

LAMBOURN PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SUBMISSION to 2041

Basic Conditions Statement

Version no. 1.0

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Basic Conditions Statement is one element of the document set needed for formal submission and examination. The following documents will make up the complete Lambourn Parish NDP submission.

- The Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2025 - 2041;
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area;
- This Basic Conditions Statement;
- A Consultation Statement detailing the extensive consultation with residents and other local stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the development process;
- A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as carried out by West Berkshire Council;
- An evidence base comprising the evidence base documents identified in the NP including:
 - Lambourn Character Appraisal
 - Lambourn Design Code
 - Site Design Code
 - Lambourn Housing Needs Assessment
 - Important Views
 - Lambourn Landscape Character Appraisal
 - Local Green Space Assessment
 - Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) Biodiversity Report
 - Site Assessment
 - Heritage Assessment
 - River Study
 - Residents Survey
 - Landowners' and Land Managers' Survey
 - Business Survey
 - WBC Screening Opinion and SEA & HRA
 - Nutrient Neutrality

For additional information please see <https://lambourn-pc.gov.uk/lambourn-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirements of Neighbourhood Plans, and the related procedural obligations, are set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

As part of the process of writing this Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council has had regard to the various legal requirements contained in the key legislation. The following paragraphs of this statement describe those requirements and the compliance assessment.

Is Lambourn Parish Council a ‘Qualifying Body’ authorised to act in relation to the Neighbourhood Area?

This requirement is described in Sections 61E(1) / 61E(6) and 61F (1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Lambourn Parish Council is a Qualifying Body and is therefore authorised to act in relation to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan covering the Neighbourhood Area.

Has the Neighbourhood Area been designated by West Berkshire Council?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Area application was submitted on 21st November 2018 and on 7th December 2018 the West Berkshire Council Head of Development and Planning designated the area, which covers the whole parish area.

Does the designation follow an application for designation by the ‘Relevant Body’ (ie Lambourn Parish Council)?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1a) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Area application was submitted by the Lambourn Parish Council who are the ‘Relevant Body’ for the purposes of Section 61G(1a).

The designated Neighbourhood Area is indicated below in Figure 1:



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Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Area

Do the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Basic Conditions Statement specify the period for which the Plan is to have effect?

This requirement is described in Section 38B (1a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Basic Conditions Statement specify the period over which the Plan is to have effect, namely the period to 2041.

Does the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan include provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). 'Excluded Development' is defined in Section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as development that consists of a county matter (ie minerals and waste matters); or the carrying out of prescribed operations / development / development in prescribed area; development within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; or nationally significant infrastructure projects.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'.

Does the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

As noted above, the Neighbourhood Plan covers the entire area within the parish boundary.

Are there any other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 (as amended).

There are no other 'made' Neighbourhood Plans that cover an area that is located within the Lambourn parish boundary and the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Does the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan contain policies that relate to the development and use of land?

The Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to the development or use of land and are therefore appropriate for inclusion within a Neighbourhood Plan.

Does the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'Basic Conditions'?

The requirement to meet 'Basic Conditions' is set out in Schedule 4b(8(1a)) to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), with the basic conditions themselves being set out in Schedule 4b(8(2a-g)).

The rest of this Statement is devoted to assessing the degree to which the submission Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4b.

For the sake of completeness, the basic conditions that are relevant to Neighbourhood Plans such as this are as follows:

(a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan

(b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

(c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (in this case West Berkshire Council)

(d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as incorporated into UK law

(e) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites (this is a 'Prescribed Condition')

Basic Conditions (d) and (e) are addressed together in Section 6 of this Statement.

Schedule 4b (8(6)) also indicates that it is necessary to consider whether the neighbourhood plan is “compatible with the Convention rights”. The interpretation section (s.17) in Schedule 4b confirms that “the Convention rights” have the same meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998. This will be considered in Section 6 of this Statement.

3 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL POLICY / ADVICE

The Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated December 2024 and amended in February 2025. The Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to the guidance set out on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, published by the Government in 2014 and updated on a rolling basis.

The Parish Council believes that the Neighbourhood Plan plans positively for future development in the parish area and that it is consistent with the provisions of the West Berkshire Council’s adopted Local Plan Review 2023 to 2041.

Set out in Table 1 overleaf, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF and NPPG. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

NP Policy Number and Title	NPPF / NPPG paragraph	Comment on Conformity
ALL POLICIES	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 12-14, 18, 21, 29-30, 37, 51, 53, 69-70, 74, 106, 132, 145 and 167 (neighbourhood planning).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 41-001-20190509-41-107-20200925 (neighbourhood planning).</i></p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan has been drafted having regard to the extensive policy and guidance contained in the Government's NPPF and NPPG resources. The policy and guidance has fundamentally informed and shaped the policies in this neighbourhood plan as a result.</p>
Policy L1: Landscape Character	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 124-126 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 187 (landscape) and 135, 198 (amenity).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 67-009-20190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).</i></p>	<p>This policy draws on the evidence contained in Appendix E and F to identify seven local landscape character areas and sets out a list of requirements that development proposals should consider to ensure that the special characteristics that make each landscape character area valuable are preserved.</p> <p>This policy reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and NPPG, which seek to conserve and enhance the natural environment and in particular valued landscapes and will ensure that developments pay special attention to the sensitivity of these areas.</p>
Policy L2: Development within the North Wessex Downs	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 124-126 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 187-189 (landscape) and 135, 198 (amenity).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 67-009-20190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).</i></p>	<p>This policy reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and NPPG, which highlight that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Landscapes.</p>
Policy L3: Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 20, 96, 164, 187-195, 199 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure) and 198 (pollution).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design).</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect and support the expansion of the network of the green and blue infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>Trees together with blue elements are significant features in the landscape throughout the NP area. The safeguarding of existing trees is central to the policy objectives in paragraphs 187 and 192 of the NPPF.</p> <p>The encouragement of replacement planting is also central to NPPF policy at paragraphs 187, 192 and 193 in particular as well as elsewhere throughout the NPPF in relation to the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure.</p>
Policy L4: Local Green Spaces	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 20, 96, 164, 187 and 199 (green infrastructure) and 103-108 (open space and recreation).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure).</i></p>	<p>This policy draws on the evidence provided in the Local Green Spaces Assessment and seeks to conserve existing green infrastructure that define the unique character of the NP Area.</p> <p>This policy is considered to comply with the requirements set out in the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and the associated guidance in the NPPG.</p>

<p>Policy L5: Important Views</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design) and 198(c) (dark landscapes).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design) and 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape).</i></p>	<p>This policy draws from Appendix E to identify and manage the impact of development on the important key views that are listed, in a way that is consistent with the requirements of NPPF at paragraphs 131-140.</p>
<p>Policy L6: River Lambourn</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 161-182 (flood risk and climate change), 20, 96, 159, 181 and 192 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure) and 193 (pollution).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk) and 8-00420190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure)</i></p>	<p>This policy provides clear guidance about protecting and enhancing the River Lambourn SAC and SSSI.</p>
<p>Policy L7: Biodiversity</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 103-108 (open space and recreation), 187 (landscape) and 192-195 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure).</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks to manage new development proposals in a way that will ensure the preservation and, when appropriate, enhancement of the natural environment with its significant green features, priority habitats and wildlife corridors in the NP area.</p>
<p>Policy L8: Dark Night Skies</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design) and 198(c) (dark landscapes).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design) and 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape).</i></p>	<p>This policy encourages good design which minimises light pollution in order to maintain its rural character. This is consistent with the NPPF approach to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation (NPPF paragraph 198(c)), as well as recognising the need for quality design, protecting and enhancing the landscape and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>
<p>Policy L9: Flooding and Drainage</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development) and 170-182 (flood risk).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk) and 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change).</i></p>	<p>This policy identifies the areas in the NP area that are at risk of flooding and highlights that proposals for new development should be in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF.</p> <p>It is also noted that new development should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, when appropriate.</p>
<p>Policy L10: Non Designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design) and 202-206 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-021-20190723 (heritage), 26-00420191001 (design).</i></p>	<p>This policy reflects national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment and focuses on preserving existing non-designated heritage assets and supporting high quality design as set out in the NPPF.</p>
<p>Policy L11: Character and Design</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 180 (landscape) and 195 -199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-06320190723 (heritage) and 18a-039-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (non designated heritage assets).</i></p>	<p>This policy draws primarily from the Appendices E and G and sets out the main requirements that developers need to meet in order to demonstrate a development relates to the character of the NP area and it fully accords with the requirements in both the NPPF and NPPG on design.</p>

Policy L12: Sustainable Construction, Resources and Climate Change	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design) and 161-182 (flood risk and climate change).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk) and 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design).</i></p>	This policy draws from Appendix G and requires developers to incorporate measures in their development proposals in order to ensure that the effects of climate change are mitigated.
Policy L13: Housing Development	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 61-76 (housing mix and affordability), 82-84 (rural housing), 124-126 (making effective use of land), 129-130 (density), 131-140 (design), 187 (landscape), 135, 187 (landscape) and 198 (amenity)</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and 67-009-20190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing).</i></p>	<p>This policy draws upon the Appendices E and G and requires from developers to maintain the special character of the settlements in the NP area, their associated spatial arrangement and appearance.</p> <p>It also seeks to support the provision of specialist accommodation to meet the needs of everyone in the NP area.</p>
Policy L14: Site Specific Housing Allocations	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 115-118 (transport), 124-126 (making effective use of land), 129-130 (density), 131-140 (design), 187 (landscape), 135, 198 (amenity) and 202-206 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (heritage), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity / daylight).</i></p>	<p>This policy allocates approximately 25 dwellings at land at Wantage Road, 10 dwellings at the Former Royal British Legion Site and 10 dwellings at land at Collingridge Farm and draws from Appendix G to ensure that future development will be in keeping with the characteristics of the local area.</p> <p>This policy is also informed by Appendix M to ensure that future development meets the needs of the local racehorse industry. It also sets out the type of technical reports that will be expected to be submitted with a planning application as a minimum.</p>
Policy L15: Community Facilities	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 58, 85-89 (economy), 96-97, 100 (healthy / safe communities), 103-104 (open space / recreation), 128 (viability) and 200 (pollution).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability).</i></p>	This policy identifies the existing important community facilities in the NP area and explains that their loss will be resisted unless a list of certain criteria can be met.
Policy L16: Economy	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 85-89 (economy), 115-118 (transport), 135, 191, 198 (amenity / pollution) and 187 (landscape).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport).</i></p>	<p>The NPPF strongly supports employment development, which helps to build a strong competitive economy (Section 6) and this policy seeks to support all proposals for employment opportunities in the NP area.</p> <p>This policy draws from the local features set out in Appendix G and seeks to support new employment and rural industry development opportunities.</p>
Policy L17: Racehorse Training Industry (RTI)	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 85-89 (economy), 115-118 (transport), 128 (viability), 131-140 (design), 135, 191, 198 (amenity / pollution) and 187 (landscape).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability).</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks to encourage new development for accommodation for the racehoring industry provided it is accessible and maintains the special character of the settlements in the area, as set out in Appendix B. It also explains the circumstances, such as viability, where the loss of these facilities will be resisted.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be consistent with national planning policy and guidance on specialist housing development proposals.</p>

<p>Policy L18: Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 96, 102 (healthy communities), 105, 109, 115-117 (traffic / highways) and 131-140 (design).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 53-004-20190722 (healthy communities) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity)</i></p>	<p>The criteria contained in this policy echo the national policy objectives for road safety, appropriate mitigation and the promotion of sustainable transport methods at paragraphs 109 and 115 to 117 of the NPPF, whilst also referencing good practice in designing for rural locations.</p> <p>This policy specifically identifies roads and junctions where there are particular highway safety concerns and a high number of road traffic incidents to evidence the need for the policy.</p>
<p>Policy L19: Community Infrastructure</p>	<p><i>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 58, 85-89 (economy), 96-97, 100 (healthy / safe communities), 103-104 (open space / recreation), 128 (viability) and 200 (pollution).</i></p> <p><i>NPPG Paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability).</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect the existing community infrastructure and facilities and support the creation of new facilities that will meet the needs of younger, older people with additional needs and of the racing community. reuse of community assets in the NP when appropriate.</p>

4 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are three over-arching objectives to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental (see NPPF paragraph 8). The three objectives are mutually dependent.

In addressing the above basic conditions, the NP pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that

“Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but on doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area”.

When testing the policies set out in the NP the following three categories have been assessed and the conclusions are summarised below.

Sustainable Development Category	Responsibility
Economic (Econ)	The Plan encourages and supports rural businesses, employment of local people and development which have a tangible benefit to community infrastructure and services.
Social (So)	The Plan’s policies recognise the social dimension seeking to preserve and enhance community facilities and promoting active and sustainable travel. Emphasis has been placed on the need to manage traffic and pedestrian safety and improve cycling facilities in the Plan area. The Plan also identifies proposed Local Green Spaces and a green infrastructure network, which are valued for their social benefits.
Environmental (En)	The Plan encourages development to respect the local character, landscape, biodiversity, heritage and a range of other environmental attributes of the Parish, as well as protecting the identity of individual settlements by using appropriate landscape and design policies.

The following table shows how the NP objectives relate to the more detailed sustainability themes.

Sustainability Theme	Categ.	General sustainability Appraisal Objective	Parish Objective
1. Biodiversity	En	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	2.(3), 4.(1), 5.(3), 5.(4), 5.(5)
2. Water resources and flood risk	En	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	8.(4)
	En	Protect people and property from risk of flooding	1.(2), 8.(4),
3. Climatic Factors	En	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	5.(5), 8.(1), 8.(2), 8.(3), 8.(4)
4. Landscape and Townscape	En	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Lambourn Parish NP's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	1.(1), 2.(1), 2.(3), 3.(3), 5.(1), 5.(2), 5.(3), 5.(4), 5.(5)
5. Healthy Communities	So	Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	4.(1), 4.(2), 6.(1), 6.(2), 7.(1)
6. Education and Skills	So	Raise educational attainment and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	2.(2), 4.(1)
7. Economy and Enterprise	Econ	Encourage a vibrant and diversified local economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	2.(2), 2.(3)
	Econ	Ensure adequate provision of employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	2.(1), 2.(2), 2.(3)
8. Land and soil resources	En	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	8.(1),

The degree to which policies meet key sustainable development objectives is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
++	The policy will result in a very positive effect on the sustainability objective in question
+	The policy will result in a positive effect on the sustainability objective in question
0	The policy will result in a neutral effect on the sustainability objective in question
-	The policy will result in a negative effect on the sustainability objective in question
–	The policy will result in a very negative effect on the sustainability objective in question

The following table shows how these conclusions have been reached. The Plan's policies have been assessed in terms of how they will deliver sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability and the assessment shows that the Plan's policies address all three objectives in clear and logical ways.

Policy Number, Category and Description		Achievement of Sustainable Development		
Environment & Landscape		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L1	Landscape Character	0	0	++
Policy L2	Development within the North Wessex Downs	0	+	++
Policy L3	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	0	++	++
Policy L4	Local Green Spaces	0	++	++
Policy L5	Important Views	0	++	++
Policy L6	River Lambourn	0	0	++
Policy L7	Biodiversity	0	0	++
Policy L8	Dark Night Skies	0	0	++
Flooding and Drainage		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L9	Flooding and Drainage	0	0	++
Built Environment		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L10	Non Designated Heritage Assets	0	++	+
Policy L11	Character and Design	0	++	+
Policy L12	Sustainable Construction, Resources and Climate Change	0	++	++
Housing		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L13	Housing Development	++	0	0
Policy L14	Site Specific Housing Allocations	++	0	0
Community and Employment		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L15	Community Facilities	+	++	0
Policy L16	Economy	++	+	0
Policy L17	Racehorse Training Industry	++	++	0
Transport and Infrastructure		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy L18	Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	0	++	+
Policy L19	Community Infrastructure	+	++	0

5 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

The Development Plan in the West Berkshire Council consists of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023 to 2041, which was adopted in June 2025.

The policies of the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan can be seen in the table below. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is accompanied by a statement describing the ‘general conformity’ with strategic policies of the Development Plan.

The Development Plan strategic policies that have not been included in the table below are not considered to be directly relevant to the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

NP Policy Number and Title	West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023 - 2041	Comment on Conformity
Policy L1: Landscape Character	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i>	This policy seeks to preserve the locally specific characteristics of the highlighted features, as described in Appendix E and Appendix F. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP7, SP8, SP10 and SP11.
Policy L2: Development within the North Wessex Downs	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i>	This policy seeks to maintain and enhance the unique character and beauty of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape by encouraging sustainable development that respects its character. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP7, SP10 and SP11.
Policy L3: Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; Landscape; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP6: Flood Risk; SP8: Landscape Character; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity; SP19: Transport</i>	Green and blue features are both considered significant local assets in the NP area and this policy seeks to protect these features from development that would have an unacceptable harm to them. This policy also provide additional information on proposals for the replacement or the planting of new trees and hedgerows. It is accordingly considered that this policy is in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP5, SP6, SP8, SP10, SP11 and SP19.
Policy L4: Local Green Spaces	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP8: Landscape Character; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i>	The policy reflects national policies and lists a number of green spaces that are proposed for designation, due to their compliance with the criteria set out in the NPPF and the benefits they provide to the local community. It is accordingly considered that this policy is in conformity with the policies of the WBLPR that are set out in the column to the left.

<p>Policy L5: Important Views</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP8: Landscape Character; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i></p>	<p>This policy identifies locally important views and seeks to ensure development within the setting of these areas responds in a positive manner.</p> <p>This reflects the policy approach in policies SP1, SP2, SP8, SP10 and SP11 of the WBLPR, and therefore is considered to be in general conformity with the above policies.</p>
<p>Policy L6: River Lambourn</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP6: Flood Risk; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP9: Historic Environment; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i></p>	<p>The River Lambourn is a distinctive feature of the NP area and this policy seeks to protect the watercourse from unacceptable harm that would be caused from any type of development.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP5, SP6, SP7, SP8, SP10 and SP11.</p>
<p>Policy L7: Biodiversity</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; Landscape; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i></p>	<p>This identifies the numerous priority habitats and Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the plan area and seeks to protect them from unacceptable harm. It also sets out a number of biodiversity enhancements that should be incorporated in designs to improve the overall biodiversity value of the area.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP10 and SP11.</p>
<p>Policy L8: Dark Night Skies</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP9: Historic Environment; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i></p>	<p>The NP area, in particular the village of Lambourn and Membury Airfield has been identified as suffering from increased levels of light pollution, and consequentially the local community is unable to enjoy relatively tranquil and dark skies at night.</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to guide the design of new development proposals by preventing excessive light spill in areas that are dark at night in order to ensure that the tranquil character of the NP area is protected and enhanced.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP7, SP9, SP11.</p>
<p>Policy L9: Flooding and Drainage</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP6: Flood Risk</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks to redirect development away from those areas that have been identified, as shown on the detailed maps in the NP, to be liable of flooding. It also provides additional information in connection with the dischargement of surface water.</p> <p>This policy is considered essential, as it lists those affected areas and provides local context to WBLPR policy SP5 and SP6. Therefore, it is considered to be in general conformity with both of the aforementioned strategic policies.</p>
<p>Policy L10: Non Designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy SP7: Design Quality; SP9: Historic Environment;</i></p>	<p>This policy sets out what will be required from development proposals in order to demonstrate that the setting and significance of non designated heritage assets are conserved and when possible enhanced.</p> <p>Consequently, it is considered this policy is in general conformity with the policies of the WBLPR that are set out in the column to the left.</p>

<p>Policy L11: Character and Design</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP9: Historic Environment; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i></p>	<p>This policy draws upon the evidence contained within Appendix E and G and seeks to create a design framework, which will preserve and improve the locally specific features that positively enhance the local character of the NP area.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP5, SP7, SP8, SP9 and SP10.</p>
<p>Policy L12: Sustainable Construction, Resources and Climate Change</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality</i></p>	<p>This policy reflects the latest Government policy and guidance on climate change and seeks to encourage new development proposals to incorporate measures that will mitigate the effects of climate change and help West Berkshire Council with meeting their sustainability objectives.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP5 and SP7.</p>
<p>Policy L13: Housing Development</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP3: Settlement Hierarchy; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP9: Historic Environment; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity; SP12: Approach to Housing Delivery; SP15: Housing Type & Mix; SP16: Affordable Housing; SP19: Transport</i></p>	<p>This policy draws from Appendix E and G and seeks to build upon the policies of the development plan, which are listed in the column to the left, by maintaining the special character of the settlements in the NP area.</p> <p>It also supports the provision of a mix of dwelling types, tenures and sizes which is consistent with both national and development plan policies, which seek to promote high quality design and healthy communities.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP3, SP5, SP8, SP9, SP10, SP11, SP12, SP15, SP16 and SP19.</p>
<p>Policy L14: Site Specific Housing Allocations</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP3: Settlement Hierarchy; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP9: Historic Environment; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP11: Biodiversity & Geodiversity; SP12: Approach to Housing Delivery; SP15: Housing Type & Mix; SP16: Affordable Housing; SP19: Transport</i></p>	<p>This policy allocates three different sites for residential development to meet the identified unmet housing need for the NP area. It also sets out a list of requirements that future development proposals will need to meet to ensure that the character of the NP area is protected.</p> <p>This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the policies of the WBLPR that are listed in the column to the left.</p>
<p>Policy L15: Community Facilities</p>	<p><i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP3: Settlement Hierarchy; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality; SP10: Green Infrastructure; SP19: Transport</i></p>	<p>This policy seeks the improvement, reuse and protection of existing community facilities within the NP area and makes clear that development proposals for the loss of a community facility will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer financially viable, or the asset is not valued by the community</p> <p>It also seeks to promote the provision of mental health and well-being, sports and recreation facilities for both young and elder people.</p> <p>This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the policies of the WBLPR that are listed in the column to the left.</p>

Policy L16: Economy	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP5: Responding to Climate Change; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP17: Strategic Approach to Employment Land; SP19: Transport</i>	This policy seeks to encourage the improvement and creation of new business opportunities in the whole of the NP area, provided that development proposals can meet a specific list of criteria. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with WBLPR policies SP1, SP2, SP5, SP7, SP8, SP17, and SP19.
Policy L17: Racehorse Training Industry (RTI)	<i>WBLPR Policies: SP1: The Spatial Strategy; SP2: North Wessex Downs National Landscape; SP7: Design Quality; SP8: Landscape Character; SP12: Approach to Housing Delivery; SP15: Housing Type & Mix; SP17: Strategic Approach to Employment Land; SP19: Transport</i>	This policy seeks to create a framework which will support both commercial and residential development proposals in relation to horseracing. It also sets out a list of requirements that developers will need to meet to ensure that the local character, natural and built environment are preserved. This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the policies of the WBLPR that are listed in the column to the left.

6 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS (AS INCORPORATED INTO UK LAW) / PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

The EU Directives (as incorporated into UK law) that are of most relevance to the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC
- The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- The Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC

The above have been transposed into UK law in the following ways:

- The SEA Directive is transposed into UK legislation by way of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
- The Habitats and Wild Birds Directives have been transposed into UK legislation by way of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

Other Directives that are not directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU
- The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
- The Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The above have been transposed through the following main legislative tools (which may be subject to further amendments):

- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (Waste Regulations 2011), SI 2011/988; Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020/904
- Air Quality Standards Regulation 2010 (as amended)
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Furthermore, it is necessary to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations which are the same as those set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Human Rights Act 1998

Dealing with this last matter first, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, being cognisant of the obligations in relation to Human Rights, have sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

These rights can be summarised as follows:

- The right to life
- The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment
- Protection against slavery and forced labour
- The right to liberty and freedom
- The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law
- Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry
- Freedom of thought, religion and belief
- Free speech and peaceful protest
- No discrimination
- Protection of property
- The right to an education
- The right to free elections

The process of developing this Neighbourhood Plan has involved a significant amount of public consultation, seeking to engage with as full a range of consultees as possible to ensure the greatest opportunity for discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (see Consultation Statement for details).

This engagement with the local community (through consultation with a wide array of individuals, businesses, landowners and community organisations) has provided many opportunities for the community to feedback and be involved in the process. This has meant that in having the opportunity to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to seek to influence it where appropriate, respondents have been able to ensure, through discussion and feedback, that those rights identified above have been protected throughout the process.

In addition, as Appendix A to this Statement demonstrates, an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been carried out to ensure that no groups or individuals are

disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements.

Other EU Obligations as Transposed into UK Legislation

Furthermore, the Plan does not contain policies which would have implications for air quality, water or waste and it is therefore compatible with the EU Directives dealing with those matters, as transposed into UK legislation.

Finally, the Plan does not propose individual projects or projects of a scale which would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and therefore the Plan is also compatible with EIA Directive as transposed into UK legislation.

Prescribed Conditions

The fifth Basic Condition requirement that 'Prescribed Conditions' are met, means - for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan - that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan must not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulations assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

This requirement was introduced by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Parish Council submitted a formal Screening Opinion request to West Berkshire in relation to the need for a (SEA) and a (HRA) of the draft Neighbourhood Plan in March 2023.

A formal Screening Statement was received from West Berkshire Council on 10th July 2023. This can be found at Appendix B. The Screening Statement concluded that it is the view of West Berkshire Council that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is required to carry out an SEA and HRA due to potential for residential site allocations to result in significant environmental effects. As a result, Lambourn Parish Council carried out appropriate assessments to ensure that the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan is in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004, and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended).

Equality

Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements; and that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the policies of the Neighborhood Plan is provided at in Appendix A to this document. The assessment concludes that the policies in the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Plan submission will in some cases result in positive impacts for all road users and those with disability and for the community facilities of the area. In other cases the policies will have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Having undertaken an analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan in the preceding sections of this Statement, it is concluded that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

APPENDIX A EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The explanatory notes to the Equality Act 2010 explain that the Act “... has two main purposes - to harmonise discrimination law, and to strengthen the law to support progress on equality.”

It goes on to note that the Act combines a number of Acts of Parliament and sets of Regulations dating back to 1970. It places various duties on public bodies and identifies a series of ‘protected characteristics’ that could either accidentally or deliberately be discriminated against during the course of decision making or policy processes. These protected characteristics are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion and belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation; and
- Gender reassignment.

The purpose of this section is to assess the submission draft of the Lambourn Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan against the above protected characteristics. Where the policies are found to have a negative effect on a protected characteristic then this can be used to identify necessary amendments to policies or to inform the consideration of potential amendments during the examination into the submission Neighbourhood Plan.

The degree to which policies meet equality characteristics is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
+	The policy will result in a positive effect on the equality characteristic in question
0	The policy will result in a neutral effect on the equality characteristic in question
-	The policy will result in a negative effect on the equality characteristic in question

This assessment is intended as a final check in the process of preparation of the Plan for submission. Earlier consultation exercises with the local community have engaged with a range of individuals and groups, providing an opportunity for them to comment on all aspects of the draft Plan, including whether the draft Plan supports equality.

The table over page identified each policy and assess the policy against each of the protected characteristics. The final row of each table is for comments including any actions arising from the assessment of each specific policy.

Finally, conclusions are drawn from the exercise and the conclusions fed into the Basic Condition Statement findings.

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Policy reference	Policy Description	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Race	Religion and belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Pregnancy and maternity	Comments
Environment and Landscape											
Policy L1	Landscape Character	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L2	Development within the North Wessex Downs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L3	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L4	Local Green Spaces	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy protects valued spaces / recreation facilities which are available to various age groups and those with disabilities.
Policy L5	Important Views	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L6	River Lambourn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L7	Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Policy L8	Dark Night Skies	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Flooding and Drainage											
Policy L9	Flooding and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Built Environment											
Policy L10	Flooding and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L11	Character and Design	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the provision of improved access and accessibility to new development and requires from developers to demonstrate compliance with the Parish Design Code.
Policy L12	Sustainable Construction, Resources and Climate Change	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the provision of improved access and accessibility to new development and requires from developers to demonstrate compliance with the Parish Design Code.
Housing Theme											
Policy L13	Housing Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy L14	Site Specific Housing Allocations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Community and Employment											
Policy L15	Community Facilities	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	Policy supports improved access to facilities.
Policy L16	Economy	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the creation of new businesses, which are designed to meet local needs.
Policy L17	Racehorse Training Industry	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy has the potential to provide opportunities that meet local needs to support the racehorses industry.
Community and Employment Theme											
Policy L18	Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy has the potential to promote sustainable travel, and improve road safety for all road users including those with a disability.
Policy L19	Community Infrastructure	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports improved access to facilities.