



# Kirdford Neighbourhood Plan - Sustainability Appraisal

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*Final Report*

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# Contents

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<b>SECTION 1</b> .....	<b>4</b>
INTRODUCTION.....	4
KIRDFORD PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.....	4
Consultation.....	6
ISSUES ENCOUNTERED.....	8
Summary of SA Method.....	9
<b>POLICY CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT.....	10
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT.....	11
COUNTY/LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT.....	13
DISTRICT POLICY CONTEXT.....	15
SUMMARY OF KEY POLICY ISSUES.....	18
<b>SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>19</b>
LANDSCAPE.....	19
GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....	19
NATURE CONSERVATION/BIODIVERSITY.....	20
HERITAGE.....	28
MATERIAL ASSETS.....	28
AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE.....	28
WATER.....	29
HUMAN POPULATION.....	30
HEALTH.....	32
EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS.....	33
EDUCATION AND SKILLS.....	33
SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES.....	34
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS</b> .....	<b>36</b>
Site based proposals.....	36
Non site based proposals.....	39
Threats to Barbastelle bats.....	40
<b>SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>41</b>
KIRDFORD NP – DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL.....	41
<b>NEXT STEPS AND MONITORING</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1 – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL</b> .....	<b>45</b>
KIRDFORD SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL– METHOD.....	45
KIRDFORD NP – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL.....	46

## Figures and Tables

Figure 1 - Kirdford Parish Location Map .....	6
Figure 2 - Kirdford Parish, Settlement Area & National Park Map.....	8
Figure 3 - Map of Agricultural Land Classification. ....	20
Figure 4 - Map of Kirdford Parish and environmental features.....	21
Figure 5 - Map of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) .....	23
Figure 6 - Map of Kirdford Parish & Greenaway 2008 Barbastelle flight lines, 50 % distribution kernels. ....	26
Figure 7 - Map of Kirdford Settlement Area, Proposals & Greenaway 2008 Barbastelle flight lines, 50 % distribution kernels. ....	27
Figure 8 - Business starts and closures in Chichester District, 2010 .....	33
Figure 9 - Map of Kirdford Village Settlement Area and Development Proposals.....	37
Figure 10 - Map of Kirdford Village Settlement Area and Development Proposals – Aerial Photo.....	38
Table 1 – Steps in the Neighbourhood Plan Process .....	5
Table 2 - Schedule of Public Consultation Events.....	7
Table 3 - Chichester District Council – relevant planning documents.....	16
Table 4 – SNCl in Kirdford parish. ....	23
Table 5 – Bat species in the Kirdford area. ....	24
Table 6 – Bird species in the Kirdford area and their conservation status. ....	25
Table 7 - Distance to key services .....	28
Table 8 – Common air pollutants, impacts and trends.....	29
Table 9 - Population and households in Kirdford and the wider area.....	30
Table 10 - Percentage homes that are empty, 2008 .....	30
Table 11 - Average (median) value (£) of property sales, 2009.....	31
Table 12 - Domestic energy consumption, 2009, K/watt hours .....	31
Table 13 - Multiple deprivation in households March 2011 (QS119EW) .....	31
Table 14 - General health of the population 2001/2011, percentages.....	32
Table 15 - Benefits claimants as percentage of working age population, August 2010 .....	33
Table 16 - Highest Level of Qualification, 2011.....	34
Table 17 – Summary SWOT analysis for sustainability issues. ....	35
Table 18 - Site-based development proposals for Kirdford .....	36
Table 19 – Non- site based proposals Kirdford .....	39
Table 20 – Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies.....	39
Table 21 – Potential threats to Barbastelle bats in relation to Kirdford draft proposals. ....	40
Table 22 – Summary SA of polices and proposals .....	41

# Section 1

## Introduction

This report documents the Sustainability Appraisal for Kirdford Neighbourhood Plan and in accordance with SEA Regulations and SA Guidance incorporates SEA criteria as part of the wider SA process, which aims to fulfil the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The sustainability appraisal process is designed to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are incorporated into planning policy at all levels. Sustainability appraisal is a requirement of the EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. It is implemented in England through the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004'.

The Government introduced the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012 with the intention of making the planning system less complex, more accessible and to promote sustainable development and its localism agenda. Unlike previous planning law, the NPPF is largely non-directive and leaves flexibility of interpretation by LPAs ((Local Planning Authorities). The NPPF replaces most of the previous Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) but at the time of writing Best Practice guides have not been replaced and this leaves a certain degree of room for interpretation.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 apply to plans that may have significant environmental effects and is usually delivered through a screening assessment which uses the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive. Neighbourhood Plans do not necessarily require Sustainability Appraisals by law. The view of DCLG is that SA is most useful where a) no development plan is in place or b) significant environmental impacts are likely.

Kirdford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has embedded sustainable development considerations from the outset. However, the group wishes to pursue best practice and ensure that sustainability is thoroughly considered in their plan and has therefore commissioned this SA of their Neighbourhood Plan to inform the drafting process.

## Kirdford Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Kirdford Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been developed for the entire parish of Kirdford, a rural area in the County of West Sussex and the district of Chichester. With an area of 20 Km<sup>2</sup> the largest settlement is Kirdford village with approximately 226 households out of the parish total of 458. Kirdford is located between the towns of Petworth (to the south west) and Billingshurst (to the east).

The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by local residents, with the support of the Parish Council which provides a steering group for the Plan. The Plan provides a vision for the

### Sustainable Development

International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future set out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.\*

#### NPPF \*

7. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

\* Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] Page 2, Paragraph 7.

development of the village and parish over the next 15 years and sets out to meet four main objectives to:

- record the existing status and nature of the community, economy and environment;
- set out a Village Design Statement providing a guide for residents, local authorities and developers on the features of the built and natural environment of the village valued by residents;
- identify a 'framework for the future' - a development plan for the community to manage future development of the local area, its facilities, services and environment;
- provide planning policies to facilitate growth and the management of sustainable development in the Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by local residents and collated by a steering group which is part of the Parish Council. The process started in 2010 with research and other work on a community led plan (CLP) which established a vision and objectives for the area which were adopted by the Parish Council. These were then incorporated into a project plan to bring forward a Neighbourhood Plan in line with the regulations.

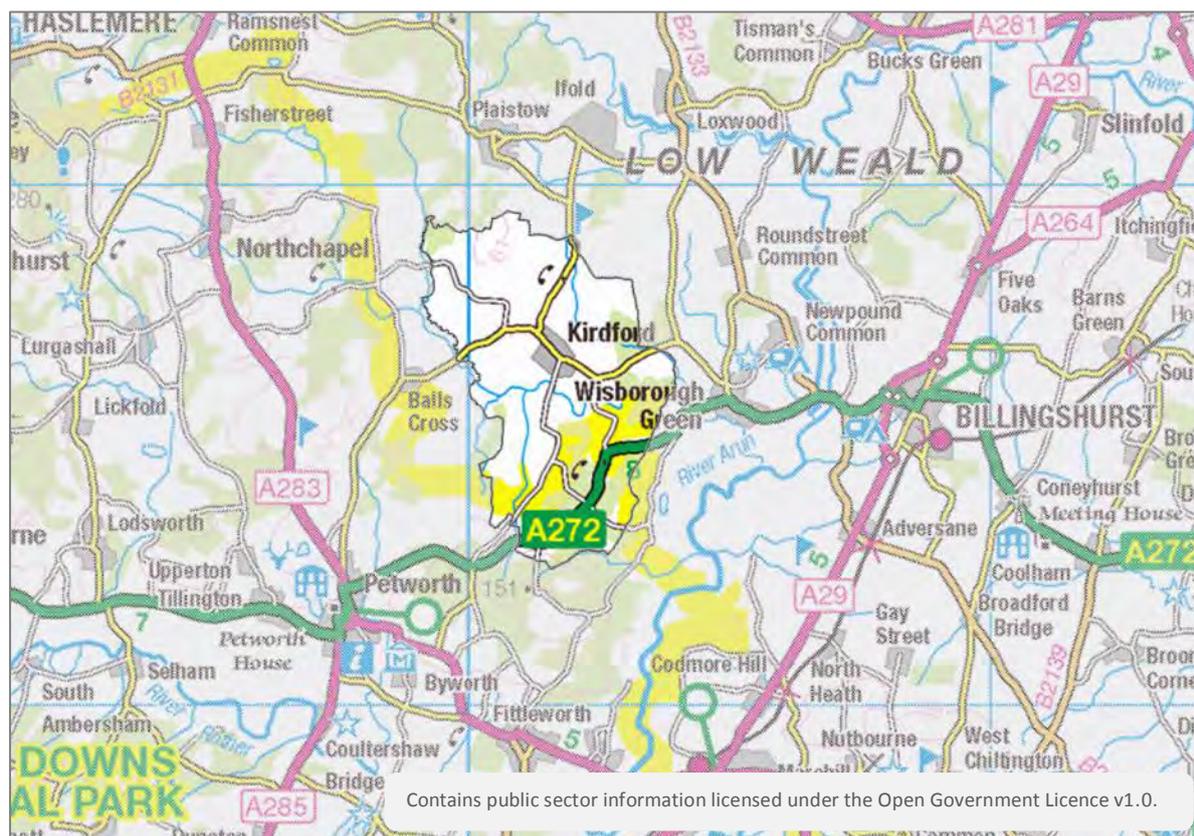
In March 2012 it gained frontrunner status and was designated a Neighbourhood Plan Area by its secondary Local Planning Authority, The South Downs National Park in September 2012. Around 30% of the geographical plan area to the south of the parish is in the National Park. The Parish is within Chichester District and the portion outside the National Park and including the main settlement area is subject to the Chichester District Council as the primary Local Planning Authority. Chichester recognised the Neighbourhood Plan area in October 2012.

**Table 1 – Steps in the Neighbourhood Plan Process**

Step	Description
1	Identifying the issues – 2010-2011
2	Development of the Vision and Objectives – 2011
3	Generating Options and draft Policies– 2011-2012
4	Preparation of a Draft Neighbourhood Plan -2012
5	Consultation and submission – November 2012–February 2013
	The next planned steps are:
6	Examination – April 2013
7	Referendum and Adoption – June 2013

The Plan has included sustainability considerations from the outset and great care has been taken to ensure that the plan has evolved with thorough consultation with the community.

Figure 1 - Kirdford Parish Location Map



## Consultation

The community has become actively engaged in the community planning process through a number of consultations and the development of plans. They wish to influence and manage the development process for the benefit of the parish community and to help achieve more sustainable development in the area, helping to address social, economic and environmental issues together.

The KPNP Steering Group has consistently ensured, from the commencement of the work originally as a Community Led Plan through to the formal NP consultation process, that residents and other stakeholders including local authorities have regularly been consulted and that their comments have been noted and where appropriate incorporated into the plan as it evolved.

Documents have been made available (in draft and subsequent forms) for view and comment on the [www.kirdfordclp.co.uk](http://www.kirdfordclp.co.uk) website. Regular public events and consultations have been held during the various stages of the production of the plan. The KPNP Steering Group has worked to develop up-to-date email lists to inform people about updates. To ensure that residents without internet access were kept informed, copies of the Update were also printed in the monthly Parish magazine. It is estimated that between these two channels 70-80% of households in the parish were kept informed.

Following the decision by Kirdford Parish Council to take the lead in the preparation of the Parish NP, the topic has been a regular agenda item and minute. Parish Council Agenda and Minutes are published on the Parish Council Website [www.kirdfordpc.org.uk](http://www.kirdfordpc.org.uk). Prior to the NP process the CLP Steering Group regularly reported progress to the Parish Council at the council meetings and sought views from councillors and public present.

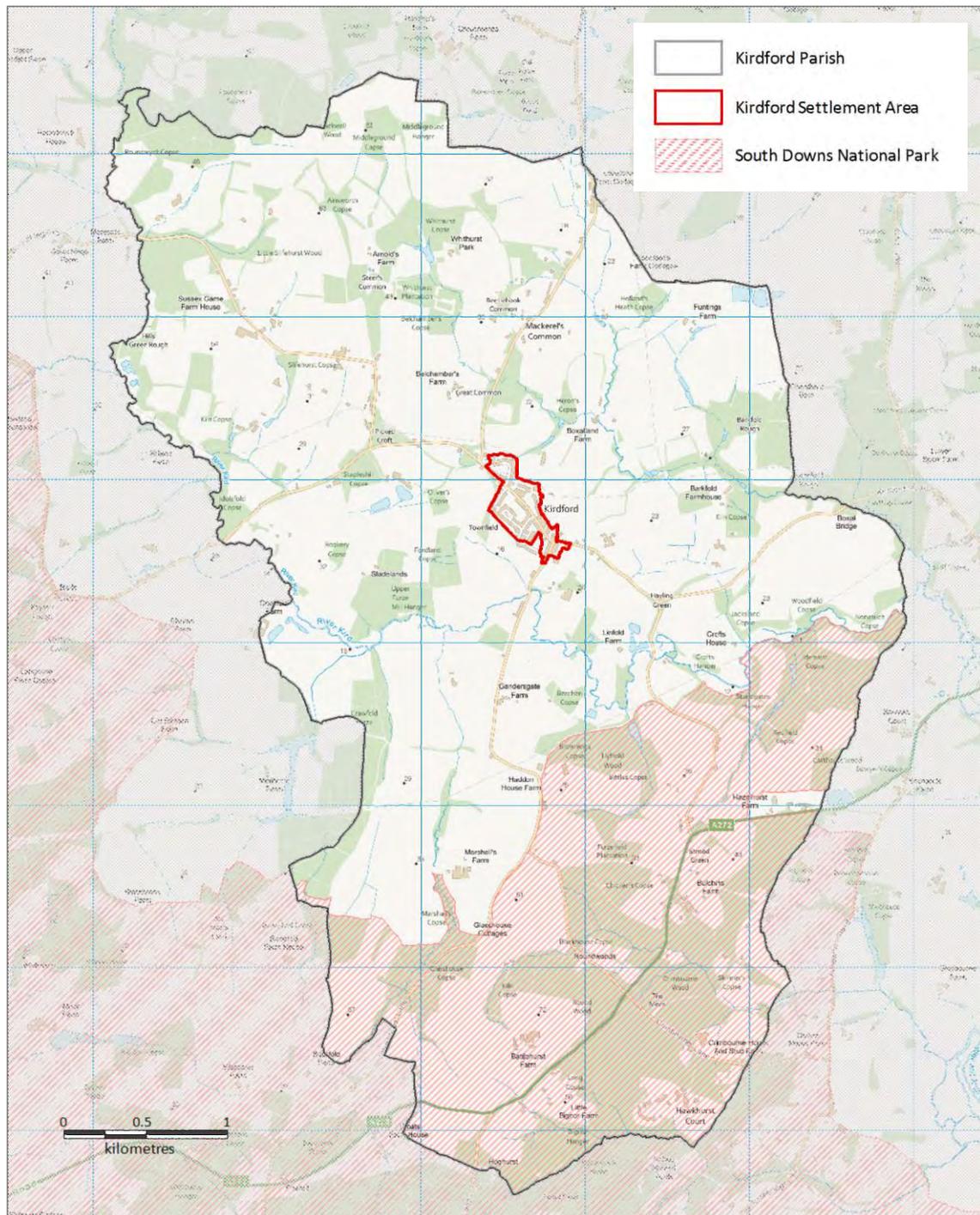
**Table 2 - Schedule of Public Consultation Events**

Date	Event	Location
June-July 2010	Survey	All Households
21st Sept. 2010	Survey Results Presentation	St. John's Church
25th Sept. 2010	Village walkabout (*With the Glass-House)	Village Stores
2nd Oct. 2010	Village walkabout*	Village Stores
12th Oct. 2010	Mapping Kirdford*	Village Hall
19th Oct. 2010	Applying Your Knowledge*	Village Hall
3rd Nov. 2010	Understanding Architecture	Village hall
4th Dec. 2010	Localism Explained	Village Hall
3rd March 2011	Planning System	Village Hall
12th May 2011	NPPF & NP Explained	Village Hall
12th May 2011	Launch VDS (Village Design Statement)	Village Hall
19th June 2012	Conversion of CLP-NP	Village Hall
22nd - 24th Oct. 2012	Prince's Foundation Workshops - validation and consultation, production of options	St. John's Church
16th - 19th Nov. 2012	NP Public Exhibition	Village Hall
Nov. 2012-Feb. 2013	Consultation and submission	<a href="http://www.bankssolutions.co.uk/kirdford">www.bankssolutions.co.uk\kirdford</a>

While the development and consultation of the emerging NP was primarily led by the community and the KPNP Steering Group, the process has been also been assisted by external organisations such as The Glasshouse Charity and The Prince's Foundation who provided reports on their work, published on their own web sites and by KPNP Steering Group.

To support the formal consultation stage of the NP, KPNP established a 'pre-submission consultation and examination document website at [www.bankssolutions.co.uk\kirdford](http://www.bankssolutions.co.uk/kirdford). This site also included the facility to submit comments. The responses to the formal consultation will be reviewed and where appropriate be incorporated in the NP. At the same time, KPNP wrote to the normal formal consultees including statutory agencies, local authorities and neighbouring parishes inviting comment.

Figure 2 - Kirdford Parish, Settlement Area & National Park Map



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## Issues encountered

Kirdford Neighbourhood Plan has included consultation at various stages in its development as described in Table 2. It has also included input from professional groups at different stages too. As with any public consultation process different views and different levels of engagement have been experienced but few significant problems have been encountered.

The District Council (Chichester) has in the past followed a policy of limited/minimum engagement with Neighbourhood Plans which placed some limitation on the feedback received. However, council officers have proved supportive. In contrast, the South Downs

National Park (SDNP) has a policy of supporting NPs and plans to develop its Local Plan from the 'bottom up'.

The KPNP steering group and residents have found these opposing approaches confusing to some extent. Because of CDC's focus on their emerging Local Plan it has sometimes been difficult to keep up-to-date with the District's position and the steering group has relied upon information published on their planning website. The steering group has augmented this by seeking seek independent clarification on process from government support organisations and the Dept. of Communities and Local Government.

### **Summary of SA Method**

The method used for this Sustainability Appraisal of the Neighbourhood Plan includes the following stages:

- setting the context and objectives
- identifying the planning policy context
- relevant baseline information and other plans or programmes
- applying the Sustainability Appraisal Framework with professional expertise and in the context of the previous stages
- commenting on policies and draft development proposals where they have potential impacts highlighting where possible, positive/negative effects (direct and indirect, short and long-term) and providing recommendations for proposed mitigation or enhancement where identified.

# Policy context

This section provides a summary review of the policy context relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan. Starting at the international level and working down in scale this covers the key policies that the Neighbourhood Plan should adhere to or consider. While it is common sense to ensure the Plan and SA reviews these requirements, it is also a requirement of the SEA Directive which states that the Environmental Report should include:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State 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”

Annex 1(a) and (e)

Within this context it is stated in the NPPF that work for Neighbourhood Planning is proportionate with the scale and ambitions of the plan. We have therefore considered a range of relevant policies and plans for this assessment considering international, national, regional (South East England), and local (County and District) plans and policies.

A full policy issue review for West Sussex can be found in Appendix B (25 pages) of the West Sussex Waste Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (October 2012) produced by West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=c69629f7-083c-4614-8ae7-81db61bab5bd&version=-1>

## International Context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>EU Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds Directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC)</b>		
To conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance by the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. This was designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats.	Identifies endangered habitats and species requiring protection and need for re-establishment of denuded biotopes.  Protected areas should be created, maintained and managed.	Plans should take account relevant SPA and SAC sites.  If negative impacts are anticipated appropriate assessments should be undertaken.  Above protecting the integrity and interest of European sites, the NP should consider objectives to protect and if possible, enhance biodiversity.
<b>EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>		
To expand the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve ‘good status’ for all waters by 2015.</li> <li>Water management should be based on river basins and a ‘combined approach’ of emission limit values and quality standards.</li> <li>Water management should include the closer involvement of community.</li> </ul>	Prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, provide protection and improve ecological condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015 (or later subject to specific criteria).</li> <li>meet the requirements of WFD protected areas</li> <li>promote sustainable use of water</li> <li>conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water</li> <li>progressively reduce or phase out pollutants that pose significant threats to the aquatic environment / groundwater</li> <li>help mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts.</li> </ul>	Plan should consider any significant hydrological / hydrogeological factors and ensure integration with existing catchment management plans.  Plan should consider including objectives to protect and enhance water resources, quality and ecological function.

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC).</b>		
Establishes limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide / oxides of nitrogen, particulates. Maintain ambient air quality in areas where it is good and improve it in others.	Sets limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead.	Plan should consider (where relevant) the levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air.  Plan should consider maintaining ambient air quality and including objectives with the aim of reducing air pollution and, where possible, enhancing air quality in respect of key pollutants.

## National and Regional Planning Context

In this section we summarise the most relevant regional and local plans and policies making the assumption that these include the relevant international and national sustainability objectives.

The Planning system is undergoing a period of change following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.

This has heralded significant changes including to the planning and provides a greater emphasis on localism. European Regulations still apply as does much of the legacy planning guidance – until it is revised for the NPPF.

The South East Plan (2009) is still the current Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and forms part of the statutory ‘development plan’ setting out the long term spatial planning framework for the region over the years 2006-2026.

The Government have announced plans to revoke the RSS and the targets included have been removed. The core objectives remain relevant and consultation on the environmental impacts of revocation ran until December 2012. The timetable and process for full revocation is unclear at the moment. While the policy emphasis is changing, the majority of the issues and evidence presented by legacy planning documents remain relevant in policy terms.

The NPPF stresses the importance of sustainability running as a ‘golden thread’ throughout plans and policies. Published guidance March 2012 provides further information on development in areas at risk of flooding. As set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Minerals planning is expected to ensure that plan proposals do not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the natural or historic environment or human health.

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</b>		
<p>Planning should drive and support sustainable economic development. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ secure high quality design and good standard of amenity</li> <li>▪ take account of the different roles of areas, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside</li> <li>▪ support transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking account of flood risk and encourage the reuse of existing resources and encouraging the use of renewable resources.</li> <li>▪ contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</li> <li>▪ encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed.</li> <li>▪ conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.</li> <li>▪ focus significant development in locations which are, or can be made sustainable.</li> </ul>	<p>Supports local and national targets with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).</p> <p>SA Objectives should reflect the core planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF.</p> <p>The Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible</li> <li>▪ contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.</li> </ul>
<b>The Waste (England &amp; Wales) Regulations 2011</b>		
<p>To encourage/ensure waste arises/is dealt with further up the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>Divert waste disposal away from landfill.</p>	<p>Target of 50% of household waste to be recycled.</p>	<p>Plan must have regard to the amended waste hierarchy. Policies and objectives should where possible encourage waste to be re-used, recycled or have value / energy recovery. If possible the Plan should discourage landfilling of waste.</p>
<b>UK Climate Change Act 2008</b>		
<p>The Act introduced a statutory target for reducing carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Target of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 34% by 2020.</p>	<p>Planning can make a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by influencing the location, scale and character of development.</p> <p>The plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions and greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>
<b>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</b>		
<p>Improve the management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses.</p> <p>To protect water supplies.</p>	<p>Local Authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood maps and plans.</p> <p>EA to prepare Local flood risk management strategies.</p>	<p>Plan should take account of flooding and water management issues and strategies and consider the inclusion of policies / objectives to reduce flood risks and other impacts on the water environment.</p>
<b>Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011</b>		
<p>Government-wide plan for action on climate change at domestic and international levels.</p>	<p>Includes a range of sector-based plans and targets for low carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ building</li> <li>▪ transport</li> <li>▪ industry</li> <li>▪ electricity</li> <li>▪ agriculture, land use, forestry and waste.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010</b>		
<p>The Circular sets out the key outcomes that the Government want all those involved to focus on in the next five years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a renewed focus on achieving Park Purposes</li> <li>▪ leading the way in adapting to, and mitigating climate change</li> <li>▪ a diverse and healthy natural environment, enhanced cultural heritage and inspiring lifelong behaviour change towards sustainable living and enjoyment of the countryside</li> <li>▪ foster and maintain vibrant, healthy and productive living and working communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working in partnership to maximise the benefits delivered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Document was prepared under the previous government.	<p>The Plan should support the vision for the South Downs National Park.</p> <p>Key considerations include conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the SDNP and the promotion of opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities by the public.</p>
<b>Mainstreaming sustainable development 2011</b>		
This refreshed vision builds upon the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 SD strategy, recognising the needs of the economy, society and the natural environment, alongside the use of good governance and sound science.	Promises a new set of indicators from Defra that link initiatives and include wellbeing.	Plan should take account of climate change and promote sustainability through sustainable, low carbon and green economic growth.
<b>The South East Biodiversity Strategy (South East England Biodiversity Forum) 2009</b>		
<p>Provides a coherent vision to safeguard and enhance the regions biodiversity and wildlife.</p> <p>Embed a landscape scale approach to restoring whole ecosystems in the working practices and policies of all partners</p> <p>Create the space needed for wildlife to respond to climate change</p> <p>Enable all organisations in the South East to support and improve biodiversity</p>	Provides a framework for the delivery of biodiversity targets through biodiversity opportunity areas and habitat and species targets.	The NP should consider objectives to protect and where possible, enhance biodiversity.

## County/local policy context

West Sussex County Council prepares statutory land use plans for waste and minerals policy and non-statutory guidance on Landscape Character Assessment. While the Structure Plan for the period 2001-2016 no longer has formal status, the County Council state that it still provides 'the strategic context for the our views on land use and transport.'

West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have produced a Proposed Submission Draft Waste Local Plan which covers the period to 2031 and will become the most up-to-date statement of the Authorities' land-use planning policy for waste. The consultation on this ran until 11/01/2013. The draft plan was based upon an evidence base report the Waste Plan Background Document 2012.

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/idoc.ashx?docid=7f141103-7244-4058-ad10-fcd1d4350e74&version=-1>

A key element of the plan is the aspiration to become a zero-waste-to-landfill county and the vision for the Plan is to ensure that communities, the environment, economy and special character of West Sussex are protected.

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026</b>		
<p>To improve quality of life for the people of West Sussex via four key strategies to maintain, manage and invest in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ promoting economic growth</li> <li>▪ tackling climate change</li> <li>▪ providing access to services, employment &amp; housing</li> <li>▪ improving safety, security &amp; health</li> </ul>	<p>Indicators include: congestion, mode of travel to work and school, cycling trips, accessibility, road traffic accidents, road and footway maintenance, street lighting, highway structures, road flooding, air quality and transport emissions.</p>	<p>The Plan should consider policies / objectives which contribute to transport sustainability. This should go beyond reducing carbon emissions to include economic growth, safety, pollution, traffic reduction and access to services.</p>
<b>West Sussex County Council - Building A Sustainable Future: A strategy for delivering the corporate priority 2012</b>		
<p>This Strategy focuses on four key priority areas that address the main challenges facing West Sussex County Council.</p> <p>The four priorities for action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>▪ adapt to a changing climate</li> <li>▪ use resources efficiently and effectively</li> <li>▪ make sustainability business as usual.</li> </ul>	<p>The Strategy contains information about why these areas are a challenge to the County and sets out actions and 'clear and challenging targets against each priority'.</p>	<p>Plan should consider including objectives / policies to support reductions in carbon emissions, and consider adaptation to a changing climate and the efficient use of resources.</p>
<b>Sustainable Community Strategy for West Sussex 2008 - 2020</b>		
<p>Cross cutting strategy aiming to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ relieve the pressures on the road network</li> <li>▪ explore opportunities for renewable energy</li> <li>▪ integrate water resource requirements in new development</li> <li>▪ reduce carbon footprint</li> <li>▪ improve waste management to reduce waste generation and increase recycling.</li> <li>▪ make best use of innovation and new technology to reduce harmful emissions</li> <li>▪ improve access for all to the natural and historic environment and a range of sporting, leisure, cultural and arts activities.</li> </ul>	<p>No specific targets.</p>	<p>The Plan should consider including policies / objectives that help meet the key objectives.</p>
<b>Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain and, where practicable, enhance the wildlife and habitats that provide the natural character and diversity of Sussex</li> <li>▪ Identify priority habitats and species in Sussex</li> <li>▪ Set realistic and ambitious targets and timescales for priority habitats and species and to monitor progress towards them</li> <li>▪ Raise public awareness and encourage involvement in biodiversity action.</li> </ul>	<p>Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre inventory statistics for species and habitats e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rare Species Inventory</li> <li>▪ Biodiversity Action Plan Species Inventory</li> <li>▪ Pond Inventory.</li> </ul>	<p>Plan should include consider including policies / objectives to: enhance (where possible) the wildlife and habitats that give rise to West Sussex's natural character and diversity.</p>
<b>West Sussex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2010</b>		
<p>The main objective of the SFRA is to provide flood information so that an evidence and risk based sequential approach can be made when making planning decisions in line with Planning Policy Statement 25. It also aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ cover a wide spatial area and look at flood risk today and in the future</li> <li>▪ support sustainability appraisals of the local development frameworks</li> <li>▪ identify further investigations that may be required to assess specific development proposals.</li> </ul>	<p>The assessment investigates flood risk issues for specific sites and makes recommendations.</p>	<p>The Plan should take into account the SFRA's sequential testing guidance and should consider inclusion of objectives related to flood risk.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP & SA
<b>Arun and Western Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)</b>		
<p>Provides a vision for a shared strategy for the sustainable management of water resources within a catchment.</p> <p>Policies for sustainable flood risk management must take into account the likely impacts of climate change, the effects of land use and land management, and deliver multiple benefits for sustainable development.</p> <p>Policy 6 - (Including Kirdford parish) - "Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we will take action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits. This policy will tend to be applied where there may be opportunities in some locations to reduce flood risk locally or more widely in a catchment by storing water or managing run-off. The policy has been applied to an area (where the potential to apply the policy exists), but would only be implemented in specific locations within the area, after more detailed appraisal and consultation."</p>	<p>Provides a preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coastal and fluvial flood frequency</li> <li>▪ Environment Agency annual indicative flood zone updates</li> <li>▪ Environment Agency quarterly indicative flood plain mapping</li> </ul>	<p>Plan should include policies consistent with sustainable flood risk management and:</p> <p>consider inclusion of objectives to reduce the risk of flooding and the impact on society, the economy and the environment and to protect and enhance the historic environment</p>
<b>A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape - West Sussex County Council 2005</b>		
<p>1: ensure high quality new development which contributes to and reinforces landscape character</p> <p>2: conserve and enhance historic landscape character</p> <p>3: ensure the maintenance and renewal of the agricultural landscape</p> <p>4: conserve and enhance semi-natural habitats including securing the future of woodlands, hedgerows and trees as distinctive landscape features</p> <p>5: promote and celebrate the value and variety of the West Sussex landscape.</p>		<p>Plan should be consistent with supporting the objectives in the strategy.</p>

## District Policy Context

Kirdford is within Chichester District but falls under two planning jurisdictions – Chichester District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

### Chichester

Chichester District Council is preparing its Local Plan Core Strategy, which will cover the entire district excluding the area within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). Until this strategy is adopted policies 'saved' from the District Local Plan First Review (adopted April 1999) make up the Development Plan.

*The Development Plan is the "saved" policies of the Chichester District Local Plan First Review, adopted in 1999 and the South East Plan 2006-2026. The 'saved' policies will be replaced over the next few years by the emerging Chichester District Local Plan.*

The Development Plan also includes 'saved policies' from the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan.

A number of 'Interim Statements' have been agreed by the Council to "provide policy guidance in areas where the Local Plan is markedly out-of-date and while the Core Strategy is being progressed. It is intended that the Interim Statements will apply unless circumstances change or until the saved Local plan policies are replaced by adopted Development Plan Documents." <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5080>

The weight given to policies from the plans above will depend upon the degree to which they conform to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which in the event of any conflict will take precedence. Chichester is considering gathering further evidence to inform its Local Plan process to ensure compliance with NPPF requirements.

**Table 3 - Chichester District Council – relevant planning documents**

"Saved" Local Plan first review 1999 policies <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5080">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5080</a>
The Council's Interim Policy Statements [as at July 2011] <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Affordable Housing</li><li>▪ Planning and Climate Change</li></ul> <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7647">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7647</a>
Environment Agency Position Statement - August 2010 Wastewater treatment capacity constraints on new development in Chichester City <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5079">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5079</a>
Focus on Strategic Growth Options (FOSGO) document January 2010
Local Plan – Update <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5101">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5101</a>
Annual Monitoring Report 2010 -2011 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5102">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5102</a>
Consultation: housing numbers and locations consultation document Sept. 2011 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18063">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=18063</a>
Focus on strategic growth options consultation Jan. 2010 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7650">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7650</a>
Housing Land Availability Assessment March 2010 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8215">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=8215</a>
Publication of Chichester District Council Five Year Housing Land Supply (2012-2017)
Update July 2012 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7664">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7664</a>
Interim Statements <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7647">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=7647</a>
Local Development Scheme <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5088">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5088</a>
Local Housing Requirements Study <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16765">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16765</a>
Statement of Community Involvement <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5086">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5086</a>
Studies and research provides details of WSCC Housing market assessment 2009 <a href="http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5085">http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5085</a>

## Housing

As the local planning authority, Chichester District Council is responsible for setting targets for house building. With the imminent/likely revocation of the South East Plan there is some uncertainty over the numbers the district will be required to deliver. The district carried out a consultation on housing numbers and locations to seek the views of the community on options for the district (excluding the South Downs National Park) period to 2028. (Comments received on the consultation can be seen here <http://chichester-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>).

Taking a technical consultancy report<sup>1</sup> and other background studies, Chichester DC provided options on housing locations and numbers.

Kirdford Parish is located in the area described as the North of the District (excluding the National Park). This area also includes the villages of Camelsdale, Hammer, Ifold, Loxwood, Plaistow and Wisborough Green. ([http://chichester-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/cs/housing\\_numbers\\_and\\_locations?pointId=s1306332902696#section-s1306332902696](http://chichester-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/cs/housing_numbers_and_locations?pointId=s1306332902696#section-s1306332902696)).

The consultation document states:

6.17 In the North of the District (excluding the National Park), the overall targets under consideration for new housing are relatively low. Therefore, the Core Strategy will only indicate the overall number of homes to be planned, with specific sites to be identified in later local/neighbourhood plan documents.

The target numbers for the north of the district were as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> DTZ 2011. *Chichester District Local Housing Requirements Study: Final Report*. Report to Chichester District Council & South Downs National Park Authority

<b>Target A 12 homes per year</b>	Requires identification of new sites to accommodate a further 150 homes in addition to current housing permissions. Would result in a decrease in new housing development – around 25% lower than in recent years.
<b>Target B 16 homes per year</b>	Requires identification of new sites to accommodate a further 240 homes in addition to current housing permissions. Would result in housing development at a similar rate to recent years.
<b>Target C 20 homes per year</b>	Requires identification of new sites to accommodate a further 330 homes in addition to current housing permissions. Would require a slight increase in new housing development – around 25% higher than in recent years.

([http://chichester-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/cs/housing\\_numbers\\_and\\_locations?pointId=s1306145318819#section-s1306145318819](http://chichester-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/cs/housing_numbers_and_locations?pointId=s1306145318819#section-s1306145318819))

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Chichester District 2009-2026 provides further strategic priorities and objectives for the emerging CDC Local Plan and these can be summarised as follows:

#### **Economy**

- A strong local economy where businesses can thrive and grow
- Employees with good skills relevant to local employers
- District becomes known as a centre for creative and innovative industries building on a fine arts and heritage base.

#### **Environment**

- Managing a changing environment
- Greener living
- Environmental resources

#### **Health and Wellbeing**

- Reduction in health inequalities
- Encourage healthy and active lifestyles for all
- A culturally enriched and empowered community
- Services for older people
- Accessible health and wellbeing services in rural areas
- Health protection

#### **Housing and Neighbourhoods**

- Increased housing supply
- Vibrant, safe and clean neighbourhoods
- Housing fit for purpose
- Understanding and meeting community needs

#### **Transport and Access**

- Traffic management improvements to reduce congestion
- Improved cycling networks and strong links to public transport to ensure cycling is a viable alternative to car use.
- A decrease in the numbers of road traffic collisions
- Easier access to services at a local level.

## South Downs National Park

In April 2011 the South Downs National Park Authority became the local planning authority for the National Park area and became responsible for preparing a separate LDF covering the entire National Park and including the area within Chichester District – this is the emerging National Park Local Plan.

(<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework>).

The Local Plan will set out how the National Park will develop into the future. It is proposed that the National Park's Local Plan will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2015 and be adopted by June 2016. It will set the planning policy framework for the National Park for the period up to 2035. It is likely to continue to evolve over time to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the National Park.

The revised Local Development Scheme (August 2012) sets out the project plan for the National Park's Local Plan

[http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/263048/Final-LDS-1st-revision-August-2012.pdf](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/263048/Final-LDS-1st-revision-August-2012.pdf)

The Statement of Community Involvement (March 2012) sets out how the National Park Authority will look to engage and consult

<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/statement-of-community-involvement>

## Summary of key policy issues

As has been summarised above there is a plethora of policy and policy-related information of possible relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan. However, despite some of the inherent complexity these documents generally fit within a policy hierarchy from international down to local and stress the same key requirements. The majority stress the key importance of sustainability. Rooted in environmental protection (and enhancement where possible) they stress the key pillars of sustainability as described in the NPPF and these must be acknowledged and met by the Neighbourhood Plan. These can be summarised in the following categories – although each is dependent upon the others:

### **Environment – the need to:**

Protect and enhance all aspects including the natural, built and historic environment. European sites and species should be protected as should those supporting regional and local character. Biodiversity and landscape character should be protected and enhanced while environmental resources are used prudently. Waste should be minimised as should pollution to air and water. Against the background of climate change, plans should look to support the transition to a low carbon economy and help mitigate and adapt to future conditions.

### **Social – the need to:**

Support and develop thriving communities with high quality built environment that help meet the needs of current and future generations. This includes providing access to social and cultural services and supporting health and wellbeing.

### **Economic – the need to:**

Build and enhance a resilient and competitive economy that can support growth and required infrastructure.

These key themes are dependent upon each other to different extents and tensions arise between them. Social and economic objectives require an increase in housing supply and this should be achieved in an appropriate balance with all key objectives to ensure maximum benefit for local communities.

# Sustainability context

This chapter was compiled from a wide range of information sources. Firstly information came from the draft Neighbourhood Plan and associated work conducted to support it. As part of the widespread consultation work to support the plan this has included feedback from a range of consultees. There are also a number of key reports relevant to the environment of the area and some of their key findings have been summarised here – they are referenced through the text, as are various data sources used to provide maps and statistics. This section presents topics relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan and while it seeks to be comprehensive only the key issues are included to keep the document manageable.

## Landscape

Kirdford is a rural parish within the predominantly rural northern part of Chichester district. There is a distinct landscape character of small woodlands, wide grass verges to small lanes and irregular small hills. The landscape is largely characterised by surviving medieval landscape patterns of assart fields and associated wooded hedges which help link wooded areas.

Collectively this gives rise to an intimate landscape with a mixture of shorter and longer sight lines and often a sense of rurality, often missing in the south east of England. The south of the parish is within the South Downs National Park recognising its landscape value and beauty. Other parts of the district are of similar landscape quality retaining many historical features such as medieval field systems and traditional field boundaries.

Paragraph 1.2.21 of the Chichester District Local Plan deals with the area northeast of Petworth and includes Kirdford and Plaistow. The area has its own special protection by planning policy RE5.

Paragraph 1.2.21 says: ‘The north eastern part of the District is an area of special character that deserves protection from insensitive development even though it lies outside the Sussex Downs AONB. It is a predominantly rural area that is characterised by a feeling of remoteness and tranquillity which is rare in the South East. Much of the area is wooded and, generally development is scattered with small villages, mostly of Conservation Area status, tucked away down narrow lanes.

Kirdford is at the centre of the West Weald Landscape Project Area. The project produced *The State of the West Weald’s Natural Environment*<sup>2</sup> which provides a comprehensive review of the nature, extent and condition of environmental assets for the project area. The character of the Kirdford landscape is typical of the rural Low Weald and the adjacent areas designated within the National Park.

## Geology and soils

Kirdford Parish is dominated by the Low Weald Clay formation which gives rise to heavy clay soils. This is crossed by irregular bands of river terrace gravels along the River Kird, which also has alluvial deposits as does the Arun river valley.

The National Soils Map (NSRI 2001<sup>3</sup>) suggests two main soil types are present in the parish:

1. Slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich, loamy and clayey soils - with moderate natural fertility and impeded drainage.
2. Loamy soils with naturally high groundwater - low natural fertility and naturally wet.

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. Published by Natural England<sup>4</sup>, the ALC provides a classification in 5 grades using

<sup>2</sup> Howorth, R & Dormontt, E (2006) *The State of the West Weald’s Natural Environment* West Weald Landscape Project.

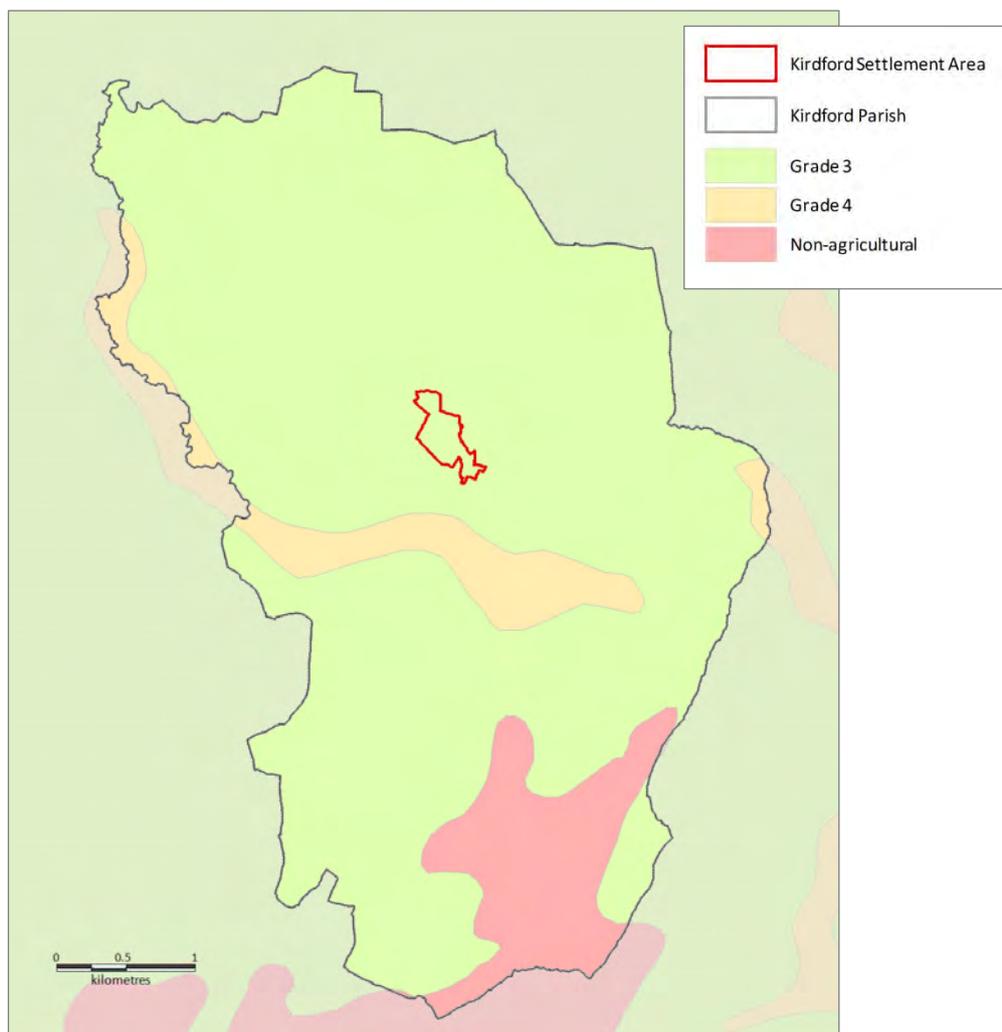
<sup>3</sup> National Soil Resources Institute (2001). National Soil Map. Cranfield University.

<sup>4</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4424325>

a number of criteria including climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief, flood risk) and soil (depth, structure, texture, chemicals, stoniness). The scales ranges from 1 (high quality) to 5 – poorest.

The NPPF (paragraph 112) states that relevant planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality. The ALC for Kirdford is shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3 - Map of Agricultural Land Classification.



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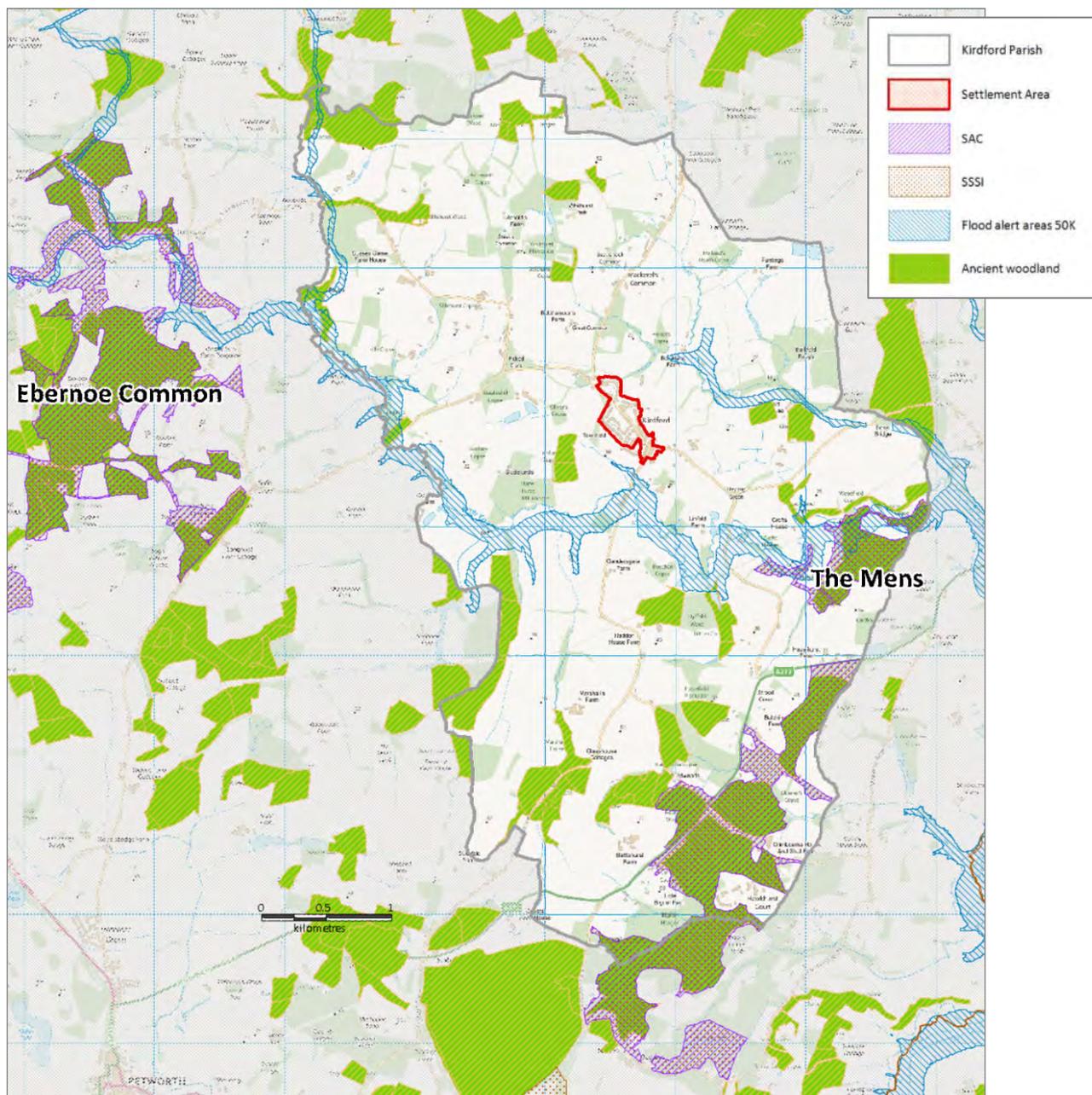
The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the NPPF policy guidance. The published map data do not subdivide Grade 3. The majority of Kirdford is Grade 3 so any specific development proposals should attempt to ascertain if they are within Grade 3a or 3b. The south of the parish is classed as ‘Non-agricultural’ which is described as “‘Soft’ uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: golf courses, private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips”.

### Nature conservation/biodiversity

The rural and relatively unspoilt landscape and the presence of a high proportion of ancient woodland provides the area with a rich conservation and biodiversity resource. The parish area includes one major site of international conservation importance for its

fauna and vegetation; the Mens Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In addition, Ebernoe Common SAC/National Nature Reserve (NNR) lies just to the west of the parish.

Figure 4 - Map of Kirdford Parish and environmental features



Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0.

Figure 4 provides a map of the major environmental features of the area. The Mens is the most significant statutory site (as a SAC this is also a SSSI) representing an important example of old-growth forest and pasture woodland – as does Ebernoe. There is also a significant quantity of ancient woodland in the parish which help provide a matrix of semi-natural habitats. Analysis of the ancient woodland records shows that the majority is ancient semi-natural woodland and only a small proportion is ancient replanted woodland. Between the woodland areas land use is predominantly agricultural and mainly intensive arable agriculture which fragments the landscape and is less wildlife friendly. The SACs, and other habitats in the area, support significant populations of rare species including threatened bats and woodland butterflies. There are also rare and scarce birds, invertebrates and fungi.

Ebernoe and the Mens have been identified by the West Weald Landscape Project as two of four 'Core Forest Areas representing critical 'nodes' of woodland with important species populations, located in different parts of the landscape.

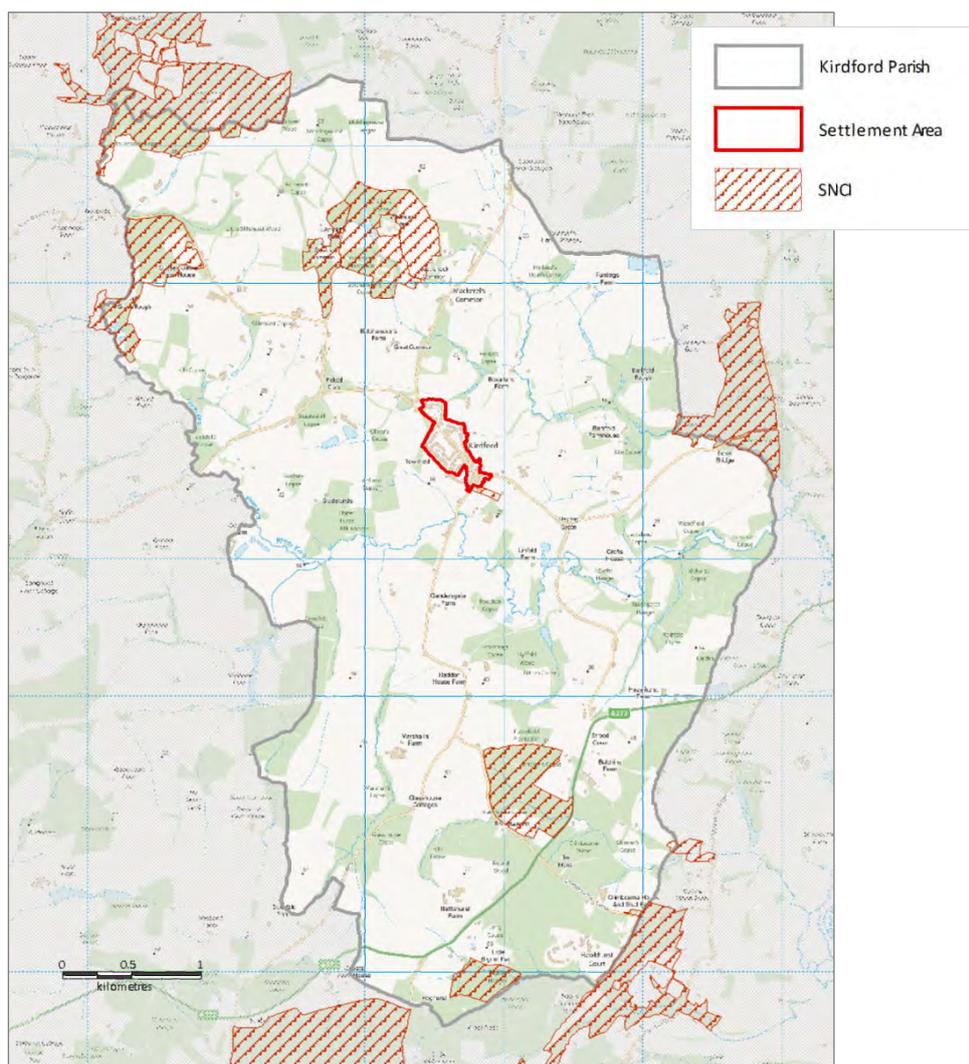
Ebernoe Common includes ancient beech-oak pasture woodland (notable for presence on acid soils) with rich fungi, lichen and bird communities covering an area of 234 ha, Ebernoe Common is one of the most important sites for bats nationally, containing 14 of the UK's 17 species of bats, notably the rare Barbastelle and Bechstein's bats. Ebernoe is complemented by 80 ha of ex-arable farmland at Butcherland Farm to the east that is undergoing natural reversion towards a future forest mosaic. Natural England's assessment of the site's condition rates 93% of the 252 ha site as being in 'Favourable Condition', the remaining 7% is classed as 'Unfavourable recovering'.

The Mens – another Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve, with similar woodland communities as Ebernoe Common, including rich fungi, lichen and bird communities. It is managed according to a minimum intervention regime however, to promote the development of "old growth" forest. Barbastelle bats are also present (as a secondary SAC feature). Natural England's assessment of the site's condition rates 97% of the 204 ha site as being in 'Favourable Condition', the remaining c. 3% is classed as 'Unfavourable declining'.

Both sites include land owned and/or managed mainly by Sussex Wildlife Trust, which in addition to their designation helps ensure their continued conservation. However, these sites and the species they help support cannot be preserved in isolation in the wider landscape and greater habitat connectivity across a more wildlife-friendly and 'permeable' landscape is required to overturn previous losses and to provide conservation in a changing climate.

Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) are non-statutory designations which are identified at a county level. They typically form a network of sites that are recognised to be of local conservation importance and are often of considerable wildlife value due to the special interest of their flora or fauna, but for one reason or another have not been recognised in national designations. Although SNCIs have no statutory protection they need to be considered in the planning process.

Figure 5 - Map of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)



Source: Sussex Biological Records Centre 2012.

Table 4 – SNCIs in Kirdford parish.

SNCI Name	Code	Habitat	Area/ha
Dunhurst & Northup Copses	C42	Semi-natural woodland	40.1
Sparrow Hanger & Roundwyck Copse Complex Woodland & Meadows	C60	Habitat: Semi-natural woodland, streams and neutral grassland	106.8
Steers Common	C61	Semi-natural woodland, scrub, acid & neutral grassland & pond	11.4
Site Name: Badlands Meadows, Badland Hanger & Brickkiln Common Complex	C62	Acid and neutral grassland, stream and semi-natural woodland	44.6
Kymmings Hill Farm meadows & woodland	C50	Neutral grassland, semi-natural woodland & ponds	30.21
Blackhouse Copse complex and meadows	C84	Semi-natural woodland, neutral grassland & stream	29.2
Bignor Hanger	C83	Semi-natural woodland	9.3
Kirdford Churchyard	C118	Unimproved neutral species-rich grassland	0.97
Whithurst Park	C126	Ancient woodland, species-rich grassland, shaws & lake	40.61

Source: Sussex Biological Records Centre 2012.

Traditional orchard is a characteristic habitat in the area and the north of the parish contains small patches of orchard. These are areas of land where fruit (and sometimes nut) trees are cultivated in a low intensity manner. Grassland around the trees was traditionally grazed by livestock. They provide important wildlife habitats because of their continuity of management, the different structure they provide.

## Species

Bats are perhaps the most important species present in Kirdford, the area is exceptional for the number of species and their rarity (see Table 5). While bats are highly protected in law, they are vulnerable to changes in habitat (where they live, breed and feed) which affect their survival. Barbastelle bats roost in Ebernoe common and ‘commute’ down the river Kird corridor and associated wood and hedge lines. Radio tagging studies have revealed they travel as far Kirdford village on foraging flights. There is another Barbastelle population in the Mens, these bats forage to the east seeking the Arun floodplain. Due to the importance and complexity of the Barbastelle ecology, this has been looked at in a separate report for the Sustainability Appraisal<sup>5</sup>.

**Table 5 – Bat species in the Kirdford area.**

Common name	Scientific name	Priority Species UK BAP
Bechstein's Bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	BAP
Brandt's Bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	
Brown Long-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	BAP
Common Pipistrelle (45 kHz)	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	
Long-eared sp.	<i>Plecotus</i>	
Natterer's Bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	
Noctule Bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	BAP
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus</i>	
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	
Soprano Pipistrelle (55 kHz)	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	BAP
Western Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	BAP
Whiskered Bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	

Source: Sussex Biological Records Centre 2012.

Barbastelles are perhaps unique in this locality due to the high quality tracking data available, which is not available at the same level for other species. Ebernoe is also important for Bechstein's bats (one of the rarest mammals in Europe). Studies<sup>6</sup> suggest that their average ‘commuting’ distances are far shorter than the Barbastelles at around 0.7km which is likely to confine them to the SAC site and its immediate surroundings – and therefore a significant distance from the Kirdford Settlement Area and the proposed developments in the NP. The biological data report for the Kirdford Village area does not reveal Barbastelle or Bechstein's bat records, however, due to survey methods and limitations this does not rule out their presence and use of the area. The 2008 Greenaway tracking data<sup>7</sup> shows Barbastelle flight lines very close to the village settlement area. The maps in Figure 6 and Figure 7 show the location of tracked bats and also their predicted ranges (using mean control point kernels). However, due to the inevitable limitations of the methods used these maps must be treated as indicative and the potential use of the village area by the bats cannot be ruled out.

<sup>5</sup> Tantram, D. (2012). Kirdford Neighbourhood Plan – Development proposals and Barbastelle bats. Report to Kirdford NPSG & Natural England, Terrafiniti.

<sup>6</sup> Patrick Fitzsimons, P, Hill, D & Greenaway, F. (2002) Patterns of habitat use by female Bechstein's bats (*Myotis bechsteinii*) from a maternity colony in a British woodland.

<sup>7</sup> Greenaway, F (2008). *Barbastelle Bats in the Sussex West Weald 1997-2008*. Report to the West Weald Landscape Partnership.

In light of the important ecological value, rarity and protection of bats there will be a further need for specific development proposals to include further data assessment and survey for bat use and possible impacts at planning application stages to fully conform to NPPF requirements.

The Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species is present in the parish, also indicating the high quality of some of the woodland habitat and they should also be considered with greater rigour in specific developments.

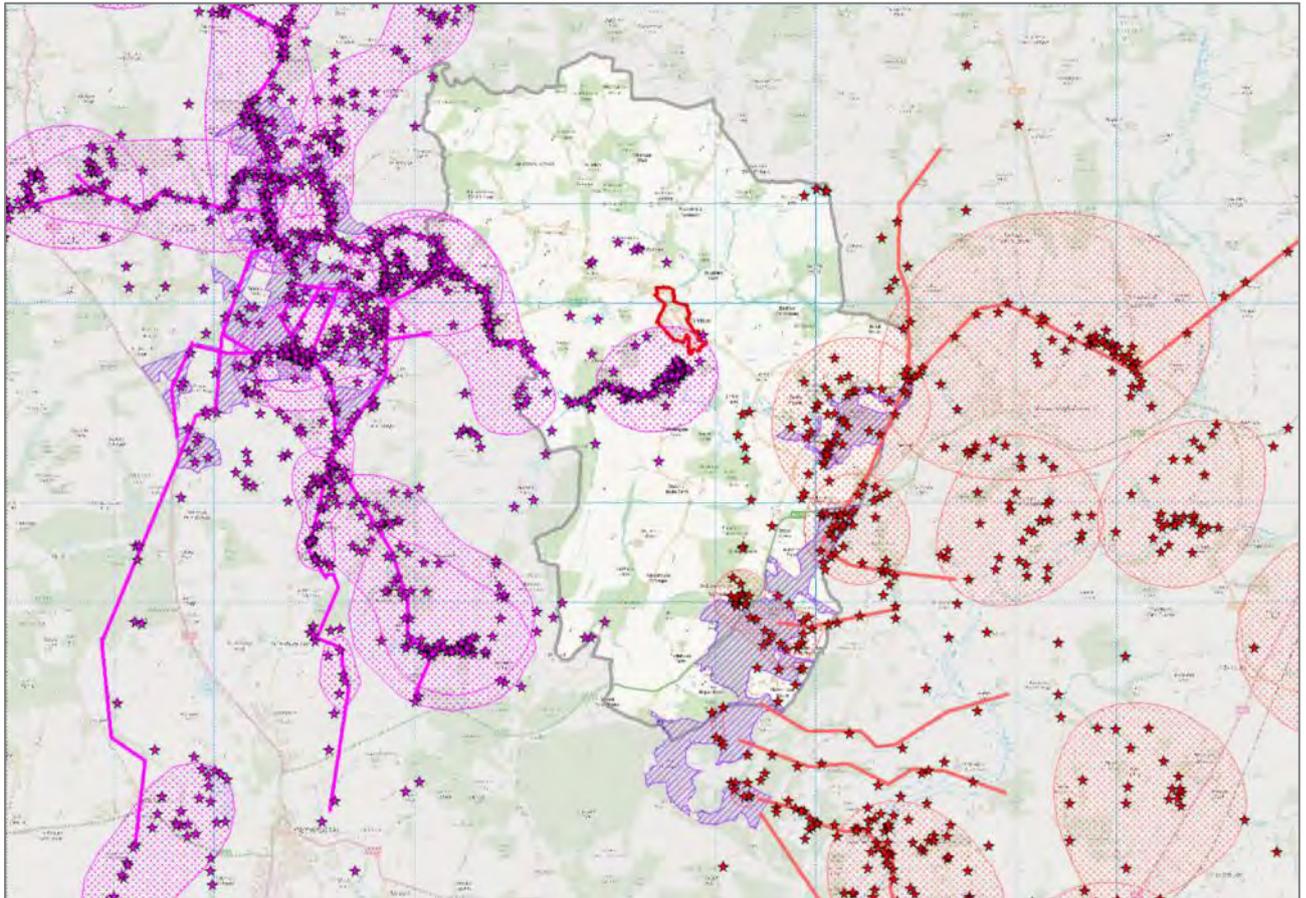
**Table 6 – Bird species in the Kirdford area and their conservation status.**

Species		Parish	Village	Status
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	X		BAP, N, R
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	X	X	A, !
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X	X	A, !
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	X		BAP, R
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	X		BAP, N, R
Dunnock (Hedge Accentor)	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X		BAP, A
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	X	X	R, !
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	X	X	BAP, R
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	X	X	R, !
Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	X		BAP, N, R
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	X		BAP, N, R
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	X		A, !
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	X		BAP, R
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	X		BAP, R
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X		BAP, R
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	X		!
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	X		BAP, R
Common Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	X	X	BAP, A
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	X	X	BAP, N, R
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	X		BAP, N, A

Status key	
<b>I</b>	Schedule 1 Wildlife & Countryside Act
<b>BAP</b>	Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>N</b>	Listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act
<b>R</b>	Red List species, Globally Threatened according to IUCN criteria
<b>A</b>	Amber List species, those with Unfavourable Conservation Status in Europe (Note: there are further bird species in Kirdford with 'only' Amber status not listed here).

Source: Sussex Biological Records Centre 2012. Note: These are key categories of status, others can also apply such as Bern Convention, European Directives and CITES.

Figure 6 - Map of Kirdford Parish & Greenaway 2008 Barbastelle flight lines, 50 % distribution kernels.



Note – In this view the entire ranges are not shown.

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0.

Includes Barbastelle radiotracking data collected by Frank Greenaway, acting on behalf of the West Weald Landscape Partnership and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

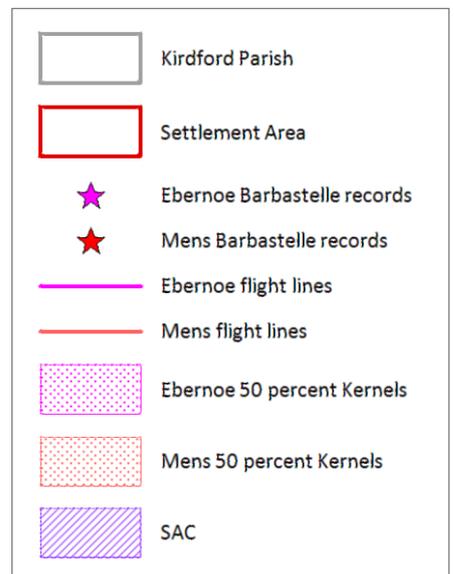
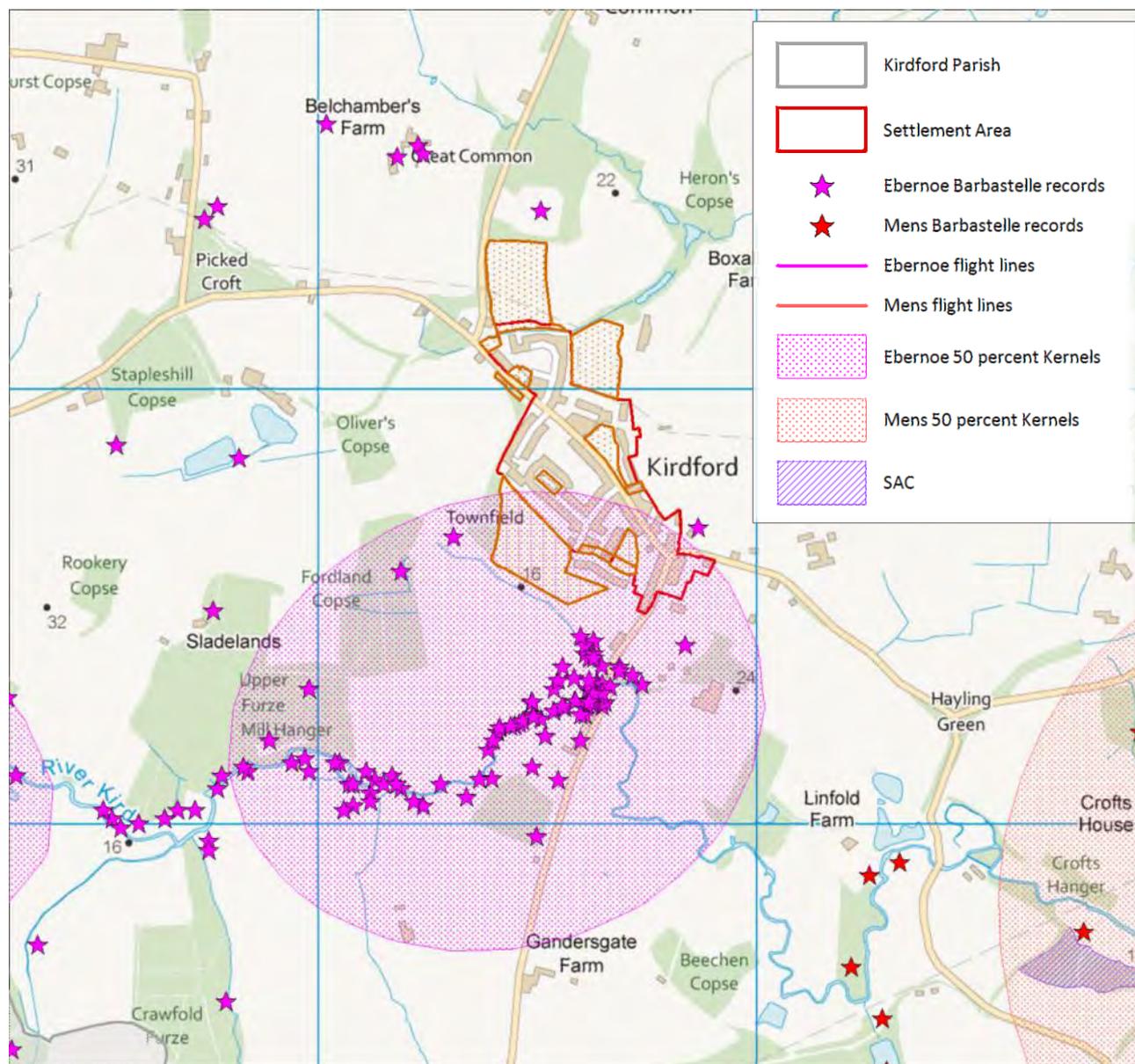


Figure 7 - Map of Kirdford Settlement Area, Proposals & Greenaway 2008 Barbastelle flight lines, 50 % distribution kernels.



Note – In this view the entire ranges are not shown.

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0.

Includes Barbastelle radiotracking data collected by Frank Greenaway, acting on behalf of the West Weald Landscape Partnership and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

All development in the plan area should seek to deliver enhancements to and management of habitats, in order to comply with NPPF Para 109 which indicates that *“The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by .... minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”.*

## Heritage

The parish includes 69 listed buildings of which one (the Parish Church) is grade I and the rest are grade II, 23 of the total are in or near the village settlement area.

The centre of the village is subject to a Conservation area centred on the junction of three 'main' roads in village this contains 21 listed buildings, all except the church being domestic housing. Historic village buildings make use of red or blue brick, handmade clay tiles and characteristically the local winklestone (a type of Wealden greensand)<sup>8</sup>. Timber framing is also used on some buildings as are Horsham stone slates. Some houses date to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and earlier.

There are a large number of 'positive' buildings in the village which contribute to the attractive and varied vernacular character. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal made a number of recommendations relating to the conservation and management of heritage character.

## Material assets

Despite growth over the last twenty years, Kirdford remains a small village. The village settlement area has approximately half of the residences in the parish, two pubs and St. John the Baptist a twelfth century historic church. There is also a village hall, Chapel House, a recreation ground for cricket and football with a small pavilion, a football ground to the north of the village, tennis court and stool ball area.

In 2010 a community owned shop was established and this also provides a café, meeting room, internet access and a photocopying service. This has proved a particular success, providing a focal point for the community, employment for 5 people and winning the Telegraph's Best Village Shop award in 2011.

Public transport comprises a bus service which has seen a reduction of service in recent years and there is currently no regular voluntary/community transport.

The village does not have a mains gas supply. Mains sewage is available to most properties in the village but outlying properties rely upon cess pit disposal.

Chichester District Council provides a weekly waste collection and the village has a recycling point, litter bins/dog bins. A mobile library service visits the village weekly.

The remaining key services are unavailable within the parish. Table 7 below shows key services and their approximate distance.

**Table 7 - Distance to key services**

Service – travel options	Location	Approximate distance/miles
Pre-school/nursery – Only accessible by private transport	Plaistow	4
Primary school – Plaistow requires private transport, Wisborough Green has 2 hourly bus route	Plaistow	3/4
Secondary school – school bus available	Billingshurst	5
Doctor's surgery – Private transport or bus + 1 mile walk	Loxwood, Petworth	5/6
Dental surgery – Bus service with infrequent timetable	Petworth, Billingshurst	5
Post Office - Private transport, Wisborough Green has 2 hourly bus route	Loxwood, Wisborough Green	5
Other shops - Private transport, Wisborough Green has 2 hourly bus route	Loxwood, Wisborough Green	5

Source: Chichester District Council Community Facility Audit (2011, rolling update).

## Air quality and climate

Air quality is important for human health and ecosystem impacts. The major artificial sources of air pollution are road traffic, combustion processes and industrial processes.

<sup>8</sup> Chichester District Council (2010). Kirdford Conservation Area Character Appraisal & Management Proposals.

The air quality in rural West Sussex is generally high due largely to the relative absence of major roads, significant urban areas and industry. The highest emissions of carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are from towns and main roads outside the parish of Kirdford. The key air pollutants are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8 – Common air pollutants, impacts and trends**

Pollutant		Main sources	Main impacts	Trends <sup>9</sup>
Sulphur dioxide	SO <sub>2</sub>	Combustion of solid and petroleum fuels.	Acidification of ecosystems. Human respiratory system.	National decline over last 40 years.
Carbon dioxide	CO <sub>2</sub>	Energy generation, road transport, space heating.	Climate change, mild acidification.	National decline over last 20 years.
Particulate Matter	PM	Diesel fuel combustion, surface erosion, mineral extraction.	Human respiratory system.	National decline over last 40 years.
Nitrogen Oxides	NO <sub>x</sub>	Fuel combustion, road traffic and industry.	NO <sub>2</sub> is toxic and a precursor of ground level ozone formation.	National decline over last 40 years.
Ammonia	NH <sub>3</sub>	Agriculture	Acidification; nitrification and eutrophication of ecosystems. Precursor to secondary particulates – human respiratory.	Slight national decline over last 30 years.
Volatile Organic Compounds	VOC	Combustion products, vapour arising from petrol and solvent use and other sources. Forests – not included in UK statistics.	Human respiratory system and skin, suspected carcinogens.	Total VOC emissions in the UK have fallen 57% between 1990 and 2004.

The State of the West Weald’s Natural Environment report looked at a range of statistical sources and provides a good summary of air quality for the area. It found that CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions were significantly lower in the predominantly rural West Weald area in comparison to the combined area of Waverley and Chichester districts. This reflects the relative absence of the relevant pollution sources.

The climate in West Sussex is mild but apparently changing with increased average temperatures and increased winter rainfall on average. The weather is becoming more unpredictable and periods of rainfall and drought more pronounced. The UK Climate Impacts Programme predicts a more extreme climate for south east England, including hotter drier summers and milder wetter and windier weather in the winter<sup>10</sup>.

## Water

The river Kird flows across the parish and through the southern part of Kirdford village. It has a variable flow into the Arun catchment and is generally of good quality although a slight decline in of chemical water quality (including. increase in nitrates) in recent years is a potential concern. In common with other agricultural landscapes surrounding land use greatly influences the river. More volatile flow regimes and nitrate pollution seem to have resulted from agricultural intensification<sup>11</sup>. The biological quality of the Kird appears to be good and also stable.

There is regular fluvial flooding, including bridges over the Kird to the south of Kirdford village. Some of the possible development options are within the Environment Agency’s Flood Zone 2 and under the NPPF would be subject to the ‘Sequential test’ The Kird is designated as a waterbody under the Water Framework Directive which aims to ensure no deterioration in water quality and achievement of ‘good’ status.

<sup>9</sup> <http://naei.defra.gov.uk/overview/ap-overview>

<sup>10</sup> UKCIP (1999) UK Climate Impacts Programme Rising to the Challenge – Impacts of Climate Change in the South East in the 21st Century.

<sup>11</sup> Howorth, R & Dormontt, E. (2006) The State of the West Weald’s Natural Environment West Weald Landscape Project.

To the north east of the village are a number of ponds and associated wetlands at Heron's Copse which are situated in a wooded area and are likely to be nature conservation value.

River flows and groundwater levels in the south east have been significantly lower than average from 2004-2006 as a result of unusually dry winters although may have been reversed more recently. Groundwater is very important in the south east as it supports over 70% of water supply<sup>12</sup>.

## Human population

It can be difficult to obtain accurate statistics for populations in small areas such as Parishes. The Census provides very good estimates, the latest comprehensive data available are from the 2001 census – at the time of writing (January 2013) the 2011 census data were only just beginning to be released.

Neighbourhood statistics include mid-term updates to the Census but do not report at the Parish level. Statistics are available for 'Lower Layer Super Output Areas' (LSOAs) – geographical statistical units developed by the Office for National Statistics. The relevant LSOA for Kirdford is 'Chichester 002C' which covers a similar area to the Parish of Kirdford but with a slightly larger area and hence population. Some different demographic data are presented here using the best available sources which also include the neighbourhood survey conducted by the Kirdford Parish Neighbourhood Steering Group.

Key statistics for 2011 have just been released at the end of January 2013 and these provide accurate estimates for the parish of Kirdford. These show the population of the Parish in March 2011 was 1063 people living in 433 households, an increase in population of 151 over the last 10 years.

**Table 9 - Population and households in Kirdford and the wider area.**

Variable	Kirdford (Parish) 2001 / 2011	Chichester (District) 2001 / 2011	South East Region 2001 / 2011	England 2001 / 2011
2011 Population: All Usual Residents	912 / 1063	106,450 / 113,794	8,000,645 / 8,634,750	49,138,831 / 53,012,456
Population: Males	455 / 517	50,303 / 54,401	3,905,155 / 4,239,298	23,922,144 / 26,069,148
Population: Females	457 / 546	56,147 / 59,393	4,095,490 / 4,395,452	25,216,687 / 26,943,308
All Households	368 / 433	45,796 / 49,848	3,287,489 / 3,555,463	20,451,427 / 22,063,368

There has been an increase in the number of households of 65 between 2001 and 2011 (17%). This number will reflect the number of new houses built over the decade and also possibly the sub-division of existing properties into multiple households. There has been a broad trend in the increase in population and number of households across the wider district and region but the rate of increase appears to be much higher in Kirdford.

The statistics also provide information on the number of empty homes and these are slightly higher in Kirdford – as are the number of second homes - than the wider region as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10 - Percentage homes that are empty, 2008**

Variable	Chichester 002C	Chichester	England
Percentage of dwellings empty for more than 12 months (not including second homes)	1.4	1.1	1.4
Percentage of all dwellings that are second homes	5.5	5.2	0.9

However, with a total number of households of 433 this does not equate to large numbers of houses lying empty. Another barrier for access to housing is house prices – both in relative and absolute terms. Table 11 shows the median house prices for the area in 2009 and reveals that they consistently exceed the average for the district of

<sup>12</sup> Environment Agency (2006) State of the Environment 2006 – South East England, Southern & Thames Regions.

Chichester for all housing types. Such high prices in the south east have driven a number of demographic changes such as families buying their first house much later in life, delaying starting families and people moving away from their families to seek lower housing costs. Kirdford will clearly be subject to the same pressures, which are also related to the availability of suitable employment opportunities.

**Table 11 - Average (median) value (£) of property sales, 2009**

Variable	Chichester 002C	Chichester	England
All dwellings	425,000	240,000	170,000
Flats	n/a	149,998	150,000
Terraced houses	235,000	210,000	143,500
Semi-detached houses	315,000	225,000	160,000
Detached houses	542,000	355,000	249,995

Source: Neighbourhood Statistics

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/NeighbourhoodProfile.do?a=7&b=6275058&c=RH14+0NQ&g=6473911&i=1001x1012&j=6313300&m=1&p=1&q=1&r=0&s=1359555288724&enc=1&tab=6&inWales=false>

Neighbourhood statistics provides information on household energy use and this reveals some key differences between the Kirdford area and the wider district. The lack of mains gas supply to the village appears to drive up the consumption of electricity and the use of oil for central heating – this is confirmed by the 2011 census data which shows a high level of solid and oil fired central heating. It also shows that 13 households in the Parish do not have any central heating. High levels of energy use reflect a number of factors including the thermal efficiency of heating systems, levels of household insulation and also household income – on average wealthier households consume more energy.

**Table 12 - Domestic energy consumption, 2009, K/watt hours**

Variable	Chichester 002C	Chichester	England
Average consumption of ordinary domestic electricity	6,889	4,393	3,797
Average consumption of economy 7 domestic electricity	9,364	7,473	5,627
Average consumption of domestic gas	0	15,095	15,350

Source: Neighbourhood Statistics

The energy consumption figures suggest that both household energy bills and carbon emissions are relatively high in the Parish.

**Table 13 - Multiple deprivation in households March 2011 (QS119EW)**

Variable	Kirdford	Chichester	South East	England
Percentages	Parish	Non-Metropolitan District	Region	Country
Household is Not Deprived in Any Dimension	50.58	48.57	47.70	42.54
Household is Deprived in 1 Dimension	35.57	33.51	32.23	32.65
Household is Deprived in 2 Dimensions	12.01	14.91	16.02	19.14
Household is Deprived in 3 Dimensions	1.62	2.76	3.65	5.14
Household is Deprived in 4 Dimensions	0.23	0.25	0.39	0.53

Source: ONS Census 2011.

Table 13 shows the number of household subject to none, one of more measures of social/economic deprivation. These data show the general trend that might be expected – that a rural parish in the south east of England has lower than average levels of deprivation. For all variables with the exception of one, deprivation is lower in Kirdford than in Chichester district which in turn lower than the measure for the region. However, for households with 1 dimension of deprivation Kirdford has a higher level of deprivation than Chichester which also rates higher than the region and the national level. Given the

other data available it is likely this arises from the relative lack of local services and the lack of access to services in the area and on most other measures Kirdford (and Chichester) ranks higher than the region or the wider country.

Neighbourhood Statistics confirms this within the ranking scores. All 32,482 neighbourhoods in England have been ranked on a range of deprivation topics. The most deprived neighbourhood in England has a rank of 1. The barriers to housing and services deprivation ranking for Chichester 002C (2010) is 48 showing a very high level of barriers to housing and services deprivation. There are few services within the parish and nearly all key services are only practically accessible by car.

## Health

The general health of the population is shown in Table 14. There have been changes in how the statistics are recorded and reported between 2001 and 2011 making direct comparisons problematic. However it can be seen that Kirdford has maintained its position relative to the wider district and region and that residents have better level of general health.

**Table 14 - General health of the population 2001/2011, percentages**

General Health (UV20) 2001

	Kirdford	Chichester	South East	England
All People	912	106450	8000645	49138831
Good Health	75.1	70.4	71.5	68.8
Fairly Good Health	19.1	22.4	21.4	22.2
Not Good Health	5.8	7.2	7.1	9.0

General Health (QS302EW) 2011

	Kirdford	Chichester	South East	England
All Usual Residents (count)	1063	113794	8634750	53012456
Very Good Health	54.6	47.6	49.0	47.2
Good Health	33.3	34.9	34.6	34.2
Fair Health	9.4	13.1	12.0	13.1
Bad Health	1.9	3.4	3.4	4.2
Very Bad Health	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2

Source: ONS Census 2011.

Life expectancy in Chichester district is above average for England, infant mortality is lower. The numbers of people claiming health related benefits in August 2010 was low at 3% compared to 4% for Chichester district and 7% for England.

Figures for obesity are not available at the local level but those for Chichester District show that while there are slightly higher percentage of overweight children in reception classes, the numbers for obese children in reception and older years are slightly lower than the English average.<sup>13</sup>

The area (Chichester 002C) ranks amongst the less health deprived of English regions at 24,987 out of 32,482

<sup>13</sup> Neighbourhood Statistics -

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/NeighbourhoodProfile.do?a=7&b=6275058&c=RH14+0NQ&g=495895&j=1001x1012x1013&j=6313300&m=1&p=6&q=1&r=0&s=1359559534256&enc=1&tab=3&inWales=false>

## Employment and jobs

Labour market statistics are not available for very small areas but the economic activity rate for Chichester is the same as the English average and the employment rate is 74.9% as opposed to 70.3 (July 2010 – June 2011 – ONS). Information on benefits claims is available for the LSOA (Chichester 002C) and these are shown in Table 15. This shows the relatively strong position of the Kirdford area with relatively low levels of benefit claims.

**Table 15 - Benefits claimants as percentage of working age population, August 2010**

Variable	Chichester 002C	Chichester	England
Any Key Working Age Benefit (16-64, Males; 16-59, Females)	8	10	15
Jobseeker's Allowance	1	2	4
Incapacity Benefits	3	4	7

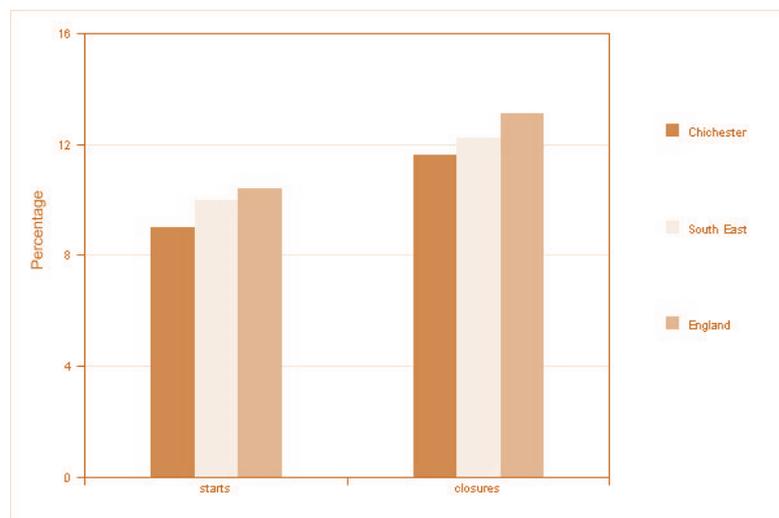
Source: Neighbourhood Statistics:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/NeighbourhoodProfile.do?a=7&b=6275058&c=RH14+0NQ&g=495895&i=1001x1012x1013&j=6313300&m=1&p=3&q=1&r=0&s=1359564867856&enc=1&tab=4&inWales=false>

The Kirdford Parish Survey of 2010 provided information on journeys to work. Around a quarter of people worked from home and another quarter worked within 10 miles of home. A further 50% travelled over ten miles and nearly half of this group travelled substantial distances. The study found that the majority (62%) of people travelled by car and when those travelling by car and train are added the figure increased to 80%. This figure includes 2.8% who car share – but represents a large proportion of commuters dependent upon car use to get to work. As a result, non-car use is low, 2.8% of people used the bus service to travel to work and 0.9% and 6.6% cycle and walk respectively.

The statistics show that the number of business start-ups in Chichester district is below that for the region which itself has a low rate compared to the national rate (Figure 8). The number of business closures is also lower – and shows a similar relationship to the wider areas.

**Figure 8 - Business starts and closures in Chichester District, 2010**



Source: Business 'births' and 'deaths', taken from the ONS Business Demography dataset.

## Education and skills

Statistics for Key Stage attainment levels in education up to age 16 are available for Chichester District but few are available for Kirdford or the relevant LSOA. In general Chichester shows a slightly higher level of attainment than the English average. Table 16 shows that Kirdford residents have higher than average levels of educational attainment

and that the proportion of people with no qualifications at 17.6% is also low in relation to other areas. However, this still represents 149 people.

**Table 16 - Highest Level of Qualification, 2011**

	Kirdford Parish	Chichester District	South East	England
All Residents Aged 16 and Over (count)	849	95161	6992666	42989620
No Qualifications	17.6	19.5	19.1	22.5
Level 1 Qualifications	14.8	11.6	13.5	13.3
Level 2 Qualifications	16.1	15.9	15.9	15.2
Apprenticeship	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.6
Level 3 Qualifications	11.1	12.8	12.8	12.4
Level 4 Qualifications and Above	33.9	32.4	29.9	27.4
Other Qualifications	3.3	4.4	5.2	5.7

Source: Neighbourhood Statistics.

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=11125285&c=kirdford&d=16&e=5&g=6473909&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1359634922657&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2514>

## Summary of key issues

### Landscape

The landscape of Kirdford is historic and distinctive. A third of the parish lies in the South Downs National Park and much of the rest is of an equivalent quality with medieval field patterns, wide bordered country lanes, mature hedges and a high density of woodlands.

### Nature conservation and biodiversity

Kirdford has a rich natural history with many rare and scarce species. It is especially important for its bat and woodland butterfly species. The biodiversity interest appears to be relatively stable, but further habitat restoration and re-connection will be needed to help support and develop a connected and functioning landscape in the face of climate change and other pressures.

### Heritage

Kirdford has a long history and many historic and listed buildings in the village and parish. The village church is a Grade I listed building and the centre of the village is a conservation area in recognition of the number of historic and vernacular buildings.

### Material assets

The parish is relatively poorly endowed with material assets and facilities. While the new community shop has been very successful and has helped rejuvenate community involvement, many services such as schools, medical services and postal services remain accessible largely only by private transport. Public transport is limited to a bus service that is generally considered too infrequent and inflexible to provide a practical alternative to car use by the community.

### Water

River water quality is generally high and the wider region is dependent upon groundwater supply. The River Kird and roadside culverts are prone to flooding especially in the winter which can hamper road use and will provide some limitations to development. However, it also provides potential opportunities for wetland habitat creation/restoration.

### Air quality and climate

As a rural area the air quality of Kirdford appears to be good. The extensive use of motor vehicles means that very localised pollution will occur at times/locations of concentrated traffic. Like the rest of the south east region, climate change will lead to increasingly

volatile weather and more extreme weather events leading to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.

### Population, health and housing

Kirdford's population is increasing more rapidly than in surrounding areas. Health is typically better than both national and regional averages. Housing is an important issue, deprivation measures place the parish as deprived in measures of access to housing. House prices in Kirdford are significantly higher when compared with Chichester and the South East and the community has identified the need to provide more affordable housing for local people and more dedicated places for the elderly as the population ages.

### Economy

The parish has higher than average full time employment with a high percentage of the workforce educated and skilled and working in professional roles. However, there is still a significant proportion of people with no qualifications and access to work relies heavily upon car use.

**Table 17 – Summary SWOT analysis for sustainability issues.**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attractive and historic village environment in rural location.</li> <li>▪ Relatively isolated location.</li> <li>▪ Attractive landscape adjacent to the National Park.</li> <li>▪ High nature conservation value, important scarce and rare species.</li> <li>▪ Informed and organised local community through CLP/NP process and creation of CLT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relatively isolated location.</li> <li>▪ Poor access to housing and services.</li> <li>▪ No mains gas so heating costs high.</li> <li>▪ Transport provision, high level of car use - travel to work and to access services time-consuming and expensive.</li> <li>▪ Seasonal flooding disrupts road access.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Neighbourhood Plan provides a mechanism for managing change and addressing social/sustainability issues.</li> <li>▪ Creation of facilities and services to create local employment/facilitate local working.</li> <li>▪ New house building/development can bring finance for community facilities/projects.</li> <li>▪ Further development of tourism related services capitalising upon the high quality environment and relatively quiet roads.</li> <li>▪ Improve the natural environment through habitat re-creation, re-linking and restoration.</li> <li>▪ Mitigate flooding events through ecological approaches to wetland re-creation.</li> <li>▪ Partnership with adjacent parishes to develop joint facilities and services.</li> <li>▪ Lack of mains gas provides an impetus for considering more sustainable de-centralised community renewable energy systems (domestic energy costs are set to double in 5/6 years, see DECC 2012 forecasts<sup>14</sup>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Higher tax rates on fuel and rising fossil fuel costs will increase cost of living and of accessing key services.</li> <li>▪ Potential future cuts to already minimal public transport.</li> <li>▪ Climate change will likely bring more frequent flooding and need for greater energy use in winter (and possibly summer for cooling).</li> <li>▪ High housing number development targets may drive pressure for out of character/scale development opposed by the community.</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2012-energy-and-emissions-projections>

# Development proposals

The Neighbourhood Planning Process has examined a range of possibilities. As the Community Lead Plan, a comprehensive evaluation of all sites bordering the village (plus some additional sites) was examined and subjected to a SWOT analysis and an overall delivery rating. This work provided the basis for a more targeted set of development options that took account of the major constraints in the village and included the wishes of the local community. After consultation, the Kirdford NP Steering Group welcomed the Princes Foundation to the village to help develop draft development proposals for the Plan. The Princes Foundation held a number of workshops, including presentations from key local authority staff and others to community members and the village community. They used the materials already developed for the plan, together with workshop outputs, site visits and mapping exercises to develop a set of options which were presented at a public meeting at the end of the workshop. These draft proposals provided the basis for the development proposals in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and which were assessed here.

## Site based proposals

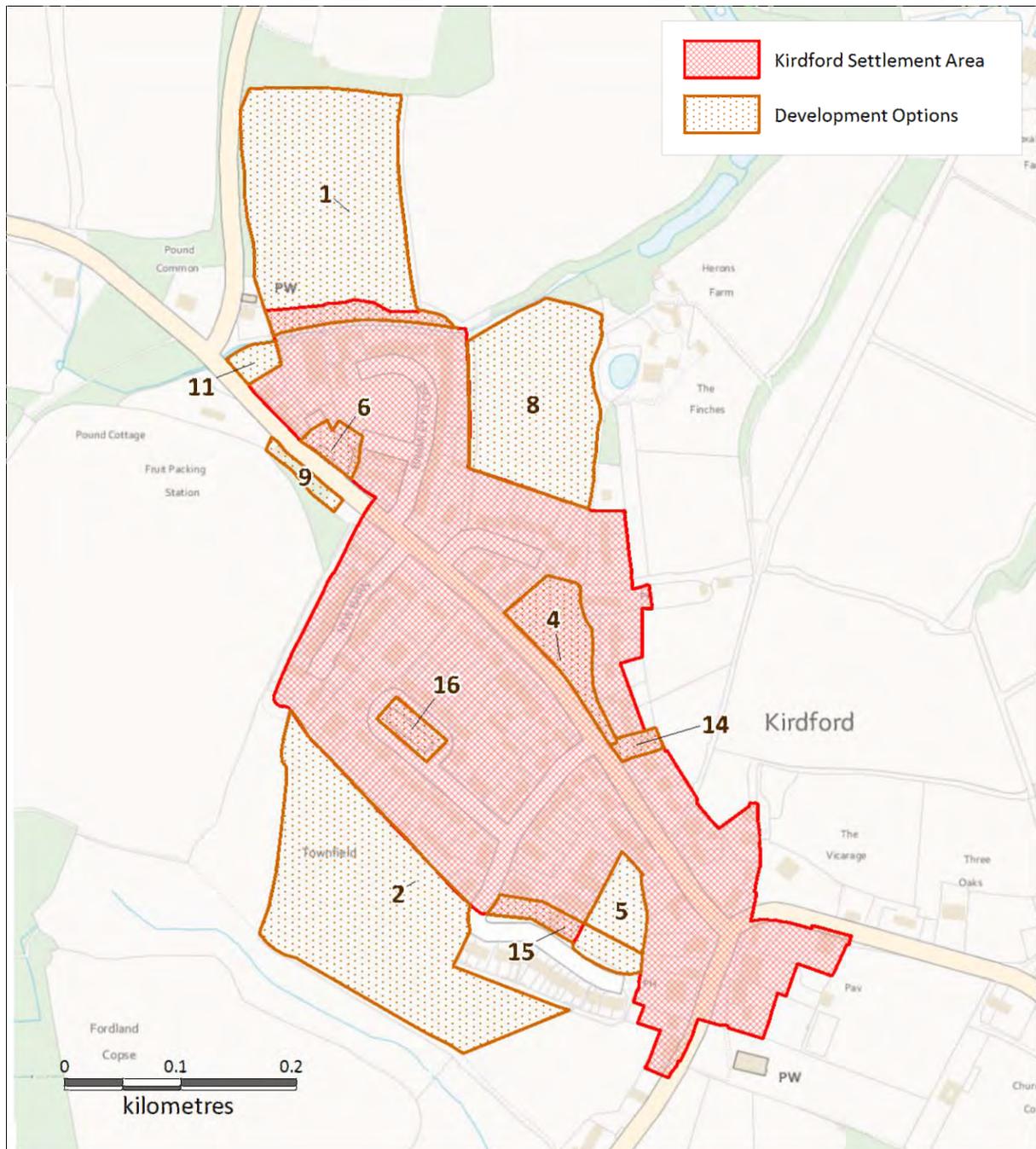
**Table 18 - Site-based development proposals for Kirdford**

# (New #)	Description of proposed development	Current use	CDC Initial SA 2007	CDC SHLAA 2010	Approx area/ha *
<b>1.</b> <b>KSS1</b>	Develop the site to accommodate a mix of circa 45 private Residential and/or Work/ Live Units and some Workspace Units.	Agricultural – pasture.	N/A	KD0839 Developable 11-15 years	2.8
<b>2.</b> <b>KSS2</b>	New single site combined Sports Field below Townfield with new combined sports pavilion/ village hall/ day clinic/ social club plus some extra housing on derelict garage site.	Abandoned agriculture.	N/A	KD0838 Developable 6-10 years	3.1
<b>4.</b>	Village Green Butt's Common - Improved parking and children's playground on Butts Common plus small tourist information kiosk.	Amenity grassland, car parking within village settlement area.	N/A	N/A	0.5
<b>5.</b>	Play areas off school court	Amenity grassland within village settlement area.	N/A	N/A	0.3
<b>6.</b>	Enhance Village Stores as a meeting place. New workshops/retail units opposite the Village Stores and improved parking.	Amenity grassland (external seating to be added). Existing hard standing car parking – to be enhanced.	KD 115	KD0844 Site developed.	0.1
<b>8.</b>	New allotments/community orchard/farm on site East of Bramley Close.	Agricultural – pasture.	KD 116 (Slightly extended to NE)	KD0845 Developable 11-15 years (Slightly extended to NE)	1.7
<b>9.</b>	Provide workshop spaces for local crafts on main road opposite village stores.	Existing small building, grass verge with trees.	KD 113	N/A	0.1
<b>11.</b> <b>KSS3</b>	Develop site at junction Plaistow road for workshop/showroom unit. (PF) Or A small unit of warden assisted elderly units at junction of Village & Plaistow Road.	Land at Brookside. A small wooded 'amenity' site at the north west corner of the village with a stream.	KD 114	KD0843 Likely to fall below SHLAA threshold	0.1
<b>14.</b> <b>KSS4</b>	Develop existing village hall site as residential unit.	1950s built village hall and tarmacked curtilage.	N/A	N/A	0.1
<b>15.</b> <b>KSS5</b>	Enhanced streetscape and extra housing for the elderly & young at Cornwood. Existing properties provided with rear access & garaging/workshops.	Car parking and if new land take – abandoned agricultural.	N/A	Strip at edge of KD0838 Developable 6-10 years	0.3
<b>16.</b>	Provide new/enhanced Townfield Square car parking and landscaping.	Amenity grassland/verge, car parking.	N/A	N/A	0.1

# (New #)	Description of proposed development	Current use	CDC Initial SA 2007	CDC SHLAA 2010	Approx area/ha *
17.	Improve footpath connectivity throughout village and surrounding areas and add a number of bird hides and interpretation boards in key locations.	TBA	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Note that area figures are indicative due to the information and methods used to digitise them – they should be used as a guide and not a definitive figure.

Figure 9 - Map of Kirdford Village Settlement Area and Development Proposals



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Figure 10 - Map of Kirdford Village Settlement Area and Development Proposals – Aerial Photo



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## Non site based proposals

**Table 19 – Non- site based proposals Kirdford**

#	Proposal	Description
3.	Bus on demand initiative	It is proposed that a Bus-on-Demand initiative is sought to be implemented to help reduce the need for residents to use their cars by providing an efficient and sustainable bus service, in particular to encourage elderly residents to remain or become more mobile.
7.	Seek to develop new school facilities in and around Kirdford.	The community of Kirdford will empower its elected representatives to seek opportunities to establish school facilities in and around the village, and to join forces with neighbouring parishes if necessary to achieve this goal.
10.	Kirdford marketing strategy	A Marketing Strategy for Kirdford's Businesses and Tourism Assets will be developed and will be a live document responding to the changing trends and economic circumstances of the region and country as a whole.
12.	Develop a Kirdford/Kirdford area footpath map and way finding scheme.	The map will be reproduced in several key points in the village and throughout the Parish area in large sign form, sensitively designed as an attractive addition to the rural and built environments. New fingerpost signs will be placed at all path junctions to enable people to make their way easily around the village and surrounding area on foot, on horse-back and by bicycle.

**Table 20 – Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies**

General Development Policies	New#
Policy G.1 – Local Occupancy Condition	H.1
Policy G.2 – Work/Live Units	H.4
Policy G.3 – Land Use Classes	DS.1
Policy G.4- Provision of Adequate Facilities to meet needs Generated by Development including School Capacities.	~
Policy G.5 – Scale of New Developments	DS.1

Rural Environment & Green Infrastructure Policies	New#
Policy R.1 – Rural Areas outside of the Settlement Area.	~
Policy R.2 - Verges, Ditches and Culverts	EM.1
Policy R3 – Nature Conservation – Designated and Non-Designated Sites	EM.2
Policy R4 – Rural Diversification	~
Policy R5 – Removal of Agricultural & Forestry Workers Dwelling Conditions.	H.3
Policy R6 – Extension of or replacement of existing Rural Dwellings.	H.5

Built Environment & Heritage Policies	New#
Policy B.1- Community Facilities	CP.1/2
Policy B. 2- Buildings of Architectural or Historic Merit	EM.3
Policy B.3 – Conservation Area	EM.3
Policy B.4 – New development	~
Policy B.5 – Alterations, extensions & conversions.	DS.2
Policy B.6 – Housing for Older people	H.2
Policy B.7 – Work/Live Units for home workers	~
Policy B.8 – Trees - Sensible Planting Distances	~

Tourism & Recreation Policies	New#
Policy T1 – Accommodation and Facilities	R.5
Policy T2 – Occupancy Periods for Holiday Accommodation	R.5
Policy T3 – Touring Caravans and Tented Camping	R.5
Policy T4 – Change of Use from Touring to Static Holiday Caravan Sites	R.5

<b>Tourism &amp; Recreation Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy T5 – Winter Storage of Touring Units	R.5
Policy T6 – Provision of Recreational Facilities in the Neighbourhood Area	R.5
Policy T7 – Public Rights of Way and Other Paths	R.3
Policy T8 – Equestrian Facilities	R.6
Policy T9 – Existing and Allocated Open Space	R.1

<b>Transport and Accessibility Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy TR.1- Highway Safety.	~
Policy TR2 – Catering for Cyclists and Pedestrians	R.4
Policy TR3 – Provision for Off-Road Parking	DS.3

<b>South Downs National Park</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy SDNP.1 - Development in the Neighbourhood Plan Area that lies within the South Downs National Park	SDNP.1
Policy SDNP.2 – Setting of the South Downs National Park.	SDNP.2

<b>Employment Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy E.1- Lock up Retail Units	CP.3
Policy E.2 – Local Fibre or Internet Connectivity	DS.4

<b>Climate Change - Renewable Energy &amp; Water and other Utilities Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy U.1- Development Standards within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	DS.5
Policy U.2 Renewable Energy	E.1

<b>Design Quality Standards Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy D.1 – Design Quality Standards	~

<b>Monitoring Policies</b>	<b>New#</b>
Policy M.1 – Review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area	~
Policy M.2 – General Conformity with the Local Planning Authorities Strategic Aims	~
Policy M.3 – Periodic Reviews	~

## Threats to Barbastelle bats

Greenaway (2008) outlines the major threats to barbastelle bats as those “affecting their roosts, forage areas and connective landscape features between them”. He goes further to describe the indirect threats to the bats which are most relevant in the Kirdford context as the roosting sites are not threatened.

**Table 21 – Potential threats to Barbastelle bats in relation to Kirdford draft proposals.**

<b>Possible threats to barbastelle bats (Greenaway, 2008, 6.10 P 32, direct quote).</b>	<b>Comments in relation to Kirdford Plan Proposals</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The loss or ‘improvement’ of unimproved pasture, water meadows and floodplain for summer foraging and woodland streams, ponds and thick cover for winter foraging.</li> </ul>	The proposals on current pasture or abandoned agricultural land (1, 2 & 8) may represent a minor loss of foraging area on the edge of their range. The allotment/orchard proposal (8) may be slightly positive in this respect.

Possible threats to barbastelle bats (Greenaway, 2008, 6.10 P 32, direct quote).	Comments in relation to Kirdford Plan Proposals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the dependence of barbastelles on wetland forage habitats throughout the year, water quality is important. Polluted water with its boom and bust prey dynamics will have an overall negative effect on bat species like the barbastelle with long forage seasons.</li> </ul>	The current proposals should have minimal impact on long-term water quality and have specified SUDS in design specifications. Pollution in any building phases should be avoided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of insecticides, or more indirectly herbicides, within any of these areas (plus diffuse pollution to watercourses) will have both direct effects in less insect biomass for foraging and possible cumulative effects on the animals themselves.</li> </ul>	The proposals do not suggest any significant increase in the use of pesticides. A possible exception could be the management of the proposed new sports fields on Townfield (Site 1) – the ‘improvement’ of which would conventionally include the use of fertilisers and pesticides. This potential impact could be avoided/managed with appropriate conditions on management. The proposed sports fields avoid the south east corner of this area which is subject to seasonal waterlogging/flooding – and offers the opportunity for positive habitat management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The continuing fragmentation of landscape by development as well as by agriculture has the potential to isolate a colony from its forage areas. Usually the effects of such isolation can be mitigated for by careful planning in Local Development Frameworks so this aspect should be approached in a constructive manner.</li> </ul>	The proposals are adjacent to the existing settlement area and are apparently just outside the farthest extent of current foraging ranges.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The isolation of habitats by loss of cover along connecting flightlines.</li> </ul>	The proposals do not appear to isolate habitat features/structures on flight lines as currently understood.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing levels of light pollution affecting available insect biomass and increasing levels of direct predation of bats.</li> </ul>	The proposals do not include adding significant additional lighting. At the moment the new playing fields do not have proposals for floodlighting. Light pollution can be managed through applying design principles and conditions upon development (There are good case study examples [eon] of where bat responsive lighting has been used, e.g. on Thames embankment paths so that lighting is not triggered by flying bats.). The NP is already sensitive to the issue of light pollution.

Natural England’s view is that “the proposals at Kirdford are unlikely to have significant impact on the Barbastelle populations of Ebernoe SAC and The Mens SAC, particularly if the principles set out in (Table 21) ... are applied to all proposals.”

## Summary of sustainability assessment and recommendations

### Kirdford NP – Draft Sustainability Appraisal

Table 22 – Summary SA of policies and proposals

Key:

	Proposals likely to contribute significantly towards the topic/aspect	Strongly positive
	Proposals likely to contribute towards the topic/aspect	Positive
	Effect of proposals is unknown at this stage	Unknown
	Proposals anticipated to have no significant effect on the topic/aspect	Neutral
	Proposals likely to detract from the topic/aspect	Negative



Proposals likely to detract significantly from the topic/aspect

Strongly negative

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Impact
Population	Promote Kirdford as a place with a strong and vibrant community	↑
	Reduce social exclusion and incidents of poverty	↔
	Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities that meet local meet needs	↑↑
Health	Improve health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	↑
Housing	Provide the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations	↑↑
	Provide good quality sustainable housing for all	↑↑
Economy and Employment	Encourage businesses to remain, grow or move into the village of Kirdford area and maintain a skilled resident workforce	↑↑
	Promote a sustainable local tourism industry	↑↑
Crime and safety	Provide a safe and secure environment	↑
Transport and Accessibility	Improve accessibility to facilities and services	↑↑
	Increase usage of public transport, cycling and walking and reduce car travel	?
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and enable more people to appreciate it	↑↑
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape, and enable more people to appreciate it	↑↑
Biodiversity	Conserve and enhance biodiversity	↑
Climate	Address the causes of climate change and adapt	↑
	Promote energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy	↑
Pollution	Minimise pollution	↑
Soil	Protect and enhance soil quality and structure	↔
Water	Protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way	↔
	Reduce the risk and impacts of flooding	↑

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Impact
Waste	Reduce waste generation, especially to landfill, and ensure sustainable waste management	

Overall the Neighbourhood Plan has a strong performance on sustainability issues. There are no significant areas where sustainability has not been addressed. There are a number of areas where it is thought the NP will not have significant impact (either positive or negative) and these are areas that should be considered further as the Plan is monitored and reviewed in the future. Many of these areas relate to issues that are largely outside the control of the Parish and the Neighbourhood Planning process. However, there are still ways in which the community can influence other organisations and policy and demonstrate best practice in the parts which they can influence or control.

## Next steps and monitoring

The Neighbourhood Plan was refined by Kirdford Parish Council NP Steering Group to reflect the results of the Sustainability Appraisal and feedback received from consultation on the draft plan. T

The next step is to finalise the plan and related documents and submit it for examination.

The NPSG anticipate that the Plan will be subject to Referendum and Adoption during June 2013.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes three policies on monitoring, (in summary):

### **Monitoring Policy M.1 – Review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area.**

If and at such time as the Parish Council of an adjoining parish or parishes within the North East area of Chichester District Local Planning Authority reach agreement with Kirdford Parish Council that it would be mutually beneficial to enlarge the Neighbourhood Area to secure positive sustainable growth within such an enlarged Area.

### **Monitoring Policy M.2 – General Conformity with the Local Planning Authorities Strategic Aims.**

Kirdford Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) will continue to align its objectives with the strategic aims and the needs and priorities of the wider local area as defined in the emerging Chichester District Local Plan and South Downs National Park Local Plan. To this end, Kirdford Parish Council has and will continue to liaise closely with both authorities.

Whilst the NDP is in general conformity with the evolving strategic policies of those Local Plans the Council recognises that in the event that the NDP is established in advance of the relevant Local Plan it may be required to review its NP to satisfy some requirement of the emerging Local Plan. In the circumstances of the NDP having been adopted in advance of a relevant emerging Local Plan and it not then being in general conformity with the evolving strategic policies of such Local Plan, the NDP will be reviewed to reflect and positively plan to support them.

### **Monitoring Policy M.3 – Periodic Reviews.**

This Neighbourhood Plan has been developed to plan sustainable growth for a period of up to 15years. A formal review process in consultation with the community and Local Planning Authorities should be undertaken at a minimum of every 5 years to ensure that the plan is still current and a positive planning tool to deliver sustainable growth.

In such circumstance whereby the Parish Council supported by a simple majority vote of at least 20% of residents in attendance at the Parish's Annual General Meeting , deem that the plan is a constraint on bringing forward sustainable growth, for whatever reason, the plan shall be reviewed in consultation with the local community.

# Appendix 1 – Sustainability Appraisal

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## Kirdford Sustainability Appraisal– Method

The SA framework was developed using a number of different sources. As an overarching guide, we referred to the 2005 government ‘Sustainable Development Strategy’ to ensure that the areas covered in the SA were aligned with its guiding principles. Since surrounding areas had already developed reasonably comprehensive SA frameworks, these were used to form the basis of the Kirdford one, building on the strongest points of the following:

- Chichester District Council Core Strategy SA Framework<sup>15</sup>
- East Hampshire District Council LDF SA Framework<sup>16</sup>
- Winchester Local Development Framework SA Framework<sup>17</sup>

The framework was then tailored to the specific needs of Kirdford, in particular for the ‘decision-making criteria’ and ‘possible indicators’. This was done by reviewing relevant local evidence documents to find out which areas of sustainability would be most applicable or what might best constitute sustainable outcomes and goals to work towards given local circumstances. Indicators were development-based, as far as possible, on what would be feasible for Kirdford Parish Council to collect, for example, data that could be collected through its residents’ survey every few years. This would be more appropriate than trying to use ward or output area level data such as the Index of Deprivation.

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<sup>15</sup> Chichester District Council, Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Chichester District Core Strategy Development Plan Document. Draft for consultation.

<sup>16</sup> East Hampshire District Council, 2007, Local Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

<sup>17</sup> Winchester City Council, 2007, Winchester Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): SA SCOPING REPORT.

## Kirdford NP – Sustainability Appraisal

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Population	Promote Kirdford as a place with a strong and vibrant community	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foster a strong sense of community</li> <li>▪ Enable all groups/sectors of the community to have meaningful input into decisions in the area</li> <li>▪ Ensure that Parish Council activities are communicated effectively to all in the community</li> <li>▪ Facilitate people to volunteer, contribute and play an active part in their community</li> <li>▪ Support community and voluntary groups</li> <li>▪ Promote opportunities for cultural, leisure, community, sport and other activities, including for children and young people</li> </ul>	<p>% of population who volunteer in the community</p> <p>Number of community events (these could be specific annual events, e.g. village fete and similar. It would be good to name a few)</p>		<p>The NP process has contributed to this objective by seeking to further develop community facilities and infrastructure.</p> <p>The NP Group has agreed to giving further consideration at the design stage to supporting community and voluntary groups through and beyond the NP process. For example, ensuring that new community facilities are suitable for club events and sports. Proposed allotments could be linked to community farming/market gardening initiatives.</p>
	Reduce social exclusion and incidents of poverty	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce social exclusion in those groups most affected, e.g. the elderly and unwaged.</li> <li>▪ Reduce the number of households living in fuel poverty</li> <li>▪ Increase awareness of and access to support services</li> </ul>	<p>Use household survey to establish:</p> <p>% of households in fuel poverty (by type of fuel, or % with easy access to alternative fuels, e.g. low cost wood fuel)</p> <p>% of elderly without free bus pass</p>		<p>The Code Level 5 requirements should help to avoid fuel poverty in new housing for the disadvantaged. The NPSG have also agreed to consider more active measures to tackle these issues, for example by investigating decentralised CHP or biomass heating systems. The NPSG will also consider adding planning conditions to allow adjacent existing households are brought into the new energy systems as a retrofit project or that community or decentralised systems can be developed.</p>

<sup>18</sup> Refer to key at the end of document.

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
	Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities that meet local meet needs	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the continuation of the community Village Stores</li> <li>Encourage business start-up facilities such as a community café or meeting place, a venue for a range of community social events, serviced office or storage space</li> <li>Ensure services, facilities and infrastructure are able to cope with any increase in population or change in demographics</li> </ul>	<p>Number of new facilities/services in the parish</p> <p>Number of services at risk (either of disappearing or deteriorating in quality)</p>		The proposals seek to facilitate the further development of facilities and infrastructure such as workshop and work/live units.
<b>Health</b>	Improve health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase medical services in the village, e.g. through the provision of a weekly surgery, prescription collection point or regular clinic</li> <li>Encourage healthy lifestyles, e.g. network of walks for informal recreation, village sports pitch(es) and gym facilities, provision for sports clubs.</li> <li>Make provisions for an increased elderly population and for the less able, e.g. all community services and facilities are easy to access.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of easily accessed medical services available in/to the village.</p> <p>Number of new homes provided specifically for the elderly</p> <p>Number of existing homes requiring renovations to help the elderly (e.g. installing railings or winter-proofing)</p>		<p>The NP identifies and seeks to address these issues.</p> <p>There is already a prescription collection point in the village pub and a further point in the community shop is under investigation. The proposed new village hall / social centre includes a multipurpose 'consulting room' that could house day clinics.</p> <p>Access to services is a key issue in the Parish and transport-based solutions such as bus on demand could be considered further.</p>

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Housing	Provide the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the provision of new housing</li> <li>▪ Increase the amount of affordable housing in line with local need, and for a varied demographic</li> <li>▪ Increase the provision of affordable finance for new buyers (e.g. with the help of developers)</li> <li>▪ Make sure that appropriate levels of housing growth are compliant with the South Downs National Park (SDNP) Plan, especially in relation to environmental considerations</li> <li>▪ Ensure that areas outside the SDNP are not overburdened with housing growth</li> <li>▪ Reduce the likelihood of homelessness.</li> </ul>	<p>Housing growth rates</p> <p>% of affordable homes in new developments</p> <p>% of homeless households</p>		<p>The NP identifies and goes to significant lengths to address these issues. New housing forms the basis of most of the development proposals and these include provision for affordability and mixed use units. It also includes dedicated allocation for people with local connections and for the elderly. The latter to aid flows in housing stock.</p> <p>Finance issues could be explored further, for example through shared ownership schemes, or special mortgage arrangements for local first time buyers. The NP is considering the Parish holding freeholds on new building to allow the subsidy of rentals on social housing and business start-up units.</p>
	Provide good quality sustainable housing for all	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek to improve the resource efficiency and quality of new housing stock</li> <li>▪ Seek to improve the resource efficiency and quality of the existing housing stock</li> <li>▪ Increase provision of resource efficient housing for the elderly</li> <li>▪ Increase compliance with sustainable building standards such as BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes<sup>19</sup></li> <li>▪ Promote use of sustainable construction materials and techniques</li> </ul>	<p>% of homes complying with the Decent Homes standard</p> <p>% of new homes complying with sustainable building standards</p>		<p>The NP identifies and goes to significant lengths to address these issues through the requirement for Code 5 compliance.</p> <p>Improving the resource efficiency and quality of the existing housing stock could be explored further, through initiatives to increase energy efficiency and by investigating community heat/energy solutions and alternative low carbon solutions such as wood chip boilers.</p>

<sup>19</sup> These standards go above and beyond what is required from Part L of the Building Regulations.

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Economy and Employment	Encourage businesses to remain, grow or move into the village of Kirdford area and maintain a skilled resident workforce	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the prosperity/growth of local businesses</li> <li>Encourage and assist start-up businesses</li> <li>Develop suitable home working units within the community</li> <li>Promote the best use of existing commercial floor space</li> <li>Assist in the retention of young people with the appropriate skills to meet local needs</li> <li>Help to raise educational achievement levels across the parish by enabling access to a range of educational and training facilities</li> <li>Maintain standards of internet provision</li> </ul>	<p>Number of new business start-ups</p> <p>Business growth rates</p> <p>% of existing jobs at risk</p> <p>Number of apprenticeships or internships in the parish</p> <p>% of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills</p> <p>% of professional occupations among employed workforce</p>		<p>The NP identifies these issues and includes policies and proposals to address them.</p> <p>The Plan considers the capacity of local schools and has consulted with West Sussex about future capacity if new houses are built within the parish and wider school catchments.</p>
	Promote a sustainable local tourism industry	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support tourism businesses, for example, with marketing and promotion</li> </ul>	<p>Number of new tourism start-ups</p> <p>Number of tourism jobs at risk</p> <p>Number of visitors</p>		<p>The NP identifies the need for B&amp;B accommodation and for a marketing and promotion strategy. It also includes plans for developing the footpath network, including making links to the National Park; and developing B&amp;B and equestrian facilities.</p>
Crime and safety	Provide a safe and secure environment	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce crime rates</li> <li>Make people feel safe</li> <li>Maintain appropriate community policing</li> <li>Reduce the risk of traffic accidents through appropriate traffic management measures for a rural area</li> </ul>	<p>Recorded crime rates</p> <p>'Fear of crime' (from household survey – by type of crime)</p> <p>Traffic accident rates</p> <p>Fear of traffic accidents (from household survey)</p>		<p>Crime is very low in the NP area. Design criteria include 'crime aware' design principles.</p> <p>Some proposals seek to improve parking facilities to reduce road blockage and improve safety and improve amenity. The NP could consider further appropriate traffic calming measures such as vehicle activated signs.</p>

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Transport and Accessibility	Improve accessibility to facilities and services	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve transport links with other areas, especially to key venues used by parishioners</li> <li>Improve transport to educational and vocational training establishments</li> <li>Reduce the need for commuting (e.g. through provision of small office space and work units available at affordable rents)</li> <li>Provide services for home workers, such as a local postal service and good access to broadband</li> <li>Ensure that transport caters for the needs of tourists</li> <li>Increase the available core services in Kirdford to reduce the need for unnecessary travel</li> </ul>	% of households that can reach local facilities by foot or public transport within 15 minutes		<p>The NPO seeks to address these issues. Firstly with proposals to improve local facilities and reduce the need to travel. Secondly, by proposing public transport improvements and development with on demand bus service.</p> <p>Thirdly, the NP includes a requirements for the development of Travel Plans for new developments.</p>
	Increase usage of public transport, cycling and walking and reduce car travel	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve public transport links within the parish, especially for commuters</li> <li>Maintain affordability for public transport users</li> </ul>	% of passenger travel on public transport		The NP is aware of these issues and seeks to address them with maintenance of the local footpath network and through investigating a bus on demand service.
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and enable more people to appreciate it	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the conservation area of Kirdford Village</li> <li>Maintain the rural character of the village, including historical buildings, the church and churchyard</li> <li>Conform to and compliment/reinforce the Village Design Statement</li> </ul>	Number of listed buildings on the 'at risk' register		The NP seeks to protect and enhance listed buildings and the Conservation Area and to enhance the area through use of a detailed visual design guide for use by developers and locals looking to extend or modify their homes.
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape, and enable more people to appreciate it	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise the adverse impacts on landscape of new developments, maintaining important views out of and into the village</li> <li>Retain the rural feel of Kirdford village and its setting/context</li> <li>Make the most efficient use of previously developed land and buildings to minimise greenfield development</li> <li>Safeguard the footpath and bridleway network in the parish</li> </ul>	<p>New homes built on previously developed land</p> <p>% of usable footpaths</p>		<p>The NP seeks to protect and enhance the character and quality of the landscape through a number of policies and careful design proposals developed by the Prince's Foundation.</p> <p>The Visual Design Statement provides further guidance on vernacular and appropriate design.</p>

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Conserve and enhance biodiversity	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safeguard rare and protected species</li> <li>▪ Help to conserve and enhance the designated site, The Mens (SSSI, SAC)</li> <li>▪ Help to conserve and enhance Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Dunhurst and Northup Copses, Kymmings Hill Farm Meadows and Woodland, Roundwyck Copse, Steers Common and the graveyard of St. John the Baptist Church</li> <li>▪ Conserve BAP habitat sites</li> <li>▪ Protect ancient woodland</li> <li>▪ Help protect and enhance South Downs National Park</li> <li>▪ Minimise the threat posed by invasive alien species</li> <li>▪ Reverse or halt fragmentation</li> </ul>	<p>% area of SSSIs in a) favourable condition; b) in an unfavourable condition but recovering</p> <p>% other land under good management</p> <p>Extent of important habitat</p>		<p>The NP recognises the value of the natural environment in the parish and the responsibility conferred by the NPPF to protect and enhance it.</p> <p>There is further potential to look at landscape level habitat restoration and re-creation with the multiple aims of improving habitats, supporting bat conservation and mitigating seasonal flooding impacts. The NPSG will consider landscape level projects including the Townfield site and potential for floodplain restoration projects along the Kird and for an integrated water strategy.</p>

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Climate	Address the causes of climate change and adapt	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. by helping to reduce unnecessary car travel and increasing the energy efficiency of new development</li> <li>Encourage adaptation to likely climate change impacts, e.g. by increasing resilience of development, services and facilities to extreme weather events such as drought, heat-waves and winter storms</li> </ul>	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>% of new developments with adaptation measures</p>	↑	<p>The NP supports the reduction in car travel by seeking to develop and enhance local facilities and broadband.</p> <p>New development is required to meet Code 5 standards.</p> <p>The Plan includes using locally appropriate SuDs measures. A greater focus on adaptation to likely climate change impacts could be included, for example seeking to address road flooding, planting trees for shade and rainwater harvesting. See comment above re integrated water strategy.</p> <p>The NP will also consider developing an integrated management plan for woodland in the parish (/cluster) to bring woodland into management (c.f. biodiversity, landscape &amp; economy issues) and provide a source of employment and renewable fuel.</p>
	Promote energy efficiency and the generation of renewable energy	<p>Does the Neighbourhood Plan...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage energy from renewable sources for electricity and heat</li> <li>Involve the community in action on climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Renewable energy capacity in the area</p> <p>% of new developments with renewable energy</p> <p>Number of community initiatives on climate change</p> <p>% of community involved</p>	↑	<p>The plan supports strong positive measures for new development (Code 5) and support for renewables in Policy U2. The NPSG will consider options to help deal with inefficiencies in existing housing stock, e.g. improved insulation to full retrofit.</p>

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
<b>Pollution</b>	Minimise pollution	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve air quality</li> <li>Improve water and soil quality</li> <li>Reduce and manage noise and light pollution</li> </ul>	Air quality levels  River Kird water quality		The NP seeks to reduce transport use through work/live units and on-demand bus services which will contribute to local improvements in air quality.  Water quality should be protected by SuDs measures. There is further scope for development proposals to include requirements for lighting standards to maintain dark skies and minimise disturbance to wildlife.
<b>Soil</b>	Protect and enhance soil quality and structure	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid the use of higher-grade agricultural land for other purposes than farming</li> <li>Support the local farming community to use sustainable farming techniques (see below)</li> </ul>	Number of proposals resulting in the loss of high-grade agricultural land		The development proposals in the NP are mainly on Grade 3 agricultural land. Specific development plans should investigate/consider if any is Grade 3a.  The Plan should give further consideration to supporting local farmers – habitat improvement schemes could be considered/supported further in the NP through using government agri-environment schemes and in partnership with the West Weald Landscape Project/SDNP.

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Water	Protect, enhance and manage water resources in a sustainable way	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote water efficiency</li> <li>Protect ground and surface water sources, including the River Kird</li> <li>Promote access to water for recreation</li> </ul>	% of homes& premises fitted with water saving devices  % of development fitted with water meters		The NP includes requirements for SuDs and rainwater harvesting. It could consider a stronger requirement to reduce rainwater run-off and to increase water use efficiency in new buildings. It could consider measures to support retrofit initiatives.  The NP should consider strengthening policy to include more prescriptions for surface and ground water protection, for example in construction and subsequent management stages of new developments and in any changes of use.
	Reduce the risk and impacts of flooding	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs), including permeable pavements, green roofs and soakaways</li> <li>Ensure that new development avoids areas at risk of extreme flooding or mitigates against these risks, particularly in the south part of Kirdford village, at risk from the River Kird.</li> </ul>	% of development with sustainable drainage		The NP policy R2 promotes the use of SuDs and requires demonstrable measures to achieve this. This policy could be strengthened to meet or exceed current levels.  The NP should add a policy to avoid (and apply the sequential test) to potential development in flood risk areas.

SA Topic	Kirdford SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Possible Indicators	Impact <sup>18</sup>	Comments and Recommendations
Waste	Reduce waste generation, especially to landfill, and ensure sustainable waste management	Does the Neighbourhood Plan... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help minimise waste</li> <li>Increase recycling and composting for all</li> <li>Increase recycling facilities in the parish for a range of waste streams</li> </ul>	Recycling and composting rates  Amount of municipal waste produced  % of waste to landfill  % of waste reused locally		The community shop has provided an outlet for and renewed interest in local food, this has helped reduce the length of supply chain for a proportion of food in the village.  The NP should consider further waste polices to help reduce the quantity of waste arising and the amount of waste transported. This may include considering the development of community composting and awareness raising.

**Key:**

	Proposals likely to contribute significantly towards the topic/aspect	Strongly positive
	Proposals likely to contribute towards the topic/aspect	Positive
	Effect of proposals is unknown at this stage	Unknown
	Proposals anticipated to have no significant effect on the topic/aspect	Neutral
	Proposals likely to detract from the topic/aspect	Negative
	Proposals likely to detract significantly from the topic/aspect	Strongly negative