

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

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

Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

July 2020

Quality information

Prepared by

Tamsin Stevens
Graduate Environmental
Consultant
and
Ryan Putt
Environmental Consultant

Checked by

Nick Chisholm-Batten
Associate Director

Approved by

Alastair Peattie
Associate Director

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Prepared for:

Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited
Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol, BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

aecom.com

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Non-Technical Summary

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has been undertaken to inform the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

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

What is the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan?

The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

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

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

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

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues for the area;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan;
- The likely significant effects of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan; and
- The next steps for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SEA process.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

Housing numbers to deliver through the Neighbourhood Plan

Under Policy S/9 'Minor Rural Centres' of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Gamlingay is identified as a Minor Rural Centre which are characterised as having a lower level of services, facilities and employment than Rural Centres (large villages), but a greater level than most other villages in South Cambridgeshire. These settlements perform a role in terms of providing services and facilities for a small rural hinterland.

Within Minor Rural Centres, the Local Plan states there is scope in principle for larger scale windfall development within the village framework. This would allow larger villages with a reasonable level of services to provide services and facilities for surrounding smaller villages to achieve more development. However, the Local Plan also states that overall scale of development in Minor Rural Centres should be restricted in recognition of their

more limited services compared to Rural Centres. A maximum scheme size of 30 dwellings is used as a guideline figure to indicate the upper limit of housing development likely to be suitable. Development will not be permitted on sites capable of accommodating scheme sizes significantly larger than 30 dwellings in Minor Rural Centres.

There is no requirement in the Local Plan for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan to bring forward sites for development for the next 5 years. Alongside, the housing needs survey undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan identified the need to provide up to 45 housing units across the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has however already been delivered in the parish, including through the delivery of 44 affordable housing units provided by or secured at: the newly rebuilt Robinson Court; through the Green End industrial estate site allocation; and via the proposed West Road development.

In light of this there is not a specific requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan to provide additional levels of housing over and above what has already been delivered.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for employment uses

Gamlingay has a thriving local economy with a wide variety of established businesses. This is an important element of local employment in the parish, and as highlighted by the parish survey undertaken through the Neighbourhood Plan's development process, almost a fifth of respondents who were in employment worked in or around the village.

In this respect local employment is a key contributor to community vitality in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, in the last five years a number of pressures have arisen affecting economic vitality. A key issue is that the principal employment site in the village at Green End has received planning permission for housing to be built on 75% of its area (through Local Plan Policy H/1f). This has resulted in a number of businesses relocating away from the village and outside the parish, with associated job losses for local people. As such, local employment land availability is an element which the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to focus on as a key issue through the Neighbourhood Plan.

In light of this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has sought to explore options for supporting local economic vitality and promoting employment opportunities in the Parish. This has included an exploration of the potential for improving, enhancing and developing existing employment areas, including at Station Road Industrial Estate, Church Street and Green End Industrial Estate.

The Steering Group also has explored the possibility of identifying additional areas as 'Rural Business Development Areas', which would be broad areas where employment uses would be supported if a set of criteria were met. Whilst not allocations, these Rural Business Development Areas would support the concept of consolidating existing uses for specific types of employment activities. In this context two areas have been identified as potential locations for Rural Business Development Areas, as follows:

- Mill Hill: an area with an existing mix of uses - including existing employment premises interspersed with residential properties and a care home.
- Drove Road: predominantly agricultural, with residential clusters and light industrial employment development to the west (B1 and B2).

To support decision making on this element of the Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA process has considered two options as reasonable alternatives. The first option would focus on supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement. The second option would facilitate the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas at Mill Hill and Drove Road

To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the two options considered through the SEA process are as follows:

- **Option A:** Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.
- **Option B:** Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas.

These two broad options were appraised as 'reasonable alternatives' against both the baseline and relatively (i.e. against each other). They were considered through the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during scoping and ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant theme. In

in addition, for each SEA theme, avoidance and mitigation measures have been identified for each of the two options, to be considered if either of the options were taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan.

The location of the existing employment areas and potential Rural Business Development areas are presented below in **Figure NTS1**.

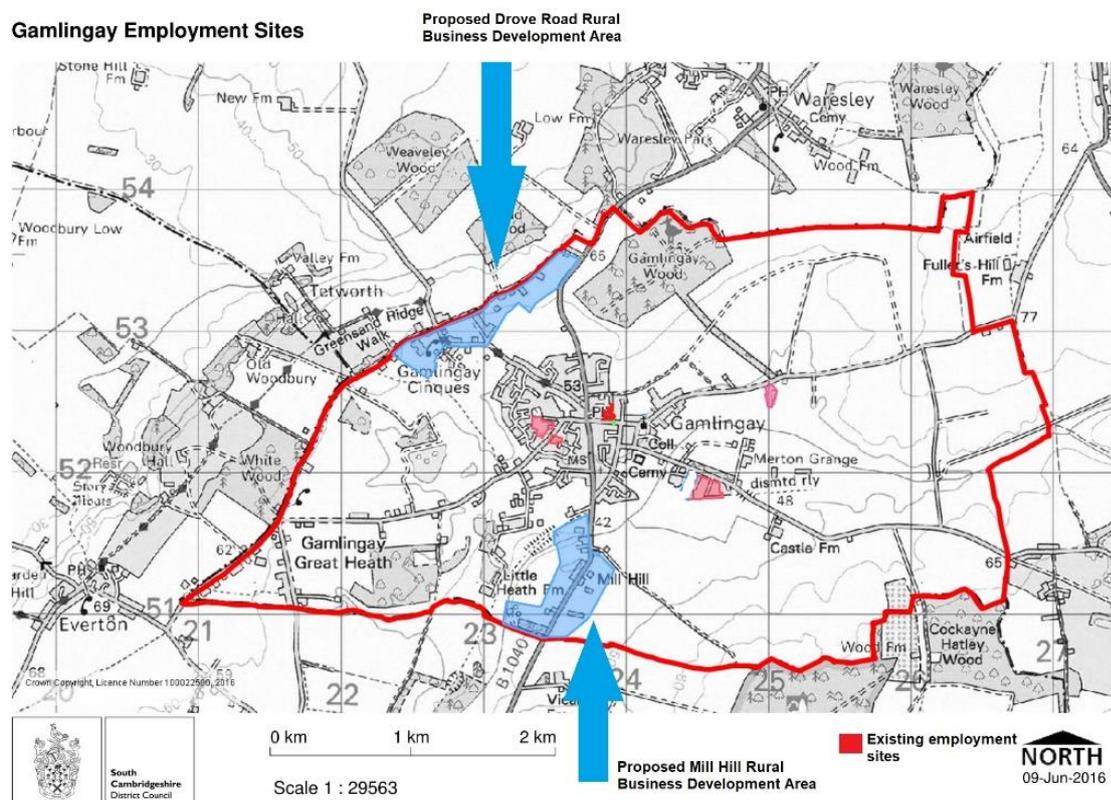


Figure NTS1: Location of existing employment sites and potential Rural Business Development Areas

The detailed findings of the appraisal are presented in **Table 4.1** in the main body of this Environmental Report, with the conclusions of the appraisal outlined below (as follows):

Option A, through focusing on existing employment areas for enhancing employment provision, will help limit potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape character and land and soil resources. Option B, through facilitating the development of previously undeveloped and underutilised land, has increased potential to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land, and has increased potential to impact on biodiversity habitats and local character without mitigation measures.

Option B however offers significant opportunities for the avoidance and mitigation of potential negative effects, and also offers additional opportunities for delivering enhancements through environmental net gain, improvements in green infrastructure provision and the delivery of community infrastructure.

Option B will do more to support the economic vitality of the parish through allowing existing businesses to relocate and expand within the parish, supporting diversification of the local economy and promoting new economic activities. In this respect, Option A offers fewer opportunities for reinforcing the existing vitality of the local economy.

Assessment of the Regulation 14 version of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

Utilising the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SEA, the SEA process assessed the policies put forward through the current version of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan. The Environmental Report has presented the findings of the assessment under the following SEA Themes:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
- Climate Change;
- Landscape
- Historic Environment;
- Land, Soil and Water Resources;
- Population and Community;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Transportation.

The assessment has concluded that the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community' SEA theme. This relates to the focus of the Neighbourhood Plan on safeguarding and enhancing community infrastructure, facilitating the delivery of employment land which meets local needs and through encouraging proposals which would seek to enhance the economic and community vitality of the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will also bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Health and Wellbeing' SEA theme, linked to its promotion of improved and accessible network of footpaths, enhancements to green infrastructure and open space provision to encourage active lifestyles, and the facilitation of public realm improvements.

The Neighbourhood Plan is also likely to lead to positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' SEA themes. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's emphasis on protecting and enhancing the special qualities of the parish, supporting the quality of the public realm, and through incorporating high-quality and sensitive design through new development proposals. This is further supplemented by the criteria within the Village Design Guide. However, it is important to acknowledge that the proposed site allocations do have the potential to negatively impact on the setting of nearby heritage assets in the absence of sensitive design. In this respect, the SEA recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan also consider including a policy which specifically focuses on the protection and enhancement of both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parish. The policy also could be supplemented with site specific mitigation measures for the proposed Rural Business Development Areas to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan policies provide an appropriate level of protection for the special interest and character of these key assets of historic environment value.

Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan will bring positive effects in relation to the 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' SEA theme through retaining habitats and enhancing ecological networks. However, given the approaches taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will help limit potential effects from new development areas rather than secure significant enhancements, these impacts are less likely to comprise significant positive effects overall. The SEA also recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan consider including the following sentence within a relevant policy: "*Development proposals should be required to deliver measurable, proportionate and appropriate biodiversity net gains through design, preferably on site, in line with national policy and via the application of a biodiversity metric tool.*"

Regarding the 'Climate Change' SEA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan will potentially lead to positive effects through supporting development proposals in accessible locations within proximity to services and facilities and locating development in areas which have a low flood risk potential. However, this is dependent on the extent to which development proposals incorporate these mitigation and adaptation measures through design. In this respect, the SEA also recommends that policies consider including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the design of development proposals to minimise the risk of surface water run-off. This may include incorporating permeable materials and natural features within the design of new development areas.

The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches regarding the 'Transportation' SEA theme, given its focus on reducing traffic congestion, providing additional parking through new development, supporting a modal shift towards sustainable transport and by ensuring that new developments provide appropriate access to local services and facilities. However, the scale and location of development through the proposed site allocations is unlikely to lead to significant increases to the levels of traffic along the key routes passing through the parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches for the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SEA themes through the implementation of objectives which seek to limit pollution and improve the environmental quality of the parish. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will facilitate a proportion of new development areas on

greenfield sites which have a likelihood of containing 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. This has the potential to lead to the permanent loss of productive agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan area, which cannot be mitigated. Nevertheless, the reuse of previously developed land in some areas of the proposed Rural Business Development Areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill will promote the most efficient use of land in these locations.

Next steps

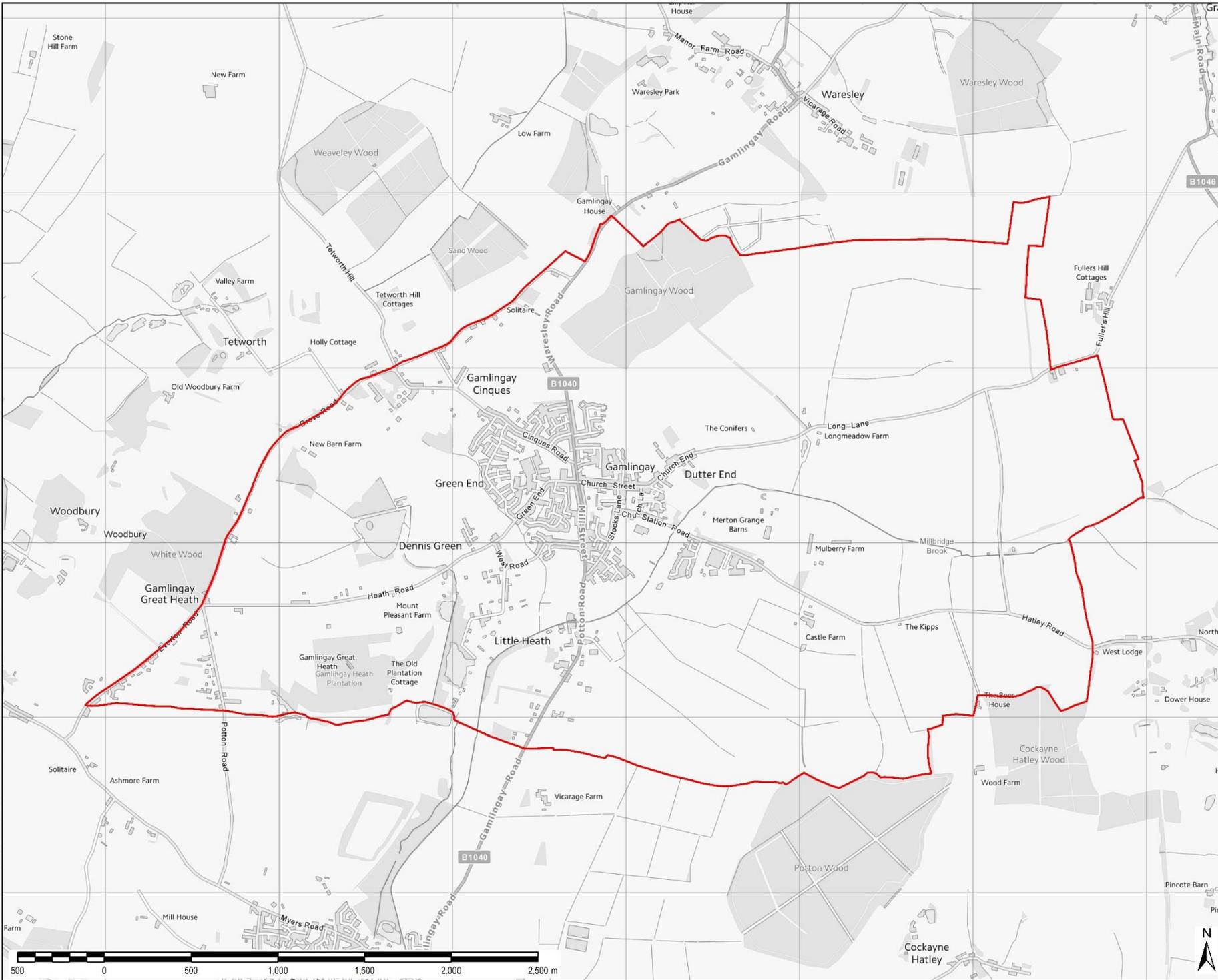
This Environmental Report accompanies the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.

Following consultation, any representations made will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and the Environmental Report will be updated as necessary. The updated Environmental Report will then accompany the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council, for subsequent Independent Examination.

At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

If Independent Examination is favourable, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by South Cambridgeshire District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for Gamlingay Parish.

File Name: I:\5000 - Information Systems\60571087 - Neighbourhood Plan_CRB_2018_202202_Maps\Gamlingay Parish Council\Figure 1.1 - Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Area.mxd



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LEGEND

Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue: **FINAL**

Client: **GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Project Title: **GAMLINGAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title: **GAMLINGAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA**

Drawn: CN	Checked: JW	Approved: TS	Date: 10/06/2020
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AECOM
25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7592 3000
www.aecom.com

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Drawing Number: **FIGURE 1.1**

Rev: **01**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Gamlingay's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.
- 1.3 It is currently anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council later in 2020 for subsequent independent examination.
- 1.4 Key information relating to the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Gamlingay Parish Council
Title of Plan	Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood planning
Purpose	<p>The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.</p> <p>The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
Timescale	To 2031
Area covered by the plan	The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Gamlingay in South Cambridgeshire (Figure 1.1).
Summary of content	The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	Kirstin Rayner, Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Secretary clerk@gamlingay-pc.gov.uk

SEA Screening for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.5 The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan was screened in by South Cambridgeshire District Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹ in September 2019.
- 1.6 A Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA where it is likely to have significant environmental effects. In this respect, the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in as requiring an SEA process for the following reasons:
- The Neighbourhood Plan will allocate new development in the parish. This includes potentially in environmentally sensitive locations, such as:
 - locations with sensitivity for the historic environment; and
 - locations with sensitivity for biodiversity, including SSSI Impact Risk Zones.
- 1.7 In light of this screening outcome, an SEA process is being undertaken to meet the specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

SEA explained

- 1.8 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.9 SEA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive². It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues.
- 1.10 The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by South Cambridgeshire District Council as requiring an SEA. To meet this requirement, the Neighbourhood Plan is undergoing an SEA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 1.11 The SEA will be undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.12 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
1. 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; and
 2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the Regulation 14 consultation version of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

¹ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019): 'SEA Screening Determination Statement' [online] available to access via: <<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning/gamlingay-neighbourhood-plan/>> last accessed [09/06/20]

² Directive 2001/42/EC

Structure of this SEA Environmental Report

1.13 This document is the SEA Environmental Report for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed below with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations. Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

Table 1.2: Questions that must be answered by the SEA Environmental Report in order to meet the regulatory³ requirements

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... ⁴
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.
What is the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.
What's the scope of the SEA?	
What is the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance.
What are the key issues & objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems/issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment.
What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach). The likely significant effects associated with alternatives. Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the current version of the plan.
What are the assessment findings at this stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the Regulation 14 consultation version of the plan. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Regulation 14 consultation version of the plan.
What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for plan making / SEA process.

³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁴ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

2. Local Plan context and vision for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

Local Plan context for the Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan⁵ which covers the period up until the year 2031. Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the district, alongside, but not as a replacement for the Local Plan. The Local Plan seeks to give communities a solid framework within which appropriate community-led planning policy documents, including neighbourhood plans, can be brought forward. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in the South Cambridgeshire District, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 2.2 Under Policy S/9 'Minor Rural Centres' in the Local Plan, Gamlingay is identified as a Minor Rural Centre which are characterised as having a lower level of services, facilities and employment than Rural Centres (large villages), but a greater level than most other villages in South Cambridgeshire. These settlements perform a role in terms of providing services and facilities for a small rural hinterland.
- 2.3 Within Minor Rural Centres, there is scope in principle for larger scale windfall development within the village framework. This would allow larger villages with a reasonable level of services to provide services and facilities for surrounding smaller villages to achieve more development. However, the Local Plan also states that overall scale of development in Minor Rural Centres should be restricted in recognition of their more limited services compared to Rural Centres. A maximum scheme size of 30 dwellings is used as a guideline figure to indicate the upper limit of housing development likely to be suitable. Development will not be permitted on sites capable of accommodating scheme sizes significantly larger than 30 dwellings in Minor Rural Centres.
- 2.4 Policy H/1 'Allocations for Residential Development at Villages' within the Local Plan outlines a site, known as Green End Industrial Estate, in Gamlingay which is to be developed as a mixed use site, incorporating employment uses utilising not less than 25% of the site, providing light industrial, office, and/or general industrial employment (Use Class B1 and B2) compatible with a residential area. The site will be developed in accordance with relevant Local Plan policy requirements and all sites will need to make appropriate financial contribution to any necessary additional infrastructure requirements, including towards additional capacity in local schools.

⁵ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018): 'South Cambridgeshire Local Plan' [online] available at: https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12740/south-cambridgeshire-adopted-local-plan-270918_sml.pdf [accessed 11/12/2019]

Vision, aims and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

2.5 The vision statement for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed during the earlier stages of plan development, is as follows:

“

For Gamlingay to continue to be a thriving and sustainable community, and an attractive, friendly and safe place to live and work. The Parish will seek to conserve its distinctive character as a radial village with satellite hamlets and easy access to open countryside, while nurturing and growing local employment and community facilities to ensure an outstanding quality of life for all residents.

Vision for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan

”

2.6 To support the vision, the Neighbourhood Plan outlines the following six key objectives:

- 1) We will meet the needs of the local community by supporting new housing that's the appropriate size, affordable and adaptable. All new buildings will be built to high environmental standards.
- 2) In order to maintain the integrity of Gamlingay as a radial village with satellite hamlets and smallholdings, we will protect the open countryside and landscape setting. New buildings will reflect and contribute to the Parish's strong sense of character.
- 3) We will nurture and grow local businesses to sustain and develop new employment opportunities for residents in the Parish.
- 4) We will protect valued local amenities and seek developer contributions to ensure that local facilities adapt to meet the needs of our growing community.
- 5) We will develop a network of footpaths to promote walking, cycling, riding for everyday journeys and recreation. We will reduce congestion by encouraging more parking provision.
- 6) We will protect and where possible enhance the natural environment and the biodiversity of the Parish.

3. What is the scope of the SEA?

SEA Scoping Report

- 3.1 The SEA Regulations require that: “*When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies*”. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.⁶ These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan SEA in January 2020.
- 3.2 The purpose of scoping was to outline the ‘scope’ of the SEA through setting out:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - Baseline data against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed;
 - The key sustainability issues for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
 - An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.
- 3.3 Responses received on the Scoping Report, and how they were addressed, have been summarised below.

Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p>Natural England <i>Clare Foster, (email response received on 17th January 2020)</i></p> <p>Natural England is generally satisfied with the recommendations of the SEA Scoping Report for Gamlingay draft Neighbourhood Plan, but would like to offer some further advice. It should be considered whether plans and programmes associated with the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Arc should be scoped into the report’s recommendations. Consequently, it would need to be determined whether air quality should indeed be screened out. As we mentioned at the screening stage, an assessment on whether the Plan could cause an adverse impact on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC (& SSSI) is required, therefore this should be an assessment question included at the end of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity section of the scoping report. And further, we would like to emphasise the importance of improving and maintaining hedgerow connectivity in the Gamlingay parish, in particular for local bat populations. Finally, please note that any housing development will also trigger the Cambridgeshire Recreational Pressure IRZ, which should be referenced within the Scoping Report. Importantly, the SEA Scoping Report should propose the consideration of recreational pressure impacts on relevant SSSIs (Gamlingay Wood, Waresley Wood, Potton Wood, Hayley Wood; please see MAGIC Maps), and ensure that there are appropriate policy requirements to mitigate impacts.</p>	<p>Assessment question has been updated to include reference to Eversden and Wimpole Woods. The SEA process covers the protection of all SSSIs which are within or in proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>The importance of improving and maintaining hedgerow connectivity in the Gamlingay parish and the Cambridgeshire Recreational Pressure IRZ have also been referred to.</p> <p>The annex has provided an essential reference point during the SEA process.</p>

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

Consultation response

How the response was considered and addressed

Please see below additional advice in the attached annex1 which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Environment Agency

No comments received.

Historic England

Edward James, Historic Places Adviser, East of England (email response received on 3rd February 2020)

We would refer you to the guidance in Historic England Advice Note 8: *Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment*, which can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

Comment noted. The guidance has been followed and is referenced within the Historic Environment chapter.

This advice sets out the historic environment factors which need to be considered during the Strategic Environmental Assessment or Sustainability Appraisal process, and our recommendations for information you should include.

We note that the Scoping Report identifies that the Cambridgeshire HER was not accessible via the Heritage Gateway. We would highlight that the Heritage Gateway is not considered an appropriate source of data for use in planning documentation, owing to the fact that it is updated less frequently than the HER's own databases, and we would expect the HER themselves to have been contacted to obtain this dataset. We therefore suggest you contact Cambridgeshire HER direct, via the contact details on this page: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/herdetail.aspx?crit=&ctid=95&id=4759>. They should be able to assist you and provide you with the up-to-date dataset required, possibly free of charge owing to the fact the data is required for neighbourhood planning purposes.

Cambridge HER have been contacted and Ruth Beckley has been able to provide some useful information regarding locally important features which has been included in Appendix A.

We suggest that the question "Will the proposal/option help to...preserve or enhance the character, appearance, and significance of Gamlingay Conservation Area" to the SEA Objectives on page 31.

Comment noted. An objective and assessment question has been added to reflect Gamlingay Conservation Area in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

-
- 3.4 Baseline information (including the context review and baseline data) is presented in **Appendix A**. The key sustainability issues and SEA Framework are presented below.

Key Sustainability Issues

Air Quality

- No air quality issues have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan area, and future issues are not anticipated.
- Due to the absence of any significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Eversden and Wimpole woods SAC lies approximately 7.4km east of the site and has been designated due to the presence of barbastelle bats.
- Gamlingay Wood Site SSSI is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Potton Wood SSSI and Weaveley and Sands Wood SSSI are located just outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- County Wildlife Sites are present within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- There are numerous Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats present in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Climate Change

- Any increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions in the parish.
- South Cambridgeshire has had higher per capita emissions in comparison to the East of England and England as a whole since 2005.
- South Cambridgeshire has seen a 39.9% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, higher than the reductions for the East of England (33.3%) and England (37.6%).
- The effects of climate change, based on medium emission scenarios, will see an estimated increase in annual mean temperatures of between 2°C and 3°C during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 in East England.
- The estimated change in annual mean precipitation is +20 to +30% in winter and -10% to -20% in summer, during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 in East England.
- The areas at highest risk of fluvial flooding (Flood Zone 3) in the Neighbourhood Plan area are those adjacent to Millbridge Brook.
- Within Gamlingay, there are areas of land at medium-high risk of surface water flooding.
- An Environment Agency flood risk alert (due to an unstable underground reservoir at Vicarage Farm, Potton Road) affects part of the south of the parish.
- The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan should seek to increase the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the effects of climate change by supporting and encouraging adaptation strategies.

Landscape

- The western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge NCA.
- The eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA.
- The potential effects of development proposed through the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan may have implications for the overall character and appearance of Gamlingay.

Historic Environment

- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I, five Grade II* and 65 Grade II nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.
- The Grade I listed building (Church of St Mary the Virgin) is identified as 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.
- Gamlingay Park and Garden is a Grade II registered Park and Garden which is located towards the west of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

- A Conservation Area is present within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which covers the built-up area of Gamlingay; however, a conservation appraisal or management plan has not yet been prepared.
- Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records prehistoric remains and paleolithic tools in Gamlingay parish. However the HER is not currently accessible via the Heritage Gateway.

Land, Soil and Water Resources

- Recent detailed assessment has not been undertaken to establish agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, national provisional quality datasets indicate that the majority of land within the Neighbourhood Plan area is Grade 1 and Grade 2 in the eastern part and Grade 3 and Grade 4 in the western part. As such there is the potential for loss of high quality (Grade 1-3a 'best and most versatile') agricultural land from new greenfield development.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area lies within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- The centre and western corner of the Neighbourhood Plan area are located within SPZ3 (Total Catchment).
- The Millbridge and Potton Brooks have an overall water quality classification as 'good'.

Population and Community

- The population of Gamlingay increased by 0.9% between 2001 and 2011, lower than the increases for South Cambridgeshire, the East of England and England averages.
- Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (27.7%) in comparison to the total for South Cambridgeshire (23.2%), the East of England (23.9%) and England (22.3%).
- The proportion of residents with the 60+ age category is likely to continue to increase.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area contains three LSOAs, one of which is within the 50% least deprived neighbourhoods within England, one of which is in the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods within England and one of which is in the 10% least deprived neighbourhoods within England.
- A higher proportion of residents own their home outright or with a mortgage in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national trends.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has a range of local community facilities, clubs and organisations which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the Parish's sense of identity.

Health and Wellbeing

- The 2016 public health profile for South Cambridgeshire outlines that the health of people in the district is generally better than the England average.
- 84.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', lower than the total for South Cambridgeshire (86.2%) but greater than the totals for the East of England (82.5%) and England (81.4%).
- A lower number of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report that their activities are limited in some way compared to regional and national averages.

Transportation

- There are no railway stations within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Sandy railway station lies approximately 4km south west of the Neighbourhood Plan area which provides services southbound to Stevenage and London St Pancras and stations to Horsham, and northbound to Peterborough.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area is well linked to the surrounding road network, with access to the B1040 and a network of country roads.
- Residents have access to a network of footpaths within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- New development taken forward through recent Local Plan allocations has the potential increase traffic and congestion issues in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

SEA Framework

3.5 The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework.

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the status of the nationally and locally designated sites within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area including Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Gamlingay Wood SSSI? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change	
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made? • Reduce the need to travel? • 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 the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Landscape	
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and villagescapes	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance locally important landscape and villagescapes features within the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Will development be undertaken in conjunction with the Village Design Guide?

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
Historic Environment	
Protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of locally important features and their settings? • Preserve or enhance the character, appearance, and significance of Gamlingay Conservation Area? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest as listed on the Cambridgeshire HER? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment? • Support enhancements to features listed on the Heritage at Risk Register? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes? • Support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Ensure development is undertaken in conjunction with the Village Design Guide?
Land, Soil and Water Resources	
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 1 to 3a agricultural land? • Protect the integrity of mineral safeguarding areas?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the amount of waste produced? • Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? • Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support improvements to water quality? • Minimise water consumption? • Protect surface water resources? • Protect groundwater resources?
Population and Community	
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?

SEA Objective	Assessment questions
<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Support enhancements to the current housing stock? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?
Health and Wellbeing	
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? • Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? • Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? • Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?
Transportation	
<p>Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Improve road safety? • Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

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

Introduction

- 4.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include...
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
 - The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.
- 4.2 The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current version of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an assessment of alternative locations for non-strategic scale development in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 4.3 The following sections therefore describe how the SEA process to date has informed the preferred development strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan area and potential locations for development. Specifically, this chapter explains how the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan's development strategy has been shaped through considering alternative approaches for the location of housing and community infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Overview of plan making / SEA work undertaken since 2016

- 4.4 Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan's development began early in 2015, initiated by Gamlingay Parish Council. It has been led by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which includes representatives of the Parish Council and volunteers from the local community.
- 4.5 Significant public consultation has been carried out to date to support the Neighbourhood Plan. This has gathered local views and opinions, with a view to engaging local people throughout the Neighbourhood Plan's development process. This has included events, engagement workshops, community questionnaires, and surveys of residents.
- 4.6 The Statement of Consultation which will accompany the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan at submission will describe in detail how the community has been involved during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Context for housing growth in the Neighbourhood Plan area

- 4.7 Under Policy S/9 'Minor Rural Centres' of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, Gamlingay is identified as a Minor Rural Centre which are characterised as having a lower level of services, facilities and employment than Rural Centres (large villages), but a greater level than most other villages in South Cambridgeshire. These settlements perform a role in terms of providing services and facilities for a small rural hinterland.
- 4.8 Within Minor Rural Centres, the Local Plan states there is scope in principle for larger scale windfall development within the village framework. This would allow larger villages with a reasonable level of services to provide services and facilities for surrounding smaller villages to achieve more development. However, the Local Plan also states that overall scale of development in Minor Rural Centres should be restricted in recognition of their more limited services compared to Rural Centres. A maximum scheme size of 30 dwellings is used as a guideline figure to indicate the upper limit of housing development likely to be suitable. Development will not be permitted on sites capable of accommodating scheme sizes significantly larger than 30 dwellings in Minor Rural Centres.
- 4.9 There is no requirement in the Local Plan for the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan to bring forward sites for development for the next 5 years. Alongside, the housing needs survey undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan identified the need to provide up to 45 housing units across the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has however already been delivered in the parish, including through the

delivery of 44 affordable housing units provided by or secured at: the newly rebuilt Robinson Court; through the Green End industrial estate site allocation; and via the proposed West Road development.

- 4.10 In light of this there is not a specific requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan to provide additional levels of housing over and above what has already been delivered.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives for employment uses

- 4.11 Gamlingay has a thriving local economy with a wide variety of established businesses. This is an important element of local employment in the parish, and as highlighted by the parish survey undertaken through the Neighbourhood Plan's development process, almost a fifth of respondents who were in employment worked in or around the village.
- 4.12 In this respect local employment is a key contributor to community vitality in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, in the last five years a number of pressures have arisen affecting economic vitality. A key issue is that the principal employment site in the village at Green End has received planning permission for housing to be built on 75% of its area (through Local Plan Policy H/1f). This has resulted in a number of businesses relocating away from the village and outside the parish, with associated job losses for local people. As such, local employment land availability is an element which the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to focus on as a key issue through the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.13 In light of this, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has sought to explore options for supporting local economic vitality and promoting employment opportunities in the Parish. This has included an exploration of the potential for improving, enhancing and developing existing employment areas, including at Station Road Industrial Estate, Church Street and Green End Industrial Estate.
- 4.14 The Steering Group also has explored the possibility of identifying additional areas as 'Rural Business Development Areas', which would be broad areas where employment uses would be supported if a set of criteria were met. Whilst not allocations, these Rural Business Development Areas would support the concept of consolidating existing uses for specific types of employment activities. In this context two areas have been identified as potential locations for Rural Business Development Areas, as follows:
- Mill Hill: an area with an existing mix of uses - including existing employment premises interspersed with residential properties and a care home.
 - Drove Road: is predominantly agricultural, with residential clusters and light industrial employment development to the west (B1 and B2).
- 4.15 The location of the existing employment areas and potential Rural Business Development areas are presented below in Figure 4.1.

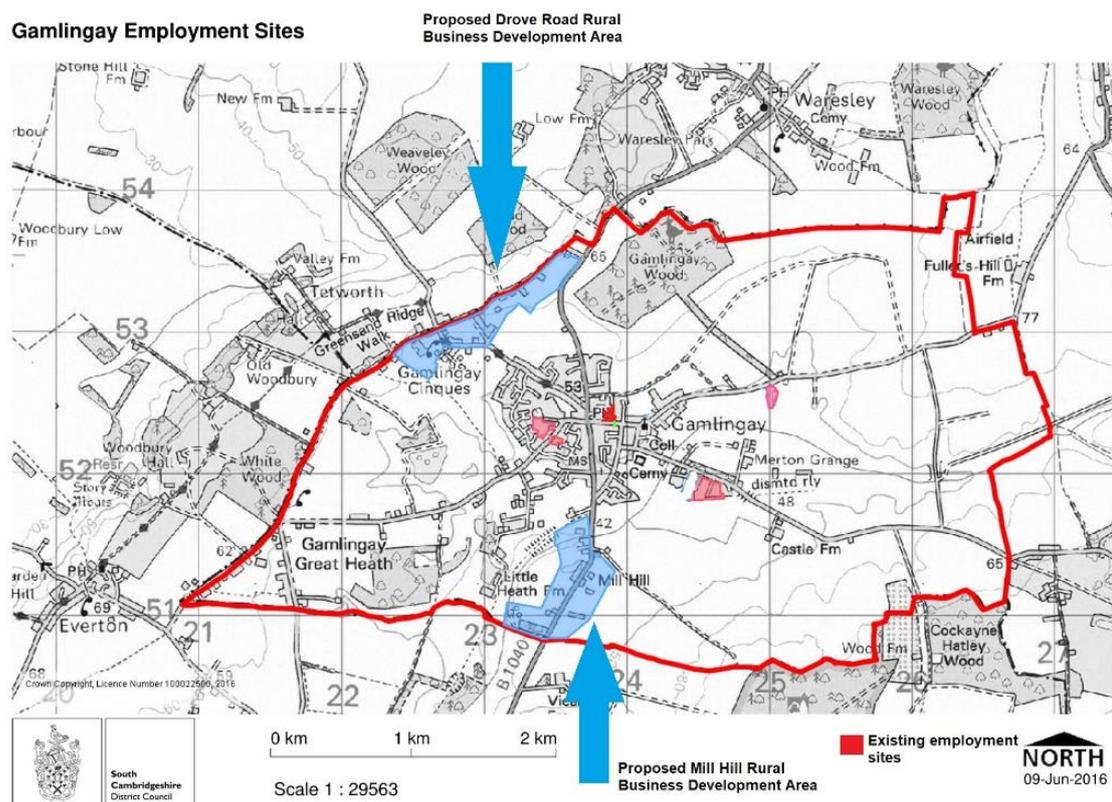


Figure 4.1: Location of existing employment sites and potential Rural Business Development Areas

4.16 To support decision making on this element of the Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA process has considered two options as reasonable alternatives. The first option would focus on supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement. The second option would facilitate the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas at Mill Hill and Drove Road

4.17 To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the two options considered through the SEA process are as follows:

- **Option A:** Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.
- **Option B:** Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas.

4.18 These two broad options were appraised as ‘reasonable alternatives’ against both the baseline and relatively (i.e. against each other). They were considered through the SEA Framework of objectives and assessment questions developed during scoping and ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant theme. In addition, for each SEA theme, avoidance and mitigation measures have been identified for each of the two options, to be considered if either of the options were taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.19 The findings of the appraisal are presented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives for employment provision

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
Biodiversity and geodiversity	<p>Improving and enhancing existing employment land in the parish through Option A will have limited effects on biodiversity since there are no significant biodiversity constraints on or surrounding the existing employment land.</p> <p>Of the two Rural Business Development Areas taken forward through Option B, development at Drove Road could have potentially significant impacts on biodiversity. Cinques Common is a County Wildlife Site located towards the west of the area under consideration. Cinques Common is managed by the Wildlife Trust and is one of the last grass Heathlands in Cambridgeshire. There is also an area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority habitat within Cinques Common. Whilst direct impacts on Cinques Common from landtake and fragmentation are not anticipated through Option B given the level of protection provided by the County Wildlife Site designation, disturbance may take place as a result of new development from noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p> <p>Additionally, the Rural Business Development Area is in close proximity to Gamlingay Wood SSSI (approximately 100m away) and is within an SSSI Impact Risk Zone for Rural Non-Residential developments relating to this SSSI. This applies for non-residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m² or footprint exceeds 0.2ha.</p> <p>Mill Hill Rural Business Development Area has a small area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority habitat. Whilst landtake on the woodland can be readily avoided, disturbance may take place from new development at this location as a result of noise, light pollution or trampling from enhanced access.</p> <p>Within the two Rural Business Development Areas, there are field boundaries which have some biodiversity value, including trees and hedgerows which are components of local ecological networks. However, these key features can be</p>	1	2	<p>Option A avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Protecting existing habitats found on the sites, including on previously developed land. Initiating on or off-site biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Option B avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Avoiding development on Cinques Common County Wildlife Site and enhancing ecological networks that surround it.</p> <p>Retaining existing ecological features such as hedgerows and trees located along boundaries and field margins.</p> <p>Delivering a net gain in biodiversity within the area.</p> <p>Enhancing green infrastructure and ecological corridors within the Rural Business Development Areas.</p> <p>Including natural features (trees and open spaces) within new development areas to minimise the dispersal of pollutants, particularly in the most sensitive locations (i.e. adjacent to the existing road network and any new roads which would provide access to new development areas).</p> <p>Having regard to the Gamlingay Village Design Guide which states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New development should respect the 200m buffer zone to Gamlingay Woods proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan (consultation 2019) and supported by the Wildlife Trust;

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	readily retained. There may also be opportunities to enhance ecological networks across the area, utilising these key features of importance for biodiversity linkages.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retain and manage existing hedgerows in the village core, and on roads leading to the village, especially from the hamlets. Of particular note are hedgerows and trees along Mill Hill/ Little Heath and Cow Lane/West Rd; and - Boundaries to new development at the village edge should consist of characteristic hedgerows and trees. Oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, dog rose, crab apple and field maple would be appropriate species.
Climate change	<p>Taking forward development through both Option A and B will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the village and an intensification of uses at the identified locations. However, this will be more notable through Option B since development does not already exist and there will be a greater impact from required transport and construction activities. Development through Option B also has greater potential to lead to an increase in the built footprint of the village.</p> <p>These increases in greenhouse gas emissions are unlikely to be significant for both Options A and B given the size and the scale of likely development.</p> <p>The existing areas of employment land which will be improved and enhanced through Option A are in excellent proximity to residential areas and facilities within the village which will help to limit the need to travel to local amenities (and associated greenhouse gas emissions). The Rural Business Development Areas through Option B are also in proximity to the village centre but are slightly further out than the employment land in Option A, meaning that there is the potential for an increase in private car use to travel between work and local amenities.</p>	1	2	<p>Option A and B avoidance/ mitigation measures</p> <p>Facilitating active travel through design by maintaining and enhancing the local footpath / cycle network, providing accessible links to public transport networks and delivering provision which supports walking and cycling (such as cycle parking).</p> <p>Including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the design of development proposals to minimise the risk of surface water run-off.</p> <p>Including permeable materials and natural features within design to appropriately respond to the potential impacts from more frequent extreme weather events.</p> <p>Incorporation of high quality green infrastructure networks.</p>

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	<p>In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the location of employment land to be intensified through Option A and the Rural Business Development Areas to be initiated by Option B are not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding.</p> <p>In terms of Option A, the northern part of the employment site on Station Road is at medium-high risk from surface water flooding. In relation to option B, a small strip of land in the north of Mill Hill Rural Business Development Area is at high risk from surface water flooding.</p>			
Landscape	<p>Although there will be an intensification of employment uses through Option A, existing development is present and therefore Option A is less likely to lead to significant landtake on undeveloped land for new employment uses. This will help limit impacts on landscape if high quality design and layout is integrated within new development. High quality design has the potential to improve the quality of the villagescape.</p> <p>The topography of each of the Rural Business Development Areas are relatively flat. Development at Drove Road Rural Business Development Area will be visible from the open countryside to the north and development at Mill Road Rural Business Development Area will be visible from the open countryside to the south.</p> <p>Additionally, development at both Rural Business Development Areas will be visible from the village and has the potential to significantly change the local character and villagescape.</p> <p>Drove Road Rural Business Development Area also has a Tree Preservation Order within the west of the Area.</p>	1	2	<p>Option A avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Delivering high-quality design which positively contributes and responds to the setting of the surrounding landscape and local distinctiveness/sense of place.</p> <p>Option B avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Maintain the integrity of the gap between the Rural Business Development Areas and the existing built up area of Gamlingay including through the integration of open spaces, green corridors and landscaping through development proposals.</p> <p>Delivering a high-quality design which positively contributes and responds to the sense of place and the setting of the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Protecting and safeguarding landscape features and designations which contribute to visual amenity and local distinctiveness, including trees and hedgerows.</p>

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
				<p>Having regard to the Gamlingay Village Design Guide which states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain the integrity of the satellite hamlets and the distinctive dispersed landscape settlement pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and small detached houses. In particular preserve the separation of the Cinques and Little Heath, by retaining the open landscape character between these and the village; - New development should respect the proposed 200m buffer zone to Gamlingay Woods and supported by the Wildlife Trust; - The area bounded by the brook and Great Heath and including the Lupin Field and Log Field to the south west edge of the village has a sensitive and distinct landscape character which should be maintained; - New development should preserve key views to and from the village; - Retain and manage existing hedgerows in the village core, and on roads leading to the village, especially from the hamlets. Of particular note are hedgerows and trees along Mill Hill/ Little Heath and Cow Lane/West Rd; - Boundaries to new development at the village edge should consist of characteristic hedgerows and trees. Oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, hazel,

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
				<p>blackthorn, dog rose, crab apple and field maple would be appropriate species; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Careful solutions for car parking should be integrated into new development.
Historic environment	<p>Some of the areas of existing employment land which would potentially be intensified forward through Option A are within, adjacent or in close proximity to Gamlingay Conservation Area. Promoting enhancement and improvement of the existing employment land therefore has the potential to impact on the character of the Conservation Area if poor quality design is incorporated within new development.</p> <p>The areas of existing employment land are also in close proximity to numerous listed buildings and features listed on the Historic Environment Record for Cambridgeshire. In this respect there are larger concentrations of historic features in these areas when compared to the locations covered by the Rural Business Development Areas. However, since areas taken forward through Option A comprise existing built up areas, no significant effects on the historic environment are anticipated from development taken forward through Option A if high quality design and layout is integrated within new development. High quality design also has the potential to improve the quality of the villagescape and the setting of the historic environment.</p> <p>In terms of the two Rural Business Development Areas, the Drove Road Rural Development Business Area has one Grade II listed building located adjacent to its southern boundary (1 and 3, The Cinques). However, this is partly screened by existing residential properties on Drove Road. In terms of features listed on the Cambridgeshire HER, three are located within the Area and another feature is adjacent to the Area. These include monuments from the Early Mesolithic to Late</p>	1	2	<p>Option A and B avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Delivering a high-quality design which positively contributes and responds to the setting of the historic environment.</p> <p>Identification of positive ways to make use of the existing historic environment.</p> <p>Conserving and enhancing the special character of the Gamlingay Conservation Area and its setting.</p> <p>Use of local materials.</p> <p>Having regard to the Gamlingay Village Design Guide which states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New development should preserve key views to and from the village; - Small scale development is preferred and all development should be of characterful design that draws upon the vernacular quality of the historic village and the positive elements of later housing stock; - Careful solutions for car parking should be integrated into every new development; and - Avoid fences and walls to public realm creating dead facades. Careful use of landscape elements,

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	Bronze Age. The Mill Hill Area has no statutory features of historic environment interest within or in close proximity to the area, but five features listed on the HER from the Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age are within the area.			and orientation of properties towards the street, is necessary. Encouraging programmes of archaeological survey and investigation in locations with a potential archaeological resource.
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Since the existing employment areas are already developed, there will not be a loss of greenfield land through Option A unless these employment areas expand into open countryside. Therefore, no significant effects on land, soil and water resources are anticipated from development taken forward through Option A.</p> <p>Regarding the two Rural Business Development Areas, they are a mixture of a previously developed and greenfield land, albeit largely underdeveloped. Development of these areas would lead to the loss of some agricultural land.</p> <p>Recent agricultural land classification has not been undertaken within Gamlingay. However, according to pre-1988 classification, the Rural Business Development Areas has the potential to have areas of land within them that is Grade 3 and Grade 4. However, without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether there is agricultural land within the Rural Business Development Areas that is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. It should be noted though that development taken forward through Option B is potentially land classified as 'the best and most versatile' agricultural land.</p> <p>The whole Neighbourhood Plan area is within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and the areas of land which have come forward through both Option A and Option B are within a Ground Water Source Protection Zone SPZ3 (Total Catchment).</p>	1	2	<p>Option A avoidance / mitigation measures: Indirectly safeguarding the integrity of land, soil and water resources through the application SuDS, permeable materials and natural features within development areas.</p> <p>Option B avoidance / mitigation measures: Permanent loss of BMV agricultural land cannot be readily mitigated. Measures to support the productivity of land, including the incorporation of allotments within development areas. Indirectly safeguarding the integrity of land, soil and water resources through the application of SuDS, permeable materials and natural features within new development areas.</p>
Population and community	Development through Option B will lead to an increase in local businesses and local employment by allowing existing businesses to relocate and expand within the	2	1	Option A and B avoidance / mitigation measures:

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	<p>parish, supporting diversification of the local economy and promoting new economic activities. This will be a key contributor to community vitality and economic vitality as well as local employment opportunities.</p> <p>Development through Option A will also contribute positively towards community vitality by improving and enhancing current employment provision within Gamlingay. However, the option, when compared to Option B, has the potential to limit the scope for appropriate employment provision to be delivered within the parish which supports existing businesses and encourages new businesses to locate or relocate in the area. In this respect it is considered that Option B will have a greater positive impact on community vitality due to development increasing local employment opportunities in the Parish.</p> <p>Existing employment areas supported by Option A are in excellent proximity to residential areas and facilities within the village, which will help to limit the need to travel. The Rural Business Development Areas promoted through Option B are also in proximity to the village centre. They are though located slightly further out than the employment land focused on through Option A. However, the location of the Rural Business Development Areas outside of the centre of Gamlingay should reduce the need to travel through the village and limit traffic and congestion in the village centre.</p>			Facilitating active travel through design by maintaining and enhancing the local footpath / cycle network, providing accessible links to public transport networks and delivering provision which supports walking and cycling (such as cycle parking).
Health and wellbeing	<p>An increase and improvement in local employment is likely to support health and wellbeing and will decrease the need for the local community to travel further afield for employment. Therefore new local employment through Option B and improvements to existing employment through Option A will each have a positive effect on health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Both the existing employment land and Rural Business Development Areas through Option A and B are accessible to the village's Public Rights of Way network which</p>	=	=	<p>Option A and B avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Facilitating active travel through design by maintaining and enhancing the local footpath / cycle network, providing accessible links to public transport networks and delivering provision which supports walking and cycling (such as cycle parking).</p>

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	will encourage active travel. However, the Rural Business Development Areas are further away from the village centre and private vehicle use is likely to be encouraged for local residents to get to work. The location of the Rural Business Development Areas outside of the village centre will though decrease the need to travel through the village centre to get to work and potentially reduce traffic and congestion through the village. Less traffic in the village centre will improve air and noise quality, enhance the quality of the public realm and therefore have a positive effect on health and wellbeing.			Enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks, including open spaces and linkages between them.
Transport	<p>Existing employment areas supported by Option A are in excellent proximity to residential areas and facilities within the village, which will help to limit the need to travel. The Rural Business Development Areas promoted through Option B are also in proximity to the village centre. They are though located slightly further out than the employment land focused on through Option A. However, the location of the Rural Business Development Areas outside of the centre of Gamlingay should reduce the need to travel through the village and help limit traffic and congestion in the village centre.</p> <p>Both the existing employment land and Rural Business Development Areas supported through Option A and B are accessible to bus stops in the village, with links to Hitchin and Sandy. They are also both accessible to the village's Public Rights of Way network.</p>	1	2	<p>Option A and B avoidance / mitigation measures:</p> <p>Facilitating active travel through design by maintaining and enhancing the local footpath / cycle network and providing accessible links to local public transport networks.</p> <p>Implementing traffic calming measures to minimise congestion at the most sensitive locations.</p>
Summary	Option A, through focusing on existing employment areas for enhancing employment provision, will help limit potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape character and land and soil resources. Option B, through facilitating the development of previously undeveloped and underutilised land, has increased potential to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land, and has increased potential to impact on biodiversity habitats and local character without mitigation measures. Option B however offers significant opportunities for the avoidance and mitigation of potential negative effects, and also offers additional opportunities for delivering enhancements through environmental net gain, improvements in green infrastructure provision and the delivery of community infrastructure.			

Option A: Supporting existing employment land in the Neighbourhood Plan area through promoting its enhancement and improvement.

Option B: Support the introduction of Rural Business Development Areas in the Mill Road and Drove Road areas

SEA theme	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		Avoidance / mitigation measures required if option taken forward
		Opt A	Opt B	
	Option B will do more to support the economic vitality of the parish through allowing existing businesses to relocate and expand within the parish, supporting diversification of the local economy and promoting new economic activities. In this respect, Option A offers fewer opportunities for reinforcing the existing vitality of the local economy.			

5. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

Introduction

- 5.1 The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current Regulation 14 consultation version of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan. This chapter presents:
- An appraisal of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan under the eight SEA theme headings; and
 - The overall conclusions at this current stage.

Approach to this appraisal

- 5.2 The appraisal is structured under the eight SEA themes taken forward for the purposes of the SEA.
- 5.3 For each theme, 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.
- 5.4 Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high-level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- 5.5 The nearest European designated site is the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, located approximately 7.5km to the east of the Neighbourhood Plan area and supporting a colony of barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*). The Gamlingay Wood SSSI and Gamlingay Cinques Common SSSI are within the Neighbourhood Plan area and contain habitats and species listed in the annexes of both the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Gamlingay Wood is one of the best documented historic wood in England (over 750 years of recorded information). At the local level, there are several County Wildlife Sites within and within proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Cambridge - Bedford Disused Railway (Hatley, TL2752), Gamlingay Heath Plantation (TL2251), New Barn grassland (TL226529) and Gamlingay Cemetery (TL239521). Furthermore, there are areas of BAP Priority Habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, primarily areas of deciduous woodland and ancient semi-natural woodland. Whilst no significant negative effects on biodiversity from the Neighbourhood Plan can be readily identified, there will be a need for potential effects on biodiversity linked to future development in the Neighbourhood Plan area to be avoided and mitigated.
- 5.6 Completed by South Cambridgeshire District Council in September 2019, the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Determination Statement⁷ confirms that the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to significantly impact any European designated site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) was therefore screened out. Nevertheless, Policy GAM7 'Designation of the former First School Field, Green End as a Local Green Space (TL 25382 52417)', Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment and Policy GAM12 'Gamlingay Wood (TL242534) seek to protect and enhance open spaces within the Neighbourhood Plan area. This will indirectly protect the integrity of European designated sites by maintaining a diversity of

⁷ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019): 'Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Screening Determination Statement', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/media/14019/strategic-environmental-screening-determination-statement-for-gamlingay-neighbourhood-plan-september-2019.pdf>> last accessed [16/06/20]

suitable and accessible green spaces within Gamlingay. Moreover, Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment' encourages developers to enhance the wildlife value within the application site boundary, around its perimeter, and where it connects to key wildlife corridors. This will maintain the connectivity between habitats and reduce fragmentation, important for bat species using these areas for commuting and foraging. No additional effects are anticipated in relation to the integrity of the European or nationally designated sites located within or within proximity to Gamlingay.

- 5.7 Regarding the proposed allocations through the Neighbourhood Plan as per the provisions of Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations', the Drove Road Rural Business Development Area overlaps with SSSI IRZs for the types of development likely to come forward at this location. Consultation with Natural England will likely be required prior to development. However, Neighbourhood Plan policies will 1) help limit potential effects from new development on features and areas of biodiversity interest and 2) support the resilience of ecological networks. For example, Policy GAM12 'Gamlingay Wood (TL242534)' affirms that development will not usually be permitted within a 200m cordon from the edge of the Gamlingay Wood SSSI. The policy recognises that small scale, sustainable construction may be permitted within the cordon where there is a specific nature conservation benefit (i.e. from traditional woodland industry).
- 5.8 Further supporting ecological networks, Policy GAM3 'Local Landscape' outlines a requirement for new developments to include suitable landscape treatments, including hedgerows, to be in-keeping with the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge National Character Area. Additionally, Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' affirms that proposals will be expected to safeguard trees and hedgerows. This will support the integrity of protected species by maintaining corridors and connectivity within and between habitats. This is important in the local context, given the proposed Rural Business Development Areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill contain trees and hedgerows alongside field boundaries which have some biodiversity value.
- 5.9 Published in June 2019, paragraph 170 (d) within the revised NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by 'minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks', with paragraph 32 outlining that spatial development strategies should demonstrate how opportunities for net gains have been addressed. An environmental net gain principle for development is also embedded within the goals and policies of the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan which was published in January 2018. In this respect, the SEA recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan consider including the following sentence within a relevant policy: *"Development proposals should be required to deliver measurable, proportionate and appropriate biodiversity net gains through design, preferably on site, in line with national policy and via the application of a biodiversity metric tool."* This could include retaining and enhancing habitats and improving ecological connectivity to create biodiversity networks with the surrounding landscape. Where this is not possible, the Neighbourhood Plan could include a requirement for developers to contribute to restoration projects off site to deliver overall net gains within Gamlingay.
- 5.10 Along with the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Landscape Setting' chapter of the Village Design Guide seeks to ensure that any potential ecological impacts are appropriately mitigated through the design of new development areas. The following criteria are of note:
- Criteria 4.5: Retain and manage existing hedgerows in the village core, and on roads leading to the village, especially from the hamlets. Of note are hedgerows and trees along Mill Hill/ Little Heath and Cow Lane/West Road; and
 - Criteria 4.6: Boundaries to new development at the village edge should consist of characteristic hedgerows and trees. Oak, hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, dog rose, crab apple and field maple would be appropriate species.

Climate change

- 5.11 Several policies within the Neighbourhood Plan emphasise the importance of mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis, seeking to embed environmentally sustainable practices in response to the challenges faced.
- 5.12 In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Based on the 2011 Census data, the most regularly used method of travelling to work in the parish is via driving, with 90.9% of households having

access to at least one car or van. This is higher than the regional and national averages. In this respect, active travel within the Neighbourhood Plan area is supported through the provisions of Policy GAM9 'Transport Provision on Developments' which seeks to ensure that new housing is located within convenient walking or cycling distance to village facilities. The policy also states that all developments should provide new footpaths or cycleways. Similarly, Policy GAM3 'Local Character' states that any new housing developments should be located within the boundary of Gamlingay village. This will encourage a limitation of emissions through protecting and enhancing local walking and cycle routes in the parish. These aspects are further discussed within the appraisal presented under the 'Transportation' theme.

- 5.13 The proposed Rural Business Development Areas through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' are located adjacent to the village boundary, within relative proximity to services and facilities in Gamlingay. However, it is important to acknowledge that development at these locations will lead to inevitable increases in greenhouse gas emissions from an increase in the built footprint of the parish. Nonetheless, Policy GAM1 'New Buildings' stipulates that any new dwellings should achieve 'green' industry standards as set out in the 'Building for Life' standards. The policy also supports applications for new development areas which incorporate renewable energy generation (i.e. geothermal, solar and wind power) and water saving measures. Furthermore, Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' states that all applications for new buildings or additional office space must include the provision of electric vehicle charging points. These policies will positively contribute to climate change mitigation efforts.
- 5.14 In relation to adapting to the effects of climate change, the proposed Rural Business Development Areas are not located within identified flood risk zones for fluvial flooding. However, a small corridor of land in the northern section of Mill Hill is at high risk from surface water flooding. Whilst it is anticipated that the provisions of the NPPF will help to ensure that developments are located away from the areas at highest risk of flooding, the SEA recommends that policies consider including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the design of development proposals to minimise the risk of surface water run-off. This may include incorporating permeable materials and natural features within the design of new development areas.
- 5.15 Additionally, protecting and enhancing open spaces and habitats within the Neighbourhood Plan area through Policy GAM7 'Designation of the former First School Field, Green End as a Local Green Space (TL 25382 52417)', Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment' and Policy GAM12 'Gamlingay Wood (TL242534)' will safeguard natural carbon sequestrators located within the landscape (i.e. trees and hedgerows). This will positively respond to the potential effects of climate change (particularly from extreme weather events) through providing summer shading and reducing surface water run-off.

Landscape

- 5.16 The Neighbourhood Plan area is not within or within proximity to a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and does not contain any Green Belt land. However, policies within the Neighbourhood Plan have a strong focus on protecting the sense of place and special qualities of Gamlingay which contribute to its local character, distinctiveness and sense of place.
- 5.17 Protecting the open countryside between the village and hamlets – a defining characteristic of the settlement pattern – is a key objective of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan. In this respect, Policy GAM3 'Local Character' states that any new housing developments which comes forward during the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan (additional to the 29 dwellings on land to the south of West Road through Policy GAM2 which has extant permission) should be located within the boundary of Gamlingay village. This will protect the open countryside and prevent the village, hamlets and smallholdings from joining. The policy also emphasises the sensitivity of the settlement edges between the Cinques, Dennis Green, and Little Heath. This will maintain the separate identities of the settlements, minimising the impacts to landscape character and retaining the sense of openness across rural areas of the parish.
- 5.18 In terms of the proposed Rural Business Development Areas through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations', new development areas at Drove Road will be visible from the open countryside to the north, with any new development areas at Mill Road visible to the south. This is mainly due to the relatively flat topography and openness of the landscape at both locations. Additionally, new development areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill will be visible from the village, which has the potential to impact upon local character and villagescape. As such, Neighbourhood Plan policies also focus on delivering high quality design through development proposals. Key policies in this

regard include Policy GAM3 'Local Character' which highlights that new development areas should preserve key views to and from the village. Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' outlines that proposals should protect and safeguard landscape features and designations which contribute to visual amenity and local distinctiveness. Additionally, Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment' seeks to ensure that new housing and employment development does not obstruct or harm any protected views or vistas. This will protect the integrity of these valuable landscape and visual features.

5.19 Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Landscape Setting', 'Visual Character' and 'Church End Long Plot' chapters of the Village Design Guide seek to ensure that any potential landscape and visual impacts are appropriately mitigated through the design of new development areas. The following criteria are of note:

- Criteria 4.1: Maintain the integrity of the satellite hamlets and the distinctive dispersed landscape settlement pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and small detached houses;
- Criteria 4.2: The visual setting of the Gamlingay Woods should be sustained and enhanced through ensuring a buffer of open landscape on all sides;
- Criteria 5.1: Small scale development is preferred, and all development should be of characterful design that draws upon the vernacular quality of the historic village and the positive elements of later housing stock;
- Criteria 8.2: Agricultural buildings create the distinctive character of this area and, where possible, should be sensitively repurposed when they become redundant for their original use; and
- Criteria 8.5: Development should maintain the distinctive landscape of trees and hedges to the Church End edge of the village.

Historic environment

5.20 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, recognised through the diversity of features and areas that are nationally and locally valued for their heritage interest. This includes one Grade I, five Grade II* and 65 Grade II nationally designated listed buildings which are protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990, the Gamlingay Conservation Area, and the Grade II listed Gamlingay Historic Park and Garden. Additionally, the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Cambridgeshire identifies several locally important heritage features located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes records of monuments from the early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age such as arrowheads, axes and lithic implements.

5.21 With reference to the proposed allocations through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations', the Drove Road Rural Business Development Area includes land which is within the setting of the Grade II Listed '1 and 3, The Cinques', which may be affected by any B1 or B2 employment development or associated residential dwellings. There are also three features from the Cambridgeshire HER within the site boundaries. Whilst the Mill Hill Rural Business Development Area does not contain and is not within proximity to any nationally designated heritage assets, there are five features from the Cambridgeshire HER within the site boundaries, including monuments from the Early Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age.

5.22 Historic environment sensitivities in the Neighbourhood Plan area are reflected by Neighbourhood Plan policies which have a focus on conserving and enhancing the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest. Key policies in this regard include Policy GAM3 'Local Character' which confirms that new housing and employment areas should draw upon the scale, form, materiality and massing of the surrounding vernacular, as described in the Village Design Guide. Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment' also seeks to ensure that new housing and employment development does not obstruct or harm any sites of conservation value.

5.23 Prepared in 2019, the Village Design Guide has been developed in parallel with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and has been informed and influenced by several key documents, including the Gamlingay Conservation Area Appraisal. Along with the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Church End Long Plots' and 'Building Scale, Materials and Details' chapters seek to provide opportunities for new development to positively contribute to the fabric and setting of heritage assets, incorporating high-quality design which reflects the historic character and special qualities of Gamlingay. The following criteria are of note:

- Criteria 8.1: Development should maintain visual connection to landscape and rear of plots from the street frontage. This is especially key for the north side of Church Street, all of Church End, Honey Hill and the southern end of Mill Street;
- Criteria 8.3: Development should maintain characteristic massing and form when building along the edge of, and on plots behind, key streets;
- Criteria 8.4: Massing of new development should be informed by the long low agricultural building forms and arrangements that are distinctive to Gamlingay;
- Criteria 9.1: Development should draw upon the scale, form, materiality and massing of the existing vernacular buildings, both domestic and agricultural. Developments should pick up on the traditional building styles, materials, colours and textures of the locality; and
- Criteria 9.2: The vernacular use of walls and hedges should inform any boundary treatment to the streets.

5.24 The SEA recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan also consider including a policy which specifically focuses on the protection and enhancement of both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parish. Alongside the criteria listed within the Village Design Guide (listed above), the policy could be supplemented with site specific mitigation measures for the proposed Rural Business Development Areas as outlined within the consideration of reasonable alternatives in Chapter 4 (specifically the 'historic environment' section in Table 4.1). This could include, for example:

- Encouraging programmes of archaeological survey and investigation in locations with a potential archaeological resource, with any findings appropriately reported and documented on the local historic environment record in line with best practice guidance.
- Ensuring that full heritage impact assessments are completed at the planning application stage to help to understand the significance of the heritage features; and
- Encouraging developers to financially contribute to local projects seeking to conserve and enhance the Grade I listed 'Church of St Mary the Virgin', which is identified as being 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Land, soil and water resources

5.25 Although a detailed agricultural land classification assessment has not been undertaken for most of the parish, it is noted in the predictive land quality assessment that the proposed allocations taken forward through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' have a potential likelihood of containing land which is classified as 'best and most versatile' land for agricultural purposes. This broadly aligns with the national dataset provided by Natural England which indicates that most of the undeveloped land within the Neighbourhood Plan area is underlain by areas of Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3 land. New development therefore has the potential to result in the permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land at these locations. However, it is difficult to be certain in the absence of a detailed assessment. Whilst this cannot be mitigated, the reuse of previously developed land in some areas of the proposed Rural Business Development Areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill will promote the most efficient use of land in these locations. Furthermore, Policy GAM3 'Local Character' states that any new housing developments should be located within the boundary of Gamlingay village to protect the open countryside from inappropriate development. This will positively safeguard land, soil and water resources.

5.26 More broadly, Neighbourhood Plan policies also seek to protect key features of landscape and biodiversity interest and promote green space and open space. Key policies in this regard include Policy GAM7 'Designation of the former First School Field, Green End as a Local Green Space (TL 25382 52417)', Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment and Policy GAM12 'Gamlingay Wood (TL242534)'. While these policies do not specifically seek to address land, soil and water resources, the policies will indirectly help promote and protect these resources, including the promotion of high-quality green networks in the Neighbourhood Plan area and the protection and enhancement of key landscape features. This will help support the capacity of the landscape and villagescape to regulate soil and water quality.

Population and community

5.27 In terms of housing, the Neighbourhood Plan does not have a specific requirement to provide additional levels of housing over and above what has already been delivered. The Housing Needs Survey undertaken for Gamlingay identified the need to provide up to 45 new dwellings across the lifetime of the

Neighbourhood Plan. However, this has already been delivered through the delivery of 44 affordable dwellings provided by or secured at the following locations: the newly rebuilt Robinson Court; the Green End Industrial Estate site allocation; and via the proposed development on land to the south of West Road which has planning permission. In this respect, Neighbourhood Plan Policy GAM2 'Site Allocation TL236518' is supportive of the allocation for a total of 29 dwellings on land to the south of West Road, to meet the identified housing need for Gamlingay between the period 2020-2025. Policy GAM1 'New Buildings' seeks to support the delivery of high-quality design within housing, in addition to supporting the delivery of housing appropriate for local people. Specifically, the policy outlines a requirement for new housing developments to provide a mix of homes to reflect local needs, including a percentage of affordable one-two bedroom dwellings and bungalows.

- 5.28 In terms of the vitality of the Neighbourhood Plan area, there are three employment sites in Gamlingay village including at Church Street, the Green End Industrial Estate and Station Road Industrial Estate. Additional clusters are located on Drove Road and Mill Hill, although these areas are located to the north and the south of the village respectively. Local employment is a key contributor to community vitality in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, in the last five years several pressures have arisen affecting employment opportunities. A key issue is that one of the principal employment sites in the village at Green End Industrial Estate has received planning permission for housing to be built on 75% of its area (through Local Plan Policy H/1f). This has resulted in businesses relocating away from the village and outside of the parish boundary, with associated job losses for local people.
- 5.29 In this respect, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote the economic vitality of the Gamlingay and support employment opportunities. Specifically, Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' encourages proposals for the improvement, enhancement and development of existing employment areas within the parish, including Station Road Industrial Site, Church Road, and Green End Industrial Site. Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' proposes new Rural Business Development Areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill to promote employment opportunities outside of the village. Applications for B1c, B2 and B8 uses will be accepted providing it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse impacts to the rural environment or to the amenity of nearby residents. These policies seek to increase local employment by allowing existing businesses to relocate and expand within the parish, supporting diversification of the local economy and promoting new economic activities.
- 5.30 The narrative behind the decision making process for these site allocations is discussed through the consideration of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Report (see paragraphs 4.7 to 4.10 for 'housing' and paragraphs 4.11 to 4.14 for 'employment').
- 5.31 The Neighbourhood Plan area has a range of local community facilities, clubs and organisations which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the parish's sense of identity. The village is served by several shops and small businesses including: a supermarket, newsagent, clothes shop, post office and shop, and two hairdressers. Other facilities include a GP surgery, a pharmacy, a petrol station, two cafes, farm shop and two churches. Gamlingay is also home to the Eco Hub: a successful community and business centre serving the village and the surrounding area. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan also has a strong focus on supporting the vitality of the parish and new community provision. For example, Policy GAM6 'Community Amenities and Facilities' confirms that the loss of facilities will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that reasonable efforts have been made to secure their continued use. Similarly, Policy GAM8 'Reuse of the former First School Buildings, Green End (TL 23647 52413)' supports proposals for educational and community uses (A1, B1 and D1) on the brownfield areas of the site, which is safeguarded for these purposes for the next ten years.
- 5.32 Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Frontages, Streets and Spaces' chapter of the Village Design Guide seeks to facilitate enhancements to the public realm through the design of new development areas. This will positively contribute to the creation of mixed, balanced and sustainable communities. The following criteria are of note:
- Criteria 7.1: Key street junctions created or altered by new development should be articulated by buildings stepping back to create a more generous public realm, rather than corner buildings tight to the street edge; and
 - Criteria 7.3: Potential for generous public space and landscape at junctions within new development should be explored.

Health and wellbeing

- 5.33 Reflecting the outcomes of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Public Health Profile for Cambridgeshire contains a variety of key statistics which help to build an understanding of the community needs. The findings outline that the ageing population will continue to increase, levels of physical activity are lower than average, and the mental health of residents is a key concern. The policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan will bring a range of benefits for the wellbeing of residents within the parish, as well as addressing some of the key issues highlighted within the health profile.
- 5.34 Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (27.7%) in comparison to the total for South Cambridgeshire (23.2%), the East of England (23.9%) and England (22.3%). In this respect, Policy GAM1 'New Buildings' states that on all developments of at least five dwellings, developers should include adaptable and flexible dwellings to meet the needs of occupants throughout their lives.
- 5.35 With reference to the proposed allocations through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations', the location of Drove Road and Mill Hill Rural Business Development Areas outside of Gamlingay will decrease the need to travel through the village centre to get to work. This will potentially reduce traffic and congestion through the village, resulting in improvements to air and noise quality and enhancing the quality of the public realm.
- 5.36 To encourage healthier and active lifestyles within the Neighbourhood Plan area, Policy GAM6 'Community Amenities and Facilities' affirms that all developments will be expected to contribute to the provision of new community facilities, particularly for walking, cycling, horse riding and sports. Additionally, Policy GAM7 seeks to designate the former First School Field, Green End, as a new local green space with pedestrian access. Furthermore, Policy GAM9 'Transport Provision on Developments' suggests that new footpaths should be accessible, safe and appropriate for all users.
- 5.37 More broadly, the Neighbourhood Plan policies will bring a range of further benefits for health and wellbeing. The main impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan's policies on health and wellbeing will be through protecting and enhancing the Neighbourhood Plan area's high-quality environment and public realm and green infrastructure provision. For example, Policy GAM11 'Landscape and Natural Environment' outlines that green spaces within new development areas should be consolidated to create a network of publicly accessible formal and informal spaces for sport and recreational purposes. The policy also stipulates that new housing and employment development should not obstruct or harm any sites of open space, sport, recreation and amenity value. This will support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents.
- 5.38 Along with the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Landscape, Routes and Connections' chapter of the Village Design Guide seeks to positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community through the design of new development areas. This will support community cohesion and quality of life of residents. The following criteria are of note:
- Criteria 6.1: Safe pedestrian and cycle routes should run through all developments, expanding characteristic green landscape 'fingers'; and
 - Criteria 6.3: Green space should be consolidated within new development to deliver larger areas of amenity space rather than multiple 'pocket parks'.

Transport

- 5.39 Each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce, adopt and regularly review their Local Transport Plan (LTP) through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. In this regard, the priorities within the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 focus on the following three themes: supporting and protecting people when they need it most; helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities; and developing the local economy for the benefit of all.
- 5.40 With reference to the Neighbourhood Plan area, there is a need to ensure that developments have good accessibility to a range of services and facilities. This is supported through Neighbourhood Plan policies which seek to encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable methods of travel, whilst also encouraging active travel options. For example, Policy GAM9 'Transport Provision on Developments' seeks to ensure that new housing is located within convenient walking or cycling distance to village

facilities. The policy also states that all developments should provide new footpaths or cycleways. Policy GAM10 'Contributions towards Gamlingay's Cycle and Footway Improvement Plan' stipulates that all developments should be expected to mitigate their impact on the local road network, by providing financial contributions towards the provision and maintenance of new footpaths for the purpose of cycling, walking and riding between the village, hamlets, employment sites and neighbouring villages. This will help to ensure that new developments are situated in the most sustainable locations in terms of the relative distance to the local centre, supporting the creation of inclusive communities and encouraging alternative options of transportation for undertaking day-to-day activities within the parish.

- 5.41 Within Gamlingay village, congestion is experienced along Mill Street, Church Street, Stocks Lane and Station Road at peak times of the day (e.g. school drop-off and pick up and commuter traffic). Additional issues include HGV travelling through the village to access local businesses and vehicles using smaller roads as rat runs. To tackle congestion issues, Policy GAM9 outlines an expectation for any new housing developments to provide enough car parking for both residents and visitors. As the proposed Rural Business Development Areas through Policy GAM4 'Local Employment Sites' and Policy GAM5 'New Employment Site Allocations' are located outside of the centre of Gamlingay, this should also reduce the need to travel through the village for employment opportunities at Drove Road and Mill Hill.
- 5.42 Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the criteria within the 'Village Character' and 'Landscape, Routes and Connections' chapters of the Village Design Guide aim to improve parking, accessibility and connectivity through the design of new development areas. The following criteria are of note:
- Criteria 5.2: Careful solutions for car parking should be integrated into every new development; and
 - Criteria 6.2: Pedestrian, equestrian and cycle routes to satellite hamlets should be incorporated into any new development to the Cinques and to Mill Hill.

Conclusions at this current stage

- 5.43 The assessment has concluded that the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community' SEA theme. This relates to the focus of the Neighbourhood Plan on safeguarding and enhancing community infrastructure, facilitating the delivery of employment land which meets local needs and through encouraging proposals which would seek to enhance the economic and community vitality of the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will also bring significant positive effects in relation to the 'Health and Wellbeing' SEA theme, linked to its promotion of improved and accessible network of footpaths, enhancements to green infrastructure and open space provision to encourage active lifestyles, and the facilitation of public realm improvements.
- 5.44 The Neighbourhood Plan is also likely to lead to positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape' and 'Historic Environment' SEA themes. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's emphasis on protecting and enhancing the special qualities of the parish, supporting the quality of the public realm, and through incorporating high-quality and sensitive design through new development proposals. This is further supplemented by the criteria within the Village Design Guide. However, it is important to acknowledge that the proposed site allocations do have the potential to negatively impact on the setting of nearby heritage assets in the absence of sensitive design. In this respect, the SEA recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan also consider including a policy which specifically focuses on the protection and enhancement of both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parish. The policy also could be supplemented with site specific mitigation measures for the proposed Rural Business Development Areas to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan policies provide an appropriate level of protection for the special interest and character of these key assets of historic environment value.
- 5.45 Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan will bring positive effects in relation to the 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity' SEA theme through retaining habitats and enhancing ecological networks. However, given the approaches taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan will help limit potential effects from new development areas rather than secure significant enhancements, these impacts are less likely to comprise significant positive effects overall. The SEA also recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan consider including the following sentence within a relevant policy: *"Development proposals should be required to deliver measurable, proportionate and appropriate biodiversity net gains through design, preferably on site, in line with national policy and via the application of a biodiversity metric tool."*
- 5.46 Regarding the 'Climate Change' SEA theme, the Neighbourhood Plan will potentially lead to positive effects through supporting development proposals in accessible locations within proximity to services and

facilities and locating development in areas which have a low flood risk potential. However, this is dependent on the extent to which development proposals incorporate these mitigation and adaptation measures through design. In this respect, the SEA also recommends that policies consider including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within the design of development proposals to minimise the risk of surface water run-off. This may include incorporating permeable materials and natural features within the design of new development areas.

- 5.47 The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches regarding the 'Transportation' SEA theme, given its focus on reducing traffic congestion, providing additional parking through new development, supporting a modal shift towards sustainable transport and by ensuring that new developments provide appropriate access to local services and facilities. However, the scale and location of development through the proposed site allocations is unlikely to lead to significant increases to the levels of traffic along the key routes passing through the parish.
- 5.48 The Neighbourhood Plan will also initiate several beneficial approaches for the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SEA themes through the implementation of objectives which seek to limit pollution and improve the environmental quality of the parish. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will facilitate a proportion of new development areas on greenfield sites which have a likelihood of containing 'best and most versatile' agricultural land. This has the potential to lead to the permanent loss of productive agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan area, which cannot be mitigated. Nevertheless, the reuse of previously developed land in some areas of the proposed Rural Business Development Areas at Drove Road and Mill Hill will promote the most efficient use of land in these locations.

6. What are the next steps?

- 6.1 This Environmental Report accompanies the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation.
- 6.2 Following consultation, any representations made will be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and the Environmental Report will be updated as necessary. The updated Environmental Report will then accompany the Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the Local Planning Authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council, for subsequent Independent Examination.
- 6.3 At Independent Examination, the Neighbourhood Plan will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.
- 6.4 If Independent Examination is favourable, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by South Cambridgeshire District Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for Gamlingay Parish.

Appendix A Context Review and Baseline

A1 – Air Quality

Context Review

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

- *‘Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan.’*
- *‘Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health.’*
- *New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.*

Published in January 2018 by the UK Government, ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’⁸ sets out a number of goals and policies in order to help the natural world regain and retain good health. In this context, Goal 1 ‘Clean Air’ and the policies contained within ‘Chapter 4: Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste’ within the 25 year plan directly relate to the air quality SEA theme.

In terms of the local context, South Cambridgeshire District Council is required under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995) to monitor air quality across the district, report regularly to DEFRA, and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), benzene (C₆H₆) and particulates (PM₁₀). Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area.

Policies SC/12 (Air Quality) and SC/14 (Odour and Other Fugitive Emissions to Air) from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan also relate to the Air Quality SEA theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

As of June 2018, there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the Neighbourhood Plan area as highlighted in the 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report.⁹ The nearest AQMA is in Sandy approximately 4.4km away covering part of the A1

There are no recent or anticipated exceedances of national air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of Future Baseline

New housing and employment provision within the parish and the wider area, including through the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂. However, this is unlikely to lead to exceedances of air quality objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan area given the low air pollutant baseline which currently exists.

⁸ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 10/12/19]

⁹ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2018) 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) [online] available at: < <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/12663/annual-status-report-2018.pdf>> [accessed 10/12/19]

A2 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Context Review

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy¹⁰ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to ‘halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020’.

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

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to ‘contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment’ including by ‘helping to improve biodiversity.’
- ‘Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value[...], take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.’
- ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with the statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); and minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.’
- ‘To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - b) Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity’.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)¹¹ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK’s failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, ‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’ aims to ‘halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people’¹².

The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan¹³ sets out the Government’s environmental plan of action over the next quarter century, in the context of Brexit. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil

¹⁰ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf> [accessed 10/12/19]

¹¹ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>> [accessed 10/12/19]

¹² DEFRA (2011): ‘Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’, [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> [accessed 10/12/19]

¹³ HM GOV (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [accessed 10/12/19]

degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies which are focused on the following six key areas:

- Using and managing land sustainably;
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes;
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing;
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste;
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SEA theme.

At the local level, policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan that relate to the Biodiversity and Geodiversity theme include:

- NH/2: Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character;
- NH/3: Protecting Agricultural Land;
- NH/4: Biodiversity;
- NH/5: Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance;
- NH/6: Green Infrastructure;
- NH/7: Ancient Woodlands and Veteran Trees;
- NH/8: Mitigating the Impact of Development in and adjoining the Green Belt;
- NH/11: Protected Village Amenity Areas; and
- NH/12: Local Green Space.

Summary of Current Baseline

European and Nationally designated sites

There are no European designated sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The nearest Special Area of Conservation is Eversden and Wimpole Woods which is located approximately 7.4km east of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This SAC is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and barbastelle bat supporting habitat.

Barbastelle bats *Barbastella barastellus* are Annex II species and their presence within Eversden and Wimpole Woods is the primary reason for the designation of this SAC. Eversden and Wimpole woods comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Woods). A colony of barbastelle *Barbastella barastellus* is associated with the trees in Wimpole Woods. These trees are used as a summer maternity roost where the female bats gather to give birth and rear their young. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.¹⁴

Gamlingay Wood SSSI

Gamlingay Wood SSSI lies within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Notified in December 1983 'Gamlingay Wood SSSI' is approximately 48.4 ha in size and is located in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following¹⁵:

'This is a woodland of ancient origin which consequently holds well developed plant and animal communities. It is of the ash-maple woodland type and represents a habitat which has now become relatively scarce throughout its natural range over lowland England. In a Cambridgeshire context the site is additionally noted for its part location

¹⁴ JNCC (2019): 'Eversden and Wimpole Woods Designated Special Area of Conservation', [online] available at: <<https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030331>> [accessed 16/12/19]

¹⁵ Natural England (no date): 'Gamlingay Wood SSSI', [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001138&SiteName=gamlingay&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 10/12/19]

*on a sandy loam soil type, unusual for this county, which is reflected in the vegetation. The majority of the wood is mixed coppice of oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and field maple *Acer campestre*. Where the soil is of the calcareous marl type overlying Boulder Clay on Gault, the nationally restricted oxlip *Primula elatior* is a key component of the ground flora, together with dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum* and wood anemone *nemorosa*. On the sandy loam which overlays Boulder Clay on Greensand, oak is more abundant with ash being replaced by birch. The ground flora here holds bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, together with creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*. This type of vegetation is characteristic of dry oak woods on acid soils and extremely rare in the county. Parts of the wood have been modified by plantation, but elements of the natural vegetation still persist and retain potential for enhancement through sympathetic management.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'unfavourable - recovering' condition.

Potton Wood SSSI

Potton Wood SSSI lies adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area on the southern boundary. Notified in September 1984 'Potton Wood SSSI' is approximately 85.2 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following¹⁶:

'Potton Wood is a large ancient woodland of the wet ash-maple type which is largely restricted in its national distribution to the heavy soils of lowland Britain. Situated close to the county boundary, the wood has a structure and rich flora characteristic of the West Cambs Boulder Clay woodland group. Most of the wood is primary with some very old secondary woodland on ridge and furrow. Some of the rides are a particularly valuable element of the wood, supporting a rich neutral grassland flora including species uncommon in the county.

*Parts of the wood have been modified by forestry activities, but elsewhere the woodland structure is well-preserved with large areas of coppiced hazel *Corylus avellana*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and field maple *Acer campestre* with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash standards.*

*The shrub layer is very varied and the ground flora is rich in species composition characteristic of the bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, dogs mercury *Mercurialis perennis* type. Species associated with ancient woodland sites include yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, wood millet *Milium effusum*, wood anemone *nemorosa* and a colony of oxlip *Primula elatior*, a national rarity which occurs here on the extreme edge of its range in Europe, in association with primrose *Primula vulgaris* and primrose-oxlip hybrids.*

*Other species uncommon in the county include herb Paris *quadrifolia*, birds-nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis* and nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*.*

*Some of the rides are very species-rich, the composition varying with degree of waterlogging which at its extreme supports stands of sedges *Carex* spp. Notable ride species include great butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, lesser butterfly orchid *Platanthera bifolia*, common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, lesser centaury *Centaureum pulchellum* and narrow-leaved everlasting pea *Lathyrus sylvestris*.*

Additional habitats are provided by several small ponds. The wood has a large variety of breeding Re-presentation of details approved by Council. Re-typed September 1998. Site Area calculated by GIS 19 April 1998 birds.'

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

Weaveley and Sand Woods SSSI

Weaveley and Sand Woods SSSI lies approximately 230m north of Neighbourhood Plan area. Notified in December 1983 'Weaveley and Sand Woods SSSI' is approximately 62 ha in size. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following¹⁷:

¹⁶ Natural England (no date): 'Potton Wood SSSI', [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1000837&SiteName=potton&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 16/12/19]

¹⁷ Natural England (no date): 'Weaveley and Sand Woods SSSI', [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1003181&SiteName=weaveley&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=> [accessed 16/12/19]

'The woodland is ancient in origin and of the ash-maple type which is restricted to lowland England and is a declining habitat. The site is of additional interest for the influence and range of the underlying geology. It straddles a number of geological formations from ill-drained boulder clay and Jurassic clays to free-draining Lower Greensand. Few other ancient woods in Cambridgeshire possess this variation in terms of geology.

*The woods are essentially a mixture of coppiced ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, coppiced field maple *Acer campestre* with pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* standards and hazel *Corylus avellana* predominant in the shrub layer. Elm *Ulmus spp.* has invaded parts of the wood.*

*The ground flora is typically of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides nonscripta* with early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Rides and clearings in the wood support their own characteristic flora which includes plants such as the common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and adder's-tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Some uncommon species are present in the wood including herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia*, butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and pignut *Conopodium major*.'*

The most recent condition assessments for the SSSI indicate that 100% of the SSSI is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition.

SSSI Impact Risk Zones

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

In this context, part of the Neighbourhood Plan area surrounding Gamlingay Wood SSSI and Weaveley and Sandy Woods SSSI is located within an IRZ for residential and/or rural-residential developments, including the northern part of the built up area of Gamlingay. For residential, this applies to residential development of 100 units or more. For rural residential, this applies for any residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/ urban areas.

It also important to note that housing development will also trigger the Cambridgeshire Recreational Pressure IRZ.

Locally important sites

County Wildlife Sites

Eight County Wildlife Sites are present within the Neighbourhood Plan area including: Cambridge-Bedford disused railway (3.27 ha), Gamlingay East Roadside Verge (0.6 ha), Gamlingay Stocks Lane cemetery (0.82 ha), Cinques Common (2.34 ha), Heath plantation (25.45 ha), New Barn Grassland (5.33 ha), West Road Roadside Verge (*0.09 ha) and Gamlingay Park.

Nature Reserves

There are two Local Nature Reserves within the Neighbourhood Plan area: Gamlingay Cinques, which is approximately 3.4 ha and lies in the north west of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and Gamlingay Woods which as previously discussed is also a SSSI and lies in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Priority Habitats

There are a variety of BAP Priority Habitats located within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, predominantly areas of deciduous woodland, broadleaved woodland, lowland fens and traditional orchard.

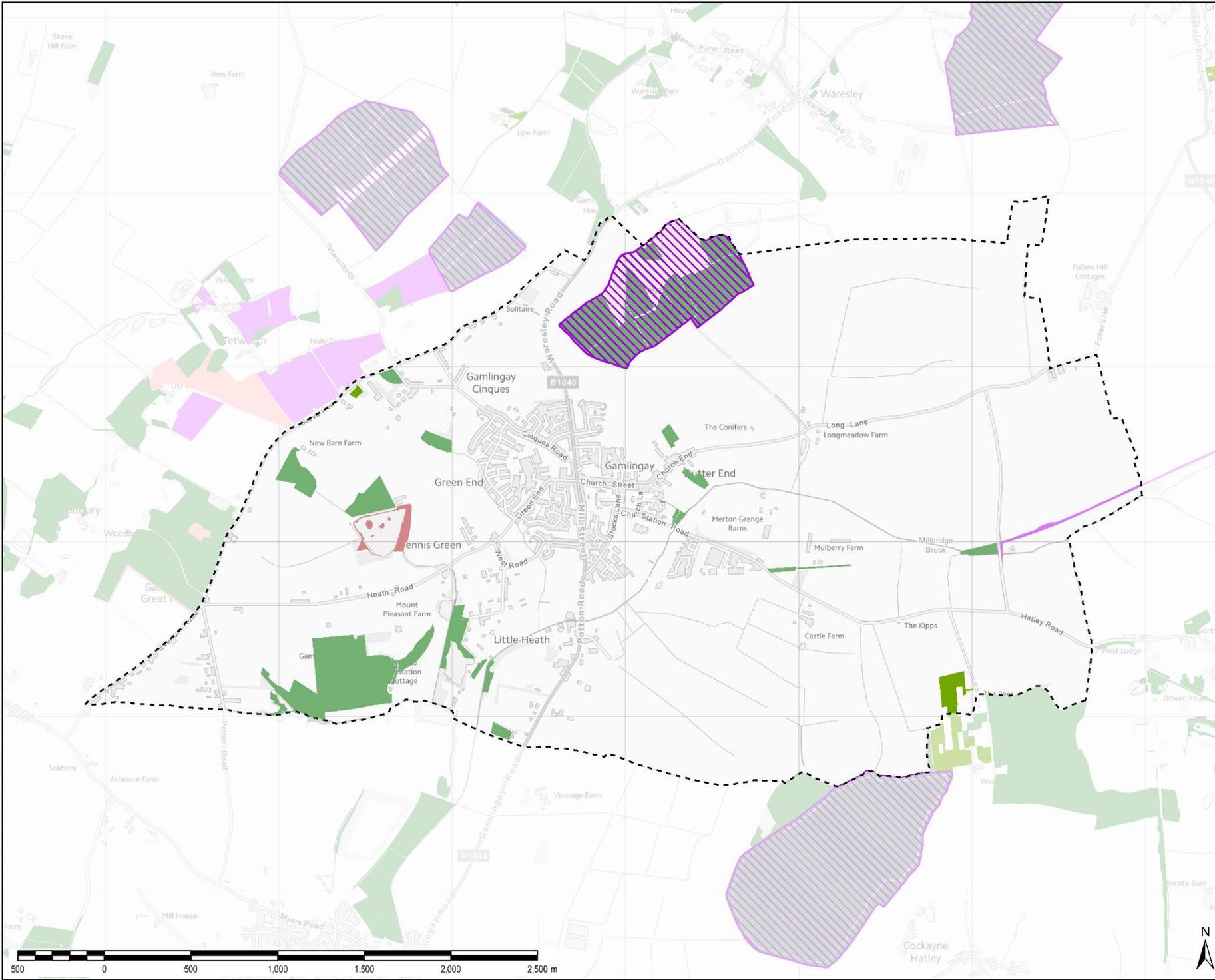
Within Gamlingay, it is important to improve and maintain hedgerow connectivity particularly to support local bat populations.

Figure 3.1 below shows the designated wildlife sites and BAP priority habitats located within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species are likely to continue to be offered protection through the higher-level planning framework, however; they will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area with the potential for negative effects on the wider ecological network. These pressures have the potential to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The Neighbourhood Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, undesignated sites, and connections between designated sites and undesignated sites at a localised scale, and at an early stage of planning for future growth. This is particularly relevant in the siting of new small scale housing development.



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LEGEND

- Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Area
- ▨ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats

- Deciduous Woodland
- Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Traditional Orchard

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Purpose of Issue: **FINAL**

Client: **GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL**

Project Title: **GAMLINGAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Drawing Title: **BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS AND HABITATS**

Drawn: CN	Checked: JW	Approved: TS	Date: 10/06/2020
AECOM Internal Project No. 60571087		Scale @ A3: 1:20,000	

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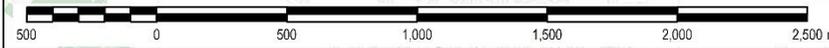
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Figure A2.1

01



A3 – Climate Change

Context Review

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below¹⁸ :

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.

The UK Climate Change Act¹⁹ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page 20.

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

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is an environmental objective to '*contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment*' including by '*mitigating and adapting to climate change*' and '*moving to a low carbon economy*.' '*The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.*'
- '*Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.*'
- '*Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.*'

¹⁸ GOV.UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017>> [accessed 10/12/19]

¹⁹ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] available at: <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> [accessed 10/12/19]

²⁰ Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] available at @ <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> [accessed 10/12/19]

- *Direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding (whether existing or future). 'Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'*

The Flood and Water Management Act²¹ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).²²

At the local level, policies in Chapter 4 (Climate Change) in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan relate to the Climate Change theme as well as other policies which include:

- S/3: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development;
- NH/15: Heritage Assets and Adapting to Climate Change;
- SC/12: Air Quality;
- SC/14: Odour and Other Fugitive Emissions to Air; and
- T1/2: Planning for Sustainable Travel.

Summary of Current Baseline

Contribution to climate change

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that South Cambridgeshire has higher per capita emissions in comparison to the East of England and England as a whole since 2005 (see **Table 4.1**). South Cambridgeshire has seen a 39.9% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2016, higher than the reductions for the East of England (33.3%) and England (37.6%).

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2016²³

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
South Cambridgeshire				
2005	6.0	2.6	4.6	13.3
2006	5.9	2.6	4.5	13.1
2007	5.8	2.5	4.5	12.9
2008	5.5	2.5	4.3	12.4
2009	3.5	2.3	4.0	9.8
2010	3.7	2.4	4.0	10.1
2011	3.0	2.1	3.8	9.0

²¹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>> [accessed 10/12/19]

²² N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

²³ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2018) 2005 to 2016 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions – data tables [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>> [accessed 10/12/19]

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO₂)	Domestic (t CO₂)	Transport (t CO₂)	Total (t CO₂)
2012	3.4	2.2	3.8	9.5
2013	3.3	2.2	3.8	9.3
2014	2.5	1.8	3.8	8.0
2015	2.7	1.8	4.0	8.4
2016	2.3	1.7	4.0	8.0
East				
2005	3.0	2.5	2.6	8.1
2006	3.0	2.5	2.6	8.0
2007	2.9	2.4	2.6	7.8
2008	2.8	2.4	2.4	7.6
2009	2.5	2.2	2.3	6.9
2010	2.6	2.3	2.3	7.2
2011	2.3	2.0	2.2	6.5
2012	2.5	2.1	2.2	6.8
2013	2.3	2.1	2.2	6.5
2014	2.0	1.7	2.2	5.9
2015	1.9	1.7	2.3	5.7
2016	1.6	1.6	2.3	5.4
England				
2005	3.8	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.8	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.6	2.4	2.2	8.1
2008	3.5	2.4	2.1	7.8
2009	3.0	2.1	2.0	7.0
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.2
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.5
2012	2.9	2.1	1.9	6.8
2013	2.8	2.0	1.9	6.6
2014	2.4	1.7	1.9	5.9
2015	2.3	1.6	1.9	5.7
2016	2.0	1.5	1.9	5.3

Potential effects of climate change

Following the success of the UK Climate Projections released in 2009 (UKCP09), the Met Office recently released the UK Climate Projections for 2018 (UKCP18).²⁴ UKCP18 provides the most up to date climate observations and projections out to 2100, using cutting-edge climate science. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for East England during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows²⁵:

- The central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 2°C and 3°C; and
- The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of +20 to +30% in winter and -10% to -20% in summer.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:

- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- Increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100-year floods;
- Changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- Changes to global supply chain;
- Increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- An increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

²⁴ Data released 26th November 2018 [online] available at: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp> [accessed 16/12/19]

²⁵ Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections', [online map] available to access via: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp/land-projection-maps> [accessed 16/12/19]

Flood risk

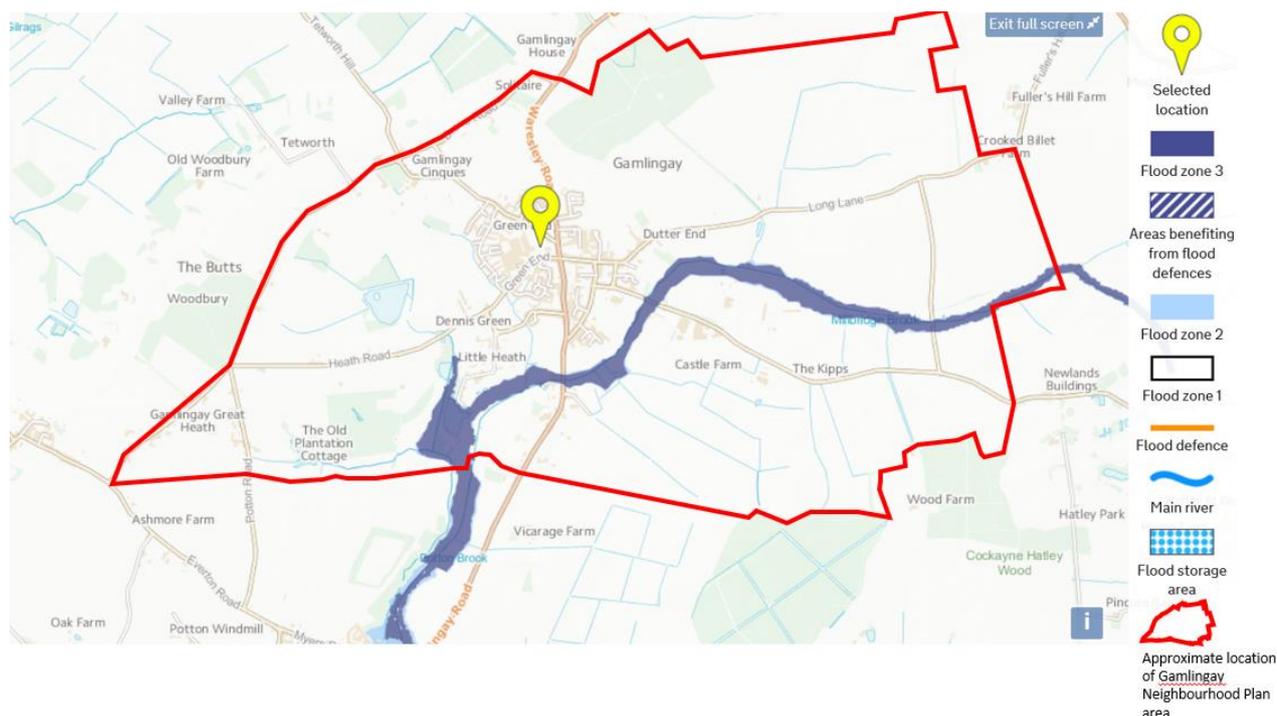


Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁶

As shown in **Figure 4.1**, the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within Flood Zone 1, showing that there is a <0.1% chance (1 in 1000) of river flooding in any given year. There are areas of land adjacent to Millbridge Brook which are located within Flood Risk Zone 3, and have a >1% chance of being flooded each year.

Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with sections of medium-high risk predominantly located around Millbridge Brook and its tributaries, as depicted in **Figure 4.2**.

An Environment Agency flood risk alert (due to an unstable underground reservoir at Vicarage Farm, Potton Road) affects part of the south of the parish.

²⁶ GOV UK (2019): 'Flood Map for Planning', [online] available at: <<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>> [accessed 11/12/19]

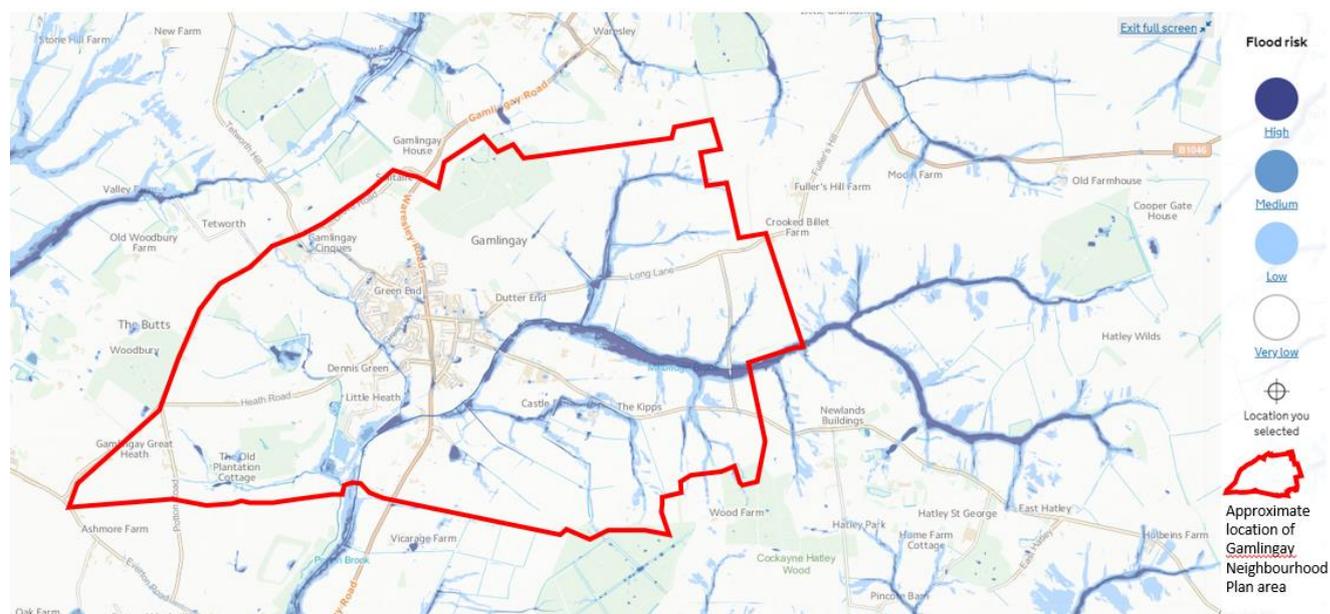


Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁷

Summary of Future Baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

In terms of climate change contribution, per capita greenhouse gas emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may continue to decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies, including electric cars and buses. However, increases in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

²⁷ GOV UK (2017): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available to access from: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/>> [accessed 11/12/19]

A4 – Landscape

Context Review

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

- *‘Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [...]. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited.’*
- Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy making provision for *‘conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure.’*
- Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments *‘are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change (such as increased densities).’*
- *‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils*
 - ii. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and*
 - iii. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.’*

At the local level, policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan that relate to the Landscape theme include those in Chapter 6 (Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment).

Summary of Current Baseline

National Character Areas

The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan area lies within two National Character Area (NCAs). The western half of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge NCA and the eastern half of the Neighbourhood Plan area lies within Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA.

The Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge NCA²⁸ is a narrow ridge running north-east, south-west, rising out of – and entirely surrounded by – the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA. It is a distinctive ridge with a north-west-facing scarp slope, formed by the underlying sandstone geology which has shaped the landscape and industry of the Ridge. Key characteristics of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge NCA include:

- Narrow escarpment resulting from the erosion-resistant sediments of the Lower Greensand Group, with a distinct scarp slope to the northwest and dip slope to the south-east.
- The rolling and elevated Ridge provides a north-west-facing wooded skyline offering extensive panoramic views across the lower-lying Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands and towards the Chilterns.
- Well-drained acidic sandy soils are capped in places with drift deposits of Boulder Clay. Sand and gravel deposits are present in the Ouzel valley, and there are deposits of peat in the Flit valley between Flitwick and Clophill.
- Substantial blocks of ancient woodland and coniferous plantation are found on the Ridge and steeper slopes. Wood pasture and numerous hedgerow trees, copses and shelterbelts are associated with the estate farmland and parkland trees.
- Mixed field and roadside boundaries range from mature shelterbelts to gappy, short flailed boundaries to intact evergreen hedgerows. Commercial arable cropping within a network of large geometric fields is associated with the better soils on the dip slope.
- A patchwork of semi-natural habitats including mire habitats, lowland heathland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland species, including coppiced hazel which is important for dormice at Maulden Wood. Adders are particularly associated with heathland areas of the Ridge. The mire habitats are notable for their invertebrate interest, especially in terms of beetles.

²⁸ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile: 90 Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6667269664931840> [accessed 11/12/19]

- The Ridge is dissected by the rivers Ouzel and Ivel, which have carved distinct valleys with riparian habitats, and it is partially bounded to the south by the River Flit. Springs arising from the Ridge support important wetland habitats, including acid mire and wet woodland.

The Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA²⁹ covers most of north and mid Bedfordshire and western Cambridgeshire, and part of east Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. The underlying clay geology (shared with the adjacent Upper Thames Clay Vales NCA in the southwest) gives a gently undulating topography that is divided by broad, shallow river valleys that gradually widen as they approach The Fens NCA in the east. These lower-lying claylands completely enclose the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge NCA. A distinct boundary exists in the east where the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA meets The Fens NCA and to the south where it meets both the elevated East Anglian Chalk NCA and Chilterns NCA. There is more of a gradual transition towards the Upper Thames Clay Vales NCA and Midvale Ridge NCA in the south-west, Yardley Whittlewood Ridge NCA to the north, and Northamptonshire Vales NCA and Leicestershire Vales NCA in the north-west where the River Nene marks the boundary. Key characteristics of the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA include:

- Underlying geology of Jurassic and Cretaceous clays overlain by more recent Quaternary glacial deposits of chalky boulder clay (till) and sand and gravel river terrace deposits within the river valleys. Limerich, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage predominate, with better-drained soils in the river valleys.
- Variable, scattered woodland cover comprising smaller plantations, secondary woodland, pollarded willows and poplar along river valleys, and clusters of ancient woodland, particularly on higher ground to the northwest representing remnant ancient deer parks and Royal Hunting Forests.
- Predominantly open, arable landscape of planned and regular fields bounded by open ditches and trimmed, often species-poor hedgerows which contrast with those fields that are irregular and piecemeal.
- Wide variety of semi-natural habitats supporting a range of species – some notably rare and scarce – including sites designated for species associated with ancient woodland, wetland sites important for birds, great crested newt and species of stonewort, and traditional orchards and unimproved grassland supporting a rich diversity of wild flowers.
- Rich geological and archaeological history evident in fossils, medieval earthworks, deserted villages and Roman roads. A number of historic parklands, designed landscapes and country houses – including Stowe House and Park, Kimbolton Park, Croxton Park, Wimpole Hall and Wrest Park – combine with Blethley Park, Second World War airfields, the Cardington Airship Hangars and brickfields to provide a strong sense of history and place.
- Diversity of building materials including brick, render, thatch and stone. Locally quarried limestone features in villages such as Lavendon, Harrold and Turvey on the upper stretches of the River Great Ouse.
- Settlements cluster around major road and rail corridors, with smaller towns, villages and linear settlements widely dispersed throughout, giving a more rural feel. Small villages are usually nucleated around a church or village green, while fen-edge villages are often in a linear form along roads.
- Major transport routes cross the area, including the M1, M11, A1, A6, A5 and A14 roads, the East Coast and Midlands mainline railways, and the Grand Union Canal.
- Recreational assets include Grafham Water, the Grand Union Canal, Forest of Marston Vale Community Forest, Chilterns AONB, woodland and wetland sites, an extensive rights-of-way network and two National Cycle Routes. The cities of Cambridge and Peterborough and several of the historic market towns in the NCA are popular tourist destinations.

Gamlingay Village Design Guide

At the local level, the Gamlingay Village Design Guide³⁰ which has been prepared as a Supplementary Planning Document to support the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, describes the distinctive character of the village. Gamlingay Village Design Guide describes Gamlingay's landscape setting as follows:

'Gamlingay is a dispersed village with distinct satellite hamlets, or 'ends' of smaller settlement; historically farms and cottages. Most clearly defined amongst the satellites is the Cinques to the west. The village is situated on an undulating dip slope of the Greensand Ridge, a landscape feature with thin sandy soil supporting lowland heathland and acid grassland. To the north Gamlingay Wood is over 1000 years old, managed by the Wildlife Trust, and one of the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds; ancient woodlands defined by Anglo-Saxon Regional Divisions.

²⁹ Natural England (2014) NCA Profile: 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6667269664931840> [accessed 11/12/19]

³⁰ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Gamlingay Village Design Guide [online] available at: < https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13169/gamlingay-village-design-guide-draft-spd_web.pdf > [accessed 12/12/2019]

The area is of predominantly rural character with arable farmland, market gardens and pasture. To the west of the village, Great Heath and Little Heath areas are important landscape elements; previously heathland now predominantly arable. The historic grounds of Downing Park, within the Great Heath area, are on the Historic England 'Buildings at Risk' Register. Efforts are being made to return areas of this landscape to heathland and Cinques Common, once part of the larger heath, retains this character and is a Wildlife Trust site.'

The Village Design Guide also sets out clear design principles to guide development proposals in and around the village of Gamlingay. It states that within Gamlingay there is a need for the following:

- Maintain the integrity of the satellite hamlets and the distinctive dispersed landscape settlement pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and small detached houses. In particular preserve the separation of the Cinques and Little Heath, by retaining the open landscape character between these and the village;
- New development should respect the 200m buffer zone to Gamlingay Woods proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan (consultation 2019) and supported by the Wildlife Trust;
- The area bounded by the brook and Great Heath and including the Lupin Field and Log Field to the south west edge of the village has a sensitive and distinct landscape character which should be maintained;
- New development should preserve key views to and from the village. (Map and Fig 7 below) 4.5 Retain and manage existing hedgerows in the village core, and on roads leading to the village, especially from the hamlets. Of particular note are hedgerows and trees along Mill Hill/ Little Heath and Cow Lane/West Rd;
- Boundaries to new development at the village edge should consist of characteristic hedgerows and trees. Oak, ash, field maple, hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn, dog rose, crab apple and field maple would be appropriate species;
- Small scale development is preferred and all development should be of characterful design that draws upon the vernacular quality of the historic village and the positive elements of later housing stock.
- Careful solutions for car parking should be integrated into every new development.
- Avoid garden fences and walls to public realm creating dead facades. Careful use of landscape elements, and orientation of properties towards the street, is necessary.

Tree Preservation Orders

Implemented by local planning authorities, 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 local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria³¹:

- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public; and
- 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.

In this context, South Cambridgeshire District Council have allocated several TPOs within the Neighbourhood Plan area, shown below in Figure 5A, represented by blue boundaries³².

³¹ GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Preservation Orders – General', [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>> last accessed [16/12/19]

³² South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Search by Map [online] available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/search-by-map/> last accessed 16/12/19]

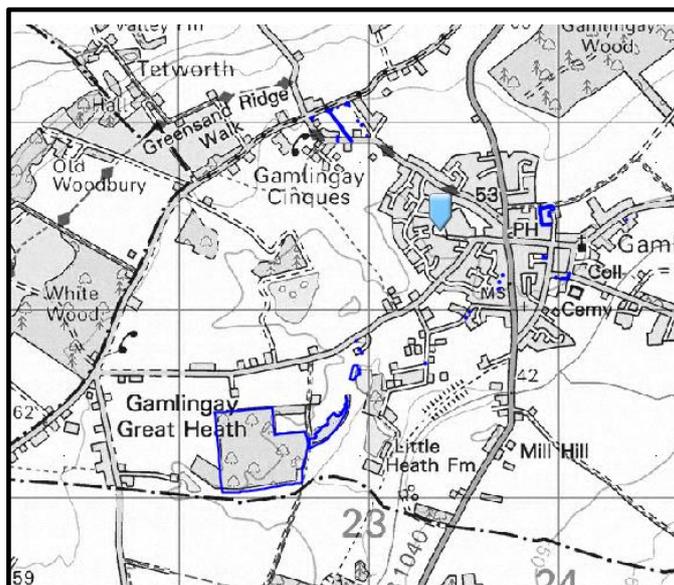


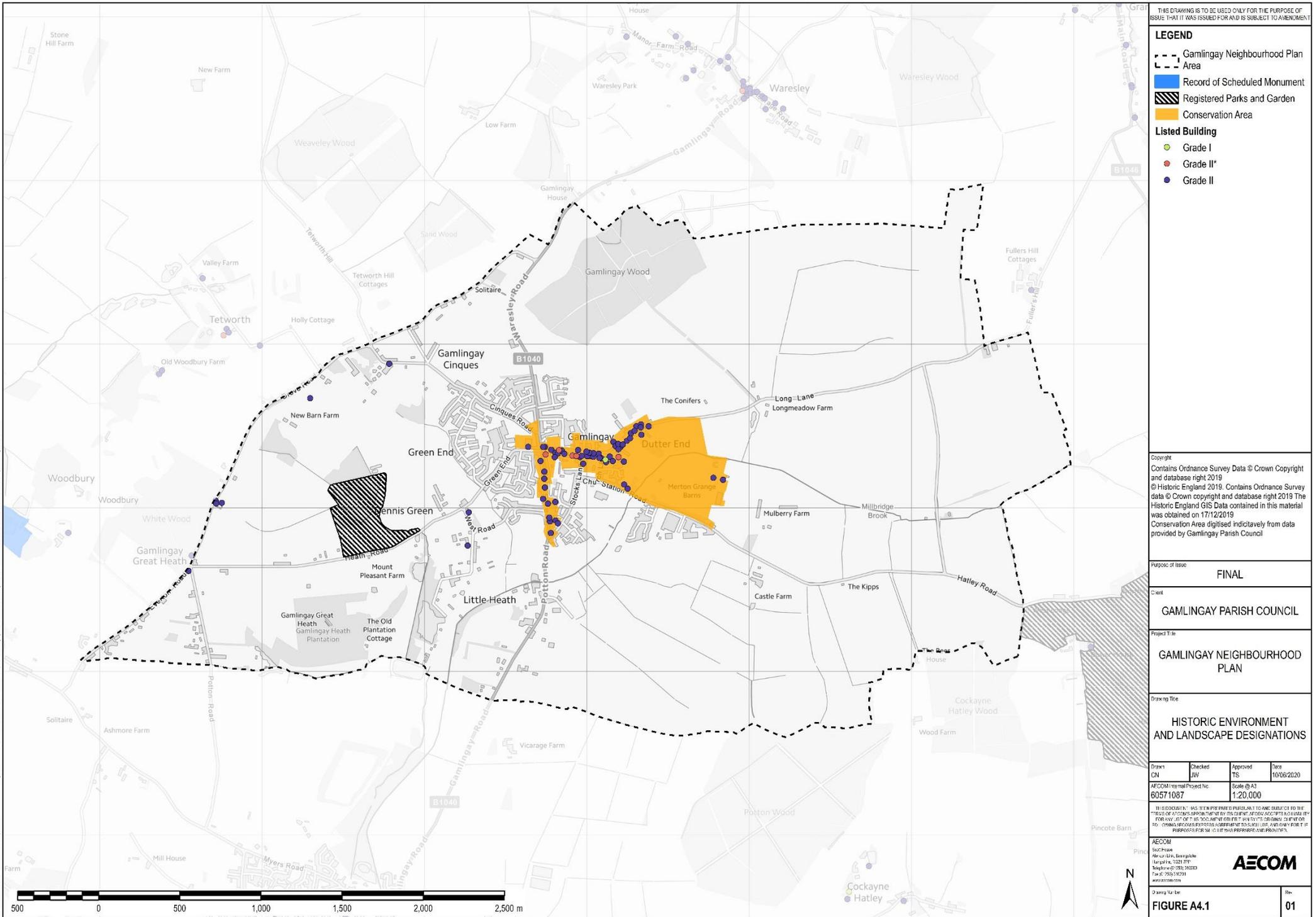
Figure 6A: TPOs in the Neighbourhood Plan area

Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and villagescape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Inappropriate levels of development within the open countryside could negatively impact upon the landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character of Gamlingay.

File Name: 15004 - Information Systems\60571087_Neighbourhood_Plan_CRB_2018_202202_Maps\Gamlingay Parish Council\Figure A4.1 - Historic Environment and Landscape Designations.mxd



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LEGEND

- Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Area
- Record of Scheduled Monument
- ▨ Registered Parks and Garden
- Conservation Area
- Listed Building
 - Grade I
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II

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Purpose of Issue
FINAL

Client
GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Project Title
GAMLINGAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Drawn CN	Checked JW	Approved TS	Date 10/06/2020
AECOM Internal Project No. 60571087		Scale @ A3 1:20,000	

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AECOM
 5000 Peachtree
 Atlanta, GA 30328
 Telephone: 404.521.5000
 Fax: 404.521.5001
 www.aecom.com

A5 – Historic Environment

Context Review

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

- Heritage assets should be recognised as an *'irreplaceable resource'* that should be conserved in a *'manner appropriate to their significance'*, taking account of *'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits'* of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Plans should set out a *'positive strategy'* for the *'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'*, including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- *'When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.'*

The policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England³³ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others.

Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (February 2019)³⁴ outlines ways to manage change that conserves and enhances historic areas in order to positively contribute to sustainable development. Principally, the advice note emphasises the importance of:

- Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin the designations; and
- Recognising the value of implementing controls through the appraisal and/or management plan which positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA): Historic England Advice Note 8 (December 2016)³⁵ provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans and programmes on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during each stage of the SA/SEA process and helps to establish the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017)³⁶ provides general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views can contribute to setting. Specifically, Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting:

- Step 1: Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;

³³ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx> [accessed 10/12/19]

³⁴ Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Advice Note 1', [online] available at: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/heag-268-conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management/>> [accessed 10/12/19]

³⁵ Historic England (2016): 'SA and SEA: Advice Note 8' [online] available at: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>> [accessed 10/12/19]

³⁶ Historic England (2017): 'Setting of Heritage Assets: 2nd Edition', [online] available to download via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/>> [accessed 10/12/19]

- Step 2: Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3: Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
- Step 4: Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- Step 5: Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic England Advice Note 11 (October 2018)³⁷ outlines the importance of considering the historic environment whilst preparing the plan (section 1), which culminates in a checklist of relevant issues to consider, followed by an overview of what this means in terms of evidence gathering (section 2). Sections 3 to 5 of the advice note focus on how to translate evidence into policy, understand the SEA process and Historic England's role in neighbourhood planning.

At the local level, policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan that relate to the Historic Environment theme include those in Chapter 6 (Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment).

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Figure 5.1 identifies designated heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Listed Buildings

Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I, five Grade II* and 65 Grade II listed buildings. Many of the listed buildings are located within the Gamlingay Conservation Area. The Grade I listed building (Church of St Mary the Virgin) and the five Grade II* listed buildings (Havelock House, the Cock Inn, Almhouses, Chapel adjoining Almhouses at East End and the Emplins) lie within the Conservation Area.

A significant issue is that the Grade I listed building (Church of St Mary the Virgin) is identified as 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register³⁸. The church, which is the parish church of C13 origin and extensively rebuilt in the C14-C15, has been the subject of heritage crime. Responding to this, a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant bid is being developed with strong local community involvement.

Gamlingay Park and Garden

Gamlingay Park and Garden is a Grade II registered Park and Garden which is located towards the west of the Neighbourhood Plan area. There are earthwork remains of early formal gardens which were laid out in 1712 for Sir George Downing III.³⁹

Conservation Area

Conservation Areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest⁴⁰. 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. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the conservation area and can be developed into a management plan.

A Conservation Area covers part of the built-up area of Gamlingay within the centre of the Neighbourhood Plan area, where a cluster of listed buildings are present. However, a conservation area appraisal has not been prepared for this conservation area. South Cambridgeshire District Council are producing appraisals for the

³⁷ Historic England (2018): 'Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment', [online] available at: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/neighbourhood-planning-and-the-historic-environment/>> [accessed 10/12/19]

³⁸ Historic England (2019) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> [accessed 12/12/19]

³⁹ Historic England (2019) Gamlingay [online] available at: < <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000620>> [accessed 17/12/19]

⁴⁰ Historic England (2019): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available at: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/>> [accessed 12/12/19]

District's Conservation Areas.⁴¹ As acknowledged by South Cambridgeshire District Council appraisals take a substantial amount of resources and time, so progress is gradual and it is therefore uncertain when a conservation area appraisal for Gamlingay will be complete.

Gamlingay Village Design Guide

Gamlingay Conservation Area is referred to in the Gamlingay Village Design Guide⁴² where it states that Gamlingay has a well-documented Conservation Area with distinctive local materials and characteristics in both form and construction. It also has a broad representation of 20th Century housing.

Gamlingay developed around two streets; Church Street (east, west) and Mill Street (north, south). Both of these retain their historic urban form with the majority of buildings tight against the pavement edge, forming long terraces. At key junctions, the space of the street opens up and a number of buildings sit back either in their plots or to the edge of an enlarged public space. Corners in these spaces are a juxtaposition of gables and frontages. This pattern, of the tightly framed street then the framing of important corners or junctions is characteristic of the village.

Before the Victorian enclosures Gamlingay was an ancient open field parish; a patchwork of irregular furlongs. Behind the domestic and commercial buildings lining the edges of Church and Mill Streets are the remaining long plots of this early field system. Many of these plots still retain their early character today, used as smallholdings and with retained agricultural buildings. Historically Gamlingay has had a large number of barn structures, some right in the heart of the village. Views through the long plots are still in some cases right through to open countryside or to characteristic arrangements of roofs and local brick buildings beyond.

Gamlingay has a mix of building types including barns, terraces, semi-detached properties and individual cottages. Agricultural groupings of buildings have a distinctive massing around yards, sitting behind the street frontage or stretching along plots.

The Village Design Guide also states that storey heights in new development should be in keeping with the predominantly two storey village, three storey buildings are not considered appropriate. The height of buildings is considered vital to the rural nature of the village, also enabling the characteristic long views. Small scale interspersed developments, part of the existing urban grain, not 'estates' are preferred.

Locally Important Heritage Features

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 in the area are likely to be of value for local people.

⁴¹ South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019): 'Conservation Areas'. [online] available at: <
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/natural-historic-and-built-environment/historic-environment/conservation-areas/>>
[accessed 12/12/19]

⁴² South Cambridgeshire District Council (2019) Gamlingay Village Design Guide [online] available at: <
https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/13169/gamlingay-village-design-guide-draft-spd_web.pdf> [accessed 12/12/2019]

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records multiple locally important historic environment features within the Neighbourhood Plan area as outlined in Figure 6.1 below. As well as listed buildings, these features include monuments from the early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age including arrowheads, axes and lithic implements.

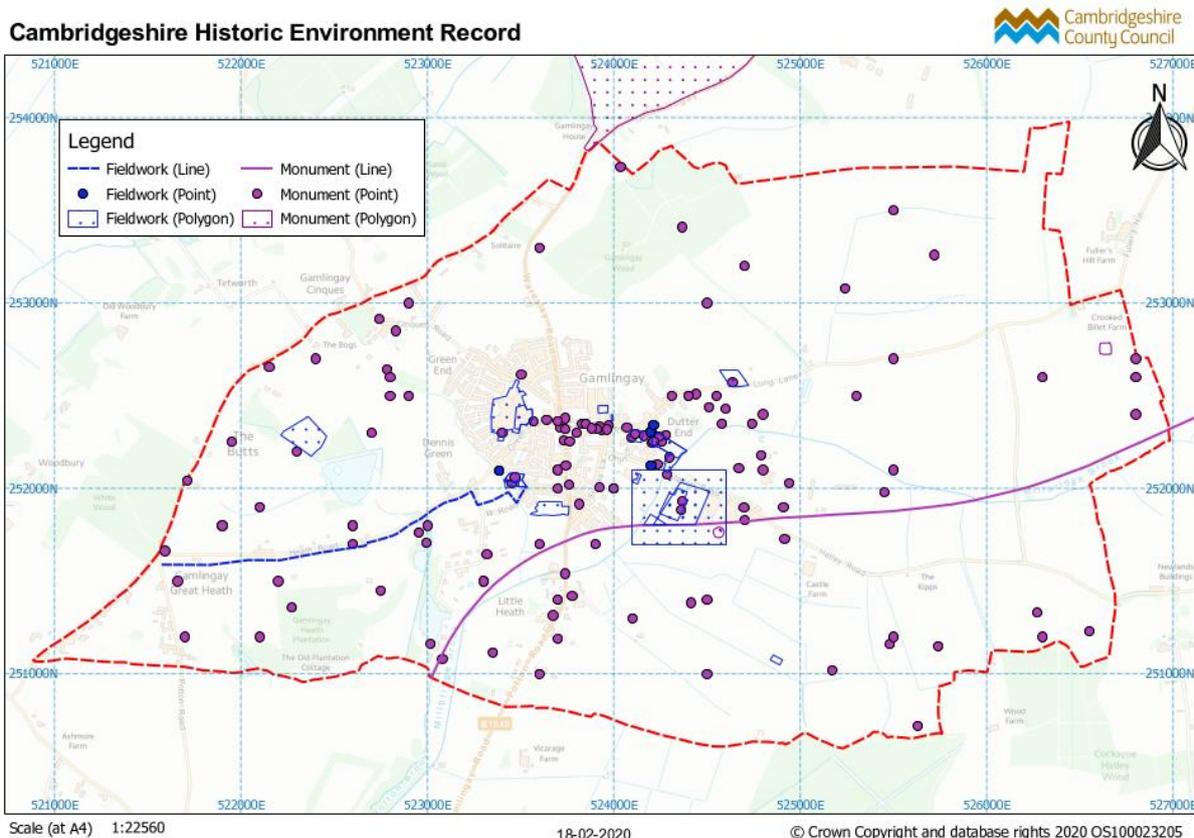


Figure 6.1: Historic Environment features within the Neighbourhood Plan area identified by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record

Summary of Future Baseline

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

Alongside, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there may be opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the village and better reveal assets' heritage significance.

A6 – Land, Soil and Water Resources

Context Review

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁴³ presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

Adopted in October 2000, the purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, driving a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

⁴³ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> [accessed 10/12/19]

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances;
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; and
- Contribute to achieving 'good' water quality status for as many waterbodies as possible by 2027.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- *'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
 - iv. *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and*
 - v. *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.'*
- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- *'Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.'*
- *'Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.'*
- Planning policies and decisions should 'give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs', and 'promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.'
- Taking a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for water supply.
- Prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
- The government has produced a separate plan that specifically deals with planning policy in relation to waste management; this should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

Along with the policies contained within Chapter 1 'Using and managing land sustainably' and Chapter 4 'Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste', Goal 2 'Clean and plentiful water', Goal 5 'Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently' and Goal 8 'Minimising waste' of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' directly relates to the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England⁴⁴, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁴⁵, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁴⁶ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

⁴⁴ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>> [accessed 10/12/19]

⁴⁵ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>> [accessed 10/12/19]

⁴⁶ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>> [accessed 10/12/19]

In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁴⁷ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

The National Waste Management Plan⁴⁸ provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive⁴⁹. This includes an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, additional waste infrastructure and investment channels, as well as providing general or strategic waste management policies.

At the local level, policies in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan that relate to the Land, Soil and Water Resources theme include:

- CC/4: Water Efficiency;
- CC/7: Water Quality;
- CC/8: Sustainable Drainage Systems;
- NH/3: Protecting Agricultural Land; and
- SC/11: Contaminated Land.

Summary of Current Baseline

Soil Resources

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into size grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. In this context, there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality 'best and most versatile' agricultural land.

At the local level a detailed classification has not been undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan area. As such, there is a need to rely on the national 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' dataset.

The Provisional Agricultural Land Quality dataset⁵⁰ shows that the eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly covered by areas of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land and that the western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is predominantly covered by areas of Grade 3 and 4 agricultural land. This means that the eastern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is considered to have 'best and most versatile' land. In the western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area, without the subset grading (3a or 3b) it is not possible to tell at this stage whether the agricultural land is considered to be 'best and most versatile'. Although the immediate vicinity of most of Gamlingay is covered by Grade 4 agricultural land which is not considered to be 'best and most versatile', immediately east of the built up area is an area of Grade 3 agricultural land of which it is uncertain whether it is 'best and most versatile'. It is also important to note that the national dataset is of very low resolution, and may not necessarily provide an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Water Resources

The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan area is Millbridge Brook which flows east to west through the Neighbourhood Plan area and joins the River Ivel.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this regard, the entire Neighbourhood Plan area overlaps with the 'Great Ouse' NVZ.

⁴⁷ DEFRA (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69401/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf [accessed 10/12/19]

⁴⁸ DEFRA (2013) Waste Management Plan for England [online] available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265810/pb14100-waste-management-plan-20131213.pdf [accessed 10/12/19]

⁴⁹ Directive 2008/98/EC

⁵⁰ Natural England (2018) Agricultural Land Classification map London and the South East (ALC007) [online] available at < <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=5954148537204736> > [accessed 19/09/19]

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. The centre and western corner of the Neighbourhood Plan area are within SPZ3 (Total Catchment).

Water Quality

Gamlingay is located within the Anglian River Basin District, overlapping with the 'Ouse Upper and Bedford' Management Catchment and the 'Ivel' Operational Catchment. There are ten water bodies within the Operational Catchment.

Based on the most recently completed water quality assessments undertaken in 2016, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer⁵¹ classifies Millbridge and Potton Brooks⁵² as having a 'good' chemical status and 'good' ecological status. The overall classification for the waterbody in 2016 was 'good'.

Summary of Future Baseline

Future development has the potential to affect water quality through 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 Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider area.

In the absence of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification assessment for the majority of the Parish, it remains uncertain whether new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area will lead to losses of higher quality (best and most versatile) agricultural land. However, given that the built up area of Gamlingay is not within an area of best and most versatile agricultural land, there is a low likelihood of this taking place.

A7 – Population and Community

Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; *'support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing.'*
- To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of housing, strategic policies *'should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.'*
- The size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required, and expect it to be met on-site where possible.
- Recognise the important contribution of small and medium sized development sites in meeting housing needs. Local Plans should identify land to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare, and neighbourhood planning groups should also consider the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites.
- In rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible

⁵¹ Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer', [online] available to access via: <<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>> [accessed 12/12/19]

⁵² Environment Agency (2019): 'Catchment Data Explorer – Millbridge and Potton Brooks', [online] available to access via: <<https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB105033037820>> [accessed 12/12/19]

pedestrian routes, and high-quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' and taking a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁵³ warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that '*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*'. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.

At the local level, policies from Chapter 2 (Spatial Strategy), Chapter 7 (Delivering High Quality Homes), Chapter 8 (Building a Strong and Competitive Economy) and Chapter 9 (Promoting Successful Communities) in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan relate to the Population and Community theme.

Summary of Current Baseline

Population

Table 8.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁵⁴

Date	Gamlingay	South Cambridgeshire	East	England
2001	3,535	130,108	5,388,140	49,138,831
2011	3,568	148,755	5,846,965	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	+0.9%	+14.3%	+8.5%	+7.9%

As shown in **Table 8.1**, the population of Gamlingay increased by 0.9% between 2001 and 2011, lower than the increases for South Cambridgeshire, the East of England and England averages.

Age Structure

Table 8.2: Age Structure (2011)⁵⁵

	Gamlingay	South Cambridgeshire	East	England
0-15	17.6%	19.8%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	9.1%	9.4%	10.9%	11.9%
25-44	23.3%	26.9%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	22.3%	20.8%	19.8%	19.4%
60+	27.7%	23.2%	23.9%	22.3%
Total Population	3,568	148,755	5,846,965	53,012,456

⁵³ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> [accessed 10/12/19]

⁵⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

⁵⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

Generally, there is a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age category within the Neighbourhood Plan area (27.7%) in comparison to the proportions for South Cambridgeshire (23.2%), the East of England (23.9%) and England (22.3%), as shown in **Table 8.2**.

A slightly lower proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (45.5%) in comparison to the proportions for South Cambridgeshire (47.7%), the East of England (46.2%) and England (46.9%).

Additionally, 26.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the younger age categories (0-15 and 16-24), lower than the percentages for South Cambridgeshire (29.1%), the East of England (29.9%) and England (30.8%).

Household Deprivation

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Table 8.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁵⁶

	Gamlingay	South Cambridgeshire	East	England
Household not deprived	48.0%	55.9%	44.8%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	33.6%	29.5%	33.0%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	16.1%	12.4%	17.9%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	1.9%	2.0%	4.0%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%

Based on the information presented in **Table 8.3**, more households are deprived in one or more dimensions within the Neighbourhood Plan area (52%) in comparison to the totals for South Cambridgeshire (44.1%). However, deprivation levels in the Neighbourhood Plan area are lower than the levels for the East of England (55.2%) and England (57.5%). Out of the 52% of households which are deprived in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority are deprived in one or two dimensions, which is similar to the regional and national trends.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, 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 in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.

⁵⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 - a. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
 - b. '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.
 - a. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 - b. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
 1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
 2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)⁵⁷ 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. In relation to the IMD 2019, 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.

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains three LSOAs. South Cambridgeshire 013B LSOA covers the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, South Cambridgeshire 013A covers the centre and South Cambridgeshire 013C covers the southern part. South Cambridgeshire 013B is within the 20% least deprived areas within England, South Cambridgeshire 013A is within the 10% least deprived and South Cambridgeshire 013C is within the 50% least deprived.

Housing Tenure

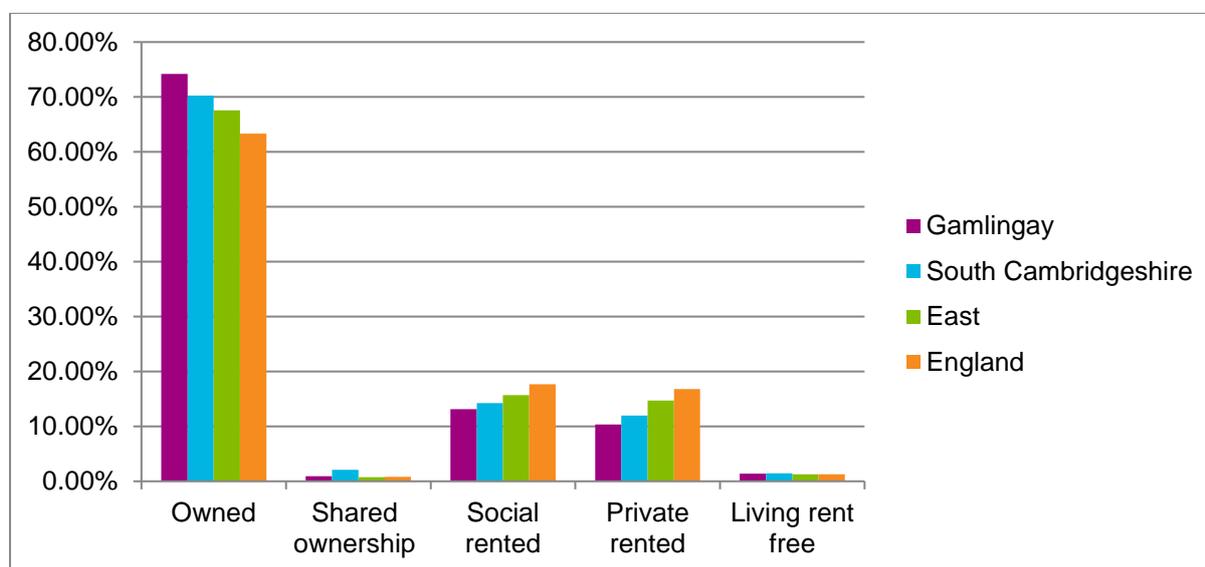


Figure 8.1: 'Tenure by Household'⁵⁸

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 74.2% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the totals for South Cambridgeshire (70.3%), the East of England (67.6%) and England (63.3%).

⁵⁷ DCLG (2019): Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available at: <https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html> [accessed 12/12/19]

⁵⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

A lower proportion of residents live within privately rented and social rented housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area in comparison to the regional and national figures.

A similar percentage of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area live in rent-free accommodation or shared ownership accommodation in comparison to the regional and national trends shown in **Figure 8.1**.

Education

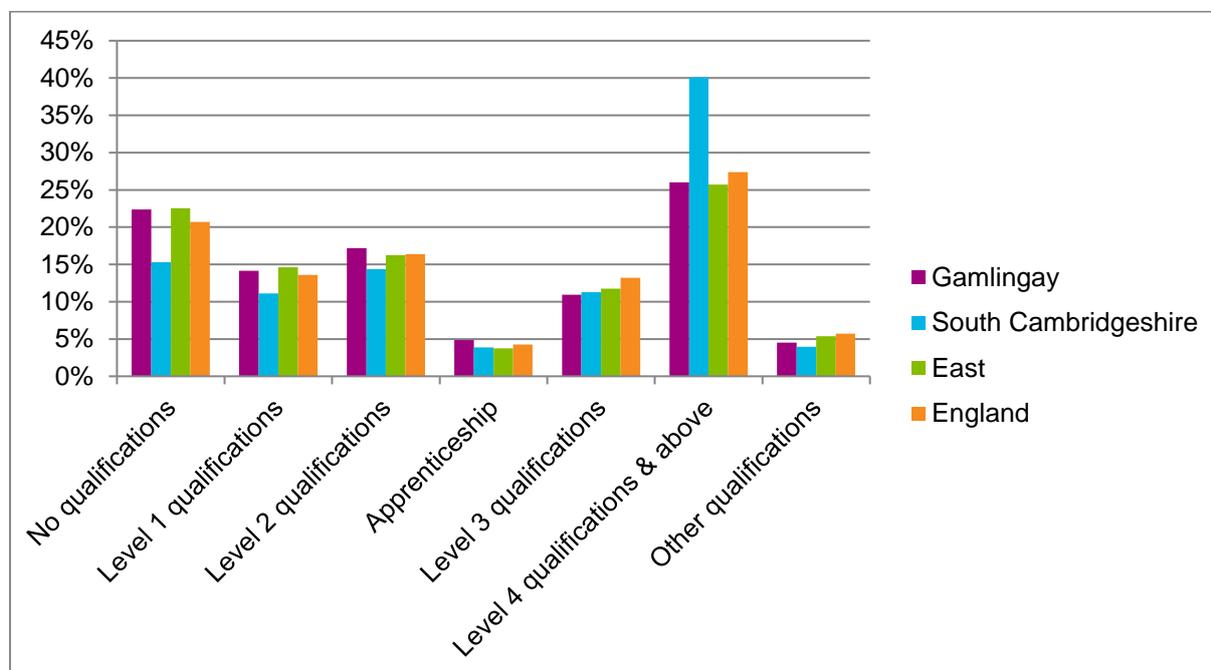


Figure 8.2: 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁵⁹

Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 8.2**, 22.4% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, higher than the totals for South Cambridgeshire (15.2%) and England (20.7%) but similar to the totals for East England (22.5%).

Comparatively, 26% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have a Level 4 qualification or above, which is lower than the total for South Cambridgeshire (40.1%) but is similar to the totals for the East of England (25.7%) and England (27.4%).

Employment

Regarding employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the following three occupation categories support the most residents:

- Professional occupations (17.8%);
- Skilled trade occupations (14.7%); and
- Administrative and secretarial occupations (12.5%).

Overall, 45.1% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, slightly lower than the total for South Cambridgeshire (48%) but greater than the totals for the East of England (40.6%) and England (40.3%). This is highlighted in **Figure 8.3** below.

⁵⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

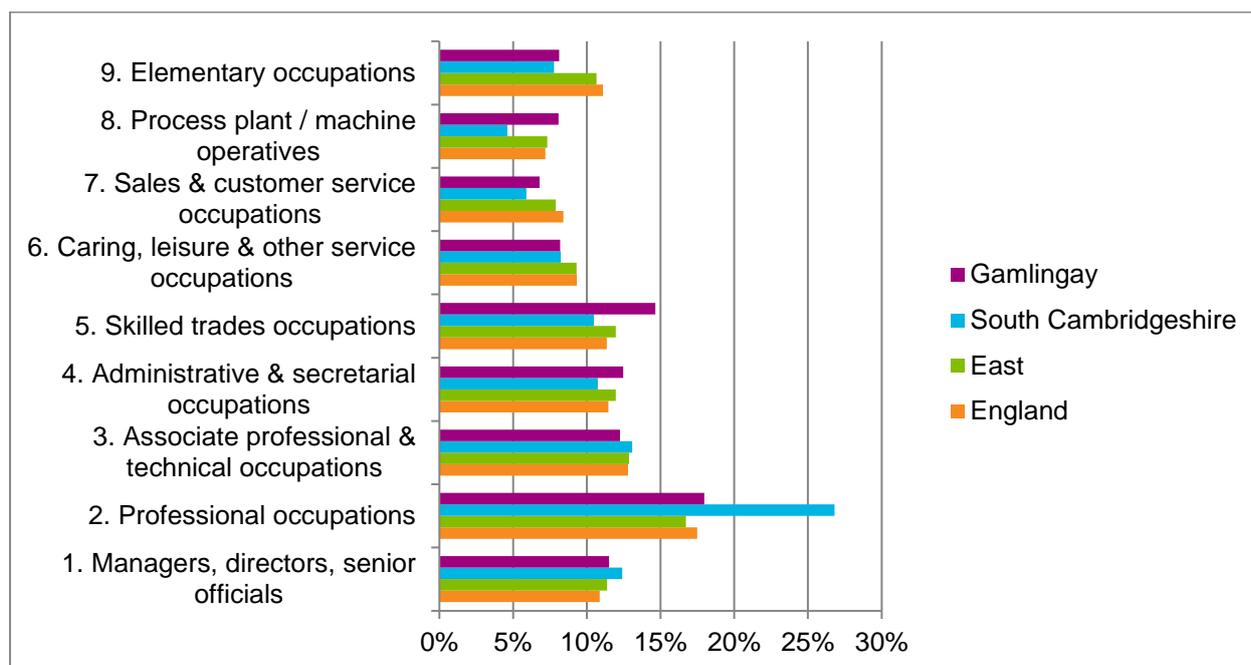


Figure 8.3: ‘Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment’⁶⁰

Community Assets

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a range of local community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the Parish’s sense of identity. Such facilities include: a Coop, newsagent, clothes shop, post office, two hairdressers, a GP surgery, a pharmacy, a petrol station, two cafes, farm shop, two churches, two nurseries, a primary school, a recreation ground and an Eco Hub which is a community and business centre. There is also a list of over 30 clubs and societies highlighted on the Gamlingay website.⁶¹

Summary of Future Baseline

As the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area continues to age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community and economy of certain parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, whilst also placing additional pressures to existing services and facilities. The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment. New allocations through the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan is likely to place pressure on local services, facilities and amenities.

A8 – Health and Wellbeing

Context Review

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- One of the three overarching objectives of the NPPF is a social objective to; ‘support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing.’
- ‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.’

⁶⁰ ONS (no date): Census 2011: ‘Occupation 2011’ (Table KS608EW)

⁶¹ Gamlingay (no date) List of Clubs & Societies [online] available at: < <http://www.gamlingay.org/clubsoc.htm> > [accessed 13/12/19]

- Policies and decisions should take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
- Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and wellbeing of communities. Development should avoid building on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁶² ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

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

At the local level, policies from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan which relate to the Health and Wellbeing theme include:

- SC/1: Allocation for Open Space;
- SC/2: Health Impact Assessment;
- SC/4: Meeting Community Needs;
- SC/5: Community Healthcare Provision; and
- SC/7 Outdoor Play Space, Informal Open Space and New Developments.

Baseline Summary

Summary of Current Baseline

Public Health Profile for South Cambridgeshire

Published in September 2016 by Public Health England, the public health profile for South Cambridgeshire district outlines the following key trends⁶³:

- The health of people in South Cambridgeshire is generally better than the England average;
- Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average; and
- In Year 6, 12.6% of children are classified as obese, better than the average for England.

Health indicators and deprivation

⁶² The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <<https://www.nice.org.uk/media/default/About/what-we-do/NICE-guidance/NICE-guidelines/Public-health-guidelines/Additional-publications/Spatial-planning/the-marmot-review-implications-for-spatial-planning.pdf>> last accessed [10/12/19]

⁶³ Public Health England (2018): 'Public Health Profile for South Cambridgeshire, [online] available to access at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/2442/south_cambridgeshire_health_profile_2016.pdf> last accessed [15/12/19]

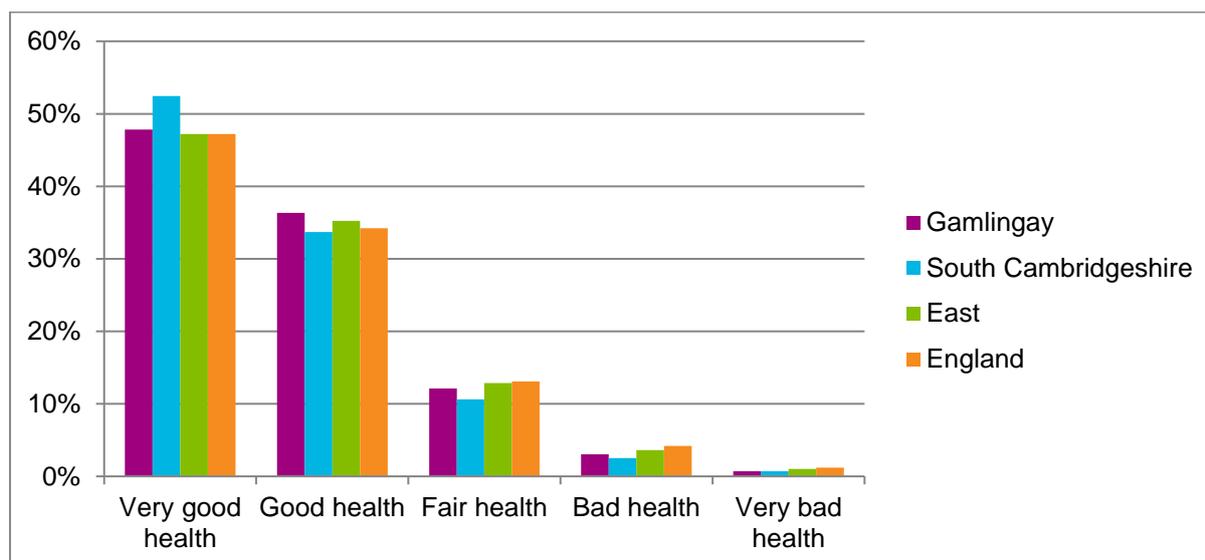


Figure 9.1: 'General Health'⁶⁴

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 8. As highlighted in **Figure 9.1**, 84.2% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', lower than the total for South Cambridgeshire (86.2%) but greater than the totals for the East of England (82.5%) and England (81.4%).

Additionally, 3.7% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health', higher than the total for South Cambridgeshire (3.2%) but lower than the totals for the East of England (4.7%) and England (5.4%).

The total percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area who report that their activities are limited 'a lot' is similar to the totals for South Cambridgeshire but less than the totals for the East of England and England, shown in **Table 9.1** below.

85.4% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area confirm that their activities are 'not limited'. This is similar to South Cambridgeshire but greater than the totals for the East of England (83.3%) and England (82.4%).

⁶⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

Table 9.1: Disability⁶⁵

	Gamlingay	South Cambridgeshire	East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	6.0%	5.6%	7.4%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	8.6%	8.4%	9.3%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	85.4%	86.1%	83.3%	82.4%

Summary of Future Baseline

Health and wellbeing levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are generally good, with a high percentage of residents reporting 'good' or 'very good' health, and a low percentage of residents reporting that their activities are limited in some way.

As the population continues to age, this has the potential to place pressures on the existing services and facilities within the timeframe of the Neighbourhood Plan. This could negatively impact on the future vitality of the local community and economy.

Obesity is also seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

A9 – Transportation

Context Review

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- *'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:*
 - i. *The potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed*
 - ii. *Opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised*
 - iii. *Opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued*
 - iv. *The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account*
 - v. *Patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.'*
- *'Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.'*

At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008.⁶⁶ The Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031⁶⁷ highlights the Local Transport Plans priorities in Cambridge which are:

⁶⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

⁶⁶ Local Transport Act 2008 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/26/contents> [accessed 15/02/19]

⁶⁷ Cambridgeshire County Council (2015) [online] available at: < https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/The_Local_Transport_Plan_3%20%281%29.pdf?inline=true > [accessed 13/12/2019]

- Supporting and protecting people when they need it most;
- Helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities; and
- Developing our local economy for the benefit of all.

At the local level, policies from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan which relate to the Transportation theme are presented within Chapter 10 of the Local Plan (Promoting and Delivering Sustainable Transport and Infrastructure).

Summary of Current Baseline

Rail network

The Neighbourhood Plan area is not directly connected to the rail network, with no stations located within its boundaries. The nearest railway station to the Neighbourhood Plan area is Sandy (approximately 4km south west of the Neighbourhood Plan area). Sandy railway station is on the East Coast Main Line and provides services southbound to Stevenage, London St Pancras and stations to Horsham, and northbound to Peterborough.

Bus network

Regarding the local bus network, the 190 service runs through the Neighbourhood Plan area which provides services to Hitchin and Sandy. However, there are only six services per day, three on Saturday and one on Sunday.

The C2 provides a service between St Neots and Hatley. This service operates a daily return service from Monday to Friday.

Road network and congestion

The Neighbourhood Plan area is relatively well connected to the strategic road network. The B1040 and B1042 pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area which connect with the A1, linking to the M25 and London to the south and Peterborough and the A14 to the north. The Neighbourhood Plan area is also accessible to the A428/A421, which links Cambridge, Bedford and Milton Keynes.

Cycle and footpath network

In terms of the National Cycle Network, there are no routes which pass through the Neighbourhood Plan area. National Cycle Network⁶⁸ Route 12 lies approximately 4.7km south west of the Neighbourhood Plan area in Sandy.

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a well-developed public rights of way network connecting residents to local services and facilities.

Availability of cars and vans

⁶⁸ Sustrans (2019): 'National Cycle Network Map', [online] available at: <<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>> [accessed 13/12/19]

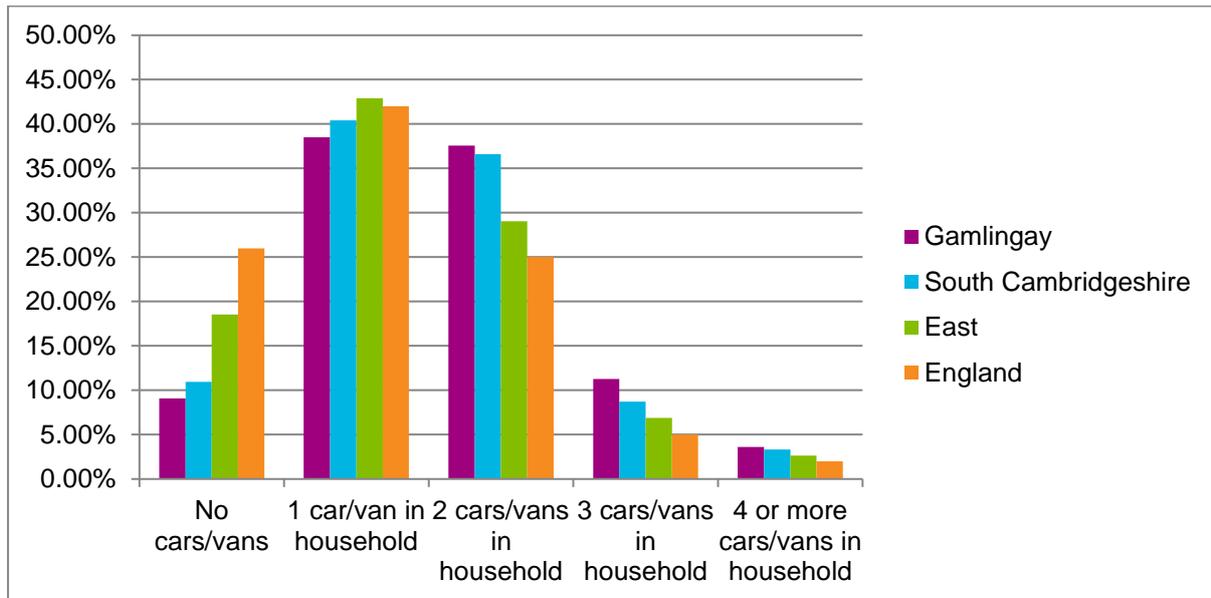


Figure 10.2: 'Car and van ownership' ⁶⁹

Based on the 2011 census data presented in **Figure 10.2**, 90.9% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, which is greater than the totals for South Cambridgeshire (89.0%), the East of England (81.5%) and England (74.2%).

Travel to work

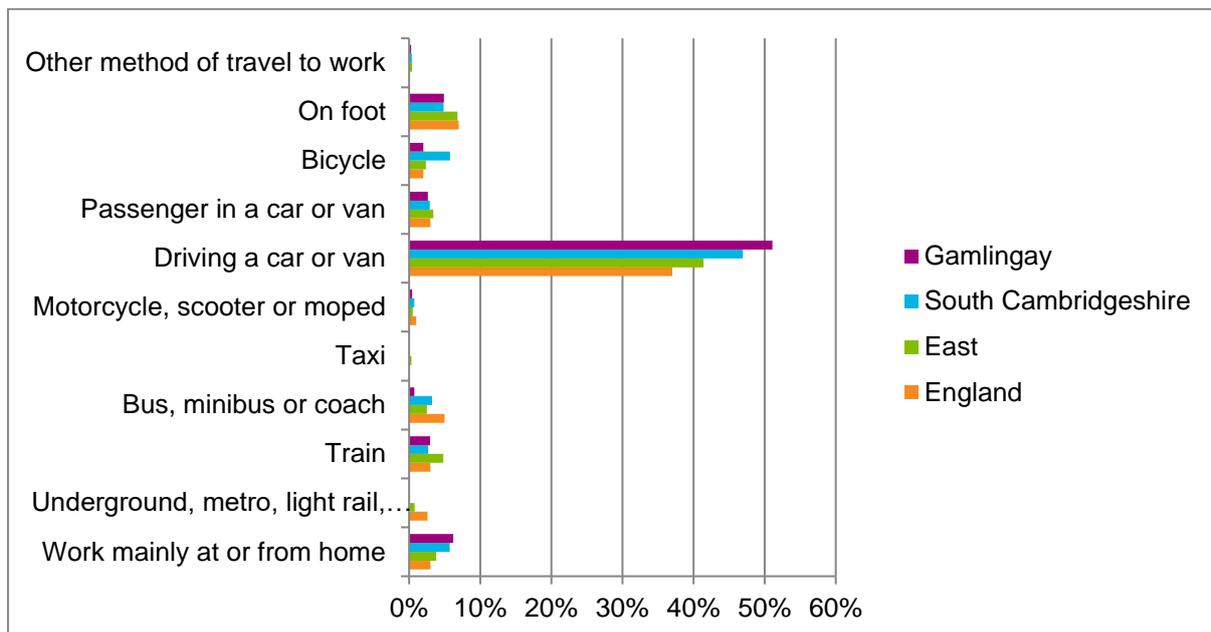


Figure 10.3: 'Method of Travel to Work' ⁷⁰

As shown in **Figure 10.3**, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (51%) which is higher than the totals for South Cambridgeshire (47%), the East of England (41.4%) and England (37.0%).

8.6% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area either catch a train, bus, minibus, coach or walk to work. This is lower than the percentage for South Cambridgeshire (10.8%), the East of England (14.1%) and England (15.0%).

⁶⁹ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

⁷⁰ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to increase traffic and lead to additional congestion issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Public transport use is likely to remain low compared with private car use. This is due to the relatively poor connectivity of the Neighbourhood Plan area via public transport.

There will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

