

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report to accompany the Regulation 14 version of
the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

Newton Longville Parish Council

January 2024

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
LM Senior Environmental Planner	IM Associate Director	NCB Technical Director	NCB Technical Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
1	Nov 2023	Draft for Locality Review		IM	Associate Director
2	Jan 2024	Draft for Client		IM	Associate Director

Prepared for:
Newton Longville Parish Council

Prepared by:
AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)117 901 7000
aecom.com

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Non-Technical Summary

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken to inform the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to help avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

What is the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan?

The Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report, sets out an appraisal of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is the latest document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (April 2020), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area's environment and community.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe, and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan and alternatives.
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

Scoping summary

The scoping stage involves identifying key issues, trends and the policy context for the SEA. A key output from scoping is a framework of objectives, which are then used to assess the plan against. Table NTS 1 below summarises the SEA themes and objectives that were established through the scoping stage, which together form the 'SEA Framework'.

Table NTS 1: The SEA Framework

SEA theme	SEA objective:
Climatic factors (flood risk and climate change)	Support the resilience of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects on climate change including flooding
Historic environment	Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment
Landscape	Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.
Population and housing	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.
Transportation	Support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel whilst reducing the need to travel.

Identification of reasonable alternatives for the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council alongside AECOM undertook an assessment of a range of site options to determine whether any were suitable for allocation in the Plan. The conclusion was that there were only four sites that were suitable or potentially suitable for allocation. Two of these sites were ultimately determined to be unreasonable due to being too small or there being problems with access. This left only 2 reasonable site options. Both of these options are proposed for allocation in the draft Plan as follows.

- Dagnall House for 6 dwellings
- Land at Cobb Hall Road for 15 dwellings

The draft Plan approach is reasonable and is referred to in the SEA as ‘Scenario 1’

It was acknowledged that there is a current application for 34 dwellings at the Dagnall House site, and therefore it may be reasonable to suggest that the allocation in the Plan takes account of this larger development. With this in mind, a reasonable alternative was identified which involves a higher level of housing provision at Dagnall House and surrounding land (scenario 2).

Both of these scenarios have been tested through the SEA in a comparable way, with the assumption that all other draft plan policies will apply to both scenarios.

Assessment of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan¹

The effects of the draft Plan (and reasonable alternative) are summarised in table NTS1 below. For each SEA theme, the significance of effects is identified, and then each option is ranked in terms of which is most preferable.

The Plan is predicted to have only positive effects, with these being potentially significant for the landscape, heritage, and transportation SEA themes.

The key benefits for transport relate to the support given to sustainable transport and a clear focus on managing the impacts of traffic and parking.

With regards to landscape and heritage, the designation of local green space, support for green infrastructure enhancement, retention of public rights of way and areas of separation, and identification of locally important heritage assets contribute to potential significant effects.

For the other two SEA themes the effects are predicted to be minor, which is attributable to there being limited additional development being planned for through the Plan in relatively unconstrained locations. Nonetheless, there are some plan policies that ought to promote some benefit with regards to climatic factors and housing.

The alternative (scenario 2) is predicted to have the same effects as the draft Plan. This is to be expected given that they both involve the same plan policies, and the only difference is support for additional homes at one of the reasonable sites.

Table NTS 2: Summary of effects for the draft Plan and reasonable alternative

SEA Theme	Scenario 1 (Draft Plan)	Scenario 2
Climatic Factors	Minor positive	Minor positive
	1	1
Historic Environment	Significant positive?	Significant positive?
	1	1
Landscape	Significant positive	Significant positive
	1	1
Population and Housing	Minor positive	Minor positive
	2	1
Transportation	Significant positive ?	Significant positive?
	1	2

Monitoring

The SEA regulations require ‘measures envisaged concerning monitoring’ to be outlined in this report.

¹ Updates to the assessment have been made following Reg14 consultation to reflect minor changes to the Plan.

It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by Buckinghamshire Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

The SEA has identified the potential for significant negative effects on transport, heritage and landscape that require closer monitoring.

It is suggested that the following issues be monitored in the AMR:

- New developments in Newton Longville with less than the recommended parking spaces
- Updates to landscape character and conservation area assessments
- Development leading to the loss of locally listed buildings.
- Development on local greenspace.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan (NLNP).
- 1.2 The NLNP is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and in the context of the local planning framework of Buckinghamshire Council (inclusive of the policies in the adopted Aylesbury Vale District Council's Local Plan).
- 1.3 Key information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1-1.

Table 1.1-1 Key information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority **Newton Longville Parish Council**

Title of Plan	Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	The Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Timescale	2023 – 2033
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers Newton Longville Parish.
Summary of content	The Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy, and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.

SEA Screening for the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.4 A Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA where it is likely to have significant environmental effects. In this respect, the Neighbourhood Plan has been screened by Aylesbury Vale District Council (now included within Buckinghamshire Council), with the following conclusions made:

‘AVDC is of the view that an SEA is needed as there could be significant environmental impacts despite the lack of environmental designations [...] the Council is of the view a precautionary approach is taken and an SEA is carried out.’

- 1.5 In light of this screening outcome, an SEA process is being undertaken to meet the specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

SEA explained

- 1.6 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.
- 1.7 The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts and maximising the potential for positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the NLNP seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.8 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
 - i. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 - ii. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation prior to submission of the draft plan under Regulation 16 (i.e. the draft NLNP) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.
- 1.9 This 'Environmental Report' is concerned with item 'ii' above, with item 'i' having concluded in 2020.

Structure of this SEA Environmental Report

- 1.10 This document is the SEA Environmental Report for the NLNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed below with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as set out below.
- 1.11 Further detail is provided in Appendix A, which seeks to identify how the structure of the report aligns with the regulatory requirements:

Table 1-2: Questions that must be answered by the SEA Environmental Report to meet the regulatory² requirements

Environmental report question	In line with the sea regulations, the report must include...³
What's the scope of the sea?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the plan seeking to achieve? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the sustainability 'context'? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key issues and objectives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems/issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment.
What has plan-making/sea involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with. 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 current version of the plan.
What are the assessment findings at this stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the Regulation 14 version of the plan. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Regulation 14 version of the plan.
What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for the plan making / SEA process.

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

³ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

2. Context and vision for the Neighbourhood Plan

Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The NLNP is being prepared in the context of the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) (2013-2033) and the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan. In 2000, Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe and Buckinghamshire County Councils joined to become a single unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council.
- 2.2 The VALP considers Newton Longville a 'Medium Village' in the settlement hierarchy, meaning that it has 'some provision of key services and facilities, making them moderately sustainable locations for development. The Plan allocated some sites at Medium Villages'. The Local Plan proposes growth of 52 dwellings in the village of Newton Longville over the Plan period, which will be met through commitments and completions. The VALP also allocates a large development in the northern part of the Parish, adjacent to the built-up area of Milton Keynes. The mixed-use site is set to deliver 1600 dwellings by 2033 (inclusive of the anticipated 50 dwellings between 2020-2025).

Vision, aims and objectives of the NLNP

- 2.3 Developed during the earlier stages of plan making and via community consultation, the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

“To ensure that the village of Newton Longville continues to be a lovely place to live, enhancing that rural character and experience for the benefit of current and future residents. Our aim is that residents will want to continue to live in the parish, and that others will wish they could. By 2033 we wish to have a village which is even better than it is today, where new development is sensitively designed, local services and facilities are retained and improved and there remains separation between the village and the new developments at Milton Keynes.”

- 2.4 The Vision is underpinned by the following objectives:
- i. To maintain the essential separate identity of the village and parish, and retain that essentially rural character which is valued by residents.
 - ii. Conserve the village's scale and character, maintaining the rural environment for the comfort, well-being and benefit of residents.
 - iii. To take opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of development by ensuring it is sustainable and causes the least possible environmental impact.
 - iv. To protect and enhance the green infrastructure within the parish for the benefit of residents and visitors, and the flora and fauna which is so important to the environment in which we live.
 - v. Have a balanced social structure with a mixed community, supporting the school and sustaining existing facilities.

- vi. Foster activities and encourage the development of infrastructure and provision of resources that enhance the community and support facilities. This includes the provision of affordable housing (for rent, sale and shared ownership) and a wide range of properties for private sale.
- vii. Work to lessen the adverse impact of road traffic on the village and aim to enhance transport and other links to neighbouring communities.
- viii. Recognise, preserve and celebrate the rich and varied heritage to the benefit of residents and visitors.
- ix. To encourage and support local businesses which provide valuable retail services and employment opportunities that benefit residents and visitors to our parish.

3. What is the scope of the SEA?

Introduction

- 3.1 The aim here is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SEA, i.e., the sustainability topics and objectives that should be a focus of the assessment of the plan and reasonable alternatives.
- 3.2 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 the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. As such, these authorities were consulted in April 2020. The full scoping report is appended to this report as Appendix B.

Key Issues

- 3.3 This section presents additional information on the SEA scope, namely key issues under each of the SEA framework headings. As set out in the Scoping Report, these key issues were identified following a review of the context and baseline.

Air quality

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase vehicular emissions and reduce air quality in the area (though low emissions vehicles could offset this to an extent).
- There are no Air Quality Managements Areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area; consequently, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process.

Biodiversity

- There are no NNR, LNR, SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, or Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are several small areas of Woodland Priority Habitat and Woodland Improvement areas within the NP area. New development encroaching on these areas could lead to loss of habitats and associated biodiversity.
- A large part of the NP area provides habitat for the Yellow Wagtail, a BoCC4 red list species. New development should be sensitively planned to maintain the connectivity of the ecological networks here. Sensitively planned development presents opportunities to implement biodiversity net gain and strengthen ecological networks.
- The SEA theme ‘Biodiversity’ has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process. Whilst there is potential for localised effects, policies in the emerging VALP extend protection to areas of ancient woodland, mature trees and hedgerows.

Climatic factors (flood risk and climate change)

- Average CO2 emissions per capita are declining in the Vale of Aylesbury District as a whole.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although a stretch of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs along the river Ouzel corridor.
- There is potential for surface water flooding to occur across the Neighbourhood Plan area, although areas susceptible to this are scattered between areas with low risk.
- The likelihood of flooding from fluvial and non-fluvial sources could be exacerbated by development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, opportunities for mitigation exist in sustainable design and Sustainable Urban Drainage.
- Climatic Factors have been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as climate change and flooding are an important national and local priority. There is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards flood risk mitigation.
- With regards to climate change mitigation, it is unlikely that the Plan will have significant effects on levels of greenhouse gas emissions as the amount of growth involved is relatively minor. Furthermore, standards for energy and water efficiency are established nationally and at a Borough level. The scope for the Plan to deliver substantial improvements is therefore unlikely to be significant.

Historic environment

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a considerable number of heritage assets including listed buildings and a conservation area, which could be affected by policies and proposals within the plan (either positively or negatively).
- An insensitive approach that does not seek to conserve and enhance heritage assets could result in the erosion of townscape quality.
- Historic Environment has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the setting of heritage assets and the character of the built and natural environment.

Landscape

- There are no nationally or locally designated landscape areas (LLA and AAL) within the NP boundary. Whaddon-Nash Valley, outside the NP area and adjacent to its northern boundary is designated as an LLA.
- The NPPF and policies within the VALP offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings, but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.
- Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the character of landscapes, which also contributes to the rural setting of the village.

Land, soil and water resources

- The Neighbourhood Plan area consists of mainly Grade 3 agricultural land. The majority is Grade 3b with small parcels of 3a which are classed as best and most versatile (BMV) land.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within nitrate vulnerable zones.
- The topic of 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on soil / agricultural land and water quality.

Population and housing

- The proportion of older residents (65+) is significantly higher in the NP area compared to the regional and national average.
- The population of Newton Longville is likely to significantly increase due to the Salden Chase development allocated at strategic level in the emerging VALP.
- Average house prices in the NP area are significantly higher than the national average. This makes it particularly difficult for first time buyers to find housing in the area.
- The large proportion of older residents will require a commensurate level of smaller, adapted dwellings, suitable for older residents to ensure this group is able to continue living in the NP area. This will have the added effect of releasing larger properties into the market and reducing under occupancy.
- The SEA theme 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan will influence housing delivery and the delivery of other infrastructures and services that are required to deliver and sustain sustainable communities.

Health and wellbeing

- Newton Longville has a broadly healthy population with higher than national average life expectancy.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has lower than average levels of deprivation.
- There are several healthcare facilities within 2-4 miles from the NP area.
- The NP area has substantial green and open space.
- The trend of an increasingly ageing population will require additional provision for health and social care services.
- Given the good levels of health enjoyed by residents of the NP area and low levels of deprivation the SEA theme 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED OUT**.

Transportation

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well served by the highway network and the railway. Bus connectivity is in need of improvement to cope with current and future demand.

- Local residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area are significantly more likely to travel by car compared to the national average.
- New development is likely to increase traffic and congestion but could also make public transport improvements viable.
- The SEA theme 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA, as policies and proposals in the Plan are likely to generate additional traffic and movement in the Newton Longville NP area.

The SEA framework

3.4 **Error! Reference source not found.** presents a list of topics and objectives that together form the backbone of the SEA scope. Together they comprise a 'framework' to guide the assessment. The themes and objectives were derived from a set of key issues established through the scoping process. Appendix B presents further information.

Table 1-3: The SEA framework

SEA theme	SEA objective:
Climatic factors (flood risk and climate change)	Support the resilience of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects on climate change including flooding
Historic environment	Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment
Landscape	Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.
Population and housing	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.
Transportation	Support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel whilst reducing the need to travel.

4. What has plan making / SEA involved up to this point?

Introduction

4.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

4.2 As the delivery of new housing development through NLNP is what is most likely to have a significant effect on SEA objectives, it was determined that this issue should be the primary focus of the consideration of alternatives through the SEA process. Case-law (most notably Friends of the Earth Vs. Welsh Ministers, 2015) has established that planning authorities may apply discretion and planning judgement when determining what should reasonably be the focus of alternatives appraisal, recognising the need to apply a proportionate approach and ensure an SEA process/ report that is focused and accessible.

4.3 The potential sites for delivering development in line with the Neighbourhood Plan objectives, will directly or indirectly influence the themes identified above (the SEA Framework) and the Parish Council's preferred approach.

Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken to date

4.4 The aim here is to explain the process to date to examine growth options (i.e., ensuring that the housing needs for the parish are met) and site options (i.e., sites potentially in contention for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan). These parameters are then drawn together to arrive at 'reasonable alternative' scenarios.

Strategic parameters

4.5 Policy S3 (Settlement hierarchy and cohesive development) of the VALP – identifies Newton Longville village as a 'medium village' in the hierarchy and provides a target housing number of 52 homes in the VALP plan period. There is also a housing allocation of 17 dwellings – which has now been completed. D-NVL001 Salden Chase allocates land on the northern edge of the Parish adjoining the boundary with Milton Keynes/Bletchley for 1,855 new dwellings, schools, retail and other facilities.

4.6 In considering alternatives for meeting the housing requirement target for Newton Longville, different elements housing supply have been identified to understand what 'residual needs' remain. There have already been 46 houses 'completed' as of January 2024, with a further 11 dwellings likely to come forward through current active planning permissions.

- 4.7 Together, these sources of supply already surpass the required level of need, but further potential sources (without considering additional sites) include planning applications that are currently being determined, windfall and rural exception sites. It is also important to note that there is a significant mixed-use site allocated to the north of Newton Longville (Salden Chase) that could contribute towards meeting needs.
- 4.8 Taking the above factors into consideration, the Parish Council concluded that one reasonable alternative would be to rely upon existing sites in the pipeline to accommodate needs.
- 4.9 A second alternative would be to provide additional housing on suitable sites to provide increased flexibility and choice of housing. Although the housing target is likely to be met regardless, it is reasonable to consider a small amount of additional housing given that Buckinghamshire Council no longer has a 5 year supply of housing. However in an update to their Housing Land Supply Statement⁴ on 8/1/2024 to take account of the December 2023 changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Buckinghamshire Council has a 4.7 year supply for the former AVDC area. With the publication of the revised version of the NPPF there is no longer a requirement to maintain a 5YHLS where the local plan was adopted less than five years ago and it identified a 5YHLS at examination. This situation therefore applies until September 2026.
- 4.10 A site appraisal process was undertaken to identify if there were any suitable sites for allocation within the Parish (see below).

Site options

- 4.11 A site appraisal process was led by the Parish Council, with support from AECOM (through a 'Site Options Assessment' (SOA) technical support package). A total of 38 sites in the Parish were identified for assessment, though five of these were ruled out at the initial site sifting stage due to not being suitable for development. The sites were identified by the neighbourhood planning group from three sources: a Neighbourhood Plan call for sites; independent site promotion by a local landowner; and the Vale of Aylesbury Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).
- 4.12 33 sites were taken forward for assessment in order to determine whether they would be appropriate to allocate for housing development in the NLNP. Key considerations focused on whether the sites were suitable, available and achievable.
- 4.13 The site assessment found one site to be suitable and appropriate for housing allocation in the NP. This site is:
- Site 19: Dagnall House and adjoining land.
- 4.14 A further two sites were found to be potentially suitable and appropriate for allocation subject to suitable access being established. The sites are:
- Site 2C: Land to the west of Westbrook End; and

⁴ <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/planning-reporting/housing-land-supply/>

- Site 5B (southern part): Land south of Whaddon Road and west of Lower End.

4.15 In addition to the sites above, Site 4 (Cobb Hall Road) is suitable in principle for development due to an extant planning permission. As the planning permission has been granted, the site would not need to be allocated in the NP, although support for development at this location could be demonstrated through an allocation.

4.16 Following the site assessment process, the following list of sites was considered further by the Parish Council.

Table 4-1: Site assessment conclusions for the three site options

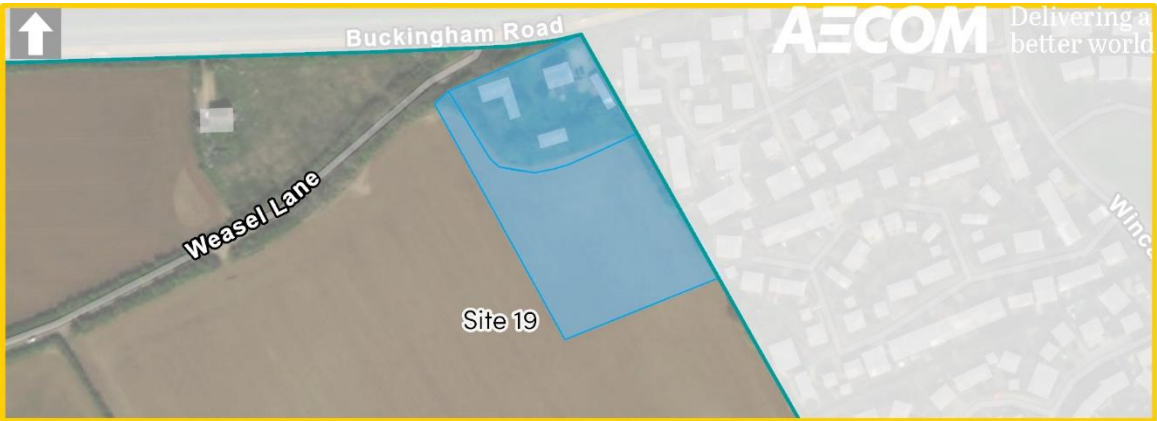
Site	Site name	Suitability?	Capacity	Reasonable alternative?
19	Dagnall House and adjoining land.	Suitable for allocation	26	Yes. Though a small part of the site has planning permission, allocation in the Plan could provide support and direction. There may also be potential for increased capacity as demonstrated by a live planning application for 36 dwellings (rather than 6)
2C	Land to the west of Westbrook End.	Suitable for a single dwelling subject to suitable access.	1	No. Site too small to consider for allocation.
5B	Land south of Whaddon Road and west of Lower End.	Suitable subject to suitable access.	26	No. The completed site to the north separates this site with an established hedgerow. Obtaining a new access point from Whaddon Road is not suitable.
4	Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road	Suitable in principle	15	Yes. Though there is a live planning application, allocation in the Plan could provide support and direction.

4.17 Taking the strategic parameters and the suitable site options into consideration, the following two scenarios have been identified as reasonable alternative 'strategies' for the Newton Longville NP (see table 4-2 below).

1. The draft NP Plan approach:
 - Allocation of 6 dwellings at Dagnall House (reflecting existing planning permission on this site).
 - Allocation of 15 dwellings at **Site 4** (To provide support for development on a site that previously benefited from planning permission and is currently awaiting determination on new permission).
2. Maximise housing on sites identified as suitable, to provide increased choice.
 - In addition to the sites supported in the draft Plan, this approach would see support for additional housing at Dagnall House, reflecting the potential for housing within the 'adjoining land'(Site 19).

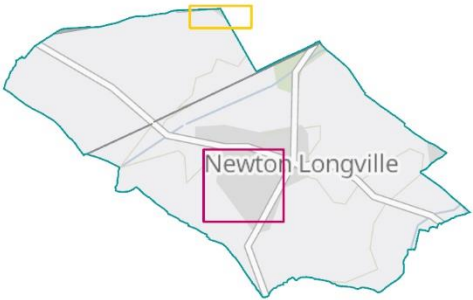
Table 4-2: The reasonable growth scenarios

Supply	Scenario 1 (NLNP)	Scenario 2
Newton Longville Housing Requirement Figure to 2033	52	52
Housing completions at January 2024	46	46
Sites with active planning permission		
<i>Dagnall House and adjoining land.</i>	6	34
<i>1A Church End</i>	2	2
<i>Red Lion, 13 Church End</i>	3	3
Awaiting determination		
<i>Cobb Hall Road</i>	15	15
Residual	+20	+48



Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

- Newton Longville Site options
- Reasonable
- Not reasonable



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Figure 4.1: Map showing site options considered by the SEA

5. Assessment of the Draft NLNP and reasonable alternatives

Introduction

5.1 The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Regulation 14 version of the NLNP alongside reasonable alternatives. This chapter presents:

- An appraisal of the current version (i.e., the Regulation 14 version) of the Neighbourhood Plan under the SEA theme headings;
- An appraisal of reasonable alternative approaches to the NLNP; and
- The overall conclusions at this current stage.

Approach to this appraisal

5.2 The appraisal of the Regulation 14 version of the NLNP is presented below and is structured under the SEA themes.

5.3 For each SEA theme, 'significant effects' of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment, as appropriate.

5.4 Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the Neighbourhood Plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects to ensure all assumptions are explained. 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.

5.5 The appraisal considers the likely effects of the Plan in its entirety, considering the strategy, site allocations and policies.

5.6 The list of policies included in the NLNP can be seen below:

- Policy NL1: Settlement Boundary;
- Policy NL2: Development within the Settlement Boundary;
- Policy NL3: Housing Site Allocations;
- Policy NL4: Housing Site Mix;
- Policy NL5: Areas of Separation to Prevent Further Coalescence;
- Policy NL6: Climate Change – Energy efficient buildings;
- Policy NL7: The Conservation Area;
- Policy NL8: Listed Buildings;

- Policy NL9: Non-Designated Heritage Assets – Buildings
- Policy NL10: Other Heritage Assets – Archaeology
- Policy NL11: Transport and Parking
- Policy NL12: Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy NL13: Public Rights Of Way
- Policy NL14: Local Green Spaces
- Policy NL15: Local Community Uses
- Policy NL16: Commercial, Business & Service Uses
- Policy NL17: Employment

5.7 The NLNP sets out two aspirational ‘community actions’, which are linked to the nearby strategic Salden Chase development.

- Aspiration A: Street Naming
- Aspiration B: Traffic Reduction and Traffic Calming

5.8 The NLNP allocates two sites for development (Policy NL3). The details of the sites are set out below:

- Dagnall House, Buckingham Road, Bletchley (within Newton Longville Parish)
 - A scheme for this site shall comprise up to six dwellings on the developable area of 0.41 Ha (outline planning approval 19/02126/AOP granted 2nd October 2020).
 - The design of new buildings on this site should be proportionate in scale to the surrounding residential area and reflect its character in terms of layout, detailed design and materials.
- Land between Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road (within Settlement Boundary)
 - A scheme comprising up to 15 dwellings on a developable area of 0.53 Ha. (An application for outline consent 15/02242/AOP for erection of 6 two-bed and 9 three-bed dwellings, new access and associated parking was validated on 6 July 2015, but of January 2024 has not been determined.)
 - The design of new buildings on this site should be proportionate in scale to the existing village and reflect village character in terms of layout, detailed design and materials.
 - Such development should maintain the public rights of way NLO/11, NLO/12 and NLO/14 which are commonly used routes for residents going from one part of the village to another, including access to and from the village school.

Appraisal of the Draft Plan and alternatives

Climatic factors (flood risk and climate change)

Draft NLNP

- 5.9 Both site allocations in the NLNP have received planning permission and as such, housing development could be expected to come forward regardless of the Plan. A more recent application for 15 dwellings on the site at land between Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road has been validated but not determined. As such, this allocation may provide some increased certainty of housing being delivered on the site in the future, should the extant permission elapse, or more recent application be rejected. Considering this, alongside the characteristics of the sites, no development planned for in the NLNP is considered to be at a level of flood risk which could not be easily mitigated through scheme layout and sustainable drainage.
- 5.10 The NLNP Policies NL12 and NL14 relate to green infrastructure protection and support for expansion of networks. This should mean that permeable surfaces across the Parish remain at a similar level, but with potential for an increase in coverage in line with support for new green infrastructure. This would be expected to preserve existing natural flood mitigation measures in the Parish, leading to positive effects on climatic factors.
- 5.11 Overall, the NLNP will ensure that permeability levels are broadly maintained across the plan area. No significant deviations from the baseline are anticipated, and broadly **minor positive effects** are concluded as most likely.

Alternative

- 5.12 This scenario would see only a small increase in the amount of greenfield land being 'urbanised'. It would also be expected (in line with plan policies) that a suitable drainage plan is in place to ensure that flood risk is not increased on site or elsewhere. Given that the area affected is at a low risk of all types of flooding, neutral effects are anticipated in terms of flooding. Considered alongside the plan policies, it is likely that the effects would also be **minor positive effects** overall with the inclusion of this additional land.
- 5.13 There is little to differentiate the options with regards to climate change, and so both are 'ranked' the same in relation to this SEA theme.

Historic environment

Draft NLNP

- 5.14 Both site allocations in the NLNP have received planning permission and as such, housing development would be expected to come forward regardless of the Plan. As such, this allocation may provide some increased certainty of housing being delivered on the site in the future, should the extant permission elapse, or the more recent application be rejected.
- 5.15 The site at land between Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road sits abut to the Newton Longville Conservation Area.

- 5.16 The increased likelihood of this site coming forward for development may lead to some effects on the setting and significance of the conservation area. This could arise through the change from an area predominantly made up of trees to residential uses. Whilst part of the conservation area may see some minor effects, only a small area would be affected and the current mixed character of surrounding development in this location means that effects should not be significant.
- 5.17 The NLNP policies ought to help to partially mitigate adverse effects from future development on the historic environment, including on the land between Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road. Policy NL2 (Development within the Settlement Boundary) and NL3 (Housing Site Allocations) both seek to ensure that new development respects the surrounding character of the built environment (considering the relationship between the built form of the village, including layout, character and materials).
- 5.18 Heritage related policies Policy NL7 (The Conservation Area), NL8 (Listed Buildings), NL9 (Non-Designated Heritage Assets – Buildings) and NL10 (Other Heritage Assets – Archaeology) seek to conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the overall historic environment and specific heritage assets within the village. This should provide greater certainty that potential development on the site on the land between Cobb Hall Road and Drayton Road would not have significant effects upon the nearby locally recognised non-designated heritage assets or conservation area. These policies ought to also ensure that any future development recognises designated and non-designated heritage assets, including the historic character of the village and considers these factors in proposals. Considering this, alongside the relationship between the sites and the historic environment, effects would be likely to be neutral.
- 5.19 The Plan policies ought to help to protect and enhance the historic environment within the Parish, and the identification of locally important buildings and greenspace should help to preserve settlement character. These are potentially **significant positive effects**.

Alternative

- 5.20 The surrounding areas to Dagnall House do not contribute to the setting of any heritage assets, and the small scale of growth would be unlikely to significantly alter the character of the settlement (particularly in the context of the adjacent Salden Chase allocation). Therefore, potentially significant positive effects are predicted overall reflecting the benefits discussed above for the draft Plan approach.
- 5.21 There is little to differentiate the options with regards to the historic environment, and so both are 'ranked' the same in relation to this SEA theme.

Landscape

Draft NLNP

- 5.22 Both site allocations in the NLNP have received planning permission (though one is awaiting determination) and as such, housing development could be expected to come forward regardless of the Plan.
- 5.23 As such, this allocation may provide some increased certainty of housing being delivered on the site in the future, should the extant permission elapse, or the more recent application be rejected. This site is within the built-up area and its scale and prominence would be expected to mean that development would be unlikely to lead to adverse effects on the landscape. The replacement of the existing trees and green infrastructure on the site with residential uses could lead to some minor changes to the village's townscape, though this would not be significant and mitigation measures would be expected in the form of boundary treatment, on site green space etc.
- 5.24 A number of the policies in the NLNP are likely to protect aspects of the local landscape and townscape, including focusing on factors such as the settlement boundary, housing density and mix and the role of green infrastructure and the historic environment.
- 5.25 Policies NL1 and NL2 seek to restrict development to locations within the defined settlement boundary (aside from rural exception sites); this ought to help to preserve the surrounding rural nature of the countryside whilst ensuring that development within the settlement boundary is considerate of the existing landscape and townscape character, as well as of biodiversity and wildlife in the area.
- 5.26 Policy NL4 (Housing Site Mix) ought to help to ensure that developments deliver dwellings which are of a size which is in keeping with the existing built form, helping to preserve the townscape of the village.
- 5.27 Policies which focus on the historic environment (NL7, NL8, NL9) are likely to help to preserve and enhance the significance and setting of historic assets whilst also ensuring that future development is sympathetic to the existing character of the village. This ought to help to preserve the village's character, bringing positive effects for the local townscape.
- 5.28 The rural nature of the Parish and green infrastructure throughout it are key features of the local land and townscapes and as such, Policies NL12 and NL14, which focus on the protection and expansion of the green infrastructure provisions within the Parish are likely to be beneficial for the local landscape character.
- 5.29 Overall, the NLNP is expected to provide an increased likelihood that the rural and historic character of the land and townscape is preserved and in some cases enhanced. **Significant positive effects** are predicted, though there is a degree of uncertainty.

Alternative

- 5.30 This would involve a larger development on the land surrounding Dagnall House. Though this area is currently open / agricultural land, it abuts the Salden Chase mixed use allocation, so will become a small piece of land within the new wider urban area adjacent to West Bletchley. Therefore, its development for housing at a relatively low density is unlikely to have a significant negative effect upon landscape character. The benefits associated with the NLNP policies will still arise, particularly those that seek to protect and enhance green infrastructure. Significant positive effects are predicted.
- 5.31 There is little to distinguish the options with regards to landscape and so both are 'ranked' the same in relation to this SEA theme.

Population and housing

Draft NLNP

- 5.32 The Plan allocates two sites for housing, providing support for new homes in the parish. One site already has planning permission for 6 dwellings, whilst the other is currently awaiting determination for 15 dwellings. It is considered likely that new homes would be brought forward in these locations in the absence of site allocations, but the Plan does add greater certainty and support for housing on these sites in the longer term should permission lapse. Therefore, the magnitude of effects is considered likely to be minor.
- 5.33 The settlement boundary and areas of separation policies will limit housing growth outside of the village, but this is not a significant departure from the current policy context, and so effects on housing are considered to be minor.
- 5.34 Though the plan is not likely to lead to a significant increase in the amount of new homes, it does seek to influence the mix of homes (Policy NL4) and the quality of homes (NL6) which are **minor positive effects**.
- 5.35 Though no additional homes are promoted through the Plan, identified housing needs have already been met and the nearby Salden Chase development should also take some pressures away in this respect.

Alternative

- 5.36 Support for an increased number of homes at the Dagnall House site is more positive in relation to the amount of new homes on smaller sites in the Parish. However, it should be noted that there is already a planning application awaiting a decision on this site. Therefore, whilst this alternative is slightly more positive, the effects are still predicted to be minor positives.

Transportation

Draft NLNP

- 5.37 The strategy does not involve any further housing or employment growth but seeks to rely upon existing committed development. In this respect, the level of travel is unlikely to be significantly affected by the Plan. However, there are several policies that are likely to have a positive effect with regards to the mode of transport used and accessibility to services, open space and jobs.

- 5.38 For example, the Plan seeks to retain employment land and community facilities, which should help to ensure that residents are serviced locally.
- 5.39 There is also a focus on the retention of public rights of way, ensuring that new development does not sever existing routes and helps to enhance access.
- 5.40 Policy NL11 is of particular relevance to this SEA theme as it relates directly to transport. There is an overall push for more sustainable forms of travel, the need to address parking needs is highlighted, as is the requirement to assess the transport impacts of development and mitigate any significant effects.
- 5.41 These measures are likely to have a positive influence on new development in the Parish, including that on the allocated sites where detailed planning permission is yet to be determined.
- 5.42 Overall, the Plan is predicted to have potential **significant positive effects** on the transport SEA objective as the policies are likely to lead to an improvement with regards to parking arrangements and managing the cumulative effects of traffic.

Alternative

- 5.43 The additional housing involved at the Dagnall House site will create increased car trips along Buckingham Road, which could contribute to slowing down traffic flows. However, the magnitude of effects is likely to be minor in the context of existing trips and the growth in traffic associated with Salden Chase. It is noted that there are parking issues within Newton Longville village, but increased development at this site is unlikely to contribute significantly to these issues.
- 5.44 Overall, the effects are predicted to be the same as the draft Plan approach (i.e. potential significant positive effects). In terms of a comparison between the two scenarios, the draft Plan is ranked more preferable, but this is marginal.

Conclusions

- 5.45 The effects of the draft Plan (and reasonable alternative) are summarised in table 5.1 below. For each SEA theme, the significance of effects is identified, and then each option is ranked in terms of which is most preferable.
- 5.46 The Plan is predicted to have only positive effects, with these being potentially significant for the landscape, heritage, and transportation SEA themes.
- 5.47 The key benefits for transport relate to the support given to sustainable transport and a clear focus on managing the impacts of traffic and parking.
- 5.48 With regards to landscape and heritage, the designation of local green space, support for green infrastructure enhancement, retention of public rights of way and areas of separation, and identification of locally important heritage assets contribute to potential significant effects.
- 5.49 For the other two SEA themes the effects are predicted to be minor, which is attributable to there being limited additional development being planned for through the Plan in relatively unconstrained locations. Nonetheless, there are some plan policies that ought to promote some benefit with regards to climatic factors and housing.

Table 5.2: Summary of effects for the draft Plan and reasonable alternative

SEA Theme	Scenario 1 (Draft Plan)	Scenario 2
Climatic Factors	Minor positive	Minor positive
	1	1
Historic Environment	Significant positive?	Significant positive?
	1	1
Landscape	Significant positive	Significant positive
	1	1
Population and Housing	Minor positive	Minor positive
	2	1
Transportation	Significant positive ?	Significant positive?
	1	2

Monitoring

5.50 The SEA regulations require ‘measures envisaged concerning monitoring’ to be outlined in this report.

5.51 It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by Buckinghamshire Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

5.52 The SEA has identified the potential for significant negative effects on transport, heritage and landscape that require closer monitoring.

5.53 It is suggested that the following issues be monitored in the AMR:

- New developments in Newton Longville with less than the recommended parking spaces
- Updates to landscape character and conservation area assessments
- Development leading to the loss of locally listed buildings.
- Development on local greenspace.

Next steps

5.54 This Environmental Report accompanies the Regulation 16 version of the NLNP for consultation.

5.55 The report sets out an appraisal of the Regulation 14 version of the Plan, but has been updated to reflect any substantive changes to the NLNP made between Regulation 14 and Regulation 16. The Plan and supporting evidence is being published for further consultation, and then submitted for examination.

5.56 If the outcome of the Independent Examination is favourable, the NLNP will then be subject to a referendum, and the plan will be ‘made’ if more than 50% of those who vote are in support. Once made, the NLNP will become part of the Development Plan.

Appendix A Regulatory requirements

As discussed in **Chapter 1** above, Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) explains the information that must be contained in the Environmental Report; however, interpretation of Schedule 2 is not straightforward. **Table A.1** overleaf links the structure of this report to an interpretation of Schedule 2 requirements, whilst **Table A.2** explains this interpretation. **Table A.3** identifies how and where within the Environmental Report the regulatory requirements have/ will be met.

Table AA.1 Questions answered by this Environmental Report, in-line with an interpretation of regulatory requirements

Environmental report question		In line with the sea regulations, the report must include... ⁵
What's the scope of the sea?	What is the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan.
	What is the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship with other relevant plans and programmes. 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 is 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 and objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems/issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e., provide a 'framework' for) assessment.
What has plan-making / sea involved up to this point?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with. 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 current version of the plan.
What are the assessment findings at this stage?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the submission version of the plan. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the submission version of the plan.
What happens next?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for the plan making /SEA process.

⁵ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

Table AA.2 ‘Checklist’ of how (throughout the SA process) and where (within this report) regulatory requirements have been, are and will be met.

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
Schedule 2 of the regulations lists the information to be provided within the SA Report	
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Chapter 2 (‘Local Plan context and vision for the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan’) presents this information.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	These matters have been considered in detail through scoping work, which has involved dedicated consultation on a Scoping Report. The ‘SEA framework’ – the outcome of scoping – is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA?’). More detailed messages, established through a context and baseline review are also presented in Appendix B of this Environmental Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.;	
5. The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been considered during its preparation;	
	The SEA framework is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA’). Also, Appendix B presents key messages from the context review.
	With regards to explaining how... considerations have been taken into account”, Chapter 5 explains the Parish Council’s ‘reasons for supporting the preferred approach’, i.e., explains how/ why the preferred approach is justified in light of alternatives appraisal.
6. 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. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Chapter 5 presents alternatives appraisal findings (in relation to housing growth, which is a ‘stand-out’ plan policy area).
	Chapters 6 presents an appraisal of the plan. With regards to assessment methodology, Chapter 6 explains the role of the SEA framework/scope, and the need to consider the potential for various effect characteristics/ dimensions, e.g., timescale.
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	The assessment highlights certain tensions between competing objectives, which might potentially be actioned by the Examiner, when finalising the plan. Also, specific recommendations are made in Chapter 6.
8. 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;	Chapter 4 deals with ‘Reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with’, in that there is an explanation of the reasons for focusing on particular issues and options.

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how requirement is met
	Also, Chapter 5 explains the Town Council's 'reasons for selecting the preferred option' (in-light of alternatives assessment).
9. Description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 7 presents measures envisaged concerning monitoring.
10.A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	The NTS is provided at the beginning of this Environmental Report.
The SA Report must be published alongside the Draft Plan, in accordance with the following regulations	
authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the Draft Plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)	This iteration of the Environmental Report is being published alongside the 'submission' version of the Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to informing Regulation 16 consultation. This will allow the findings to be taken into consideration before the Plan is adopted.
The SA must be considered, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.	
The environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	This Environmental Report, alongside Regulation 14 consultation responses, will inform plan finalisation.

Appendix B The SEA Scoping Report

Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Scoping Report

Newton Longville Parish Council

April 2020

Quality information

Prepared by

Omar Ezzet
Graduate Consultant

Checked by

Ian McCluskey
Principal Consultant

Approved by

Frank Hayes
Associate Director

Prepared for:

Newton Longville Parish Council

Prepared by:

AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited
4th Floor, Bridgewater House
Whitworth Street
Manchester M1 6LT
United Kingdom

T: +44 (161) 907 3500
aecom.com

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Acronyms

AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Air Status Report
AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council
AVDL	Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (2004)
DEFR	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LEP	Local Economic Partnership
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
VALP	Emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
NLNP	The draft Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Newton Longville Parish Council is in the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the sustainable future growth of the parish covering the period 2019-2034. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 1.1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the saved policies of Adopted Aylesbury Vale Development Plan 2004 (AVDLP) and the emerging Aylesbury Vale Local Plan 2013-2033 (VALP). The latter underwent examination in 2018 and is currently main modification.
- 1.1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development framework for the Vale of Aylesbury District, alongside the VALP. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. The Local Plan effectively provides an overarching strategic direction for development in the Aylesbury Vale District, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 1.1.4 The village is 3.2 km to the south-west of Bletchley in Buckinghamshire and 9.7 km from Milton Keynes.

1.2 The Scope of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Development Plan

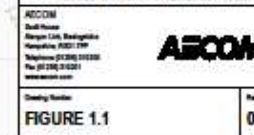
- 1.2.1 The scope for a Newton Longville Neighbourhood Development Plan is intending to consider allocation sites for housing development. The plan is also likely to identify a housing target. Previous Neighbourhood Plan proposals major new road infrastructure to be allocated in the plan are now not being progressed.
- 1.2.2 At present it is anticipated that the NLPC will allocate housing sites within the NLNP for approximately 50 additional homes. While this will be tested during the NP plan making process it is unlikely that housing growth in the NLNP will exceed 150 dwellings. It also anticipated that the NLNP will seek to allocate commercial/employment sites however this is unlikely to be in excess of 1,000 sqm of commercial sites.

- 1.2.3 The Key information relating to the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan is presented in the table below (Table 1-1).

Table 1-1 Key facts relating to the Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Newton Longville Parish Council
Title of Plan	Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	The Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan is provided by the saved policies of the current Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan but also having regard for the emerging Vale of Aylesbury District Local Plan 2013 to 2033.
Timescale	To 2034
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Newton Longville in the Aylesbury Vale District of Buckinghamshire, England. It is located approximately 2 miles south-west of Bletchley.
Summary of content	The Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and a range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Mike Galloway, Clerk to Newton Longville Parish Council Email: newtonlongvillepc@hotmail.co.uk

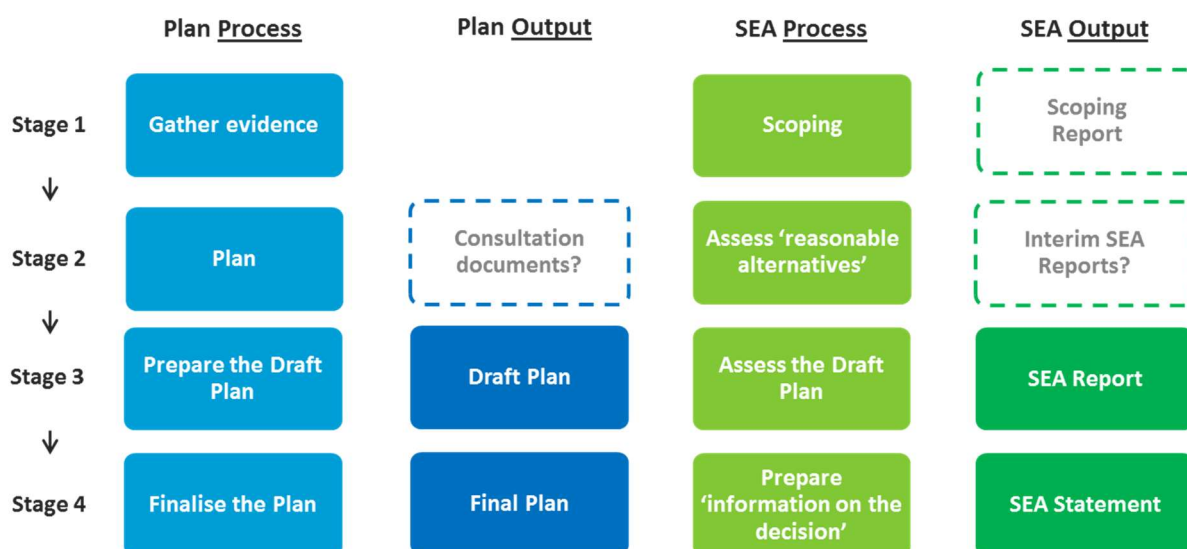
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8



1.3 SEA explained

- 1.3.1 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects.
- 1.3.2 The European Directive 2001/42/EC¹ requires certain plans to be subject to a SEA. This Directive is realised in the UK through Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (otherwise known as the SEA Regulations). These Regulations require an environmental assessment to be carried out on certain plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The plan has been determined to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the plan is undergoing a SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.3.3 SEA can be viewed as a four-stage process that produces a number of statutory and non-statutory outputs. As illustrated in Figure 1.2 below, 'Scoping' is a mandatory process under the SEA Directive, but the publication of a scoping report is a voluntary (but useful) output.

Figure 1.2: SEA as a four step process



¹ Directive 2001/42/EC: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

1.4 Introduction to scoping

- 1.4.1 One of the first stages in the SEA process is to establish what the key issues are that the appraisal should focus on. This is called 'scoping', and involves a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (a 'contextual review') and information about the current and future state of the environment, economy and social factors (the 'baseline'). This information is then used to set out a framework for undertaking strategic environmental assessments as the plan is developed.
- 1.4.2 The Regulations² require that certain statutory bodies are consulted on the scope of a SEA. This can be done in a number of ways, but most often a Scoping Report is produced that presents the key information and a methodology for how future appraisals will be undertaken. Statutory Consultees have 5 weeks to comment on the scope of the appraisal. In England, the statutory consultees are Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage.
- 1.4.3 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- Defining the broader context for the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
 - Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan) to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
 - Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a focus of the SEA; and
 - Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions based on these issues, which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

1.5 Structure of this Scoping Report

1.5.1 The outcomes of the scoping exercise have been presented under a series of broad environmental themes, as follows:

- Chapter 2 Air Quality;
- Chapter 3 Biodiversity;
- Chapter 4 Climatic factors (including Flood Risk);
- Chapter 5 Historic Environment;
- Chapter 6 Landscape;
- Chapter 7 Land, Soil and Water Resources;
- Chapter 8 Population and Housing;
- Chapter 9 Health and Wellbeing; and
- Chapter 10 Transportation.
- Chapter 11 The SEA Framework and Methodologies
- Chapter 12 Next Steps & Glossary
- Appendix A Site Assessment Criteria

1.5.2 The selected environmental themes reflect the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive³. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from local knowledge and understanding).

1.5.3 In accordance with the SEA Directive, the final chapters of the report summarise the overarching sustainability issues, set out the SA Framework and document the next stages in the process. To demonstrate a clear trail of how the SEA objectives have been identified each topic Chapter (which is scoped into the SEA) concludes with suggested objectives and supporting criteria for inclusion in the SEA Framework. Appendix A contains provisional site assessment criteria.

³ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on '*the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*' [our emphasis]

2. Air Quality

Focus of theme:

- Sources of air pollution
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

2.1 Policy Context

- 2.1.1 The **Environment Act 1995**, covering England, Scotland and Wales, requires all local authorities in the UK to review and assess air quality in their area. If any standards are being exceeded or are unlikely to be met by the required date, then that area should be designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- 2.1.2 The **Clean Air Strategy**⁴ (2019) sets out the strategy for improving air quality, including goals to reduce exposure to toxic pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia, particulate matter, non-methane volatile organic compounds and sulphur dioxide. For example, the strategy aims to reduce particulate matter emissions by 30% by 2020, and by 46% by 2030.
- 2.1.3 The **Air Quality Strategy**⁵ (2007) establishes the policy framework for ambient air quality management and assessment in the UK. The primary objective is to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. The Strategy sets out the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and government policy on achieving these objectives.
- 2.1.4 The **National Planning Policy Framework**⁶ (NPPF) (2019) outlines the importance of sustainable development and infrastructure in improving air quality and subsequently the environment and public health.
- 2.1.5 The **Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance**⁷ (2018) issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the National Air Quality Objectives apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year).

⁴ Defra (2019) Clean Air Strategy at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

⁵ Defra (2007) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/approach/>

⁶ MHCLG (2019) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁷ Defra (2018) Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance [online] available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-February-18-v1.pdf>

- 2.1.6 Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**'⁸ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 'Clean Air' and the policies contained within 'Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste' within the 25 year plan are relevant.
- 2.1.7 The Defra report **Action for air quality in a changing climate**⁹ (2010) focuses on the synergies between the two issues of air quality and climate change. In particular, it notes the potential for additional health benefits through the closer integration of climate and air pollution policy. It is suggested that co-benefits can be realised through a variety of means, including promoting low carbon vehicles and renewable energy.
- 2.1.8 The Aylesbury Vale District Council's **Air Quality Annual Status Report (2017)** identified road transportation as the main source of within town centres and at busy junctions. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is identified as the pollutant of most concern and this is currently monitored throughout the district using diffusion tubes. The report concluded that all but one location met the national Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) for Nitrogen dioxide. There are three Air Quality Management Areas within the district, all located within Aylesbury. There are no AQMAs within the Neighbourhood plan area.

⁸ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁹ Defra (2010) Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69340/pb13378-air-pollution.pdf

2.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 2.2.1 Newton Longville is predominately rural and semi-rural in nature with the main source of air pollution in the area being from road traffic emissions. The parish abuts the A421 to the north west, an important road linking east to west across central England and forms part of the Cambridge-Oxford route through Milton Keynes. The A4146 which links the M1 at Milton Keynes to the A505 at Dunstable, passes less than a kilometre east of the parish's boundary. The A roads around Newton Longville experience frequent congestion at peak times; leading to motorists using the village roads within Newton Longville as rat-runs, to avoid the most congested junctions. Congestion hotspots include the A421 junctions with M1 (J13) (8.3 miles from Newton Longville) and the A5 Southbound between its Junctions with the A4146 South and the A4012 (8.5 miles from Newton Longville). The A4146 also experiences a high volume of HGV flows¹⁰.
- 2.2.2 There are three AQMAs (for NO₂) in Aylesbury Vale District. These are located at Tring road, Friarage road and Stoke road; all are in Aylesbury, around 11 miles from the NP area.

Summary of future baseline

- 2.2.3 The traffic associated with A roads surrounding Newton Longville is likely to increase in volume with or without the NLNP. This will adversely impact air quality in the areas surrounding the traffic congestion areas mentioned above.
- 2.2.4 However, improvements in air quality may be experienced as a result of lower emission vehicles, which could offset any increases associated with traffic.

2.3 Key headline issues

- 2.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
 - Traffic and congestion have the potential to increase vehicular emissions and reduce air quality in the area (though low emissions vehicles could offset this to an extent).

¹⁰ AECOM report: Aylesbury Transport Strategy

2.4 Scoping outcome

- 2.4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is intending to allocate housing sites which will lead to more car journeys on the local roads network. This could potentially increase concentrations of particulates and nitrogen dioxide.
- 2.4.2 The scale of development associated with the plan is such that any additional effects, taken in isolation, are not predicted to be significant.
- 2.4.3 There are no Air Quality Managements Areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area; consequently, air quality has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process.

3. Biodiversity

Focus of theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats and species
- Geodiversity

3.1 Policy Context

- 3.1.1 At the European level, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**¹¹ 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*'.
- 3.1.2 The European Commission Guidance on **Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment**¹² (2013) suggests that a SEA should focus on ensuring 'no-net-loss of biodiversity' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of 'ecosystem services' and the links between natural environment and economy.
- 3.1.3 **The NPPF (2019)** states that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural environment including helping to improve biodiversity and using natural resources prudently. In support of this aim the framework states that plans should 'identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats' and should also 'promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.
- 3.1.4 The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**'¹³ (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the protection and promotion of biodiversity are as follows:
- Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside.
 - Achieve a good environmental status of the UK's seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.
 - Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.

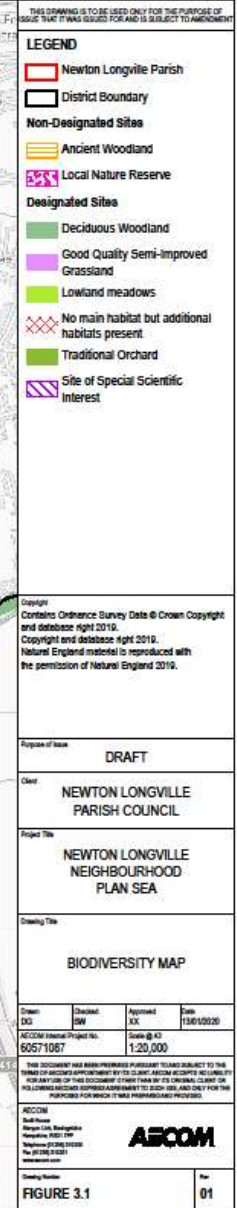
¹¹ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

¹² European Commission (2013) Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

¹³ Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

- 3.1.5 The **Biodiversity 2020 strategy**¹⁴(2011), published by the government, sets out objectives to deliver: a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, to put people at the heart of biodiversity policy, to reduce environmental pressures, an overall improvement in the status of species and prevention of further human-induced extinctions and improved public knowledge of biodiversity.
- 3.1.6 The government's **Draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill** includes provisions to maintain the level of environmental protection once the UK leaves the European Union. In March 2019 the government confirmed that new developments must deliver an overall increase in biodiversity in order to achieve a '**biodiversity net gain**'. This requirement was set out in the Environment Bill summer policy statement (July 2019).
- 3.1.7 The '**Forward 2020: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan**' (BAP) sets out a strategy to protect and enhance biodiversity in the region. It identifies and aims to protect key habitats and species in the region. The BAP aspires to '*an increase in overall extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000 ha*' by 2020.

¹⁴ Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

AECOM
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3.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

UK Protected Sites

- 3.2.1 Important areas of wildlife and habitat are conserved through legal designation in the UK. Protected sites are areas of land, inland water and the sea that have special legal protection to conserve important habitats and species. These include;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for Birds and
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs),
 - Within the UK sites that are nationally important for plants, animals or geological or physiographical features are protected by law as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- 3.2.2 There are no designated sites within the Newton Longville parish
- 3.2.3 There are no areas designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNR) or National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the NP area.

Priority habitats

- 3.2.4 Priority habitats can also be identified outside of SSSI under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) or Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreements or under the Forestry Commission (FC) 'Managed Woodland'.
- 3.2.5 There are some pockets of Woodland Priority Habitats of high spatial priority within the NP area. This includes an area of deciduous Woodland around Stoke Road Farm and the Rectory. A Further area to the East of Drayton Rd, behind the settlement boundary and opposite Moorfield, both of these are around 0.7 ha each (figure 3.1). There are tracts of Woodland Priority Habitat Network and Woodland Improvement areas to the North East of NP area (figure 3.1)
- 3.2.6 A large swathe (200 ha.) of the area to the South East of the NP area provides habitat for the Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*). This species is on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4) Red list which indicates severe depletion in UK breeding population over past 25 years. This is also a priority species under the UK post 2010 Biodiversity Framework. The Wildlife Trust advises preserving such habitats, stretching across town and country to allow wildlife to move about freely.

Summary of future baseline

- 3.2.7 Atmospheric pollution (such as acid precipitation and nitrogen deposition) and increased flood risk that may arise as a result of climate change, could pose a risk to the habitats and species present within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.2.8 Development in the Neighbourhood Plan area could place increased pressure on areas of biodiversity value due to land take for development and an increase in population. An increase in population is likely to lead to an increase in leisure and recreational pressure and increased demand for natural resources such as water. New development may lead to an increase in disturbance through human activity, loss of habitat, increased predation (e.g. from domestic pets), atmospheric, land and water based pollution. In the absence of a Plan, development would be guided by the local plan, and there might be a reliance on ad-hoc developments.
- 3.2.9 However, habitats and species are likely to continue to be afforded protection through higher level planning policy and whilst these areas face increasing pressures from future development, planning policy should safeguard the most valued areas and protect ecological networks.

3.3 Key headline issues

- 3.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- There are no NNR, LNR, SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, or Ramsar sites within or in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
 - There are several small areas of Woodland Priority Habitat and Woodland Improvement areas within the NP area. New development encroaching on these areas could lead to loss of habitats and associated biodiversity.
 - A large part of the NP area provides habitat for the Yellow Wagtail, a BoCC4 red list species. New development should be sensitively planned to maintain the connectivity of the ecological networks here. Sensitively planned development presents opportunities to implement biodiversity net gain and strengthen ecological networks.

3.4 Scoping outcome

- 3.4.1 The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED OUT** for the purposes of the SEA process. Whilst there is potential for localised effects, policies in the emerging VALP extend protection to areas of ancient woodland, mature trees and hedgerows.

4. Climatic factors (Flood risk and climate change)

Focus of theme:

- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Effects of climate change; and
- Flood risk
- Climate change adaptation.

4.1 Policy Context

- 4.1.1 **The EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy¹⁵ was adopted in 2013**, which supports greater coordination between areas, particularly on issues that cross borders such as river basins. A key principle is to ensure that those most likely to be affected by climate change are able to take the necessary measures to adapt.
- 4.1.2 The **Carbon Plan¹⁶ (2011)** sets out the Government's plans for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions committed to in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the first four carbon budgets. The Carbon Plan aims to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050, relative to levels in 1990.
- 4.1.3 As part of its environmental objective in achieving sustainable development, the **NPPF (2019)** contains a requirement to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. The Framework also states that the 'planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change'. To achieve these aims new development should be planned to ensure appropriate adaptation measures are included (including green infrastructure) and should be designed, located and orientated as to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.1.4 The Framework also seeks to direct development away from areas that are currently or likely in the future to be at highest risk of flooding. Where development is required in such areas, the 'development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere'.
- 4.1.5 The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018)¹⁷ sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. The actions proposed pertaining to managing and addressing flood risk and climate change are;
- Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

¹⁵ European Commission (2013) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy [online] available at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs/eu_strategy_en.pdf

¹⁶ DECC (2011) The Carbon Plan - reducing greenhouse gas emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-carbon-plan-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions--2>

¹⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

- 4.1.6 **The Clean Growth Strategy¹⁸ (2017)** sets out a blue print for a low carbon future by outlining proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy. Key aims include accelerating the shift to low carbon transport and homes and enhancing the benefits and value of natural resources by preserving and establishing new natural assets such as forests, minimising avoidable waste and managing emissions from landfill.
- 4.1.7 **The AVDC Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017)¹⁹ (SFRA)** considers all sites identified for potential allocation within the VALP. The SFRA informs the allocation of sites for future development and flood risk management policies, within the Vale of Aylesbury. The report concludes that fluvial flood risk is generally confined to the main river floodplains (Bear Brook & Upper Ouse tributaries) and areas in close proximity to watercourses. Surface water flooding is associated with watercourses throughout the district with higher proportion of flooding experienced in urban areas such as Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow and other villages. Groundwater risk is low for the majority of the district. The NP therefore should refer to the SFRA (or its most recent update) when allocating sites for development and setting Plan policies.
- 4.1.8 Where a Level 1 SFRA shows that land outside of flood risk areas cannot appropriately accommodate all the necessary development a Level 2 SFRA is required. Of the 294 sites assessed at the Level1 SFRA, 47 were taken forward for further assessment under **The AVDC Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017)²⁰ (SFRAL2)**. These sites were identified as 'at risk' and may be carried forward in the VALP. The assessment at Level 2 determines whether or not the NPPF Exception Test can be passed i.e. development can be safely accomplished. This involved detailed flood risk assessment for several sites within the Vale of Aylesbury, two of which are in the Newton Longville NP area; NLV001 and NLV008.²¹

4.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Greenhouse gas emissions

- 4.2.1 In relation to GHG emissions, source data shows that Aylesbury Vale (as a whole) has similar average per capita emissions as the rest of Buckinghamshire (Table 4.1). However, the transport related emissions figure for Aylesbury Vale is higher than the national per capita figure for Buckinghamshire and the nation average for England. The figures also show a trend of decreasing per capita emissions from all sources over the years. For example, the total per capita emissions figure for Aylesbury Vale in 2016 is around 34% lower for than it was in 2005.

¹⁸ DECC (2017) Clean Growth Strategy [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

¹⁹ <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SupportingEve/2016s3990%20-%20Aylesbury%20SFRA%20Level%201%20-%20Final%20v3%2008%2009%2017.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SupportingEve/2016s3990%20-%20Aylesbury%20SFRA%20Level%201%20-%20Final%20v3%2008%2009%2017.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SupportingEve/Level2/2016s3990%20-%20Aylesbury%20SFRA%20Level%202%20-%20Final%20v3%20%28Aug%202017%29.pdf>

Table 4.1: Per capita local CO₂ emission estimates; industry, domestic and transport sectors (kt CO₂)²²

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2016
Aylesbury							
Vale							
Industrial & Commercial	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.3
Domestic	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.7	1.6
Transport	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8
Total per capita	7.0	6.7	5.9	5.5	5.6	4.9	4.6
Buckinghamshire							
Industrial & Commercial	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.2
Domestic	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.9	1.8
Transport	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Total per capita	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.4	5.5	4.8	4.5
England							
Industrial & Commercial	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.6
Domestic	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.5
Transport	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Total per capita	7.2	6.9	6.1	5.7	5.7	4.9	4.9

²² National Statistics UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2016
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

Effects of climate change

4.2.2 Climate change projections for the United Kingdom published as part of the UKCP18²³ programme provide detailed probabilistic projections of climate change. Although there is uncertainty in climate change predictions; the projected general trend is a move towards warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur. The following changes are likely to have taken place by 2070s. The changes mentioned below relate to an area in central England based on the 10-90th percentile range (low to high emissions) of emission scenario²⁴:

- In UKCP18, the probabilistic projections provide local low, central and high changes across the UK, corresponding to 10%, 50% and 90% probability levels. These local values can be averaged over the UK to give a range of average warming between the 10% and 90% probability levels. By 2070, in the high emission scenario, this range amounts to 0.7°C to 4.2°C in winter, and 0.9°C to 5.4°C, in summer. For precipitation, corresponding ranges of UK average changes are -1% to +35% for winter, and -47% to +2% for summer, where positive values indicate more precipitation and negative values indicate reduced precipitation (drier summers).
- Hot summers are predicted to become more common, with the probability of a hot summer rising from the current 20-25% to up to 50% by the middle of the century.

4.2.3 Based on the above; in the future Newton Longville is likely to experience, a warmer climate, with drier summers and potentially wetter winters, which means that extreme events such as floods and droughts are likely to become less predictable and possibly more frequent.

Flood risk

4.2.4 Flood Zone 1 is defined as having a 'Low Probability' of flooding and incorporates areas where the annual probability of flooding is lower than 0.1% (a 1 in 1000 year flood event). Flood Zone 2 is defined as having a 'Medium Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of flooding between 0.1% and 1.0% for fluvial flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event) or 0.1% and 0.5% for tidal and coastal flooding (between a 1 in 1000 year and 1 in 100 year flood event). Flood Zone 3 is defined as having a 'High Probability' of flooding, with an annual probability of beyond 1.0% for fluvial floods and beyond 0.5% for tidal and coastal floods.

²³ Further information on the UKCP18 programme is available from: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp>.

²⁴ Projections from UKCP18 Climate Change Over Land, which correspond to two emissions scenarios (Low and High). The key characteristics of each of these scenarios are:

Medium emissions Scenario - describes a world that has rapid economic growth, quick spreading of new and efficient technologies, and a global population that reaches 9 billion mid-century and then gradually declines. It also relies on a balance between different energy sources.

High emissions Scenario - similar economic and population trends as the Medium emission scenario but more emphasis on power generation from fossil fuels.

Low emissions scenario - represents a more integrated ecologically friendly world, characterised by clean and resource efficient technologies, and lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

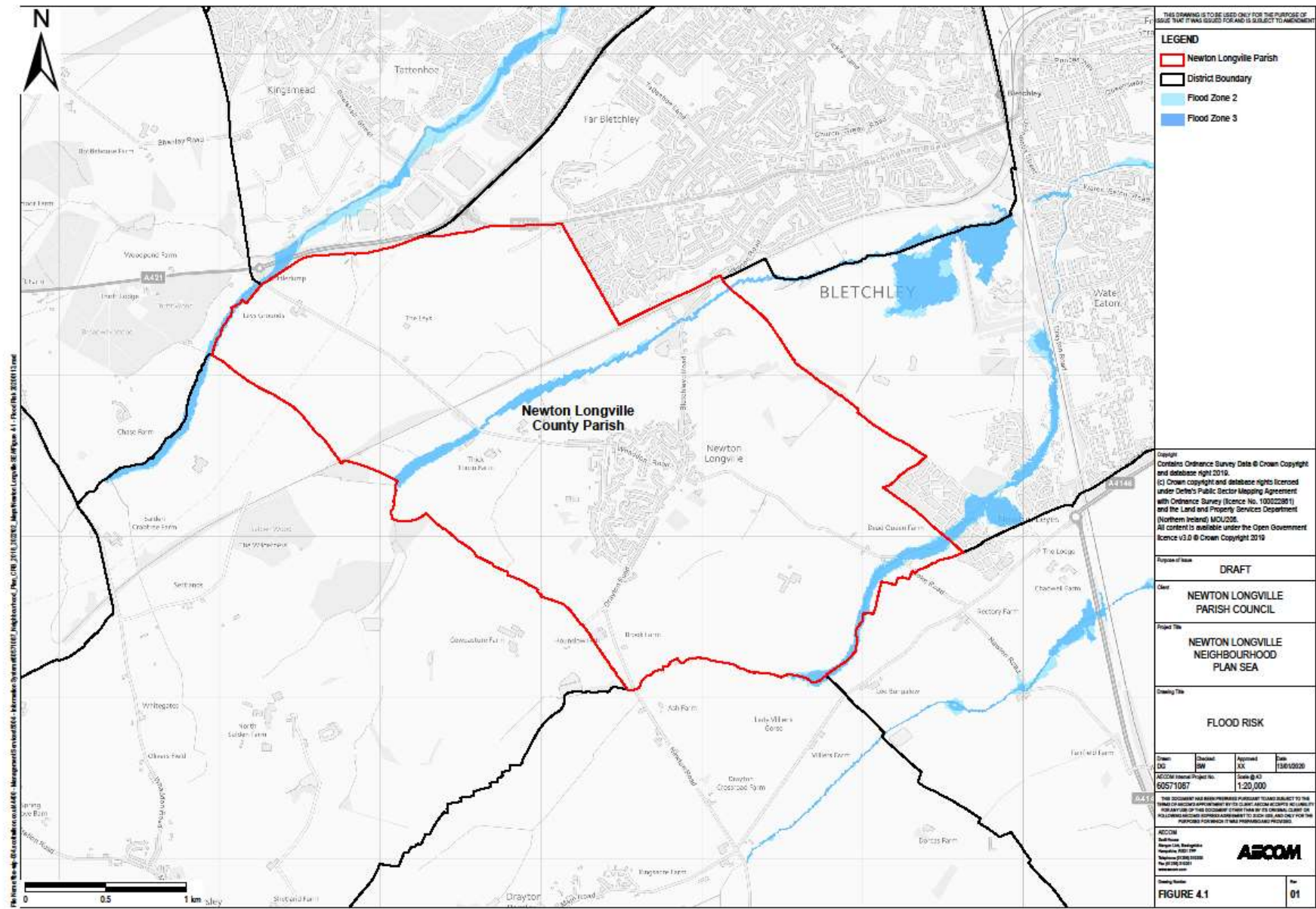
- 4.2.5 As illustrated in Figure 4.1, most of the Neighbourhood Plan area falls in Flood Zone 1. There are areas of Flood Zone 2 and Zone 3 along the River Ouzel corridor. Within the village, small pockets have been reported as being susceptible to surface water flooding. The most notable of these is to the north of the village where Water Eaton Brook (running east to west) is identified as a flood plain and is susceptible to surface water flooding²⁵.
- 4.2.6 The SFRAL2 considered two sites within the NP area. The first of these (NLV001) lies north of the parish, west of Far Bletchley, at the south western edge of Milton Keynes. The area is enclosed within the boundary of the A421 & A4034 and the disused railway and Whaddon Rd. It adjoins residential area of west Bletchley.
- 4.2.7 The second area within the parish assessed under the SFRA2 (NLV008) lies north of Stoke Rd. AVDC records show that a car park flooded on two previous occasions due to surface water here.

Climate change adaptation

- 4.2.8 There is no baseline information or data relating specifically to climate change adaptation. However, there is range of green infrastructure within the village of Newton Longville, for example, recreation grounds and allotments, that will benefit communities in terms of flood risk, hotter summers and wetter winters.

²⁵ The Vale of Aylesbury Newton Longville Fact Pack ;
https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/NEWTON-LONGVILLE03-05-2013.pdf

Figure 4-1 Flood Risk



Summary of future baseline

- 4.2.9 There is potential for climate change to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Such weather events are likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 4.2.10 In terms of the exacerbation of climate change, GHG emissions could decrease through the adoption of energy efficient measures and cleaner energy (especially in transport and industry, which is a key contributor in the NP area). However, increases in population and the number of households could counteract this.
- 4.2.11 Flood risk at any specific location may be influenced by local factors such as existing formal or informal flood defences and the capacity of existing drainage systems or road/rail culverts. The adoption of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and introduction of Green Infrastructure within development schemes may reduce the speed of surface water run-off and have positive effects in terms mitigating flood risk.
- 4.2.12 Development in any instance has the potential to exacerbate flood risk within and in the vicinity of the Neighbourhood Plan area by increasing the volume of surface water run-off, or by introducing areas of hard standing which could increase the speed of surface water run-off. The risk would be greatest where development is located in the close proximity to, Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3, areas.
- 4.2.13 In the absence of the Plan, there will still be a need to satisfy policy measures relating to flood risk management.

4.3 Key headline issues

- 4.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- Average CO₂ emissions per capita are declining in the Vale of Aylesbury District as a whole.
 - The Neighbourhood Plan area falls predominantly within Flood Zone 1, although a stretch of Flood Zone 2 and 3 runs along the river Ouzel corridor.
 - There is potential for surface water flooding to occur across the Neighbourhood Plan area, although areas susceptible to this are scattered between areas with low risk.
 - The likelihood of flooding from fluvial and non-fluvial sources could be exacerbated by development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, opportunities for mitigation exist in sustainable design and Sustainable Urban Drainage.

4.4 Scoping outcome

- 4.4.1 Climatic Factors have been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as climate change and flooding are an important national and local priority. There is the potential to explore how resilience to climate change can be enhanced as well as contributing towards flood risk mitigation.
- 4.4.2 With regards to climate change mitigation, it is unlikely that the Plan will have significant effects on levels of greenhouse gas emissions as the amount of growth involved is relatively minor. Furthermore, standards for energy and water efficiency are established nationally and at a Borough level. The scope for the Plan to deliver substantial improvements is therefore unlikely to be significant.

4.1 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climatic Factors SEA theme?

- 2.1.1. The SEA topic 'Climatic Factors' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 4.2 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 4.2: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Climatic Factors

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Support the resilience of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects on climate change including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage surface 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?

5. Historic environment

Focus of theme:

- Designated and non-designated sites, areas and features;
- The setting of heritage assets; and
- Archaeological features.

5.1 Policy Context

- 5.1.1 The **NPPF** (2019) sets out an environmental objective to contribute to protecting and enhancing the built and historic environment. The Framework provides a strategy to seek *‘the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect’*. It further states that 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.
- 5.1.2 Additionally, the **National Planning Policy Guidance** states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, *‘about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale’* and *‘about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions’*.
- 5.1.3 The Government’s **Statement on the Historic Environment for England**²⁶ (2010) sets out their 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. Also, of note is the reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government’s response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.
- 5.1.4 The emerging VALP **Policy BE1; Heritage Assets** seeks to conserve or enhance the historic environment. Developments are required to contribute to heritage values and local distinctiveness. Development likely to impact designated heritage assets must be fully assessed and supported by a heritage statements and/ or archaeological evaluations.

²⁶ DDCMS (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-governments-statement-on-the-historic-environment-for-england>

5.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1 As illustrated on Figure 5.1, the NP area has a rich historical environment, containing numerous features, many of which are recognised through statutory designations. This includes listed buildings which are nationally designated, and Conservation Areas designated at the local level.
- 5.2.2 There are twenty-two Grade II listed buildings and the Grade I listed Church of St Faith which dates back to the 12th Century. These heritage assets are concentrated in the village of Newton Longville.
- 5.2.3 There is a Conservation Area in the parish, centred around a small area of historic buildings in Newton Longville.

Heritage at Risk

- 5.2.4 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights some of the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. There are no heritage assets identified in the Heritage at Risk Register within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, as the Register does not cover all Grade II listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets, there may potentially be some locally important heritage assets at risk.

Conservation Areas

- 5.2.5 Conservation Areas are of special architectural and/or historic interest, the character of which is considered worthy of preservation and protection. The Church End Conservation Area (CECA) at Newton Longville is situated towards the north-east of the village around the junctions of Whaddon Road, Bletchley Road, Drayton Road and Stoke Road. The area is perceived as the nucleus of the village²⁷. The CECA contains two areas of distinct character; a cluster of historic development, vernacular in character focused upon the village green, and the more substantial buildings set within large plots at the north-eastern end of Drayton Road including the local landmark buildings of St. Faith's Church, the Old Rectory, Old Parsonage, Newton Longville Manor and St. Anne's Grange.

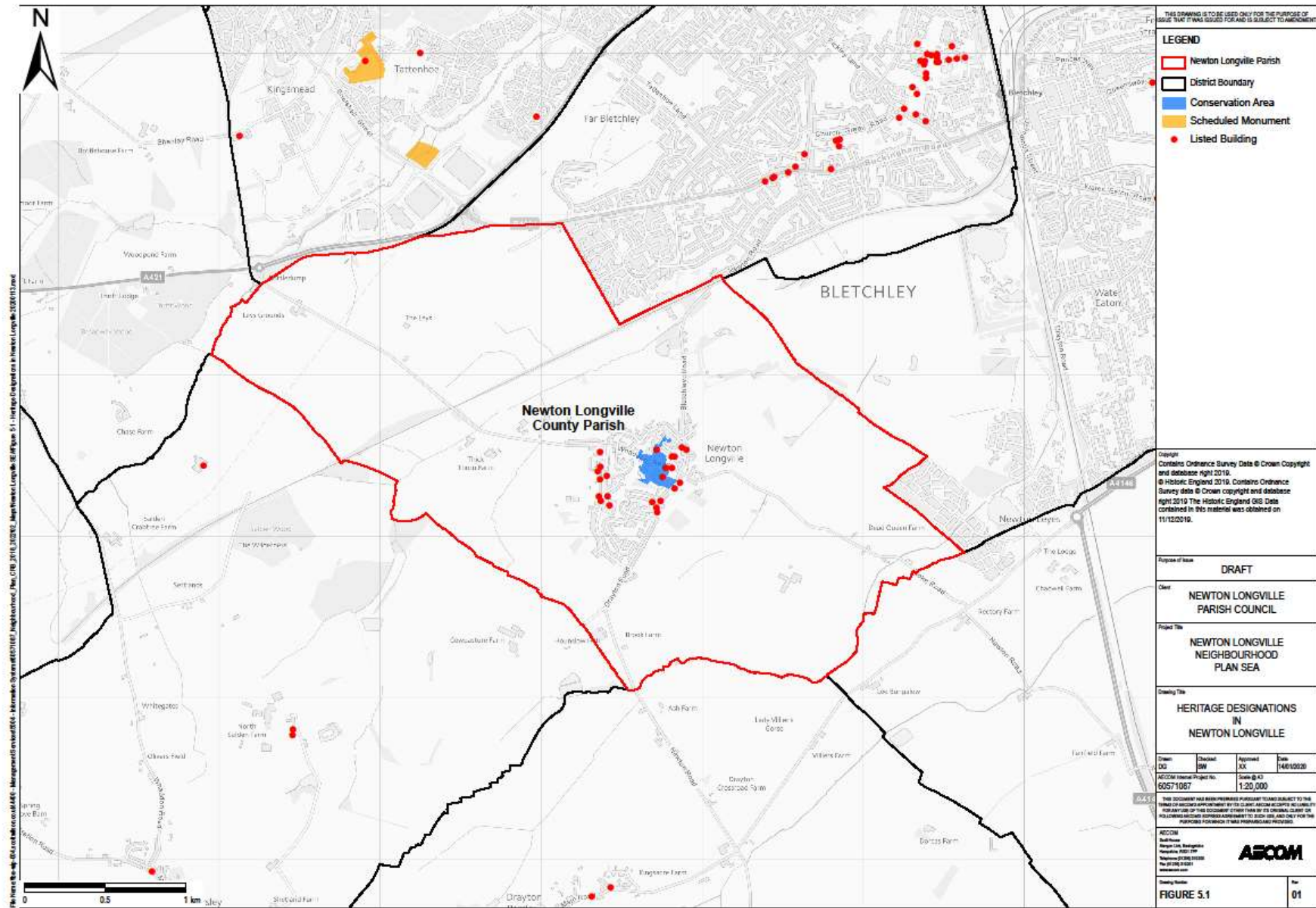
Archaeology and other historic records

- 5.2.6 There are over six hundred²⁸ archaeological and historical sites within the NP area. The majority being medieval and Roman, with the remainder primarily from the Iron age, bronze age and Anglo-Saxon. The area of St. Faith's Church and the Manor House is an "Archaeological Notification Area."

²⁷ Aylesbury Vale District Council: Newton Longville Conservation Area.

²⁸ https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/archi_new_search_engine.pl?search_location=TL%2013%2002&search_type=archi_town_search&pwd=freesearch@freese

Figure 5.1: Heritage designations in Newton Longville



Summary of future baseline

- 5.2.7 New development in the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets and upon the character of the townscape. This may lead to negative effects, such as the delivery of unsympathetic design and material choice. Conversely, it could lead to positive effects through redevelopment of derelict and underused land and buildings. In the absence of a plan, there is less of a planning direction for the Parish; meaning that negative effects may be more likely to occur.
- 5.2.8 It should be noted that historic environment designations and the historic environment based policies within the emerging VALP, would offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

5.3 Key headline issues

- 5.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a considerable number of heritage assets including listed buildings and a conservation area, which could be affected by policies and proposals within the plan (either positively or negatively).
 - An insensitive approach that does not seek to conserve and enhance heritage assets could result in the erosion of townscape quality.

5.4 Scoping outcome

- 5.4.1 Historic Environment has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the setting of heritage assets and the character of the built and natural environment.

5.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Historic Environment SEA theme?

- 5.5.1 The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 5.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 5.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Historic Environment

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? • Contribute to better management of heritage assets? • Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?

6. Landscape

Focus of theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality

6.1 Policy Context

6.1.1 The **NPPF** recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital. Importantly, great weight is to be given to protecting and enhancing landscapes and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

6.1.2 The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Actions proposed of relevance to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character are as follows:

- Working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements.
- Identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality.

6.1.3 The **AVDC & Buckinghamshire County Council Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (2008)** ²⁹ (**LCA**) identified 79 landscape character areas grouped within 13 landscape character types in Aylesbury Vale District. This was subsequently updated in 2015 in the **Landscape Advice to Aylesbury Vale DC report (2018)**.³⁰

6.1.4 The **Defining the Special Qualities of Local Landscape Designations in Aylesbury Vale District**³¹ report established the evidence base for the special qualities and values of locally designated landscapes within the district. The Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL) and Local Landscape Areas (LLAs).

²⁹https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Aylesbury%20Vale%20Landscape%20Character%20Assessment-Report-Final-May-2008.pdf

³⁰ LUC Report 2015

https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/VALP/Examination/Landscape/CD.ENV_002%20Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20and%20Sensitivity%20Advice%20to%20Aylesbury%20Vale%20DC%20%28LUC%2C%20March%202015%29.pdf

³¹ LUC Report 2016

https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/VALP/Examination/Landscape/CD.ENV_003%20Defining%20the%20special%20quality%20of%20local%20landscape%20designations%20in%20Aylesbury%20Vale%20District%20%28LUC%2C%20March%202016%29.pdf

- 6.1.5 The saved **Policies (RA8 and RA18) of the AVDLP 2004** and the emerging **VALP Policy NE5 Landscape character and locally important landscape** seek to protect areas of valuable landscape in district. Policy NE5 for example, requires development to have regard to the 2008 LCA and its subsequent updates. It sets out a set of criteria that development must consider, pertaining to the landscape character of the area. The Policy further states that areas of attractive landscape (AAL) have the greater significance than local landscape areas (LLAs). Development in AALs and LLAs should have particular regard to the character identified in the report 'Defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' (Final Report, 2016) and the LCA (2008). Development that adversely affects this character will not be permitted unless appropriate mitigation can be secured.

6.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

- 6.2.1 Aylesbury Vale is characterised by low lying vales and clay plateaus, interrupted by distinctive low hills and ridges. The landscape character types for Newton Longville is Landscape Character Type 04, defined as Undulating Clay Plateau. The LCA described the setting of Newton Longville as rolling clay farmland draining towards the River Ouzel catchment. The area lacks tree coverage and the landscape is interspersed with hedgerows and meandering streams and exposed ridges.
- 6.2.2 The LCA of 2008 and subsequent update in 2015 identified areas within the district according to the value of their landscape. Areas of particularly valuable landscape were categorised as either; areas of attractive landscape (AAL) or local landscape areas (LLAs). There are no AALs or LLAs³² in the NP area. However, there is an LLA just outside the boundary of the Parish to the North, abutting the A421 at Whaddon-Nash Valley.

Summary of future baseline

- 6.2.3 Higher level strategic policies (save policies of the 2004 adopted LP and the emerging VALP) will offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings. However, depending on the scale of development, a lack of overall vision and framework could result in the delivery of unsympathetic development styles, layouts and material choice. This could have a disruptive impact on the landscape through the lack of cohesive development. Development could also result in the loss of landscape features and visual impact. On the other hand, sensitive development presents an opportunity to enhance the existing townscape character of Newton Longville whilst respecting the key characteristics of the landscape.

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https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/VALP/Examination/Landscape/CD.ENV_003m%20Defining%20the%20special%20quality%20of%20local%20landscape%20designations%20in%20Aylesbury%20Vale%20District%20%28LUC%2C%20March%202016%29%20Maps.pdf

AECOM
37

6.3 Key headline issues

6.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- There are no nationally or locally designated landscape areas (LLA and AAL) within the NP boundary. Whaddon-Nash Valley, outside the NP area and adjacent to its northern boundary is designated as an LLA.
- The saved policies of AVDLP (2004) offer a degree of protection to landscape assets and their settings, but insensitive development could have a disruptive impact on landscape.

6.4 Scoping outcome

- 2.1.2. Landscape has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for significant effects upon the character of landscapes, which also contributes to the rural setting of the village.

6.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape SEA theme?

- 6.5.1 The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 6.1 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 6.1: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Landscape

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets? • Contribute to better management of landscape assets? • Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape? • Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of theme:

- Soil resource and quality;
- Watercourses;
- Water availability; and
- Water quality.

7.1 Policy Context

- 7.1.1 The EU's **Soil Thematic Strategy**³³ (2006) 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.
- 7.1.2 The **NPPF** states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued soil and the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Policies should also prevent new and existing development from '*contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution*'. The Framework further stresses the importance for development to have adequate provision for water supply and wastewater. It also asserts that development should not have any detrimental effects on water quality.
- 7.1.3 In **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England**³⁴ (2009), a vision is set out for the future of soils in the country. It suggests that changing demands on our soils need to be better understood and it must be ensured that appropriate consideration is given to soils in the planning process.
- 7.1.4 The **Future Water**³⁵ strategy (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 7.1.5 The Government's '**A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment**' (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. This includes using and managing land sustainably by protecting the best agricultural land, improving soil health and restoring and protecting peatlands. This also includes respecting nature by using our water more sustainably and requiring developments to bring about a net environmental gain which can include water quality.

³³ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Strategy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm

³⁴ 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>

³⁵ Defra (2011) Future Water – The government's water strategy for England [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-water-the-government-s-water-strategy-for-england>

- 7.1.6 **The Water Cycle Study 2017 (WCS)**³⁶ assesses the potential water/ waste water and drainage infrastructure related constraints, to future development within the district. The Phase 1 report is meant to inform the development planning within the district. The study was undertaken jointly with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Anglian Water. The report highlights the fact that the area is in a “serious” water-stress region. The report also assesses the sites allocated under the VALP in terms of how they might impact on the water/wastewater/ drainage infrastructure in the area. Using a Red/Amber/Green traffic light system (RAG) the included 8 sites within Newton Longville, all of which were rated Red with respect to the surface water network’s capacity to cope with the additional demands generated by development here.

7.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Soil resources

- 7.2.1 The Agricultural Land Classification categorises land into six 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.
- 7.2.2 As illustrated on figure 7.2, the Neighbourhood Plan area comprises a mix of non-agricultural land (urban use and other non-agricultural use) with two parcels of agricultural land located to the south west and to the east of the NP area. The majority of this is classified as Grade 3b (moderate quality) with approximately 28 hectares of Grade 3a (good quality) agricultural land.

³⁶ <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/water-cycle-study-2017>

Figure 7-1 Agricultural Land Classification

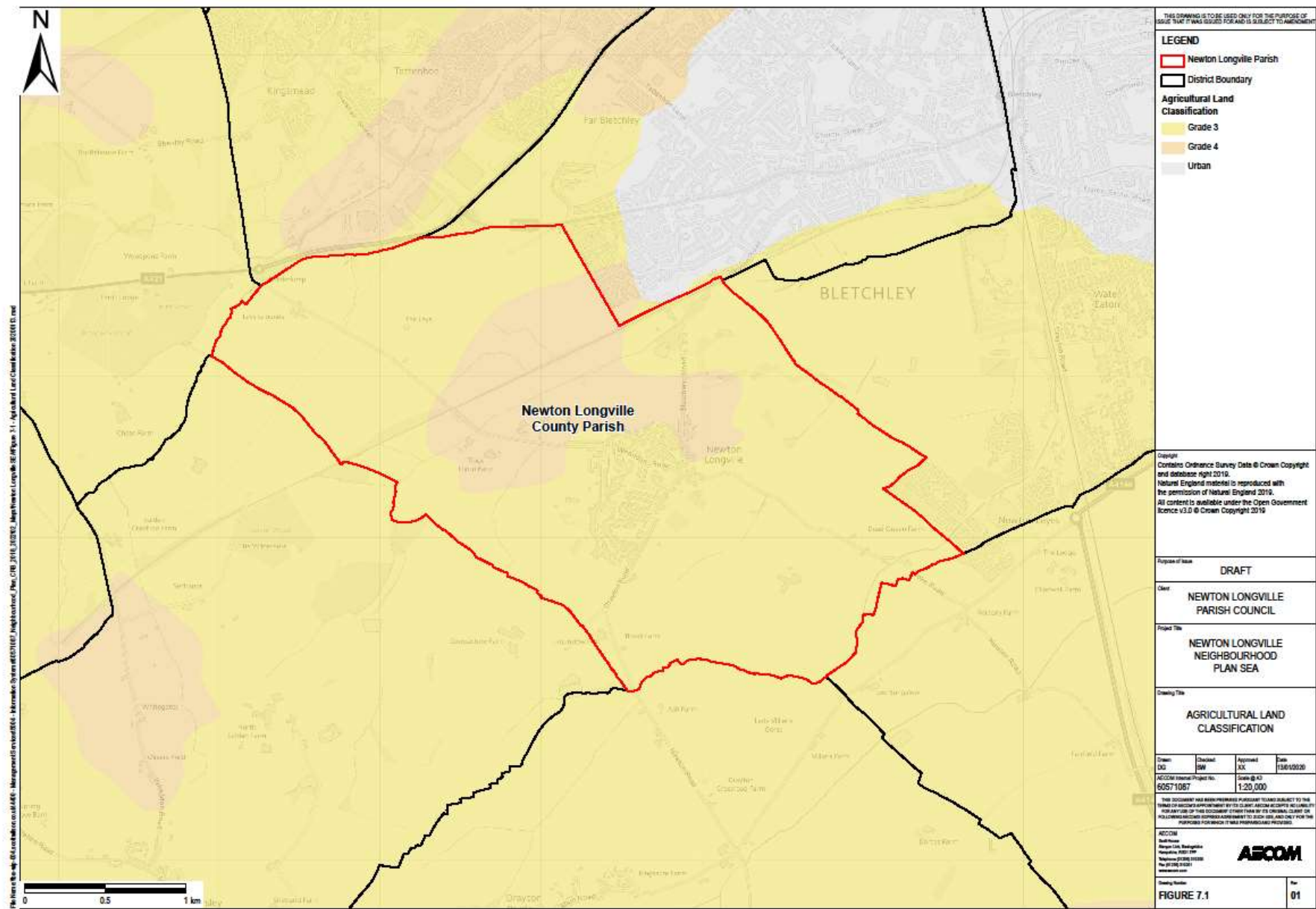
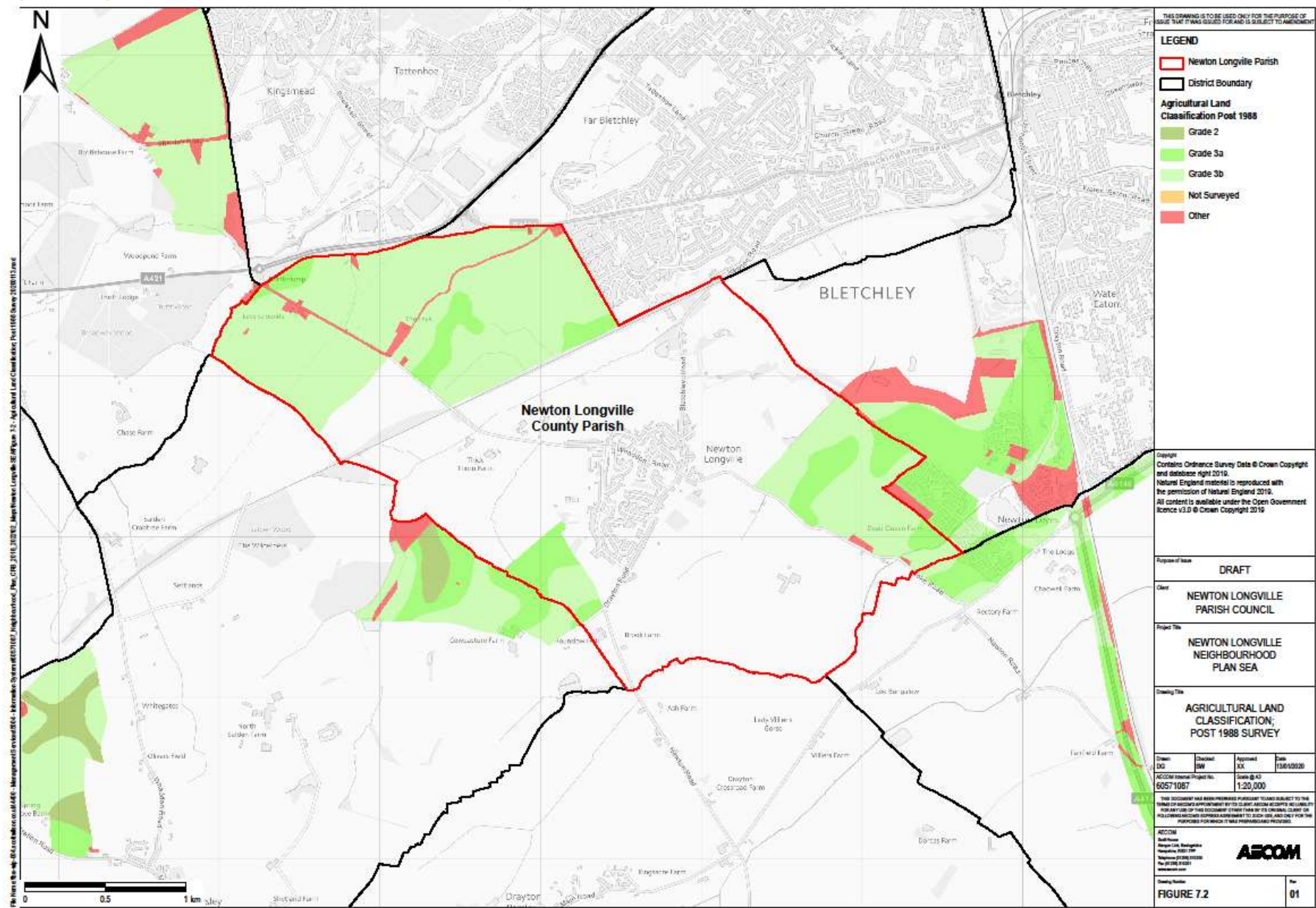


Figure 7-2 Agricultural Land Classification - Post 1988 Survey



Watercourses

- 7.2.3 The NP area falls within the River Ouzel catchment (Ouzel and Milton Keynes Operational Catchment). The Newton Longville Brook branches off the Ouzel in Bletchley and runs along the southern boundary of the NP area.
- 7.2.4 The Environment Agency classifies Newton Longville Brook as Overall 'Poor'.³⁷ It is also in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), indicating it is polluted by Nitrates. This is primarily due to fertiliser contaminated run off from agriculture.

³⁷ Source Environment Agency Catchment Explorer

Water availability

- 7.2.5 The WCS considered 8 potential development sites in Newton Longville and assessed them in terms of impact on water resources over 5 and 15 year time frames. The RAG assessment identified all sites within Newton Longville as Green indicating that water resources are not forecast to be of concern over the period 2017-2032. However, in terms of the wider region, the Environment Agency has classified the Anglian Water region as an area of "serious" water stress.

7.2.6 Water quality

- 7.2.7 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been designated 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. There are no such zones designated by the Environment Agency in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

- 7.2.8 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.

- 7.2.9 The whole of Newton Longville lies within an NVZ (ref. Surface Water 391 – Great Ouse NVZ). The 2016 EA datasheet for this NVZ³⁸ states that the surface waters in Great Ouse Catchment are currently polluted (using NVZ method) and there in total 59 polluted sample points in the entire NVZ. More recent monitoring data from 2017 shows an improvement and the EA modelling assessment has low confidence that the water remains polluted. However, the EA assessment considers that overall the water is still affected by pollution or could become affected therefor it has retained the existing designation. Agriculture is cited as the main contributor to Nitrate pollution in this NVZ.

³⁸ The Environment Agency: Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) designation 2017 - Surface Water NVZ ID: S391 NVZ Name: Great Ouse NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

- 7.2.10 In terms of water quality; requirements set out in the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. However, water quality could be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.
- 7.2.11 The potential development sites in the NP area are not in a water stressed area. However, when taken as a whole, the Anglian Water region is considered to be in water stress. Therefore, water availability in wider area may be adversely impacted by increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.
- 7.2.12 Development which requires sewage treatment may, if not designed correctly or located appropriately, result in an increased risk of pollution to groundwater and surface water. Development will therefore need to have due consideration to the capacity of sewage works.
- 7.2.13 With regards to soil, there is relatively little grade 3a agricultural land in the NP area making it unlikely that large amounts of BMV agricultural land would be lost to development. However, it might be possible that higher grades of land are affected with un-planned, ad hoc growth.

7.3 Key headline issues

7.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Plan area consists of mainly Grade 3 agricultural land. The majority is Grade 3b with small parcels of 3a which are classed as best and most versatile (BMV) land.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area falls within nitrate vulnerable zones.

7.4 Scoping outcome

- 7.4.1 The topic of 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA, as the Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on soil / agricultural land and water quality.
- 7.4.2 There are important soil resources in the Plan area that ought to be avoided as much as possible. However, there is little Grade 3a and higher grade agricultural land in the area. In view of the limited scale of development, loss of agricultural land is not likely to be significant. This does not mean that higher quality agricultural land should not be protected though, and such principles will need to be addressed through the site assessment process.
- 7.4.3 Despite the Plan area being covered by a nitrate vulnerable zone, it is considered unlikely that significant effects upon water quality would occur as a result of the Plan. The scale of growth is not major, and changes to land use would not be anticipated to increase nitrate pollution (in fact it could be reduced).
- 7.4.4 In terms of water supply availability, the NP will be subject to the water efficiency requirements stipulated in the emerging SACDLP.
- 7.4.5 With regards to waste water treatment and drainage, the scale of growth would not be expected to cause issues to existing and planned infrastructure, and so significant effects in this respect are also unlikely.

8. Population and Housing

Focus of theme:

- Population size;
- Age structure;
- Housing delivery and needs;
- Housing tenure;
- Housing affordability.

8.1 Policy Context

- 8.1.1 The **NPPF** contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to ‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations’. It further emphasises the need for homes to be of a size, type and tenure to meet needs of different social groups, with at least 10% of new homes to be provided for affordable home ownership subject to conditions and exemptions.
- 8.1.2 In February 2017, the Government published a housing white paper entitled ‘**Fixing our broken housing market**’. This establishes the government’s plans to reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes in England through a series of four proposals. These including planning for the right homes in the right places, building homes faster, diversifying the house building market and supporting people in need of housing.
- 8.1.3 The emerging VALP housing allocations are based on AVDC’s Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) version 4 (2017)³⁹. This provides the evidence base to inform Local Plans. The study identified a potential capacity for 25,571 dwellings on 234 sites and 584,712 m² of floorspace for economic development on 65 sites to be delivered in Aylesbury Vale up to 2033. The number of deliverable units rises to 26,872 when windfall sites and development with current planning permissions are taken into account. 10,336 of these are deliverable within the first 5 years of the plan and 16,536 within years 6-15.
- 8.1.4 The Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)⁴⁰ Update 2016 and subsequent Addendum Report of 2017 established the Economic Development Needs and Full Objectively Assessed Need for Market Housing and Affordable Housing across Aylesbury. This produced a figure of 19,400 dwellings required in Aylesbury Vale for the period 2013-2033, 4,200 of the total requirement needs to be affordable housing.

³⁹ Aylesbury Vale District Council; <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/housing-economic-land-availability-assessment-helaa>

⁴⁰ Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment Update 2016 (Addendum report Sept. 2017)

- 8.1.5 The settlement hierarchy proposed in the emerging VALP; Newton Longville is included in two settlement categories. Firstly under 'land adjacent to Milton Keynes (area falls within Newton Longville and Stoke Hammond parishes) where a development of 2,212 units is allocated (357 completed/committed leaving 1855 allocations). Secondly under the Villages category as Newton Longville settlement where 48 units are required of which 31 have been completed/ committed leaving a remaining allocation of 17. Furthermore, the VALP states that Newton Longville has; 'an excess of suitable HELAA sites beyond a reasonable amount for a medium village, and so the most sustainable site(s) has been selected at these locations'.

8.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Population size and age structure

- 8.2.1 The population of Newton Longville Parish was 1,846⁴¹ in 2011. In 2017, the population was estimated to be 2,018 which represents around 9.3% growth since 2011⁴². The 2011 census showed that the resident population of 1,846 lived in 813 dwellings.
- 8.2.2 Table 8.1 shows the age structure of the local population and that of the Vale of Aylesbury as a whole, alongside the national data for England. It is apparent that Newton Longville has significantly lower percentage of residents in the 25-44 age group than Aylesbury Vale and England as a whole. Similarly, the 0-14 and 15-24 age groups are lower in the Parish than the corresponding figures for the region and England. Conversely, the 45-64 and the 65 plus age groups are significantly higher than the corresponding regional and national figures. The difference in the proportion of the 65+ age group is particularly strikingly; being 27.2% for Newton Longville compared to 16.7% for the region and 18% for England. This clearly demonstrates there is a significantly higher proportion of older (65+) residents compared to; Aylesbury Vale and England as a whole.

⁴¹ 2011 Census

⁴² ONS Parish Population estimates mid-2002 to mid-2017.

Table 8-1 Age Structure in 2017 (ONS Population Estimates)

Age group	Newton Longville	Aylesbury Vale	England
0-14	15.4%	19.5%	18.1%
15-24	8.3%	10.6%	12.0%
25-44	17.8%	26.2%	26.4%
45-64	31.3%	27.0	25.6%
65+	27.2%	16.7	18.0%
Total population	2,018	196,020	55,619,430

8.2.3 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan 2013 -2033 In terms of strategic housing allocations; AVDC's emerging VALP allocates two sites; NLV001 and NLV005. The former is for 1855 homes at Saldon Chase (referred to as South West Milton Keynes by the developers) and the latter is for a further 17 units at Land south of Whaddon Rd and west of Lower Rd. The total strategic housing allocation therefore is 1872 units⁴³. The Saldon Chase allocation is a 143.9 ha site. Of the 1855 units planned here, 100 homes are to be delivered in 2017-2022 and 1,755 homes to be delivered in 2023-2033. The development has an outline planning permission for a mixed-use sustainable urban extension (SUE).

8.2.4 Other than the above, there were 31 completions/ commitments in the Parish as of May 2019. Adding the units allocated to recent/ current completions and commitments produces a total of 1903 homes up to 2033. A summary of strategic allocations and commitment/ completions is shown in table 8.2.

Table 8-2 Strategic Housing Allocations

Site	dwelling	Completions/ Commitments
Saldon Chase development NLV001	1,855	
Land south of Whaddon Rd and west of Lower End NLV005	17	
Total completions (since 2013)		7
Total Commitments		24
Total allocations and completions/ commitments	1872	31

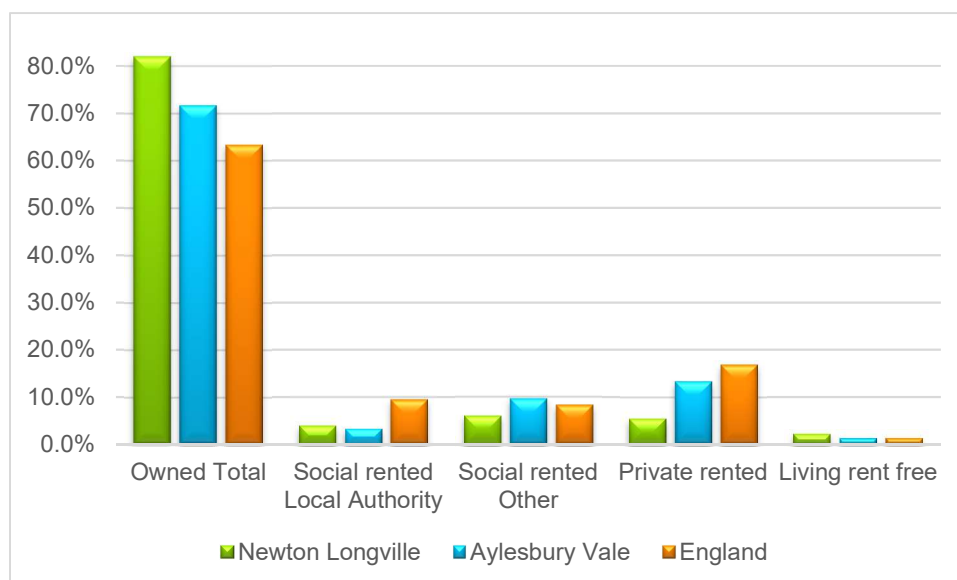
⁴³ VALP 2013-2033 Proposed Modifications Nov. 2019

- 8.2.5 The NLPC intends to allocate housing sites within the NLNP to deliver around 50 homes. The Parish Council's objective in preparing the NP is to conserve the identity and community of Newton Longville whilst pro-actively making provision for appropriate development in the village.

Tenure

- 8.2.6 In terms of housing tenure; the majority of homes are owner occupied (82%) which is substantially higher than the 71.6% at County level (figure 8.2) and national level for England (63.3%) as a whole. The level of social (local authority) rents (4%) is similar to that for Aylesbury Vale (3.4%), both of which are significantly lower than the average for England (9.4%). Privately rented property is notably lower (5.5%) than that figure for Aylesbury Vale (13.3%) and England (16.8%).

Figure 8-1 Housing Tenure – Percentage of Households



Affordability

- 8.2.7 The average house price in the NP area for the period September 2018 to September 2019 are shown in figure 8.3. The average house price for Newton Longville was £375,912 compared to £448,026 for Stoke Hammond and £305,939 for Milton Keynes. The latest UK House Price Index shows the average house price in the UK is around £234,370.⁴⁴ Therefore, the average house price in the NP area is 60% higher than the UK average.

⁴⁴ UK House Price Index <http://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi>

Figure 8-2 House Prices⁴⁵

Settlement	Average Sale Price
Newton Longville	£375,912
Tattenhoe	£336,681
Stoke Hammond	£448,026
Milton Keynes	£305,939
Bletchley	£280,044

- 8.2.8 Figure 8.4 reproduces the projections of the Buckinghamshire HEDNA⁴⁵. This shows the highest projected demand (around 52% of total) is for 3 bedroom dwellings. This reflects the situation in Newton Longville where demand for such dwellings currently exceeds supply. There is a shortage of smaller properties suitable for first-time buyers and older down-sizers.

Figure 8-3 Projected Housing needs for Aylesbury Vale 2013-2033⁴⁶

Sector	Flat		House				Total
	1 Bed	2+ Bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed	5+ Beds	
Market Housing	560	530	1940	7920	3200	1050	15200
Total Market Housing							15200
Affordable Housing	360	250	1530	1650	410	-	4200
Total Affordable Housing							4200
Total Housing Requirement							19400
Affordable Rent	330	200	1250	1330	390	-	3500
Total Affordable Rent							3500
Intermediate Housing	30	50	280	320	20		700
Total Intermediate Housing							700
% of affordable housing							17%

Source: Buckinghamshire HEDNA 2016 update addendum report 2017

⁴⁵ Source: [rightmove.co.uk](https://www.rightmove.co.uk) Average house prices updated 3rd Sept. 2019

⁴⁶

https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Buckinghamshire%20HEDNA%20Update%20Addendum%20Report%20%28September%202017%29.pdf

Summary of future baseline

- 8.2.9 Population trends in the Neighbourhood Plan area show a growing and an ageing population. This is demonstrated by the notably higher than average 65+ age group and significantly lower than average 25-44 age group.
- 8.2.10 The emerging VALP allocates two housing sites with 1872 dwellings for the period 2013 to 2033.
- 8.2.11 In terms of housing typology, the HEDNA derived housing needs for Aylesbury as a whole, shows that demand for 3 bedroomed dwellings is forecast to significantly exceed that for other types of dwellings. This is likely to be reflected in the substantial development planned at Saldon Chase.

8.3 Key headline issues

- 8.3.1 The key issues are as follows:
- The proportion of older residents (65+) is significantly higher in the NP area compared to the regional and national average.
 - The population of Newton Longville is likely to significantly increase due to the Saldon Chase development allocated at strategic level in the emerging VALP.
 - Average house prices in the NP area are significantly higher than the national average. This makes it particularly difficult for first time buyers to find housing in the area.
 - The large proportion of older residents will require a commensurate level of smaller, adapted dwellings, suitable for older residents to ensure this group is able to continue living in the NP area. This will have the added effect of releasing larger properties into the market and reducing under occupancy.

8.4 Scoping outcome

- 8.4.1 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as the Plan will influence housing delivery and the delivery of other infrastructures and services that are required to deliver and sustain sustainable communities.

8.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Housing SEA theme?

- 8.5.1 The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 8.4 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

**Table 8.4: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions:
Population and Housing**

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs of different community groups? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives? • Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities? • Enhance housing provision in existing communities?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation; and
- Influences on health and wellbeing.

9.1 Policy Context

- 9.1.1 The **NPPF** contains as part of its three overall overarching objectives, a social objective to ‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities... by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment’. It also states that ‘access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities.
- 9.1.2 The Framework further outlines that the planning system should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places that are designed to promote social interactions, are safe and accessible and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- 9.1.3 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (**‘The Marmot Review’**)⁴⁷ (2011) 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.
- 9.1.4 The Government’s **‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’** (2018) sets out a series of goals for improving the environment and how they will work with communities and businesses over the next 25 years to achieve them. Relevant proposals include connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing by:
- Using green spaces including through mental health services.
 - Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with focus on disadvantaged areas.
 - Greening our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees.
 - Making 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with ‘Step Up To Serve’ and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.

⁴⁷ 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>

9.1.5 The **Buckinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021**⁴⁸ (JHWS) vision is; *'to create the best conditions in Buckinghamshire for people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives and achieve their full potentials.'* The strategy states that although the health and care system in region is under pressure, Buckinghamshire residents benefit from good access to high quality health and care services relative to the rest of England. However, this does not extend to all the community. Five key priorities are identified;

- Give every child the best start in life
- Keep people healthier for longer and reduce impact of long terms conditions
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for everyone.
- Protect residents from harm
- Support communities to enable people to achieve their potential and ensure Buckinghamshire is a great place to live.

9.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Health indicators

9.2.1 According to the Public Health England (PHE)⁴⁹ area profile for Aylesbury Vale, the average life expectancy for males is 80.9 and for females 84.2. For comparison the average life expectancy figures for England are 79.6 and 83.1 for males and females respectively. In the main; the region scores better than average on health indicators. Whilst PHE health data is not currently provided at Parish level, ward level health data is available for Newton Longville and Great Brickhill (E05010341)⁵⁰. This shows life expectancy to be 81.6 for males and 85.2 for females, which is higher still than the corresponding figures for Aylesbury Vale and England as a whole.

- The under 75 mortality rate is significantly better in the Newton Longville (and Great Brickhill ward) than the national average. The score for the ward is 70.7 (deaths per 100,000 resident population) which is significantly lower than the average figure for England (100).
- Similarly, the Ward performs better than or similar to the average for England on all the PHE indicators.

9.2.2 There are two hospitals within short distance (4 miles) from the centre of the NP area. Milton Keynes Hospital and BMI The Saxon Clinic. The nearest A&E unit is at Milton Keynes Hospital around 4 miles away.

9.2.3 In terms of GP surgeries in the NP area; the nearest are within Bletchley, north of the village; Whaddon House Surgery, Water Eaton Health Centre, Parkside Medical Centre and Drayton Rd. Surgery. All are within a radius of 2 miles from the village.

⁴⁸ <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4509402/jhws2017april.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/1/qid/1000049/pat/6/par/E12000006/ati/201/are/E07000240>

⁵⁰ Public Health England, Local Health ; E05010341 – Great Brickhill & Newton Longville

- 9.2.4 Access to open space and green infrastructure is widely recognised to have a positive effect on health by encouraging and facilitating outdoor activity. The most accessible green spaces in the NP area are those located within Newton Longville. These include the recreation grounds (5 ha) and allotments (1.5 ha) adjoining Longville Hall. The village is surrounded by open countryside and farmland and there is a network of footpaths running through the village connecting it to the surrounding countryside. featuring woodland, rivers, ponds, fields, footpaths and bridleways.

Deprivation

- 9.2.5 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD2019) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below.

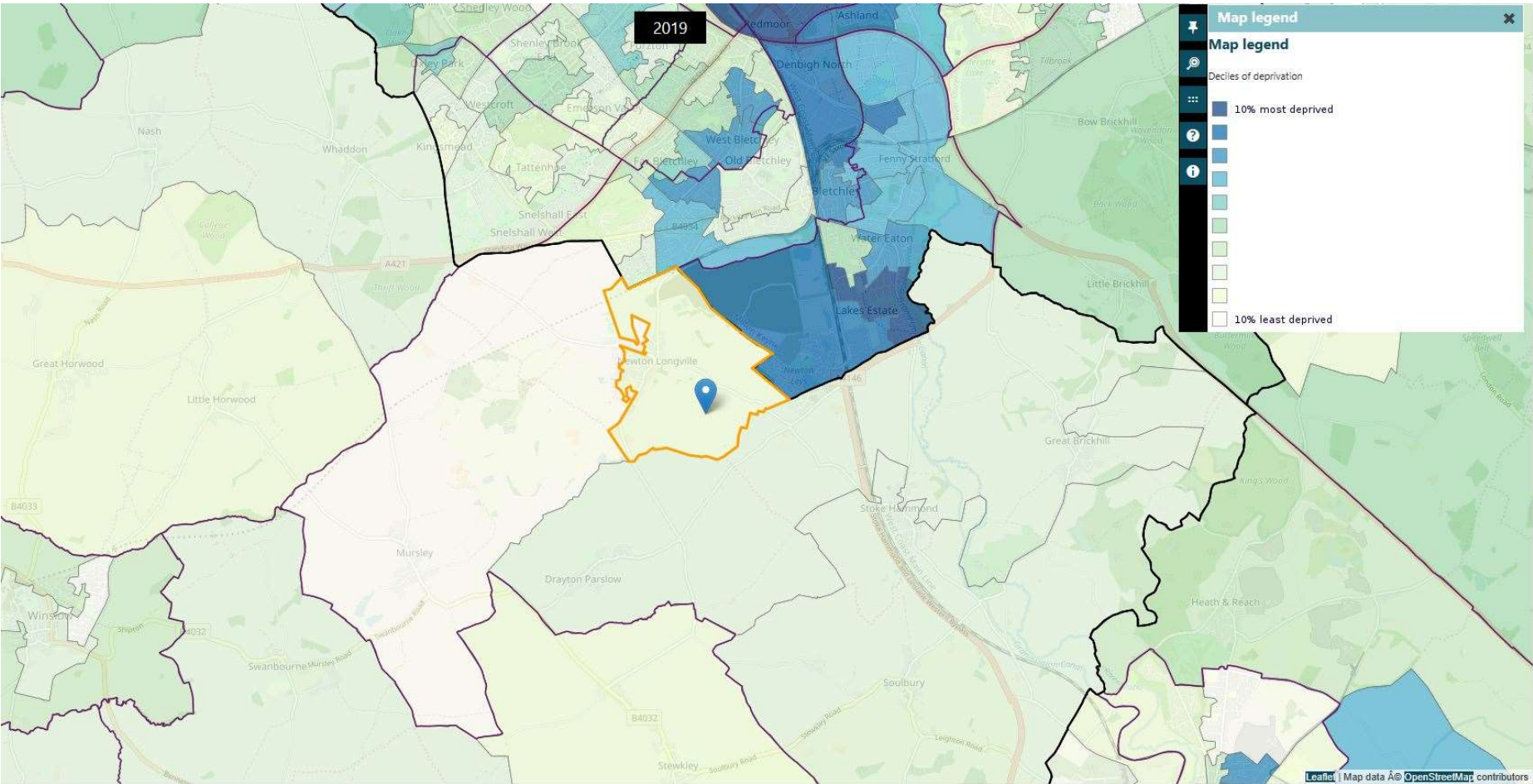
- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work.
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness / disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, including the quality of housing stock, air quality and road traffic incidents.

Two indices, subsets of the Income deprivation domain, are also included:

- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

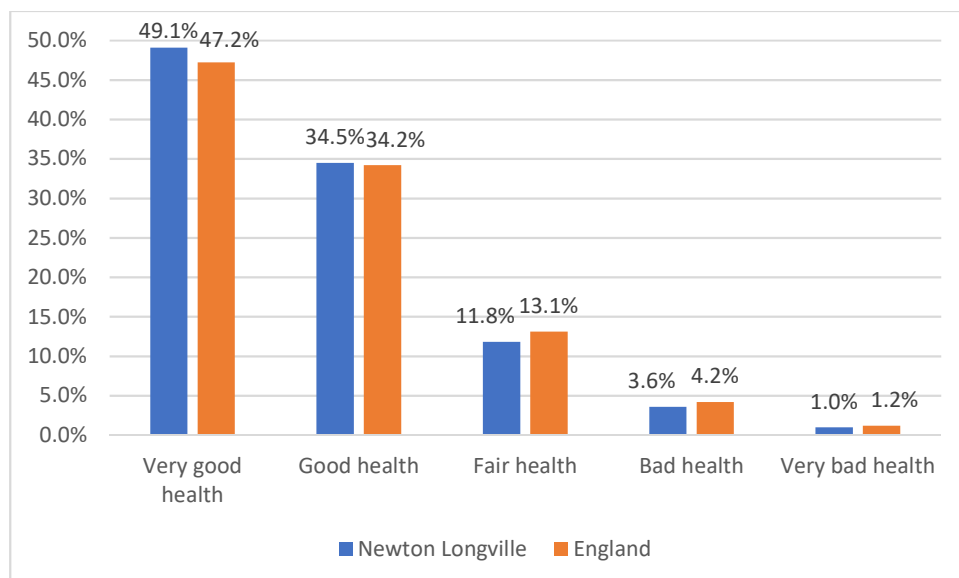
- 9.2.6 As illustrated in Figure 9.1 below, most of the NP area falls within the 20%-10% least deprived areas in England. However, the neighbouring ward of Bletchley East; adjacent to Parish boundary (east and north east of the village) falls within the 20% most deprived areas in England.
- 9.2.7 As there is a strong correlation between deprivation and health, this corroborates the findings of the health profile of the area showing a higher than average level of health and wellbeing.

Figure 9.1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019



- 9.2.8 A self-assessment of health by residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area indicates that most residents in Newton Longville consider themselves to be in Good to Very Good health (49% and 34.5%). Only 3.6% of residents consider their health to be bad and 1% consider their health to be very bad (Figure 9.2).
- 9.2.9 These trends are very similar to the national pattern for England with the exception being that Newton Longville has a smaller proportion of residents that consider themselves to have fair health (11.2%) compared to the National average (13.1%).

Figure 9.2: Residents General Health (Census 2011: KS301EW)



Summary of future baseline

- 9.2.10 It is likely that with increased population growth there will be a higher demand for health, fitness and leisure facilities within Newton Longville. The growth in the 65+ age group is likely to increase pressure on health and social care services and facilities in the NP area.

9.3 Key headline issues

- 9.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- Newton Longville has a broadly healthy population with higher than national average life expectancy.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has lower than average levels of deprivation.
- There are several healthcare facilities within 2-4 miles from the NP area.
- The NP area has substantial green and open space.
- The trend of an increasingly ageing population will require additional provision for health and social care services.

9.4 Scoping outcome

- 9.4.1 Given the good levels of health enjoyed by residents of the NP area and low levels of deprivation the SEA topic 'Health and Wellbeing' has been **SCOPED OUT**.

10. Transportation

Focus of theme:

- Transportation infrastructure;
- Accessibility; and
- Modes of travel

10.1 Policy Context

- 10.1.1 The **NPPF** (2019) requires that 'transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making'. The scale, location and density of development should reflect 'opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure'. To help reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health the planning system should focus significant development 'on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes'. The Framework also requires that planning policies support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to further help reduce the need to travel as well as the provision of high quality walking and cycling network.

10.1.2 The **Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 4**⁵¹ **2016-2036** (adopted April 2016) sets out the council's vision and policies for transport in the region and how these will help to '*make Buckinghamshire a great place to live and work*'. It covers all modes of transport for the period 2016-2036. The objectives of the LTP are;

- Connected Buckinghamshire; Provide well-connected, efficient transport network linking to key national and international destinations.
- Growing Buckinghamshire; Securing good road, public transport, cycle and walking infrastructure and service provision.
- Healthy, Safe and Sustainable Buckinghamshire; Improve resident's health and quality of life by promoting sustainable travel and access to opportunities to improve health.
- Empowered Buckinghamshire, Allow all to access educational, work and social opportunities. Increase opportunities by enabling local transport solutions.

The Plan highlights the significant pressure on the transport system anticipated due to the housing growth forecast of 50,000 new dwellings over the 20-year period 2013-33. It also identifies the likely growth pressure from neighbouring local authorities.

10.1.3 Phase One of HS2 (currently undergoing a review) is anticipated to have a significant impact on the region. If it goes ahead, it will run for approximately 60kms from the Colne Valley in south Buckinghamshire to Westbury & Turweston in north Buckinghamshire. Similarly, The East West Rail project will provide train services between Milton Keynes, Oxford, London Marylebone, and Aylesbury.

10.1.4 Highways England is investigating the possibility of an Oxford–Cambridge Expressway; this would cross the county linking Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge from the M4 to the M11.

⁵¹ <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/ltp4-2018.pdf>

- 10.1.5 Buckinghamshire County Council's **Rights of way Improvement Plan (2020-2020)**⁵² plan sets out the priorities and actions to improve Buckinghamshire's public rights of way over the next 10 years. The plan aims to provide a high quality, well maintained public rights of way network to help open up access to the countryside. Another objective is to help people make active lifestyles and sustainable travel choices.
- 10.1.6 The emerging **VALP Policy T1** places particular emphasis on encouraging modal shift with greater use of more sustainable forms of transport and improving the safety of all road users. The Policy seeks to ensure that new housing and employment development identified in the Local Plan period does not create a significant negative impact on the highway and public transportation network.

10.2 Baseline Summary

Summary of current baseline

Infrastructure

- 10.2.1 Newton-Longville lies between the A421 and A4146, both of which run through Bletchley and Milton Keynes. The village is crossed by two main roads in the form of Bletchley Rd./Drayton Rd. and Whaddon Rd./ Stoke Rd. These link the Parish to Drayton Parslow (south), Bletchley (north), Stoke Hammond (east) and Whaddon (west). The village roads are often used as rat-runs by drivers travelling between the A421 and A4146, resulting in high volumes of traffic crossing through the Parish with drivers frequently exceeding speed limits in the village.

Accessibility

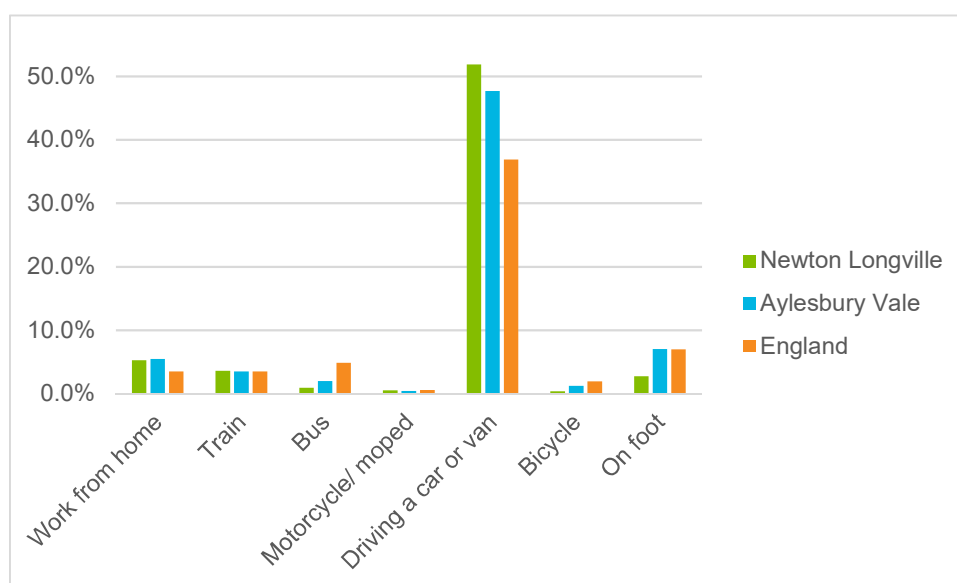
- 10.2.2 The nearest train station is Bletchley, around 3 miles away. Central Milton Keynes (CMK) train station is around 6 miles away. There is a regular service between Bletchley and CMK.
- 10.2.3 In terms of bus services there are bus routes (50,154, 608) operating between the village and Milton Keynes and Bletchley and Newport Pagnell. However, these are infrequent with buses usually running every two hours or less. Weekend services are even less frequent. There's a further service which runs between Newton Longville and Buckingham/ Bletchley to St Pauls School which runs on weekday mornings and afternoons to coincide with school opening/ closing times. On Fridays there's a limited service linking the village to Stewley and Aylesbury.
- 10.2.4 There are several Public Right of Ways (PRoWs) surrounding and within the Neighbourhood Plan area. These connect the village to the surrounding countryside. To north, a footpath runs past the recreation ground to Weasel Lane and Bletchley Rd. To the west and south footpaths run to Drayton Parslow.

⁵² <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/future-of-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-improvement-plan/>

Modes of travel

- 10.2.5 The majority of working residents (51.8%) use their cars to travel to work (figure 10.1), with less than 4.5% opting for public transport (train and bus). This is similar to the pattern observed Aylesbury Vale as whole (5.5%). Bus travel is notably lower in the Parish (0.9%) than Aylesbury Vale (2%) and England (4.9%). Active travel modes such as Cycling, and walking are significantly lower in Newton Longville (0.4% and 2.7% respectively) compared to Aylesbury Vale (1.2% and 7%) and England (1.9% and 6.9%).

Figure 10-1 Mode of Travel to Work



Summary of future baseline

- 10.2.6 New development is likely to result in higher amounts of traffic and congestion. For example, the Saldon Chase development will deliver up 1855 dwellings when complete which is likely to substantially increase vehicular traffic and may lead to congestion.
- 10.2.7 The traffic volumes conveyed through the A421 and A4146 and local roads are likely to continue to increase creating further congestion and rat-running within the NP area.
- 10.2.8 New development will put further pressure on bus and rail services in the NP area.
- 10.2.9 The growth in population through new development is likely to make public transport services, such as, buses and trains more viable.

10.3 Key headline issues

10.3.1 The key issues are as follows:

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well served by the highway network and the railway. Bus connectivity is in need of improvement to cope with current and future demand.
- Local residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area are significantly more likely to travel by car compared to the national average.
- New development is likely to increase traffic and congestion but could also make public transport improvements viable.

10.4 Scoping outcome

10.4.1 The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA, as policies and proposals in the Plan are likely to generate addition traffic and movement in the Newton Longville NP area.

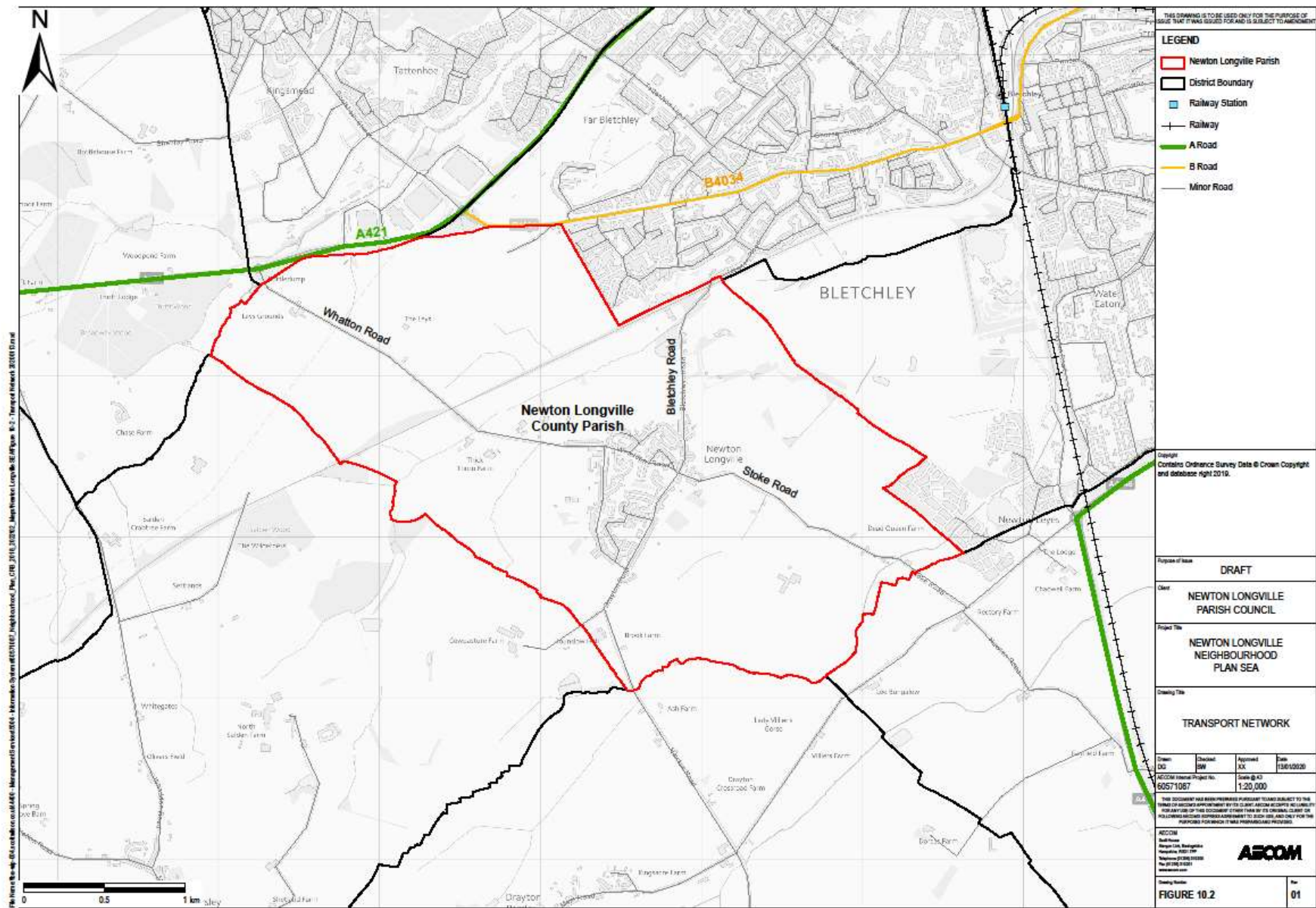
10.5 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

- 10.5.1 The SEA topic 'Transportation' has been scoped in to the SEA. Table 10.3 presents the SEA objective and appraisal questions that will be used to assess the plan in relation to this theme.

Table 10.3: SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions: Transportation

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions
Support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel whilst reducing the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling? • Improve road safety? • Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?

Figure 10-2 Road & Railway Network



11. The SEA Framework and Methodologies

11.1 The SEA Framework

- 11.1.1 The SEA framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics (as set out in Chapters 2-10).
- 11.1.2 The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which will be used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Development Plan Document (and any reasonable alternatives).
- 11.1.3 Table 11.1 below outlines the full SEA Framework, which brings together the objectives and questions that have been set out at the end of each SEA topic chapter. The Framework focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can have in some areas.

Table 11.1: The SEA Framework

SEA Objective	Supporting Questions (Will the option/proposal help to:)
Support the resilience of the Newton Longville Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects on climate change including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage surface 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?
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and setting of heritage assets and the built environment	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance heritage assets, their setting and the wider historic environment? • Contribute to better management of heritage assets? • Identify and protect / enhance features of local importance? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
Protect, enhance and manage the distinctive character and appearance of landscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, better reveal the significance and enhance landscape assets? • Contribute to better management of landscape assets?

- Identify and protect/enhance features of local importance?
- Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the surrounding landscape?
- Improve linkages to open space and the countryside?

Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing which meets the needs of occupiers throughout their life.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support the provision of a responsive range of house types and sizes to meet identified needs of different community groups?
- Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs throughout their lives?
- Create sustainable new communities with good access to a range of local services and facilities?
- Enhance housing provision in existing communities?

Support modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel whilst reducing the need to travel.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Increase the range, availability and affordability of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?
 - Improve road safety?
 - Promote sustainable patterns of land use and development that reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?
-

12. Next Steps

12.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

12.1.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a six-stage SEA process:

- Screening (NPPG Stage A)
- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation (NPPG Stage D/E)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)

12.1.2 The next stage will involve establishing and appraising reasonable alternatives for the Plan. This will involve consideration of strategic issues such as the growth and distribution of housing, and site options. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back so that they can be considered when preparing the draft plan.

12.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

12.2.1 Involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

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

12.2.3 Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

12.2.4 Ian McCluskey, Principal Sustainability Consultant, *AECOM Ltd, 4th Floor, Bridgewater House, Manchester, M1 6LT*

12.2.5 Email address: ian.mccluskey@aecom.com

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

12.3 Glossary

Agricultural Land - Agricultural land is classified into five grades. Grade one is best quality and grade five is poorest quality. A number of consistent criteria are used for assessment which include climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, texture, stoniness).

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – This is a measure of deprivation in England, for every local authority and super output area seven domains of deprivation are measured: (Income, Employment, Health deprivation and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Crime the Living Environment). This allows all 32,482 SOAs to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to each other. This information is then brought together into one overall Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

LNR – Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

NNR - Many of the finest sites in England for wildlife and geology are National Nature Reserves (NNR). There are currently 224 across the country and almost all are accessible and provide great opportunities for people to experience nature.

Objective – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends Option For the purposes of this guidance option is synonymous with ‘alternative’ in the SEA Directive Plan For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Development Plan Documents. Supplementary Planning Documents are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are required to have a sustainability appraisal.

RAMSAR – Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Locally Important Geological Sites – LIGs are designated by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important designated sites for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected areas such as SSSIs.

SAC – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive

Scheduled Monument - A ‘nationally important’ archaeological site or historic building, which is given protection against unauthorised change.

Scoping – The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal.

Screening – The process of deciding whether a document requires a SA.

SEA Directive – European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

SEA Regulations – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law).

SPA – Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species.

SSSI – SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of our most spectacular and beautiful habitats - large wetlands teeming with waders and waterfowl, winding chalk

rivers, gorse and heather-clad heathlands, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote uplands moorland and peat bog.

Super Output Area (SOA) – SOAs are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Three layer of SOA have been devised: Lower Layer - Minimum population 1000; mean 1500. Built from groups of SOAs (typically 4 to 6) and constrained by the boundaries of the Standard Table (ST) wards used for 2001 Census outputs. Middle Layer - Minimum population 5000; mean 7200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs. Upper Layer - To be determined; minimum size c.25, 000.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the ‘SEA Directive’

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative. SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainability Issues – The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.

Appendix A – Site Assessment Criteria

SA Topic	Relevant Criteria (i.e. location in relation to..)	Comments
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Risk Zones (all sources) – Is site within an area identified as being at risk of flooding? None or limited developable land outside flood zone 2/ 3 (Housing) None or limited developable land outside flood zone 2/ 3 (Employment) Partial overlap with flood zone 2/3 (Employment) Partial overlap with flood 2/3 (any use) Majority of site within flood zone 1 	Degree of constraint to be determined based on degree of overlap with Flood Zones 1,2 and 3 and potential for on-site mitigation.
Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered park or garden Scheduled monument Listed building Conservation area Locally listed building Potential for significant negative effects Potential for minor negative effects Neutral effects Potential for enhancement	Consider intersect and also setting for all of these constraint features to establish the potential for negative or positive effects.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Character Areas Local Character Areas Local landscape designations/ areas of known sensitivity High sensitivity Medium sensitivity Low sensitivity Enhancement of poor environment likely	Useful to have; however, limited potential to use for analysis, unless areas are classified according to capacity/sensitivity. It is presumed that a landscape sensitivity study will be commissioned to allow for the sensitivity of difference land parcels / sites to be established.

		Need to ensure that they are extant / evidenced and identified on a consistent basis across the plan area.
Population and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide affordable housing? • Will it help to improve the quality of the existing and future housing stock? • Will it help to meet the village's needs in terms of providing a range of housing types, sizes and tenures? • Will it help to ensure that new housing is built in the best locations with good access to a range of services? • Will it help to provide a more flexible housing stock through the development of life time homes? 	<p>A large site should not be assumed to perform better than a small site simply because there is the potential to deliver more homes. Housing objectives could potentially be met through the delivery of numerous small sites, or through delivery of a smaller number of large sites (albeit it is recognised that financial viability, and hence the potential to deliver affordable housing, can be higher at large sites).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it help to ensure that new housing is built in the best locations with good access to a range of services?
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to bus stop or train station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 200m Within 400m Within 800m Within 1200m More than 1200m • Distance to Cycle/ Walking routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within 200m Within 200-400m More than 400m 	



