

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan

*SA Report to accompany
Regulation 14 consultation*

February 2015



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Non-Technical Summary

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out to inform the Overton Neighbourhood Plan. This has incorporated a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process as required by the SEA Regulations. Neighbourhood Groups use SA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the appraisal is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of Overton and the quality of life of residents through the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is the Overton Neighbourhood Plan?

The Overton Neighbourhood Plan sets out a plan for Overton Parish in the period to 2029. Prepared to be in conformity with the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the ONP sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Overton area. These relates to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing, landscape, the built environment, community services, open space and transport.

The Vision for the ONP is as follows:

- *'To conserve and enhance the things people value most about living in Overton.*
- *To do all in our power to improve the quality of life in the Parish, not only for ourselves but for future generations as well. That means everything we plan to do must be sustainable.*

Above all, we want Overton to remain a village, set in its open landscape. We therefore want to ensure that new housing has the least possible adverse impact on the features we value most, whilst welcoming newcomers to our community.

In 2030 we want Overton to continue to be a place where people of all ages and abilities can thrive, feel safe and be healthy, with opportunities to learn, work, be part of our community, take exercise, enjoy our rural landscape and heritage and lead fulfilling lives.

We want to enhance the village environment and play our part in protecting the global environment.'

It is currently anticipated that the ONP will undergo a referendum later in 2015.

Purpose of this SA Report

This SA Report, which accompanies the current consultation version of the ONP, is the second document to be produced as part of the SA process. The first document was the SA Scoping Report, which includes information about Overton's environment and community.

The purpose of the SA Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the ONP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SA process which has been carried out to date.

The SA Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the ONP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
- The SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions against which the ONP has been assessed;

- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the ONP;
- The likely significant effects of the ONP in environmental terms;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the ONP; and
- The next steps for the ONP and accompanying SA process.

Assessment of alternative approaches for the ONP

A key requirement of the SEA Regulations is to appraise 'reasonable alternatives' for the ONP. To address this requirement, a number of alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the scale and form of new housing development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Three sets of options were considered through the SA process as 'reasonable alternatives'. These are described below.

1) Options for number of housing sites

- Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through one site
- Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through multiple sites

2) Options for site packages

Following consultation on these two options in summer 2014, the Steering Group for the ONP viewed that there are some clear advantages in taking an approach which spread development over a wider range of sites considered suitable for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Three packages of sites, or 'scenarios' were subsequently considered for the purposes of the ONP, as follows:

Scenario A

Site	Number of dwellings
Site F: S of Two Gate Lane	70
Site J: W of Sapley Lane Playing Field	55
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

Scenario B

Site	Number of dwellings
Site F: S of Two Gate Lane	125
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

Scenario C

Site	Number of dwellings
Combination of Site J: W of Sapley Lane Playing Field and Site K: W of Pond Close	125
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

SA findings from the appraisal of these three options were presented (with other information related to the Neighbourhood Plan) at the consultation event undertaken for the ONP in late January 2015.

Responses on the consultation event subsequently highlighted that there was a preference for Scenario A to be taken forward as the spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan.

3) Options for delivering additional housing development in Overton

Due to the current uncertainties relating to the adoption of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the ONP Steering Group viewed it would be prudent to consider approaches to delivering housing levels over and above the c.150 houses proposed by the current version of the Local Plan.

To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the SA process appraised a further two options. These are described below.

Option A seeks to deliver additional housing numbers (an additional 45 dwellings, or a 29% increase on the current figure of 154 dwellings) through a number of 'reserve sites' identified for the Neighbourhood Plan. These sites are as follows:

- Site M: W of Vinn's Lane (30 dwellings)
- Site E: E of Overton Hill Car Park (10 dwellings)
- Site PB: Popham Beacons (5 dwellings)

Option B would deliver additional housing through the current Great North Field proposal. This would comprise an additional 275 dwellings, or a 179% increase on the current figure of 154 dwellings. The 275 dwelling number relates to the current figure which the developer has proposed for the site.

The findings of the appraisal highlighted that, due to allocating a larger number of houses, Option B would support the delivery of a wider range of housing types and help increase affordable housing provision in Overton. The option would also offer increased potential to support the economic viability and vitality of the village and deliver enhanced contributions to community infrastructure. The location of the site close to Overton railway station would also support sustainable transport use.

Option B, due to the significantly higher level of housing provision proposed, has increased potential for impacts on environmental quality locally. This includes through additional effects on biodiversity assets, the historic environment, landscape quality and the quality of the public realm. Whilst the larger scale allocation proposed through Option B increases the potential to deliver new community infrastructure, the significantly higher level of housing provision proposed through the option would place additional pressures on existing community facilities locally. Similarly, whilst the proposed site is located close to Overton railway station, the additional scale and concentration of housing provision through the option has increased potential to contribute to traffic issues in the village.

Appraisal of the current version of the ONP

Utilising the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SA, the SA process has appraised the 20 policies put forward through the current version of the ONP. The SA Report has presented the findings of the appraisal through eight sustainability themes, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change (including flood risk)
- Land, soil and water resources
- Historic environment and landscape
- Population and community
- Health and wellbeing
- Transportation
- Economy and enterprise

The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the ONP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' and 'health and wellbeing' sustainability objectives. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the draft plan, the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in the Neighbourhood Area and the ONP's impetus on protecting and enhancing open space and green infrastructure networks.

In terms of potential negative effects, the development of the greenfield sites proposed through the draft plan will lead to inevitable losses of land classified the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. Whilst the ONP has sought to preserve the productivity of some of these areas through promoting allotment provision, residual **significant negative effects** are likely to remain in relation to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' sustainability objective.

There are also likely to be inevitable effects on landscape and townscape quality from new areas of development on the edge of Overton village and the three sites proposed elsewhere in the parish. To help address this, the current version of the ONP presents a number of policy interventions which will help limit potential effects and achieve enhancements where possible. Potential effects on views from the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are also likely to be limited by the small scale of the sites proposed within the AONB and in Overton village. Similarly, in terms of potential effects on the River Test Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), whilst many of the sites are located in relatively close proximity to the SSSI, adverse effects on this nationally designated nature conservation site are likely to be limited by the proposed size of the allocations.

Whilst the draft plan approach will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change', 'biodiversity' and 'historic environment and landscape', these are not considered as significant positive effects as the delivery of the allocations through the ONP will inevitably lead to some adverse effects in relation to these sustainability topics. For these topics therefore, the approach promoted by the current version of the ONP will limit the potential magnitude of adverse effects linked to the delivery of housing allocations in the Neighbourhood Area.

In relation to the 'economy and enterprise' sustainability objective a number of beneficial approaches are put forward by the current version of the plan. This includes relating to a promotion of the parish's visitor economy.

Recommendations for the next stages of development for the ONP

The SA Report presents two recommendations for improving the sustainability performance of the current version of the ONP. These are summarised as follows:

- The next iteration of the ONP should seek to encourage the integration of high levels of sustainability into new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes relating to energy efficient design, water efficiency, water reuse and the integration of climate-resilience into new development areas.
- The ONP should seek to ensure that all development in and adjacent to the Overton Conservation Area is carried out in conjunction with the Conservation Area Appraisal undertaken for the area.

These recommendations should be considered through the next iteration of plan making for the ONP.

Next steps

Subsequent to the current consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, the ONP will be updated to reflect comments received. The SA Report will be updated to reflect the changes made to the plan.

The ONP and the updated SA Report will then be submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for its consideration. In particular Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the ONP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

If the subsequent Independent Examination is favourable, the ONP will be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Basingstoke and Deane Council with a request it is adopted. Once adopted, the ONP will become part of the Development Plan for Overton.

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Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of Overton's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Overton Neighbourhood Plan (ONP) is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The ONP, which covers Overton parish in Hampshire, is being prepared in the context of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. It is currently anticipated that the ONP will be submitted in May 2015, with a view to undergoing referendum later in 2015.
- 1.1.3 Key information relating to the ONP is as follows:

Table 1.1 Key facts relating to the Overton Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Overton Parish Council
Title of Plan	Overton Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood plan
Purpose	The Overton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
Timescale	To 2029
Area covered by the plan	Overton Parish (see Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Overton Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area. Box 3.1 below presents the vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan
Plan contact point	Laura Harley, Clerk, Overton Parish Council, Oak Tree Lodge, Roundwood, Micheldever, Winchester, SO21 3BA Email address: clerk@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Figure 1.1 Area covered by Overton Neighbourhood Plan

1.2 SA explained

- 1.2.1 SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA for the ONP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.2 SA is in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹. It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to also include social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan; however Neighbourhood Development Plans do not require a SA through planning legislation.
- 1.2.3 The ONP has been determined to require SEA by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. To meet this requirement, the ONP is undergoing an SA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This mirrors the approach currently being taken for the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 1.2.4 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.2.5 In line with the SEA Regulations this report - which for the purposes of SA is known as the 'SA Report' – must essentially answer four questions:
1. What's the scope of the SA?
 2. What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?

Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan-making / SA iteration. 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised.
 3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 4. What happens next?
- 1.2.6 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present 'the information to be provided within the report'. Table 1.1 presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SA questions.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

1.3 Structure of this SA Report

1.3.1 This document is the SA Report for the ONP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the Regulations. **Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:**

Table 1.1: Questions that must be answered by the SA Report in order to meet Regulatory² requirements

SA REPORT QUESTION		IN LINE WITH SCHEDULE II THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE...
Part 1: What's the scope of the SA?	What's the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
	What's the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
	What's the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
	What are the key issues & objectives that should be a focus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) appraisal
Part 2: What has plan-making / SA involved up to this point?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) The likely significant effects associated with alternatives Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.
Part 3: What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan
Part 4: What happens next?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for plan making / SA process.

N.B. The right-hand column of Table 1.1 does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation. This interpretation is explained in Appendix I of this report.

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

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Part 1: What is the Scope of the SA?

2 Introduction to Part 1

2.1 Scope of the SA

2.1.1 This is Part 1 of the SA Report, the aim of which is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SA. In particular, and as required by the SEA Regulations³, this Part of the SA Report answers the series of questions below.

- What's the Plan seeking to achieve?
- What's the sustainability 'context'?
- What's the sustainability 'baseline'?
- What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus of SA?

2.1.2 This chapter answers the first question by outlining the ONP's vision and objectives.

2.1.3 The other three scoping questions are answered in **Chapters 4-5**, with each question answered for the following eight sustainability 'topics':

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Biodiversity | • Population and community |
| • Climate change (including flood risk) | • Health and wellbeing |
| • Land, soil and water resources | • Transportation |
| • Historic environment and landscape | • Economy and enterprise |

2.2 Consultation on the scope

2.2.1 The SEA Regulations require that: *"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies"*. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.⁴ As such, these authorities were consulted on the scope of the ONP SA in December 2014. The Scoping Report, which was subsequently agreed by the consultation bodies as providing an appropriate 'basis' for appraisal, is available at the ONP website:

<http://www.overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

2.2.2 Information presented in this SA Report has reflected the comments received on the Scoping Report.

³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁴ In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because *'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme'.*

2.3 What is the plan seeking to achieve?

- 2.3.1 The ONP is currently being developed as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012, with a view to submission to Basingstoke and Deane Council in May 2015.
- 2.3.2 The ONP is being prepared in the context of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029. The Local Plan is currently undergoing Examination and is anticipated to be adopted in 2015. It will, when adopted provide a framework for how future development across the borough will be planned and delivered.
- 2.3.3 The Local Plan identifies 150 dwellings to be delivered in Overton by 2029; however it does not identify where these should be located. The ONP therefore provides an opportunity for meeting the community aspirations of Overton whilst also helping to deliver the Local Plan's main objectives for the Neighbourhood Area.

2.4 Vision and objectives for the plan

- 2.4.1 The vision and objectives for the ONP were developed following the review of extensive consultation exercises carried out by the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The vision and objectives for the ONP are presented in Box 3.1.

Box 3.1: Vision and objectives of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan

Vision

'Our vision for Overton

- *To conserve and enhance the things people value most about living in Overton.*
- *To do all in our power to improve the quality of life in the Parish, not only for ourselves but for future generations as well. That means everything we plan to do must be sustainable.*

Above all, we want Overton to remain a village, set in its open landscape. We therefore want to ensure that new housing has the least possible adverse impact on the features we value most, whilst welcoming newcomers to our community.

In 2030 we want Overton to continue to be a place where people of all ages and abilities can thrive, feel safe and be healthy, with opportunities to learn, work, be part of our community, take exercise, enjoy our rural landscape and heritage and lead fulfilling lives.

We want to enhance the village environment and play our part in protecting the global environment.'

Objectives

Landscape, the built environment and local distinctiveness

- LB1 To conserve views within the village and to the open countryside
- LB2 New developments must fit into the context in terms of design and location contributing to the character of the village

New housing will:

- H1 Respond to the needs of local residents
- H2 Be phased in a series of small developments over the plan period
- H3 Efficiently conserve natural resources, reduce pollution and promote biodiversity
- H4 Be 'Secured by Design'
- H5 Be fully supported by adequate infrastructure.

Working

- W1 To encourage proposals leading to more local jobs for local people.
- W2 To support local employment by making the village more attractive to tourists and visitors.

Shops and services

- S1 To support shops and services in the parish.

Learning and skills

- L1 To support life-long learning.

Getting around

- T1 To encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport and reduce reliance on cars.
- T2 To improve provision of parking facilities in the village and at Overton Station.

Community services

- C1 To ensure that our community services continue to meet the needs of an expanding and ageing population.

Enjoyment and recreation

- E1 To support social, sporting and recreational facilities in the village for people of all ages and abilities.
- E2 To work with statutory bodies to protect the Conservation Area, the River Test Site of Special Scientific Interest, land near the river which is part of the Test Valley Environmentally Sensitive Area, the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and land north of the London to Exeter railway which is part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- E3 To encourage access to the countryside and riverside for walkers and the use of these facilities.

- 2.4.2 For each of these objectives, the ONP sets out a number of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The latest iteration (February 2015) of these policies has been appraised in Chapter 8 of this SA Report.

2.5 What's the plan not trying to achieve?

- 2.5.1 It is important to emphasise that the plan is strategic in nature. Even the allocation of sites should be considered a strategic undertaking, i.e. a process that omits consideration of some detailed issues in the knowledge that these can be addressed further down the line (through the planning application process). The strategic nature of the plan is reflected by the scope of the SA.

3 *What's the sustainability 'context'?*

The SA Report must include...

- The relevant sustainability objectives, established at international / national level
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate 'scope' of an SA involves reviewing 'sustainability context' messages. From the SEA Regulations it is understood that there is a need to focus on context messages relating to:

3.1.2 Broad problems / issues; and

- Objectives
- i.e. 'things that are aimed at or sought'.

3.1.3 Set out below is a summary and update to the context review presented within the December 2014 Scoping Report.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁵ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

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

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁶ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

⁵ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

⁶ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

- 3.2.3 At the local level the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets out a framework for action in two parts.
- 3.2.4 Volume One, the Strategic Plan, sets out the objectives of the Partnership, describes Hampshire's biodiversity, and identifies habitats and species of priority concern. It also presents a strategy for information, data and raising awareness of biodiversity. Volume Two contains individual action plans for priority habitats and species and topics that have a considerable influence on the conservation of biodiversity.

3.3 Climate change

- 3.3.1 In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.⁷ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.
- 3.3.2 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:
- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
 - There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008⁸. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
 - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
 - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
 - Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
 - Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.
- 3.3.3 The Flood and Water Management Act⁹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:
- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
 - Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
 - Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
 - Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion

⁷ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁸ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

⁹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹⁰

3.3.4 Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDS.¹¹ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

3.4 Historic environment and landscape

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

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

3.4.2 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England¹² sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

3.4.3 The Consultation Draft of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 sets out a wide ranging vision for the AONB, incorporating aspects such as landscape quality and tranquillity; the protection and enhancement of the historic environment; the conservation and improvement of biodiversity, water and soil quality; the development of vibrant economy based on the area's environmental qualities; thriving rural communities; and sustainable tourism. The Management Plan subsequently presents a series of policies and objectives to achieve this vision in the AONB, and proposes a Delivery Plan of actions.

3.5 Land, soil and water resources

3.5.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy¹³ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

3.5.2 The Water Framework Directive drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments with a view to presenting second River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;

¹⁰ N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹¹ CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDS – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

¹² HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

¹³ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

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

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

3.5.4 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England¹⁴, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper¹⁵, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England¹⁶ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

3.6 Population and community

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

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of

¹⁴ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

¹⁵ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

¹⁶ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

3.7 Health and wellbeing

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

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

3.7.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives¹⁷ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'.

3.7.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in producing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent Government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government¹⁸, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

3.8 Transportation

3.8.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the

¹⁷ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

¹⁸ Upper tier and unitary local authorities

need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth. The Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-31 presents a long term strategy for the area and an implementation plan for the county.

3.9 Economy and enterprise

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

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by 'ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'.
- Capitalise on 'inherent strengths', and to meet the 'twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future'.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for 'clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries'.
- Support competitive town centre environments.
- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.
- Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas and promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

4 What's the sustainability 'baseline'?

The SA Report must include...

- The relevant aspects of the current state of the sustainability baseline and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'
- The characteristics of areas / populations etc. likely to be significantly affected.
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The baseline review tailors and develops the problems/issues identified through context review so that they are locally specific. A detailed understanding of the baseline can aid the identification and evaluation of 'likely significant effects' associated with the plan / alternatives.
- 4.1.2 Set out below is a summary and update to the baseline review presented within the December 2014 Scoping Report.

4.2 Biodiversity

Summary of current baseline

- 4.2.1 No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The closest European designated site is the River Itchen SAC, which is approximately 11km to the south of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.2.2 In terms of nationally designated nature conservation sites, two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are present in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.2.3 The River Test passes through the centre of the parish in an east to west direction. The river has been designated as an SSSI for its interest as one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England¹⁹.
- 4.2.4 The condition assessment for the River Test SSSI undertaken in February 2013 deemed that a main part of the SSSI within the Neighbourhood Area (comprising the river channel) is in an 'unfavourable no change' condition. This is due to the SSSI units not complying with existing river profile or river planform targets, and failing the targets for river bank vegetation and the target for the presence of non-native plant species²⁰. The area of the SSSI comprising neutral grassland west of Southington has been assessed as being in an 'unfavourable recovering' condition due to low water levels and inappropriate scrub control²¹.
- 4.2.5 Reflecting the presence of the River Test SSSI in the central areas of Overton village, a significant part of the built up area of the Neighbourhood Area is within the SSSI's Impact Risk Zone²² for the types of development likely to be proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.2.6 One further SSSI is located in far the south of the Neighbourhood Area, the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI. The 32ha site comprises 19th century chalk spoil heaps, derived from railway cuttings, which

¹⁹ River Test SSSI citation: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/2000170.pdf

²⁰ River Test - river channel unit - source to Bourne: <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1027757> [accessed 5th November 2014]

²¹ <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1027724>

²² SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

exhibit various stages of colonisation by a range of plant communities. The site has been designated for its exceptional botanical importance.

- 4.2.7 The SSSI has been assessed as being in an 'unfavourable recovering' condition due to a lack of corrective works and inappropriate scrub control.²³
- 4.2.8 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 4.2.9 Key areas of BAP Priority Habitat in the Neighbourhood Area include: Deciduous Woodland and Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh BAP Priority Habitat along and close to the River Test; numerous areas of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat scattered across the south east of the plan area; small areas of Lowland Meadows BAP Priority Habitat in the south of the Neighbourhood Area, including at Quidhampton Southley Copse; and a number of areas of Traditional Orchard BAP Priority Habitat in the vicinity of Overton village. Many of the areas covered by Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat have also been classified as ancient woodland.
- 4.2.10 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are sites locally designated for their habitat and/or species interest by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) against a set of agreed criteria. There are 17 SINCs present in the Neighbourhood Area. HBIC also holds survey records for approximately ten further sites of nature conservation interest which have not been designated.²⁴
- 4.2.11 In relation to geodiversity, the underlying rocks of the parish form part of the Hampshire Basin, a geological feature in which the rocks slope gently from the north to the south. The oldest rock in the Neighbourhood Area is Cretaceous chalk which was formed over 65 million years ago. This chalk is a porous, porous, fine grained limestone which is generally highly permeable and alkaline.²⁵

Summary of future baseline

- 4.2.12 Sites of biodiversity importance have the potential to come under increasing pressures from an increase in the plan area's population and associated development. This includes through a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats. In view of the location of the River Test within Overton village, the River Test SSSI is particularly sensitive.
- 4.2.13 Biodiversity in the plan area has the potential to continue to be affected by the economic necessity for intensive farming in the area (as facilitated by the presence of high quality of agricultural land in the plan area). There is however the potential for gains for biodiversity in the farmed landscape to arise as a result of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), which is currently being implemented.
- 4.2.14 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning in Basingstoke and Deane and Hampshire and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks in the area.

²³ Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI citation:

<http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001316&SiteName=Micheldever&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

²⁴ Information from Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan

²⁵ Information from Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan

4.3 Climate change

Summary of current baseline

- 4.3.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²⁶. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 4.3.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario²⁷ are likely to be as follows:
- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8°C; and
 - the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 16% and summer mean precipitation is –19%.
- 4.3.3 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Overton Neighbourhood Area. These include:
- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
 - increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
 - increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
 - increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
 - increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
 - effects on water resources from climate change;
 - reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
 - adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
 - increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
 - changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
 - a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
 - a need to upgrade flood defences;
 - soil erosion due to flash flooding;
 - loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
 - spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
 - deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
 - changes to global supply chain;
 - increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
 - an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
 - increased demand for air-conditioning;
 - increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
 - risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
 - flooding of roads.

²⁶ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

²⁷ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> (accessed 11/2014)

4.3.4 In terms of flood risk, groundwater and, to a lesser extent, fluvial flooding are issues for the Neighbourhood Area. This includes related to the presence of the chalk aquifer under the parish and the presence of the River Test. Key areas at risk of flooding include Southington, Glebe Meadow and Bridge Street.

4.3.5 The Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁸ summarises flood risk in Overton as follows:

'The floodplain of the River Test runs through the town. There are some properties within the floodplain, but in general there seems to be adequate green space around the river to accommodate the floodplain – further development should avoid encroaching on this area. There are three instances of flooding from the drainage system; all of these are close to the river so may be partly due to backing up at high water level. A potential susceptibility to groundwater flooding is indicated in the groundwater emergence maps.'

4.3.6 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change²⁹ suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has also seen smaller reductions in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).

4.3.7 In relation to CO₂ emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from industrial and commercial sources in the borough rose slightly from 34% to 32%. In the same period the proportion of total emissions from domestic sources increased slightly from 25% to 27% and road transport remained the same.

Summary of future baseline

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

4.3.9 In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However road transport and domestic sources are likely to be increasing contributors proportionally.

4.4 Historic environment and landscape

Summary of current baseline

4.4.1 The northern part of the Neighbourhood Area (north of the railway line) falls within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The primary purpose of AONB designation is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'. In this context the North Wessex Downs AONB was designated for its dramatic, undeveloped and locally distinct chalk downlands with extensive areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, interspersed with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and secluded valleys. The part of the Neighbourhood Area within the AONB has been classified by the AONB Management Plan as 'Downland with Woodland'.

²⁸ Halcrow (January 2010) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework

²⁹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed on 20/01/2015)

- 4.4.2 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. A number of features and areas for the historic environment in the plan area are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and conservation areas, which are designated at the local level. English Heritage is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.
- 4.4.3 There is one conservation area located within the plan area: the Overton Conservation Area, which was designated in 1971. Whilst the original designation related only to the medieval core of the village, located to the south of the River Test, the conservation area boundary was extended in 1987 to encompass St Mary's Church and Court Farm, the settlements of Southington to the south-west, and Quidhampton and Polhampton to the north-east. All are linked to Overton by the river, visually and historically. A Conservation Area Appraisal was prepared in 2003³⁰.
- 4.4.4 The Neighbourhood Area contains numerous listed buildings. In this context the parish includes three Grade I listed structures at Berrydown Court, four Grade II* listed building (Barn to the South of South Litchfield Grange, the Chapel at Quidhampton, the Church of St Mary and Court Farmhouse), and 50 Grade II listed buildings.
- 4.4.5 Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England, there are six scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Area, comprising long and round barrows and a cemetery. There is part of one registered park and garden in the parish, (Laverstoke Park) and no historic battlefields.
- 4.4.6 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2013 Heritage at Risk Register³¹ highlighted that there are no features or areas deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.4.7 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the plan area are likely to include parks and the wider historic landscape. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.4.8 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- 4.4.9 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There are also likely to be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.

³⁰ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2003) Conservation Area Appraisal, Overton
<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1DD295F1-BBC0-4DDE-8818-74802EE13CAB/0/Overton.pdf>

³¹ Heritage at Risk Register (2013), <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx> [accessed 10/12/14]

- 4.4.10 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

4.5 Land, soil and water resources

Summary of current baseline

- 4.5.1 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the plan area, land classified as Grade 3a agricultural land is located around Overton village. There are also areas classified as Grade 2 agricultural land to the west and north east of the village. Whilst agricultural land quality the rest of the plan area has not recently been assessed, the Provisional Agricultural Land Classification established it as Grade 3 land³².
- 4.5.2 There is no Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the plan area. The nearest is located in Basingstoke off Wade Road.
- 4.5.3 The main watercourse in the parish is the River Test. The river flows westwards from its source near the village of Ashe, passing south of Quidhampton, through Overton village and north of Southington. Water supply in the area is provided by South East Water and waste water provision is provided by Southern Water. The Test and Itchen Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy highlights that there is 'Restricted Water Available for Licensing' in the area. This indicates that if all licensed water is abstracted there will not be enough water left for the needs of the environment.
- 4.5.4 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. Reflecting the vulnerability of groundwater in the area to pollution, a SPZ underlays much of the southern part of the Neighbourhood Area south of Overton. A further SPZ extends east from the centre of Overton village to Ashe and beyond.
- 4.5.5 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this context the whole of the plan area is underlain by a eutrophic and groundwater NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.5.6 In the absence of the plan, a higher proportion of development has the potential to take place on greenfield land. This is especially the case given the greater availability of such land in the plan area and the likely growth in the local population and economy which will make such development attractive. Development in the plan area also has the potential to lead to the loss of some areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land, including Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- 4.5.7 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.
- 4.5.8 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also

³² It should be noted that much of the data is from prior to 1976 when the distinction between Grades 3a and 3b was introduced. The maps are intended for strategic use and Natural England state 'these maps are not sufficiently accurate for use in assessment of individual fields', or sites and any enlargement could be misleading'. A soil survey should be undertaken to verify the actual classification 'on the ground' – see <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=2595819>

likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.

- 4.5.9 Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

4.6 Population and community

Summary of current baseline

- 4.6.1 According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the parish of Overton was 4,315³³. This was an increase of 367 from the 2001 census, or a 9.3% population growth (see Table 4.1). The rate of growth in Overton parish is significantly higher than regional and national comparators, and slightly lower than the borough growth rate.

Table 4.1 Population growth, 2001-2011³⁴

Date	Overton	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
2001	3,948	152,573	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	4,315	167,799	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001 to 2011	9.3%	9.98%	7.93%	7.88%

- 4.6.2 The Neighbourhood Area has a significantly lower proportion of individuals across the 0-44 age range than all other comparators. There is a higher proportion of the 45-59 age group within the plan area than national and borough averages, and a significantly higher proportion of residents aged 60 and over when compared to Basingstoke and Deane, the South-East and England. There are 1,284 people aged 60 or over living in the plan area, which is 29.8% of the population.
- 4.6.3 Census statistics which measure deprivation across the four 'dimensions' of deprivation³⁵ including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating), show that the parish of Overton has deprivation levels that are largely in line with the borough of Basingstoke and Deane (see Figure 4.1), with lower levels of deprivation in 2 and 3 dimensions than the regional and national averages.

³³ Office for National Statistics (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

³⁴ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV02)

³⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)

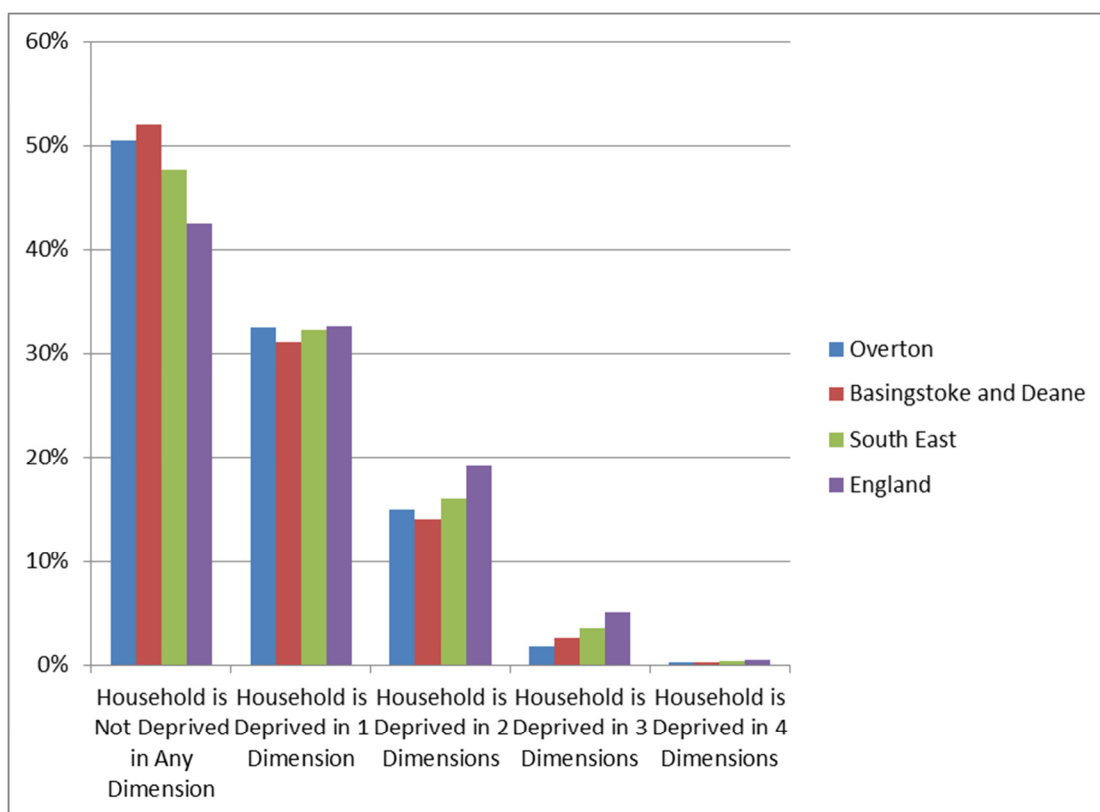


Figure 4.1 Relative deprivation dimensions

- 4.6.4 A higher proportion of Overton residents live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (69.4% in total), than borough (67.7%), regional (67.6%) or national (63.3%) averages. Conversely Overton has a significantly lower proportion of people that rent (10.3%) than tenure values at borough and national level. The plan area has similar proportions of social rented tenures as borough and national averages, which are significantly higher than the regional level.
- 4.6.5 In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.³⁶ There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.
- 4.6.6 The population of the plan area is generally well qualified, with 33.8% of residents aged 16 and above having at least a Level 4 Qualification³⁷. This is significantly higher than the borough level (30.5%), regional (29.9%) and national (27.4%) averages³⁸. Conversely, more people have no qualifications (21.1%) than borough (17.3%) and regional (19.1%) averages. This remains however significantly lower than national values (22.5%).

Summary of future baseline

- 4.6.7 The population of the Neighbourhood Area is likely to continue to grow and age.
- 4.6.8 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

³⁶ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district: England 1997 to 2013.

³⁷ Level 4 and above qualifications cover: Degree (BA, BSc), Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level, Professional Qualifications (Teaching, Nursing, Accountancy).

³⁸ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Qualifications and Students (KS501EW)

- 4.6.9 The adult population across the plan area is largely well educated, with a significant number of people with degree level qualifications resident above the borough, regional and national average. Increasing economic activity rates are likely to increase demand for new housing and employment opportunities in the area.

4.7 Health and wellbeing

Summary of current baseline

- 4.7.1 As highlighted in Table 9.1, general health across the parish is broadly favourable compared to regional and national averages, and slightly less favourable than Basingstoke and Deane averages. In this context 50% of people reported that they were in 'very good' health³⁹, which is slightly below with borough values, and above regional and national averages. Likewise the proportion of people in 'very bad health' is slightly higher than borough averages, and lower than regional and national averages.

Table 4.2 General Health

	Overton	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Very Good Health	50%	50.7%	49%	47.2%
Good Health	34.1%	35.1%	34.6%	34.2%
Fair Health	12.3%	10.8%	12%	13.1%
Bad Health	2.8%	2.7%	3.4%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	0.8%	0.7%	1 %	1.2%

- 4.7.2 6.2% of residents of Overton parish reported that they were limited 'a lot' with day to day activities due to long-term health problems or disabilities, with 9.6% of people limited 'a little'. The levels of long term health and disability⁴⁰ in Overton are broadly in line with borough, regional and national averages.
- 4.7.3 No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators; however at the borough level the 2013 Health Profile⁴¹ shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; above the national average of 73.8 and 79.3, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

Summary of future baseline

- 4.7.4 The population of the plan area is predicted to grow and age in the future. This will place pressure on existing health and community facilities that are likely to face greater demand from residents.
- 4.7.5 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

³⁹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

⁴⁰ ONS (2011) Census 2011 , Long-Term Health Problem or Disability, 2011 (QS303EW)

⁴¹ Public Health England (2013) Health Profile 2013 [online] available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=basingstoke%20and%20deane&SPEAR=> (accessed 6/11/2014)

4.8 Transportation

Summary of current baseline

Rail network

- 4.8.1 The Neighbourhood Area is well connected by rail. The parish is served by Overton railway station (in Quidhampton immediately north of Overton village) and Micheldever station (which is located just south of parish boundaries c.6.5km from Overton village). Basingstoke station, which has a wider range of rail services, is located c.13km from Overton village.
- 4.8.2 Overton station is located on the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line with direct services to London Waterloo (approximately 1 hour), Andover (13 minutes), Woking (29 minutes), and Salisbury (33 minutes).
- 4.8.3 Micheldever station is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line. However, most direct services from the station comprise part of the London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour service via Fareham. Direct services from Micheldever include Winchester (8 minutes), Woking (38 minutes), London Waterloo (65 minutes) and Portsmouth Harbour (70 minutes).
- 4.8.4 Basingstoke station is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line, the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line and the Cross Country Trains line to Oxford, Birmingham and the north of England. Direct services include to Winchester (15 minutes), Reading (16 minutes), Andover (16 minutes), Woking (18 minutes), Southampton (33 minutes), Salisbury (35 minutes), Oxford (46 minutes), London Waterloo (46 minutes), Bournemouth (1 hour) and Birmingham (c.2hrs).

Bus network

- 4.8.5 Overton is connected by bus to Basingstoke and Oakley, Whitchurch, Andover and Winchester via Stagecoach services number 76 and 86. Journey times to Basingstoke are approximately 25 minutes from Overton, approximately every half hour. On Sundays the 76 bus passes through Overton on an hourly basis.

Road network and congestion

- 4.8.6 The main route through the Neighbourhood Area is the B3400, which connects the plan area with Oakley and Basingstoke to the east and Whitchurch and the A34 to the west. The B3051 connects the Neighbourhood Area to the A339 in the north and to the A303 at the southern boundary of the parish.

Availability of cars and vans

- 4.8.7 The proportion of car or van ownership in Overton is largely in line with the borough average, in that the proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than regional and national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is higher than all comparators. High car ownership in the Neighbourhood Area reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

Travel to work

- 4.8.8 The proportion of people who travel to work by foot in Overton is lower than all comparators. Conversely, a higher proportion of people travel to work by train. Fewer proportions of people travel to work by bus or bicycle than all other comparable areas. A higher proportion of people travel to

work by car or van than regional or national averages. This proportion however is lower than the borough average, with more people in Overton working from home and travelling by train to work.

Summary of current baseline

- 4.8.9 An increase in the Neighbourhood Area's population has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan.
- 4.8.10 The viability of additional bus and rail services may be supported by future population growth.

4.9 Economy and enterprise

Summary of current baseline

- 4.9.1 Economic activity rates in the plan area are broadly in line with regional averages, but lower than borough values.
- 4.9.2 Rates of full-time employment in Overton (44.5%) are lower than across Basingstoke and Deane (47.9%) but are significantly higher than regional (40.5%) and national (38.6%) rates. Rates of part-time employment in Overton are significantly lower than comparators.⁴²
- 4.9.3 Rates of self-employment (with employees) are broadly in line with borough, regional and national level, with a higher percentage of part time sole traders (3.7%) and a lower percentage of full time sole traders (4.9%) in the Neighbourhood Area than other comparable areas. The proportion of residents who are unemployed is largely in line with borough and regional averages, but below the national average. The proportion of people retired (18.2%) in the plan area is significantly higher than borough (12.6%), regional (13.7%) and national (13.7%) averages.
- 4.9.4 The plan area has a highly qualified population compared to borough, regional and national averages, with 33.8% of working-age residents of the plan area qualified to NVQ level four or above.⁴³ There is however a higher proportion of residents in Overton parish (21.1%) that have no qualifications, when compared with borough (17.3%) and regional (19.1%) averages. This is slightly below the national average (22.5%).
- 4.9.5 Figure 4.3 shows the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile for Overton is largely similar to borough, regional and national averages, with some notable exceptions. The plan area has larger proportions of people working in 'manufacturing', 'information and communications', and 'professional, scientific and technical activities'. Conversely, the plan area has lower proportions of workers in 'arts, entertainment and recreation', 'accommodation and food service activities', 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles', and 'construction'.

⁴² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Economic Activity (QS601EW)

⁴³ Level 4 qualifications include bachelors degrees, NVQs at Level 4, HNDs and HNCs.

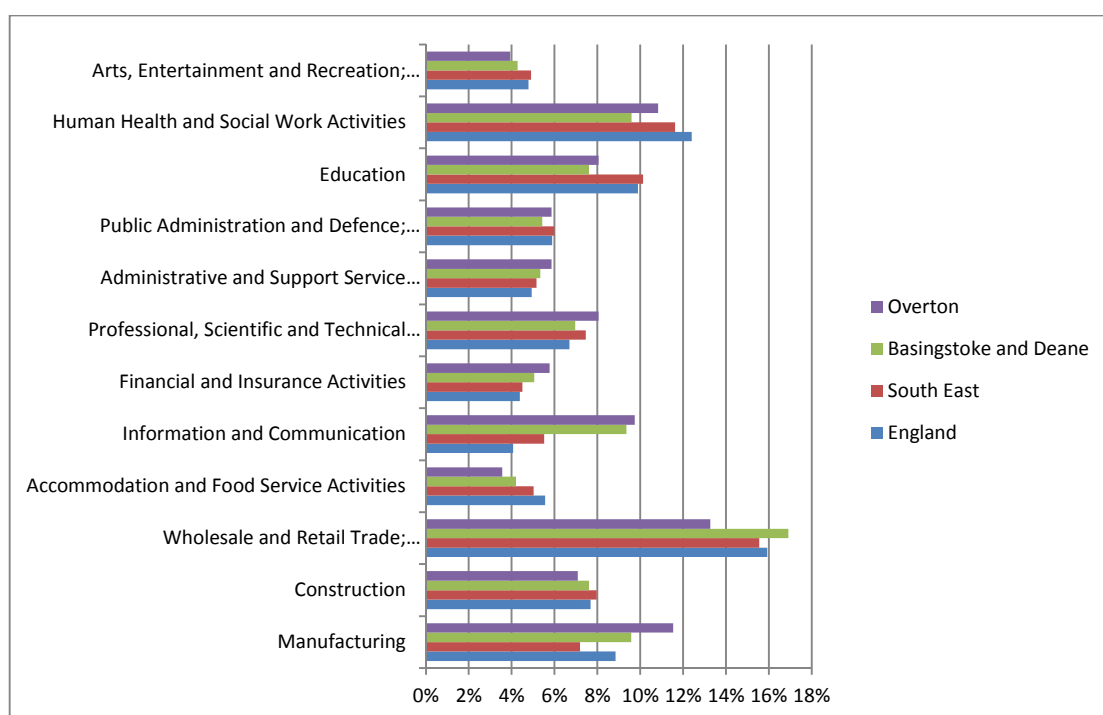


Figure 4.3 The industry of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment in the week of working-age residents⁴⁴

Summary of future baseline

- 4.9.6 There will be an increased demand for services and facilities in the plan area with population growth. Increased economic activity in Basingstoke may provide economic opportunities for those living in the Neighbourhood Area.

⁴⁴ ONS (2011) Industry 2011 (QS605EW)

5 *What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus?*

The SA Report must include...

- Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of / provide a framework for appraisal

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SA Scoping Report (December 2014) was able to identify a range of sustainability problems / issues that should be a particular focus of SA, ensuring it remains focused. These issues were then translated into sustainability 'objectives'. These SA Objectives provide a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

5.2 Sustainability topics and objectives

SA Topic	SA Objectives
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features
Climate change	Promote climate change mitigation in Overton
	Support the resilience of Overton to the potential effects of climate change
Historic environment and landscape	Protect, maintain and enhance Overton's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.
	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the more efficient use of land.
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
Population and community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.
	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and well-being of Overton's residents.
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.
Economy and enterprise	Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area

- 5.2.1 The full SA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during the scoping stage of the SA and against which the plan has been appraised are presented in **Appendix II**.

***Part 2: What has plan
making / SA involved to
this point?***

6 Introduction to Part 2

The SA Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal (and hence, by proxy, a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan)

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SA up to this point is told within this part of the SA Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an appraisal of a number of alternative approaches to delivering the Local Plan allocation for housing in the Neighbourhood Area.

6.1 Overview of plan-making / SA work undertaken since 2013

- 6.1.1 Plan-making for the ONP has been underway since late 2013. Initial work incorporated an extensive number of informal and formal consultation exercises carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, including consultation events, resident surveys, and engagement with local organisations. This was accompanied by the collation of baseline information from existing surveys and studies.
- 6.1.2 Initial public consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken between May and July 2014. An article was published on the Neighbourhood Plan, and a number of consultation events carried out. Drawing on the findings of these events, a questionnaire was then prepared, which sought residents' views on the likely content of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.1.3 Following these preliminary consultation exercises, the Vision and Objectives for the ONP were developed. A number of housing delivery site options were also considered for potential inclusion in the plan. Subsequently, in November 2014, the Steering Group released a preliminary Neighbourhood Plan document for consultation. This included the Vision and Objectives for the ONP, and a series of proposed 'strategic options' for housing and proposed site selection criteria. The document was sent to every household in the parish and two exhibitions undertaken.
- 6.1.4 In late January 2015, a further public exhibition was undertaken, which presented revised strategic options for housing sites and developers' proposals. Summary findings of the SA process undertaken to date (section 6.2) were also presented. The site allocations and policies for the Neighbourhood Plan were then further worked up in the period to February 2015.
- 6.1.5 The following chapter discusses in more detail the evolution of sites and policies for the ONP in association with the SA process.

6.2 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

Reasonable alternatives

- 6.2.1 A key element of the SA process is the appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the ONP. In this context a number of reasonable alternatives have been considered in relation to the scale and location of housing allocations put forward by the ONP for the Neighbourhood Area. These allocations are designed to deliver the housing numbers set out by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

Appraisal of single vs multiple housing sites to deliver the Local Plan allocation for Overton

- 6.2.2 Undertaken as a central element of the development of the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan, the ONP Steering Group considered what size and form new housing sites should take during the life of the plan.
- 6.2.3 To support decision-making on this element of the ONP, the SA process considered two broad options relating to the number of housing allocations taken forward to deliver the housing numbers set out for the Overton area by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 6.2.4 The two options, which were consulted on through the consultation undertaken between 21st May and 31st July, 2014, were as follows:
- **Option 1:** Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through one site; and
 - **Option 2:** Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through multiple sites.
- 6.2.5 These options were considered through the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping (see **Part 1**).

- 6.2.7 **Table 6.1** presents the findings of the appraisal of Option 1 and Option 2 outlined above. These are presented through the eight sustainability topics discussed in section 2.1.3. To support the appraisal findings, the two options have been ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant topic. It is anticipated that this will provide the reader with a likely indication of the comparative sustainability performance of the two options in relation to each topic.

Table 6.1 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to the number of housing sites

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Biodiversity	<p>Option 1, through delivering housing allocations on one larger site has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of localised effects on individual biodiversity assets. This includes through habitat loss and direct and indirect impacts on species. Option 2 may however lead to increases in incremental effects on biodiversity through smaller scale but multiple impacts on assets.</p> <p>All sites have the potential to have impacts on biodiversity assets if located inappropriately and have poor design and layout. Likewise all sites have the potential to promote net gains in biodiversity value. In this context, for all sites, potential effects on biodiversity depend on elements such as the provision of green infrastructure to accompany new development areas and the retention and incorporation of biodiversity features.</p>	2=	2=
Climate change	<p>In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to emissions in the plan area. The extent to which the two options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. In this context, Option 2, through promoting housing provision in smaller sites across the plan area, has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of Overton. This has the potential to allow at some locations easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. However Option 1, through promoting a larger scale site, may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to the plan area's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the plan area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. Whilst the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more tangible through the larger development proposed through Option 1, mechanisms including the community infrastructure levy provide opportunities for plan area-wide green infrastructure improvements through both options.</p> <p>The effect of new development areas on surface water and groundwater flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</p>	2=	2=

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Option 2, through spreading development across multiple sites, has the potential to limit development on the areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land (including Grade 2 and 3a land) which are present in the vicinity of Overton (in particular the Grade 2 land present to the west and north east of the village).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. However it should be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger developments promoted by Option 1.</p>	2	1
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through concentrating new housing provision on one large site, Option 1 has increased potential to lead to impacts on landscape quality. This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increased traffic flows. Whilst major new development areas are unlikely to be located within the North Wessex Downs AONB, views from the AONB may be adversely affected by larger sites.</p> <p>Meeting housing provision through an increased number of smaller sites is less likely to have impacts on landscape quality in the plan area. This is due to increased opportunities through this option for assimilating new development within the existing fabric of the built-up area of Overton. The option also increases opportunities for managing the cumulative landscape impacts of the housing provision for the plan area stipulated by the Local Plan.</p> <p>In terms of potential effects on the historic environment, Option 1, through promoting larger scale housing development in the Overton area, has the potential to have significant effects on the existing historic setting of the village. Through promoting more compact housing development sites, Option 2 is more likely to facilitate housing provision which more effectively sits within the historic setting of the settlement.</p> <p>Option 2, through promoting smaller scale development, increases opportunities for supporting the reuse and rejuvenation of existing heritage assets in the village. This will support the plan area's historic environment resource, if high quality design and layout is incorporated within new provision.</p>	2	1

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through one site

Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Overton area through multiple sites

SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Population and community	<p>Both options will deliver the housing numbers set out for the plan area proposed by the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.</p> <p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision may be easier to deliver through Option 1. This is linked to the delivery of Section 106 agreements likely to be levied on the larger development area promoted through this option. Whilst all new developments involving 1 or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the delivery of housing at fewer and larger sites may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements. It should be noted however that such contributions are typically required to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable. Alongside, recent legislation has introduced a 10 unit threshold for affordable housing contributions.</p> <p>In terms of education and skills, the effect of both options depends on the extent to which new housing provision is accompanied by new, expanded and improved education provision in the Neighbourhood Area.</p>	2=	2=
Health and wellbeing	The delivery of housing provision through one larger site has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows at certain locations. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents at these locations. However, the cumulative effects of multiple development areas through Option 2 may also have similar effects. Effects therefore depend on the location of new development areas.	2=	2=
Transport	The provision of new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany new housing development, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links may be more feasible with the concentrated nature of development proposed through Option 1.	1	2
Economy and enterprise	Through delivering in the region of 150 dwellings in the vicinity of Overton, both options are likely to support the economic vitality and viability of the village.	1=	1=

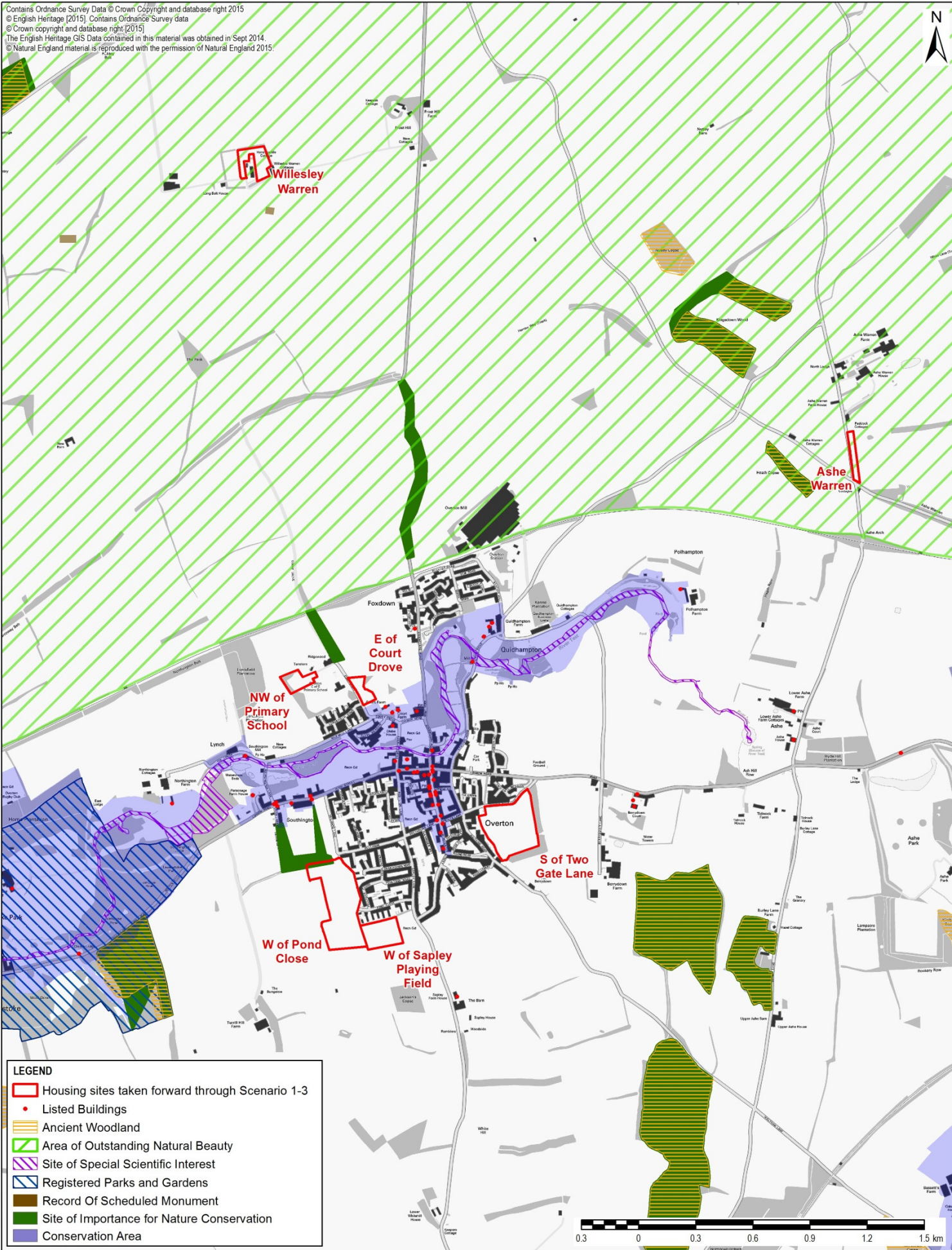
Assessment of alternative site packages for taking forward through the ONP

- 6.2.8 Responses on consultation undertaken in summer 2014 highlighted a strong preference for development to take place over multiple sites.
- 6.2.9 Drawing on these consultation responses, the Steering Group for the ONP viewed that there are some clear advantages in taking an approach which spread development over a wider range of sites considered suitable for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2.10 Following this process, landowners were invited to propose sites for taking forward for consideration for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan. 34 potential sites were initially considered. These were reduced to eleven sites on the basis of the following:
- The landowner could not be identified or had decided not to take forward to site;
 - Part of the site was located on the flood plain;
 - There were restrictive covenants which would be difficult to remove;
 - The landowner had placed restrictions on site use casting doubt on whether the houses could be delivered; and/or
 - The developer expressed no wish to work co-operatively within the neighbourhood planning process and proposed to make a planning application ahead of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2.11 On this basis, the sites considered for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan are presented in **Table 6.2** below. The locations of these sites, in conjunction with the environmental constraints present in the area, are presented in the map below⁴⁵.

Table 6.2 Sites considered for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan

Site code	Site
A	NW of Primary School
AW	Ashe Warren
B	E of Court Drove
E	E of Overton Hill Car Park
F	S of Two Gate Lane
H	S of Sapley Playing Field
J+K	W of Sapley Lane Playing Field and W of Pond Close
M	W of Vinn's Lane
PB	Popham Beacons
WW	Willesley Warren

⁴⁵ Please note, Site PB: Popham Beacons is located at the southern edge of the parish near to Micheldever railway station. The area included in this map does not cover this location.



LEGEND	
	Housing sites taken forward through Scenario 1-3
•	Listed Buildings
	Ancient Woodland
	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
	Site of Special Scientific Interest
	Registered Parks and Gardens
	Record Of Scheduled Monument
	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
	Conservation Area

Project Title/Drawing Title

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FOR THE
 OVERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC
 CONSTRAINTS**

Client		
OVERTON PARISH COUNCIL		
Drawn	Checked	Approved
SS	NCB	NCB
Date	Scale @ A3	Purpose of Issue
21/01/2015	1:18,000	DRAFT
Drawing Number	Rev	
	5	

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- 6.2.12 Following the shortlisting of potential sites, the Steering Group liaised with the landowners of the eleven sites to determine 1) their preferences in terms of the location and scale of new development, and 2) what would be acceptable to the landowners in terms of scale and phasing at each site. Drawing on these consultations, three 'scenarios', or options were developed for delivering 154 dwellings (i.e. a figure slightly above that currently proposed through the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan). These scenarios were as follows:

Table 6.3 Scenario A

Site	Number of dwellings
Site F: S of Two Gate Lane	70
Site J: W of Sapley Lane Playing Field	55
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

Table 6.4 Scenario B

Site	Number of dwellings
Site F: S of Two Gate Lane	125
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

Table 6.5 Scenario C

Site	Number of dwellings
Combination of Site J: W of Sapley Lane Playing Field and Site K: W of Pond Close	125
Site B: E of Court Drove	14
Site A: NW of Primary School	5
Site WW: Willesley Warren	5
Site AW: Ashe Warren	5
Total	154

- 6.2.13 The SA team appraised these three scenarios as 'reasonable alternatives' against both the baseline and relatively (i.e. against each other). As for the two previous housing site size options, these were considered through the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping. The three scenarios have also been ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant topic. The findings of the appraisal are presented in **Table 6.6**.

Table 6.6 Appraisal findings: Site packages

Sustainability theme	Discussion of potential effects of three scenarios and relative merits	Rank of sustainability performance in relation to sustainability theme		
		Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
Biodiversity	<p>Site A: <i>NW of Primary School</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i> are both located adjacent to areas of Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat (Deciduous Woodland). Alongside, both Site A: <i>NW of Primary School</i> and Site B: <i>E of Court Drove</i> are located in close proximity to the Court Drove Woodland Strip Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. In this respect, through taking forward the four smaller sites, all three scenarios have the potential to have effects on these locally important biodiversity sites without mitigation and avoidance measures. Site F: <i>S of Two Gate Lane</i> is also located adjacent to an area of Deciduous Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat, potentially leading to effects from Scenarios 1 and 2.</p> <p>SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each Site of Special Scientific Interest according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. In relation to the River Test SSSI, all of the sites proposed within Overton village are within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone for development which comprises 100 residential dwellings or more. In this context, through seeking to take forward 125 dwellings at one location, both Scenario 2 and 3 raise the possibility of adverse effects on the River Test SSSI without avoidance and mitigation measures.</p> <p>All sites have the potential to have impacts on biodiversity assets if located inappropriately and have poor design and layout. Likewise all sites have the potential to promote net gains in biodiversity value. In this context, for all scenarios, potential effects on biodiversity depend on aspects such as the provision of enhanced green infrastructure networks to accompany new development areas and the retention and incorporation of biodiversity features within new housing development.</p>	1	3	2

Sustainability theme	Discussion of potential effects of three scenarios and relative merits	Rank of sustainability performance in relation to sustainability theme		
		Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
Climate change (including flood risk)	<p>In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to emissions in the Overton Neighbourhood Plan Area. Therefore, the extent to which the three scenarios have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is a key element. In this context all three scenarios will take forward the two sites located at some distance from the village (Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i>). This will increase the need to travel and promote car use for those living in new residential areas at these locations.</p> <p>The other proposed sites are located in the immediate vicinity of Overton village with its range of services, facilities, amenities and public transport links. This will support climate change mitigation through limiting the need for residents to travel. It is uncertain however at this level of detail which of the three scenarios are likely to contribute most to limiting greenhouse gas emissions over an annual period.</p> <p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, according to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment no sites proposed through the scenarios are located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial or surface water flooding. The extent to which new allocations support climate change adaptation will therefore depend on elements such as the extent to which enhanced open space provision is integrated within new development areas, the design and layout of new housing allocations and the integration of sustainable drainage systems.</p>	1=	1=	1=
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Land at Site A: <i>NW of Primary School</i>, Site B: <i>E of Court Drove</i>, Site F: <i>S of Two Gate Lane</i>, and Site K: <i>W of Pond Close</i> has been classified as Grade 3a agricultural land. This is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. Recent surveys of agricultural land classification have not been carried out for Site J: <i>W of Sapley Playing Field</i>, Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i>. It is therefore uncertain as to whether land at these locations comprises the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.</p> <p>Overall Scenario 2, through focussing more development on Site F: <i>S of Two Gate Lane</i> has the potential lead to an increased loss of the Best and Most Versatile Land. This however largely depends on the detailed location of development and the integration of land uses which prevent the sterilisation of higher quality agricultural land, such as the provision of new allotments.</p> <p>The scenarios' effect on water quality and availability will depend on the elements such as the detailed design and layout of new development, the integration of water efficiency measures and the implementation of sustainable drainage systems to accompany new development.</p>	1=	3	1=

Sustainability theme	Discussion of potential effects of three scenarios and relative merits	Rank of sustainability performance in relation to sustainability theme		
		Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
Historic environment and landscape	<p>In relation to the North Wessex Downs AONB, all three scenarios allocate two sites (Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i>) within the AONB. Whilst both of the allocations are small in scale (comprising c. 5 dwellings each), these have the potential to lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the AONB without the implementation of careful design and layout and the integration of appropriate landscaping.</p> <p>The remaining sites proposed through the scenarios are located outside of the AONB. In this context the larger-scale allocations proposed through the three scenarios are located to the south of Overton, on the far side of the village from the AONB. This will help limit effects on views from the AONB.</p> <p>In terms of broader impacts on landscape and townscape quality, Scenario 2 is likely to have increased impacts to the east of the village, and Scenario 3 is likely to have increased impacts to the south west of the village. In this context through concentrating new housing provision on fewer and larger sites, Scenarios 2 and 3 have the potential to lead to increased impacts on landscape quality in the vicinity of these two locations through potential loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increased traffic flows. Whilst Scenario 1 will have impacts at both locations, due to the reduced scale of proposed development, effects on landscape and townscape quality at each location are likely to be moderated in comparison to Scenarios 2 and 3.</p> <p>In terms of historic environment assets, Site B: <i>E of Court Drove</i> is located adjacent to the Overton Conservation Area, and is close to the three listed structures at Court Farm. None of the other sites are located adjacent to, or in close proximity to the conservation area, listed buildings or scheduled monuments (with the exception of WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i>, which is located 250m north east from the long barrow scheduled monument). In terms of overall effects, there are negligible differences between the sustainability performance of the three scenarios in relation to the historic environment.</p>	1=	2=	2=
Population and community	<p>All three scenarios propose a total of 144 dwellings (out of 154) at sites located adjacent to Overton. This will support the development of housing at locations which are more easily accessible to existing services, facilities and amenities in the village, including health and leisure facilities. This will also support accessibility to the public transport networks present in the village.</p> <p>In terms of the remaining ten dwellings, all three scenarios will take forward the two relatively inaccessible sites located at some distance from the village (Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i>). It should be noted however that the allocations at these locations are designed to provide housing for families engaged in farming locally.</p>	1=	1=	1=

Sustainability theme	Discussion of potential effects of three scenarios and relative merits	Rank of sustainability performance in relation to sustainability theme		
		Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
Health and wellbeing	Each of the three scenarios propose a total of 144 dwellings (out of 154) at sites located adjacent to Overton. This will support accessibility to health services and leisure and recreational facilities in the village and promote the viability of such amenities. This will support the health and wellbeing of residents. Locating more housing in close proximity to village amenities will also encourage walking and cycling, which are healthier modes of travel. Overall, in terms of likely significant effects, there are negligible differences between the sustainability performance of the three scenarios in relation to the health and wellbeing sustainability theme. Effects on health and wellbeing will depend on factors such as the provision of new services and facilities to accompany new development, the quality and energy efficiency of new housing, and enhancements to open space provision and green infrastructure networks, including pedestrian and cycle links.	1=	1=	1=
Transportation	All three scenarios propose a total of 144 dwellings (out of 154) at sites adjacent to Overton. This will support the development of housing at locations with good access by walking and cycling to existing services, facilities and amenities in Overton. This will also support accessibility to the public transport networks serving the village, promoting the use of alternatives to the car. All three scenarios will take forward the two relatively inaccessible sites located at some distance from the village (Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i>). This will increase the need to travel for those living at these locations and encourage car use. It should be noted however that the allocations at these locations are designed to provide housing for families engaged in farming locally. This will support access for those engaged in agricultural activities.	1=	1=	1=
Economy and enterprise	The three scenarios all propose a total of 144 dwellings (out of 154) at sites adjacent to Overton. In this context all three scenarios have the potential to support the viability and vitality of the village, including through supporting local shops and amenities. In terms of the remaining ten dwellings, all three scenarios will take forward Site WW: <i>Willesley Warren S</i> and Site AW: <i>Ashe Warren</i> . Neighbourhood Plan allocations at these locations are designed to provide housing for families engaged in farming locally. This will support the viability of agricultural activities at these locations.	1=	1=	1=

- 6.2.14 The findings described above were presented with the other Neighbourhood Plan information at the consultation event undertaken in late January 2015.
- 6.2.15 Responses on the consultation event highlighted that there was a preference for Scenario A to be taken forward as the spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan. For this reason, the current version of the ONP takes forward this scenario as the preferred spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Options for delivering additional development

- 6.2.16 Due to the current uncertainties relating to the adoption of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the ONP Steering Group viewed it would be prudent to consider approaches to delivering housing levels over and above that currently proposed by the current version of the Local Plan.
- 6.2.17 To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the SA process appraised two options. These are described below.
- 6.2.18 **Option A** seeks to deliver additional housing numbers (an additional 45 dwellings, or a 29% increase on the current figure of 154 dwellings) through a number of 'reserve sites' currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan. These sites are as follows:
- Site M: W of Vinn's Lane (30 dwellings)
 - Site E: E of Overton Hill Car Park (10 dwellings)
 - Site PB: Popham Beacons (5 dwellings)
- 6.2.19 **Option B** would deliver additional housing through the current Great North Field proposal. This would comprise an additional 275 dwellings, or a 179% increase on the current figure of 154 dwellings. The 275 dwelling number relates to the current figure which the developer has proposed for the site.
- 6.2.20 As for the previous sets of options, Option A and Option B were appraised as 'reasonable alternatives' for delivering additional housing requirements in the parish against both the baseline and relatively (i.e. against each other). They were again considered through the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping and ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant topic. The findings of the appraisal are presented in **Table 6.7** below.

Table 6.7 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to additional housing delivery

Option A: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the reserve sites currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan			
Option B: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the current Great North Field proposal			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt A	Opt B
Biodiversity	<p>In terms of the sites put forward for Option A, whilst both Site M: W of Vinn's Lane and Site E: East of Overton Hill Car Park are located close to the River Test SSSI, the sites are not located within the Impact Risk Zone for the SSSI due to the scale of development proposed at each site. Similarly, whilst the Site PB: Popham Beacons is located close to the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI, again the site is not within the Impact Risk Zone for the SSSI due to the nature of the SSSI and the scale of development proposed.</p> <p>Relating to other areas of biodiversity value, Site M: W of Vinn's Lane is located adjacent to a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Alongside, the site is located adjacent to an area of Deciduous Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat. The Popham Beacons site is also located close to an area of Deciduous Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat.</p> <p>In terms of Option B, the northern and western boundaries of the Great North Field comprise Deciduous Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat. The Court Drove Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is located on the western boundary of the site. The site is also located within the River Test SSSI's Impact Risk Zone⁴⁶ for the types of development which have the potential to have adverse impacts (in this case, residential developments of 100 dwellings or more).</p> <p>The delivery of biodiversity enhancements to accompany new development may be more achievable through the larger scale of allocations proposed through Option B. This includes through green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological corridors. However, the significantly higher housing numbers proposed through Option B has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of effects on habitats and species without careful planning of development and the delivery of mitigation and avoidance measures.</p>	1	2

⁴⁶ SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSIs.

Option A: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the reserve sites currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan

Option B: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the current Great North Field proposal

SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt A	Opt B
Climate change	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the plan area. The extent to which the two options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. In this context, Option B is located in closer proximity to Overton railway station than the sites proposed through Option A. This will support the use of rail and reduce the need to travel by the private car. Through promoting a larger scale of development, Option B may also enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport networks through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations.</p> <p>It should be noted however that the increased scale of development proposed by Option B (275 dwellings compared to Option A's 45 dwellings) will lead to inevitable increases in the carbon footprint of the parish.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to the plan area's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the Neighbourhood Area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. In this respect, the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more deliverable through the larger scale proposals put forward through Option B.</p> <p>The effect of new development areas on surface water and groundwater flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</p>	2=	2=
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Both Option A and B have the potential to lead to the loss of Grade 3a agricultural land (which is classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. However it should be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger scale development promoted by Option B.</p>	2	1

Option A: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the reserve sites currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan

Option B: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the current Great North Field proposal

SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt A	Opt B
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through concentrating new housing provision on one large site, and promoting an increased scale of development, Option B has increased potential to lead to impacts on landscape quality. This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increased traffic flows. In relation to potential effects on the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Great North Field site is located adjacent to the AONB boundary. Whilst the site is screened by the railway line embankment and topography, longer distance views from the AONB may be adversely affected by development at the site.</p> <p>In terms of Option A, effects are likely to be limited by the smaller scale of the sites and their location away from the AONB boundary. Delivering housing provision through an increased number of smaller sites is also less likely to have impacts on landscape quality in the plan area. This is due to increased opportunities through this option for assimilating new development within the existing fabric of the built-up area of Overton village (with the exception of Site PB: Popham Beacons in the south of the parish, where five dwellings would be delivered). The option also increases opportunities for managing the cumulative landscape impacts of the housing provision.</p> <p>In terms of potential effects on the historic environment, two of the sites put forward through Option A are located close to statutory designations. In this context Site M: W of Vinn's Lane is located adjacent to three Grade II listed structures located to the north east of the site (Tithe Cottage, 12 and 14 Southington and the telephone kiosk), and Site PB: Popham Beacons is located adjacent to the Popham Beacons round barrow cemetery scheduled monument. No statutory designations are located within or adjacent to the Great North Field.</p> <p>In relation to the Overton Conservation Area, Site M: W of Vinn's Lane is located adjacent to the conservation area boundary. A small part of the Great North Field site is located adjacent to the conservation area boundary to the east.</p>	1	2

Option A: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the reserve sites currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan			
Option B: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the current Great North Field proposal			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt A	Opt B
Population and community	<p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision is likely to be easier to deliver through Option B. This is linked to the enhanced deliverability of affordable housing through larger scale developments, and recent legislation which introduces a 10 unit threshold for affordable housing contributions. The larger scale development proposed through Option B will also help deliver a wider range of housing types.</p> <p>Whilst all new developments involving one or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the delivery of housing at one large site may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements.</p> <p>In terms of the impact of new housing provision on existing pressures on community services and facilities, the effect of both options depends on the extent to which new housing provision is accompanied by new, expanded and improved health, educational and service provision in the Neighbourhood Area. Whilst the larger scale of development proposed by Option B may lead to an increased magnitude of effects in this regard, it should be noted that the delivery of new and improved community facilities may be supported by the larger scale of development proposed by this option.</p>	2	1
Health and wellbeing	<p>The delivery of the larger scale of housing provision through Option B has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows at certain locations. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents at these locations.</p> <p>Increased provision of housing through Option B may lead to increased pressures on existing health and leisure facilities in the village. This however depends on the provision of additional community services and amenities to support new development areas in the village.</p>	1	2
Transport	<p>The site proposed through Option B is located in close proximity to Overton railway station. This will support the use of rail and limit the need to travel by the private car. The two sites in Overton village proposed through Option A are located further away from Overton railway station than the Great North Field site. Site PB: Popham Beacons is located close to Micheldever Station in the south of the parish.</p> <p>Through promoting a larger scale of development, Option B may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations. However, an increased scale of development proposed by Option B (275 dwellings in comparison to 45 dwellings) is likely to lead an increased impacts on traffic flows and congestion in Overton than Option A.</p>	2=	2=

Option A: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the reserve sites currently proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan			
Option B: Delivery of additional housing allocations for the Overton area through the current Great North Field proposal			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt A	Opt B
Economy and enterprise	The larger scale of development proposed through Option B has increased potential to support the economic viability and vitality of the village. This includes through supporting local shops and amenities and promoting economic opportunities.	2	1

6.3 Development of Neighbourhood Plan policies

6.3.1 To support the implementation of the Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan discussed in section 2.4, and to complement the proposed sites for development, the current version of the ONP puts forward 20 policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Area. These were developed following extensive community consultation and evidence gathering.

6.3.2 The policies have been grouped into the following categories:

- Landscape, the built environment and local distinctiveness
- Housing
- Working
- Shops and services
- Learning and skills
- Getting around
- Community services
- Enjoyment and recreation

6.3.3 Part 3 of this SA Report considers these policies and allocations through appraising the current version of the ONP.

Part 3: What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

7 Introduction to Part 3

The report must include...

- The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan approach
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan approach

The aim of Part 3 is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Regulation 14 'draft plan' version of the ONP. Part 3 is structured as follows:

- Chapter 8 presents an appraisal of the current version of the ONP under the eight 'SA topic' headings; and
- Section 8.10 discusses overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

8 Appraisal of the Draft Plan

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The appraisal is structured under the eight 'topic' headings discussed. For each topic a range of sustainability objectives are listed, which are further supported by the decision-making questions developed during scoping. Taken together, these provide the assessment framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline (**Appendix II**).
- 8.1.2 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline as a result of incomplete data. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure assumptions are explained in full.⁴⁷ In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.
- 8.1.3 It is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.⁴⁸ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered (i.e. where the effects of the Plan may combine with the effects of other planned or on-going activity that is outside the control of the ONP). These effect 'characteristics' are described within the appraisal as appropriate.

⁴⁷ As stated by Government Guidance (The Plan Making Manual, see <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=156210>):

"Ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgment and should require no more than a clear and reasonable justification."

⁴⁸ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

8.2 Biodiversity

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Test SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI? • Protect and enhance the integrity of the SINCs present in the plan area? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.2.1 A number of the proposed sites for allocation have the potential to lead to adverse effects on biodiversity interest without the introduction of appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 8.2.2 SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. In this context, whilst a number of the sites are in relatively close proximity to the River Test SSSI, no sites are within the established Impact Risk Zone for the SSSI. This is due to the limited size of the allocations proposed through the ONP (i.e. under 100 dwellings).
- 8.2.3 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. In this context the allocations proposed at **Site A: NW of Primary School** and **Site AW: Ashe Warren** are both located adjacent to areas of Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat (Deciduous Woodland). In relation to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, **Site A: NW of Primary School** and **Site B: E of Court Drove** are located in close proximity to the Court Drove Woodland Strip SINC.
- 8.2.4 In terms of the proposed 'reserve' sites, **Site M: W of Vinn's Lane** is located adjacent to a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Relating to other areas of biodiversity value, **both Site M** and **Site PB: Popham Beacons** are located adjacent to an area of Deciduous Woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat.
- 8.2.5 The current version of the ONP sets out a number of provisions which will help limit potential effects from allocations on features and areas of biodiversity interest in the Neighbourhood Area. For example **Policy H3** seeks to ensure that developers are '*guided by Overton Biodiversity Society and Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust in their planting plans, make provision for ongoing habitat management and create/enhance wildlife corridors*'. The policy also seeks to ensure that proposals mirror the provisions of the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy. The policy is reinforced by **Policy E3** and **Policy E4** which seek to ensure that new open space reflects the provisions of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and new access to open spaces is '*guided by Overton Biodiversity Society, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Natural England to prevent loss of important habitats or biodiversity*' and '*proposals leading to their loss will be opposed*'.

- 8.2.6 **Policy E2** supports the integrity of sites designated by their biodiversity value in the Neighbourhood Area through seeking to ensure new development '*does not harm*' the River Test SSSI and the SINCs present in the parish.

8.3 Climate Change

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Promote climate change mitigation in Overton	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Reduce the need to travel? • Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of Overton to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account? • Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.3.1 In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the plan area. In this context **Policy T1** seeks to ensure that new development over 10 dwellings '*provide or make a contribution to the provision of multi-use paths and cycle tracks linking the development to existing routes to amenities, public transport routes and existing footpaths*'. This will support walking and cycling as an alternative to the private car, promoting climate change mitigation.
- 8.3.2 All but two of the sites proposed for allocations (**Site WW: Willesley Warren S** and **Site AW: Ashe Warren**) are located in the immediate vicinity of Overton village with its range of services, facilities, amenities and public transport links, or (in the case of **Site PB: Popham Beacons**) located near Micheldever railway station. This will support climate change mitigation through limiting the need for residents to travel by the private car and limiting the need to travel.
- 8.3.3 The policies do not seek to promote other aspects which will support climate change mitigation, such as the energy efficiency of new development or relating to the delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure.
- 8.3.4 Enhancements to green infrastructure networks promote climate change mitigation through supporting carbon sequestration and promoting sustainable modes of transport, and climate change adaptation through helping to limit the effects of extreme weather events and regulating surface water run-off. In this context the plan's focus on the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure provision in the Neighbourhood Area will support these elements. In particular

Policies H3, E3 and E4 will help protect and enhance open spaces and support improvements to green infrastructure networks, including in conjunction with the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy.

8.3.5 **Policies H3 and E4** will further help increase the resilience of ecological networks to the effects of climate change through making provision for habitat management and enhancing biodiversity corridors.

8.3.6 In relation to flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area, the addressing of issues linked to fluvial, groundwater and surface water flooding are likely to be supported by the provisions of the NPPF. Likewise, the flood risk, SuDS and surface water flooding policies proposed by the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan would further help limit adverse effects in this regard.

8.3.7 In terms of the effect of new development on surface water run-off, **Policy H5** seeks to ensure that there is sufficient sewerage capacity to accompany new development areas.

Recommendation

8.3.8 Whilst it is noted that the Local Plan policies will provide guidance in this respect, it is recommended that the next version of the ONP seeks to encourage the integration of high levels of sustainability into new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes through promoting energy efficient design and the integration of climate-resilience into new development areas.

8.4 Land, soil and water resources

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Ensure the more efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, in particular Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Move waste up the waste hierarchy? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

8.4.1 The ONP exclusively allocates land on greenfield sites. Due to the lack of availability of lower quality agricultural land in the vicinity of Overton village, most of the sites proposed have the potential to lead to the loss of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.

8.4.2 In terms of the proposed allocations, land at **Site A: NW of Primary School, Site B: E of Court Drove, Site K: W of Pond Close and Site M: W of Vinn's Lane** has been classified as Grade 3a agricultural land. This is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. Recent surveys of agricultural land classification have not been carried out for **Site WW: Willesley Warren S** and **Site AW: Ashe Warren**. It is therefore uncertain whether development at these sites will lead

to the loss of land classified as Grade 3a (which is classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land) or land classified as Grade 3b land (which is not classified as such). In terms of the productivity of agricultural land **Policy C1** seeks to ensure that the availability of allotments addresses residents' needs. A focus on improving open space provision and supporting green infrastructure improvements through **Policy H3, E3 and E4** will also prevent the sterilisation of further areas of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.

- 8.4.3 In relation to water availability, the ONP also does not seek to encourage water efficiency within new development areas. Whilst this will in part be addressed through the national policy and standards and the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, there is some potential for the Neighbourhood Plan to further support this in light of increasing pressures on water supply in the wider region. In terms of water quality, all of the proposed sites for allocation are located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone.

Recommendation

- 8.4.4 It is recommended that the next version of the ONP seeks to encourage the sustainability of new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes relating to water efficiency (such as through the use of flow regulators and water efficient fittings and appliances) and water reuse (such as through the use of greywater or rainwater recycling systems).

8.5 Historic environment and landscape

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Protect, maintain and enhance Overton's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? • Support the integrity of the Overton Conservation Area? • Preserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? • Protect the historic settlement pattern of the villages and hamlets in the plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB? • Protect and enhance landscape and townscape features?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.5.1 Two of the proposed allocations, **Site WW: Willesley Warren S** and **Site AW: Ashe Warren**, are located within the North Wessex Downs AONB. The remaining sites are located outside of the AONB. Potential effects from the two sites within the AONB will be limited by the small scale of development proposed at each site (c.5 dwellings).
- 8.5.2 In terms of historic environment designations, none of the proposed sites are located within the Overton Conservation Area. However one proposed site, **Site B: E of Court Drove**, and a reserve site, **Site M: W of Vinn's Lane**, are located adjacent to the conservation area. Two of the reserve sites are located adjacent to other statutory historic environment designations: **Site M: W of Vinn's Lane** is located adjacent to three Grade II listed structures, and **Site PB: Popham Beacons** is located adjacent to the Popham Beacons round barrow cemetery scheduled monument. The setting of the historic environment of these areas may therefore be affected by new development at these locations without careful design and layout.

- 8.5.3 The policies proposed for the ONP have a close focus on protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area, and supporting the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. **Policy LB1** seeks to ensure that new development areas conform to the Overton Village Design Statement and the built form of new development '*minimises visual impact and relates sensitively to the surrounding area*'. In this context the Village Design Statement provides a robust basis for the protection and enhancement of the landscape and townscape quality and the historic environment in the vicinity of Overton through setting out features which local people regard as important and suggesting ways in which these can be maintained and enhanced through a series of development guidelines.
- 8.5.4 Potential effects on the Overton Conservation Area are considered through Policies S2 and E2. In this respect **Policy S2** seeks to support the vitality of the conservation area through limiting changes of use from retail and commercial to private dwellings and **Policy E2** seeks to ensure that development is only '*permitted provided it conserves and enhances the Conservation Area and designated heritage assets*'. In terms of the AONB, **Policy E2** seeks to ensure that new development is only permitted where it '*conforms to emerging Local Plan Policies and the management plan for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*'.
- 8.5.5 **Policies H3, E3 and E4** provide a focus on protecting and enhancing open spaces and supporting improvements to green infrastructure networks. In this context the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure networks will support landscape and townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area and the setting of the historic environment. Taking this further, the policies also reinforce the linkages between 1) local green infrastructure provision and needs and 2) current work being carried out by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Natural England and other organisations, including in relation to the implementation of the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy. This enables a coordinated approach to be taken which will help ensure that the full range of benefits from a high quality green infrastructure network can be realised.

Recommendation

- 8.5.6 Whilst the Village Design Guide provides a robust basis for the protection of landscape/townscape quality and the historic environment, the ONP should seek to ensure that all development in and adjacent to the Overton Conservation Area is carried out in conjunction with the *Overton Conservation Area Appraisal* (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 2003).

8.6 Population and community

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Increase the ability of 'hard-to-reach' groups to influence decisions? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?
Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Provide a range of housing
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Achieve minimum housing requirements?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.6.1 The draft plan puts forward six sites for housing, a provision totalling 154 dwellings. In addition the ONP puts forward three reserve sites, with the potential to deliver an additional 45 dwellings, which is a 29% increase on the 154 dwellings. This is anticipated to meet the requirements of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 8.6.2 In this context it is assumed that this growth quantum is appropriate given objectively assessed housing needs arising locally. As such it is considered that the allocations promoted by the current version of the ONP will help meet established housing need in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 8.6.3 In addition to providing sufficient allocations to meet the requirement of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (and as such objectively assessed need), the current version of the ONP sets out a number range of provisions relating to the type and tenure of housing to be provided through the plan through **Policy H1**. This includes relating to the provision of affordable housing and the provision of housing for those with a local connection. This will be supported by allocations at Site WW: Willesley Warren S and Site AW: Ashe Warren, which have been taken forward by the ONP to provide housing for families engaged in farming locally. The quality of housing will also be supported by **Policy LB1**, which promotes the implementation of 'Building for Life' standards, **Policy H1**, which promotes the provision of housing which meets 'Lifetime Homes' standards, and **Policy H4**, which seeks to ensure new development meets 'Secured by Design' standards.
- 8.6.4 In terms of the **spatial strategy** for new development, the ONP promotes a distribution strategy which will support the quality of life of residents. In this regard, the majority of the allocated sites, due to their location in Overton village, and their relative proximity to rail services and bus routes, will

support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Area. This will be reinforced by **Policy S1**'s focus on supporting shops and services in the parish, **Policy S2**'s limitation of a change of use from commercial and retail to residential uses in the historic core of the village and **Policy C1**'s focus on supporting community provision. This will support community cohesion and promote the vitality of the village. Education and skills will be promoted by **Policy LC2**, which seeks to ensure that developer contributions are sought for Overton Primary School and Overton Library, and encourages an expansion of nursery school facilities in line with demand.

- 8.6.5 The quality of life of residents will also be promoted by **Policy E1**'s support for an increase in the quality and range of social, sporting and recreational facilities and the ONP's focus through **Policies H3, E3, E4 and T1** on the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure networks in the parish. The ONP also has a strong focus on local distinctiveness and the protection and enhancement of townscape and landscape quality (section 8.5). This will contribute to the satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

8.7 Health and wellbeing

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Improve the health and well-being of Overton's residents.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards? Improve access to the countryside for recreation?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.7.1 **Policies H3, E3 and E4** provide a focus on protecting and enhancing open spaces and supporting improvements to green infrastructure networks. This includes through improving public access to the countryside and riverside for walkers. This will be supported by **Policy T1**, which seeks to encourage the '*provision of multi-use paths and cycle tracks linking the development to existing routes to amenities, public transport routes and existing footpaths*'. In this context the draft plan's impetus on green infrastructure enhancements will support the health and wellbeing of residents by facilitating improvements in levels of physical activity, enhancing social interaction between residents and promoting psychological well-being.
- 8.7.2 Taking this further, the policies also reinforce the linkages between 1) local green infrastructure provision and needs and 2) current work being carried out by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Natural England and other organisations, including in relation to the implementation of the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy. This enables a coordinated approach to be taken which will help ensure that the full range of multifunctional benefits from a high quality green infrastructure network can be realised
- 8.7.3 The health and wellbeing of residents will also be promoted by **Policy E1**'s support for an increase in the quality and range of social, sporting and recreational facilities, and **Policy C1**'s focus on supporting community provision in the parish, including the provision of allotments.
- 8.7.4 The quality of new housing in the parish will be supported by **Policy LB1**, which promotes the implementation of 'Building for Life' standards, **Policy H1**, which promotes the provision of housing meeting 'Lifetime Homes' standards, and **Policy H4**, which seeks to ensure new development meets 'Secured by Design' standards. This will promote health and wellbeing.

8.8 Transportation

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?• Enable transport infrastructure improvements?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.8.1 The majority of the sites proposed for allocations, due to their proximity to the main settlement in the Neighbourhood Area (Overton village), and their relative proximity to rail services and bus routes, will support the use of alternative modes of transport to the car and the viability of public transport networks in the Neighbourhood Area. Two sites are however located at some distance from the village and relatively inaccessible by non-car modes (**Site WW: Willesley Warren S** and **Site AW: Ashe Warren**). It should be noted though that the allocations at these locations are designed to provide housing for families engaged in farming locally.
- 8.8.2 The current version of the ONP has a close focus on improving transport options in the parish. In this context **Policies H5, W1, S3 and T2** seek to ensure that there is sufficient access to housing, employment and services by a range of transport modes and seek to limit the impact of new development areas on traffic and congestion in the parish. **Policies H3, E3 and E4** provide a focus on protecting and enhancing open spaces and supporting improvements to green infrastructure networks. This includes through improving public access to the countryside and riverside for walkers. This will promote walking and cycling. The use of sustainable modes of transport will also be supported by **Policy T1**, which seeks to encourage the '*provision of multi-use paths and cycle tracks linking the development to existing routes to amenities, public transport routes and existing footpaths*'.

8.9 Economy and enterprise

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area	Protect and enhance the community offer of Overton and the range of services and facilities available? Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 8.9.1 Whilst the current version of the ONP does not allocate employment land, the housing allocations proposed through the plan will support the vitality and viability of the parish's economy. This will be reinforced by **Policy S1**'s focus on supporting shops and services in the parish, **Policy S2**'s limitation of a change of use from commercial and retail to residential uses in the historic core of Overton village and **Policy C1**'s focus on supporting community provision. The vitality of the parish will also be supported by the ONP's focus on improving transport options, including through **Policies H5, W1, S3 and T2**, which seek to ensure that there is sufficient access to housing, employment and services by a range of transport modes.
- 8.9.2 In terms of the visitor economy, this will be promoted by **Policy W2**, which supports new overnight tourist accommodation in the parish and **Policy W3**, which supports the modification and extension

of premises where visitors can eat, drink and shop. The visitor economy will also be supported by the ONP policies which seek to promote local distinctiveness and character and protect and enhance landscape/townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area.

8.10 Conclusions at this current stage

Potential significant effects

- 8.10.1 The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the ONP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' and 'health and wellbeing' sustainability objectives. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the draft plan, the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in the Neighbourhood Area and the ONP's impetus on protecting and enhancing open space and green infrastructure networks.
- 8.10.2 In terms of potential negative effects, the development of the greenfield sites proposed through the draft plan will lead to inevitable losses of land classified the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. Whilst the ONP has sought to preserve the productivity of some of these areas through promoting allotment provision, residual **significant negative effects** are likely to remain in relation to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' sustainability objective.
- 8.10.3 There are also likely to be inevitable effects on landscape and townscape quality from new areas of development on the edge of Overton village and the three sites proposed elsewhere in the parish. To help address this, the current version of the ONP presents a number of policy interventions which will help limit potential effects and achieve enhancements where possible. Potential effects on views from the North Wessex Downs AONB are also likely to be limited by the small scale of the sites proposed within the AONB and in Overton village. Similarly, in terms of potential effects on the River Test SSSI, whilst many of the sites are located in relatively close proximity to the SSSI, adverse effects on this nationally designated nature conservation site are likely to be limited by the proposed size of the allocations. This is reflected by none of the proposed ONP allocations being located within an Impact Risk Zone for the SSSI for the type and scale of development being proposed.
- 8.10.4 Whilst the draft plan approach will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change', 'biodiversity' and 'historic environment and landscape', these are not considered as significant positive effects as the delivery of the allocations through the ONP will inevitably lead to some adverse effects in relation to these sustainability topics. For these topics therefore, the draft plan approach will limit the potential magnitude of adverse effects linked to the delivery of housing allocations in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 8.10.5 In relation to the 'economy and enterprise' sustainability objective a number of beneficial approaches are put forward by the current version of the plan. This includes relating to a promotion of the parish's visitor economy.

Recommendations at this current stage

- 8.10.6 Two recommendations have been made in this chapter for improving the sustainability performance of the current version of the ONP. These are summarised as follows:
- The next iteration of the ONP should seek to encourage the integration of high levels of sustainability into new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes relating to energy efficient design, water efficiency, water reuse and the integration of climate-resilience into new development areas.
 - The ONP should seek to ensure that all development in and adjacent to the Overton Conservation Area is carried out in conjunction with the Conservation Area Appraisal undertaken for the area.
- 8.10.7 These recommendations should be considered through the next iteration of plan making for the ONP.

Part 4: What are the next steps?

9 *Introduction to Part 4*

This Part of the SA Report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of the plan-making / SA process.

9.1 **Plan finalisation**

- 9.1.1 Subsequent to the current consultation on the draft plan, the ONP will be updated to reflect comments received. This SA Report will be updated to reflect the changes made to the plan.
- 9.1.2 The ONP and the updated SA Report will then be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, for its consideration. In particular Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the ONP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.
- 9.1.3 Subject to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's agreement, the ONP will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with the Local Plan.
- 9.1.4 The Examiner will be able to recommend that the ONP is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should be refused. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will invite the ONP Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated SA Report. Where the Examiner's Report recommends that the proposal is to be refused, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will do so.
- 9.1.5 Where the examination is favourable, the ONP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with a request it is adopted. Once adopted, the ONP will become part of the Development Plan for the area.

The image features a solid green background. A bright blue diagonal stripe runs from the bottom left towards the top right, starting near the bottom edge and ending near the top edge, creating a dynamic, angular design.

Appendices

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Appendix I: Regulatory requirements

Annex I of the SEA Directive prescribes the information that must be contained in the SA Report; however, interpretation of Annex I is not straightforward. The table below 'interprets' Annex I requirements.

Annex 1

The report must include...

(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.

Interpretation of Annex I

The report must include...

An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - What's the Plan seeking to achieve?	i.e. answer - What's the scope of the SA?
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - What's the 'context'?	
The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level		
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'		
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	i.e. answer - What's the 'baseline'?	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance		
Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal	i.e. answer - What are the key issues & objectives?	
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach)	i.e. answer - What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?	
The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.		
The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan		
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - What happens next?	

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Appendix II: SA Framework

SA Topic	SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Test SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI? • Protect and enhance the integrity of the SINCs present in the plan area? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	Promote climate change mitigation in Overton	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Reduce the need to travel? • Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
	Support the resilience of Overton to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account? • Sustainably manage water run-off, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?
Historic environment and landscape	Protect, maintain and enhance Overton's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? • Support the integrity of the Overton Conservation Area? • Preserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? • Protect the historic settlement pattern of the villages and hamlets in the plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?

SA Topic	SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
	Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB? Protect and enhance landscape and townscape features?
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the more efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, in particular Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land?
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Move waste up the waste hierarchy? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources?
Population and community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Increase the ability of 'hard-to-reach' groups to influence decisions? Minimise fuel poverty? Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? Provide a range of housing
	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? Achieve minimum housing requirements?

SA Topic	SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and well-being of Overton's residents.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
Economy and enterprise	Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the community offer of Overton and the range of services and facilities available? • Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities?

ABOUT AECOM

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