypsy or Irish traveller. 3.2% of the population is non- white. The vast majority of the population (97.3%) has English as a main language.

Housing

The 2011 Census identified 1,317 households in Boughton Monchelsea Parish. More than three quarters lived in owner occupied housing. A Housing Needs Survey carried out in 2017¹⁰ found a need for affordable housing for up to 14 households, and for alternative housing for up to 10 older households, 2 of which require affordable¹¹ housing. All these households have strong links to the parish. Most of the households



¹⁰ Boughton Monchelsea Housing Needs Survey 2018, Action for Rural Communities Kent

¹¹ Affordable housing has a particular meaning in planning legislation – see Glossary

requiring affordable housing had incomes meaning that they require rented affordable housing rather than shared ownership and it is notable that none of these were on MBC's Housing Register at the time of the survey. Of the older households, most were seeking owner occupation of smaller/more suitable dwellings. In May 2018 there were 13 families or individuals on the Housing Register seeking housing in the parish, and most were families.

Economic activity

72% (2,400) of the population of the Parish are aged between 16-74. 76.0% of these (1,825 people) are economically active. This is greater than figure of 72.9% for the District, 69.9% for the County, 72% for the South East region and 69% of the country.

Travel to work

Because of the nature of the area, most workers travel to work by car or van, 52.8% (1,268 people), slightly higher than the national average of 41.3%. The next highest proportion is people working from home at 4.8% (116 people), marginally higher than the District, County, regional and national statistics.

The remainder travel by train 4.5% (108 people), marginally lower than District, County, regional and national proportions. 3.2% travel on foot (76 people) significantly lower than District, County, regional and national percentages. 2.8% (66 people) use bus, minibus or coach to travel to work, a low proportion which reflects the poor availability of local public bus transport.

Health

Generally 88% of people within the Parish consider themselves in either very good health or good health, a higher proportion than the wider local and national statistics.

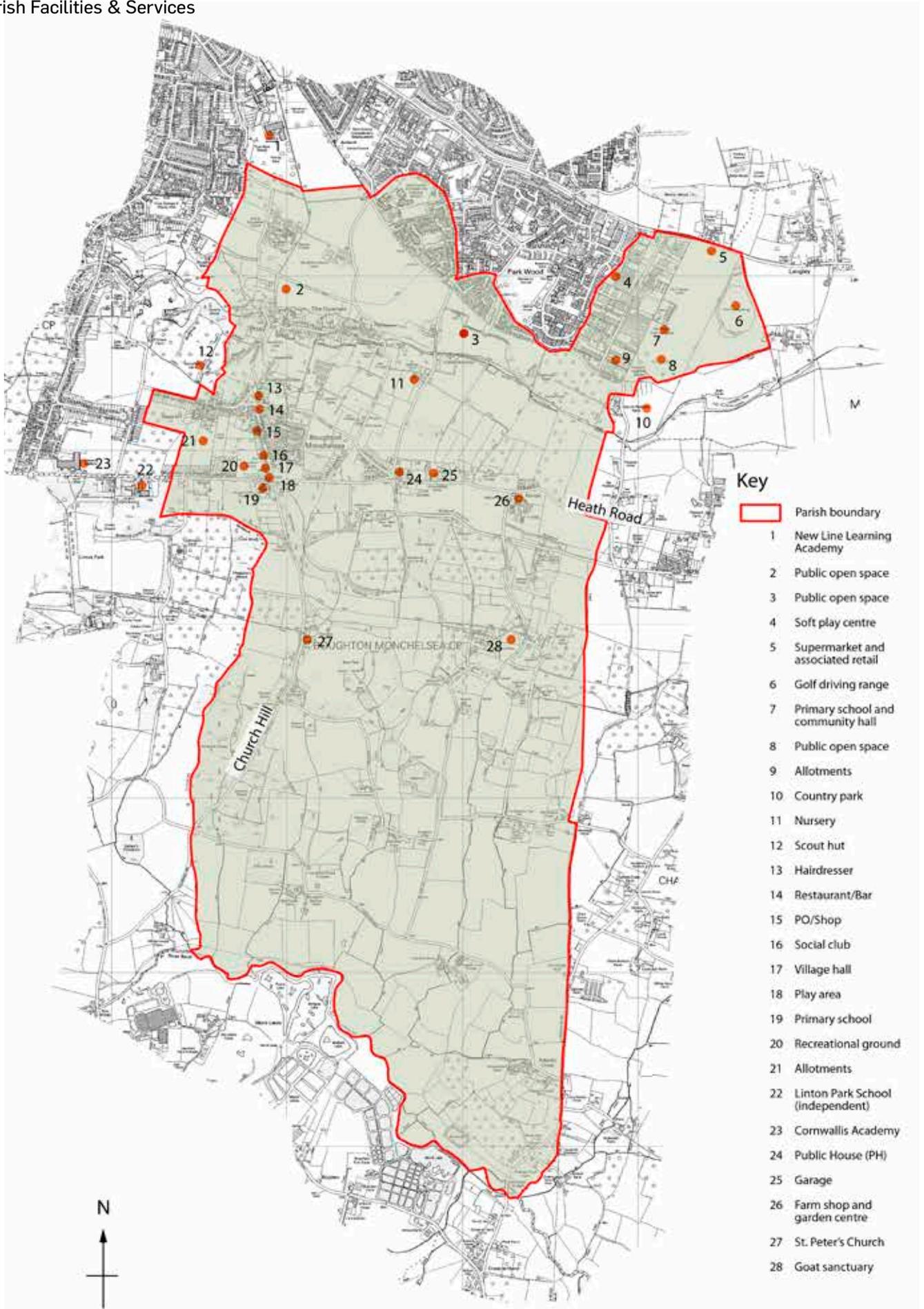


4.2 PARISH FACILITIES & SERVICES

The parish contains a number of facilities serving public needs, including some which are also businesses (such as shops and pubs/restaurants). Map 6 shows how features are concentrated in two areas in the northern part of the parish: in the village heart, the historic core of the parish, and on the southern edge of Maidstone where major residential development is taking place alongside new facilities. The parish is well endowed with access to educational establishments, with a primary school in each of these areas, as well as two secondary academies and an independent school serving all age groups adjacent. There is a lack of public transport to support the large numbers of students travelling to the parish. There is relatively good provision of public open space and recreational facilities. By contrast, while there is at least one shop and a hall/community space in each of the two main residential areas of the parish, there are no primary medical care or other health facilities in the parish, and public transport in the area south of the urban edge is limited to a very poor bus service.



MAP 6 INDICATIVE
Parish Facilities & Services



4.3 VILLAGE HEART & CONSERVATION AREAS

Boughton Monchelsea's historic character is recognised by the formal designation by MBC of the three Conservation Areas indicatively shown on Map 7. Within these areas development is more tightly controlled by national as well as Local Plan policies. Each Area has a Conservation Area Appraisal adopted by MBC in 2008/9, having been developed with the local community. These appraisals identify "positive" unlisted buildings which can be considered as non-designated heritage assets (see Section 4.4.) There is also an adopted Management Plan for the three Conservation Areas combined, adopted by MBC in 2017.

In addition, there is the Registered Park Garden at Boughton Monchelsea Place, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a substantial number of "listed buildings" scattered across the parish. These are of national historic or architectural importance and are likewise given additional protection as "designated heritage assets", indicatively shown on Map 8. A list of these designated heritage assets is given in Appendix 1.

The areas of Ancient Woodland identified on map 8 are of historic importance as they have existed as woodland since at least 1600, and often earlier.

All the features can be seen in more detail on the MBC Local Plan Policies Map¹².

4.4 DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS IN THE PARISH

While map 8 shows heritage assets which have been formally recognised by national legislation, there are many other features of the parish which tell the history of the place and are important to character of the parish. A number are identified in the Conservation Area Appraisals referred to in Section 4.3 above, but others are scattered across the parish. These range from ragstone walls, built of locally quarried stone, cartwheel stones which were the equivalent of laybys and loading bays for horsedrawn carts in the past, oast houses and malt houses for processing agricultural produce, to the Soup Kitchen on the village green and finger post road signs. These are locally special for their historic associations with the quarrying and agricultural industries of the past and the life of those working in them, and the intention of identifying them is that they can be taken into account when planning decisions are taken, and when local people are making changes to their property which do not require planning permission.

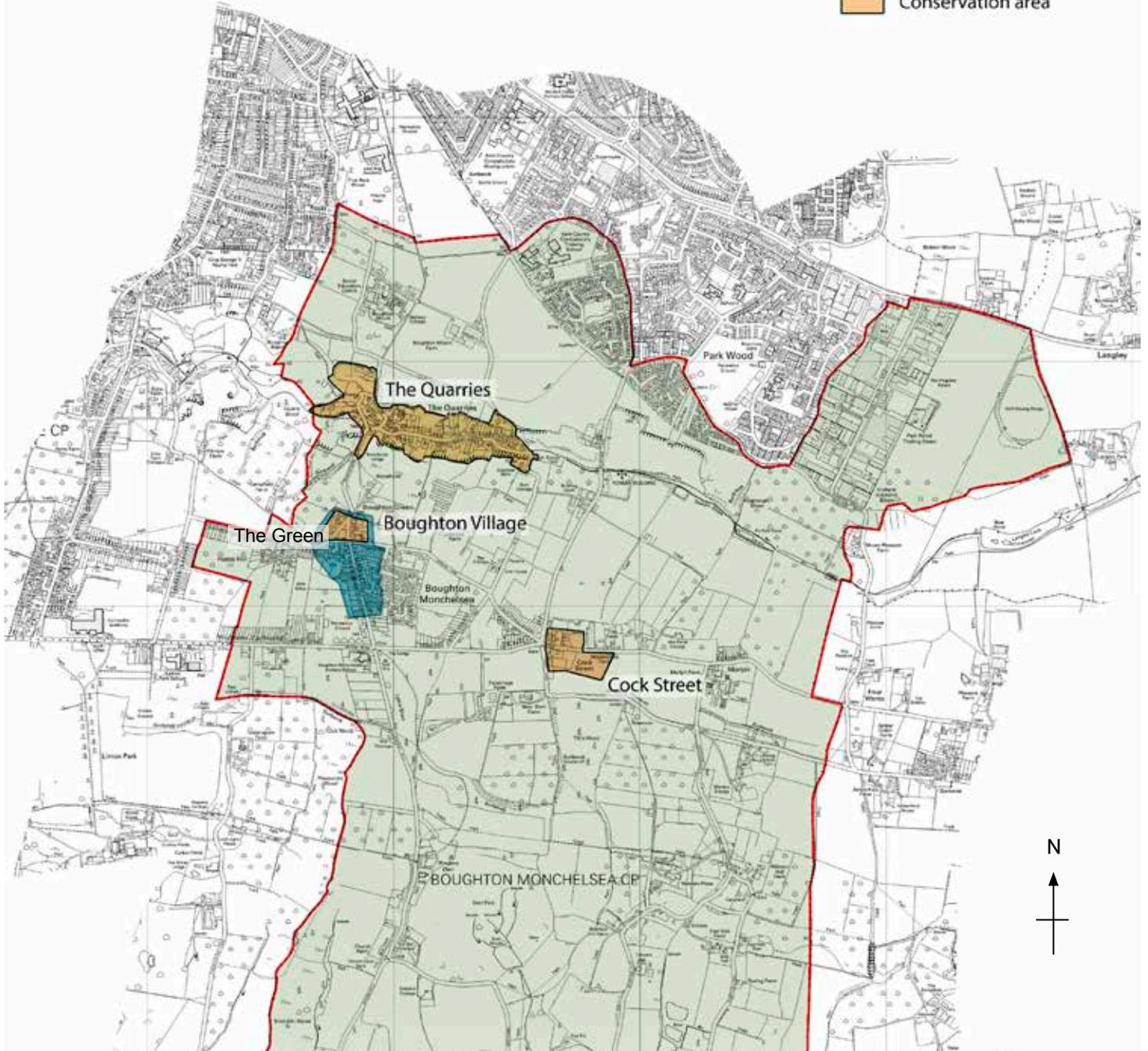
A list of these "non-designated heritage assets" identified through this neighbourhood plan process is included in Appendix 2, together with a brief description of why they are locally important, and policy PWP3 is a policy to protect them.



¹² The Policies Map can be seen online at <https://maidstone.gov.uk>, search on Planning Guidance.

MAP 7 INDICATIVE
Map of Conservation Areas

- Key
-  Parish Boundary
 -  Village Heart
 -  Conservation area



Boughton Village

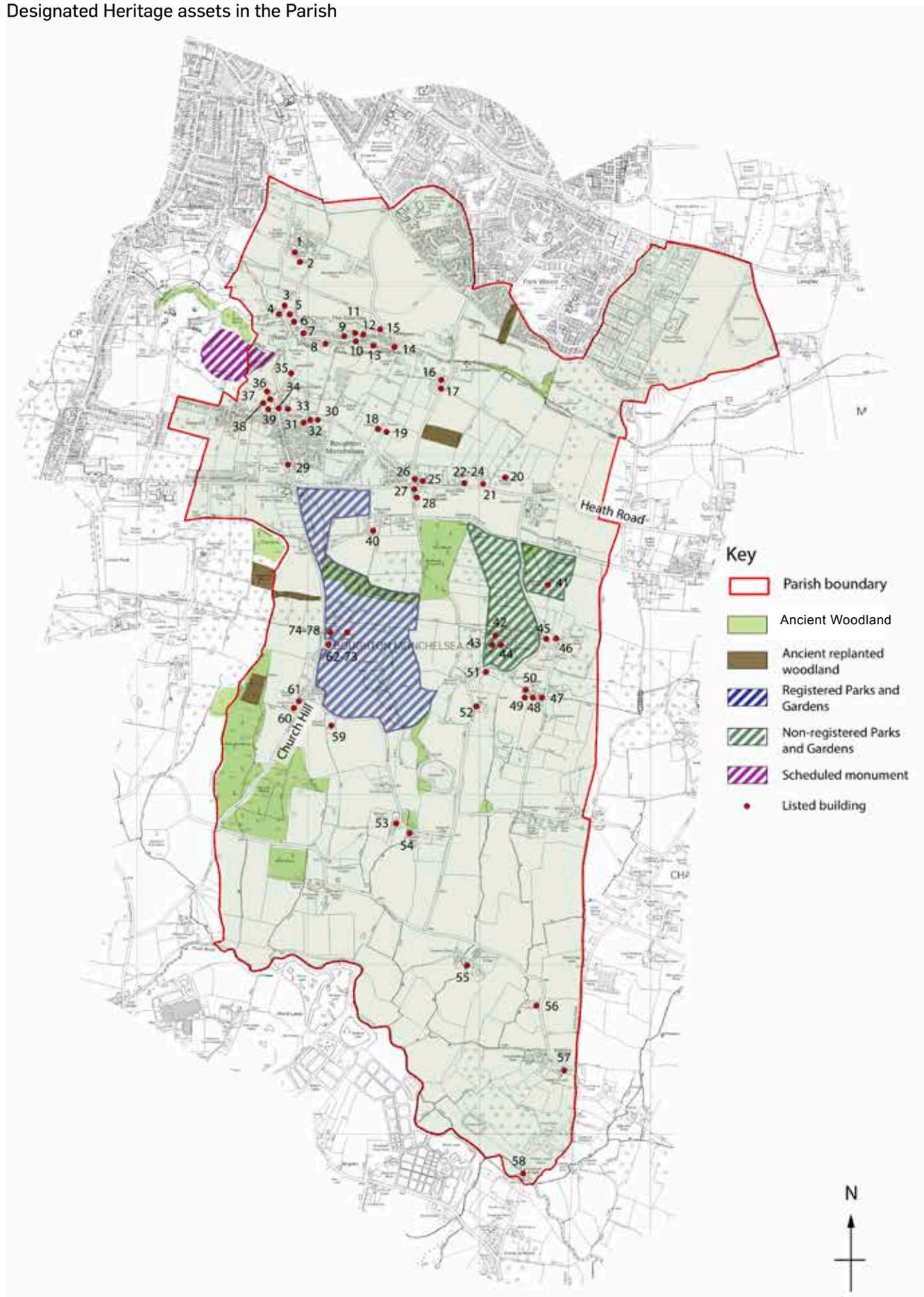


Cock Street



The Quarries

MAP 8 INDICATIVE
Designated Heritage assets in the Parish



4.5 PARISH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER & LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The landscape of the parish is one of its most distinctive features, and the Neighbourhood Development Plan should be sensitive to this and protect it. The elongated shape of the parish takes in a number of different landscape types, as is typical of the area. Travelling from one end of the parish to the other it is obvious how landscape character relates strongly to underlying geology and traditional patterns of land use and changes as one moves across the parish. For example, the farmlands of the south of the parish have a very different appearance and character from those of the north of the parish, and indeed the urban area on the edge of Maidstone.

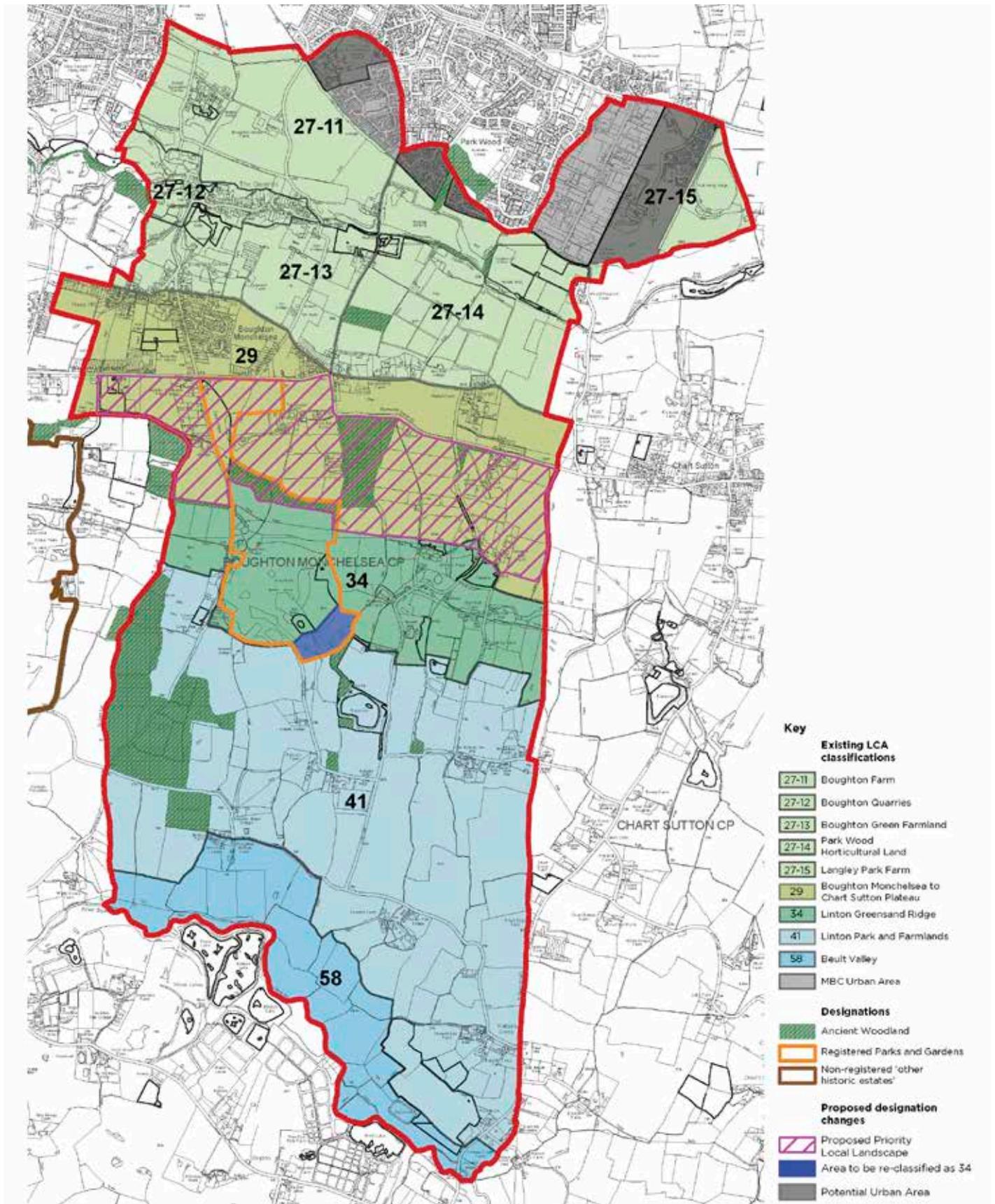
Two areas of the parish, running east-west across it, are protected under MBC Local Plan policy SP17 as part of the wider Greensand Ridge and Loose Valley Landscapes of Local Value. These are shown on Map 9.

As mentioned in Section 3.2, the Parish Council in 2017 commissioned renowned Landscape Architects Colvin and Moggridge to produce a masterplan and management plan for the parish. In the course of carrying out landscape character and condition surveys and consultants identified an area of the parish of high landscape quality, adjacent to the Greensand Ridge Landscape of Local Value, which was not specifically protected in the Local Plan. Their analysis, set out in the Boughton Monchelsea Priority Local Landscape document¹³, systematically considered the qualities of this landscape using the criteria used by MBC to identify areas of Local Landscape Value and recommended the designation of a Priority Local Landscape designation in the Neighbourhood Plan. This is shown on Map 9, and the detail is shown on Map 11.

In the event that MBC review the boundaries of the areas of Local Landscape Value the Boughton Monchelsea Priority Local Landscape document, and the Neighbourhood Plan, will be used by the Parish Council as evidence to support any argument in favour of extending the Greensand Ridge area of Local Landscape Value.

¹³ Boughton Monchelsea, Priority Local Landscape Colvin & Moggridge 2019

MAP 9 INDICATIVE
Local Landscape Designations, Existing & Proposed





Farmland South of Parish

4.6 KEY VIEWS

Analysis by Colvin & Moggridge landscape architects has identified a number of key views within the village, which are typical of the character of the parish and should either be protected, particularly when development takes place, or which could be improved, for example by additional planting or rationalisation of road signs and street furniture. Full details are given in their study, but typically these are:

- views at “gateways” to Boughton Monchelsea village or hamlets, or along narrow lanes, where it is particularly important to retain the wooded fringes and corner woodlands which provide a green entrance to settlements and help retain the sense of separation between them. In particular, the entry into the village from Cock Street along Green Lane from its junction with Old Tree Lane and Gandy’s Lane is key to rural separation, is very complete, and should be protected from development.
- views at the entrance to or within conservation areas (around the village green and at the entrance to The Quarries) which could be improved
- views along Heath Road which demonstrate how its character reinforces the distinction between the more developed northern part of the parish and the rural, undeveloped south
- a small number of locations which give distant views across the wider landscape

The analysis focuses on the area around the village, because the topography of the south of the parish results in extensive long views south across the landscape, and from the south looking north to the scarp and Boughton Monchelsea. These are so extensive that any development south of Heath Road has to be assessed individually in terms of its impact on views in the landscape.

All these views, whether specifically identified on the map or more generally south of Heath Road, are important elements of what makes Boughton Monchelsea unique and special, and should be protected.



Heath Road / Church Street junction

MAP 10 INDICATIVE
Key Views



The Quarries



Boughton Green



Recreation Ground



Cock Street



SECTION 5.0

POLICIES & PROPOSALS

Overall NDP Vision: ‘Meet the demands of the modern community whilst protecting and enhancing a sustainable rural environment.’

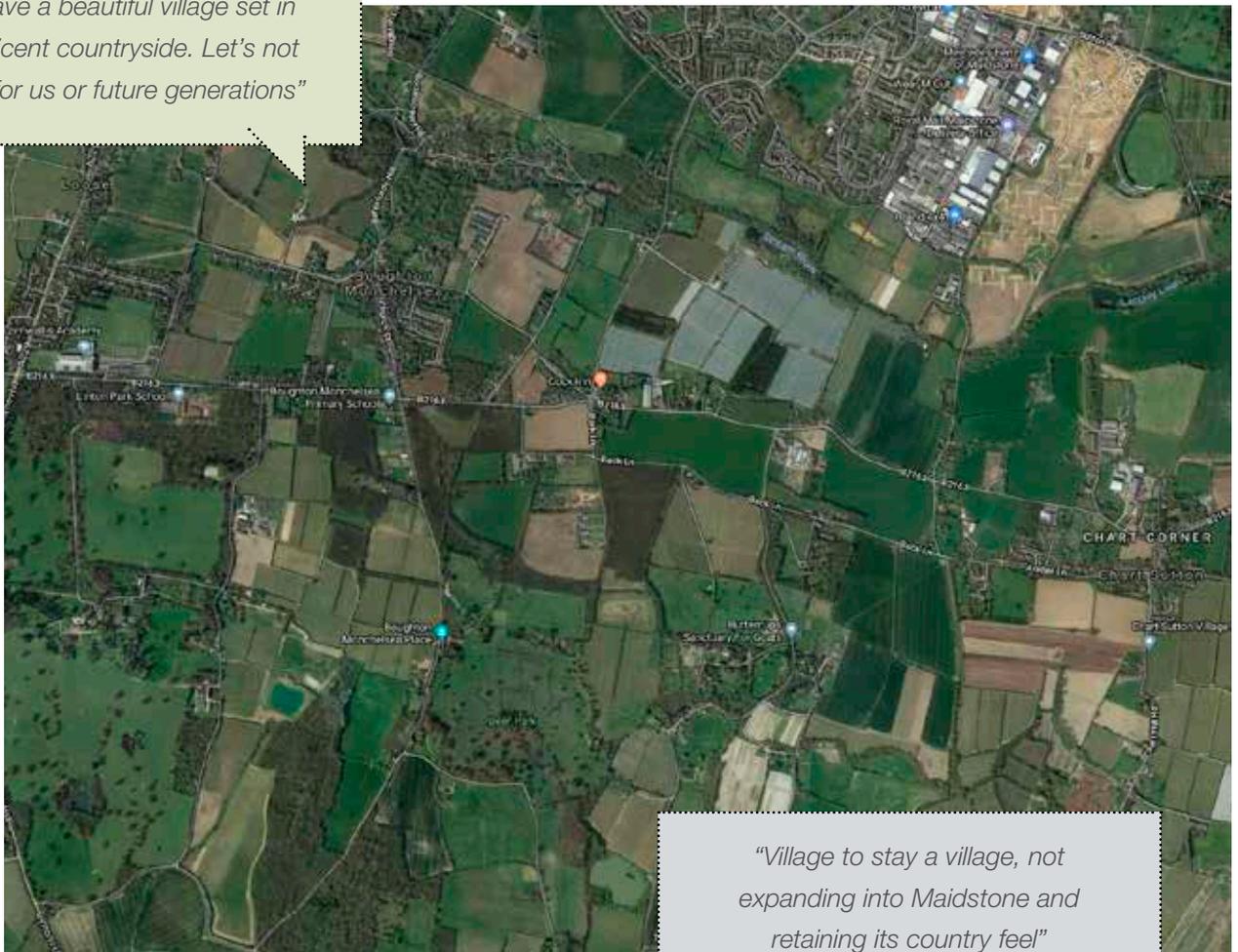
This Neighbourhood Development Plan contains a series of policies and proposals, the successful delivery of which during the plan period will achieve the community’s Vision for the parish. Some policies are additional to those in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan; others refine Local Plan policy or add local context.

Each policy is numbered and each section is accompanied by a short explanation and justification, including a reference where appropriate to the relevant key evidence.

5.1 PARISH – WIDE POLICIES (PWP)

Snapshot of consultation responses:

“We have a beautiful village set in magnificent countryside. Let’s not spoil it for us or future generations”



“Village to stay a village, not expanding into Maidstone and retaining its country feel”

"We do have a need (for development) but it needs to be sympathetically managed"

"The parish must be refreshed if it is to remain a vibrant community, but not overrun. The village and South should be small scale developments only, with the northern areas along the Sutton Road only for larger developments - but only if absolutely essential"

"Encourage landowners to dedicate rights of way that are important links"

"Create a hub to stimulate interaction / engagement"



"Protection and maintenance of the countryside, conservation areas and wildlife"

"We need to ensure that there are good links between the two wards with a proper foot and cycle path down Brishing Lane, and to the village centre."

"In the south parts there is a need for improved bridleways for the many horse riders and walkers (incl. dog walkers) that are currently forced onto the narrow single track roads"

Introduction to the Parish Wide Policies (PWP)

The Parish Wide Policies (PWP) are overarching in nature, either applying parish-wide or dealing with large areas of land. They respond to the Objectives of this Plan (see diagram 1, page 5) and the Key Themes as expressed in community engagement, examples of which are given above. They set out a positive and balanced approach to steering new development to appropriate areas of the parish, in a way which maintains the essential character of the parish and its individual settlements, its landscape, and in particular the distinction between the north of the parish and the more deeply rural area south of Heath Road. They also encourage the use of land in a positive way, including for recreation, and the appropriate use of windfall sites. They also explain how financial contributions arising from development will be used to improve local infrastructure. The parish road network consists mainly of narrow lanes, and to make new development sustainable it should be well connected for pedestrians and cyclists and not add to current highway problems such as those in Church Street and connect to public transport services where appropriate. Developers should engage in early discussion about how their proposals can achieve these aims. Opportunities exist for new footpath and bridlepath links to improve recreational use of amenity land and access to facilities. Development should address identified local issues around drainage and internet connectivity, and contribute to the provision of facilities to support the growing population socially and environmentally, as well as protecting and where possible enhancing local biodiversity and rural character and reducing the use of non-renewable energy in order to help meet national carbon reduction commitments.





Boughton Monchelsea Village from the air

Justification for Policy PWP 1

In accordance with the policies in the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan, all new development that takes place in the Parish during the Plan period will be required to contribute to the provision of the necessary community infrastructure in order to support a sustainable community and its environment. Such infrastructure will be secured through planning obligations linked to planning permissions and through Community Infrastructure Levy payments, and Policy PWP 15 sets out additional detail on local infrastructure requirements.

PWP 1. Ensuring a sustainable and resilient community

All new development will contribute to and/or provide appropriate new community infrastructure in proportion to the scale of the development. Provision may be made on or off site as appropriate to the development and in accordance with the policies of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

Community infrastructure includes measures for improving the natural environment and its resilience to climate change, and the health and wellbeing of residents and the local rural economy as detailed in this Plan and the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

Justification for Policy PWP 2

Within the parish, detailed analysis by landscape architects as described in Section 4 of this Neighbourhood Development Plan and accompanying evidence has identified an area of high quality landscape, adjacent to the Greensand Ridge area of Local Landscape Value defined in the MBC Local Plan. This policy seeks to protect the locally identified Priority Local Landscape.

PWP 2. Priority Local Landscape

The distinctive character of the Priority Local Landscape as defined on Map 11 will be conserved and enhanced.

Development proposals in this area will not be supported unless they accord with other policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan and the MBC Local Plan and they will not result in harm to the character and appearance of the area.

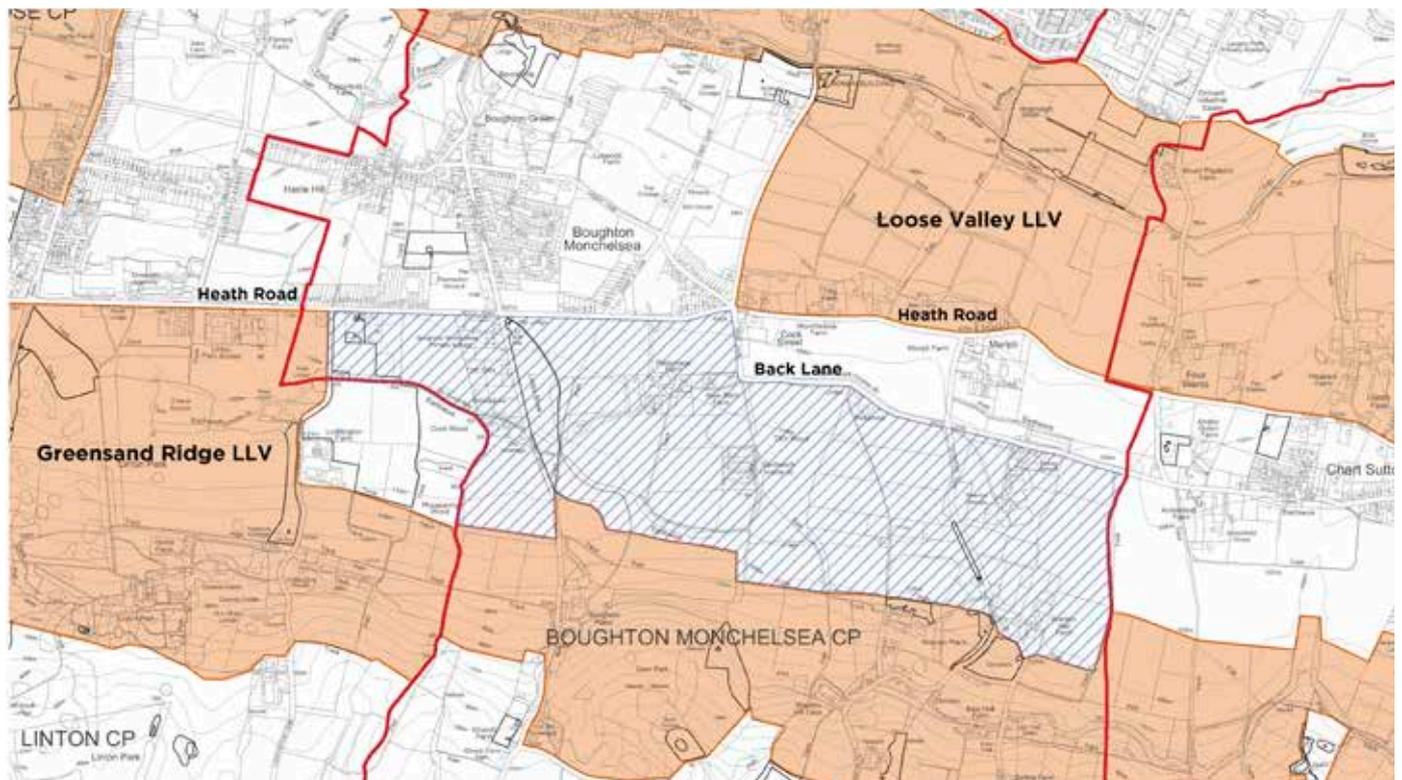
Justification for Policy PWP 3

As explained in Section 4 of this Plan, through consultation the community has identified a number of features which are important to understanding the history and character of Boughton Monchelsea, and help create a sense of place. These are identified as “non-designated heritage assets” which are protected under local, rather than national, policy and are listed in Appendix 2. The list presented comprises “architectural” assets, and other heritage assets can be found on the Kent Historic Environment Record. The following policy ensures that their protection of the identified assets is properly considered when they are affected by planning applications. Identifying them can also help protect them when other actions such as building or highway maintenance, which do not require planning permission, are planned.

PWP 3. Protection of Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Proposals for development which affects non-designated heritage assets as identified in Appendix 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed taking account of the scale of any harm or loss, and the significance of the heritage asset. The protection extended by this policy extends to all oast houses within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

MAP 11 INDICATIVE
Priority Local Landscape



Designations Key:

-  Existing Landscapes of Local Value
-  Parish Boundary
-  Priority Local Landscape

Justification for Policy PWP 4

As explained in Section 3.4, the Maidstone Borough Local Plan identifies six specific housing development sites in the parish. Langley Park and land south of Sutton Road are not considered further in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Two other sites, Lyewood Farm, Green Lane (MBC Local Plan policy H1(54), known locally as Fridays Chicken Farm, and land at the junction of Church Street and Heath Road (MBC Local Plan policy H1(53)) known locally as Thomas Cooke's Field, were the subject of policies in the earlier drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan, the content of which informed the Parish Council's response to planning applications. However, both sites are now completed or under construction and are not considered further in the Neighbourhood Plan.

PWP 4. Provision for new housing development

Positive and appropriate provision for new housing development for Boughton Monchelsea parish, and as required by the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, is made as follows:

A Development is encouraged on identified sites where appropriate development could address local issues such as the need for affordable housing and community facilities.

The sites are illustrated in Map 4 and are as follows:

RH5A BMNDP site 1, locally known as Boughton Mount

RH5B BMNDP site 2, Kent Police Training School

The sites are illustrated in Map 4 above.

Detailed requirements for each site are set out in Policy RH 5 A and B.

B Development may be supported on other windfall¹⁴ sites and through conversions where:

(i) It is in line with policies RH1 and RH6 of this plan in particular, is small scale and of high quality and in keeping with its location

(ii) **AND** results in significant benefits to the parish in resolving community issues identified in the Plan such as specific identifiable housing needs **OR**

(iii) It constitutes enabling development contributing to the retention and sustainability of heritage and/or community assets **OR**

(iv) It is within the Boughton Village development boundary

C In other circumstances, and particularly where development would result in the coalescence of hamlets within the parish, development will not be supported

¹⁴ Windfall sites: Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.

Justification for Policy PWP 5

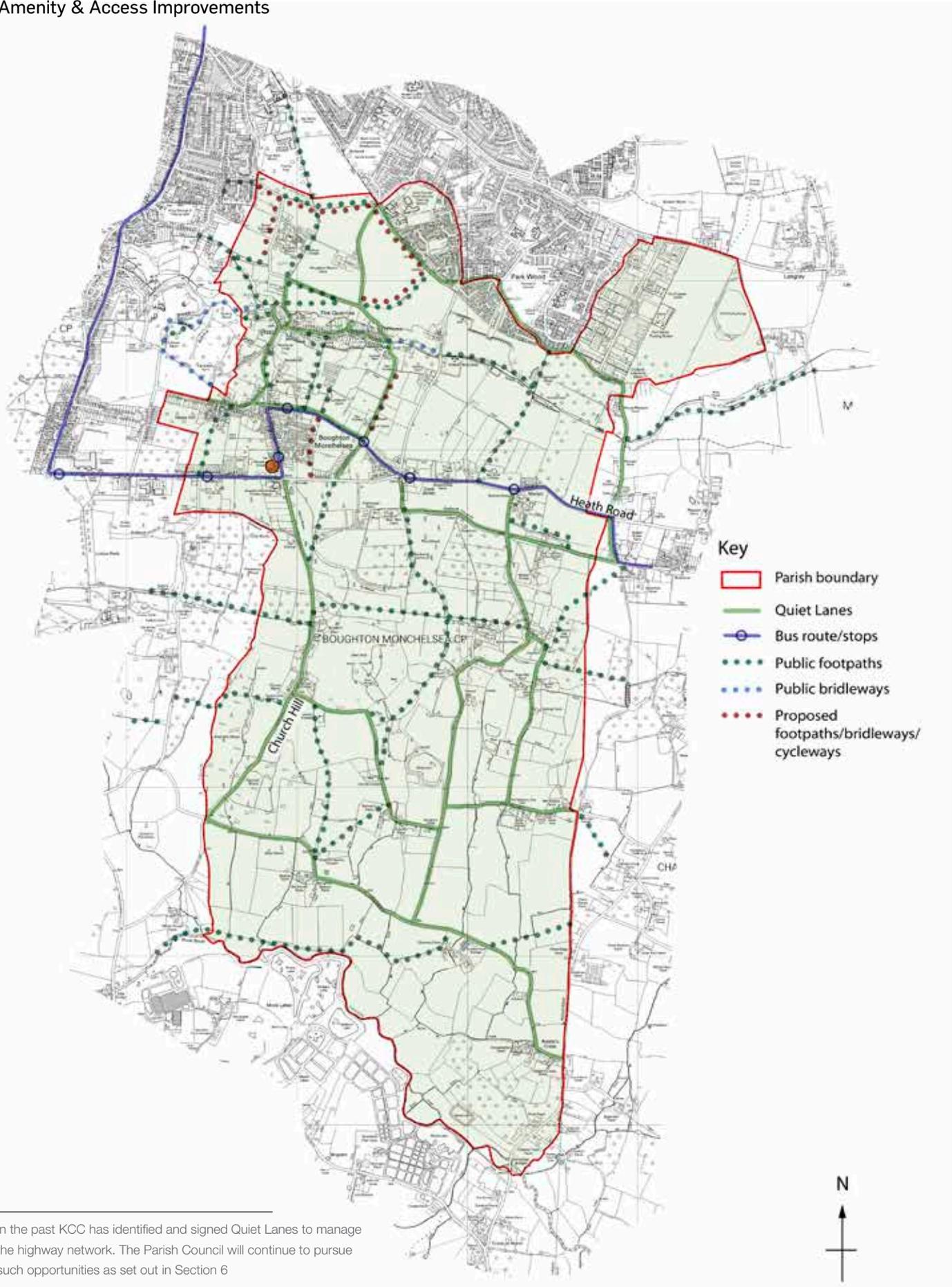
In accordance with the Objectives of the Plan, Policy PWP 5 seeks to ensure that the open and undeveloped character of the countryside between South Maidstone and Boughton Monchelsea is maintained and that its continued use for agricultural and recreational purposes is supported. Map 12 identifies the network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways in the area. The policy allows for the development of any essential infrastructure where no other suitable alternative site is available.

PWP 5. Improving landscape and amenity access between South Maidstone and Boughton Monchelsea

- A** In the area north of The Quarries, and south of the built edge of Maidstone, development in association with the continued use of land for countryside/agricultural economy or for community recreational use will be supported, providing the proposals do not detract from the open and undeveloped character of the area. Suitable recreational uses include community woodland, country park, informal public open space or public rights of way. Map 12, below, refers.
- B** Development should avoid:
- a) detracting from the open character of this area, or
 - b) reducing the visual separation of Boughton Monchelsea from the built up area of Maidstone, or
 - c) reducing the area's potential for recreational and green infrastructure¹⁵ provision, especially improved links between the southern urban edge of Maidstone and Boughton Monchelsea village
- C** In exceptional circumstances, such as to provide essential utilities (e.g. water) infrastructure where no suitable alternative site is available, development which does not comply with part A of this policy will be supported

¹⁵ Green infrastructure: 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. (Source: NPPF)

MAP 12 INDICATIVE
Amenity & Access Improvements



In the past KCC has identified and signed Quiet Lanes to manage the highway network. The Parish Council will continue to pursue such opportunities as set out in Section 6

Justification for Policy PWP 6

In accordance with the Objectives of the Plan, Policy PWP 6 supports and encourages the provision and enhancement of sustainable travel links to local facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and, where appropriate, for horse riders, particularly within Boughton Monchelsea village and the southern parts of Maidstone. Map 12 shows the existing network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways in the area.

PWP 6. Sustainable connections¹⁶

All new development will be well connected, providing convenient, safe and direct links for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to local facilities, particularly those within Boughton Monchelsea village, the southern urban edge of Maidstone and the Town Centre.

Cycle routes will connect to local and national networks where appropriate as shown on Map 12.

New developments should protect and, where appropriate, secure enhancements to the Public Rights of Way network within the Plan area, and applicants should engage with Kent County Council, as the local highway authority, on this matter.



Justification for Policy PWP 7

New development should make provision for effective surface water management in order to manage the risk of surface water flooding both on development sites and within the wider area. Policy PWP 7 sets out the types of drainage feature that will assist in meeting this objective.

PWP 7. Sustainable drainage systems¹⁷ and water management

Development will be supported where it includes appropriate effective sustainable drainage design features which as a minimum maintain and where current problems exist, improve current surface water management in order to manage the risk of surface water flooding within and beyond the boundary of the development.

Appropriate measures may include:

- Permeable driveways and parking areas
- water harvesting and storage features
- green roofs
- soakaways
- other suitable and effective technical solutions recommended by a flood risk assessment demonstrating that the proposal satisfactorily manages the risk of surface water flooding.



¹⁶ Sustainable transport connections: provision for efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport. (Source: NPPF adapted)

¹⁷ Sustainable drainage systems are designed to control surface water run off close to where it falls and mimic natural drainage as closely as possible. They provide opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; remove pollutants from urban run-off at source; and combine water management with green space with benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife.

Justification for Policy PWP 8

Policy PWP 8 promotes the incorporation of energy efficiency measures in new development in order to ensure that the environmental performance of new buildings is improved. Where appropriate, local renewable energy generation systems will be supported, subject to their compliance with the other policies in the Plan and the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

PWP 8. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

New development should incorporate appropriate energy efficiency measures, electric vehicle charging points, and local generation technologies¹⁸ which where possible serve existing development as well. The siting and design of such technologies should take into account policies in this and the Maidstone Borough Local Plan so as not to harm local character.



Justification for Policy PWP 9

It is an important infrastructure requirement that new developments in the Plan area, including conversions and changes of use, are served by fibre broadband connections. Policy PWP 9 seeks to achieve this requirement for those developments requiring planning permission. Additionally, when preparing planning applications, applicants could prepare a Connectivity Statement to consider aspects such as the intended land use and the anticipated connectivity requirements of the proposed development, the known local data networks and their anticipated speed together with a realistic assessment of the connection potential or the contribution to any such local networks. The Connectivity Statement will need to be prepared in consultation with the relevant broadband providers.



PWP 9. Local fibre or internet connectivity

New business and residential development, including conversions and changes of use, must demonstrate how it will be compatible with, local fibre or internet connectivity.

Where no internet provider is available, as a minimum and in accordance with the NPPF, suitable ducting that can accept fibre should be provided either to:

- the public highway; or
- a community led local access network; or
- another location justified through the connectivity statement.



¹⁸ Local generation technologies - local renewable energy and local low-carbon energy usually but not always on a relatively small scale encompassing a diverse range of technologies.

Justification for Policy PWP 10

It is recognised that external lighting, particularly in rural areas, can increase light pollution and have other adverse impacts upon the character of the area. Policy PWP 10 seeks to ensure that development proposals in the Plan area which incorporate external lighting, or proposals for new lighting, must be designed to reduce such impacts. The submission of a Lighting Assessment to accompany planning applications will be required in order that the impacts of external lighting can be fully assessed.

PWP 10. Lighting

Proposals for new development anywhere in the Neighbourhood Plan area incorporating external lighting, or for new lighting where these require planning permission, must be designed and managed to reduce:

- a) energy usage, **and**
- b) impact on biodiversity¹⁹, **and**
- c) light pollution **and**
- d) any harmful visual impact on neighbouring activities and the character of the area.

Where appropriate, applications should be accompanied by sufficient details to ensure the impact of the development can be assessed. This should include the submission of a Lighting Assessment to ensure that it complies with national and local requirements.



Justification for Policy PWP 11

The Plan seeks to protect the many areas of woodland within the Parish, which make an important contribution to the landscape character of the area. Where new development is proposed, landscaping schemes should reflect the local character by including native tree and hedgerow species. Policy PWP 11 seeks to secure that objective.

PWP 11. Protecting woodland areas and planting native tree and hedgerow species

To maintain and improve landscape and ecological value development shall incorporate native hedgerow and tree planting within landscaping schemes. Where relevant it shall preserve vistas of the rural landscape.

In limited cases it may be appropriate to plant fast growing non-native species as a temporary screen, to be removed and replaced by slower growing native species.

Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of existing nut platts, traditional orchards, coppiced woodland, ancient woodland²⁰ or roadside tree belts and corner woodlands will not be supported.

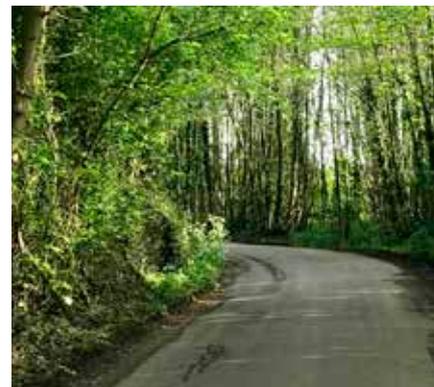
¹⁹ Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth, including all species of animals and plants. In the context of this Neighbourhood Plan biodiversity is related to the "Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and beyond – a strategy for the natural environment 2015-2025."

Biodiversity is important for its own sake, and human survival depends upon it, it provides us with services that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity. (Source: KBS)

²⁰ Roadside tree belts are linear tree features along road edges, which may be on public or private land or partly on both. Corner woodlands are clusters of trees on small areas of land at road junctions or in the corner of fields.

Justification for Policy PWP 12

The maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the Plan area is an important objective. Proposals for new development can make significant contributions to that objective by safeguarding existing habitats, incorporating landscaping schemes with predominantly native species and other features such as new wetland areas. Policy PWP 12 reflects the requirement to secure such biodiversity enhancements.



PWP 12. Biodiversity in New Development

All new development should incorporate measures to maintain and improve biodiversity in the parish. These could include measures such as:

- Site layouts which maximise the retention of habitats such as mature trees, hedges and ponds.
- Landscaping schemes incorporating predominantly native species and those particularly attractive to pollinators.
- Landscaping schemes which connect with other green areas to provide wildlife corridors, and the inclusion of “wildlife doors” in otherwise impermeable boundary treatments.
- Maintenance or creation of water bodies with wildlife friendly features such as sloped sides.
- The inclusion of bird nesting boxes and swift bricks in new buildings.

Justification for PWP13

Many roads in the parish are narrow lanes and not suited to modern traffic, but they form an integral part of the character of the area. Local people are concerned that highway infrastructure and parking are adequate to deal with congestion and air quality impacts. Maidstone Borough Council has guidance in place for assessing and mitigating air quality impact.²¹

PWP 13. Transport Assessments and increased parking provision

New development should ensure that highway infrastructure and parking are adequate to support it, in relation to congestion and air quality, or can be provided.

In particular any development proposed that is accessed from Church Street should demonstrate that it will have no further detrimental effect on traffic and infrastructure problems in the immediate area.

Where appropriate, the developer will submit full evidence, such as transport assessments, to inform the decision.

²¹ Air quality Planning Guidance, Maidstone Borough Council 2017

Justification for PWP14

Assessment of village-wide views by Colvin & Moggridge has demonstrated the importance to the character of the parish of the continued separation of settlements and hamlets within it. To this end the Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan village development boundary around Boughton is supported, and any further development which erodes the separation of settlements is resisted

PWP 14. Separation of settlements, gateways and long views

A. Development outside Boughton Village, and the urban area of Maidstone, as defined in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, will be resisted where it does not retain the separation of individual settlements, including the hamlets of The Quarries, Wierton, Cock Street, Marlpits and Rabbit's Cross.

B. Development which does take place will maintain and where necessary improve the integrity and positive perception of the green gateways to settlements within the parish, thereby retaining the separate identity of these settlements, as identified on Map 3. This should include provision of landscaped buffer zones between roads and new development at entry points to the settlements, to preserve separation and rural character.

C. Any development south of Heath Road will be carefully assessed to avoid detrimental impact on long views in and out of the parish.



Justification for PWP15

Policy PWP 15 sets out how monies raised by planning obligation contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy payments in respect of new developments within the Parish and which are paid to the Parish Council will be used to support the implementation and delivery of projects prioritised by the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust and the Parish Council. Such projects include the provision of improved facilities at the village hall.

PWP 15. Planning obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy

Any planning obligation contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy raised by development in Boughton Monchelsea parish and paid to the Parish Council will be used to:

- A** Deliver projects listed in the Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust Management Plan
- B** Support the delivery of improved facilities at the village hall to meet the needs of the growing local population
- C** Support any other projects identified as a priority by the Parish Council to address the demands that development places on the area.



5.2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICIES (HWB)

Snapshot of consultation responses:

“A meeting place for informal meetings, chats, free wifi, networking”

“Retain decent amount of open / green space in north ward”

“Would it be possible to extend the village hall? The hall is in use most days. With extra accommodation other activities might be helpful for the community”

“There is a real danger of a fully split ward with the North modern estates feeling excluded from the old village. We need to ensure that there are good links between the two including footpaths and cycleways “

Introduction to the Health and Wellbeing Policies

The Health and Wellbeing policies (HWB) address specific issues raised by the local community in respect of social wellbeing, including the need for improved village hall facilities and the provision of allotments in the light of an expanding population. These facilities bring social and environmental benefits and make the community more sustainable. They respond to the Objectives of this Plan (see **diagram 1**) and the Key Themes as expressed in community engagement, examples of which are given above.



Justification for Policy HWB 1

Policy HWB 1 supports the provision of new and improved community facilities within the Plan area. Proposals should be well-designed and be capable of accommodating a range of community activities in order to make optimum use of space. Where appropriate, the provision of new and improved facilities will be secured through planning obligations linked to planning permissions and through Community Infrastructure Levy payments, and Policy PWP 15 sets out additional detail on local infrastructure requirements.

HWB 1. Supporting local community facilities

Proposals for improvements to existing community facilities and/or the provision of new community facilities will be supported where they meet all the following criteria:

- a) The proposal is of good design, and where sited within the Boughton Monchelsea Green Conservation Area²², has regard to protecting and enhancing its setting and the surrounding rural landscape
- b) The proposal is designed to be energy and resource efficient to minimise running costs and manage thermal comfort
- c) The proposal is of a size capable of accommodating any relocated uses from existing locations and, where the proposal constitutes a new community building, incorporates appropriate space for other community uses
- d) The proposal includes a flexible layout to allow optimum use of space
- e) Means of continuing the current activities carried out within the existing facility/s, in alternative premises if necessary, are approved and secured before work begins on any new proposal.
- f) The proposal provides adequate access and parking, and in the case of new facilities, is located so as to be accessible by public transport if possible

Justification for Policy HWB 2

The provision of allotments is an important community facility, which is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of the community. To meet the needs of a growing population, proposals for new and extended allotments in the Parish will be supported and, where appropriate, will be secured through planning obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy payments in accordance with Policy PWP 15.

HWB 2. Allotments

Proposals will be supported where there is a proven demand and they provide either:

- a) improvements and/ or extension to the existing allotments and/or
- b) land suitable for new allotments where accessibly located within the Parish



²² A conservation area is an area which has been designated by the local planning authority (in this case Maidstone Borough Council) because of its special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.
(Source: NPPG)

5.3 RURAL HOUSING POLICIES (RH)

Snapshot of consultation responses:

"A general mix with emphasis on affordable housing"

"Would like to see varied and good housing design. Rather than volume house builders use local builders to build smaller housing schemes"

"Yes, brownfield sites should always be utilised first"



"Yes, we need more smaller houses for young and retired people. I believe it would be best to develop land in the north of the parish"

"Housing for local families that fits with the architectural stereotypes of this area"

"More housing suitable for elderly, thereby freeing up our plentiful supply of family accommodation, much of which is occupied by single pensioners currently"

"Affordable housing for local people"

"Not allowing large estates of new homes to be built in the village"

"Church Street is congested and this needs to be addressed"

"We should make our homes as energy efficient as possible"

"Non intrusive energy provision, e.g. ground heat pumps"



Introduction to the Rural Housing Policies (RH)

The following policies (RH) deal with new housing development in the parish, in line with the overall spatial strategy, and specific local requirements. They respond to the Objectives of this Plan (see **diagram 1**) and the Key Themes as expressed in community engagement, examples of which are given above.

The Maidstone Borough Local Plan identifies the following sites for housing developments in the parish. All these sites have been assessed by Maidstone Borough Council to ensure that access, utility connections, and drainage can be provided. They are illustrated on Map 4 (note that this does not show associated areas of open space).

Langley Park, Sutton Road (MBC Local Plan policy H1(5))
South of Sutton Road (part in parish) MBC Local Plan policy H1(10)
Kent Police Training School, Sutton Road MBC Local Plan policy H1(28)
Boughton Mount, Boughton Lane MBC Local Plan policy H1(52)
Lyewood Farm, Green Lane MBC Local Plan policy H1(54)
Junction of Church Street and Heath Road MBC Local Plan policy H1(53)

Langley Park is under construction, and the area south of Sutton Road is the subject of a planning application which Maidstone Borough Council granted in September 2018 subject to the completion of a legal agreement. There are two sites which either do not have detailed planning permission or are yet to be constructed, and they are considered in more detail in policy RH5. One of these sites (Kent Police Training School) lies within the Maidstone Urban Area.

The identified sites and principles balance the need for more housing to support the community and to meet the MBC Local Plan requirements, with local requirements for design which is in keeping with the locality and is sustainable, and landscape husbandry. The policies support both market and affordable housing²³ in line with the definitions set out in the NPPF (see Glossary). They also support housing which is designed to meet the needs of an ageing population, including those who wish to downsize.

Local people have expressed a wish for some more new housing and know there is a need for affordable housing in the area. They support affordable housing which meets local needs and contributes to the continuing community spirit in the parish, and avoids provision which brings a disproportionate number of new residents into the rural part of the parish who have no local connection or positive wish to reside in Boughton Monchelsea.

There is a considerable amount of existing affordable housing already in that part of the parish which lies within the Maidstone Urban Area, and proposed large developments in this area will contribute more to meet borough-wide needs. It is proposed that any affordable housing on the sites identified in policy RH5 should be prioritised for people with a local connection to Boughton Monchelsea. As described in Section 4.0 of this Neighbourhood Plan, the rural part of the parish is not well endowed with facilities, particularly public transport.

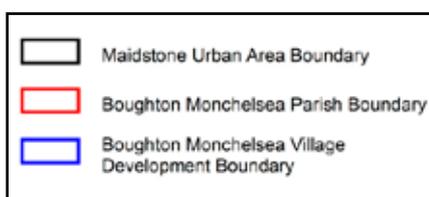
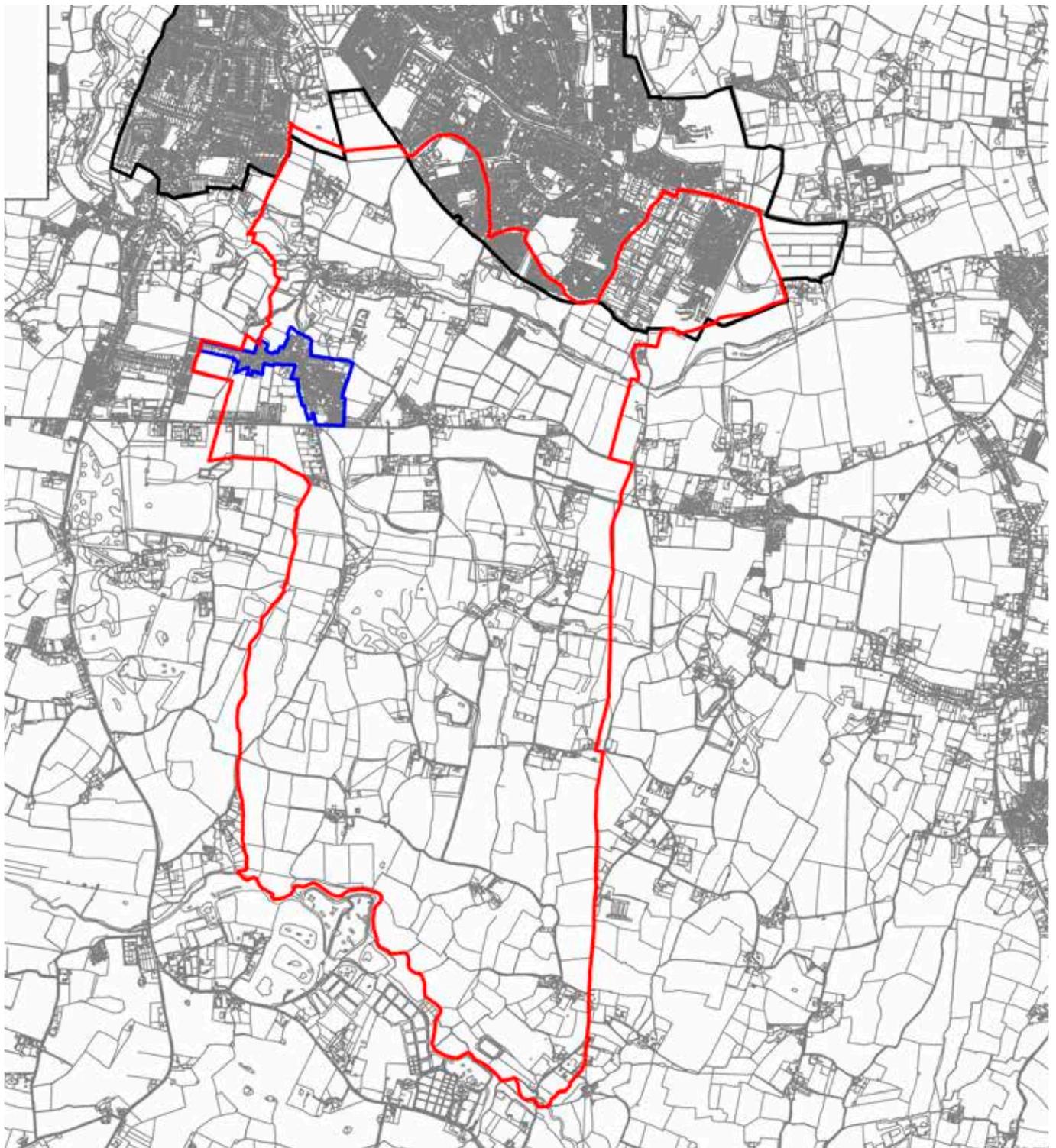
Further unplanned poor quality development will be strongly resisted. The Neighbourhood Development Plan robustly resists the development of large windfall sites not identified for development in either this Neighbourhood Development Plan or the 2017 Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

Analysis of important views and opportunities for landscape enhancement as part of new development is contained in the Colvin & Moggridge study, and this should be taken into account in new development.

²³ Affordable housing has a particular meaning in planning legislation – see Glossary.

MAP 13

Boughton Monchelsea Village Development Boundary & Maidstone Urban Area Boundary



Policies

Justification for Policy RH 1

In accordance with the policies in the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan, new residential development in the Plan area should be located within the Boughton village development boundary and within the Maidstone Urban Area boundary. Map 13 shows the defined development boundaries. Residential development beyond those development boundaries will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposals conform with national and local policies for such development in the countryside.

RH 1. Location of new residential development

New residential development to the north of Heath Road, B 2163, will be supported where it is within the Boughton village development boundary, as shown on Map 13, retains the dispersed character of existing hamlets in the area and avoids visual or actual coalescence and subject to no significant adverse impact on the landscape or infrastructure, including parking. Preference will be given to development on brownfield²⁴ land, within settlement boundaries as set out in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

Applications for new development must demonstrate how they respond positively to the established local character, including rural character and topography, and sit comfortably alongside existing development respecting the privacy, wellbeing and quality of life of any existing residents. Supporting information shall include information on streetscene impact and relationship to wider context and topography where appropriate in order to properly assess the impact.

Proposals for new residential development to the south of Heath Road (B2163) will not be supported unless they conform with national and local rural exception policies.



²⁴ Brownfield land, sometimes known as previously developed land, is defined in the Glossary

Justification for Policy RH 2

A key objective of the Plan is to seek the provision of new housing developments which meet the needs of the local community. A Housing Needs Survey was undertaken in 2018 by Action with Communities in Rural Kent which confirmed a need for new affordable homes in the Parish and Policy RH 2 provides support for new affordable housing.

RH 2: Affordable housing

The development of new affordable housing in the Plan area will be supported where such proposals are in accordance with other policies contained in this Plan and the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan. Proposals should take account of the Boughton Monchelsea Housing Needs Survey (January 2018), or any subsequent updated Housing Needs Survey

Justification for Policy RH 3

The redevelopment and/or remodelling of existing affordable housing in the Plan area will be encouraged and supported in order to provide modern, well-designed and energy efficient accommodation that meets the needs of people seeking affordable housing. Policy RH 3 provides support for such schemes.

RH 3: Redevelopment and/ or remodelling of existing affordable housing provision

The redevelopment and remodeling of existing affordable housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area is encouraged where:

- a) it enables the provision of affordable housing which is more suited to current local need for affordable housing in style, size, type, energy efficiency or design, and
- b) appropriate accommodation is made available in the locality for those who may be displaced during redevelopment.

The mix of affordable properties for social rent, affordable rent or intermediate tenure shall be agreed between Maidstone Borough Council and the Registered Provider.

Justification for Policy RH 4

Six sites are allocated in the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan for new residential development in the Plan area up to 2031. Planning permissions have been granted for the development of four of those sites, and development has either been completed or is now progressing at those sites. The remaining two sites are allocated for new housing development in this Plan in accordance with the adopted Local Plan and Policy RH 4 sets out the details of these sites, which are the subject of Policies RH 5A and RH 5B.

RH 4: Housing allocations and phasing

The following sites shown on Map 4 RH5 A and B are allocated for new housing development to be delivered over the plan period to 2031 and shall be developed as set out in the strategic policy requirements for each site set out in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, and local requirements set out in this Neighbourhood Plan.

- RH5 A BMNDP site 1, locally known as Boughton Mount Maidstone Borough
Local Plan ref H1(52)
- RH5 B BMNDP site 2 , Kent Police Training School Maidstone Borough
Local Plan ref H1 (28)

**Justification RH 5 A: BMNDP Site 1, locally known as Boughton Mount
Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan ref: H1 (52)**

This site is brownfield (previously developed land) with listed structures comprising walled garden and ha-ha. The main house no longer exists. More modern buildings of the last 30 years or so have been erected and are in a derelict condition, as is the rest of the site. Boughton Mount was used as a special school, formerly owned by the Foster-Clarke Family and now owned by KCC. The site is set in its own grounds in the countryside between North Loose and The Quarries.

Some of the remaining traditional buildings are attractive and have the potential for re-use within a well-designed new development. A considerable amount of the remaining historic fabric would be retained along with the memory of this prominent local family. The site would previously have attracted a certain amount of vehicular traffic to serve the school use. The restrictive covenant over the land, imposed by the Foster-Clarke Family Trust, to prevent redevelopment can be varied if the benefit were to go to the local school for disadvantaged children.

The site is identified in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan as suitable for approximately 25 dwellings, using an average of 14 dwellings per hectare.

**RH 5 A: BMNDP Site 1, locally known as Boughton Mount
Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan ref: H1 (52)**

Development of this site for between 15 and 25 houses will be supported where:

1. The Folly, Victorian gardens and listed Ha-Ha are suitably repaired and their setting improved and respected by the new development
2. The site shall be well-landscaped to befit its origins
3. Development shall be of the highest visual quality befitting its historic surroundings
4. Development shall be limited to the existing developed area as shown in red on accompanying map
5. Design and materials of dwellings and boundaries must respect traditional materials common to the locality and colours of its surroundings



Justification RH5B: BMNDP site 2 Kent Police Training School

This site lies within the Maidstone Urban Area and outline planning permission for up to 90 houses was given in 2017.

Policy RH 5B: BMNDP Site 2: Kent Police Training School Maidstone Borough Council ref: H1 (28)

Development of this site for around 90 houses will be supported where:

1. Density is at an average of 35 units per hectare
2. Vehicular access is from Queen Elizabeth Square only.
3. Contributions are made to the provision and/or improvement of local play and open space facilities
4. Improvements are made to bus services and infrastructure on the A274
5. Improvements are made to highway capacity at the A229/A274 Wheatsheaf junction and to relieve traffic congestion at Sutton Road and Willington Street
6. Occupation of the development is phased to align with the delivery of the necessary sewerage infrastructure, in liaison with Southern Water



Deer Park, Boughton Monchelsea Place

Justification RH6

Good design which respects the character of the area and reduces the future impact on the environment is important to local people. This policy sets out how this can be achieved. In addition, it is important that the occupants of new houses are welcomed into the parish, and further details are given in Section 6.0.

RH 6. Design of new housing development

In addition to meeting the design requirements of the policies of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan, all housing development, whether conversions or new build or redevelopment, must meet all the following criteria:

- i) be of the highest visual quality appropriate to the area both in itself, and how it impacts on the setting and significant views of the wider village and parish
- ii) reflect local characteristics in terms of topography, ridge heights, layout, plot size, and materials
- iii) be designed so it may incorporate flexibility in terms of internal layout and size to suit lifetime living
- iv) be no higher than surrounding dwellings, to a maximum of two and a half storeys in height including roofspace, subject to impact on local topography
- v) unless specified elsewhere in this plan, have densities that are in line with the prevailing 12-27 per hectare in the parish outside Maidstone Urban Area. Higher density development will be allowed if it is shown that it will not affect the character of the area or have an undue impact on neighbouring properties, and it contributes to the achievement of important community objectives
- vi) incorporate hard and soft landscaping which is characteristic of the locality and takes into account the study by Colvin & Moggridge landscape architects
- vii) have any public realm²⁵ within it designed to reflect the rural nature of the area using local materials and/ or colourways and native landscaping species and layout
- viii) be designed to meet the Building Regulations optional requirement for water efficiency and strengthened standards for on-site energy performance. Where this standard is not met or exceeded, the development will not be supported, in order to manage and not exacerbate the burden on local utilities and the environment
- ix) consideration shall be given to designing the accommodation for older people wishing to downsize

These criteria will apply to all proposed development unless exceptional circumstances dictate and sufficient evidence is provided to demonstrate that the proposed development would otherwise comply with the high quality and low impact aims of this policy.

Appendix 3 (Local Design Characteristics) provides additional information on the key features of built development and streetscape in the Plan area, and proposals for new residential development should reflect those characteristics wherever possible.

Justification RH 7

Many proposals for residential annexes to existing dwellings require planning permission. In line with the Plan's requirements for good design, new residential annexes, or the conversion of outbuildings to form an annex, should be well designed, be clearly associated with the existing dwelling and not lead to any unacceptable harm to the amenities of neighbouring properties. If necessary, conditions will be sought to any planning permissions granted to ensure that new residential annexes are not occupied as separate dwellings.

²⁵ Public realm is commonly defined as any space that is free and open to everyone. The London Plan describes it as 'the space between and within buildings that is publicly accessible, including streets, squares, forecourts, parks and open spaces.'

RH 7. Residential annexes

Where planning permission is required, new residential annexes or conversion of outbuildings to use as a residential annex will be supported where they are well designed, fit well within their context, do not harm neighbours' amenity or privacy, and are associated with existing properties.

In some circumstances, for example where permission would not be granted for a new dwelling yet the proposed annex might be of a size and level of facilities that could accommodate a new dwelling, there may be a requirement to demonstrate the need for an annex and/ or a restriction to not be occupied separately from the residential use of the host dwelling.

Justification RH 8

The parish has a small number of historic homes in the open countryside that were leaders for demonstrating the trends of the day, in aspects such as socially, use of materials, technology and design etc. National planning policy permits a limited amount of such development to continue this tradition. RH 8 will therefore enable a limited amount of development of this nature, subject to the policy criteria below.

RH 8. New dwellings in open countryside

New, high quality single dwellings to a bespoke design, which comply with the following requirements as set out in NPPF, will be favourably considered where there is no damage to visual amenity or negative impact upon the open countryside:

- be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas.
- reflect the highest standards in architecture.
- significantly enhance its immediate setting.
- be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

The information required to accompany applications as set out in policy RH1 will apply, as will RH6, and material to demonstrate compliance with the NPPF.

Justification RH 9

The Plan recognises the need to provide suitable accommodation and facilities to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers who reside in the Plan area. All proposals for new and improved accommodation and facilities will be considered in the context of relevant planning policies in the Plan and the adopted Maidstone Borough Local Plan and will be supported where such proposals comply with those policies.

RH 9. Provision for Gypsies and Travellers

- Development proposals for new or improved accommodation and facilities for Gypsies and Travellers will be considered in the context of other relevant policies in the Plan.
- Any development providing for gypsies and travellers which does not comply with Maidstone Borough Local Plan policies will not be supported.



5.4 LOCAL RURAL ECONOMY POLICIES (LRE)

Snapshot of consultation responses:

“Should be encouraged where it does not impact on the semi-rural nature of the village”



“Assist appropriate rural development that neither spoils the environment nor alters the quiet nature of these rural areas, but allows a financially secure footing for appropriate rural industries.”

“Create a business hub”

“Improve broadband”



“Parkwood estate needs support to help those businesses that have retail and wholesale arms – e.g. a voice to help them in making their case to the estate management / MBC. e.g. signage / access / parking”

“Dependant on kind of business being encouraged as this may have implications for transport, road usage, parking availability etc”



“If possible but most people travel to work”

“Balance need with environmental concerns”

Introduction to the Local Rural Economy Policies

The Local and Rural Economy policies (LRE) seek to maintain and improve the local economy through businesses in the area. They respond to the Objectives of this Plan (see **diagram 1**) and the Key Themes as expressed in community engagement, examples of which are given above. They focus on a desire for new businesses to be in the local landbased sectors, which are undergoing a renaissance, and for higher tech companies wishing to locate to a rural environment. While larger-scale activities have a role in the local economy, new larger industrial activities are more appropriately located at Parkwood Industrial Estate (identified as an Economic Development Area in the Maidstone Borough Local Plan) due to the rural nature of the area of most of the parish, limited local population encouraging in-migration of workers unlikely to be resident locally, and impact of heavier traffic on smaller roads in an already stressed highway network.

Where premises in existing economic use become redundant, their re-use will be subject to policies in this plan, particularly PWP2 and RH1.

Justification for Policy LRE 1

Policy LRE 1 supports proposals which will assist in maintaining the development and growth of traditional rural industries in the Plan area, together with the development of new enterprises particularly in the leisure and tourism sectors. It is essential that such proposals have no significant adverse impacts upon the landscape and tranquillity of the Plan area. Development proposals which involve discordant and adverse visual or noisy uses in the countryside will not be supported.

LRE 1. Rural economy

A. Proposals for development enabling traditional rural industries and for new industries, including leisure and tourism, located within the countryside will be encouraged where they:

- a) do not have a significant adverse impact on landscape, biodiversity, green infrastructure or existing traditional economically viable uses as described in this plan, and wherever possible enhance landscape, biodiversity and green infrastructure. Concentrations of commercial covered growing areas, such as polytunnels and glasshouses, which create major obstructions to wildlife corridors and reduce biodiversity will not be supported.
- b) are neighbourly in terms of their visual, noise, smell and other impacts on adjoining uses, and
- c) support an economically successful local economy which maintains the tranquillity of the countryside

B. Proposals that introduce discordant visual or noise elements into the landscape, such as for solar or wind farms and motor, shooting or other noisy sports, that do not support the current tranquillity of the parish, will not be supported.



Justification for Policy LRE 2

A key objective of the Plan is to maintain and enhance existing local businesses in the Plan area. Development proposals relating to the continued operation of existing agricultural, horticultural and equestrian-related uses will be supported, as will proposals which re-introduce traditional rural activities. Development proposals will need to meet the necessary environmental criteria set out in the policy, appropriate to the nature of their proposed uses.

LRE 2. Development relating to existing businesses

Development proposals throughout the Parish, and particularly south of Heath Road, which relate to the continued operation of established agricultural, horticultural or equestrian – related uses in the area, or which reintroduce rural activities traditional to the locality will be encouraged provided that all the following criteria are met:

- a). where appropriate, proposals shall be accompanied by material showing the impact of the proposed new development from key vantage points in the surrounding open countryside and the overall impact on the landscape
- b). development minimises visual and noise impacts on the surrounding countryside and community
- c). development is located either
 - i) near existing established built features, or
 - ii) any new buildings/ structures are located so as to ensure existing patterns of development are maintained and to avoid significant incursions into open countryside.
 - iii) An exception to (i) may be made where a proposal demonstrates improvements to the existing situation in terms of visual impact on the surrounding countryside, and the existing buildings/structures are removed as part of the new development.
- d). development should provide adequate parking for operational and staff use, including infrastructure for electric vehicle charging and for refrigerated vehicles
- e). where appropriate, measures are proposed to improve the landscaping, setting and/or screening of the development within its wider setting.



SECTION 6.0

OTHER MATTERS

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE IDENTIFIED AS IMPORTANT TO THE AREA, BUT ARE NOT MATTERS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED THROUGH PLANNING LEGISLATION. THEY ARE LISTED HERE FOR INFORMATION, AND WILL BE PURSUED THROUGH OTHER MEANS.

LOCAL INFORMATION

The parish council will provide information to initial residents of new development on local facilities and amenities, including footpaths, cycle paths, public transport and public open space, to assist residents in assimilating into the community and reduce impacts of new development.

WETLANDS

Creation of ecologically rich wetland/marsh/grassland will be supported. Landowners are encouraged to improve the visual interest of drainage channels and their ecological value by restoring grass and reed verges. Funding for this will be investigated. Development that adversely impacts on sensitive areas is not supported.

NATURE RESERVE

Creation of a Nature Reserve on Parish Council and BMAT land will be investigated in partnership with other nature conservation bodies and farmers will be encouraged to plant small areas of woodland.

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

Public realm improvements will be made to Church Street. They will focus on including new street trees, improved signage, high quality surface materials, removal of street clutter and barriers to pedestrian movement and provision of convenient cycle parking and seats.

BUS SERVICE AND STOPS

Improvements to the local bus service and availability of stops will be sought through taking all available opportunities to lobby and suggest them.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS AND ROUTES

The speed of vehicles and the routes taken, particularly by heavy vehicles, are an issue. The parish council will continue to lobby for appropriate traffic management measures including quiet lanes to reduce risk to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. In some cases this may be associated with, and funded by, new development.

The Parish Council will continue to take every opportunity to lobby for improvements to landscape protection in the parish, and will work with and support other bodies pursuing the same objectives, particularly where landscape character areas extend beyond parish boundaries.



SECTION 7.0

GLOSSARY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:

A) Affordable housing for rent: meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); (b) the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).

B) Starter homes: is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household's eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.

C) Discounted market sales housing: is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.

D) Other affordable routes to home ownership: is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.

BROWNFIELD, ALSO CALLED PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape. (Source:NPPF)

HOUSING REGISTER

A register maintained by the local authority (in this case Maidstone Borough Council) and used in allocating affordable housing tenancies . The housing register is for anyone over 18 who qualifies to go on the register. To qualify people need to have a housing need and have a local connection to Maidstone. (Source: Maidstone BC)

SELF-BUILD AND CUSTOM-BUILD HOUSING

Housing built by an individual, a group of individuals, or persons working with or for them, to be occupied by that individual. Such housing can be either market or affordable housing. A legal definition, for the purpose of applying the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 (as amended), is contained in section 1(A1) and (A2) of that Act.

APPENDIX 1

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

IN THE PARISH

LIST OF LISTED BUILDINGS ON MAP 8

Note: NHLE = National Heritage List for England

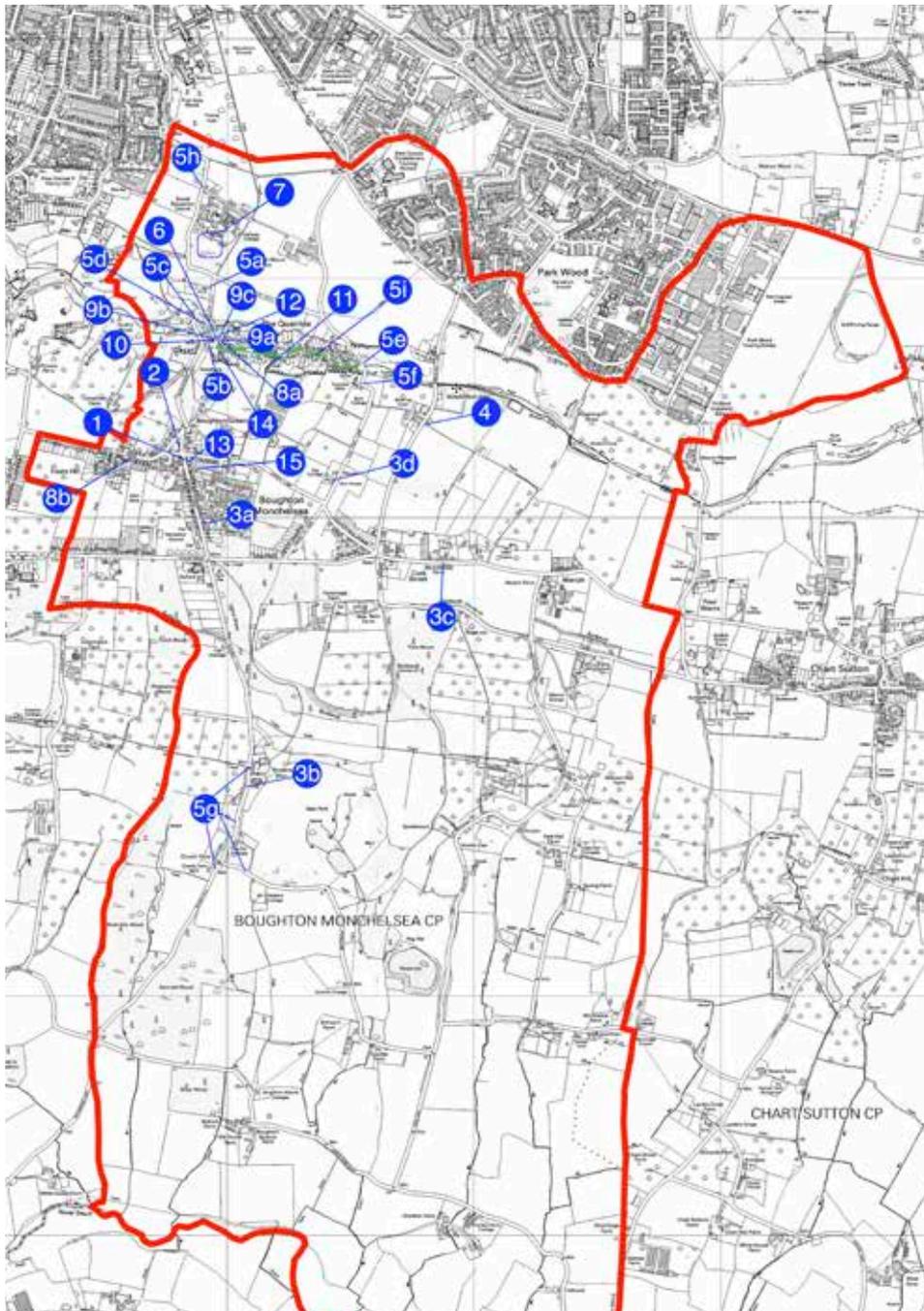
- 1 Folly in the grounds of Boughton Mount, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1413737)
- 2 Ha ha with footbridge in the grounds of Boughton Mount, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1413736)
- 3 Rock Cottage, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1344353)
- 4 Harts House, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1060784)
- 5 Swiss Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344354)
- 6 The Malt House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060783)
- 7 1-11, The Quarries, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060733)
- 8 Fir Tree Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344367)
- 9 Quarry House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344366)
- 10 Stone House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1240388)
- 11 65, The Quarries, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060734)
- 12 Stone mason's workshop and yard, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344390)
- 13 88, The Quarries, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060736)
- 14 Gladstones, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060735)
- 15 Cliff Cottages, Cliff House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068615)
- 16 Brishing Court, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1344355)
- 17 Barn about 25m SW of Brishing Court, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060785)
- 18 Elm House and railings attached, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1068795)
- 19 Mounting block about 6m S of Elm House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1261053)
- 20 Iden Farm, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344382)
- 21 Iden Farmhouse, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068664)
- 22 Tilts House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060761)
- 23 Railings about 3m S of Tilts Hosue, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068658)
- 24 Mounting block about 5m SW of Tilts House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060762)
- 25 Swallows, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068636)
- 26 The Cock Inn, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344381)
- 27 Martins Farmhouse, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1356172)
- 28 3, Park Lane, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060701)
- 29 Mounting block immediately W of 63, Church St, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1261039)
- 30 Tudor Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068776)
- 31 Lewis Court, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060768)
- 32 White Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068768)
- 33 Laburnum Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060767)
- 34 Lime Tree Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344346)

- 35 Beresfords, and gate piers attached, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060782)
- 36 The Old House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1356134)
- 37 Oak Cottage, Oak Tree Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060766)
- 38 The Old Farmhouse, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068744)
- 39 Old Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060765)
- 40 Parsonage Farmhouse, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060763)
- 41 Wierton Grange, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344368)
- 42 Greenhouses about 30m N of Wierton Place and attached garden wall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1373870)
- 43 Garden building to the NW of Wierton Place, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1389638)
- 44 Wierton Place, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1389637)
- 45 Wierton Hall Farm Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060737)
- 46 Wierton Hall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068693)
- 47 Garden gateway about 20m E of East Hall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068702)
- 48 East Hall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344383)
- 49 Barn about 56m W of East Hall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060764)
- 50 Barn about 70m WNW of East Hall, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068725)
- 51 Wierton Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1049074)
- 52 Tanyard, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060738)
- 53 Bishops Farm House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1051669)
- 54 Gravitts Farm House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344365)
- 55 Charlton Farmhouse, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060769)
- 56 Holbrook, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068785)
- 57 Rabbit's Cross Farmhouse, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1060770)
- 58 Hertsfield Bridges, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1060786)
- 59 Keeper's Cottage, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060771)
- 60 Church Farm Barn, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060760)
- 61 Church Farm House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1356183)
- 62 Church of St Peter, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1060754)
- 63 Monument to members of the Joy family, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060757)
- 64 Monument to William Wedd, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1068599)
- 65 Group of monuments to S of Porch, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060759)
- 66 Monument to Sidragh Fowler, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344378)
- 67 Monument to Thomas Maddox, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344379)
- 68 Monument to Edwards Emiot, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060756)
- 69 Group of 3 monuments NE of Chancel, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060755)
- 70 The Rider Mausoleum, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344377)
- 71 Monument to William Reiffgens, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060758)
- 72 Lychgate, Grade II* listed (NHLE ref 1068606)
- 73 Mounting block about 6m W of Lychgate, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1344380)
- 74 Boughton Monchelsea Place, and courtyard buildings, Grade I listed (NHLE ref 1060787)
- 75 Mounting block in front of E elevation of Boughton Monchelsea House, Grade II listed (NHLE ref 1060702)
- 76 Sundial about 8m S of Boughton Monchelsea Place, Grade II listed, (NHLE ref 1344376)
- 77 Archway about 10m S of W end of Boughton Monchelsea Place, Grade II listed, (NHLE ref 1060753)
- 78 Barn about 15m SW of Boughton Monchelsea Place, Grade II listed, (NHLE ref 1060752)

APPENDIX 2

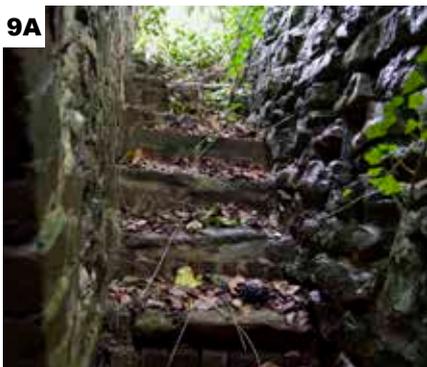
NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE PARISH

NB. The list only comprises architectural heritage assets, and does not include any archaeological sites, historic landscape features and other heritage assets details of which may be found on the Kent Historic Environment Record held by Kent County Council at www.kent.gov.uk/HER



1. Civil defence siren on the roof of the Albion /Curious Eatery
2. Soup Kitchen
- 3a Mounting steps Opposite Village Hall
- 3b Mounting steps Church Hill
- 3c Mounting steps Tilts House
- 3d Mounting steps Old Tree Lane
- 4 Tar Dip - Brishing Lane
- 5a Ragstone Walls -Bottlescrew Hill North
- 5b Ragstone Walls-Bottlescrew Hill - South
- 5c Ragstone Walls -Little Switzerland
- 5d Ragstone Walls -Little Switzerland
- 5e Ragstone Walls -Cliff Hill
- 5f Ragstone Walls -Old Tree Lane
- 5g Ragstone Walls - Church Hill
- 5h Ragstone Walls -Boughton Lane Farm Entrance
- 5i Ragstone Walls -The Quarries
- 6 Edward VII Post Box
- 7a The Mount Gardens Fish Pond
- 7b The Mount Gardens Curving Wall
- 7c The Mount Gardens Ragstone Gazebo
- 7d The Mount Gardens Ragstone Gazebo Pillars
- 7e The Mount Gardens Ragstone Garden Wall - North
- 7f The Mount Gardens Ragstone Garden Wall - South
- 7g The Mount Gardens Ragstone Garden Wall - West
- 7h The Mount Gardens Water Tower & Main Building
- 8a Stone stile - Bottlescrew Hill
- 8b Stone stile - Haste Hill Road
- 9 Tunnel under Bottlescrew Hill
- 9a Steps into the tunnel under Bottlescrew Hill
- 9b Steps into the tunnel under Bottlescrew Hill
- 9c Inside the tunnel under Bottlescrew Hill
- 10 Dip Well at Harts House
- 11 Ragstone Steps footpath KM 104
- 12a Kiln Bottlescrew Hill
- 12b Kiln Bottlescrew Hill
- 13 The Albion's out building
- 14 Malthouse Quarry road
- 15 Example of Oast House







SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Section 4.3 and 4.4 of this Neighbourhood Plan explain how some historic buildings and areas of the parish are protected by national and local policy as “listed” buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Conservation Areas.

Section 4.4. also describes how the Neighbourhood Plan process has identified a number of other features which have a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets. These proposed “non-designated heritage assets” are described in this Appendix, together with the reason why they are locally significant.

Section 3.1 of the Plan gives a brief history of the parish and references to more detailed documents.

Boughton Monchelsea, as with any area, has been shaped in its looks and character by the industry and activities conducted there in the past. Within the parish these were mainly quarrying, brewing and agriculture, with a smaller amount of forestry (coppicing). All of these activities have left behind a mark on the landscape, architecture and features which can be seen today and should be considered to be preserved for future generations.

Quarrying

The foundations of a Roman bathhouse were discovered in 1841 near Brishing Court, also a Roman villa at Brishing and a cemetery at Lockham. The quarries were worked extensively in Roman times and the villa and bathhouse could well have belonged to the quarry owner. The Romans used much of the stone from Boughton quarry in the construction of the London Wall, a temple on the site of St. Pauls Cathedral, and a temple where St Peters Church now stands. The Normans used the ragstone in the building of Westminster Abbey and through the reign of Edward III to repair Rochester Castle. In 1419, King Henry V ordered 7000 stone cannon balls. The quarries continued into the 1960’s when the last one closed.

Throughout this time ragstone was used in the surrounding area for buildings and features that are in the need of protection today. A good example is the extensive ragstone walling next to many of our roads.

Ragstone walls – photos 5A – 5I

Ragstone features

- Mounting steps photos 3A – 3D.
- Stone stiles photos 8A and 8B.
- Dip well tunnel photos 9A – 9C.
- Dip well at Harts House photo 10.
- Stone steps on footpath KM104 photo 11.

These walls and features are identified as non-designated heritage assets in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Agriculture

Farming still is the major industry in the parish. In modern times arable fields are becoming more prominent and the growing of soft fruit under tunnels. However, in the past the main crops were fruit, grown in orchards, hops, grown in hop gardens, and cobnuts grown in nut platts. Chestnut coppicing produced fence posts and hop poles

Hops

While little remains of the hop gardens there is a group of converted hopper huts, a tar dip used to treat the fence posts and hop poles, and many oast houses (kilns and attached barn) which provide a historical setting and a source of local identity. It is considered that protection should be given to the remaining tar dip, and to all of the oast houses within the area, covered by the Neighbourhood Plan.

Tar dip off Brishing Hill – photo 4

This tar dip is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for rarity and for social and community value.

An example of a Kentish oast house – photo 15

The oast houses within the Neighbourhood Plan area are identified as non-designated heritage assets in line with Historic England criteria for grouping value and for social and community value.

Lime Kiln

One of the early soil treatments used was the addition of lime which was processed in a kiln. Of three kilns, two have already been demolished leaving the last remaining lime kiln at the entrance of the Forge Bungalows, Bottlescrew Hill. While the walls have been rebuilt and the top is sealed, the tunnel and fire hearth still remain untouched.

Lime Kiln tunnel and hearth – photos 12A and 12B

This Lime kiln is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Brewing

Past censuses show that many of the residences were employed in the brewing industry. The owner of one of the largest producers and employers in the area lived in Quarry Road. All that can be seen today are the two Malt houses at either end of Quarry Road. The western one has been converted into homes, however the one to the east is in a poor condition.

Quarry malt house – photo 14

This building is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Boughton Mount

While the original building on this site was destroyed by fire after WW2 features of the Victorian garden, along with the walled garden remain. While the ha ha and the folly are formally listed, other smaller features of the garden should also be retained to give the context of the overall gardens.

Boughton Mount garden features – photos 7A -7g

These walls and features are identified as non-designated heritage assets in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Also on this site is the old water tower with its unusual castled features and attached barn. This is one of the last standing buildings of the original house and out buildings.

Water Tower at Boughton Mount – photo 7H

This building is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Soup Kitchen

In times predating benefits the poor of the village were fed by the community from a soup kitchen. Very few examples of these buildings have survived in Kent and therefore this building, dating from the 1830s, on the village green should be given protection. It lies within The Green Conservation Area.

Soup Kitchen – photo 2

The soup kitchen is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Albion Pub

There are two features of this building that should be considered

Mounted on the roof is the civil defence siren. This is the only WW2 relic above ground that survives in the parish. – photo 1

This siren is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for rarity and for social and community value.

The outbuilding is a very old traditional outbuilding, ragstone and slate roof, adjacent to within the The Green Conservation Area. – photo 13

Because this building adds to the setting of the conservation area it is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

Post box in the Quarries

Edward VII only reigned for 9 years 1901 -1910, therefore postboxes of his reign are rare. The postbox adds greatly to the setting of this small hamlet.

See photo 6

This is identified as a non-designated heritage asset in line with Historic England criteria for age, rarity and for social and community value.

APPENDIX 3

LOCAL DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

This section identifies some key features of built development and streetscape in the parish and it is hoped that it will inform and help those making changes to their properties or seeking to develop in the parish, so that changes fit in with existing character. Many alterations to buildings do not require planning permission but taken together they can have a considerable impact, not only on the human environment but also on biodiversity. Usually consideration of wildlife needs as well as human needs can lead to a satisfactory solution which meets both sets of requirements.

Built form

Residential building types include terraced cottages, semi-detached houses, some bungalows, and bigger detached properties in large plots, some of which are very large. Houses are predominately two storey. Pitched roofs are typical and features such as chimneys and gables create a varied roofline. Houses date from a variety of periods, and large blocks of similar properties are not characteristic of most of the parish, apart from the area within the defined Maidstone Urban Area.

Materials

Typical natural and attractive materials include Kentish ragstone, buff stock brick, red stock brick detailing, white or cream painted brickwork, Kent peg tiles and slate or clay roof tiles. The best buildings use a limited palette and materials are used to highlight elements such as an entrance, upper storey or bay, rather than being applied in patches as a superficial facade.

Boundaries

Typical and attractive front boundaries in the rural part of the parish include Kentish ragstone walls, carefully detailed brick walls, substantial hedges including native species, and rustic wooden fencing and gates. The character is informal as it is generally backed by planting, but it effectively delineates public from private space. High metal gates and metal fencing, particularly when not backed by vegetation, are more urban in character and are not typical, even in the northern part of the parish. Access driveways are generally restrained in character. Hoggin or gravel driveway surfaces bordered by setts are characteristic, and wide sweeping tarmac or paved driveways flanked by piers and ornaments are not typical in the rural part of the parish.



Landscaping

The Landscape Character Study of the parish by Colvin and Moggridge gives a good indication of what is typical of different areas of the parish. In individual landscaping schemes for new and existing development it is desirable to include native species, and species which attract pollinators to enhance biodiversity.

Other features

Understandably residents and businesses, particularly in the rural part of the parish which is unlit at night, desire security lighting for safety and convenience. But bright levels of illumination are not always necessary, and can be very disruptive to wildlife and create an urbanising effect as well as being expensive in energy consumption. Consideration should be given to motion sensor activated lighting, solar lighting, lit bollards and wall installations, particularly in domestic settings, as these are not only effective but are more sympathetic to wildlife and character.

House and business name and number signs are varied across the parish, and are particularly helpful to visitors in the rural area. Natural materials such as wood and paint are characteristic of the rural area, and again attention should be paid to any illumination.

Public Realm

While many of the following features are the responsibility of Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council or Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council, individual property owners' actions also contribute to public enjoyment of the street scene. Mature trees and hedges flanking the highway and within domestic gardens make an important contribution. Many roads within the parish have an informal, rural or semi-rural character with features including grass verges, a lack of hard footway, tall hedges and timber fencing and stone walls. Features such as traffic management and safety installations, street signs, footpath signs and stiles etc, dog and waste bins, and footway surfacing need to be sympathetic to the character of the location.



APPENDIX 4

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA MASTERPLAN - LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSALS

PROPOSED PROJECTS

The full schedule of 93 pieces of work associated with landscape enhancement proposals on pages 79 & 80 of the study by our landscape consultants is listed, however, projects 21, 35 and 41 have been identified by the Parish Council as the three main projects to be investigated in the first instance and, subject to the outcome of these investigations, our aim is to bring these 3 main projects forward.

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council are committed to improving linkages within and beyond our parish for our residents and the wider community. Working with private land owners and utilising the land owned by Boughton Monchelsea Amenity Trust, we are endeavouring where possible to form a comprehensive network of well connected footways, bridleways and cycle ways.

Some of the other works listed could be considered as more day-to-day maintenance and repair works which will be ongoing.

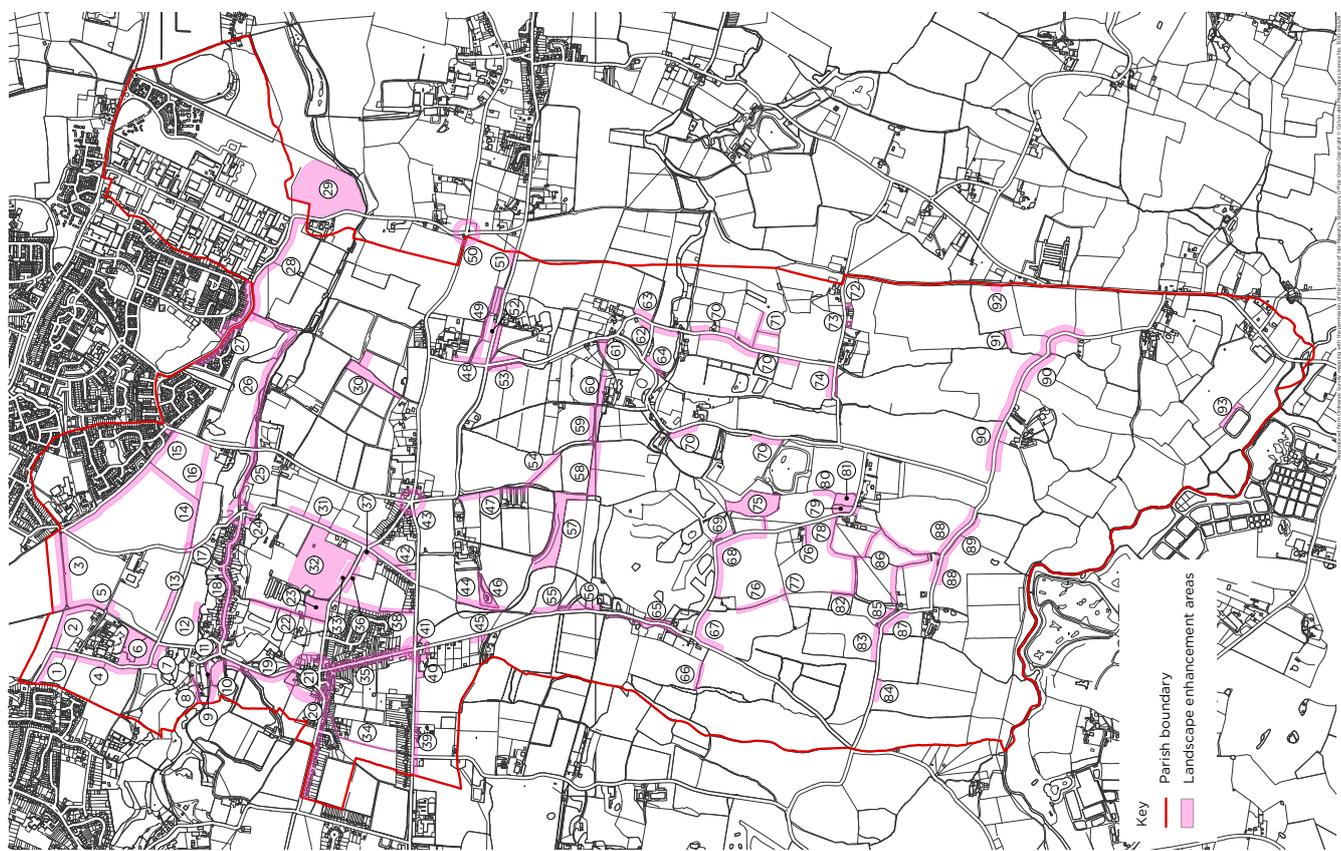
All of this work will be properly planned, prioritised and subject to funding.

The full study carried out by our appointed consultant, Colvin & Moggridge, is available on our website.

www.boughtonmonchelseapc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Landscape Enhancement Proposals



Introduction

Combining the findings of the landscape character review, the views study, access and movement study, recreation and amenity study and the landscape condition review, a number of enhancement opportunities have been identified throughout the parish. These form the basis of the Landscape Masterplan and Management Plan document as Parish Council aspirations, subject to budgetary constraints and further specialist advice.

- The enhancements have varying goals, including:
 - improving visual coherence and quality
 - reinforcing or sustaining landscape character
 - increasing ecological value and connectivity
 - improving access and movement around the village, and
 - providing better recreation facilities or services around the village.
- Many of the proposals address more than one of these goals.

Locations for 95 no. proposed enhancement sites are indicated on the plan opposite and listed below, with text explaining both the goal and the nature of the proposals.

First, please note that enhancement proposals have been made regardless of land ownership. Some relate to land owned by BMAT or the County Council, but the majority of recommendations apply to privately-owned features. For that reason, the enhancement proposals are often framed in terms of encouraging or promoting a particular course of action, rather than listing direct and immediate work tasks.

Second, enhancement recommendations are made only for landscape elements that could be seen in sufficient detail. This includes areas of publicly-accessible land but also elements clearly visible from public highways or rights of way. Whilst this means that some features on private land have been omitted, those included are the most prominent and key to the public appreciation of the parish landscape.

Finally, please note that these enhancement recommendations do not include or supersede standard ongoing maintenance practices. For example, only those hedgerows and woodlands needing unusual or urgent intervention have been included in the list, but clearly ALL require routine periodic management to stay in good condition.

For quick reference, the enhancements being proposed have been separated into 10 no. colour-coded categories, according to the work involved. The appropriate colour or colours relating to each individual site are shown alongside the description. The different categories of work are:

- hedgerow repair or replanting
- hedgerow maintenance
- woodland management or replanting
- specimen tree planting
- fencing and gate repair or installation
- walling repair or installation
- street furniture changes
- surfacing changes
- access improvements
- miscellaneous

The enhancements will be organised into a number of manageable projects for implementation. Each project may be linked by type of work or, if more appropriate, by location and will be classed as short, medium or long term according to the difficulty, cost, sensitivity or logistics of implementation. Many projects will require additional specialist advice to determine the exact work to be carried out, for example, qualified arboricultural advice will be sought in relation to woodland management and regeneration. Major projects are highlighted in the text with a grey background.

1 Cyclway creation

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-
-

Action: Consider introduction of new permitted cycleway alongside Boughton Lane through fields. Create entry point in hedge opposite footpath KM98 and adjacent to footpath KM56 (Edlington Lane), with cycle gates at KM98 end to slow exit onto dangerous road. Excavate a route parallel with existing hedge but beyond rootzone, install suitable depth of sub-base material and macadam wearing course. Install timber post and wire fence to field side.

2 Path widening for cycleway creation, fence and gate replacement and repair, shelterbelt planting and hedge replanting

-
-
-
-

Goal: To improve landscape quality and access

Action: Consider incorporating a cycleway alongside the existing footpath; clean back accumulated organic matter and overgrown path edges to establish underlying path condition. Install combined macadam footpath and cycleway, removing (and replacing) collapsed timber post and wire fence and patchy field hedge on south side as necessary. If removal of field fence and hedge is not required, replace timber post and wire fence by laying and compacting a new sub-base. Install timber post and wire fence to field side, with kissing gate at Boughton Lane and replace with cycle gate to slow access onto public highway. Encourage long term replacement of metal palisade fence immediately adjacent to public right of way on north side with a lower post and wire field fence, and installation of shelterbelt planting behind. Security fencing could be installed on other side of shelterbelt if still required. Shelterbelt planting to be mix of Oak, Poplar, Field Maple, Hazel and Scots Pine.

3 Path widening for cycleway creation, hedgerow replacement or renovation/repair, fence replacement and hedgerow tree planting

-
-
-
-

Goal: To strengthen landscape character and improve access

Action: Consider incorporating a cycleway alongside the existing footpath; clean back accumulated organic matter and verges to establish underlying path condition and width. Remove collapsed timber field fence, hedge and trees on south side as necessary to accommodate wider surface. If removal of hedge is not required, trim for density and shape, and replace lengths of hedging that are beyond repair with new mix of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Field Maple, incorporating periodic individual hedgerow Oak and Poplar. Install new sub-base and macadam wearing course. Install cycle gate at northern end.

4 Footpath creation

-
-
-

Action: To improve access

Action: Consider introduction of new permitted footpath alongside Boughton Lane through fields. Create entry point in hedge opposite footpath KM98 and run south to meet footpath KM55. Maintain existing grass surface and install timber post and wire fence to field side, with stile at each end. Return post and wire fencing alongside KM55.

Landscaping Enhancement

5. Path widening for cycleway creation, hedgerow management and repair, gate replacement

Goal: To strengthen landscape character and improve access
Action: Consider incorporating a cycleway alongside the existing footpath; clean back accumulated organic matter and verges to establish underlying path condition and width. Remove field hedge on east side as necessary to accommodate a new gate. Consider the removal of ivy from the existing hedgerow to improve density and shape. Consider the removal of ivy from the hedgerow. Blackthorn and Field Maple. Install new sub-base and macadam wearing course. Remove existing kissing gate at southern end and replace with cycle gate at junction with Cliff Hill Road.

6. Woodland management and edge treatment

Goal: To improve landscape quality
Action: Edge of existing woodland is scruffy with remnant fence and climbers on verge, but has tall metal palisade fence set behind. Woodland itself is very dense; condition is difficult to assess but looks to lack diverse age structure. If land comes into BMAT ownership, clear back verge and undertake selective thinning and re-planting within woodland and possibly reinstating Victorian garden.

7. Long term fence replacement

Goal: To strengthen landscape character and increase visual coherence
Action: Encourage replacement of timber garden fencing with hedge at this key junction, which signals entry point to The Quarries area.

8. Hedgerow maintenance and repair and long term fence replacements

Goal: To strengthen landscape character
Action: Encourage maintenance and repair of over-tall hedgerows and hedgerow trees to reduce vulnerability to collapse, trimming for shape and density, removing ivy, re-laying where necessary and gapping up with a mixture of Hazel, Hawthorn and Field Maple. Promote long term replacement of suburban styles of garden fencing and gates with more sympathetic, low key species woodland location or with shade-tolerant evergreen hedging such as Holly.

9. Hedgerow maintenance, wall repair and path widening

Goal: To improve accessibility
Action: Trim back loose hedgerow adjacent to PROW and clear back of banked verge to enable more generous footpath. Consider/encourage repair of low stone wall retaining the PROW, which has become loose in places. Consider installation of a new graded stone surface to the footpath, scraping back accumulated earth prior to laying.

10. Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape character and quality
Action: Fine-tune tree and shrub mix and those that do are very mature; inadequate replacements available as younger trees are etiolated and vulnerable to damage or disease (eg. Ash, Larch). Manage woodland for diversity of species and age structure; encourage selective thinning throughout and creating of glades; install combination of individual long term tree specimens (Oak, Beech) and blocks of understorey and shorter-lived trees (Hazel, Field Maple, Alder).

11. Wall repair and verge repair

Goal: To improve landscape quality and maintain visual coherence
Action: Damage to ragstone wall in very attractive location in the centre of The Quarries conservation area. Encourage good quality wall repair and removal of temporary and anti-climb fencing. Existing grass shows a rubbed desire line; consider changing surface to stone cobbles at this point to enable access if problem persists.

12. Woodland planting

Goal: To maintain landscape character
Action: Plug gap in existing boundary tree belt on southern edge of Walk. New trees to be planted in the gap to improve the view from the road. Consider views to housing at chicken farm site. Install a mixture of Hazel, Oak, Alder and Field Maple transplants in tree shelters.

13. Hedgerow repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
Action: Encourage gapping-up of existing hedgerows where these are in poor repair using a mixture of Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel and Field Maple.

14. Cycleway creation

Goal: To improve access
Action: Consider introduction of new permitted cycleway alongside footpath KM100 through fields that may come into BMAT ownership. Install cycle gates at Pasted Bars Road to slow exit onto road. Excavate a route following the line of the footpath and install suitable depth of sub-base material and macadam wearing course. Install timber post and wire fence to north and west sides.

15. Cycleway creation, fence and gate installation, change of bollards and hedgerow tree introduction

Goal: To strengthen landscape character and improve access
Action: Consider introduction of new permitted cycleway alongside BMAT ownership. Install Pasted Bars Lane, rough track, into BMAT ownership. Use existing stone wall at footpath KM100, into northwest towards KM98. Excavate a route parallel with existing hedge but beyond toetone, install suitable depth of sub-base material and macadam wearing course. Install timber post and wire fence to field side, and cycle gate at northwest end. At Brishing Lane, replace existing black and yellow urban style bollards for timber post and chain type used elsewhere in the parish (eg. Bottlescrew Hill, Church Hill junction). Encourage introduction of periodic hedgerow Oak and Field Maple to the rear of existing well-maintained hedgerow along Pasted Bars Road.

16. Footpath creation

Goal: To improve access

Action: Consider introduction of new permitted footpath through fields that may come into BMAT ownership to link KM100 to Brishing Lane, to enable access to fields in the space south of Thomas Rider Way. Maintain existing field surface with silt at each end.

17. Footpath entrance improvement

Goal: To improve access

Action: Encourage regular maintenance of hedge gap forming entrance to footpath KM100 at the top of Cliff Hill Road.

18. The Quarries hard landscape enhancement

Goal: To improve landscape character and visual coherence

Action: Line of the public road does not flow and wide range of contrasting features of historic buildings or along the driving route. For future development, promote use of low-contrast, high quality materials for driveways and entrances that maintain same finish as road surface until well beyond the boundary. Encourage use of ragstone walls in new developments.

19. Hedgerow repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
Action: Encourage gapping-up of existing hedgerows where these are in poor repair using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Common Elm, Hazel and Field Maple.

20. Introduction of tree planting within gardens

Goal: To maintain and strengthen landscape character
Action: Along Haste Hill Road, encourage installation of a small number of large species trees (Beech, Oak or Lime) in properties with generous front gardens, as understoreys to replace single mature specimen in future.

21. Village green enhancement

Goal: To improve landscape quality, character and visual coherence
Action: Aim to reduce parking that obscures The Green and prevents full Green usage in a change in road surface. Install understory trees to the existing mature specimens to ensure future tree cover using species that match existing canopy. Consider the removal of ivy from buildings to the north of the existing trees, the deal of The Green, to allow visibility to consider a new ragstone wall enclosure to the substitution to avoid the need for furniture including litter bins, posts and railings, tree seat and timber benches, to favour visually recessive timber solutions. Screen existing timber garden fencing on enclosed side of The Green with new Beech hedge. Encourage matching hedge treatment to garden of house on the corner of Church Street and Haste Hill Road; to provide privacy in a softer way and reduce unpleasant appearance of this junction. Consider reinstating wall.

22. Hedgerow/hedgerow tree management and fence repair

Goal: To maintain landscape character and quality
Action: Right of way line with ivy covered and etiolated hedgerow trees/ remnant hedge, many covered in ivy, and vulnerable to damage. Encourage management of the existing trees by pruning back and cutting off ivy, re-planting sections of the hedge where necessary and introducing individual specimens to ensure trees of sufficient quality for the long term. On the east side, introduce new hedge on top of bank, with shelterbelt planting to the rear to screen views to possible development site. Hedge plants to include Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn plus Field Maple and Dogwood in new lengths. Space plants to link Field Maple shelterbelt planting to existing Hazel, Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel, Rowan or Ash fence where this has collapsed with timber post and rail or post and wire. Repair undermined steps into Quarries.

23. Woodland planting and fencing

Goal: To improve landscape character and amenity

Action: To strengthen landscape character and amenity
Action: Install a new nut platt on land that may come into BMAT ownership, to reinforce pattern of corner woodlands, give interest to PROW and frame entry point to village core. Install traditional Kent Cobnut species, and surround with timber post and wire fencing alongside footpath KM100.

24. Entrance improvement at timber yard

Goal: To improve accessibility

Action: Encourage landscape quality
Action: Encourage a more consistent approach to boundary fencing to improve appearance. Reduce visual intrusion from litter bin, salt bin and footpath sign by using a less urban style of bin and more discreet, right of way sign. Improve condition of road surface in parking area to relieve puddling.

25. Woodland management and fence removal and replacement

Goal: To strengthen landscape character and accessibility

Action: Manage woodland for diversity of species and age structure; encourage selective thinning and inter-planting with mix of Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Field Maple and Hazel. Encourage replacement of collapsed fence along timber yard boundary to improve quality of appearance.

26. Land stabilisation, path widening and surfacing for cycleway creation, fence installation or repair, woodland management and re-planting

Goal: To improve access

Action: Consider incorporating a cycleway alongside existing footpath KM100 and KM115. Fell and remove trees to the sides of existing path in order to install land stabilisation systems to support new, wider surfaced path. Re-grade ground and install stabilisation system along KM100, and new combined masonry and stone wall to support path. Consider the removal of ivy from the south side and cycle gate to Brishing Lane end. Re-plant woodland areas with a combination of Oak, Field Maple and Hazel. Regardless of cycleway, encourage woodland management to enable safe pedestrian access and removal of obstructions, and fencing repair where these are collapsed along PROW.

27. Hedgerow repair/reinstatement

Goal: To improve landscape quality

Action: Encourage maintenance and gapping-up or reinstatement of existing weak hedgerow using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Field Maple.

28. Cycleway creation

Goal: To improve access

Action: Consider introduction of new permitted cycleway alongside Brishing Road through private land. Cycleway would require entry point in hedge at corner of Brishing Road and run west to meet KM115. A route would need to be developed parallel to existing hedgerow beyond current installed sub-base depth of sub-base material and macadam wearing course. Consider the installation of timber post and wire fence to field side and cycle gates at corner of Brishing Road.

29. Country park site

Goal: To improve landscape character and amenity

Action: A clear brief needs to be provided for this area, to allow the development of design proposals. Likely work items include woodland planting, swale, wetland or water body creation, installation of mulch paths, boundary fencing, installation of informal play equipment, wildflower meadow creation, and specimen tree planting.

30. Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape character

Action: Bat of dense woodland alongside footpath KM115 with sections of poplars to edge of woodland. Some trees are covered with dense ivy and the woodland is very dense and difficult to assess. Encourage ivy-removal and selective thinning and re-planting with good quality replacement specimens for the long term.

31. Bridleway creation

Goal: To improve access

Action: Consider introduction of new permitted bridleway alongside Old Tree Lane through fields that are in or may come into BMAT ownership for use by horse riders. Consider the removal of ivy from the hedgerow along the path south close to junction of Old Tree Lane and Green Lane. Excavate and install graded stone base, with intention that over time, grass will be allowed to recolonize the surface. Install timber post and rail fence to field side.

32. Community land resource

Goal: To improve amenity

Action: Consider the removal of ivy from the hedgerow along the path south close to junction of Old Tree Lane and Green Lane. Excavate and install graded stone base, with intention that over time, grass will be allowed to recolonize the surface. Install timber post and rail fence to field side.

33. Hedgerow repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character

Action: Encourage gapping-up of existing hedgerow where this is in poor repair using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Common Elm, Hazel and Field Maple.

34. Medium and long term fence replacement

Goal: To improve landscape quality and enjoyment of right of way

Action: At the rear of Haste Hill Close, consider replacement of existing boundary to timber post and rail in future, and encourage a lower garden boundary to the north of the path. Path width is already restricted but high fence exacerbates discomfort. Across the field, fencing alongside the PROW is in mixed condition. Replace with similar timber post, and wire fence, and consider widening the route to improve accessibility and comfort.



Landscape Enhancement

35 Church Street enhancement

Goal: To improve landscape quality, character, visual coherence and ease of access.
 Action: Encourage gentle trimming back of overhanging hedge/hedgerow to create a parking area on land to /o Church Street to relieve congestion and create no parking zones along Church Street particularly between the Post Office and 40 Church St. Regularize street furniture away from urban metallic styles and towards visually recessive timber; replace ugly standard bus shelter with bespoke timber shelter (eg. with agstone base). Promote favouring natural gravel and local stone to reduce contrast with macadam front gardens and encourage visual coherence. Encourage retention of green front surfaces wherever possible. Consider surface treatment on east side of road to regularize appearance without reducing driven width. Consider widening pavements on west side in future.

36 Hedgerow repair and installation of hedgerow trees

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
 Action: Encourage gapping-up of existing hedgerow where this is in poor repair using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Common Elm, hazel and Sweet Chestnut. Encourage ivy-removal and selective pruning to protect from mowing and trimming damage.

37 Fence repair

Goal: To maintain landscape quality
 Action: Encourage fence repair to occlude unauthorized access and fly-tipping.

38 Footpath creation

Goal: To improve access
 Action: Consider introduction of new permitted footpath on a combination of existing and new paths to improve access between the chicken farm site and the primary school. Create entry point in hedge on Green Lane opposite footpath KM105 and run south past woodland and through edge of Thomas Cook site to meet Heath Road. Excavate and install graded stone base, with intention that over time, grass will be allowed to re-colonize the surface. Install timber post and wire fence to east side and pedestrian gate to each end.

39 Woodland maintenance and replanting

Goal: To maintain landscape character
 Action: Encourage long term management to ensure presence of a strong and diverse woodland edge. Encourage ivy removal, pruning to extend life-span, and selective coppicing, selective felling within deeper blocks where necessary and immediate re-planting with species to include Oak, Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Hazel, to develop density and to provide good-quality specimens for the long term.

40 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character
 Action: Narrow belt of woodland between primary school and Heath Road is etiolated, lacks diversity of age and understorey and is therefore very vulnerable to decline. Encourage ivy-removal and pruning to extend life-span, and selective felling and re-planting with Oak, Beech, Sweet Chestnut and Hazel to help thicken and provide sufficient number of good quality replacement specimens for the long term.

41 Heath Road crossroads

Goal: To improve landscape character and visual coherence
 Action: Encourage painting metal traffic fencing a dark colour to reduce visual intrusion, as well as lighting columns and traffic signposts. Review open boundary to playground and consider introducing a low hedge along road edge. Encourage planting of understory trees to replace mature Beech around junction in future. Consider creating a whole new access directly into the school playground away from the crossroad position, by moving zebra crossing west. This could work in parallel with the enlargement of parking area at the school (see main plan) to create a substantial proportion of in case of use (particularly for parents) and visual amenity at this key junction.

42 Hedgerow management and repair

Goal: To maintain landscape quality
 Action: Encourage regular trimming of hedge to reduce height and vulnerability to damage; gap-up hedge where necessary using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Common Elm, Hazel and Field Maple.

43 Cock Street enhancements

Goal: To maintain landscape character
 Action: Encourage a green edge to the car park of the Cock Inn, to screen large visually-busy area of macadam and parking, and encourage driver caution. Promote the introduction of a small number of large species trees (eg. Beech) within the grounds of the Cock Inn, to provide softness and balance trees in gardens on south side of Heath Road. Consider introduction of contrasting species to existing trees along the edge of the site, to complement and contrast with existing trees. Encourage ivy-removal and selective pruning to protect from mowing and trimming damage. Encourage gap-up of Heath Road and repair adjacent hedgerow by gapping up with mix of Hawthorn, Hazel and Field Maple, with inclusion of a group of hedgerow Oak.

44 Fence replacement

Goal: To improve landscape quality
 Action: Encourage replacement of collapsed fence with similar timber post and wire.

45 Hedgerow repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence
 Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak section of hedgerow at this point to direct views along Church Hill and screen residential property. Hedge species to include Hawthorn, Hazel, Common Elm and Field Maple.

46 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape character
 Action: Encourage selective thinning within block of young tree planting, to allow successful long term development.

47 Hedgerow or screen belt installation and fence repair

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and privacy adjacent to public right of way
 Action: Encourage installation of a narrow belt of Hazel coppice or mixed native field hedge alongside track using mix of Hawthorn, Hazel, Field Maple, Blackthorn and Dogwood to provide privacy to homes and screening to unsightly storage yard, to restore rural character of public right of way. Encourage repair of existing fence where this has collapsed.

48 Fence replacement and hedgerow reinstatement

Goal: To strengthen landscape character
 Action: Encourage replacement of new anti-climb fence panels over time, by installing a new field hedge and traditional timber post and wire fence to the rear; and allowing these to establish before the existing fence is removed. New hedge plants to be a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.

49 Woodland management and reinstatement

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character
 Action: Significant proportion of woodland block has been cleared and public right of way diverted around edge of woodland. Remaining trees are etiolated, appear vulnerable to wind-blow and lack diversity of age structure. Understand and address the reasons for this, and encourage replacement with a mix of Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Beech, Field Maple and Hazel to increase density and to provide sufficient good quality specimens for the long term. For narrow strip, encourage selective inter-planting within gaps to improve diversity and age structure.

50 Provision of road mirror

Goal: Road safety
 Action: Provide a convex mirror at the Four Wents junction to enable safe exit from Brishing Road.

51 Hedgerow repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
 Action: Encourage gapping-up of existing hedgerows where this is thin at the base, using a mixture of Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Field Maple.

52 Hedgerow management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality
 Action: Encourage regular trimming of hedgerow for density and shape.

53 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape character
 Action: Narrow belt of woodland alongside lane is gappy in places and some trees are covered with dense ivy. Encourage ivy-removal and selective thinning, clearance and re-planting (or inter-planting into existing gaps) to provide a sufficient number of good quality replacement specimens for the long term.

54 Footpath signage and access

Goal: To improve accessibility
 Action: Improve signage for length of footpath KM19 crossing Tilts Wood.

55 Hedgerow management and hedgerow tree planting

Goal: To maintain parkland character
 Action: Weak section of roadside hedge beneath line of mature Oaks at edge of parkland is gappy and needs re-planting as far as possible and installation of a line of understory Oaks on park side.

56 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character, and improve ecological value
 Action: Small area of coppiced woodland now overwhelmingly dominated by Sycamore with only a few remnant Sweet Chestnut. Encourage some re-coppicing to diversify age structure and some felling and re-planting with Sweet Chestnut and Oak.

57 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character, and improve ecological value
 Action: Large block of Sweet Chestnut coppice with individual Oaks and smaller block of etiolated Sycamore coppice with individual Oaks both vulnerable to damage. Encourage phased sequence of re-coppicing within blocks to diversify age structure and create glades, and within Sycamore block, some felling and re-planting with Sweet Chestnut, Oak and Field Maple to introduce diversity.

58 Hedgerow management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and improve access
 Action: Encourage gentle trimming back of overhanging hedge/hedgerow to create a path out from path route towards the Weald by creation of deliberate gaps in the hedgerow at strategic points.

59 Fence repair and hedgerow management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and improve access
 Action: Encourage repair or replacement of existing post and wire fence to north of path. On south side, encourage trimming of overgrown hedge/hedgerow trees that crowd path to enable better access and again, creation of periodic views out from path route towards the Weald by clearing deliberate gaps in the hedgerow at strategic points.

60 Hedgerow management and woodland planting

Goal: To improve access and strengthen landscape character
 Action: Mixed hedgerow of Holly, Elder and Sycamore growing beneath thin line of trees at rear of Wierton Place cramps pathway and falls to screen views into service yard. Encourage trimming of hedgerow plants to clear pathway and to develop density, and supplementary planting of a mixed woodland screen belt within Wierton Place using a mixture of Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Field Maple, Hazel and Scots Pine.

61 Woodland management

Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character
 Action: Mixed corner/edge woodland in broadly good condition but becoming etiolated; encourage selective thinning and coppicing to maintain presence in future.

62 Hedgerow management and repair

Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
 Action: Encourage maintenance and gapping-up of existing hedgerows using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.

63 Footpath signage and access

Goal: To improve accessibility
 Action: Improve signage for length of footpath KM21 where this joins KM22 via steps, and establish whether access should still be possible onto East Hill Hill opposite the cottages (gate locked at date of inspection).

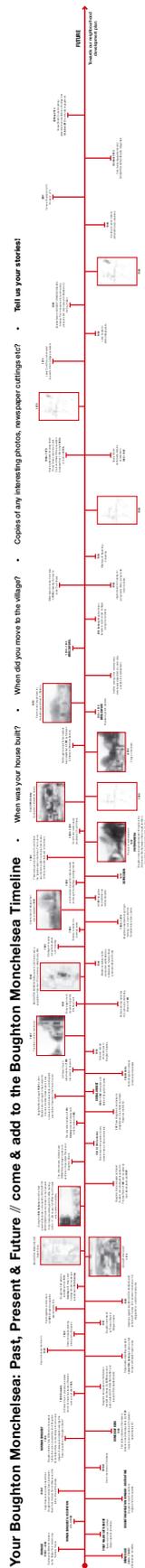


colvin & moggridge

Landscaping Enhancement

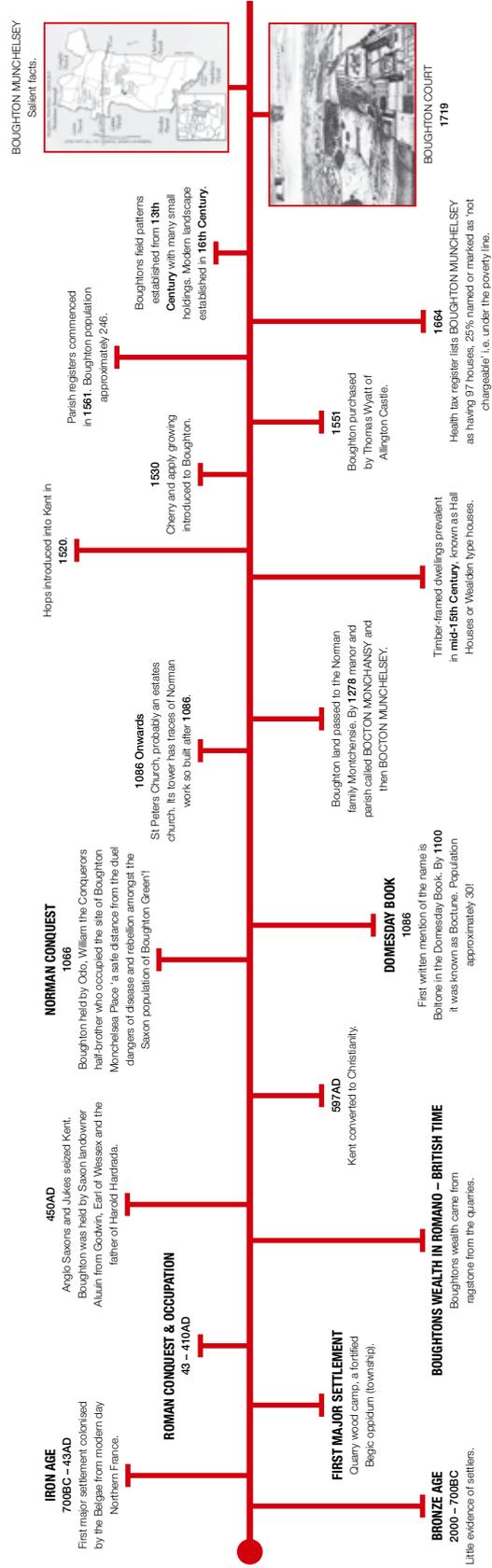
- 64 Hedgerow reinstatement**
- Goal: To improve landscape quality
 - Action: Encourage reinstatement of a field hedge at this very visible entry point to Wiverton hamlet, to soften view of agricultural/commercial buildings and operations. Use a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood without hedgerow trees, in order to maintain open views.
- 65 Woodland maintenance**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Narrow belt of trees on road banks to each side of Church Hill are in poor condition and vulnerable to decline; many trees are etiolated and ivy-clad although Hazel understorey appears robust. Encourage long-term management to ensure ongoing presence of woodland belt, including species diversity and canopy quality, large canopy trees (eg. Oak and Beech) to develop for the future.
- 66 Hedgerow repair**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak length of hedge using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 67 Hedgerow reinstatement and introduction of hedgerow trees**
- Goal: To strengthen landscape character and improve quality
 - Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak length of hedge entry point to the southern part of the parish, where landscape quality is otherwise very high. Use a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood and intermittent hedgerow Oaks.
- 68 Hedgerow repair and introduction of hedgerow trees**
- Goal: To improve visual coherence and strengthen landscape character
 - Action: Enable field using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood and intermittent hedgerow Oaks at this important location adjacent to Boughton Place deer park.
- 69 Hedgerow repair**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak length of hedge within this run using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 70 Hedgerow maintenance**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage maintenance and major height reduction/possible re-laying of existing hedges that are dominated by ivy and vulnerable to winter damage
- 71 Hedgerow reinstatement**
- Goal: To strengthen landscape character
 - Action: Encourage reinstatement of field hedges around paddocks using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 72 Screen large parking area**
- Goal: To maintain landscape quality and character
 - Action: Encourage installation of a roadside hedge and field gate to enclose and screen large area of plantings surface adjacent to cottages in otherwise attractive area.
- 73 Replacement of timber fence**
- Goal: To improve landscape quality and strengthen character
 - Action: Encourage removal of uncharacteristic tall timber garden fence around Homeleigh Timber premises to reveal existing hedge.
- 74 Woodland maintenance**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Belt of trees along either side of Hermitage Lane is narrow and vulnerable to decline. Encourage thickening of the woodland belt, by planting rows of trees in the field margin using a mixture of Oak, Alder, Beech, Field Maple and Hazel.
- 75 Woodland maintenance and replanting and specimen tree planting**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Existing Poplar plantation is of uniform age and becoming vulnerable to decline. Encourage phased felling and re-planting with mixed native woodland to form an extension of adjacent mixed woodland with species to include Oak, Alder, Birch, Field Maple and Hazel. Adjacent rows of Poplar woodland to be removed. Dogwood and Hawthorn may be suitable at same time; encourage planting between existing trees with Oaks to ensure long term presence.
- 76 Hedgerow repair**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak lengths of hedge where possible between hedgerow trees, using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 77 Hedgerow management**
- Goal: To improve accessibility
 - Action: Encourage engagement and maintenance of hedge gap in corner of field along KM127 to ensure pedestrians can pass.
- 78 Replacement of footpath sign**
- Goal: To improve accessibility
 - Action: Provide a new timber post and footpath signage for KM128 on Peens Lane where sign has fallen.
- 79 Woodland maintenance and replanting and hedgerow maintenance**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Existing Poplar plantation is of uniform age and becoming vulnerable to decline. Encourage phased felling and re-planting with mixed native woodland to form an extension of adjacent mixed woodland with species to include Oak, Alder, Beech and Hazel. Short length of hedge opposite is gappy; encourage trimming for density and shape.
- 80 Hedgerow tree planting**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage inter-planting along narrow wooded boundary with Common Oaks to maintain line of trees for the long term.
- 81 Woodland maintenance**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage long-term management to ensure ongoing presence of corner woodland block, including selective thinning and inter-planting to ensure a suitable number of good quality large canopy trees (eg. Oak and Beech) to develop and to diversify age structure.
- 82 Footpath access**
- Goal: To improve accessibility
 - Action: Replace broken stile on KM127.
- 83 Reinstatement of hedgerow or replacement of fencing**
- Goal: To improve landscape quality and character
 - Action: Encourage reinstatement of native hedge using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood or replacement of dilapidated post and wire fence with new post and wire.
- 84 Hedgerow repair**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage gapping-up of weak length of hedge within otherwise strong run, using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 85 Woodland management**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Narrow belt of woodland alongside lane is etiolated and vulnerable to decline. Encourage ivy-removal and pruning to extend life-span, and selective felling and re-planting with Oak, Beech, Hazel and Hawthorn to help thicken and provide sufficient number of good quality replacement specimens for the long term.
- 86 Hedgerow repair and fence replacement**
- Goal: To improve accessibility
 - Action: Provide a new timber post and footpath signage for KM130 on Forge Lane where sign is missing.
- 87 Hedgerow repair and introduction of hedgerow trees**
- Goal: To improve visual coherence and landscape character
 - Action: Encourage re-planting/gapping up of existing remnant hedge around corner field using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood and intermittent hedgerow Oaks.
- 88 Hedgerow repair and introduction of hedgerow trees**
- Goal: To maintain visual coherence and landscape character
 - Action: Encourage weeding of newly planted hedgerows and maintenance of Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood. Encourage the removal of uncharacteristic, short-lived hedgerow Birch and replacement (or inter-planting) with English Oak.
- 89 Provision of more appropriate field entrance**
- Goal: To improve visual coherence by replacing unsightly field entrance with action: Establish why secure entrance is required and discuss the possible removal of the bollards or replacement with a less prominent style.
- 90 Introduction of hedgerow trees & small corner woodlands**
- Goal: To strengthen and sustain landscape character
 - Action: There are few hedgerow trees along these routes, and those that have survived are in poor condition. Encourage the installation of a mixture of young hedgerow Oaks within field margins, and small corner blocks of mixed Oak, Willow, Alder and Hazel on wet ground.
- 91 Hedgerow management and repair**
- Goal: To maintain landscape character
 - Action: Encourage maintenance and gapping-up of existing hedgerow along the ROW. This is in poor repair using a mixture of Common Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Dogwood.
- 92 Replacement of footpath sign**
- Goal: To improve accessibility
 - Action: Provide a new timber post and footpath signage for KM130 on Forge Lane where sign is missing.
- 93 Phased replacement of conifer screen belt**
- Goal: To improve landscape character and visual coherence
 - Action: Encourage installation of an alternative screen planting block to replace visually intrusive conifer belt using a mixture of location-appropriate species such as Alder, White Willow, Goat Willow and Hazel, and English Oak on dry ground.

APPENDIX 5 BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA TIMELINE



Your Boughton Monchelsea: Past, Present & Future // come & add to the Boughton Monchelsea Timeline

When was your house built? • When did you move to the village? • Copies of any interesting photos, newspaper cuttings etc? • Tell us your stories!



During the **18th Century** one of the most powerful influences on the parish of BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA was the creation of the Cowheath Army Camp (mustering point for militia housing 5,000 – 17,000 troops). In **1779** it had 700 retail units to serve the soldiers.



Two other manors, Hobbrook and BRISHING and large houses such as Warton House (later Place), and Boughton Mount.

The only other industry in the **19th Century** was the brewery built in the Quarries in **1803**.

Boughton Mount bought **1824** by John Broadrick who is thought to have made his fortune in the West Indies in part, it was run over, from the slave trade. John Broadrick was the first Chairman of the Parish Council.



1857
The Albion Inn first mentioned.

St Peter's Church disastrous fire of **1832** rumored to be arson!

1841
Bronze age brooch uncovered opposite Blishing Court.



1842
BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA parish of 2,200 acres and a population of less than 700 commonly called Quarry Hills.



Construction of village school was completed in **1851**.

15th & 16th Centuries
Boom time in the quarries. Quarry workers seen as 'labour aristocrats'.

SOCIAL UNREST
1830 – 1832 swing riots and Battle of Boughton Quarries.

1817 saw Boughton's road network straightened. Cock Street and Heath Road now the B21 63.

1830/1840's
Some emigration overseas (America and Australia).

Roman bath discovered by HC south bank of Blishing Stream in **1841**.

1844
Midstone railway station constructed and Midstone to Boddenden Turnpike Road constructed (Sutton Road).

1850 – 1870
Boughton prospered through 'high farming': corn, hops and fruit. Transient labour from London.

1864
Brewery converted to chemical works.

1851
Shortage of housing brought desperate over-crowding.

1881
There were grocery shops in Church Street, the Quarries and on the Green. The Cock Inn was the main public house plus beer houses in the Quarries, Maripits and on the Green.



Early 20th Century
Quarrymen in Baresford Quarry.

1868
John Broadrick closed the chemical works and bought the Maitings buildings himself.

1890 – 1900
Good mains water supply provided to Church Street.



The joys of mechanisation!!!

1891
VICTORIAN ERA

Boughton was an agricultural parish throughout the Victorian era. Mechanisation then brought decline in the number of agricultural workers required.



Forge on the Green.



The Boughton Adult School Institute was established in **1908** by Hermann G Kleinwort (Merchant Banker).

1914 – 1918
WORLD WAR I
Population growth arrested.



1919
Parish council bought land for recreation ground from R J Balston.

1939 – 1945
WORLD WAR II.

Water piped to Lewis Court area in **1945** preparing the way for Lewis Court Estate.

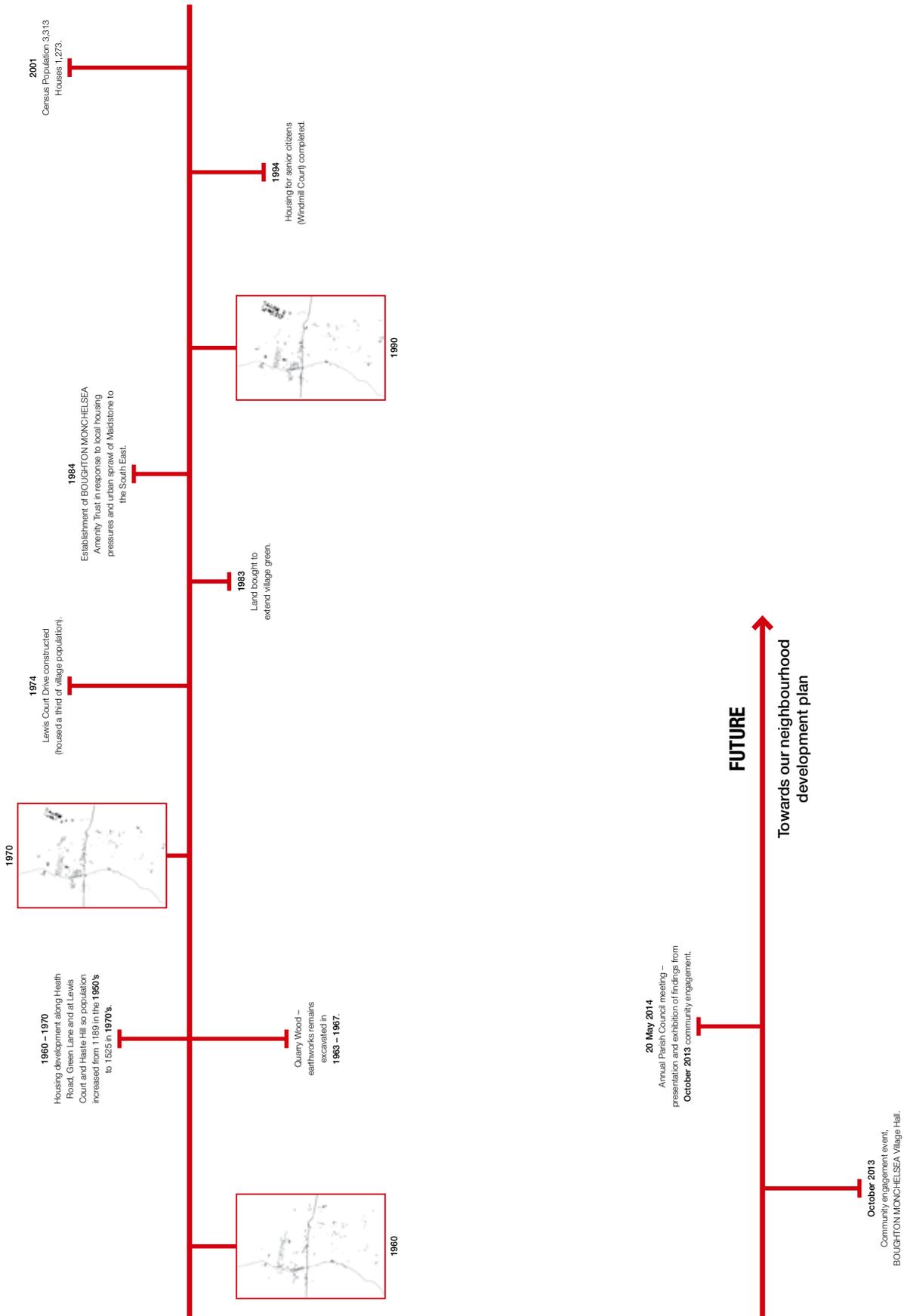
In **1851** Boughton had craftsmen as well as labourers.

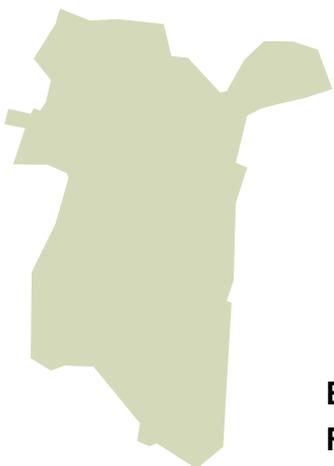
1870.
DEPRESSION

20th Century Boughton Green became modern centre of village along Church Street.

1945
Urgent needs for housing for young locals. Many young locals forced to leave.

1954
Blasting still happening in Quarries.





**BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2031**