

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report

Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

November 2024

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

AECOM is commissioned to lead on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan (LNP). The LNP is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and in the context of the local planning framework of West Berkshire Council.

SEA is a required process for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative effects and maximising potential positive effects.¹

Structure of the Environmental Report / this NTS

SEA reporting essentially involves answering the following questions in turn:

1. What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 - including in relation to 'reasonable alternatives'.
2. What are the SEA findings at this stage?
 - i.e., in relation to the draft plan.
3. What happens next?

Each of these questions is answered in turn within a discrete 'part' of the Environmental Report and summarised within this NTS. However, firstly there is a need to set the scene further by answering the questions 'What is the Plan seeking to achieve?' and 'What's the scope of the SEA?'

What is the Plan seeking to achieve?

The objectives of the LNP are as follows:

- **Housing:** Ensure that new housing in Lambourn Parish meets the needs of current and future generations of residents in a way which complements the character of the villages and the countryside surrounding them. Site allocations within village to be pursued. Small development in Lambourn Woodlands possible? affordable housing for sale to be investigated; public interested in NDP allocating sites. Flooding issues make allocation of sites more difficult.
- **Employment and the Economy:** To support the continuance of Lambourn as a service hub and to ensure that Lambourn is an attractive place to live and work with good facilities, services and employment opportunities, recognising the importance of the racing industry to the valley. Expand scope to look at other industries in parish, particularly those based in and

¹ Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) requires that each Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Authority alongside either: A) an Environmental Report, or B) a statement of reasons why SEA is not required, prepared following a 'screening' process. The LNP was 'screened in' by West Berkshire Council as requiring SEA in 2023.

around Membury DEA. Balance between AONB and industry to be addressed.

- **Getting About:** To ensure that the transport infrastructure is safe, effective, sustainable and accessible to all. To ensure that “pinch points” and parking issues are addressed in line with developments.
- **The Next generation and the Increasingly Elderly Population:** Lambourn should offer young people a safe, healthy and nurturing environment to develop and mature, with good links to secondary and further education, training and employment opportunities. Much evidence that “something needs to be done”, few solid suggestions. A current survey of young people’s views is being carried out by Berkshire Youth and The Lambourn Junction, supported by WBC, so that should provide better ideas.
 - The elderly should be able wherever possible to stay in their own home or live in the vicinity and be supported to live fulfilling lives. Balanced supply of housing needed.
- **Landscape and Heritage:** Conserve the built environment and the distinctive nature of each settlement and ensure that development is sympathetic to this. Elevation of new building to be considered.
 - Enhance the access to and appreciation of the Downland Landscape and its archaeology.
 - Promote biodiversity.
- **Leisure, Sports and Culture:** Ensure a range of sports and leisure facilities are available and with capacity in line with the population.
 - Further develop the arts and cultural activities and the facilities to support them, to enable rich and balanced life for parishioners.
- **Well Being:** Enable the Parish to be a safe, healthy and caring place to live.
- **Climate Change:** To encourage low carbon development, maintain Lambourn as a service centre to minimise the need to travel for day to day needs.
 - Support walking and cycling for short journeys. Investigate biomass production of electricity associated with the racing industry.
 - To embrace the infrastructure for electric vehicles.
 - Minimise flood risk and evaluate drainage and water supply for the future.

What is the scope of the SEA?

The scope of the SEA is reflected in a list of SEA topics and objectives that together comprise a framework to guide the appraisal. The SEA framework for the LNP is provided in the table below.

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance nationally and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats as well as priority habitats and species, including ancient woodland? • Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains and support the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?
Climate change and flood risk	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area and increase resilience to the potential effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources, or reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the neighbourhood area? • Sustainably manage water run-off, and reduce runoff where possible? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Community wellbeing	Ensure growth in the neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing?

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
	area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including health infrastructure? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities? • Facilitate green infrastructure enhancements, including improved access to open space? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?
Historic environment	Protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the neighbourhood area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings? • Conserve and enhance nationally designated heritage assets? • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historical interest, and their settings? • Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the HER? • Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the neighbourhood area?
Land, soil, and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, and protect and enhance water quality, using water resources in a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land wherever possible? • Identify and avoid the development of BMV agricultural land? • Support the minimisation, reuse, and recycling of waste?

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
	sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid any negative impacts on water quality and support improvements to water quality? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside proposed development? • Protect waterbodies from pollution? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/or water recycling? • Avoid any negative impacts on mineral and waste infrastructure? • Improve waste infrastructure in the area?
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and/ or enhance the integrity and setting of North Wessex Downs NL? • Protect and / or enhance local landscape character and quality of place? • Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity, and settlement character? • Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place? • Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the neighbourhood area's rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and active travel opportunities and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the objectives within the West Berkshire Local Transport Plan to encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes? • Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel and enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Improve local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement? • Facilitate working from home to reduce the use of private vehicles to access workplaces outside of the neighbourhood area? • Reduce the impact of the transport sector on climate change? • Improve road safety and reduce pollution from vehicles?

Plan-making / SEA up to this point

An important element of the SEA process involves assessing 'reasonable alternatives' in time to inform development of the proposals, and then publishing information on reasonable alternatives for consultation alongside the proposals.

As such, **Part 1** of the Environmental Report explains how work was undertaken to develop and assess a 'reasonable' range of alternative approaches to the allocation of land for housing, including alternative sites.

Specifically, **Part 1** of the report:

1. Explains how reasonable alternatives have been established.
2. Provides an assessment of the reasonable alternatives for the LNP.
3. Explains reasons for establishing the preferred option, in light of the assessment.

Establishing reasonable alternatives

The adopted West Berkshire Core Strategy (CS) Development Plan Document (DPD) sets a housing requirement of 90 dwellings for Lambourn over the plan period. Subtracting two strategic allocations, there are approximately 25 homes still to be delivered.

A Call for Sites process was undertaken in July and August 2022. A site assessment of the submitted sites, as well as those submitted for the Local Plan has been undertaken by consultants Bluestone Planning, with input provided by the Steering Group. This assessment included eleven separate sites promoted by landowners and developers and the two sites allocated for housing in the adopted CS and emerging Local Plan Review. All sites were subsequently consulted upon with the local community.

From these, five sites were identified as having potential for allocation through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, subject to satisfactory mitigation for the various issues identified in the assessment, which formed the following reasonable alternative options:

- **Option 1 (LAM2)** – Land at Wantage Road & North Fields (27 dwellings).
- **Option 2 (LAM1 and LAM5)** – Land between Folly Road, Rockfel Road & Stork House Drive, and Windsor House Stables Large Paddock Crowle Road (25 dwellings).
- **Option 3 (LAMRBL and LAMCFP)** – Lambourn Royal British Legion, and Collingridge House and Paddock (25 dwellings).
- **Option 4 (LAMRBL and LAMCFP)** – Lambourn Royal British Legion, and Collingridge House and Paddock (25 dwellings), with provision for the Race Horse Industry.

Assessment of reasonable alternatives: method and outcomes

The four options identified are subject to high-level assessment. For each of the options, the assessment examines likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability themes and objectives identified through scoping (see Table 3.1)

as a methodological framework. Where appropriate neutral effects, or uncertainty will also be noted.

Within each row of **the summary table below** (i.e., for each of the topics that comprise the SEA framework) the columns to the right-hand side seek to both **rank** the alternatives in order of performance and **categorise** the performance of each option in terms of their potential for significant effects on the baseline

Every effort is made to predict effects accurately, however, where there is a need to rely on assumptions to reach a conclusion on a 'significant effect' this is made explicit in the appraisal text. Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects based on reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms and to indicate a rank of preference. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to distinguish between them in term of 'significant effects'. **Numbers** are used to highlight the option or options that are preferred from an SEA perspective with 1 performing the best. Also, '=' is used to denote instances where the alternatives perform on a par.

SEA Theme		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Biodiversity	Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
	Rank	2	1	= 3	= 3
Climate change and flood risk	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	1	2	= 3	= 3
Community wellbeing	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
	Rank	4	2	3	1
Historic environment	Significant effect?	No	Yes – negative	Uncertain	Uncertain
	Rank	1	3	= 2	= 2
Land, soil and water resources	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	3	2	= 1	= 1
Landscape	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	2	3	= 1	= 1

Transportation	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	2	3	= 1	= 1

Detailed findings for each SEA theme are provided in the main report.

Developing the preferred approach

The LNP's preferred approach is a blend of **Option 1** and **Option 4** – allocating both site LAM2 and the Royal British Legion site and the Collingridge Farm site. The reasoning as to why this approach has been taken is as follows:

“West Berkshire Council’s Local Plan Review set a requirement for 25 dwellings in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan.

Regular consultations were carried out to establish the views of the community, culminating in a series of opportunities in January 2023 for the public to comment on nine sites promoted to the Lambourn NP’s Call for Sites. Full details were made available at exhibitions held across the Parish, on the Parish Council website and on local social media.

LAM2: Land at Wantage Road and Northfields, Lambourn was clearly the preferred site and would deliver the required number of dwellings.

LAM1, LAM4 and LAM5 were all rejected due to flooding issues and, in the case of LAM5, the visibility of the upper part of the site. LAM3 was visible and has subsequently been withdrawn. The access to LAM7/9 was considered to be environmentally damaging and the site itself is very visible. LAM8 and LAMKHS were popular with residents of Lambourn, but their promoters have not been keen to pursue their development for housing.

The partial development of sites LAM1 and LAM5 were also considered, but drainage issues in both, as well as the visibility of the upper part of LAM1, made these possibilities unpopular.

Results from the numerous community consultations and events held over the past five years emphasised the community’s appreciation of the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Area, alongside a desire to restrict larger scale development. However, community members acknowledged the need for housing, especially for those working in the horseracing industry.

A further, frequently expressed concern, particularly since the events of the last two winters, has been that further development should not take place until flooding, sewage and Nutrient Neutrality issues have been mitigated.

A HNA completed in May 2024 noted that no affordable housing had been brought forward in the Neighbourhood Plan area in last ten years, and there was a need for housing for older people and for those working in the racehorse industry.

Given the need for housing and the limitations of the sites offered, the Plan has additionally proposed two further small sites which are within the Lambourn settlement boundary: the Royal British Legion site on Big lane, Lambourn (LAMRBL), and the Collingridge Farm site, accessed from Millfield, Lambourn (LAMCFP). The public response to these sites has been limited. Concerns have been expressed about the impact on the River Lambourn, but there remains support for small sites

meeting local needs and taking into account the flooding and pollution issues faced by the community.”

Assessment findings at this stage

Part 2 of the Environmental Report presents an assessment of the LNP as a whole. Assessment findings are presented as a series of narratives under the ‘SEA framework’ topic headings.

Conclusions

In conclusion, **minor positive effects** are considered likely for biodiversity and geodiversity through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan. This reflects the provisions of site allocations, which seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity value and connectivity, and the wider planning policy framework which focuses on bringing forward additional green and blue infrastructure and protecting existing features that contribute to biodiversity in the neighbourhood area.

Minor positive effects are also concluded most likely for climate change and flood risk, given the focus of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan on mitigation and adaptation measures within the site allocations themselves and the wider policy framework. This demonstrates a proactive approach to the climate crisis.

Significant positive effects are concluded for community wellbeing. This reflects the allocation of sites to meet the identified housing need within Lambourn, and the wider focus of the policy framework on fostering a supportive and resilient community.

Minor negative effects are concluded most likely for the historic environment given the site allocations in the plan which will need to be mitigated through site specific design and layout proposals – supported by the policies identified in the plan. **Minor positive effects** are also expected from the wider provisions of the plan, which includes design stipulations and policies that will work to protect the setting and significance of the historic environment – as well as the inclusion of a specific heritage policy that will protect non-designated heritage features.

The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan is anticipated to bring forward **minor negative effects** for land, soil and water resources. This reflects allocating greenfield sites that have the potential to be of higher agricultural quality land, the loss of which cannot be mitigated. It also reflects the wider plan policies, which work to protect underlying soils and water quality through implementing drainage solutions and supporting increased green and blue infrastructure provision.

Whilst significant emphasis is made throughout the plan on maintaining and enhancing landscape character, the proposed greenfield development in a nationally designated landscape area is considered likely to lead to **minor negative effects** with regards to landscape. The proposed policies should ensure that no significant effects arise.

Finally, **broadly neutral effects** are concluded likely for transportation. The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes low growth with a focus on promoting active and sustainable transport uptake, through both the site allocations and the wider policy framework. This should help to reduce private vehicle usage in the neighbourhood area associated with new development, which in turn should

reduce the occurrence of traffic related issues and improve road safety. As such, no significant deviations from the baseline are expected.

Recommendations

At this time, no recommendations are made for the policies in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan

Next steps

Following Regulation 14 consultation and consideration of responses, the LNP and SEA Environmental Report will be finalised for submission.

Following submission, the Plan and supporting evidence will be published for further consultation, and then subjected to Independent Examination. At Independent Examination, the LNP will be considered in terms of whether it meets the Basic Conditions for Neighbourhood Plans and is in general conformity with the Local Plan.

If the examination leads to a favourable outcome, the LNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by West Berkshire Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the LNP, then it will be 'made'. Once 'made', the LNP will become part of the Development Plan for West Berkshire, covering the defined neighbourhood area.

Introduction

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan (LNP).
- 1.2 The LNP is being prepared under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and in the context of the local planning framework of West Berkshire Council.
- 1.3 The neighbourhood area, designated in December 2018, is located in West Berkshire and covers the whole of the parish of Lambourn. The neighbourhood plan area is a predominantly rural landscape with the majority of the population living within the village of Lambourn, with the villages of Upper Lambourn to the north and Eastbury to the southeast. The neighbourhood area lies near equidistant between Newbury and Swindon (approximately 11km southeast and northeast respectively).

SEA Screening

- 1.4 SEA is a required process for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative effects and maximising potential positive effects.²
- 1.5 The LNP has been screened for SEA by West Berkshire Council (July, 2023), stating:
- 1.6 *“It is concluded that a SEA of the Lambourn NP is necessary because there is the potential for the residential site allocation(s) to result in significant environmental effects.”*
- 1.7 In light of the above, SEA is required to assess the potential for significant environmental effects.

SEA explained

- 1.8 It is a requirement that the SEA process is undertaken in-line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The Regulations stipulate that a report (known as the Environmental Report) must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that *“identifies, describes, and evaluates”* the likely significant effects of implementing *“the plan, and reasonable alternatives”*.³ The report must then be considered when finalising the plan.

² Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended) requires that each Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Authority alongside either: A) an Environmental Report, or B) a statement of reasons why SEA is not required, prepared following a 'screening' process.

³ Regulation 12(2) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- 1.9 More specifically, the report can be structured to address requirements by answering the following three questions:
4. What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
 - including in relation to 'reasonable alternatives'.
 5. What are the SEA findings at this stage?
 - i.e., in relation to the current draft plan.
 6. What happens next?

This Environmental Report

- 1.10 This report is the Environmental Report for the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan. It is published alongside the 'pre-submission draft' version of the Plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended). The report answers the three questions outlined above in turn, as discrete 'parts' of the report. However, before answering these questions, two further introductory sections are presented to further set the scene (**Chapters 2 and 3**).

2. What is the plan seeking to achieve?

Local Plan context for the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.1 The strategic policy context is set by the adopted [West Berkshire Local Plan 2006-2026](#), adopted in 2012. This consists of a number of development plan document (DPD), including the [Core Strategy DPD](#) and the [Housing Site Allocations DPD](#). It also includes the saved policies⁴ of West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991-2006. The Housing Site Allocations DPD allocates two sites for housing within Lambourn, land adjoining Lynch Lane and Land at Newbury Road. The Core Strategy DPD sets a housing requirement of 90 dwellings for Lambourn over the plan period. The two site allocations will deliver 60+5 homes, leaving a residual need of 25 across the plan period to 2039..
- 2.2 West Berkshire are in the process of producing a new Local Plan, known as the [West Berkshire Local Plan Review](#). The Local Plan Review will replace the current adopted Local Plan and will cover the period 2022 – 2039. Although the programme is delayed, and it is expected to cover the period 2024-2041. The Local Plan Review was submitted in March 2023 to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.

Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan vision and objectives

- 2.3 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:
- **Housing:** Ensure that new housing in Lambourn Parish meets the needs of current and future generations of residents in a way which complements the character of the villages and the countryside surrounding them. Site allocations within village to be pursued. Small development in Lambourn Woodlands possible? affordable housing for sale to be investigated; public interested in NDP allocating sites. Flooding issues make allocation of sites more difficult.
 - **Employment and the Economy:** To support the continuance of Lambourn as a service hub and to ensure that Lambourn is an attractive place to live and work with good facilities, services and employment opportunities, recognising the importance of the racing industry to the valley. Expand scope to look at other industries in parish, particularly those based in and around Membury DEA. Balance between AONB and industry to be addressed.
 - **Getting About:** To ensure that the transport infrastructure is safe, effective, sustainable and accessible to all. To ensure that “pinch points” and parking issues are addressed in line with developments.
 - **The Next generation and the Increasingly Elderly Population:** Lambourn should offer young people a safe, healthy and nurturing environment to develop and mature, with good links to secondary and further education, training and employment opportunities. Much evidence

⁴ Saved policies by directive of the Secretary of Statement on 25 September 2007.

that “something needs to be done”, few solid suggestions. A current survey of young people’s views is being carried out by Berkshire Youth and The Lambourn Junction, supported by WBC, so that should provide better ideas.

- The elderly should be able wherever possible to stay in their own home or live in the vicinity and be supported to live fulfilling lives. Balanced supply of housing needed.
- **Landscape and Heritage:** Conserve the built environment and the distinctive nature of each settlement and ensure that development is sympathetic to this. Elevation of new building to be considered.
 - Enhance the access to and appreciation of the Downland Landscape and its archaeology.
 - Promote biodiversity.
- **Leisure, Sports and Culture:** Ensure a range of sports and leisure facilities are available and with capacity in line with the population.
 - Further develop the arts and cultural activities and the facilities to support them, to enable rich and balanced life for parishioners.
- **Well Being:** Enable the Parish to be a safe, healthy and caring place to live.
- **Climate Change:** To encourage low carbon development, maintain Lambourn as a service centre to minimise the need to travel for day to day needs.
 - Support walking and cycling for short journeys. Investigate biomass production of electricity associated with the racing industry.
 - To embrace the infrastructure for electric vehicles.
 - Minimise flood risk and evaluate drainage and water supply for the future.

3. What is the scope of the SEA?

Summary of SEA Scoping

- 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*”.
- 3.2 In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England⁵. These authorities were consulted on the scope of the SEA in January 2024.
- 3.3 The purpose of scoping was to outline the ‘scope’ of the SEA through setting out the following information:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional, and local plans and strategies relevant to the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Baseline data against which the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.
 - The key sustainability issues for the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan; and
 - An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan can be assessed.
- 3.4 Scoping information, including the SEA framework, is provided in Appendix B. The comments provided by the consultees on the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping Report, and how they have been addressed, can be read in **Table 3.1** below.

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p>Historic England</p> <p><i>Historic Environment Planning Adviser (email response received on 25th January 2024)</i></p>	
<p>Noting the plan proposes to allocate land for additional homes and the heritage assets within the plan area, I concur with the decision to undertake SEA for this neighbourhood plan and with our SEA screening response last summer (our reference case PL00793281).</p> <p>We broadly support the approach taken in the draft scoping report and offer the following brief comments on the text.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response.</p>

⁵ These consultation bodies were selected “*by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effect of implementing plans and programmes*” (SEA Directive, Article 6(3)).

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p>In section 2, further checks are needed on the year of publication of the documents cited (e.g. the NPPF) to ensure consistency. Also, within the subsection on publications relevant to Historic England, I'd suggest adding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historic Environment in Local Plans: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 1 (GPA1) • The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans, Historic England Advice Note 3 • Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage, Historic England Advice Note 7 (Second Edition) • Planning and Archaeology: Historic England Advice Note 17 (HEAN 17) 2 <p>It may help the reader to group the GPAs and HEANs together in sequential order. Also, to flag for interest, we recently consulted on a new HEAN on historic building adaptation: https://historicengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/consultations/guidance-open-for-consultation/closed-guidance-consultations/</p>	<p>We will include these relevant Historic England publications. Thank you for providing these, as well as the linked resource.</p>
<p>The SEA objective on the historic environment includes scope for enhancement, an aim we'd encourage the plan and its assessment to support. While it may be a minor wording issue, paragraph 7.8 opens with a rather stark view of heritage assets solely as constraints. While protecting their significance is importance, they should not solely be viewed as constraints. The remainder of this section offers some reassurance on this point, noting assets also represent an opportunity – to respond to what is locally distinctive and enhance the character of an area.</p>	<p>Thank you for this comment, we have taken it into consideration.</p>
<p>Focusing on the questions posed in paragraph 7.13, the text includes a degree of repetition in the opening three bullets, which hopefully can be reduced or avoided. Also, I'd recommend referring not only to the setting of monuments, but also the monuments themselves. This may be possible with a minor change as follows: i.e. "Protect the integrity of and the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the HER?". Finally, there's a potential risk that the assessment does not adequately consider impacts on heritage assets outside the Parish boundary. Further consideration of this point may be needed for assets such as Ashdown Park Registered Park & Garden (Grade II*).</p>	<p>Comment noted and applied, thank you.</p>

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p>As mentioned before, liaison with the Council's conservation team and archaeological advisers is recommended. They are best placed to advise on local heritage issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record; how the neighbourhood plan can be tailored to avoid or minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment and to maximise opportunities for securing wider benefits for conservation and management of heritage assets.</p>	<p>Thank you for this recommendation.</p>

Part 1: What has plan-making/ SEA involved to this point?

4. Introduction (to Part 1)

Overview

- 4.1 The aim of this part of the report is to explain work undertaken to develop and assess reasonable alternatives. Whilst work on the LNP has been underway for some time, the aim here is not to provide a comprehensive explanation of work undertaken to date, but rather to discuss the evolution of the LNP in association with the SEA process. More specifically, this part of the report presents information on the consideration given to reasonable alternative approaches to a particular issue that is of central importance to the plan, namely the broad location of development in the neighbourhood area.
- 4.2 Structure of this part of the report:
- **Chapter 5** – explains the process of establishing reasonable alternatives
 - **Chapter 6** – presents the outcomes of assessing reasonable alternatives
 - **Chapter 7** – explains reasons for establishing the preferred option, in light of the assessment.

5. Establishing alternatives

Introduction

- 5.1 The aim here is to explain a process that led to the establishment of reasonable alternatives, and thereby present “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”.
- 5.2 Specifically, there is a need to explain the strategic parameters that have a bearing on the establishment of options (in relation to the distribution of housing growth) and the work that has been undertaken to date to examine site options (i.e., sites potentially in contention for allocation in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan). These parameters are then drawn together in order to arrive at ‘reasonable alternatives’.

Strategic parameters

- 5.3 The adopted Core Strategy (CS) DPD sets a housing requirement of 90 dwellings for Lambourn over the plan period.
- 5.4 The adopted CS and emerging Local Plan Review (LPR) contain two allocations within Lambourn:
 - Approximately 60 homes on Land adjoining Lynch Lane (Adopted Policy HSA19 and Emerging Policy RSA14).
 - 5 homes on Land at Newbury Road (Adopted Policy HSA20 and Emerging Policy RSA15).
- 5.5 This leaves approximately 25 homes to be delivered through the emerging Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan (LNP).

Site options

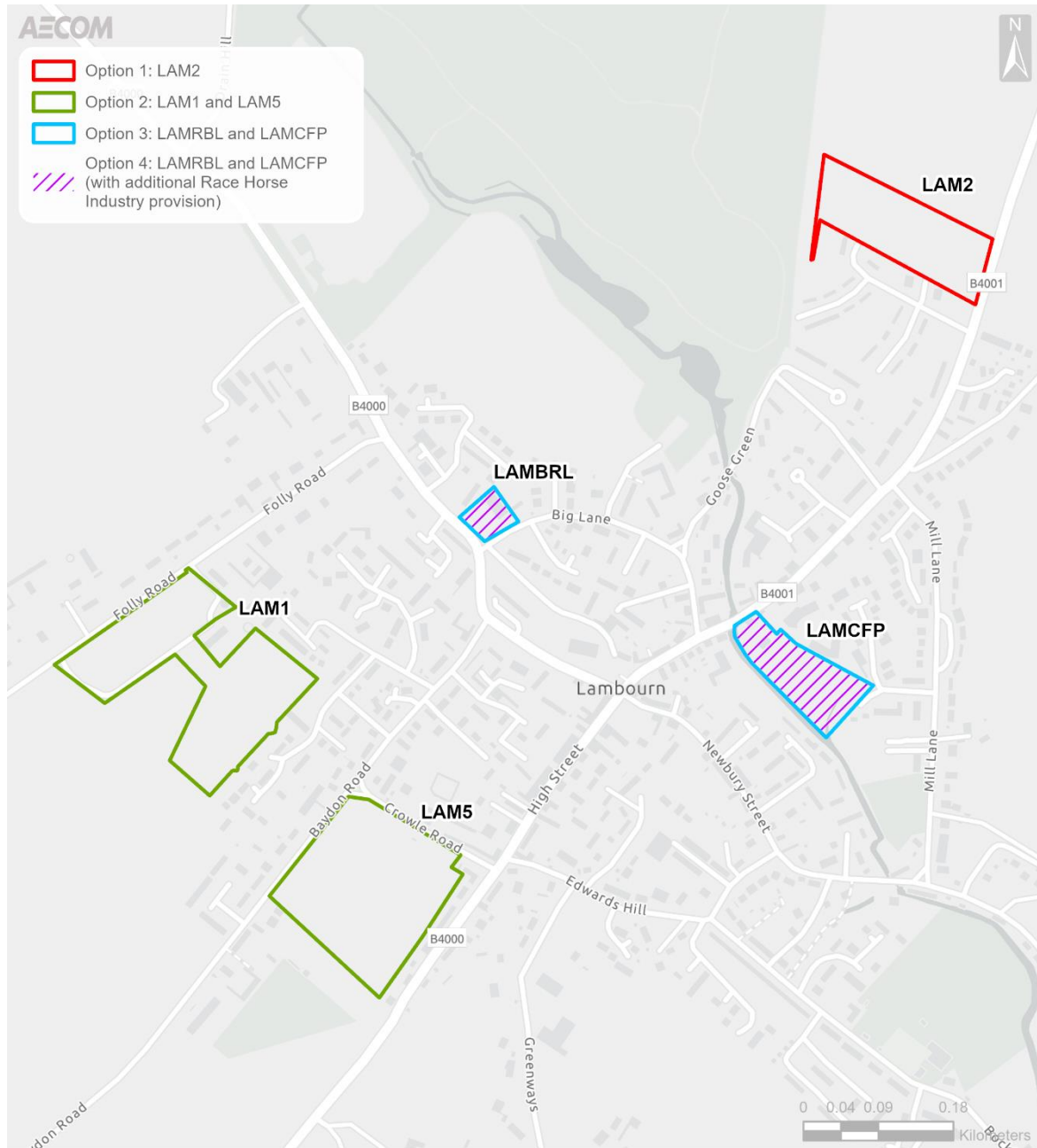
- 5.6 A Call for Sites was carried out locally (July / August 2022) and the Local Plan Call for Sites (latest update 2023) was also used as a basis for determining potential sites for housing development in the neighbourhood area.
- 5.7 A site assessment of the submitted sites, as well as those submitted for the Local Plan has been undertaken by consultants Bluestone Planning, with input provided by the Steering Group. This assessment included eleven separate sites promoted by landowners and developers and the two sites allocated for housing in the adopted CS and emerging LPR. All sites were subsequently consulted upon with the local community.
- 5.8 From these, three sites were identified as having potential for allocation through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, subject to satisfactory mitigation for the various issues identified in the assessment.
- 5.9 Three sites potentially suitable:
 - Within the settlement boundary / previously developed land:
 - The former Royal British Legion building and car park – potential for up to 14 small (largely 1 bed affordable units); and

- Collingridge Farmhouse and paddock to the east - potential for up to 8 units (2 bed) and conversion of the farmhouse to apartments. Potential either as affordable or for the Race Horse Industry.
 - Outside the settlement boundary:
 - LAM2 (Land at Wantage Road / Northfields) – promoted by developer for 29 dwellings (HELAA stated up to 27 dwellings)
- 5.10 There were also other sites, where the entirety of the site as proposed was considered unacceptable, but smaller areas with a lesser number of units may be considered. These sites were:
- LAM1 Land between Folly Road / Rockfel Road (HELAA stated up to 46 dwellings for the entire site, but only 50% of the land or less would be developable); and
 - LAM5 Land at Windsor House Stables (HELAA stated up to 37 dwellings but only 25% of the land or less would be developable) – Large Paddock, Crowle Road.

Reasonable alternatives

5.11 These sites (see above) have formed the reasonable alternative spatial strategy options to be considered through the SEA, to meet the residual need of 25 homes. The four options are listed below and shown in **Figure 5.1** overleaf:

- **Option 1:** a single site to be found for 25 dwellings (both open market and affordable) outside of the settlement boundary (LAM2).
- **Option 2:** Two small sites to be found for a total of 25 dwellings (both open market and affordable) outside the settlement boundary. (LAM1 and LAM5).
- **Option 3:** Two small sites to be found for a total of 25 dwellings (both open market and affordable) within the settlement boundary or on previously developed land in the wider Parish. (Royal British Legion and Collingridge Farmhouse).
- **Option 4:** Two small sites within and outside the settlement boundary or on previously developed land in the wider Parish, for a total of 25 dwellings (both open market and affordable) and to include additional specific provision for the Race Horse Industry. (Royal British Legion and Collingridge Farmhouse (note diff use for Collingridge Farmhouse)).



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Figure 5.1 Reasonable alternative spatial options

6. Assessing reasonable alternatives

Introduction

6.1 This chapter provides the detailed findings of the assessment of the four alternative spatial strategy options within Lambourn (established in the previous chapter). The options are as follows:

- **Option 1 (LAM2)** – Land at Wantage Road & North Fields (25 dwellings).
- **Option 2 (LAM1 and LAM5)** – Land between Folly Road, Rockfel Road & Stork House Drive, and Windsor House Stables Large Paddock Crowle Road (25 dwellings).
- **Option 3 (LAMRBL and LAMCFP)** – Lambourn Royal British Legion, and Collingridge House and Paddock (25 dwellings).
- **Option 4 (LAMRBL and LAMCFP)** – Lambourn Royal British Legion, and Collingridge House and Paddock (25 dwellings), with provision for the Race Horse Industry.

Methodology

6.2 For each of the options, the assessment examines likely significant effects on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability topics and objectives identified through scoping (see **Appendix B**) as a methodological framework. Green shading is used to indicate significant positive effects, whilst red shading is used to indicate significant negative effects, however this is also stated in the text. Where appropriate neutral effects, or uncertainty will also be noted. Uncertainty is noted with grey shading.

6.3 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, where there is a need to rely on assumptions to reach a conclusion on a 'significant effect' this is made explicit in the appraisal text.

6.4 Where it is not possible to predict likely significant effects based on reasonable assumptions, efforts are made to comment on the relative merits of the alternatives in more general terms and to indicate a rank of preference. This is helpful, as it enables a distinction to be made between the alternatives even where it is not possible to distinguish between them in terms of 'significant effects'. Numbers are used to highlight the option or options that are preferred from an SEA perspective with 1 performing the best.

6.5 Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted considering the criteria presented within the Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the duration, frequency, and reversibility of effects.

Summary findings

SEA Theme		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Biodiversity	Significant effect?	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
	Rank	2	1	= 3	= 3
Climate change and flood risk	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	1	2	= 3	= 3
Community wellbeing	Significant effect?	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive	Yes – positive
	Rank	4	2	3	1
Historic environment	Significant effect?	No	Yes – negative	Uncertain	Uncertain
	Rank	1	3	= 2	= 2
Land, soil and water resources	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	3	2	= 1	= 1
Landscape	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	2	3	= 1	= 1
Transportation	Significant effect?	No	No	No	No
	Rank	2	3	= 1	= 1

Biodiversity

- 6.6 Whilst none of the options fall within international or national designations for biodiversity, all of the sites are within proximity of the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and River Lambourn Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). All options are therefore constrained by the River Lambourn SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ), with development under any option requiring consultation with Natural England.
- 6.7 The Living England Habitat Map shows the extent and distribution of broad habitat types across England. This map shows that each option is underlain by different habitat types, with **Option 1** primarily underlain by acid, calcareous,

neutral grassland. **Option 2**, site LAM1, is partially underlain by acid, calcareous, neutral grassland in the northern half and improved grassland in the south, and LAM5 is underlain by improved grassland. Sites LAMCFP and LAMRBL (**Options 3 and 4**) are underlain by mainly built-up areas and gardens within the settlement boundary, with site LAMRBL being brownfield in nature. As such, **Options 1 and 2** are considered worst performing in terms of impact on local biodiversity, with the potential to lead to loss or damage to habitats present.

- 6.8 None of the options include Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitat within the boundaries of the site; however, **Option 1** is directly adjacent to Priority Habitat deciduous woodland which is located to the eastern boundary. Given the proximity of the habitat to the site, it is possible development through **Option 1** could cause disturbance to biodiversity through increased noise and light pollution. It is noted that all of the options include a degree of boundary hedgerows that likely contribute to the wider biodiversity value of the neighbourhood area.
- 6.9 In terms of National Habitat Network coverage, **Option 2** is within Network Enhancement Zone 1. Land within this zone is considered likely to be suitable for the creation of primary habitat – and can be used to expand and join up existing habitat patches. **Options 1, 3 and 4** are within Network Enhancement Zone 2, which is land within close proximity to existing habitat components that are unlikely to be suitable for habitat re-creation, but where other types of habitat may be created or land management may be enhanced. As such, all of the options present opportunities to improve biodiversity connectivity throughout the neighbourhood area through landscaping, planting, and net gain contributions.
- 6.10 Considering the above, **Options 3 and 4** are ranked the lowest, with the potential to lead to minor negative effects. This reflects the inclusion of site LAMCFP which is directly adjacent to a SAC and SSSI, where development has the potential to adversely impact upon these designations. **Option 2** is considered best performing, as development on this site presents an opportunity to enhance biodiversity connectivity and is the least constrained. **Option 1** ranks lower than **Option 2** due to the proximity to the BAP Priority Habitat.
- 6.11 In terms of significance of effects, all options are concluded as ‘uncertain’ at this stage, reflective of the proximity of sites to the SAC, and awaiting conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which will inform the draft neighbourhood plan.

Climate change and flood risk

- 6.12 Only site LAMCFP (**Options 3 and 4**) is constrained by flood risk, reflective of the site’s location adjacent to River Lambourn. With regard to surface water flood risk, **Option 1** is not constrained. Within **Option 2**, site LAM1 is unconstrained, while site LAM5 is at a high risk of surface water flooding (1 in 30 years) through the centre of the site. Most of site LAM5 and LAMRBL lie within a Critical Drainage Area, with mitigation likely to be required to address this issue under **Option 2**, and **Options 3 and 4**.

- 6.13 Site LAMRBL (**Options 3 and 4**) is not constrained, however LAMCFP is at a medium level of flood risk, especially to the west and the south, due to the proximity to the River Lambourn. The LAMRBL site also includes an area of high surface water flood risk to the south of the site.
- 6.14 Any increase in the built footprint of the neighbourhood area is anticipated to increase carbon emissions, linked to an intensification of land use and activity. Given that all options support an equal, low level of growth, the potential increase in carbon emissions does not allow us to differentiate the options – and significant effects are not anticipated.
- 6.15 All options are well located in terms of access to the settlement centre. **Options 3 and 4** are located closest to the centre, with one site adjacent to B4000 and one adjacent to the B4001. **Option 2** is also well located, including two sites adjacent to Folly Road and Baydon Road respectively, with sustainable access to the village centre available. **Option 1** is just over a kilometre from the centre, on the outskirts of the settlement, but directly adjacent to the B4001.
- 6.16 In conclusion, all of the options perform on a par with regard to sustainable access to the settlement centre, and carbon emissions. However, flood risk differentiates the sites. **Options 3 and 4** are worst performing due to the proximity to the River Lambourn, while **Option 1** is best performing due to the lack of flood risk constraints in the area.

Community wellbeing

- 6.17 The indicative housing requirement for Lambourn, as set by the West Berkshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) is 90 homes. The Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) allocates two sites for housing within Lambourn, delivering 65 homes, leaving a residual need of 25 dwellings across the plan period to 2039. All options seek to deliver 25 homes to meet this residual need, either on a single site, or combination of sites, within the parish. All options would also deliver a similar level of affordable housing, and therefore perform positively in terms of delivering the type of housing needed locally. There is no difference between the sites with regard to housing delivery.
- 6.18 **Option 4** provides specific housing provisions for the Race Horse Industry, which is a significant community group within Lambourn. The industry and associated businesses make Lambourn the second biggest horse racing centre in the UK and has a strong influence on the community and economy.
- 6.19 **Options 3 and 4** are well contained within the settlement boundary and are within proximity to existing residential development. As such, development through these options is anticipated to be well integrated into the existing settlement – which will help to foster a good sense of community. **Option 2** is located on the border of the settlement, however, is contained on three sides of the area (to the north, south, and east). **Option 1** is located adjacent to the border of the settlement, and as such development here would extend the settlement boundary. However, the site is directly adjacent to existing residential development.
- 6.20 In terms of active travel, site LAM5 (**Option 2**) is best performing, being directly adjacent to the Round Berkshire Cycle Route, and therefore supports

pedestrian and cycle access into the settlement centre. LAM5 also connects to a Public Right of Way (PRoW) network to the south of the site, allowing for active travel connectivity within and surrounding the neighbourhood area.

- 6.21 Opportunity exists for **Option 1** to link into the Public Right of Way network to the southeast as well as permissive paths to the west, it is also accessible via pedestrian and cycle access. With regard to **Options 3 and 4**, the PRoW network connects well to both sites, providing access for pedestrians and cyclists.

All sites are well located in terms of access to the settlement centre and its local facilities. **Options 2, 3 and 4** are within 400m of the centre, while **Option 1** is slightly further away (although still considered accessible).

- 6.22 Overall, considering the evidence above, all options perform well against this SEA theme with the potential to lead to significant positive effects. This is reflective of all options delivering new homes to meet the parish's residual need, and that all options are relatively sustainably located in the context of the neighbourhood area.

- 6.23 In terms of ranking the options, **Option 4** performs marginally better than the other three options, due to the proposed provision to support the local Race Horse Industry, as well as the central location of sites. **Option 3** includes the same sites as **Option 4** and therefore ranks second overall, however without the racing provision. **Option 1** ranks lowest as it is located the furthest from the settlement centre, however this is not significant, and the site is still considered well located overall.

Historic environment

- 6.24 **Options 3 and 4** lie partially within the Lambourn Conservation Area, and therefore development has the potential to adversely impact upon the intrinsic qualities and setting of the asset, as well as adversely affect important views upon and within the Conservation Area. Where site LAMRBL, (**Options 3 and 4**) is brownfield, it is recognised that there is an opportunity for development to positively impact upon the Conservation Area, for example through regeneration or local enhancements/improvements through positive design and masterplanning.

- 6.25 One of the sites within **Option 2** (LAM5) lies adjacent to the Lambourn Conservation Area, and therefore similarly has the potential to lead to adverse effects, particularly in relation to the setting of the asset and any important views. It is noted that there is not an available Conservation Area Appraisal or Management Plan to provide advice and guidance in terms of the intrinsic qualities and character areas within the asset, and that this is a key data gap that should be sought from West Berkshire Council.

- 6.26 Options are also constrained by non-designated heritage assets. **Option 2** (LAM1) is underlain by extensive system of lynchets visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, with a potential date from prehistoric to the post-medieval period in the southern half of the area. With regard to **Options 3 and 4**, the LAMCFP site contains evidence of multi-phased occupation from the Roman period onwards lying underneath the ground of the site. This appears to cover the majority of the site area. Development through these options (**Options 2, 3**

and 4) would need to avoid these non-designated heritage assets, and it is recommended that more detailed heritage assessments be carried out at the sites, including archaeological evaluation.

6.27 Given the above, **Option 1** is best performing, likely leading to neutral effects. **Options 2, 3 and 4** are constrained by designated and non-designated assets with the potential for adverse effects which could be significant. However, effects on the historic environment could be positive where options include small brownfield sites in the village core. These options (**3 and 4**) have therefore been ranked as uncertain at this stage. **Option 2** is ranked worst performing as the site is open greenfield land, constrained by non-designated and designated heritage assets.

Land, soil and water resources

6.28 All of the sites lie within the River Lambourn Nutrient Neutrality Zone, and residential development could result in additional nutrient loads that could have an adverse effect on the condition of the River Lambourn SSSI/SAC. Therefore, mitigation measures are necessary for development on any of the options. However, this doesn't differentiate the options.

6.29 All of the sites within the options are underlain by Grade 2 'Very good' agricultural land, except for LAM1 (**Option 2**), which is mainly underlain by Grade 3 'Moderate to good' agricultural land. However, without a specific agricultural land classification it is not possible to differentiate between Grade 3a and Grade 3b, where Grade 3a is considered 'best and most versatile', and Grade 3b is not.

6.30 Both **Option 1** and **Option 2** are currently in use as paddocks (with LAM5 of **Option 2** also being used as overflow car park for local events), on land that is not previously developed. These sites therefore contain temporary structures and infrastructure associated with these uses, for example, field shelter, water troughs and some post and rail fencing. **Options 3 and 4** contain one site (LAMRBL) that is brownfield and currently vacant, and one site that is in existing use for residential and agricultural use. As such, **Options 3 and 4** present an opportunity for land reuse and regeneration, as well as revitalisation to the settlement, which would in turn reduce pressure on undeveloped greenfield areas.

6.31 Considering the above, **Options 3 and 4** are best performing due to the focus of growth on brownfield sites. **Option 1** is ranked higher **Option 2**, as there is a significantly smaller area of land, and only one site (1.8 hectares), in comparison to **Option 2** (> 6 hectares).

Landscape

6.32 All of the options are constrained by landscape designations, as all of the sites are within Wessex Downs Area National Landscape (NL). Development on any of the sites has the potential to adversely impact upon the special qualities and features of the NL, including visual amenity, without appropriate mitigation.

6.33 **Options 3 and 4** are within the settlement boundary, while both sites within **Option 2** are located adjacent to the settlement boundary on three sides. **Option 1** is also located adjacent to the boundary of the settlement to the north.

Options outside of the settlement boundary have the potential to extend the existing settlement into the open rural landscape surrounding the village, which is, as highlighted above, of national importance. **Options 1 and 2** are therefore worst performing, while **Options 3 and 4** present an opportunity to deliver development that maintains the existing built form with likely limited, potentially positive, impact on the NL.

- 6.34 It is noted that options could also set the precedent for further development to the north and south of the settlement respectively. This could impact upon the open, rural countryside outside of the village and alter the settlement pattern in the longer term.
- 6.35 Further, a Landscape Character Assessment has been carried out for the Lambourn Development Plan. **Options 1 and 2** lie entirely within the Open Chalk Downland Landscape Character Area (LCA). Development in these areas could impact upon the open and tranquil nature of this LCA, as openness is the key quality of this LCA and any features of a tall or visually intrusive nature should be avoided.
- 6.36 **Option 2** is constrained by tree preservation orders (TPOs), with these existing along the northern boundary, and a further group of TPOs located alongside Folly Road. None of the other sites have TPOs in the proximity. Consideration is also given to the scale of the sites. It is noted that sites within **Option 2** are significantly greater than the other options, and undeveloped in nature, therefore having greater potential to adversely impact on the local landscape.
- 6.37 At this stage, **Options 3 and 4** are considered to equally be best performing given the location within the settlement boundary and would also lead to the redevelopment of brownfield land. **Option 2** is worst performing, given it includes two larger undeveloped sites on the settlement edge, outside of the settlement boundary and is constrained by TPOs. **Options 1 and 2** could lead to adverse effects on the NL and LCA, however effects are unlikely to be significant given the size and scale of the development proposed (and considering forthcoming landscape-led masterplanning and mitigation, etc).

Transportation

- 6.38 **Options 1 and 2** are located adjacent to the settlement boundary of Lambourn, while **Options 3 and 4** are located within the settlement boundary. As such, all options are considered to be within a reasonable walking distance of local services and facilities. Specifically, all options are supported by pedestrian friendly pavements; **Option 1**, along Wantage Road (B4001), **Option 2** via Folly Road, and Baydon Road, and **Options 3 and 4** via Wantage Road and Upper Lambourn Road (B4000). **Option 2** also benefits from being located adjacent to the Round Berkshire Cycle Route, which presents a further opportunity to support active travel uptake.
- 6.39 In terms of sustainable transport, **Options 2, 3 and 4** are within 400m of a bus stop, while **Option 1** is within 400-800m of two bus stops. While these bus stops connect Lambourn to Newbury, Eastbury, Swindon, and other locations; services are notably infrequent, and therefore buses are not relied upon by a majority of the community.

- 6.40 Wantage Road (B4001) and Upper Lambourn Road (B4000) are the main access roads for private vehicles into the settlement of Lambourn, from the A338 to the east of the neighbourhood area and the M4 in the south of the area. They also provide access to larger neighbouring settlements, including Newbury, Wantage and Hungerford. The delivery of 25 dwellings through any option would likely increase private vehicle users on the roads, particularly given the rural nature of the area, however this is unlikely to be significant in terms of residual effects. Nonetheless, options should seek to promote sustainable travel uptake and improved road safety where possible.
- 6.41 Overall, the options are found to perform relatively similarly in terms of transportation and movement, with minor negative effects predicted at this stage. All options connect via active travel to the settlement centre, but have a limited sustainable transport offer, with good access to the road network for private vehicles. In terms of ranking, **Option 1** considered worst performing as it is located slightly further from the settlement. **Options 3 and 4** are considered best performing as sites are most sustainably located, being entirely within the settlement boundary.

Conclusions

- 6.42 Overall, potential significant effects have been identified with regard to historic environment and community wellbeing. Significant negative effects are considered likely with regard to historic environment for **Option 2** due to the historic asset underlying the area. Uncertain significant effects have been identified for **Options 3 and 4** with regard to historic environment, due to the brownfield nature of sites within the Conservation Area.
- 6.43 All options are considered to likely have significant positive effects in relation to community wellbeing, due to options providing additional housing to meet local needs. **Option 4** is considered best performing in this respect given it meets the specialist needs of the Horse Racing community group.
- 6.44 In terms of biodiversity, **Option 2** ranks the most favourably, due to a lack of constraints and opportunity to enhance biodiversity. **Options 3 and 4** rank equally the least favourable, due to their adjacency to international and national designated sites. Uncertainty exists in this regard, awaiting HRA findings.
- 6.45 **Option 1** is best performing in relation to climate change and flood risk, reflective of the low flood risk present. **Options 2, 3 and 4** are all constrained in this respect and therefore are ranked less well. All options notably have good access to the settlement centre and active travel opportunities (in the context of the relatively rural nature of the area) supporting wider climate objectives.
- 6.46 For the remaining SEA themes, **Options 3 and 4** rank equally as the most favourable options. This reflects their sustainable location within the settlement boundary, proximity to settlement centre and the opportunities presented through the regeneration of a brownfield site within the local centre.

7. Establishing the preferred approach

- 7.1 The LNP's preferred approach is a blend of **Option 1** and **Option 4** – allocating both site LAM2 and the Royal British Legion site and the Collingridge Farm site. The reasoning as to why this approach has been taken is as follows:

“West Berkshire Council’s Local Plan Review set a requirement for 25 dwellings in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan.

Regular consultations were carried out to establish the views of the community, culminating in a series of opportunities in January 2023 for the public to comment on nine sites promoted to the Lambourn NP’s Call for Sites. Full details were made available at exhibitions held across the Parish, on the Parish Council website and on local social media.

LAM2: Land at Wantage Road and Northfields, Lambourn was clearly the preferred site and would deliver the required number of dwellings.

LAM1, LAM4 and LAM5 were all rejected due to flooding issues and, in the case of LAM5, the visibility of the upper part of the site. LAM3 was visible and has subsequently been withdrawn. The access to LAM7/9 was considered to be environmentally damaging and the site itself is very visible. LAM8 and LAMKHS were popular with residents of Lambourn, but their promoters have not been keen to pursue their development for housing.

The partial development of sites LAM1 and LAM5 were also considered, but drainage issues in both, as well as the visibility of the upper part of LAM1, made these possibilities unpopular.

Results from the numerous community consultations and events held over the past five years emphasised the community’s appreciation of the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Area, alongside a desire to restrict larger scale development. However, community members acknowledged the need for housing, especially for those working in the horseracing industry.

A further, frequently expressed concern, particularly since the events of the last two winters, has been that further development should not take place until flooding, sewage and Nutrient Neutrality issues have been mitigated.

A HNA completed in May 2024 noted that no affordable housing had been brought forward in the Neighbourhood Plan area in last ten years, and there was a need for housing for older people and for those working in the racehorse industry.

Given the need for housing and the limitations of the sites offered, the Plan has additionally proposed two further small sites which are within the Lambourn settlement boundary: the Royal British Legion site on Big lane, Lambourn, and the Collingridge Farm site, accessed from Millfield, Lambourn. The public response to these sites has been limited. Concerns have been expressed about the impact on the River Lambourn, but there remains support for small sites meeting local needs and taking into account the flooding and pollution issues faced by the community.”

Part 2: What are the SEA findings at this stage?

8. Introduction (to Part 2)

Introduction

8.1 The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current 'pre-submission' version of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan. This chapter presents:

- An appraisal of the current version of the LNP under the SEA theme headings; and
- The overall conclusions at this current stage and recommendations for the next stage of plan-making.

LNP policies

8.2 The draft LNP puts forward a number of policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Plan area. These are set out in Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1 LNP policies

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

Methodology

- 8.3 The assessment identifies and evaluates 'likely significant effects' on the baseline, drawing on the sustainability objectives identified through scoping (see Appendix B) as a methodological framework.
- 8.4 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the strategic nature of the policies under consideration and understanding of the baseline (now and in the future under a 'no plan' scenario) that is inevitably limited. Given uncertainties there is a need to make assumptions, e.g., in relation to plan implementation and aspects of the baseline that might be impacted. Assumptions are made cautiously and explained within the text (with the aim of striking a balance between comprehensiveness and conciseness). In many instances, given reasonable assumptions, it is not possible to predict 'significant effects', but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) of the draft plan in more general terms.
- 8.5 Finally, it is important to note that effects are predicted taking account of the criteria presented within Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency, and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e., the potential for the Neighbourhood Plan to impact an aspect of the baseline when implemented alongside other plans, programmes, and projects. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.

9. Appraisal of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan

Biodiversity

- 9.1 Biodiversity and geodiversity are key considerations of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to the neighbourhood area being within proximity to European and national designations for biodiversity, and due to the number of important habitats within the neighbourhood boundaries. The findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will be included in the submission version of the SEA Environmental Report.
- 9.2 The site allocation policy makes provisions for biodiversity. All three site allocation design codes include the need for visible boundaries to consider using native hedgerow planting, which contribute to reducing the visual impact of development whilst providing new routes and connections in the biodiversity network of the neighbourhood area. Furthermore, all three site allocation design codes outline the requirement for bird and bat boxes to be integrated into building design, and access for hedgehogs to be considered. This will contribute to enhancing biodiversity by improving connectivity and providing refuge areas within the sites for important species.
- 9.3 Additionally, Policy L14A (Land on Wantage Road) indicates that proposals for the site should include a minimum 10m sized woodland buffer on the western boundary to help protect the integrity of the neighbouring deciduous woodland priority habitat, and boundary planting should be strengthened with native species. This will contribute to enhancing the biodiversity value of the site by providing additional habitat coverage and protecting important habitat areas from being disturbed. Furthermore, Policy L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) also provides a stipulation for the creation of a 15m wide buffer within the site and adjacent to the River Lambourn, which will act as a wildlife corridor. Again, this benefits biodiversity by contributing to connectivity in the neighbourhood area – providing a new route and protecting the existing habitat.
- 9.4 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan includes specific stipulations for biodiversity and geodiversity under Policy L7. This includes the need to conserve and enhance local biodiversity, the aspiration to create new wildlife corridors, achieve net gains of at least 10%, and avoid the loss of key green features like trees.
- 9.5 The wider plan policies also work to benefit biodiversity and geodiversity. Policy L1 seeks to protect woodland, grassland and existing wildlife sites; Policy L3 focuses on expanding green and blue infrastructure, and Policy L6 outlines its support of proposals that protect enhance the River Lambourn as a resource for biodiversity and wildlife. In this way, these three policies work to benefit biodiversity and geodiversity by safeguarding and enhancing connectivity – allowing for species movement through the neighbourhood area via the biodiversity network. The protection of biodiversity is a focus of Policy L8, which seeks to ensure new lighting through development does not disrupt key habitats and designated sites.

- 9.6 Furthermore, Policy L9 outlines the preference for sustainable urban drainage systems to contribute to the biodiversity of development sites where possible, and Policy L11 includes the need for development proposals to integrate, retain and enhance trees and hedgerows. This demonstrates a focus on ensuring development coming forward is considerate of biodiversity. Finally, Policy 16 includes a stipulation to ensure significant harm to biodiversity assets is prevented through new employment and rural industrial development. Again, this works to maintain existing levels of biodiversity and geodiversity in the neighbourhood area.
- 9.7 In conclusion, **minor positive effects** are considered likely through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan. This reflects the provisions of site allocations, which seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity value and connectivity, and the wider planning policy framework which focuses on bringing forward additional green and blue infrastructure, and protecting existing features that contribute to biodiversity in the neighbourhood area.

Climate change and flood risk

- 9.8 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity to include policies that help to reduce carbon emissions created by new development in the area, and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. While it is recognised that there is little value in duplicating planning policies which are already set out in the Local Plan, the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan should focus on what could be strengthened and respond to local considerations. This can include vulnerability to overheating, flooding or water stress impacts, car dependency, opportunities for renewable energy, sustainable design, and construction.
- 9.9 The sites allocated under Policy L14A (Land on the Wantage Road) and Policy L14B (Former British Legion site) are at very low risk of fluvial and surface water flooding. However, both make stipulations for flood risk – indicating development proposals for these sites should use permeable surface materials so that surface water flood risk on neighbouring roads is not exacerbated. Furthermore, Policy L14A indicates that drainage and flood mitigation measures should be incorporated to further reduce the contribution of the site to flooding elsewhere in the neighbourhood area. As such, both policies work well to reduce the risk of flooding and contribute to climate change adaptation. The site allocated under Policy L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) is adjacent to the River Lambourn to the south / south-west – and as such is at risk of fluvial and surface water flood risk. The associated design code does include flood risk management stipulations – including the need for surfaces to be permeable and for adequate drainage and flood mitigation measures to be integrated into the development. Again, this works well to reduce the risk of flooding on the site and contribute to climate change adaptation measures.
- 9.10 The risk of flooding is further managed through Policy L9, which includes stipulations for flood risk assessments to accompany development and identify areas susceptible to surface water flooding and identifies areas at particular risk of flooding. The policy also outlines the need to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems, where appropriate, to manage rainfall run-off rates and volumes to existing pre-development rates and mimic the natural drainage regime of the site. This will contribute to reducing the potential for fluvial and

surface water flood risk across the neighbourhood area attributed to new development.

- 9.11 Flood management considerations are also included under Policy L3, which indicates proposals should have a focus on safeguarding natural flood defences. Furthermore, Policy L6 stipulates that proposals adjacent to the River Lambourn will be supported where there is no significant adverse impact on flood risk. These policies contribute to flood risk management by ensuring the existing system is maintained through new development.
- 9.12 In terms of climate change mitigation, transportation is the largest contributing sector to carbon dioxide for the West Berkshire area, and as such is a key consideration of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan. The associated design codes linked to all three sites allocated under Policies L14A, L14B and L14C include considerations related to transportation by outlining potential pedestrian access. This will help to promote an uptake in active transportation methods for local journeys within proximity to the development sites. Furthermore, all three design codes include the need for secure cycle storage to be provided, again encouraging an uptake in active and sustainable transportation opportunities. This will help to reduce emissions linked to vehicular transportation. Additionally, the design code linked to Policy L14A outlines the need for development to include a woodland buffer and boundary planting. In this way the policy further contributes to climate change mitigation by increasing green infrastructure, which will increase the amount of carbon capture and storage via photosynthesis.
- 9.13 Other policies within the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan also have a focus on climate change mitigation. Policy L3 supports the expansion of green and blue infrastructure across the neighbourhood area and seeks to protect existing features. This will help to maintain and enhance natural carbon capture and storage occurring in the neighbourhood area. Furthermore, Policy L12 indicates all new development proposals should incorporate measures that will mitigate the effects of climate change, as outlined in the Lambourn Design Code (including non-allocated housing development under Policy L13). This includes (but is not limited to) ensuring renewable energy and low carbon appliances are installed in new properties, creating low carbon buildings (for example, including proper insulation and double or triple glazed windows), and aiming for a net zero construction process. This will help to reduce emissions linked to new development in the neighbourhood area.
- 9.14 Reflecting on the above, **minor positive effects** are concluded most likely through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan. This reflects the support provided through the policy framework to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Community wellbeing

- 9.15 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan is aligning with the CS DPD in terms of housing requirements, by allocating three sites to meet and exceed the outlined need of 25 homes under Policy L14. Specifically, Policy L14A (Land on Wantage Road) allocates approximately 25 dwellings, Policy L14B (Former British Legion site) allocates approximately 10 dwellings, and Policy L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) allocates approximately 10 dwellings. Whilst all three policies have a focus on meeting the needs for the racehorse industry

(reiterated in Policy L17), Policies L14B and L14C have an additional focus on bringing forward affordable 1-2 bed dwellings. A further policy, Policy L13, outlines support for other housing development (including infill, redevelopment sites, extensions and replacement dwellings), and how development proposals with a net gain of five dwellings or more should consider the needs of first-time buyers, those working in the racehorse industry, individuals over the age of 55, and those requiring sheltered or extra care accommodations. Overall, these policies work well to meet the housing needs of the local area.

- 9.16 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan also makes provision for the local economy through Policy L16. This policy supports new employment and rural industry development proposals where they meet a number of criteria, including being appropriate to the existing local economy and sustainably located. This will likely benefit the local economy by providing additional work opportunities within the neighbourhood area – helping to generate more money within Lambourn. The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan also recognises the importance of the racehorse industry to the neighbourhood area. Policy L17 is focused on protecting this important contributor to the local economy – indicating that development that is incompatible with existing uses will not be supported, and redevelopment proposals of sites and facilities linked to the industry will be rejected.
- 9.17 The health and wellbeing of the neighbourhood area's community is also a focus of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan. Policy L4 is focused on safeguarding local green spaces, which provide safe areas for the community to engage with events and physical exercise – to the benefit of physical and mental health and wellbeing. Policy L6 also has a focus on community wellbeing; outlining support for proposals that improve links to the River Lambourn and public rights of way, to enhance accessibility and recreational opportunities. Again, this helps to promote an enhanced level of health and wellbeing amongst residents by providing safe opportunities to engage with activity. Policy L15 safeguards important community infrastructure, such as the medical facilities, the post office, allotments and community halls, and outlines that a change in use of these facilities will not be supported unless it is not economically viable, is no longer needed or a replacement has been found. This will provide benefits for the community wellbeing SEA theme. Furthermore, Policy L19 outlines the need for additional community infrastructure to benefit three key groups: younger people, older people and those with additional needs, and those within the racing community. This includes (but is not limited to) health services, social events and educational programs, and recreational green facilities – again, benefitting community wellbeing by supporting physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- 9.18 Overall, **significant positive effects** are concluded most likely through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan at this time. This is due to the strong focus of the plan on meeting the needs of the local community, including housing, as well as safeguarding important community facilities and infrastructure and protecting the local economy.

Historic environment

- 9.19 The historic environment is a key consideration of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan, given the wealth of heritage features in the

neighbourhood area. This includes 137 listed buildings, 22 scheduled monuments, six conservation areas, and 854 local entries in the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record.

- 9.20 One of the sites allocated through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan is not within proximity to specific designated heritage features, however the two sites allocated under Policies L14B (Former Royal British Legion site) and L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) are within close proximity to the Lambourn Conservation Area. Both design codes linked to these sites include historic environment considerations – indicating that the design and appearance of development at these locations will need to contribute to the setting of the Lambourn Conservation Area. This will help to ensure impacts to the historic setting of the conservation area are reduced, which will help to maintain the significance of the designated area and the heritage features within its boundaries. Furthermore, the site design code associated with Policy L14C indicates the design of development should not dominate the neighbouring Grade II listed structure at Collingridge House. This provides a further benefit for the historic environment by protecting the setting of a specific heritage feature.
- 9.21 Furthermore, Policy L13 indicates infill development, redevelopment sites, extensions and replacement dwellings will need to consider the factors outlined in the Lambourn Design Guide (linked to Policy L11). This includes considering the impacts on designated and non-designated heritage features in proximity. Again, this will ensure the significance of heritage features is not compromised through changes to settings, which will contribute to protecting the wider historic environment.
- 9.22 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan includes a specific policy relating to heritage. Policy L10 identifies non-designated heritage assets – and indicates that development proposals affecting them will need to demonstrate how it will preserve or enhance the significance of the asset. Additionally, where a proposal would cause harm to a non-designated heritage asset, the anticipated damage will be weighed against the overall benefits that would come forward in relation to the development. Safeguarding these features helps to maintain the existing historic environment of Lambourn.
- 9.23 Wider policies within the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan are also likely to benefit the historic environment. This includes Policy L2, which outlines the need for new development proposals within the neighbourhood area to respect settlement heritage. This will likely include designated and non-designated assets as well as their settings – and as such will help to safeguard the existing historic environment. This links to Policy L3, which identifies the need for proposals to outline how trees of amenity value and protected trees, including those in conservation areas, will be impacted through development. This will ensure that important green features in the settings of heritage assets are not adversely impacted, thus protecting the significance of important historic features.
- 9.24 The importance of setting is also considered through Policy L5, which seeks to protect key views within the conservation areas and their settings by ensuring development proposals will not adversely impact upon them. This will allow for continued understanding and interpretation of historic features in the wider historic landscape. Further to this, Policy L6 ensures that development

proposals adjacent to the River Lambourn prioritises the protection and enhancement of the waterside heritage value and the setting of the river. Again, this will allow for the maintained setting of important heritage features within proximity to the watercourse.

- 9.25 Overall, **minor negative effects** are concluded most likely for the historic environment given the site allocations in the plan which will need to be mitigated through site specific design and layout proposals – supported by the policies identified in the plan. **Minor positive effects** are also expected from the wider provisions of the plan, which includes design stipulations and policies that will work to protect the setting and significance of the historic environment – as well as the inclusion of a specific heritage policy that will protect non-designated heritage features.

Land, soil and water resources

- 9.26 All three allocated sites lie within an area broadly classified as Grade 2 ‘Very Good’ agricultural quality land, and the site under Policy L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) is adjacent to the River Lambourn waterbody. Whilst the site allocated under Policy L14B (Former British Legion site) is brownfield in nature, both the sites allocated under Policies L14A (Land on the Wantage Road) and L14C are greenfield and as such their development would likely result in the loss of higher quality soils. However, both associated site design codes include the need for green infrastructure in the form of a buffer (both policies) and boundary planting (Policy L14A). This will contribute to protecting some of the underlying soil. Additionally, the provisions within the site design code linked to Policy L14C includes considerations for water quality – through ensuring there is appropriate drainage and including a buffer between the site and the River Lambourn. This will help to reduce the potential for surface water runoff into the waterbody, thus reducing potential impacts on water quality.
- 9.27 In terms of the wider Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan policy framework, Policy L6 includes consideration for water resources and quality. It indicates the development proposals will only be supported where they can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the River Lambourn. Furthermore, Policy L6 stipulates that development that will result in a net increase in phosphorus reaching the River Lambourn will need to set out mitigation measures to ensure development is nutrient neutral from the start of its operational phase (also reiterated in Policy L9). In this way, the policy works to ensure the water quality of the River Lambourn is protected – and eutrophication effects linked to increased phosphorus do not occur. Furthermore, designating green spaces under Policy L4 and encouraging planting under Policy L3 will likely contribute to safeguarding underlying soils, which could protect higher quality agricultural quality land.
- 9.28 In conclusion, the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan is anticipated to bring forward **minor negative effects** for the land, soil and water resources SEA theme. This reflects allocating greenfield sites that have the potential to be of higher agricultural quality land, the loss of which cannot be mitigated. It also reflects the wider plan policies, which work to protect underlying soils and water quality.

Landscape

- 9.29 The landscape is a key consideration of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan, given that the neighbourhood area is wholly within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.
- 9.30 All three sites allocated under Policies L14A, L14B and L14C include landscape stipulations in their associated design codes. This includes ensuring visible site boundaries comprise of brick and stone, brick and flint, or natural hedgerows to reduce visual impacts; outlining building height and material requirements to ensure development visually integrates and relates well to the surrounding built environment; and setting out the need for a considerate landscaping scheme. The site design code associated with Policy L14A (Land on the Wantage Road) adds additional stipulations – outlining the need for the planting of a woodland buffer and strengthened boundary planting, and ensuring building heights do not impact long-distance views from within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. This will help to ensure development of the site does not impact upon the character of the National Landscape designation, given it is located adjacent to the Lambourn settlement boundary and within an open landscape area.
- 9.31 The housing development supported under Policy L13 will help to reduce impacts on the landscape by focusing on existing opportunities within the settlement boundary – thus avoiding the undeveloped landscape of the neighbourhood area, green space and public open space, and the buffer to the River Lambourn.
- 9.32 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan makes stipulations for the North Wessex Downs National Landscape through Policy L2. This policy indicates that proposals within the neighbourhood area should preserve the unique character and beauty of the designated landscape, whilst allowing for sustainable development that reflects the settlement heritage and natural environment.
- 9.33 The landscape character and quality of Lambourn is considered through the Lambourn Design Code (Policy L11). This seeks to ensure new development integrates well with the existing natural and built environment, for example through being in keeping with the height of surrounding buildings, using similar building materials to reduce visual impacts, and enhancing the local landscape. This will help to maintain the landscape character and quality of the settlement and the wider neighbourhood area. This is reiterated in Policy L16, which indicates new employment and rural industry development proposals will be supported where opportunities are taken to enhance the local landscape in line with the policies and design code. The same can be said of Policy L17, which seeks to support the growth of the horseracing industry in the neighbourhood area in line with the design code.
- 9.34 The Lambourn Design Code is further linked to Policy L1, which indicates development proposals will need to demonstrate how they preserve or enhance the character of the neighbourhood area, as well as reflect the characteristic and features of the identified seven local landscape character areas. Policy L1 also outlines several considerations proposals should make for the landscape, including preserving important views in and out of the settlement, mitigating harm to landscape character linked to intensification of recreational usage, and enhancing access to and appreciation of the Downland Landscape.

- 9.35 In terms of the wider plan policies, Policy L3 will likely have a landscape benefit through encouraging the protection and expansion of existing green and blue infrastructure. This will contribute to a maintained and enhanced landscape character and quality – for example, by retaining and adding features that contribute to important views (linked to Policy L5). This is reiterated through Policy L4, which designates local green spaces, and Policy L8, which indicates the visibility of installed lighting from the surrounding landscape should be avoided. Not only does this contribute to the maintenance of key views, but it also seeks to protect the character of the neighbourhood area by preventing development that could detract from the landscape.
- 9.36 Policy L6 also includes landscape considerations in safeguarding the River Lambourn. This includes the need for landscape and visual impact assessments along the defined riverside corridor, which will help to ensure development does not result in adverse effects to views and character. Linked to this, Policy L9 seeks to support proposals for sustainable urban drainage systems that contribute to the landscaping of development sites. This will likely provide a landscape benefit by helping to ensure flood management infrastructure integrates well with the surrounding landscape – thus reducing the potential for impacts to character and views.
- 9.37 Whilst significant emphasis is made throughout the plan on maintaining and enhancing landscape character, the proposed greenfield development in a nationally designated landscape area is considered likely to lead to **minor negative effects** overall. The proposed policies should ensure that no significant effects arise.

Transportation

- 9.38 The sites allocated under Policies L14A (Land on the Wantage Road), L14B (Former British Legion site), and L14C (Land at Collingridge Farm) include transportation considerations under their associated site design codes. This includes outlining vehicular access points to the site, establishing pedestrian access points, and establishing car parking requirements. This helps to ensure transportation into and out of the sites is fully considered and incorporated into the development, which should help reduce problems on the local road network (for example, congestion).
- 9.39 Policy L18 is concerned with transportation in the neighbourhood area. It provides accessibility, road safety, and sustainable transport stipulations for new development coming forward in the neighbourhood area, including (but not limited to): providing adequate off road parking on every new development, road safety improvements, greater opportunities for sustainable transport engagement, and safe active transportation options. This should help to ensure the transport network is able to accommodate additional users associated with new development, and reduce the potential for traffic related problems to occur, such as congestion linked to additional vehicles on the road.
- 9.40 In terms of the wider Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan policy framework, Policy L6 includes transport considerations. This includes supporting proposals that improve the quality of and links to public rights of way, which will likely lead to enhanced accessibility to the wider active transportation network. Furthermore, Policy L16 indicates new employment and rural industry development proposals will be encouraged where they are accessible by non-car modes of

transportation, do not lead to significant traffic generation, ensure steady traffic flows, and provide ample parking. This benefits transportation by helping to ensure existing connectivity is maintained through development and avoids exacerbation of traffic problems in the neighbourhood area – such as congestion linked to traffic passing parked cars on the street.

- 9.41 Furthermore, Policy L11 indicates that measures included in the Lambourn Design Code will need to be incorporated into the design of development in the neighbourhood area. This includes transportation provisions, such as ensuring development densities increase public transportation uptake wherever possible, and cycle storage facilities connect to the public transport network. This should benefit transportation in the neighbourhood area by promoting active and sustainable travel methods.
- 9.42 Overall, the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes low growth with a focus on promoting active and sustainable transport uptake, through both the site allocations and the wider policy framework. This should help to reduce private vehicle usage in the neighbourhood area associated with new development, which in turn should reduce the occurrence of traffic related issues and improve road safety. As such, **broadly neutral effects** (no significant deviations from the baseline) are considered most likely through the plan.

10. Conclusions and recommendations

- 10.1 In conclusion, **minor positive effects** are considered likely for biodiversity and geodiversity through the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan. This reflects the provisions of site allocations, which seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity value and connectivity, and the wider planning policy framework which focuses on bringing forward additional green and blue infrastructure and protecting existing features that contribute to biodiversity in the neighbourhood area.
- 10.2 **Minor positive effects** are also concluded most likely for climate change and flood risk, given the focus of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan on mitigation and adaptation measures within the site allocations themselves and the wider policy framework. This demonstrates a proactive approach to the climate crisis.
- 10.3 **Significant positive effects** are concluded for community wellbeing. This reflects the allocation of sites to meet the identified housing need within Lambourn, and the wider focus of the policy framework on fostering a supportive and resilient community.
- 10.4 **Minor negative effects** are concluded most likely for the historic environment given the site allocations in the plan which will need to be mitigated through site specific design and layout proposals – supported by the policies identified in the plan. **Minor positive effects** are also expected from the wider provisions of the plan, which includes design stipulations and policies that will work to protect the setting and significance of the historic environment – as well as the inclusion of a specific heritage policy that will protect non-designated heritage features.
- 10.5 The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan is anticipated to bring forward **minor negative effects** for land, soil and water resources. This reflects allocating greenfield sites that have the potential to be of higher agricultural quality land, the loss of which cannot be mitigated. It also reflects the wider plan policies, which work to protect underlying soils and water quality through implementing drainage solutions and supporting increased green and blue infrastructure provision.
- 10.6 Whilst significant emphasis is made throughout the plan on maintaining and enhancing landscape character, the proposed greenfield development in a nationally designated landscape area is considered likely to lead to **minor negative effects** with regards to landscape. The proposed policies should ensure that no significant effects arise.
- 10.7 Finally, **broadly neutral effects** are concluded likely for transportation. The Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes low growth with a focus on promoting active and sustainable transport uptake, through both the site allocations and the wider policy framework. This should help to reduce private vehicle usage in the neighbourhood area associated with new development, which in turn should reduce the occurrence of traffic related issues and improve road safety. As such, no significant deviations from the baseline are expected.

10.8 At this time, no recommendations are made for the policies in the Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Part 3: What are the next steps?

11. Next steps and monitoring

11.1 This part of the report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of plan-making and SEA.

Next steps

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

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

11.4 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 local planning policy.

11.5 If the Independent Examination is favourable, the Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum, organised by West Berkshire Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will be 'made'. Once made, the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for Lambourn.

Monitoring

11.6 The SEA regulations require 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring' to be outlined in this report. This refers to the monitoring of likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan to identify any unforeseen effects early and take remedial action as appropriate.

11.7 It is anticipated that monitoring of effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken by West Berkshire Council as part of the process of preparing its Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). No significant negative effects are considered likely in the implementation of the Lambourn NP that would warrant more stringent monitoring over and above that already undertaken by West Berkshire Council.

Appendix A Regulatory Requirements

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

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

Report section	Questions answered	Regulatory requirement met
Introduction	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 scope of the SEA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Key environmental problems/ issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e., provide a 'framework' for) assessment.
Part 1	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 the alternatives assessment/ a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the Plan.
Part 2	What are the SEA findings at this current stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the Plan. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan.
Part 3	What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of the monitoring measures envisaged.

Table AA.2 Questions answered by this Environmental Report, in-line with regulatory requirements

<u>Schedule 2</u>	<u>Interpretation of Schedule 2</u>	
<i>The report must include...</i>	<i>The report must include...</i>	
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - <i>What's the plan seeking to achieve?</i>
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'context'?</i>
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;		
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'baseline'?</i>
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - <i>What are the key issues & objectives?</i>
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal	
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information	An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach')	i.e. answer - <i>What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?</i> [Part 1 of the Report]
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.	The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.	
	The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - <i>What are the assessment findings at this current stage?</i> [Part 2 of the Report]
	The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan	
	A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - <i>What happens next?</i> [Part 3 of the Report]

Table AA.3 ‘Checklist’ of how (throughout the SEA process) and where (within this report) regulatory requirements have been, are and will be met

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how the requirement is met
Schedule 2 requirements:	
1. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Chapter 2 (‘What is the plan seeking to achieve’) presents this information.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	These matters have been considered in detail through scoping work, which has involved dedicated consultation on a Scoping Report. The ‘SEA framework’ – the outcome of scoping – is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA?’). More detailed messages, established through a context and baseline review are also presented in Appendix B of this Environmental Report.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	
5. The environmental protection objectives established at international, national, or community level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	The SEA framework is presented within Chapter 3 (‘What is the scope of the SEA’). Also, Appendix B presents key messages from the context review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regards to explaining “how...considerations have been taken into account”, Chapter 7 explains the Steering Group’s ‘reasons for supporting the preferred approach’, i.e., explains how/ why the preferred approach is justified in light of alternatives appraisal.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: these effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium-, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects).	Chapter 6 presents alternatives appraisal findings (in relation to housing growth, which is a ‘stand-out’ plan policy area). Chapters 9 presents an appraisal of the plan. With regards to assessment methodology, Chapter 8 explains the role of the SEA framework/scope, and the need to consider the potential for various effect characteristics/ dimensions, e.g., timescale.
7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	The assessment highlights certain tensions between competing objectives, which might potentially be actioned by the Examiner, when finalising the plan.

Regulatory requirement	Discussion of how the requirement is met
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapters 4 and 5 deal with 'Reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with', in that there is an explanation of the reasons for focusing on particular issues and options. Also, Chapter 7 explains the Parish Council's 'reasons for selecting the preferred option' (in-light of alternatives assessment).
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	Chapter 11 presents measures envisaged concerning monitoring.
10. A Non-Technical Summary of the information provided under the above headings.	A Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is provided at the start of the report.
The SA Report must be published alongside the Draft Plan, in accordance with the following regulations: Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the Draft Plan or programme and the accompanying SA Report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1 and 6.2).	At the current time, this Environmental Report is published alongside the 'pre-submission' version of the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to informing Regulation 14 consultation.
The SA Report must be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the Plan. The SA Report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6, and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7, shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.	Assessment findings presented within this Environmental Report, and consultation responses received, have been fed back to the Steering Group and have informed plan finalisation.

Appendix B SEA Scoping

Introduction

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

Additionally, this appendix presents a summary of responses received as part of the scoping consultation, followed by the SEA Framework.

Air quality

- The two AQMAs in Wiltshire, as well as the two West Berkshire AQMAs are far removed from the neighbourhood plan area. The closest AQMA in relation to the neighbourhood plan area is the Marlborough AQMA, located approximately 18.5km southwest in Wiltshire.
- Given the distance of the neighbourhood plan area from AQMAs, and that the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to deliver a significant level of development, the potential for the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan to lead to significant negative effects in relation to air quality is negligible. **In combination with the fact that no air quality exceedances have been recorded within the neighbourhood plan area, this theme is SCOPED OUT of the SEA..**

Biodiversity

- The LNP should seek to protect internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity sites within and surrounding the neighbourhood area, utilising opportunities for biodiversity net-gain to recover these designations where necessary.
- There are areas within the Lambourn neighbourhood area that present an opportunity to enhance biodiversity value and connectivity. The LNP should take advantage of these opportunities where possible to secure biodiversity net-gain in line with national policy.
- The LNP presents an opportunity to improve biodiversity and geological quality in the neighbourhood area by encouraging development to incorporate biodiversity net-gain techniques and features. Furthermore, the LNP could encourage the creation and / or recovery of habitats in identified Network Enhancement Zones and Network Expansion Zones, which will bring biodiversity benefits to the neighbourhood area and within its setting.

Climate change

- It is likely CO₂ emissions originating from the neighbourhood area will increase as the population grows. It will be important for new development to adopt best building practices to limit the increase in emissions, such as using sustainable materials and incorporating renewable energy infrastructure.
- CO₂ emissions associated with the transport sector remain higher than other sectors in West Berkshire. This highlights the importance of

accessible development and the delivery of sustainable transport infrastructure. The LNP can seek to address this locally, particularly by strengthening active travel routes and opportunities to increase self-containment.

Community Wellbeing

- Only 32.8% of households in the neighbourhood area are owned, and a high proportion of shared ownership households. The LNP should seek to support the provision of affordable and principle residence housing so that Lambourn continues to be a place where people of all ages can live and work.
- The neighbourhood area experiences high levels of deprivation with regards to the barriers to housing and services deprivation domain. The LNP presents an opportunity to reduce this type of deprivation by supporting housing development in accessible locations, and setting requirements for the type and tenure to meet local needs.
- New housing development in the neighbourhood area has the potential to increase pressure on existing community infrastructure. This could lead to negative impacts in the longer term, particularly in relation to health services given existing capacity constraints.

Historic environment

- The numerous historic environment assets in the neighbourhood area present a constraint to future development within the neighbourhood area. The LNP can help overcome this by ensuring any development that comes forward during the plan period is sensitive to the historic setting of the neighbourhood in terms of design and layout.
- The lack of CAAs and management plans for the multiple conservation areas present a gap in the evidence base, Lambourn Council should seek to work with West Berkshire to develop the evidence base in this respect.
- The neighbourhood area has a unique heritage that is represented by its former land uses. Encouraging opportunities to preserve this heritage through the LNP should be taken where appropriate, which will allow for the historic environment to continue to contribute to Lambourn's unique character.
- The LNP also presents a unique opportunity to support assets on the Heritage at Risk Register 2023. Ensuring efforts are made to improve the condition of these features will help to reduce their likelihood of total loss / destruction and will improve the wider historic landscape of the neighbourhood area. It could also help to improve heritage interpretation and understanding in the neighbourhood area – which will benefit other historic environment features.

Land, soil and water resources

- Allocating land for development could influence changes to land, soil and water resources. It will be important for development to be focused away from BMV land, as well as Grade 2 ALC land and consider potential impacts on the overlapping waterbody catchments and water quality. This

could include implementing mitigation measures to ensure water pollution does not occur throughout the development phases.

- It will be important to address issues with capacity of sewers in the LNP, especially when considering new development.

Landscape

- Due to the location of the neighbourhood area within the North Wessex Downs NL, the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to its setting, and to the aims and objectives of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan.
- There are a number of TPOs in the neighbourhood area, which are important features of the settlements and likely contribute to a number of views. New development through the LNP should avoid visual impacts to and from these TPOs where possible to maintain the character and quality of built up areas in Lambourn.
- It will be important for the Lambourn NP to protect the local landscape, including its coherence and characteristics with regard to its LCAs. This will bring benefits to other SEA themes, including biodiversity and climate change, by maintaining features which support wildlife and natural processes, such as gardens and groups of trees.

Transportation

- Future development in the neighbourhood area has the potential to increase the number of private vehicles on local roads, given the already limited public transportation opportunities and footpaths within the neighbourhood area. This could exacerbate existing traffic and congestion during peak periods and potentially lead to parking issues in the neighbourhood area.
- Car use in the neighbourhood plan area is significantly higher than the district, region, and country. Given the rural nature of the neighbourhood plan area, and limited access to sustainable transport, Lambourn will likely continue the reliance on the private vehicle for travel.
- Sustainable transport in Lambourn is poor, bus services are relatively infrequent, and there are no railway stations located in the vicinity of the Lambourn plan area, and no safe cycle routes identified. Whilst the Lambourn Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity to encourage improvements to current bus services and encourage improvements to the PRow network, this is unlikely to make a significant difference to the modal split and reliance on the private car.

SEA Framework

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance nationally and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites?

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
Climate change and flood risk	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the neighbourhood area and increase resilience to the potential effects of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats as well as priority habitats and species, including ancient woodland? • Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains and support the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of journeys made and reduce the need to travel? • Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources, or reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the neighbourhood area? • Sustainably manage water run-off, and reduce runoff where possible? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?
Community wellbeing	Ensure growth in the neighbourhood area is aligned with the needs of all residents, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, and supporting cohesive and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing? • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including health infrastructure?

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
	inclusive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities? • Facilitate green infrastructure enhancements, including improved access to open space? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing residents?
Historic environment	Protect, conserve, and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the neighbourhood area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings? • Conserve and enhance nationally designated heritage assets? • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historical interest, and their settings? • Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the HER? • Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the neighbourhood area?
Land, soil, and water resources	Ensure the efficient and effective use of land, and protect and enhance water quality, using water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land wherever possible? • Identify and avoid the development of BMV agricultural land? • Support the minimisation, reuse, and recycling of waste? • Avoid any negative impacts on water quality and support improvements to water quality? • Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside proposed development? • Protect waterbodies from pollution? • Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/or water recycling? • Avoid any negative impacts on mineral and waste infrastructure?

SEA theme	SEA objective	Supporting assessment questions
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve waste infrastructure in the area? • Protect and/ or enhance the integrity and setting of North Wessex Downs NL? • Protect and / or enhance local landscape character and quality of place? • Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity, and settlement character? • Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place? • Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the neighbourhood area's rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and active travel opportunities and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the objectives within the West Berkshire Local Transport Plan to encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes? • Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel and enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements? • Improve local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement? • Facilitate working from home to reduce the use of private vehicles to access workplaces outside of the neighbourhood area? • Reduce the impact of the transport sector on climate change? • Improve road safety and reduce pollution from vehicles?