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Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Burton and Winkton Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Burton and Winkton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

July 2023

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Quality information

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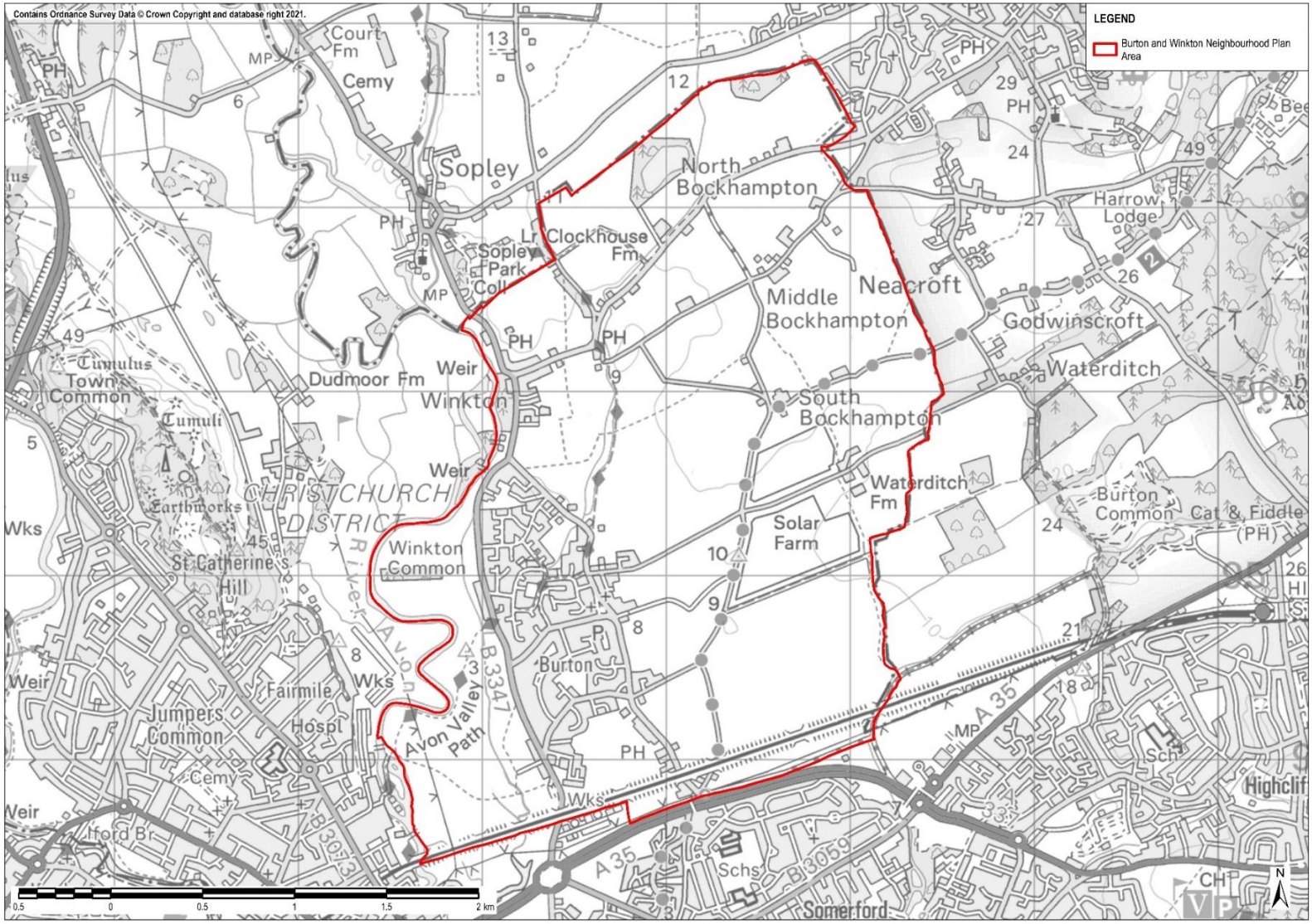

Figure 1.1 The Burton and Winkton neighbourhood area

1. Introduction

Background

1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Burton and Winkton Neighbourhood Plan.

1.2 The Burton and Winkton Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter referred to as "the BWNP") is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

1.3 The BWNP is being prepared in the context of the adopted Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan and the emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan, which is due to be adopted at the end of 2024.

1.4 The BWNP covers the neighbourhood area depicted in **Figure 1.1** above.

Planning policy context

1.5 The Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (hereafter referred to as "the Core Strategy"), which was adopted in April 2014, sets out targets for the provision of new housing and employment for the period up to 2028, as well as general policies. All of the other Local Development Documents within the Local Plan will have to conform to it.

1.6 The key settlements within the neighbourhood area are Burton, Winkton, Bockhampton and Holfleet. The adopted Local Plan identifies Burton as a village settlement type, where only very limited development will be allowed that supports the role of the settlement as a provider of services to its home community. Winkton, Bockhampton and Holfleet are classified as hamlet type settlements in the Local Plan – development will not be allowed to occur in these areas unless it is functionally required to be in these specific locations.

1.7 The emerging Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Plan (hereafter referred to as "the BCP Local Plan") will replace the current Local Plans adopted by the three councils when they were separate entities, including the Core Strategy. The Local Development Scheme[1], which provides the timetable for preparation of the Local Plan, outlines that it is due to be adopted at the end of 2024.

1.8 Consultation for the Issues and Options for the BCP Local Plan ran from 10th January to 25th March 2022. The feedback received during the consultation has been set out in a consultation report, which outlines how and who BCP Council consulted with and summarises the responses.

[1] BCP Council (no date): 'Local Development Scheme', [online] available to access via this link

SEA for the BWNP

SEA screening

1.9 A Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA where it is likely to have significant environmental effects. In this respect, the BWNP has been screened in as requiring an SEA process for the following reasons:

- The BWNP supports allocations for new development, including potentially in environmentally sensitive locations. This includes near internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity (i.e. Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Sites of Scientific Interest) and designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas).

1.10 Considering 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

1.11 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues.

1.12 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 BWNP seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.

1.13 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 included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues.

ii. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the draft plan (i.e. the draft BWNP) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

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

SEA scoping explained

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

- Exploring the policy context for the BWNP and SEA to summarise the key messages arising

- Establishing the baseline for the SEA (the current and future conditions in the area in the absence of the BWNP) to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
- Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA.
- Considering this information to develop an SEA framework comprising SEA objectives and assessment questions, which can then be used as a guiding framework for the subsequent assessment.

1.16 The scope is explored and presented under a series of key environmental themes as follows:

- Air quality
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Climate change (including flood risk)
- Landscape
- Historic environment
- Land, soil, and water resources
- Community wellbeing
- Transportation

1.17 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive.[2] These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects. The discussion of the scoping information for each topic is presented in **Chapters 2 to 9**, along with a summary of the key issues and the proposed SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions. Each proposal within the emerging BWNP will be assessed consistently using this Framework.

[2] The SEA Directive (Directive 200142//EC) 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'

2. Air Quality

Focus of topic

2.1 This topic focuses on air pollution sources, air quality hotspots, and air quality management.

Policy Context

2.2 **Table 2.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 1.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to air quality

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
The Clean Air Strategy	2019
UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	2017
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
BCP Council 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report	2022
BCP Local Transport Plan 3	2011
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

2.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will need to conform to the principles outlined in the NPPF, which seek to mitigate air quality impacts during development whilst simultaneously taking advantage of opportunities to improve air quality. Measures include, but are not limited to; sustainable transport solutions, limiting the need to travel, complying with relevant pollutant limits or national objectives and enhancing green infrastructure in strategic development. Smaller-scale development should consider the potential for cumulative effects in relation to air quality.
- Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared in zones that exceed national objectives for levels of particulates, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead and/or nitrogen oxides.
- To improve air quality across the country, the UK government has produced national strategies focused on regulatory frameworks, industrial investment in cleaner processes and shifting towards cleaner forms of energy. Whilst there are dedicated strategies to reducing roadside emissions (due to traffic emissions being a substantial source of nitrogen dioxide emissions), the Clean Air Strategy objectives seek to recognise wider sources that contribute to poor air quality, such as diffuse sources and smaller contributors.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly relate to the air quality SEA topic:

  - ENV3: Pollution and Existing Development (saved policy from the Christchurch Borough Local Plan).
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- BCP Council's 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) is an annual requirement showing the strategies employed by BCP Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.
- The BCP Local Transport Plan 3 sets out a strategy to deliver first class transport infrastructure and, subject to anticipated funding streams from both government and the private sector, the Plan will help to deliver:
  - Economic growth.
  - A Reduction in carbon emissions.
  - Equality of opportunity.
  - Improved safety, security and health; and
  - Improved quality of life for residents.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

2.4 In line with the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), Councils are required to assess air quality standards within the region on an annual basis. There are no AQMAs located within the neighbourhood area. In addition, the only two AQMAs located in the BCP Council area – Poole AQMA and Area No 2 Ashley Road AQMA – are located approximately 11-12km from the neighbourhood area.

2.5 According to BCP Council's 2022 Air Quality ASR, the BCP Council area suffers from a range of transport challenges. Its unique geography, incomplete strategic transport network, and lack of joined up travel infrastructure has led to high car usage for people who live and work in, or visit, the area. There is also a lack of connectivity to the wider area, in particular to Bristol and the west of England. Highway links from the city region to Southampton and London are also constrained, with high levels of congestion and relatively long travel times.

2.6 Recent reports have identified the south-east Dorset city region area as the third most congested place in the UK, and 56th most congested in the world with east Dorset having the highest car ownership levels in England and Wales. As a result, road traffic is the main source of pollutants in the BCP Council area. During 2021, monitoring results indicate that nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) concentrations were higher compared to 2020 when there were periods of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the general trend remains one of declining concentrations across the BCP Council area.

Future Baseline

2.7 Future growth in the neighbourhood area will ultimately affect the levels of traffic and congestion experienced, and in the absence of suitable planning and mitigation this could lead to a deterioration in air quality. However, it is unlikely

that this will be significant given that the neighbourhood area is currently relatively well served by public transport and has an extensive active travel network. Nevertheless, there will be a need for appropriate measures (including appropriate development and sustainable transport policies) to mitigate issues relating to air quality.

2.8 Positive planning could also be beneficial for air quality through opportunities to improve accessibility, particularly in terms of active travel and encouraging more local walkable journeys and sustainable connections.

Key Issues

2.9 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to air quality:

- The main pollutant of concern in the neighbourhood area is NO_2, which is largely linked to emissions from vehicles, particularly in areas which experience congestion. The effects of the BWNP in relation to traffic and congestion will be explored further under the transportation SEA topic.
- Designated sites for biodiversity within and in proximity to the neighbourhood area are potentially sensitive to air pollution issues. The effects of the BWNP in relation to these sites will be explored further under the biodiversity and geodiversity SEA topic.
- The BWNP presents opportunities to improve accessibility and support public transport and active travel. These opportunities will be explored further within the community wellbeing and transportation SEA topics.
- Traffic and congestion arising from potential new development within the neighbourhood area have the potential to increase pollutants. However, there is an absence of any specific air quality issues in the neighbourhood area, and there are no exceeded or expected exceedances of national air quality objectives. **Therefore, the air quality SEA topic has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process, with air quality issues addressed under the transportation and biodiversity topics.**

3. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Focus of topic

3.1 This topic focuses on internationally and nationally protected sites for biodiversity and priority habitats and species.

Policy Context

3.2 **Table 3.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 3.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
Environment Act 2021	2021
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	2007
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	2006
Dorset Biodiversity Strategy	2003
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

3.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which highlights that opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity. This includes using a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure at the wider catchment or landscape scale.
- Support is given through the Framework to establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Trees notably make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards).
- Over the past decade, policy documents (e.g., The Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020) has demonstrated a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity, to a wider landscape approach to enhancing biodiversity, as part of the overall aims to halt biodiversity loss. The 25 Year Environment Plan places emphasis on improvements to the natural environment; identifying the need to *"replenish depleted soil, plant trees, support wetlands and peatlands, rid seas and rivers of rubbish, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cleanse the air of*

pollutants, develop cleaner, sustainable energy and protect threatened species and habitats". Working at a landscape scale transformation is expected to connect habitats into larger corridors for wildlife.

- The Environment Act 2021 sets parameters for biodiversity gain as a condition of planning permission, as well as biodiversity gain site registers and biodiversity credits. The Act identifies a general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including through biodiversity reports and local nature recovery strategies. Local nature recovery strategies will identify biodiversity priorities for the strategy area as well as a local habitat map. Habitat maps are expected to include recovery and enhancement areas which are or could become of importance for biodiversity.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly relate to the biodiversity and geodiversity SEA topic:
  - Policy ME1: Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- The Dorset Biodiversity Strategy has been prepared by the Dorset Biodiversity Partnership through wide consultation, to provide a strategic framework for action over the next 10 years that contributes to achieving the targets set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The production of such a document is essential to help direct and co-ordinate initiatives that will conserve and enhance Dorset's biodiversity. Notably, this document is now out-of-date, and therefore it is expected that a new Biodiversity Strategy, or similar document, will be prepared by BCP Council.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Internationally designated sites

3.4 To ensure the European Directives were operable in the UK after the end of the EU transition period, changes were made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. In this respect, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the UK no longer form part of the EU Natura 2000 ecological network. Instead, the 2019 Regulations propose the creation of a national site network within the UK territory[3]. The network comprises sites already designated under the Nature Directives (i.e., 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC), along with any additional sites which are designated under the 2019 regulations. The national site network continues to operate in parallel with other designations and contributes towards the UK's international commitments for protected areas.

3.5 At the local level, several SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are located either within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area (see **Figure 3.1** at the end of this chapter).

[3] DEFRA (2021): 'Policy Paper: Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017', [online] available to access via this link

3.6 The Avon Valley SPA[4] and Ramsar site[5] overlaps the western boundary of the neighbourhood area, to the west of the B3347. This site, which covers 1,385ha, is an inland and human-made wetland which demonstrates a wide range of habitats. This includes fen, mire, lowland wet grassland, and small areas of woodland, which support a diverse assemblage of wetland flora and fauna including several nationally rare species.

3.7 The qualifying features of the Avon Valley SPA are:

- *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (non-breeding); and
- *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (non-breeding).

3.8 The western boundary of the neighbourhood area also overlaps with the River Avon SAC[6], which covers 417ha and has the following general site character:

- Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (95%).
- Bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, and fens (2%).
- Heath, scrub, maquis and garrigue, and *Phygrana* (2%).
- Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (1%).

3.9 The Annex I habitat that is a primary reason for selection of the site is:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation.

3.10 The Dorset Heathlands SPA[7] and Ramsar Site[8] is approximately 450m west of the neighbourhood area. This inland wetland covers 6,730ha and contains wet heath and acid valley mire, which are habitats restricted to the Atlantic fringe of Europe; and which support a large assemblage of nationally rare and scarce wetland plant species and invertebrates. This area is also covered by the Dorset Heaths SAC[9], which covers 5,720ha.

3.11 In addition, part of the New Forest SAC is located approximately 1.4km northeast of the neighbourhood area. Meanwhile, the main site, which is also designated as a SPA and Ramsar site, is located approximately 2.9km northeast of the neighbourhood area.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

3.12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

3.13 At the local level, several SSSIs are located either within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area (see **Figure 3.1** at the end of this chapter).

3.14 The Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI[10] overlaps the western boundary of the neighbourhood area, to the west of the B3347. This site

[4] Natural England (2014): 'European Site Conservation Objectives for Avon Valley Spa', [online] available to access via this link
[5] Ramsar Sites Information Service (1999): 'Avon Valley', [available to access via this link
[6] JNCC (no date): 'River Avon', [online] available to access via this link
[7] Natural England (2014): 'European Site Conservation Objectives for Dorset Heathlands SPA', [online] available to access via this link
[8] Ramsar Sites Information Service (1999): 'Dorset Heathlands', [online] available to access via this link
[9] JNCC (no date): 'Dorset Heaths', [online] available to access via this link
[10] Natural England (no date): 'Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI', [online] available to access via this link

covers 1,404ha and encompasses the lower River Avon valley between Bickton in the north and the estuary of Christchurch Harbour in the south. The River Avon shows a greater range of habitats and a more diverse flora and fauna than any other chalk river valley in Britain. Of the 181 units that make up this SSSI, 86% are in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable – recovering' condition. Of the units that overlap with the neighbourhood area, one of the units (213) has an 'unfavourable – no change' condition, whilst two (147 and 153) have an 'unfavourable – declining' condition. The remainder are in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable – recovering' condition.

3.15 The River Avon System SSSI[11] also overlaps with the western boundary of the neighbourhood area. This site covers 476ha and is of national and international importance for its wildlife communities. The River Avon is richer and more varied than most chalk streams with over 180 species of aquatic plant having been recorded, one of the most diverse fish faunas in Britain, and a wide range of aquatic invertebrates. Of the 49 units that make up this SSSI, 10% are in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable – recovering' condition. All of the units that overlap with the neighbourhood area are in an 'unfavourable – recovering' condition.

3.16 Other SSSIs in proximity to the neighbourhood area include:

- Purewell Meadows[12] – this site, which covers 12.9ha, is located 50m south of the neighbourhood area, to the south of Christchurch By Pass. It comprises a series of unimproved wet meadows with a complex system of fields and ditches that support a range of plant habitats integral to the Avon Valley.
- Burton Common[13] – this site, which covers 39.1ha, is located 600m east of the neighbourhood area. It comprises a substantial tract of mature dry heath overlaying relatively free draining soils and provides a sharp ecological contrast to the nearby New Forest.
- Christchurch Harbour – this site, which covers XX, is located approximately 1.1km south of the neighbourhood area. It comprises
- Town Common[14] – this site, which covers 257ha, is located approximately 1.2km west of the neighbourhood area. It comprises an extensive tract of lowland heath on a ridge separating the Avon Valley from the Moors River and is recognised for its variation in underlying geology, as well as diverse topography that help sustain a variety of flora and fauna.

3.17 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/ dataset that map zones around SSSIs according to their sensitivities. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that have the potential to impact on SSSIs. The entire neighbourhood area overlaps with SSSI IRZs, some of which concern the types of development that are likely to be brought forward

[11] Natural England (no date): 'River Avon System SSSI', [online] available to access via this link
[12] Natural England (no date): 'Purewell Meadows SSSI', [online] available to access via this link
[13] Natural England (no date): 'Burton Common SSSI', [online] available to access via this link
[14] Natural England (no date): 'Town Common SSSI', [online] available to access via this link

through the BWNP. Therefore, Natural England will need to be consulted on the likely risks that could arise as a result of such development.

3.18 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were established to protect some of England's most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Most NNRs offer great opportunities to schools, specialist interest groups and the public to experience wildlife at first hand and to learn more about nature conservation. No NNRs fall within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area.

3.19 Ancient woodlands are areas of woodland that have persisted since 1600 in England. This is when maps started to be reasonably accurate, indicating that these areas have had tree cover for hundreds of years. They are relatively undisturbed by human development, and as a result, they are unique and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms. There is a small area of ancient woodland along the northern boundary of the neighbourhood area (see **Figure 3.1** at the end of this chapter).

Locally designated sites

3.20 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally, offering people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply enjoy it.

3.21 Whilst no LNRs are located within neighbourhood area, Purewell Meadows LNR is located 300m south of the neighbourhood area. This site comprises wet acidic grassland over peat, damp grassland and public green space, which act as habitats for species such as kestrel and marsh marigold.[15]

Priority habitats and species

3.22 There are a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats located within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area (see **Figure 3.2** at the end of this chapter). These include coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, lowland heathland, deciduous woodland, and woodpasture and parkland.

3.23 A spatial dataset is available that describes the geographic extent and location of Habitat Networks[16] for 18 priority habitats based primarily, but not exclusively, on the Priority Habitat Inventory. The Priority Habitat Inventory[17] is a spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance. This inventory replaces Natural England's previous separate BAP habitat inventories. Additional data has also been added in relation to habitat restoration-creation, restorable habitat, plus fragmentation action, and network enhancement and expansion zones.

3.24 The neighbourhood area intersects with several areas within the Habitat Network. This includes a large area of Network Expansion Zone, which is land beyond the Network Enhancement Zones with potential for expanding, linking/

[15] Natural England (no date): 'Purewell Meadows LNR', [online] available to access via this link
[16] Data.gov.uk (2021): 'Habitat Networks (England)', [online] available to access via this link
[17] Data.gov.uk (2022): 'Priority Habitat Inventory (England)', [online] available to access via this link

joining networks across the landscape. In addition, there is a smaller, but still sizeable, area of Restorable Habitat, which are areas of land, predominantly composed of existing semi-natural habitat, where the primary habitat is present in a degraded or fragmented form, and which are likely to be suitable for restoration.

3.25 The neighbourhood area also contains a small area of Network Enhancement Zone 1, which is land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat. This is in addition to a larger area of Network Enhancement Zone 2, which is land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is less likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat.

3.26 A small area of Fragmentation Action, which is land within Enhancement Zone 1 that connects existing patches of primary and associated habitats which are currently highly fragmented and where fragmentation could be reduced by habitat creation, is also found within the neighbourhood area. This is in addition to a small area of Habitat Restoration-Creation, which are areas where work is underway to either create or restore the primary habitat.

3.27 Countryside Stewardship (CS)[18] provides financial incentives for farmers, woodland owners, foresters and land managers to look after and improve the environment. Priority areas for CS measures are identified where the habitats of particular species need improving. With regard to the neighbourhood area, almost the entire neighbourhood area intersects with a priority area for Lapwing, whilst the western boundary of the neighbourhood area intersects with a priority area for Redshank.

3.28 The Dorset Environmental Record Centre[19] contains archives of protected and/ or notable species within the region, including several species of birds, mammals, bats, insects, grasses, trees, amphibians and reptiles protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. It is likely the BAP priority habitats and ecological designations within and surrounding the neighbourhood support populations of protected species.

Future Baseline

3.29 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the neighbourhood area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. This has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.

3.30 The BWNP presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them. It will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of new development to ensure that

[18] Gov.uk (2020): 'Countryside Stewardship', [online] available to access via this link
[19] Dorset Environmental Records Centre (no date): 'Latest News', [online] available to access via this link

opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised within the neighbourhood area.

Key Issues

3.31 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity:

- Internationally and nationally designated sites within the neighbourhood area include the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site, the River Avon SAC, and the Avon Valley and River Avon System SSSIs.
- The entire neighbourhood area overlaps with SSSI IRZs for the types of development which are likely to be brought forward as a result of the BWNP. Therefore, Natural England will need to be consulted on the likely risks that could arise as a result of such development.
- Whilst there are no locally designated sites for biodiversity within the neighbourhood area, the Purewell Meadows LNR is located nearby.
- There are a variety of BAP priority habitats located within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area, including coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, lowland heathland, deciduous woodland, and woodpasture and parkland.
- In terms of the national habitat network, the neighbourhood area contains areas of Network Expansion Zone, Restorable Habitat, Network Enhancement Zones 1 and 2, Fragmentation Action Zone, and Habitat Restoration-Creation.
- In terms of priority species for CS targeting, almost the entire neighbourhood area intersects with a priority area for Lapwing, whilst the western boundary of the neighbourhood area intersects with a priority area for Redshank.

SEA Framework

3.32 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Support the integrity of the designated sites for biodiversity and geodiversity located within and in proximity to the neighbourhood area? • Protect and enhance priority habitats and species? • Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains whilst supporting the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

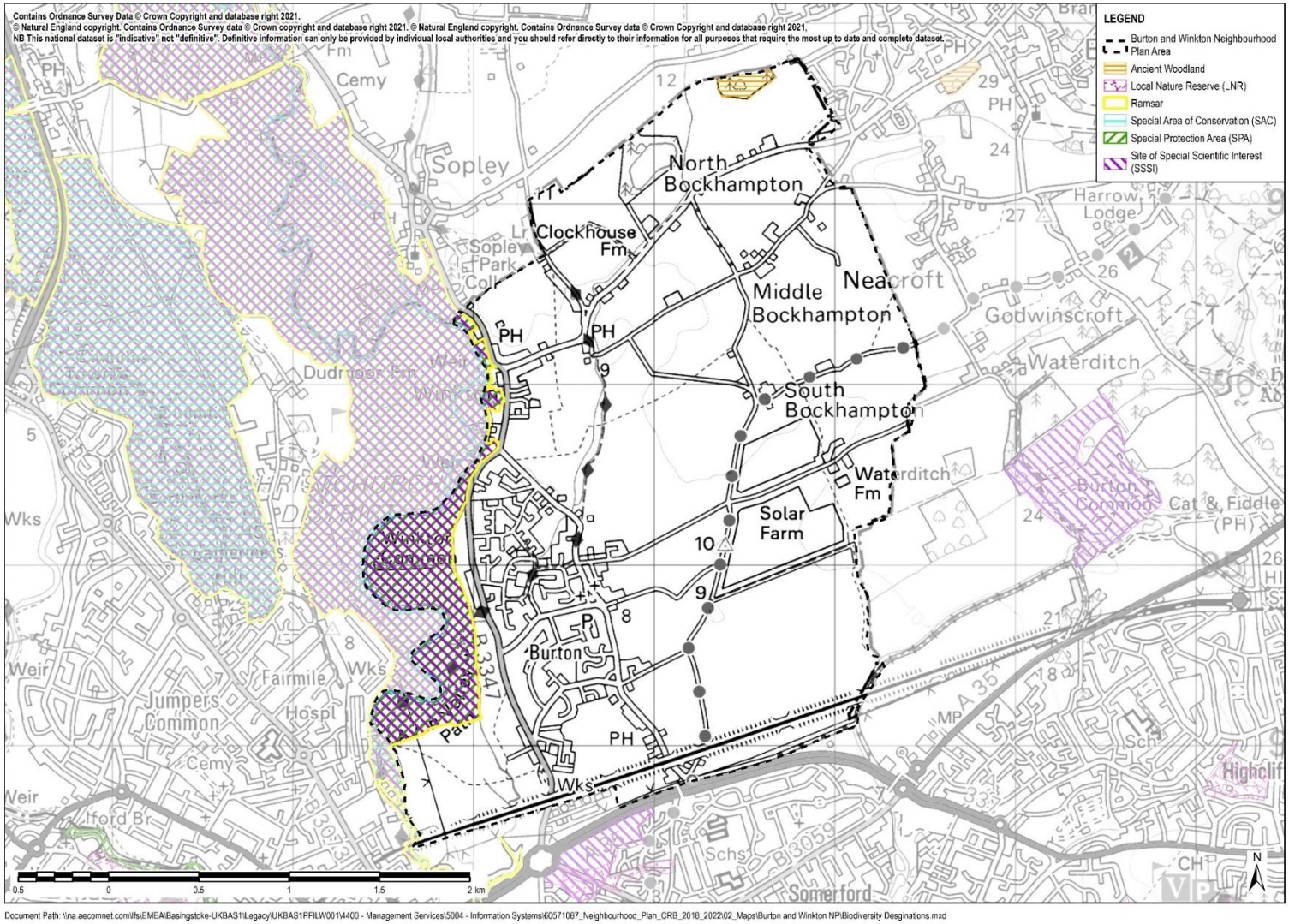

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Figure 3.1 Internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity in the neighbourhood area

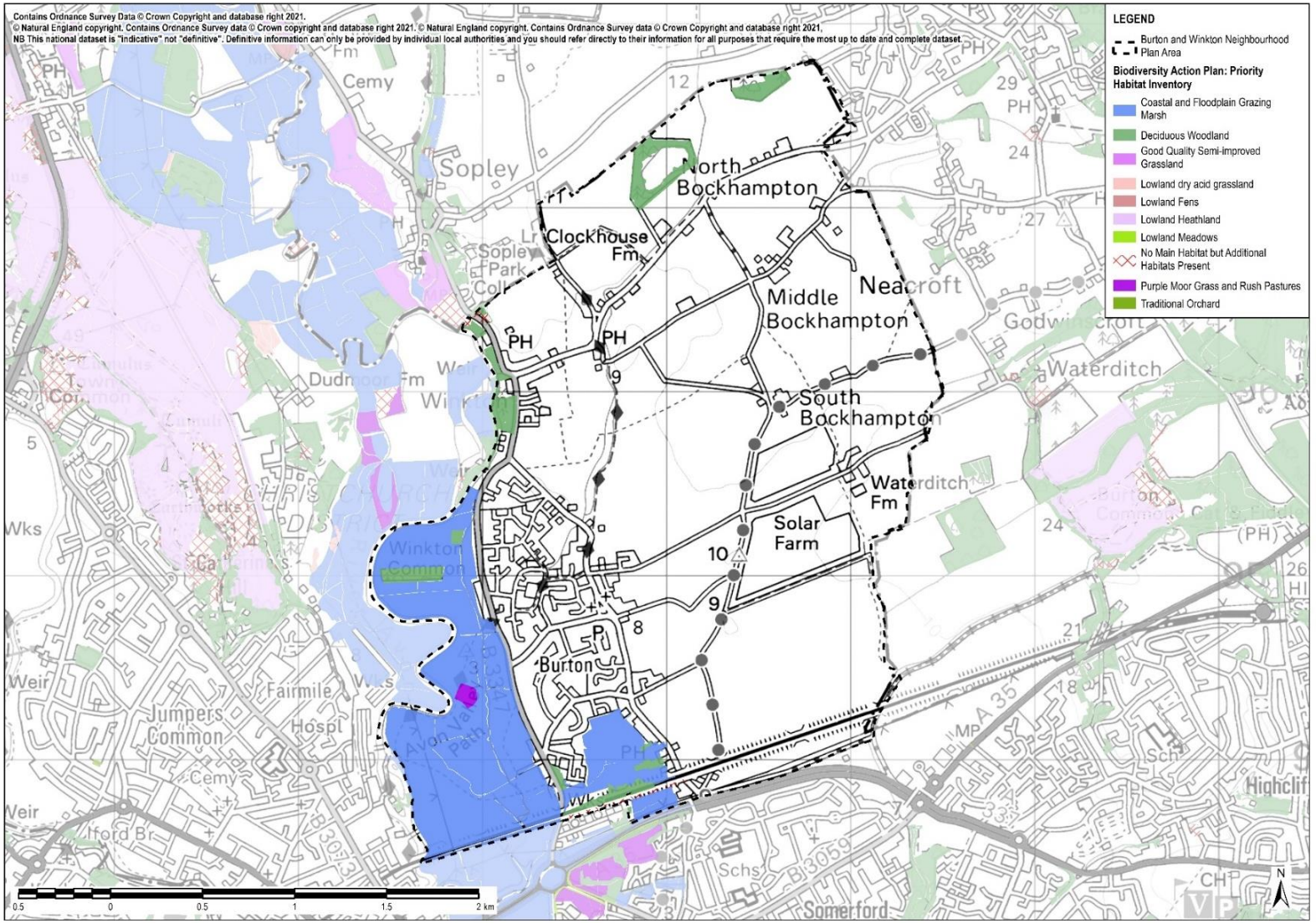

Figure 3.2 BAP priority habitats within and near the neighbourhood area

4. Climate Change

Focus of topic

4.1 This topic focuses on contributions to climate change, effects of climate change, and climate change adaptation, including flood risk.

Policy Context

4.2 **Table 4.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 4.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to climate change

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
Climate Change Act 2008	2008
The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting	2018
The Clean Air Strategy 2019	2019
The Clean Growth Strategy	2017
Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener	2021
The UK Sixth Carbon Budget	2020
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
National Infrastructure Assessment	2021
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017	2017
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	2010
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	2020
Historic England Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings: How to Improve Energy Efficiency	2018
Historic England Our Climate Change Strategy	2022
BCP Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan	2019
Christchurch Borough Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2019
Christchurch Borough Council Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2019
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

4.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which requires proactive planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies are expected to improve the resilience of

communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, avoid inappropriate development in the flood plain, and support the move to a low carbon economy. The NPPF recognises the potential for planning to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and deliver long-term resilience, including through reuse, regeneration, and conversion.

- The Clean Growth Strategy, Clean Air Strategy and the 25-year Environment Plan are a suite of documents which seek to progress the government's commitment under the UK Climate Change Act to becoming net zero by 2050. The documents set out detailed proposals on how the government will tackle all sources of air pollution, whilst maintaining an affordable energy supply and increasing economic growth. This parallels with the 25-year Environment Plan, which further seeks to manage land resources sustainably, recover and reinstate nature, protect soils and habitats, increase resource efficiency, improve water quality, and connect people with the environment. The documents also interlink with the government's commitment to decarbonising transport, a recognised challenge that needs more work in a timely manner if government are to achieve net zero targets. Furthermore, the decarbonisation plan recognises the twinned need to undertake action to adapt the transport sector and increase resilience to climate change risks; and this challenge is more directly addressed through the UK's National Adaptation Programme.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly related to the climate change SEA topic:
  - Policy ME3: Sustainable Development Standards for New Development
  - Policy ME4: Renewable Energy Provision for Residential and Non-Residential Developments
  - Policy ME6: Flood Management, Mitigation, and Defence
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- BCP Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan sets out the course of action the Council will carry out for the Council and wider area to become carbon neutral. This is the first step towards a carbon neutral future for BCP, which will involve lifestyle changes for everyone.
- The main purpose of Christchurch Borough Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is to provide a comprehensive and robust evidence base to support the production of the Local Plan and to support the selection of site allocations. Meanwhile, the Council's Level 2 SFRA forms part of the evidence base for the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan. It is required to support the Exception Test, to inform site allocation and to determine whether additional strategic mitigation measures will be required to deliver the required development.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Contribution to climate change

4.4 In June 2019, the government committed to reaching 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from the built environment are monitored and recorded at the local authority level.

4.5 BCP Council took the decision to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019, following the same action by UK Parliament, the Committee on Climate Change 'net zero carbon 2050' report and a groundswell in public opinion supporting this course of action.

4.6 **Figure 4.1** below indicates that CO_2 emissions per capita (t) in the BCP area have remained lower than the local (Dorset), regional (South West) and national (England) averages during the period 2005 to 2019. Emissions in the BCP area have decreased by 46.6% during this period, compared to 42.7% locally, 42.1% regionally, and 42.9% nationally.

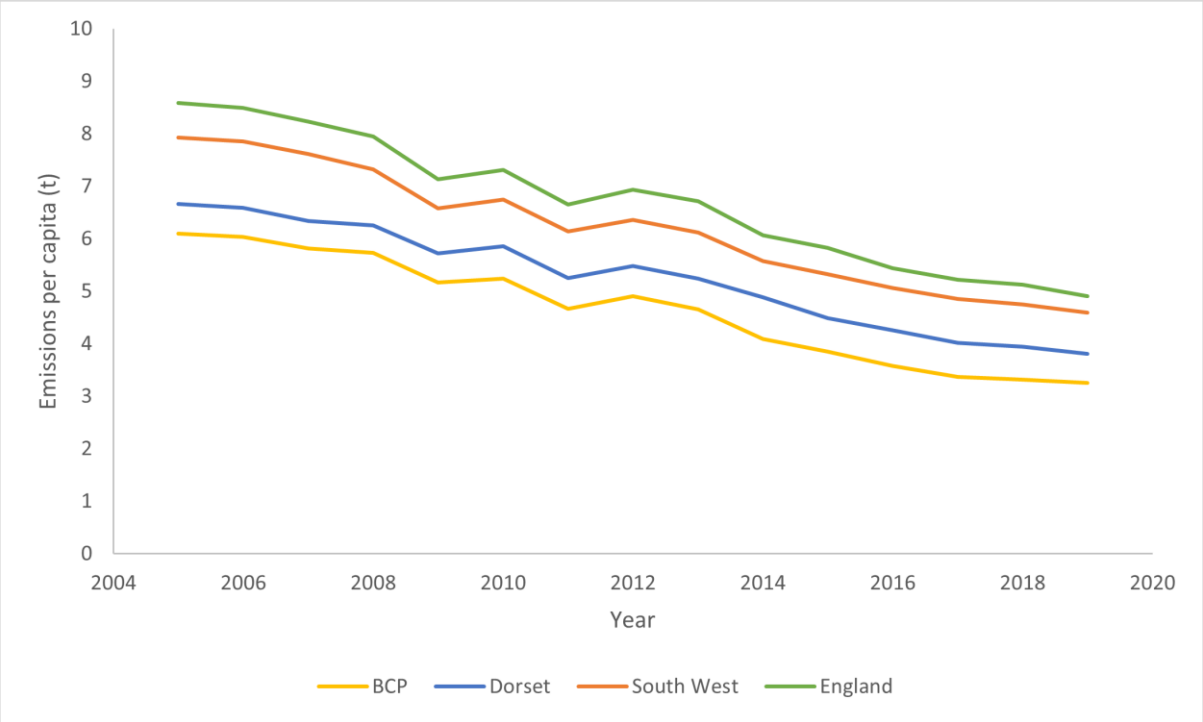

Figure 4.1 CO_2 emissions per capita between 2005 and 2019 – a comparison of BCP with the local, regional and national averages

4.7 As shown in **Figure 4.2** overleaf, in the BCP area, the domestic sector was the largest contributor to CO_2 emissions in 2019, contributing 39.6% of all emissions. However, the transport sector was not far behind, contributing 33% of all emissions. The commercial (12.3%), industry (10.8%) and public (4.3%) sectors contributed comparatively fewer emissions in the same year. Notably, all sectors have experienced a decrease in CO_2 emissions between 2005 and 2019; however, some sectors have decreased at a greater rate than others.

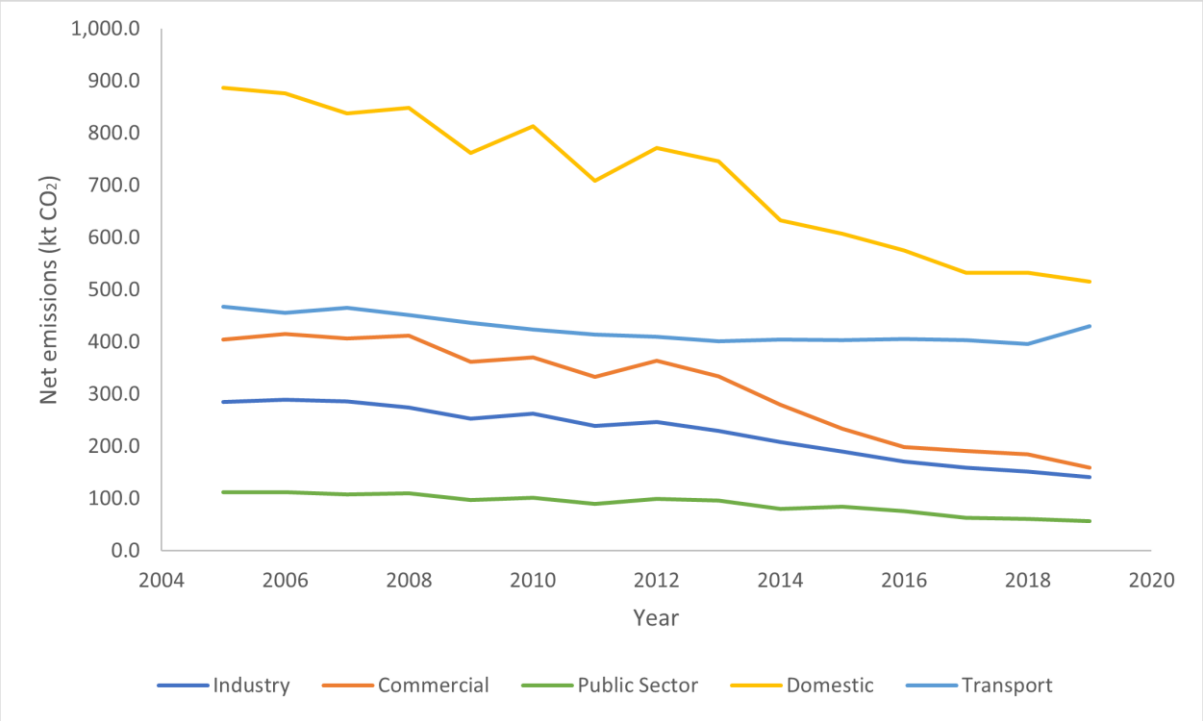

Figure 4.2 Net CO_2 emissions by sector in BCP between 2005 and 2019

4.8 Road transport is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with cars contributing 55% of UK domestic transport emissions (68 Metric tonnes CO_2 equivalent ($MtCO_2e$)) in 2018. Whilst the neighbourhood area is well served by public transport, and has a good active travel network, residents still rely on private cars to meet some of their needs.

4.9 The introduction and uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) will contribute positively towards the reduction of road transport related emissions. In line with assumptions made by the Department for Transport's 'Road to Zero' report (2018), it is assumed that ULEV uptake will increase rapidly in the coming decade and therefore aside from HGVs, all vehicles could be ultra-low emission (powered either by hydrogen or electricity) by 2030.

Potential effects of climate change

4.10 **Table 4.1** below indicates that under a 'business as usual' scenario (i.e. a 'do nothing' scenario), in the South West region, there could be a:

- 2.95°C increase in winter mean average air temperature, and a 5.07°C increase in summer mean average air temperature.
- 0.86mm/ day increase in winter mean precipitation rate, and a 0.86mm/ day decrease in summer mean precipitation rate.
- 0.67% decrease in winter relative humidity, and a 7.97% decrease in summer relative humidity.

Table 4.1 Average changes in climate variables during winter and summer for the South West region under the 'business as usual' scenario

	Mean average air temperature (°C)		Mean precipitation rate (mm/ day)		Mean relative humidity	
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
1981-2000	5.05	15.14	4.11	2.07	87.10	77.55
2021-2040	6.23	17.25	4.32	1.72	86.78	74.14
2061-2080	8.00	20.21	4.97	1.21	86.43	69.58

4.11 If these changes were to occur, the neighbourhood area would likely face a range of risks, including:

- Increases in cases of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer period as well as illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight.
- An increase in the risk of injuries and deaths caused by storm events, due to both the increase in quantity and magnitude.
- Changes to water resources, in terms of quality and quantity.
- An increased risk of flooding, including changes in vulnerability to 1 in 100-year floods, and a need to upgrade flood defences.
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding.
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their distribution, particularly their southern edge, and a spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution.
- Increased drought events, both in quantity and magnitude.
- Heat related impacts to local infrastructure, e.g., road surfaces melting.

Flood risk

4.12 As shown in **Figure 4.3** overleaf, approximately half of the neighbourhood area is within Flood Zone 1 and therefore has a low fluvial flood risk. However, Flood Zone 3 covers the areas either side of the River Avon, which runs along the western boundary of the neighbourhood area. Otherwise waterbodies that contribute to this area of increased flood risk include the Clockhouse Stream in the western part of the neighbourhood area, the River Mude, along the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood area, and the Sheers Brook, to the east of the neighbourhood area – this waterbody converges with the River Mude along the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood area.

Figure 4.3: Fluvial flood risk in the neighbourhood area

4.13 As shown in **Figure 4.4** overleaf, areas at increased risk of surface water flooding within the neighbourhood area can be found:

- North of Burton, in proximity to the Clockhouse Stream, particularly where it enters the neighbourhood area.
- Around North Bockhampton; the same can be said about the land along the River Mude in proximity to Middle Bockhampton and South Bockhampton.

Figure 4.4 Surface water flood risk in the neighbourhood area

Future Baseline

4.14 In terms of climate change contribution, CO_2 emission per capita generated in the neighbourhood area may continue to decrease alongside the wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies, including electric cars. However, it is noted than an increase in the built footprint of the neighbourhood area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of CO_2 emissions.

4.15 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the neighbourhood area. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation. Specifically, new development areas have the potential to increase flood risk through factors such as changing surface and ground water flows, overloading existing inputs to the drainage and wastewater networks or increasing the number of residents exposed to areas of existing flood risk.

Key Issues

4.16 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to climate change:

- BCP Council took the decision to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019, following the same action by UK Parliament, the Committee on Climate Change 'net zero carbon 2050' report and a groundswell in public opinion supporting this course of action.
- CO_2 emissions per capita (t) in the BCP area have remained lower than the local (Dorset), regional (South West) and national (England) averages during the period 2005 to 2019. Emissions in the BCP area have decreased by 46.6% during this period, compared to 42.7% locally, 42.1% regionally, and 42.9% nationally.
- In the BCP area, the domestic sector was the largest contributor to CO_2 emissions in 2019, contributing 39.6% of all emissions. However, the transport sector was not far behind, contributing 33% of all emissions. The commercial (12.3%), industry (10.8%) and public (4.3%) sectors contributed comparatively fewer emissions in the same year.
- The transport sector continues to be a key challenge in terms of reducing emissions. The BWNP provides opportunities to guide development towards the most accessible locations in the area and require local infrastructure (including walking and cycling infrastructure) improvements where appropriate.
- The BWNP should seek to maximise opportunities to support actions in tackling climate change. This may include through encouraging sustainable transport technologies, such as the use of EVs, and using sustainable drainage systems.
- Fluvial flood risk in the neighbourhood area is largely linked to the River Avon and its tributaries and is concentrated along the western boundary of the neighbourhood area. Meanwhile, surface water flood risk is concentrated in the northeastern part of the neighbourhood area.

SEA Framework

4.17 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objectives and assessment questions.

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area.	Will the option/ proposal help to… • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources? • Support proposals for EV charging infrastructure?
Support the resilience of the neighbourhood area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the neighbourhood area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water runoff and drainage? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the neighbourhood area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?

5. Landscape

Focus of topic

5.1 This topic focuses on nationally protected landscapes, landscape and villagescape character and quality, and visual amenity.

Policy Context

5.2 **Table 5.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 5.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the landscape

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
The National Design Guide	2019
National Model Design Code	2021
Christchurch Borough Council Character Assessment	2003
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

5.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF which gives great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character and scenic beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.
- The NPPF recognises the role of green infrastructure in landscape settings, as well as the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland, historic features, agricultural land, and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.
- The 25-year Environment Plan and National Design Guide complement each other with their aims for a cleaner, greener country which puts the environment first and celebrates the variety of natural landscapes and habitats. Design is focused on beautiful, enduring, and successful places, which respond to local character and provide a network of high quality green open spaces.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly relate to the landscape SEA topic:
  - Policy HE3: Landscape Quality
  - Policy PC4: The Rural Economy

- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- Christchurch Borough Council's Character Assessment aims to identify and protect the identity of the Borough. Specific objectives required of the study included the need to:
  - Obtain a comprehensive understanding of the quality, diversity and sensitivity of the environmental character by reference to 'Character Areas'.
  - Identify the most important Borough-wide characteristics that contribute to the Borough's unique and distinctive character, sense of place and identity.
  - Set down guidance on the capacity of each area to accommodate new development or other forms of environmental change, along with advice on the characteristics that new development would need to successfully integrate with its location.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Nationally protected landscapes

5.4 An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is land protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). It protects the land to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. There are no AONBS within or within proximity to the neighbourhood area.

National Character Areas

5.5 The neighbourhood area intersects with one National Character Area (NCA), the New Forest NCA[20]. This NCA, 75% of which comprises the New Forest National Park, also includes the lower Hampshire Avon Valley, defining its western boundary, and, to the east, the urbanised 'Waterside' from Totton to Fawley, with major oil-, energy- and port-related industry alongside Southampton Water.

5.6 Physically it is a plateau, averaging 80-100m above sea level, of Palaeogenic deposits. These are exposed along the coast as internationally recognised fossil fauna and overlain by Quaternary gravels in river terraces which retain evidence of prehistoric settlement. The gravels produce the acid soils which support habitats and species designated under Natura 2000. It is one of the most important and extensive habitats of this type in lowland Europe. This has been retained, largely undisturbed by agriculture, because of its designation as a medieval royal hunting forest, the survival of grazing as part of a pastoral tradition, ancient Forest Law and more recent conservation policies.

5.7 The Avon Valley, a Natura 2000 site, is a wide, flat valley bottom of mostly derelict water meadows, pasture and arable land, and a braided river, but linked with the Forest through grazing tradition.

[20] Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile: 131 New Forest', [online] available to access via this link

Local landscape and villagescape character

5.8 Landscape and townscape character play an important role in understanding the relationship between people and place, identifying recognisable and distinct patterns in the landscape which make one area different from another. Landscape and townscape character can help identify the likely significance of effects of change resulting from development, including the potential loss of visual and amenity value. Assessments often provide indications of the overall landscape sensitivity and landscape capacities for key areas.

5.9 Christchurch Borough Council's Character Assessment identifies several Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) across the Borough, three of which overlap with the neighbourhood area. These are:

- **River Avon Flood Plain** – this LCA, which covers the area to the west of Burton, generally sits at below 5m AOD. On the eastern side, the area is physically and visually contained by the B3347 and the village of Burton. To the west, the area merges with the low-lying area of Cowards Marsh before the steeply rising ground of the St. Catherine's Hill ridge. It is a pastoral landscape of water meadows and occasional carr woodland. The river, where visible, can be seen as a meandering channel with small side channels and inter-connecting ditches. However, for much of its length the river cannot be easily viewed.
- **Avon River Terrace – East of Burton** – this LCA, which covers the area to the east of Burton, is a flat tract of land that sits between Burton and the eastern boundary of the district. As an alluvial terrace, the area within the Borough boundary ranges between 7-15m AOD. Beyond the boundary the landform becomes distinctly steeper as the landscape rises into the edge of the New Forest. The area is visually enclosed by the dominant railway embankment to the south and the rising ground and woodland to the east. To the west, St Catherine's Hill provides a low horizon above the village of Burton. To the north, the landscape character continues up the Avon Valley beyond the Borough boundary.
- **Urban Edges and Enclaves – Land to the South of Burton and North of the Railway Line** – this LCA, which covers the area to the south of Burton, is an area of farmland enclosed by housing and the railway at the southern end of Burton. On the eastern side the area is enclosed by the older part of the village along Salisbury Road. The area is enclosed on the north and north eastern side by modern estate housing. The majority of the housing backs onto the space. Although outside of the protected flood plain, the area is low lying, generally below 5m AOD. The area is divided into small pastures with a network of ditches. Some limited tree cover screens views into the area and the railway embankment.

Tree Preservation Orders

5.10 Implemented by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value. When considering amenity, the LPA will likely take into consideration the following criteria[21]:

[21] GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Preservation Orders – General', [online] available to access via this link

- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public.
- Individual, collective, and wider impact: considering the importance of the trees or woodlands in relation to their cultural or historic value, contribution to and relationship with the landscape and/or their contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

5.11 Spatial data on TPOs provided by BCP Council[22] shows that there are numerous TPOs within the neighbourhood area, primarily within the built-up area of Burton.

Visual amenity

5.12 It is useful to note that the views across the neighbourhood area are also an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process. Changes, such as development and landscape change, can see these views degraded overtime.

5.13 Of particular relevance to the neighbourhood area are the views which contribute to Burton and Winkton's special qualities, as set out in the Burton Conservation Area and Winkton Conservation Area appraisals (this will be explored further within the historic environment SEA topic).

Future Baseline

5.14 New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the neighbourhood area. In the absence of the BWNP, more speculative development may come forward within the open countryside or countryside setting, which could place increased pressure on the rural environments within the neighbourhood area. This may negatively impact upon the landscape and townscape features which contribute to the distinctive character of the area.

5.15 However, locally distinctive landscape and townscape features, characteristics and special qualities can be protected, managed, and enhanced through the BWNP. New development that is appropriately designed and landscape-led has the potential to support the area's inherent landscape character and quality. This may, for example, include regeneration and brownfield development that improves the town setting (although this is dependent on the availability of such land within the neighbourhood area), delivering green infrastructure improvements and/ or new recreational opportunities and enhanced framing of key views.

Key Issues

5.16 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to landscape:

- The neighbourhood area overlaps with the New Forest NCA; this NCA includes important views which the BWNP should seek to protect.

[22] BCP Council (no date): 'Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas', [online] available to access via this link

- The neighbourhood area overlaps with three LCAs: River Avon Flood Plain, Avon River Terrace – East of Burton, and Urban Edges and Enclaves – Land to the South of Burton and North of the Railway Line. These landscapes are unique to the neighbourhood area and the BWNP should seek to support the protection of these landscapes.
- New development has the potential to lead to incremental change in landscape and villagescape character and visual amenity. Therefore, the BWNP should seek to deliver development that protects and enhances the neighbourhood area's intrinsic landscape character and quality.

SEA Framework

5.17 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

SEA objective	Assessment questions
To protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape and villagescape.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Protect and/ or enhance local landscape and villagescape character, key sensitivities, and quality of place? • Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity and settlement character? • Protect visual amenity and locally important views in the neighbourhood area? • Retain and enhance landscape and villagescape features that contribute to the rural setting of the neighbourhood area?

6. Historic Environment

Focus of topic

6.1 This topic focuses on designated and non-designated heritage assets, the setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets, locally important heritage features, and the historic character of the neighbourhood area.

Policy Context

6.2 **Table 6.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 6.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the historic environment

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
The National Design Guide	2019
National Model Design Code	2021
Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management	2019
Historic England Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets	2017
Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	2016
Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans	2015
Burton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	2007
Winkton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan	2007
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

6.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The key high-level principles for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment are as follows:
  - The historic environment is a shared resource.
  - Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment.
  - Understanding the significance of places is vital.
  - Significant places should be managed to sustain their values.
  - Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent, and consistent.
  - Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

- The significance of places is the key element which underpins the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building, an archaeological site, or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape.
- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which ultimately seeks to conserve and enhance historic environment assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. The NPPF seeks planning policies and decisions which are sympathetic to local character and history without preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change. The NPPF supports the use of area-based character assessments, design guides and codes and masterplans to help ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places.
- As set out in the NPPF, it should be ensured that the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. Design Codes can set out a necessary level of detail in sensitive locations, for example, with heritage considerations, and they can set out specific ways to maintain local character.
- Planning Practice Guidance expands on the NPPF recognising the proactive rather than passive nature of conservation.
- The role of the historic environment, as part of healthy and thriving ecosystems, landscapes, and cultural values, including settlement identity, is reiterated through the key messages of the 25 Year Environment Plan and National Design Guide.
- Historic England's Advice Notes provide further guidance in relation to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Of relevance for the BWNP is the emphasis on the importance of:
  - Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin designations, as well as how settings and/or views contribute to the significance of heritage assets.
  - Recognising the value of implementing controls through neighbourhood plans, conservation area appraisals and management plans.
  - Appropriate evidence gathering, including clearly identifying those issues that threaten an area or assets character or appearance and that merit the introduction of management measures.
- In addition to conserving the historic environment, the BWNP should seek to identify opportunities to enhance the fabric and setting of the historic environment. It should also seek to rejuvenate features and areas which are at risk of neglect and decay.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly related to the historic environment topic:
  - Policy HE1: Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment

- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- The Burton Conservation Area and Winkton Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans aim to ensure that the essential character of Christchurch is suitably protected and that future development in the borough is appropriate and sustainable.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Designated heritage assets and areas

6.4 Reflecting its rich historic environment resource, the neighbourhood area has a total of 55 listed buildings, one scheduled monument, and two conservation areas (see **Figure 6.1** overleaf).

Listed buildings

6.5 Listed buildings are nationally designated buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.[23] According to the National Heritage List for England, the neighbourhood area contains one Grade II* listed building – Burton Hall – and 54 Grade II listed buildings. The majority of these listed buildings are located within the built-up area of Burton.

Scheduled monuments

6.6 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) allows the investigation, presentation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and makes provision for the regulation of operations or activities that could affect ancient monuments and archaeological areas. Scheduled Monuments are nationally designated sites which are protected under this Act. There is one Scheduled Monument within the neighbourhood area – Staple Cross – located along the southern boundary.

Conservation areas

6.7 Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character – mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England.[24]

6.8 The neighbourhood area contains two conservation areas – Burton and Winkton. An assessment of the special interests, condition, issues, proposed actions and management proposals of both conservation areas can be found within their respective Appraisal and Management Plan. These will be essential sources of reference during the next stages of the SEA process.

6.9 Burton Conservation Area was first designated in January 1986 and the current management plan was adopted in February 2007. It was designated due to the

[23] 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990', [online] is accessible via this link
[24] Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to access via this link

area's character, which stems from the landscape setting, the traditional buildings and resultant spaces, the boundaries and public realm, landmarks and vistas, and the interaction with natural features. The following mix of elements contribute the most to the character of Burton:

- The linear development of settlements along Salisbury Road.
- The open rural agricultural landscape setting.
- The village green and the collection of historic buildings fronting it.
- A sense of a village community with churches, village hall, post office/shop and good mix of resident ages.
- The survival of farms and farm buildings which serve as a reminder of the origins of the settlement.
- The survival of houses from the Georgian period and later with remnants of their estates still contributing to the street scene.
- The distinctive bellcote of the Grade II listed St Luke's Church built by local architect Benjamin Ferrey.
- Landmark trees that make important contributions to the street scene.
- Mature tree cover that obscures buildings, forming an attractive part of the buildings' settings.
- Open views across the Avon River terrace with distant views of the edge of the New Forest.
- The survival of cottages, farmhouses and outbuildings in traditional materials such as local handmade red brick, natural slate, clay tiles and thatch.

6.10 Winkton Conservation Area was first designated in March 1989 and the current management plan was adopted in January 2007. It was designated due to the area's character, which stems from the landscape setting, the traditional buildings and resultant spaces, the boundaries and public realm, landmarks and vistas, and the interaction with natural features. The following mix of elements contribute the most to the character of Winkton:

- The high-quality landscape setting.
- The natural boundary formed by the river.
- The noteworthy number of mature trees, both individually and in groups.
- Historic buildings which strongly define the principal routes and spaces.
- Consistent use of materials, in particular the use of brick and slate.
- A domestic scale, with the exception of the former Homefield School.
- Uses appropriate to the landscape setting, namely equestrian centres, open paddocks and playing fields.
- The sense of village community.
- A dynamic and changing townscape enhanced by the route of the road and the enclosure by trees, boundary walls and buildings.

- Views of the wider river setting.

Locally important heritage assets

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

6.12 The Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies important distinctive structures and features that contribute to the local distinctiveness and sense of place in the county. A high-level search of the Dorset HER, accessed via the Heritage Gateway[25], produced 68 records for the neighbourhood area, 20 of which are non-statutory.

6.13 During the following stages of the SEA process (where appropriate, and subject to the availability of such information), the Dorset HER will be reviewed in greater detail to determine the potential impacts to non-designated heritage features resulting from the provisions within the BWNP. A key source of information will be the Dorset Explorer interactive map.[26]

Heritage at risk

6.14 Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register.[27] The Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at risk'. No heritage assets within the neighbourhood area are deemed 'at risk'.

6.15 It is important to recognise that the Heritage at Risk Registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether any of the Grade II listed buildings within the neighbourhood area are at risk.

6.16 Encouraging and facilitating improvements to the condition of heritage assets within the neighbourhood area (wherever practicable) is recognised as an opportunity for the BWNP.

Future Baseline

6.17 New development areas in the neighbourhood area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets; for example, through inappropriate design and layout, and increasing the impacts of traffic within conservation areas. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.

6.18 Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the neighbourhood area, there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the

[25] Heritage Gateway (no date): 'More Detailed Search', [online] available to access via this link
[26] Dorset Explorer (no date): 'Location Information from Dorset Council', [online] available to access via this link
[27] Historic England (2022): 'Heritage at Risk 2022 Registers', [online] available to access via this link

settlements within the area, support historic landscape character and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

Key Issues

6.19 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to the historic environment:

- The neighbourhood area contains a wealth of designated heritage assets, including 55 listed buildings, one scheduled monument, and two conservation areas.
- The Dorset HER highlights 20 non-designated heritage assets which provide local historic significance to the neighbourhood area. These sensitivities should therefore be appropriately addressed during the consideration of future growth options for the neighbourhood area.
- It will be important to ensure that future development avoids/ minimises impacts upon the historic environment and maximises opportunities to improve the public realm and green infrastructure, to the indirect benefit of heritage settings.
- It will also be important to ensure that sensitive development is brought forward in some of the key areas of historic focus within the neighbourhood area, particularly the conservation areas, with due consideration given to the appraisal or management plans for these areas in the early stages of development.

SEA framework

6.20 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Conserve and enhance the significance of the historic environment in and within proximity to the neighbourhood area.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Conserve and enhance buildings, structures, and areas of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings? • Conserve and enhance the significance of the Burton and Winkton Conservation Areas? • Protect the integrity and historic setting of key finds of heritage interest as listed in the Dorset HER? • Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the neighbourhood area?

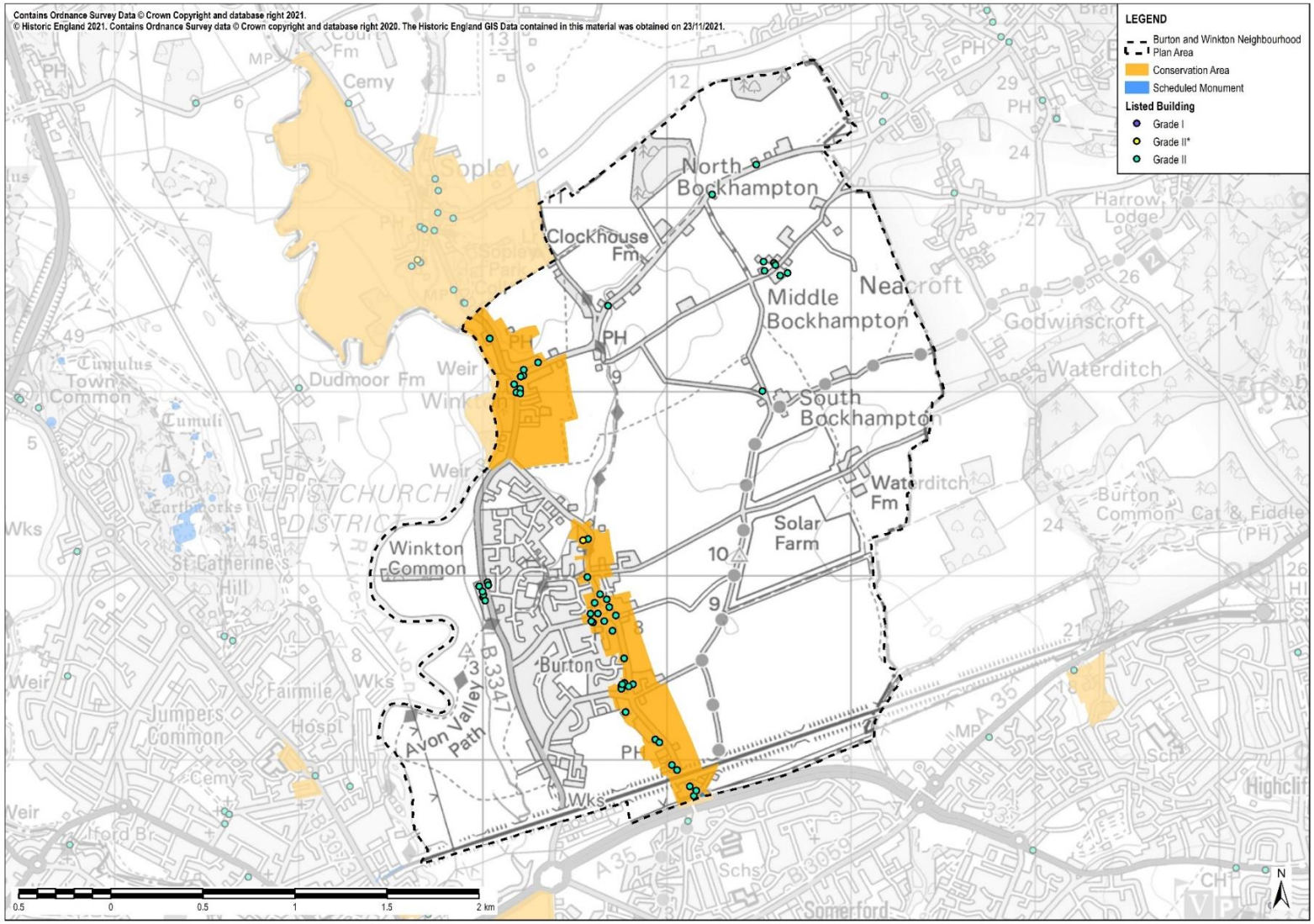

Figure 6.1 Designated heritage assets within and surrounding the neighbourhood area

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of topic

7.1 This topic focuses on the quality of agricultural land, water resources and water quality, and mineral resources.

Policy Context

7.2 **Table 7.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 7.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to land, soil, and water resources

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England	2009
Future Water: The Government's water strategy for England	2011
Water for Life	2011
The National Waste Management Plan	2013
South West Water and Bournemouth Water Final Water Resources Management Plan	2019
Bournemouth Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024	-
Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan	2019
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy	2014
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

7.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which seeks to protect high quality soil resources, and improve the water environment; recognising the wider benefits of natural capital and derived from ecosystem services. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the need to take account of the long-term implications of climate change and build resilience in this respect. The NPPF encourages efficient land use, utilising brownfield land opportunities and land remediation schemes where appropriate and delivering environmental gains.
- The 25-year Environment Plan presents a focus for environmental improvement in the next couple decades, with aims to achieve clean air, clean and plentiful water, and reduced risk from environmental hazards. This includes measures to improve soil quality, restore and protect peatlands, use water more sustainably, reduce pollution, maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impacts. This leads on from and supports the soil strategy for England (Safeguarding our soils)

which seeks to ensure that all England's soils will be managed sustainably, and degradation threats tackled successfully by 2030, as well as the national water strategies which seek to secure sustainable and resilient water resources and improve the quality of waterbodies, and the national waste plan which seeks to identify measures being taken to move towards a zero-waste economy.

- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly related to the land, soil and water resources topic:
  - Policy ME3: Sustainable Development Standards for New Development
  - Policy ME7: Protection of Groundwater
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- South West Water and Bournemouth Water's Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) outlines the strategy for maintaining the balance between water supply and demand for the future. The strategy focuses on three different areas:
  - Reducing leakage and future demand for water.
  - Optimising water resources and ensure they are resilient to future droughts.
  - Developing planning tools and understanding of future options.
- The WRMP outlines how these objectives will help South West Water and Bournemouth Water to manage water supply and demand issues in the future to ensure the continued provision of clean water for all Bournemouth area residents in the period up to 2044/ 45.
- Bournemouth Water are currently preparing a new WRMP, which will replace the existing WRMP in 2024.
- The BWNP will also need to conform with the principles set out in the Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan and the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Strategy, which identify and safeguard sites and resources that are important to the continuation of sustainable mineral and waste management.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Soil resources

7.4 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (in addition to 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. Development needs to avoid the loss of higher quality BMV agricultural land.

7.5 No recent, detailed ALC has been undertaken in the neighbourhood area. In terms of the pre-1988 indicative ALC, the parish is underlain by a mix of Grade 1 (Excellent), Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) and Grade 4 (Poor) agricultural land

(see **Figure 7.1** overleaf).[28] However, in the absence of a detailed assessment it is not possible to determine whether the Grade 3 land in the neighbourhood area is Grade 3a (BMV land) or Grade 3b (poorer quality).

7.6 The results of the 'Predictive BMV Land Assessment' for South West England, provided by Natural England[29], indicate that the neighbourhood area largely has a high likelihood of being underlain by BMV land (>60% area). However, the area to the west if Burton, surrounding the River Avon, has a low likelihood of being underlain by BMV land (<20% area) (see **Figure 7.1** below).

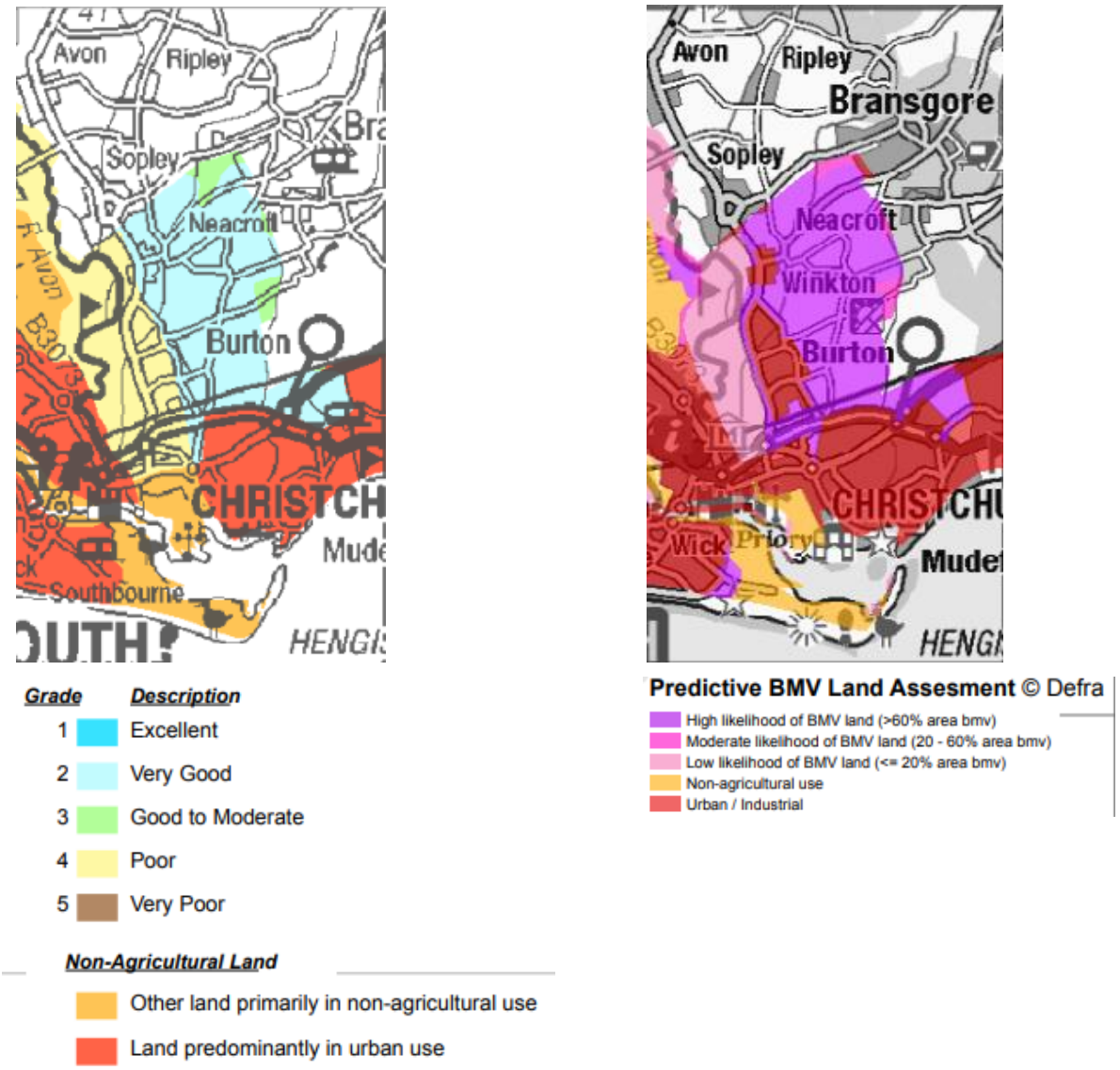

Figure 7.1 ALC and BMV agricultural land in the neighbourhood area

[28] Natural England (2010): 'Agricultural Land Classification Map South West Region', [online] available to access via this link
[29] Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land – Strategic scale map South West Region', [online] available to access via this link

Water resources and quality

7.7 Bournemouth Water is the water provider for the neighbourhood area, whilst Wessex Water is the sewerage provider.

7.8 According to Bournemouth Water's draft WRMP, which is due to be adopted in 2024, the neighbourhood area falls within the Bournemouth Water Resource Zone (WRZ). The principal water sources are the Hampshire Avon and Dorset Stour. There are also two small lakes which provide short-term bankside storage. Meanwhile, groundwater abstractions provide water to the more rural parts of the WRZ. This zone does not have a strategic reservoir, and as such, Bournemouth Water abstract water directly from river sources.

7.9 The neighbourhood area is located within the Avon Hampshire Management Catchment.[30] This contains only one operational catchment – the Avon Hampshire Operational Catchment – which contains 51 water bodies.[31] XX of these intersect with the neighbourhood area, which are:

- **Hampshire Avon (Lower)** – This water body was awarded a moderate ecological status in 2019 but was failed for its chemical status.
- **Clockhouse Stream** – This water body was awarded a moderate ecological status in 2019 but was failed for its chemical status.

7.10 Notably, for the 2019 assessment of chemical status, the Environment Agency changed some methods and increased its evidence base. Due to these changes, all water bodies now fail chemical status and this assessment is not comparable to previous years assessments.

7.11 There are four groups of global pollutants (uPBTs) causing these failures. There is actually little underlying change in chemical status for chemicals that are not uPBTs. The slight difference is attributable to newly introduced substances, such as cypermethrin. If uPBTs are excluded then chemical status assessment is comparable to previous years assessments.

7.12 The four groups of global pollutants (uPBTs) that cause the significant change in chemical classification are: polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs); mercury; certain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) – a group of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which is being assessed for the first time.

7.13 Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. [32] The neighbourhood area does not intersect with any SPZs.

7.14 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)[33] denote areas at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. The neighbourhood area does not intersect with any NVZs.

7.15 Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPAs) (Surface Water) are defined by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 (or WFD Regulations) as locations where raw water is

[30] Environment Agency (no date): 'Avon Hampshire Management Catchment', [online] available to access via this link
[31] Environment Agency (no date): 'Avon Hampshire Operational Catchment', [online] available to access via this link
[32] GOV.UK (2017): 'Groundwater Protection', [online] available to access via this link
[33] GOV.UK (2021): 'Nitrate Vulnerable Zones', [online] available to access via this link

abstracted for human consumption providing, on average, more than 10 cubic metres per day, or serving more than 50 persons, or is intended for such future use. For surface water DWPAs, water may be abstracted from rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs. The western boundary of the neighbourhood area intersects with a surface water DWPA.

Mineral resources

7.16 Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) cover areas of known mineral resources that are of sufficient value to warrant protection for future generations. MSAs ensure that such resources are adequately and effectively considered in land-use planning decisions so that they are not needlessly sterilised.

7.17 Whilst the neighbourhood area does not contain any MSAs, it is situated in a Superficial Sand and Gravel Resource Block area.

Future Baseline

7.18 Given the presence of BMV land across much of the neighbourhood area, new development areas have the potential to result in the permanent loss of productive agricultural land. In this respect, the BWNP should seek to retain greenfield land and make best use of brownfield sites for development. It is important to note that this is dependent on the availability of such sites.

7.19 Future development has the potential to affect water resources and quality through increased consumption, diffuse pollution, waste-water discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the WFD are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the neighbourhood area and wider area. It will be important for new development to avoid impacts on water quality and to contribute to reducing consumption and improving efficiency.

Key Issues

7.20 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to land, soil, and water resources:

- A substantial portion of the neighbourhood area is underlain by BMV agricultural land. Hence, development within the neighbourhood area has the potential to result in the loss of productive agricultural land, and therefore brownfield sites should be prioritised.
- Plan making should consider how local decisions affect water supply, such as water accessibility issues, and ensure that appropriate drainage infrastructure is in place to accommodate new development areas.
- The western boundary of the neighbourhood area intersects with a surface water DWPA. This area will be protected through the WFD.
- The neighbourhood area is within a Superficial Sand and Gravel Resource Block area. This area will be protected through the Minerals Strategy.

SEA framework

7.21 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objectives and assessment questions.

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land resources? • Promote any opportunities for the use of previously developed land, or vacant/ underutilised land? • Protect the integrity of mineral resources?
Protect and enhance water quality and use and manage water resources sustainably.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Avoid impacts on water quality? • Support improvements to water quality? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development? • Protect waterbodies from pollution? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?

8. Community Wellbeing

Focus of topic

8.1 This topic focuses on population and age structure, deprivation issues, housing mix and affordability, employment, education, health and wellbeing, and leisure green spaces.

Policy Context

8.2 **Table 8.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 8.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to community wellbeing

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018
Healthy and safe communities - Planning practice guidance	2019
Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On	2020
Planning for Sport Guidance	2019
Dorset and BCP Local Housing Needs Assessment	2021
BCP Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	2022
BCP Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2023	2020
Dorset Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026	2021
Active Dorset: Sport and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment	2017
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

8.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which overall seeks to retain and enhance access to community services and facilities, including health facilities, educational facilities, and open space. The NPPF recognises the benefits of a range of local provisions supporting community needs, including in rural areas. The framework seeks to protect settlement and community identities. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the benefits of creating cohesive communities, in safe environments where crime and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life of residents.
- The NPPF recognises the role of development plans in helping to deliver access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity which contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities. The health benefits of access to nature, green spaces and green infrastructure are further reiterated through the 25-year Environment Plan.

- The 2020 Health Equity in England Report identifies that the health gap between less and more deprived areas has grown in the last decade, where more people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health, and where improvements to life expectancy have stalled, or even declined.
- The Planning for Sport Guidance seeks to help the planning system provide formal and informal opportunities for everyone to take part in sport and be physically active. The Guidance outlines 12 'planning-for-sport' principles.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly related to the community wellbeing topic:
  - Policy KS7: Role of Town and District Centres
  - Policy HE4: Open Space Provision
  - Policy LN7: Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy PC5: Shops and Community Facilities in Local Centres and Villages
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.
- Dorset and BCP's Local Housing Needs Assessment examines the future need for housing, including the affordable housing need, and makes recommendations on the mix of housing and the need for specific groups for BCP and Dorset. The two areas act as standalone housing market areas, although there is an element of overlap between the two.
- BCP Council's Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) provides a robust assessment of current and future need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Dorset and BCP Councils.
- BCP Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020-2023) sets a vision to create vibrant communities with excellent quality of life, where everyone plays an active role. It focuses on three priorities: empowering communities; promoting healthy lives; and support and challenge.
- 'Active Dorset' assess formal indoor and built sports facility needs across the six local authorities of Christchurch, East Dorset, West Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth and Portland, and North Dorset. The aim is to provide six separate needs assessments, one strategy and six action plans across the aforementioned authorities with the aim of assisting strategic planning for the future.
- The Dorset Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2021-2026) seeks to tackle all forms of homelessness. It highlights homelessness on the local scale as well as the national scale and outlines five objectives to combat homelessness in the county.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Population and age structure

8.4 According to data from the 2021 Census, the neighbourhood area has a population of 4,400 people, rounded to the nearest 100 people. **Figure 8.1**

below shows the age structure of the population. Notably, the neighbourhood area contains fewer people aged 0-54 compared to the national average, and more people aged 55+.

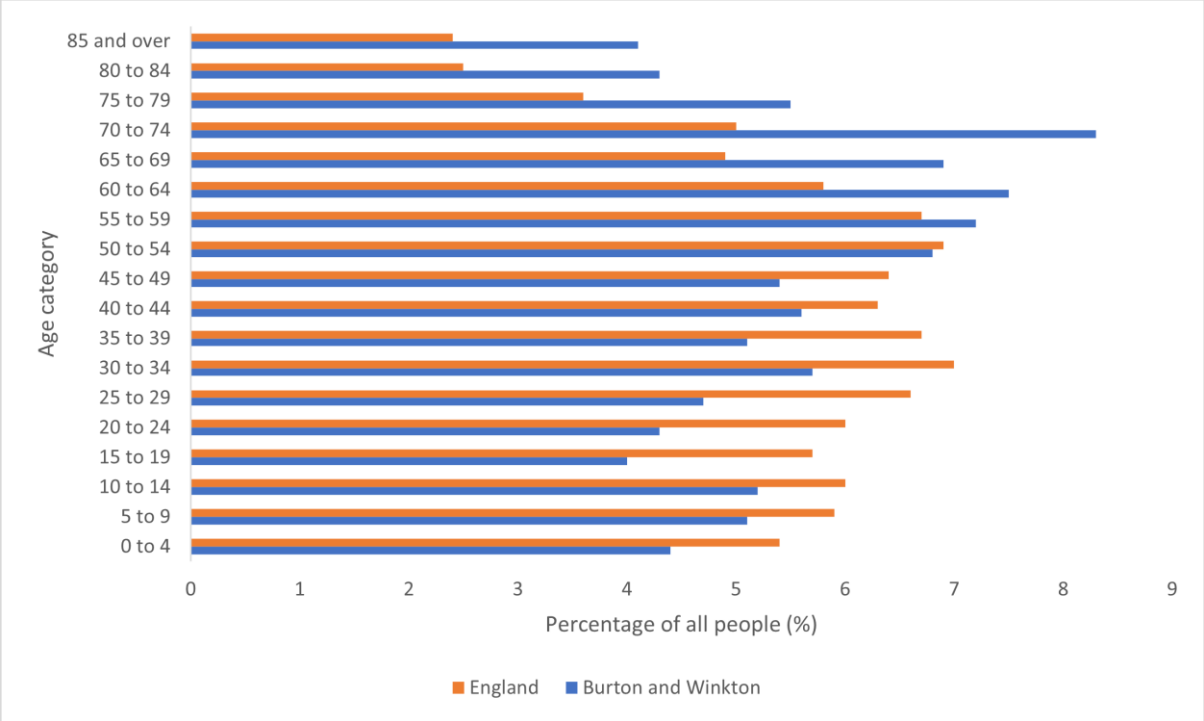

Figure 8.1 Age structure – a comparison of the neighbourhood area with the national average

Index of Multiple Deprivation

8.5 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation and is the combination of seven different domains as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **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 but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment**: the proportion of the working-age population involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those who want to work but cannot.
- **Education, skills and training**: the lack of attainment and skills in the population.
- **Health deprivation and disability**: this risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.
- **Crime**: the risk of personal and material victimisation at the local level.
- **Barriers to housing and services**: the physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
  - ‘Geographical Barriers’: relating to the physical proximity of local services

  - ‘Wider Barriers’: relating to access to housing, such as affordability.

- **Living environment**: the quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
  - ‘Indoors Living Environment’ measures the quality of housing.
  - ‘Outdoors Living Environment’ measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), 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.

8.6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)[34] are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.

8.7 The neighbourhood area overlaps with three LSOAs:

- **Christchurch 001A** – This LSOA covers the southern part of Burton, including Moorcroft Avenue, Footners Lane, Whitehayes Road, Martins Hill Lane, Summers Lane, Hawthorn Road, Salisbury Road, and Stony Lane.
- **Christchurch 001B** – This LSOA covers the central part of Burton, including Chestnut Way, Priory View Road, Pittmore Road, Burnham Road, Cowleys Road, and associated cul-de-sacs.
- **Christchurch 001C** – This LSOA covers the northern part of the neighbourhood area, including Winkton, North, Middle and South Bockhampton, and the northern part of Burton, including Stony Lane, Salisbury Road, and Campbell Road.

8.8 The 2019 IMD rankings of these three LSOAs, according to overall IMD and the seven deprivation domains in isolated, is shown in **Table 8.2** overleaf. Notably, only Christchurch 001B – under the education, skills and training domain – is classified as the ‘most deprived’, and this is only within the 40% percentile.

[34] DCLG (2019): ‘Indices of Deprivation Explorer’, [online] available to access via this link

Table 8.2 Ranking of the three LSOAs in the neighbourhood area according to overall IMD and the seven deprivation domains

Domain	Rank (out of 32,844 LSOAs in England)		
	Christchurch 001A	Christchurch 001B	Christchurch 001C
Overall IMD	25,852 (30% least deprived area)	25,114 (30% least deprived area)	23,684 (30% least deprived area)
Income	19,367 (50% least deprived area)	22,763 (40% least deprived area)	17,626 (50% least deprived area)
Employment	23,504 (30% least deprived area)	19,697 (50% least deprived area)	19,291 (50% least deprived area)
Education, skills and training	16,824 (50% least deprived area)	11,730 (40% most deprived area)	18,731 (50% least deprived area)
Health and disability	29,161 (20% least deprived area)	25,923 (30% least deprived area)	25,288 (30% least deprived area)
Crime	18,564 (50% least deprived area)	28,979 (20% least deprived area)	22,981 (40% least deprived area)
Barriers to housing and services	22,769 (40% least deprived area)	28,646 (20% least deprived area)	24,849 (30% least deprived area)
Living environment	30,122 (10% least deprived area)	24,300 (30% least deprived area)	20,910 (40% least deprived area)

Housing tenure and affordability

8.9 According to data from the 2021 Census, and as shown in **Figure 8.2** overleaf, the majority of people in the neighbourhood area (42.5%) own their home outright, which is 10% higher than the national average (32.5%). Of the remainder, 34.2% own their home with a mortgage, loan or shared ownership; 11.9% live in privately rented accommodation or live rent free; and 11.3% live in socially rented accommodation.

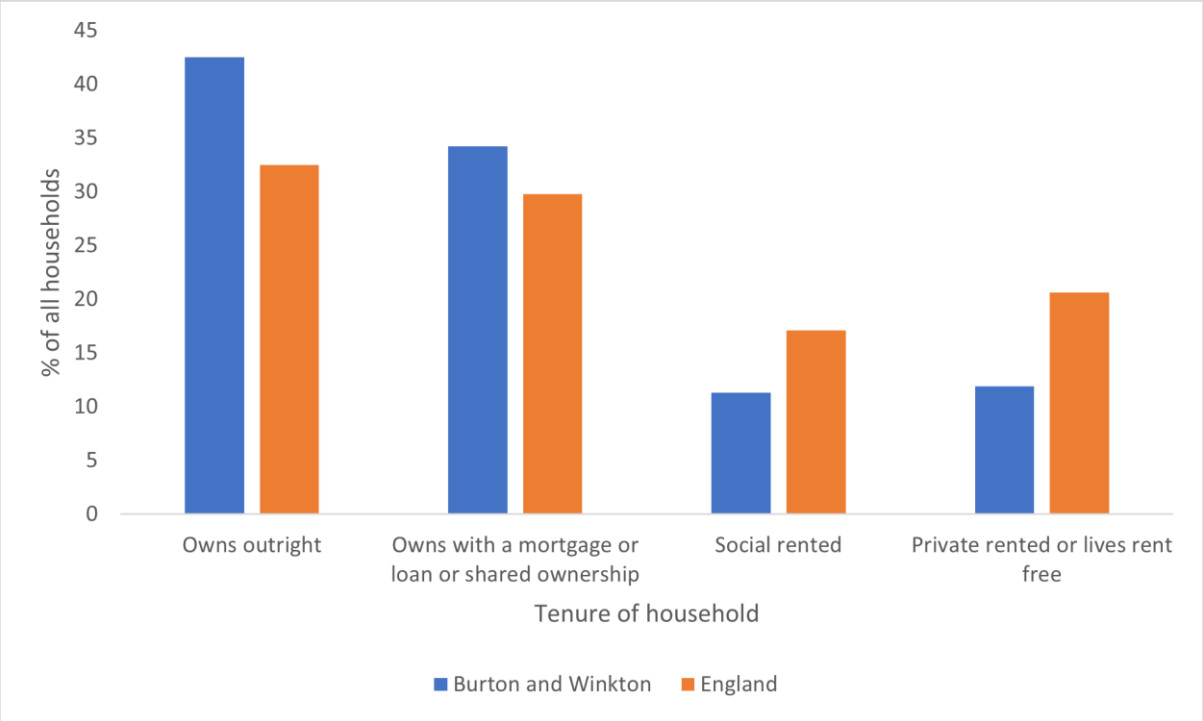

Figure 8.2 Tenure of households – a comparison of the neighbourhood area with the national average

8.10 Data from the ONS[35] shows that the median house price in the BCP area in the year ending September 2022 was £326,000, which is higher than the national average (£275,000). The median gross annual workplace-based earnings in the BCP area in 2022 was £31,734. The ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings in the BCP area was 10.27 in the same year. This means that full-time employees could typically expect to spend around 10.27 times their workplace-based annual earnings on purchasing a home.

Household type and size

8.11 In terms of household type, and according to data from the 2021 Census, 91.1% of all households in the neighbourhood area live in a whole house or bungalow, which is higher than the national average (77.4%). Of the remainder, 8.4% live in a flat, maisonette or apartment, and 0.5% live in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure.

8.12 In terms of household size, over half of households in the neighbourhood area have three bedrooms (52.2%), which is higher than the national average (40%). Of the remainder, 27.5% have two bedrooms, 16.5% have four or more bedrooms, and 3.8% have one bedroom.

Employment

8.13 According to data from the 2021 Census, of the economically active population in the neighbourhood area, 54.7% are in employment, and 2% are unemployment. The remainder (43.3%) are economically inactive.

[35] Office for National Statistics (2022): 'Housing price to workplace-based earnings ratio', [online] available to access via this link

Education

8.14 According to data from the 2021 Census, 45.4% of people aged 16 years and over hold a Level 1, 2 or 3 qualification as their highest level of qualification, which is higher than the national average (39.9%). Of the remainder, 26.4% hold a Level 4 qualification and above, 17.1% hold no qualifications, 7.7% hold an apprenticeship, and 3.4% hold other qualifications.

Health and wellbeing

8.15 According to data from the 2021 Census, and as shown in **Figure 8.3** below, 43.4% of all people in the neighbourhood area are in very good health, which is slightly lower than the national average (48.5%). Of the remainder, 37.1% are in good health, 15% are in fair health, 3.7% are in bad health, and 0.9% are in very bad health.

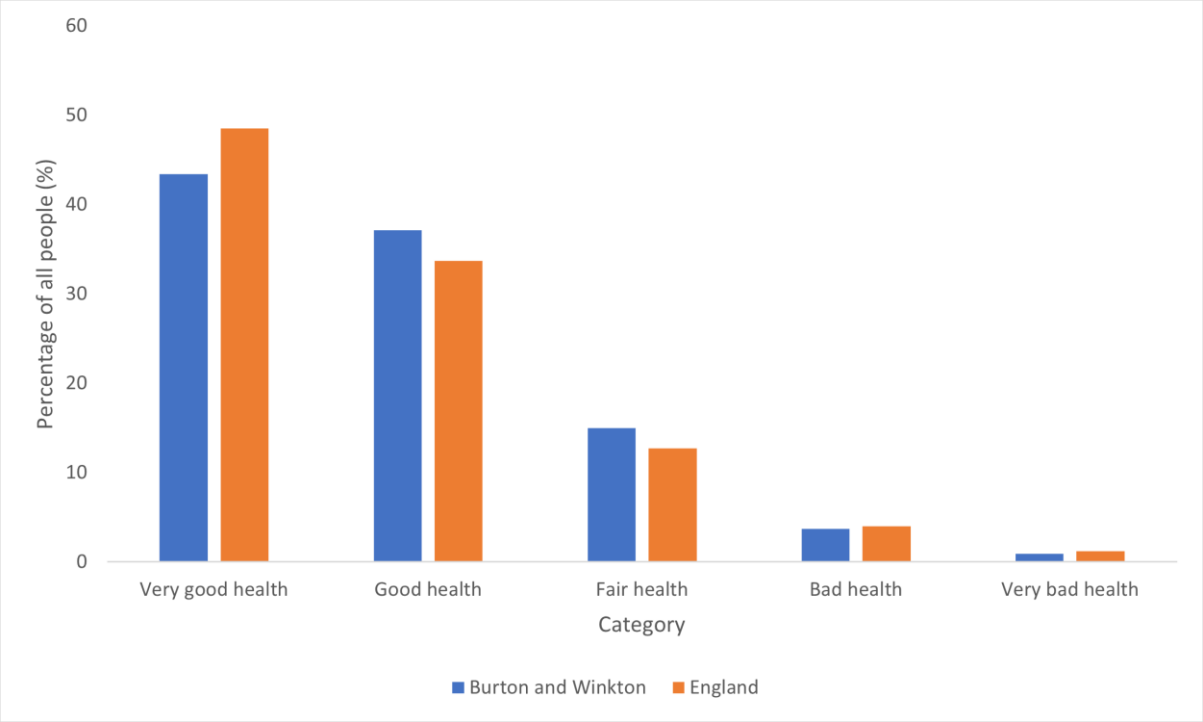

Figure 8.3 General health – a comparison of the neighbourhood area with the national average

Community assets and infrastructure

8.16 The availability of services, facilities, and amenities within the neighbourhood area varies by location. An overview of the services, facilities and amenities within each settlement is provided below[36]:

- Burton: the parish and community centre, shops including a craft store, vehicle repair and an estate agents, a hotel, a B&B, a farm, a camping site, a pub, businesses including a rubbish clearance business and interior design, a post office and newsagents, a pharmacy and medical centre, a nursey, playgroup and primary school, and a youth football club.
- Winkton: a nursing home, a hotel, a park and three businesses – an engineer, a car repair centre, and an airport shuttle business.

[36] The examination of the services, facilities and amenities within each settlement was conducted via a high-level Google maps search – focusing on each area in turn and making a note of the different features.

- Holfleet: an inn and a dairy farm.

8.17 A wider range of services, facilities and amenities are available in Christchurch, Southbourne, Boscombe and Bournemouth, which are all within a 30-minute car journey from the neighbourhood area.

Leisure and green spaces

8.18 Access to gardens, parks, woodlands and rivers played an important role in helping people through the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost nine in ten adults surveyed by Natural England reported that being in nature makes them feel happy and nearly three quarters of adults were concerned about biodiversity loss in England.[37]

8.19 Leisure and green spaces in the neighbourhood area include:

- A recreation ground in Burton
- A playing field in Burton
- Barrett's Copse
- Clockhouse Copse

Future Baseline

8.20 As the population of the neighbourhood area continues to age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community in certain parts of the area, whilst also placing additional pressures to existing services and facilities.

8.21 The suitability (e.g., size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies throughout the BWNP. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

8.22 The importance of local services and facilities, and access to open green spaces and recreational areas has been further highlighted through the ongoing pandemic. These factors are more likely to be appropriately considered and addressed through planned development rather than unplanned development.

8.23 The Covid-19 pandemic has also changed the way people work and shop. For many people, working from home is likely to continue to form part of a more flexible approach.

Key Issues

8.24 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to community wellbeing:

- The percentage of people in the neighbourhood area aged 65+ is rising, stressing a need for appropriate housing for the aging population, which may include bungalows and assisted living units.

[37] Natural England (2020): 'The People and Nature Survey', [online] available to access via this link

- In terms of overall deprivation, all three LSOAs that overlap with the neighbourhood area are amongst the 30% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country in terms of overall IMD (2019).
- Housing affordability is a key concern for the neighbourhood area, and therefore it will be important that the BWNP provides a strong policy framework that supports the delivery of affordable housing.
- In terms of general health, 43.4% of all people in the neighbourhood area are in very good health, which is slightly lower than the national average (48.5%). This could be linked to the age profile of Burton and Winkton.
- The neighbourhood area contains a good range of community assets and infrastructure, which support community vitality and the quality of life of residents. The continued availability of community assets and infrastructure essential for growth within the neighbourhood area.
- The neighbourhood area contains several leisure and green spaces, including a recreation ground, a park, and two copses. It is vital that the BWNP provides a policy framework that seeks to continue to protect these important local assets.
- As the requirements of the working population continue to change, particularly in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is likely to be a requirement for adaptable dwellings which can accommodate more flexible working practices.

SEA framework

8.25 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Ensure growth in the neighbourhood area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing? • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities? • Facilitate green infrastructure enhancements? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?

9. Transportation

Focus of topic

9.1 This topic focuses on transport infrastructure, traffic flows and congestion, accessibility, and public rights of way.

Policy Context

9.2 **Table 9.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the BWNP.

Table 9.1 Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to transportation

Document title	Published
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021
Transport Investment Strategy	2017
BCP Local Transport Plan 3	2011
Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy	2014

9.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The BWNP will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which seeks the consideration of transport issues from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals to address any known issues and maximise opportunities to increase accessibility, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport. Larger developments are expected to be delivered in areas which are or can be made sustainable by limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. However, it is recognised that sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural environments.
- National transport strategies set out investment priorities which ultimately all seek to improve the connectivity, effectiveness and reliably of transport networks, whilst reducing impacts on the natural environment (including through decarbonisation). Furthermore, they place great emphasis on making cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journeys. This includes investment in new and upgraded infrastructure, changing perceptions, and increasing safety.
- At the local level, the following policies within the Core Strategy directly relate to the transportation SEA topic:
  - Policy KS9: Transport Strategy and Prime Transport Corridors
  - Policy KS10: Strategic Transport Improvements
  - Policy KS11: Transport and Development
  - Policy KS12: Parking Provision
- Due regard is also given to the policies and proposals with an air quality focus within the emerging BCP Local Plan.

- The BCP Local Transport Plan 3 sets out a strategy to deliver first class transport infrastructure and, subject to anticipated funding streams from both government and the private sector, the Plan will help to deliver:
  - Economic growth.
  - A Reduction in carbon emissions.
  - Equality of opportunity.
  - Improved safety, security and health; and
  - Improved quality of life for residents.

Baseline Summary

Current Baseline

Commuting patterns

9.4 According to data from the 2021 Census, and as shown in **Figure 9.1** below, 59% of all people in employment in the neighbourhood area drive a car or van to work, which is much higher than the national average (44.5%). In addition, 27.4% of people in employment work mainly at or from home – this figure is also lower than the national average (31.5%).

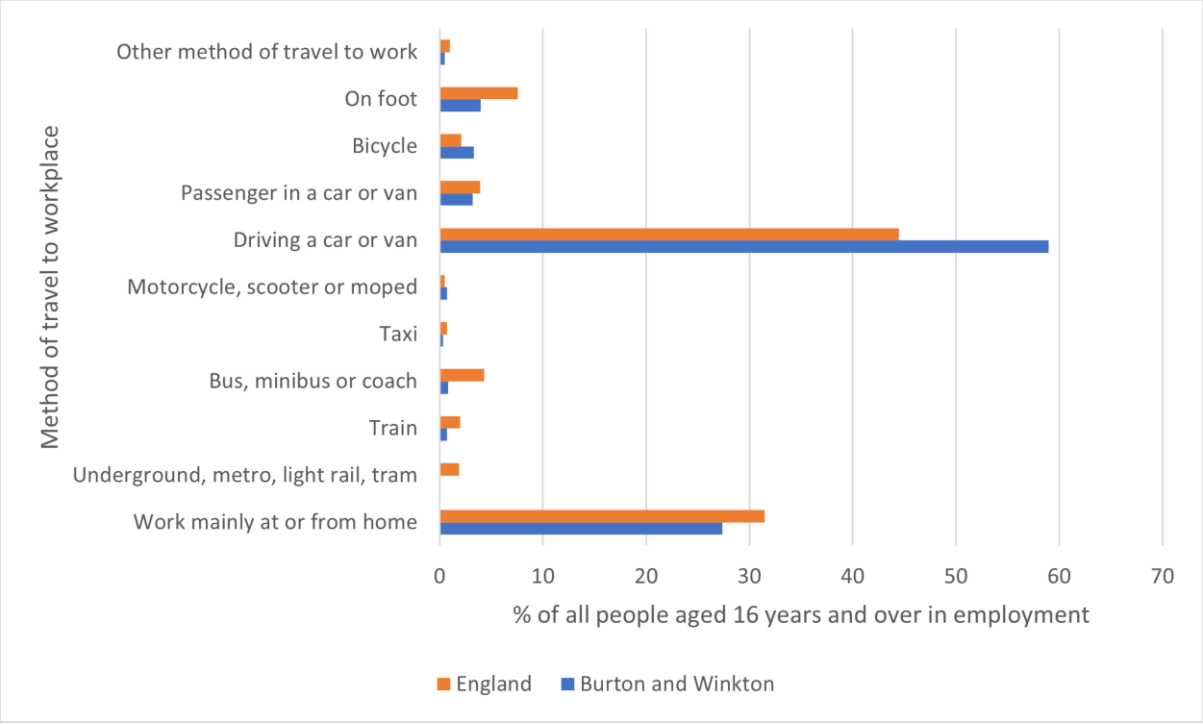

Figure 9.1 Method of travel to workplace – a comparison of the neighbourhood area with the national average

9.5 Also according to data from the 2021 Census, and as shown in **Figure 9.2** below, 36.4% of people in employment in the neighbourhood area travel less than 10km to work, which is broadly in line with the national average (35.4%).

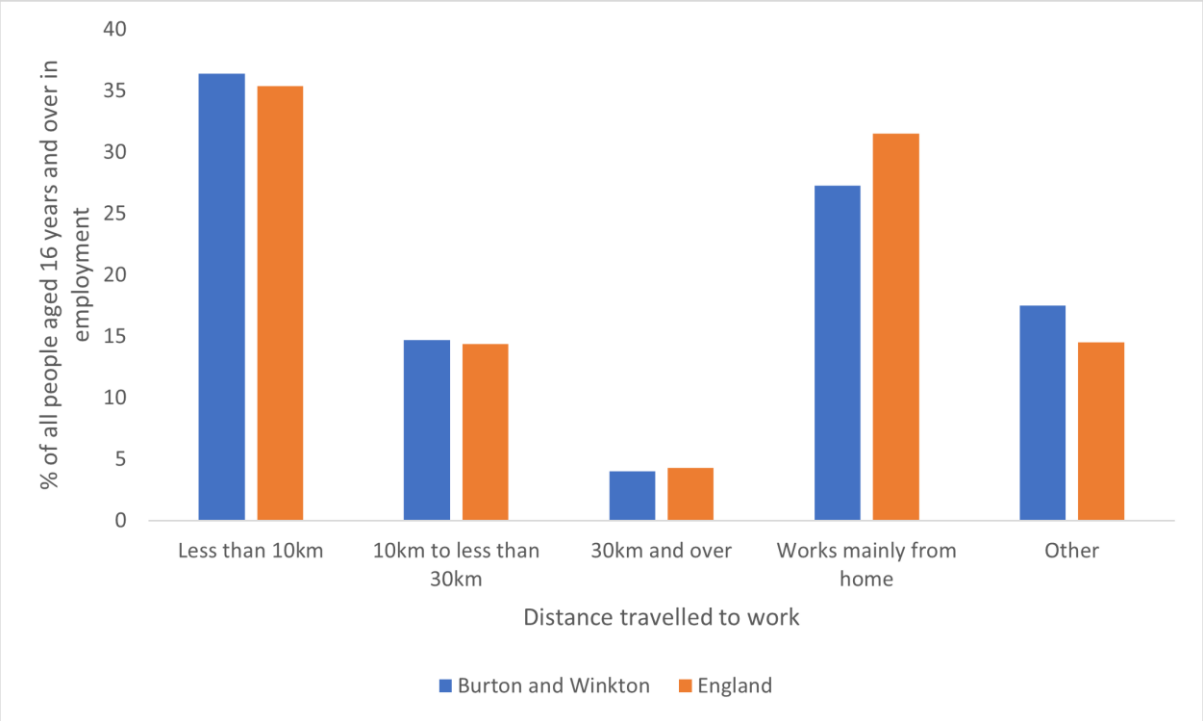

Figure 9.2 Distance travelled to work – a comparison of the neighbourhood area with the national average

Rail network

9.6 Whilst there are no railway stations within the neighbourhood area, Christchurch and Hinton Admiral railway stations are both nearby. Hourly services run from Christchurch to London Waterloo, Bournemouth (twice hourly), and Southampton Central. Hourly services run from Hinton Admiral to Bournemouth and Southampton Central.

9.7 Christchurch railway station is accessible from Burton via the 1b bus service, with the journey taking approximately 30 minutes.

Bus network

9.8 Morebus runs two bus services that have stop(s) in Burton – one of these is regular, whilst the other is less frequent. These are:

- 1b – This route, which runs every 30 minutes, provides a service from Burton to Christchurch and Bournemouth. Christchurch railway station is accessible via this route.
- 125 – This route runs between Ringwood and Christchurch. It is relatively infrequent, with two stops in Burton in each direction, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only.

Road network and congestion

9.9 The B3347 runs through the neighbourhood area, along its western boundary. It connects to the A35 and the Christchurch By Pass just south of the neighbourhood area, connecting Burton and Winkton to Christchurch, Bournemouth, Poole to the west, and Hinton Admiral to the east. To the north, it connects to the A31 and the A338 at Ringwood, which connect Burton and Winkton to Salisbury to the north and Southampton to the east. The remainder of the neighbourhood area comprises a series of minor roads.

Public rights of way

9.10 There is one long distance walking route within the neighbourhood area – the Avon Valley Path – which follows the course of the River Avon for 55km from Salisbury to Christchurch Priory and the sea.[38] The route has been divided into five sections; the 'Sopley to Christchurch' section passes through the neighbourhood area.

9.11 In addition, there are several public rights of way (PRoWs) in the neighbourhood area, including public footpaths that connect Burton with the other settlements within the neighbourhood area, as well as Christchurch. There are also two public bridleways in the neighbourhood area.

9.12 BCP Council's interactive cycling network map[39] also shows that several cycle routes pass through the neighbourhood area.

Future Baseline

9.13 Whilst the neighbourhood area is near two railway stations, with a bus service providing access to one, it is still not particularly well served by public transport. In this respect, growth in the area is likely to contribute to an increase in the reliance on the private vehicle for travel. Hence, new development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the neighbourhood area, especially if it is located away from the railway station, bus stops or active travel routes.

9.14 There might be opportunities to improve public transport within the neighbourhood area to facilitate more sustainable modes of transport whilst alleviating pressures on main road networks. Similarly, the provision of infrastructure to promote at home working is likely to positively contribute towards these aims.

9.15 Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by new infrastructure, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations.

Key Issues

9.16 Following the consideration of the baseline information and policy context review, the following key issues within the neighbourhood area are identified in relation to transportation:

- Whilst the neighbourhood area is not particularly well served by public transport, Christchurch railway station is nearby and accessible via bus. However, the BWNP should seek to improve public transport provision in the neighbourhood area where possible.
- The neighbourhood area is connected to a relatively good PRoW network, as well as the Avon Valley Path, and contains several cycle routes. The BWNP should seek to improve the local active travel network, potentially supporting its provision through new development.

[38] The New Forest (no date): 'Avon Valley Walk', [online] available to access via this link
[39] BCP Council (no date): 'Interactive cycling network map', [online] available to access via this link

- The recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to change travel patterns in the short, medium and (potentially) long-term. This includes an increase in home working, which tends to have a positive impact on transportation in terms of reducing congestion.

SEA framework

9.17 Based on the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

SEA objective	Assessment questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/ proposal help to: • Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel and support sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents and the built environment from the road network?

10. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the SEA process

10.1 The five stages of the SEA process[40] are identified below. Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process.

i. Screening.

ii. Scoping.

iii. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan.

iv. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation; and

v. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/ SEA (and present 'measures concerning monitoring').

10.2 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the BWNP. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the plan, including, if appropriate, alternative spatial strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Steering Group so that they might be considered when preparing the draft plan.

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

10.4 Following subsequent submission to BCP Council, and consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan will be put forward for Independent Examination.

Consultation on the scoping report

10.5 At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three consultees.

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

10.7 The consultation period runs from XXXX to XXXX. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Emma Hazell, Environmental Planner, AECOM

Email address: emma.hazell@aecom.com

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

[40] In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

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