

About This Exhibition



The Nether Wallop Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will provide a positive and forward-looking planning framework for guiding land use and development across the parish.

Once complete, the neighbourhood plan is likely to have a “plan period” (the length of time it remains valid) of around 10 years. It will form part of Test Valley Borough Council’s statutory planning framework for the Nether Wallop parish area.

This exhibition in August 2020 shares with the community the draft work undertaken so far to prepare the plan. Key questions are asked throughout.

The answers to these questions will help the team prepare the next stages of work — look for the yellow spots that highlight when a question is being asked.

Look
out for the
questions!

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

“Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies”

Paragraph 29 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), June 2019

The Nether Wallop Neighbourhood Plan will become the plan that guides the future of the village and the wider parish for the next ten years or more.

The work you see here is based upon information that has been taken from reports and other documentation, some prepared by the borough council. This has been supplemented by outside advice and research

by local sources, including an extensive questionnaire survey in December 2019 and a public exhibition of the results in January 2020.

Question

1

These posters share the emerging ideas but what other issues should the plan address that are not covered in this exhibition?

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

[continued]

Once a neighbourhood plan passes a local referendum, it is considered “made”. This means the plan is a legally recognised planning document.

Once made, the neighbourhood plan must be referred to by Nether Wallop Parish Council, Test Valley Borough Council, developers and landowners and will be used to determine all future planning applications in the parish.

A neighbourhood plan can ...

- Influence the density, style and location of new homes and other new buildings
- Protect important green spaces across the parish
- Help communities manage the evolution of their towns and villages

Who Leads the Process?

Under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, the “qualifying body” responsible for the preparation of the NDP is Nether Wallop Parish Council.

The first step in its preparation was the designation of the parish as a Neighbourhood Area by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) in November 2018. The NDP will cover the whole of the parish of Nether Wallop.

Since designation, work on the NDP has been coordinated by a steering group of volunteers on behalf of Nether Wallop Parish Council.

The group has undertaken research on various aspects of the plan content. This poster exhibition shares this early research work and the policy ideas with the community to keep them updated on progress.

Technical support has been commissioned from Feria Urbanism, a planning and design studio based in Bournemouth. This team has experience working with community groups to help them prepare neighbourhood plans.

Please let us know if you would like to get involved

Historical Context

Nether Wallop has an exceptionally rich and long history. Archaeological evidence exists of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements and field systems from this time can still be seen in the modern landscape. A network of ancient droves, bridleways and footpaths cross the parish.

The Wallop Brook encouraged settlements that became the cluster of buildings that is the core of the village today. The Saxon foundation of St Andrew's church led to larger development along the Brook and water mills, extensive arable land, water meadows are all mentioned in historical records.

In the middle ages, cereal production reached its heights, while the Enclosure Acts of the 18th century caused considerable change to farm land ownership. This resulted in much of the farming landscape seen today, with more regular boundaries and hedges. Comparing 1840 tithe maps for Nether Wallop with present day maps indicate little significant change in the layout of the parish.

A significant change to the parish in the 20th century came with the establishment of the Middle Wallop airfield — Europe's largest grass airfield — at the start of World War II. Most of the airfield buildings are not within the parish boundary, but the airfield is. For the past eighty years there has been a strong military heritage connection.

The late 20th and early 21st centuries have seen some new developments within Nether Wallop including infill plots, Aylward's Way and new homes at School Lane.

Today, there is a strong sense of community across the parish, fostered by several organisations including the church, the village school and various clubs and societies. A number of social events throughout the year, both regular and ad hoc, bring parishioners together in a variety of ways. There is a good mix of ages ranging from young families to the retired.

Geographical Context

With an area of 2,987 hectares, Nether Wallop is the second largest parish by geographical area in the Test Valley Borough Council area, but also one of the least densely populated, with only around 900 residents.

The geographical core of the parish is the valley of the Wallop Brook with rolling chalk downland beyond. The parish derives its name from the Wallop Brook, which rises in the neighbouring parish of Over Wallop, and flows into River Test at Bossington to the south.

The two main settlements within the parish are Nether Wallop village, which is clustered around the Wallop Brook and Jack's Bush, which is on the north side of the A343 and is characterised by original farm buildings with a ribbon development of more recent two-story houses.

Other development in the parish comprise farmsteads and isolated homes scattered around the open countryside.

The Wallop Brook has shaped the way in which Nether Wallop village has developed and has a rich biodiversity, supporting many types of wildlife. Additional

streams feeding the Wallop Brook at various points along the valley can explain the scatter of houses and farms separated by fields. This pattern is recognisable today.

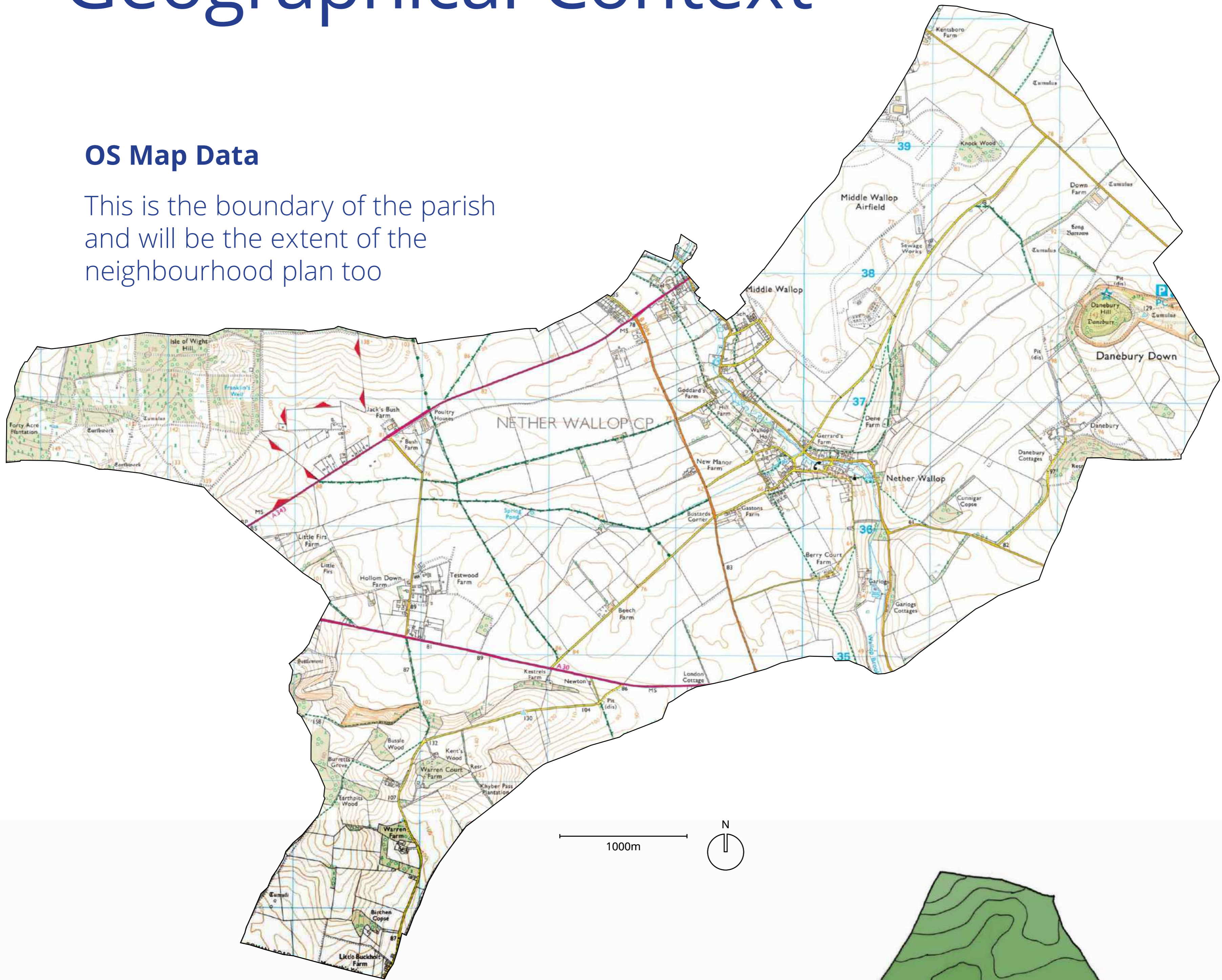
High ground water levels naturally occur during the winter months resulting in springs on either side of the Wallop valley. The Wallop Brook does not normally flood although problems have occurred as a result of blocked drains. The NDP will seek to address this issue, through policies that will encourage more flood resilience in new and existing developments.

The dominant pattern of vegetation is permanent pasture with patches of woodland. There are diverse flora and fauna, particularly in those habitats associated with seasonal or permanent waterlogging. The Wallop valley has an intimate, enclosed, and tranquil character, which is generally unspoiled by the intrusion of roads and modern suburbanising influences. Outside of the Wallop valley, the landscape comprises of gently undulating chalk downland that is predominately given over to farmland and woodland.

Geographical Context

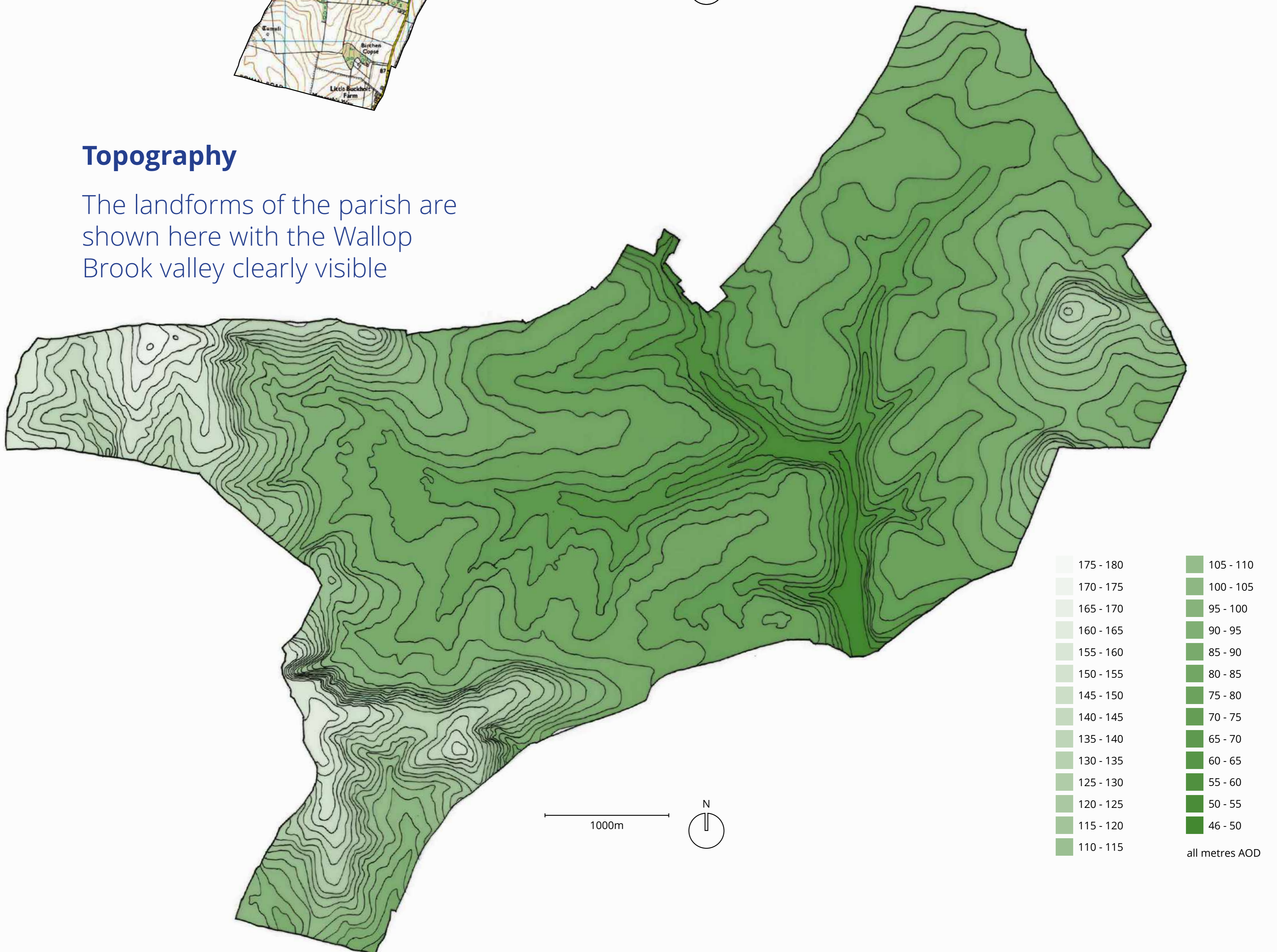
OS Map Data

This is the boundary of the parish and will be the extent of the neighbourhood plan too



Topography

The landforms of the parish are shown here with the Wallop Brook valley clearly visible



Neighbourhood Plan Structure

This poster exhibition provides an insight to what the plan content might include. However, at this stage, this is not confirmed and is still subject to further work and agreement.

Based on the work to date, it is expected that the Nether Wallop Neighbourhood Plan will be arranged around the following five sections:

1 — Introduction

- Background and context
- Motivations for preparing the plan
- Vision Statement
- Planning Policy Objectives

2 — Village Ecology

- Description of the landscape setting of Nether Wallop and policies needed to protect this
- Description of the built heritage of the parish, listed buildings and policies needed to protect these assets
- Local Green Space designations

3 — The Wallop Brook

- Policies linked to the role the Wallop Brook — the “blue thread” — plays in the life of the parish. Environmental, social and cultural policies.

4 — Community Spirit

- Policies in support of what makes life in Nether Wallop special — the parish activities, the primary school, annual calendar of events, the village hall as a hub of activity and more besides

5 — Health & Wellbeing

- Policies in support of life-affirming qualities of countryside life and work
- Policies to support walking, cycling and better access to countryside and the outdoors

Question

2

Do you agree with this structure for the neighbourhood plan? Is anything missing?

Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement



This draft vision statement will help guide the future direction of the parish and inform the next stages of the plan preparation

“Nether Wallop has developed slowly over centuries, with gradual change blending its environment with the needs of the population. This plan aims to manage change within its environmental limits in order to retain and strengthen Nether Wallop’s distinct history and character”

Question

3

**Do you agree with this draft vision statement?
What words would you change and why?**

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

1 — Character & Identity

Maintaining and enhancing the rural character of Nether Wallop, Jack's Bush and the wider parish area.

2 — Local Prioritisation

Coordinating all new development so that it prioritises the creation of safe, sustainable, and mixed communities with good access to jobs and essential services for everybody who lives and works in the parish.

3 — Choice of Movement

Maintaining a robust network of paths, streets, and roads appropriate for all modes of travel to support the needs of current and future residents, businesses, and visitors.

4 — Resource Efficiency

Using land and resources efficiently so that existing and new developments have a reduced demand for energy.

5 — Environmental Protection

Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the built environment and the wider countryside.

6 — Design Quality

Ensuring the quality of new development through the appropriate use of materials, details and inclusive design that responds to the Nether Wallop context.

7 — Managing Change

Ensuring that any land put forward for development will be developed in such a way as to improve people's quality of life, for both existing and future residents.

8 — Future Infrastructure

Delivering the community infrastructure necessary to support an evolving village in the 21st Century.

Question

4

Do you agree with these objectives? Are any issues that are important to you missing?

Village Ecology



For the purposes of the neighbourhood plan, “Village Ecology” means an integrated approach to the landscape and buildings. The following policies recognise the close relationship between these two aspects in Nether Wallop.

DRAFT POLICY VE1 — Design Quality

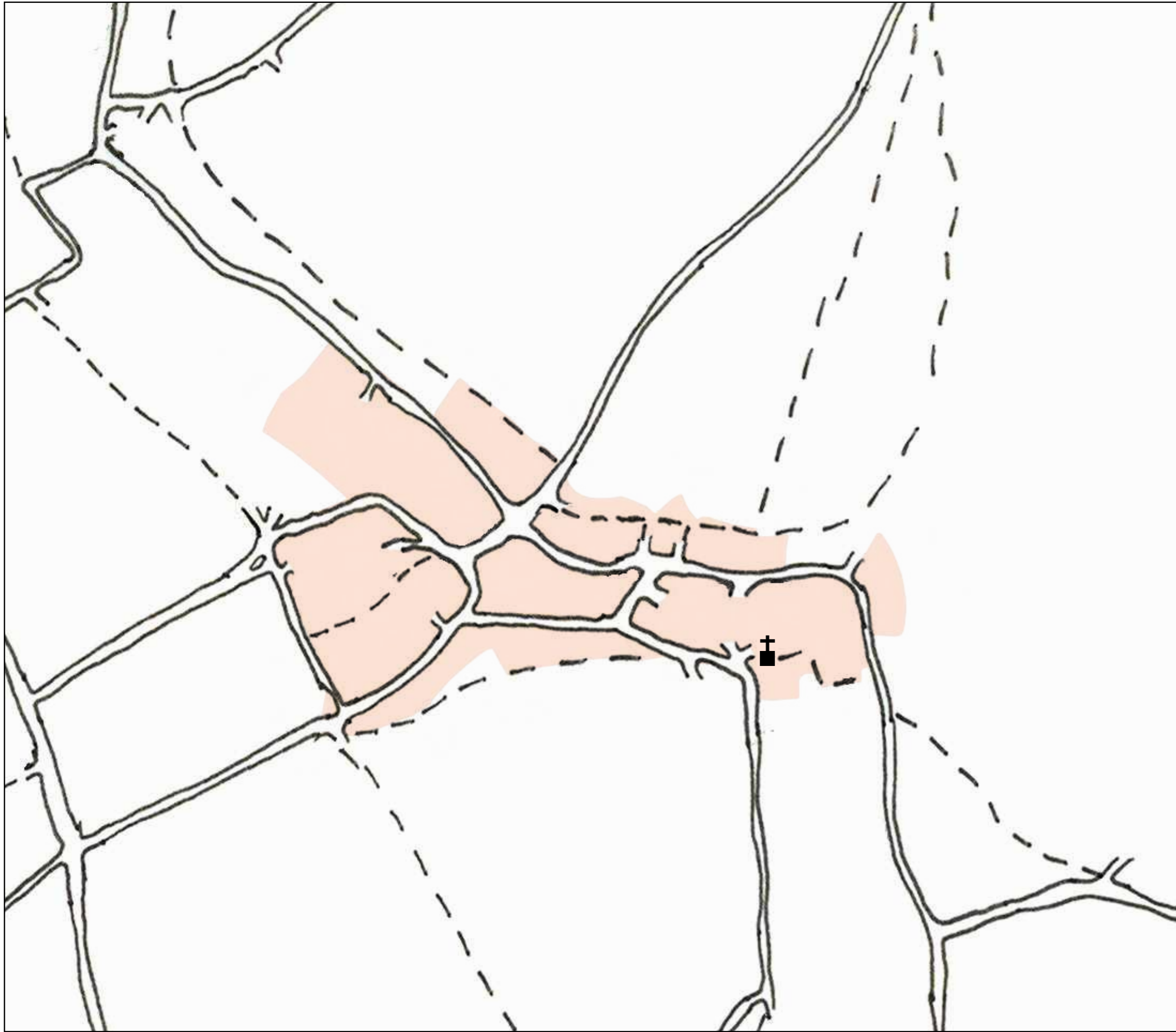
- 1) The design, form and detail of new developments should be principally informed by the traditional form, layout, character and style of the parish’s vernacular architecture. This will be applicable to both new build homes and other buildings and to alterations to existing properties.
- 2) Careful innovation in design or thoughtful modern or contemporary architecture is not precluded by this policy and such designs are encouraged.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question

5

Village Ecology



The Nether Wallop Conservation Area








 Nether Wallop Conservation Area.

Should the boundaries of the Nether Wallop Conservation Area be revised or adjusted?

Question
6



Character Areas within the Nether Wallop Conservation Area

-  **Place Farm, The Mill, St Andrew's Church, Church Road and part of Church Hill.** About half the buildings found in this area are listed.
-  **The Square and parts of High Street and Church Hill.** There are six listed buildings within this area and a few buildings of local historic interest.
-  **Heathman Street and Trout Lane.**
-  **The Causeway, Five Bells Lane and parts of High Street and Butchers Arms Lane.** Largest concentration of listed building in Nether Wallop, 18 in total.
-  **The area of land enclosed by Ducks Lane, Five Bells Lane and Butchers Arms Lane.** There are six listed buildings in this part of the Conservation Area.
-  **Winton House and Grounds.** These are Grade II listed buildings.
-  **Gerrards Farm.** Not listed

Village Ecology

DRAFT POLICY VE2 — Views Between Village & Countryside

Developments should demonstrate that their proposals will not have an unacceptable adverse visual impact on the landscape setting of the village or views of key landmarks.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
7

DRAFT POLICY VE3 — Local Green Space Designations

1) The areas shown on the maps [see LGS summary booklet] are designated as Local Green Space.

2) Proposals for development of these areas will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated that there are very special circumstances (such as essential utility infrastructure) that justify the need for the development and there are no suitable alternative sites.

3) Proposals for the development of new green infrastructure to assist with flood protection and/or to contribute towards public enjoyment and health, and/or to create corridors for wildlife will be supported.

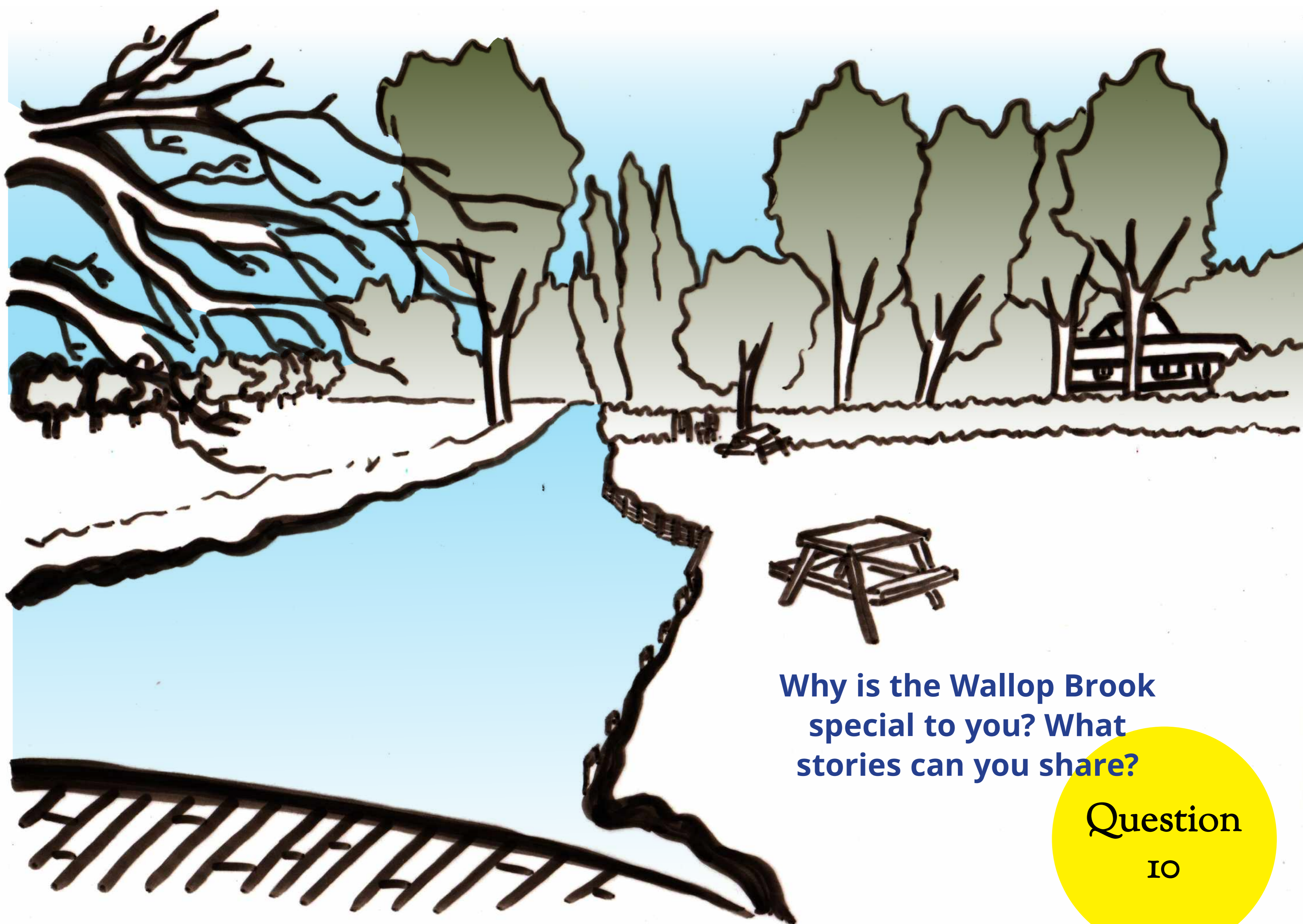
Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
8

Please review all the candidate sites for Local Green Space Designation in the associated booklet Which suggested designations are you most strongly in favour of? Are there any you object to?

Question
9

The Wallop Brook



Why is the Wallop Brook special to you? What stories can you share?

Question
10

The Wallop Brook — the “blue thread” that runs through the parish — and its associated riverbank environment, are the most important natural features of the parish.

The Wallop Brook has shaped the way in which the village has developed and the historical boundaries of the settlements along the valley floor.

The neighbourhood plan proposes two specific policies to protect and enhance the brook. The first will be a technical policy, seeking environmental protection and enhancement, and the second will be a social policy, celebrating the importance of the brook to the culture of the parish.

The Wallop Brook

The Wallop Brook is a chalk stream and an ecologically important element within the parish. Careful preservation of the Wallop Brook, and the areas adjacent to it, is vital to support biodiversity in the parish and protect the the waters downstream, including in the River Test.

DRAFT POLICY WB1 — Environmental Protection & Enhancement of the Wallop Brook

- 1) Development proposals must conserve or enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity of the Wallop Brook and its associated riparian environment, including creating links between habitats to improve connectivity.
- 2) Development proposals that would result in an adverse effect on the Wallop Brook, which cannot either be avoided or adequately mitigated will be refused.
- 3) Where development may impact important habitats associated with the Wallop Brook, it should be demonstrated that the development would have a positive impact on those habitats. A suitable long term management plan will be required.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
11

DRAFT POLICY WB2 — Cultural & Spiritual Protection & Enhancement of the Wallop Brook

Development proposals that support and enhance the cultural and spiritual role of the Wallop Brook in parish life will be supported. Examples include proposals to increase safe public access to the Wallop Brook, to allow for community gatherings and celebrations, while ensuring biodiversity protection is not compromised.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
12

Community Spirit



The parish has always been a warm and hospitable place that actively engages the community. Over the years it has hosted maypole dancing, morris men, village feasts and all sorts of celebrations.

Other community events include a duck race and raft racing down the Wallop Brook, a home-made cart race and the Nether Wallop “Olympics”, designated “The Wallympics” — in which the whole village takes part in a series of sporting

challenges including fishing, pony riding, short tennis, darts and a variety of trials of speed and strength, followed by a huge village picnic and concert.

In 2018, a new village hall was built which has become the hub of village activities such as lectures, film nights, bridge club, parties, carpet bowls and many other activities. The neighbourhood plan will seek to enhance and protect this community spirit.

DRAFT POLICY CS1 — Support for Proposals that Promote Community Spirit in Nether Wallop

- 1) Proposals for new developments and activity that support community spirit will be supported.
- 2) New community services and infrastructure will be supported within the parish where a need has been identified.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
13

Community Spirit

DRAFT POLICY CS2 — Protection of Existing Employment Uses

- 1) Existing employment uses and premises across the plan area will be protected and enhanced.
- 2) Any loss of employment uses, or premises will not be supported unless it is accompanied by clear evidence demonstrating that the site or premises is not currently viable and that an appropriate alternative site or premises can be identified within the parish boundary.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
14

DRAFT POLICY CS3 — Protection of Existing Community Infrastructure

- 1) Existing community infrastructure, and ancillary facilities across the plan area, will be protected and enhanced. Change of use applications to remove community uses will not be supported.
- 2) Proposals that would result in the loss of a community facility should be accompanied by evidence demonstrating that the site is not viable and that an appropriate alternate site will be provided elsewhere.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
15

Question
16

What other factors create a positive community spirit in Nether Wallop?

Health & Wellbeing



There is an increasing understanding about the effects of the built environment on our mental and physical health. The ease and frequency of our access to natural green spaces can directly influence our mental health. Meanwhile, the choices we make about how we travel can directly affect our physical health.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown that access to outdoor spaces will become an important factor as towns and villages take action to become more resilient. Nether Wallop — a compact and ancient settlement nestled in a timeless, pastoral landscape — presents ideal opportunities to create a healthy environment for the 21st century.

Question

17

What factors do you consider make for a happy and healthy life in Nether Wallop?

Health & Wellbeing

Creating a village that supports a happy and healthy population is something the neighbourhood plan wants to achieve. Critical to physical and mental health is access to natural green spaces and providing open and useable links will be necessary to provide this access.

DRAFT POLICY HWB1 — Improve Walking Links

- 1) Improvements to the network of footpaths and footways throughout the village to ensure they are safe, convenient and comfortable will be supported.
- 2) Footpath widening and resurfacing where necessary will be encouraged.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
18

DRAFT POLICY HWB2 — Countryside Access

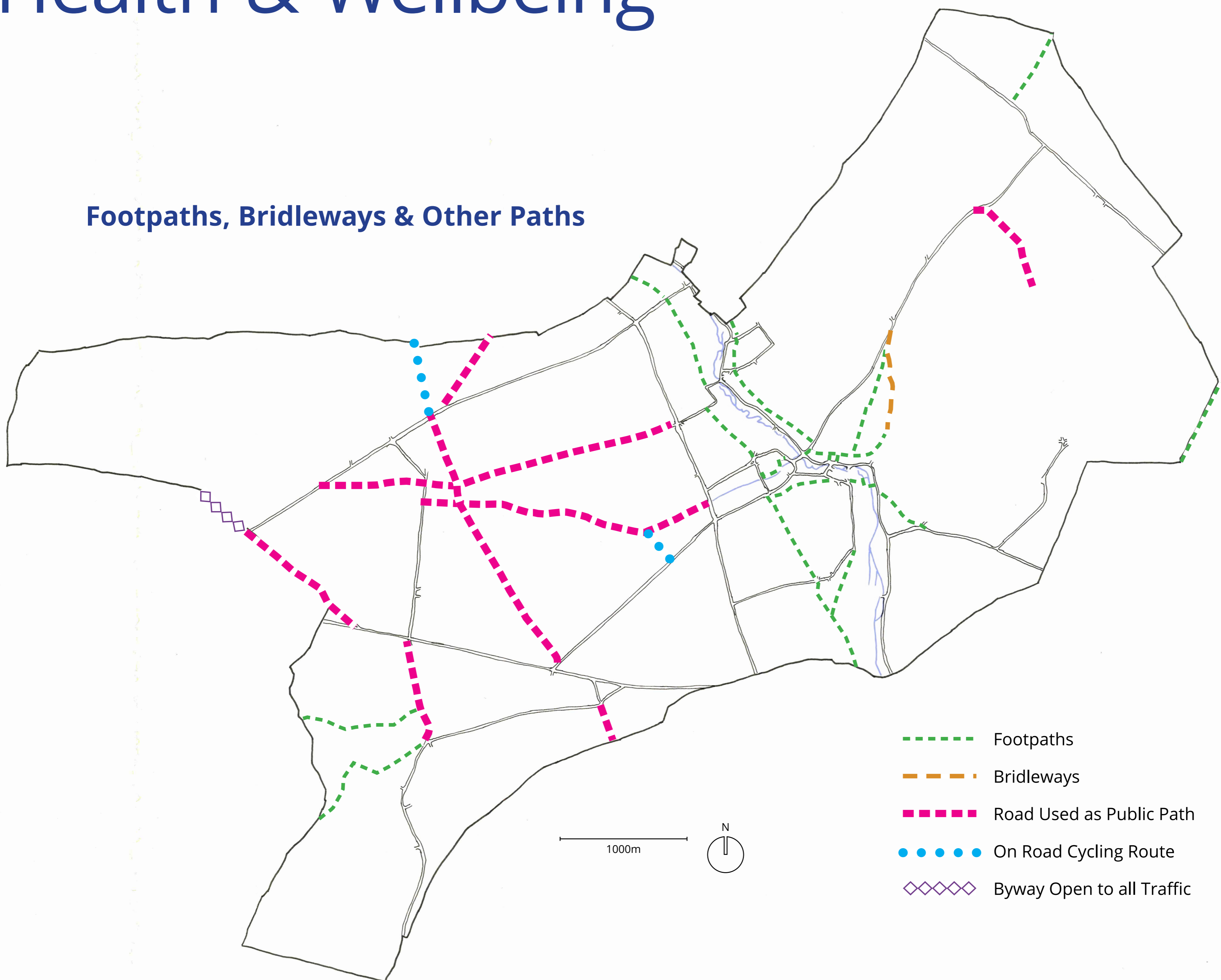
- 1) Improved access to the countryside immediately surrounding the built parts of the parish will be supported.
- 2) Initiatives such as better signage, mapping resources and better maintained surfaces and gates on footpaths will be encouraged.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
19

Health & Wellbeing

Footpaths, Bridleways & Other Paths



Question
20

What improvements to existing footpaths and routes do you wish to see? What are the problems to be solved?

Question
21

Is there a need for new connections, not shown on this map?

Health & Wellbeing

DRAFT POLICY HWB3 — Maintaining Tranquillity

- 1) Proposals must demonstrate that all feasible mitigation solutions have been implemented to reduce light and noise pollution to the minimum.
- 2) External street and common area lighting should be low energy, modest in scale, limited to what is necessary for safety, installed at low levels, and be sympathetic to the surrounding area and not interfere with the dark night skies.
- 3) The impact of noise and light pollution on the amenity of nearby premises, the character of listed buildings, the countryside and on identified nocturnal wildlife is reduced to the minimum.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
22

DRAFT POLICY HWB4 — Renewable Energy & the Resource and Energy Efficiency of New Buildings

- 1) The development of new and existing buildings will be supported where they incorporate practical features that reduce energy consumption.
- 2) Support will be given to development proposals that incorporate appropriate low or zero carbon on-site power generation subject to the resulting proposal demonstrating good standards of urban design and compliance with other development plan policies.
- 3) Proposals which incorporate the reuse of materials and the use of local and sustainably sourced construction materials will be supported.

Do you agree with this draft policy statement?

Question
23

Next Steps



What happens next?

- 1) Feedback from this exhibition will be collected
- 2) The results will be used to inform the next stages of plan preparation this autumn

These posters and the questionnaire are available at
<http://www.netherwallopparishcouncil.uk/>