



East Challow Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version

2022– 2031

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

East Challow Parish Council

July 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan (ECNP) has been prepared in accordance with Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (as amended).

1.2 This Statement addresses each of the five ‘basic conditions’ required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act (as amended).

1.3 The following documents constitute the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents in their entirety, which are being submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council in order to allow for subsequent independent examination, followed by a public referendum in the designated area for the Plan:

- The East Challow Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2031 dated July 2022 (Volume 1: Plan and Volume 2: Appendices)
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area;
- This Basic Conditions Statement (July 2022);
- A Consultation Statement dated July 2022 detailing the consultation with the local community and other stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the neighbourhood plan process;
- A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) carried out by the Vale of White Horse District Council (‘VWHDC’) dated 12th August 2021. The conclusion of this Screening Statement was that the East Challow NDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore the East Challow NDP does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment. It further concludes that the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

1.4 An evidence base (which includes the appendices to the Neighbourhood Plan) supports the Neighbourhood Plan and the associated statutorily required documents. Copies of the documents may be viewed at this weblink:

<http://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

1.5 The evidence base includes the following:

- Landscape Character Assessment by Lepus Consulting dated July 2021

- Parish Character Appraisal – including design guide and principles by Bluestone Planning dated April 2022
- Housing Needs Survey by Cobweb Consulting dated November 2020
- Community Survey by Community First Oxfordshire dated August 2017
- Youth Survey Report by Community First Oxfordshire dated August 2017
- Business Survey by Cobweb Consulting dated December 2020
- Community Facilities Assessment by Bluestone Planning dated April 2021
- Footpaths and Other Public Rights of Way (PROW) Survey dated July 2021
- Parking Survey dated 2020
- Local Green Space Evidence Base Document by Bluestone Planning February 2022
- Biodiversity Report by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre dated January 2018
- Non-Designated Heritage Assets dated April 2022
- Green Corridors by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre dated March 2018

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

Has the Neighbourhood Area been designated by the Vale of White Horse District Council?

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

2.6 The East Challow Neighbourhood Area application was submitted on 13th September 2016 and on the 11th November 2016 the Vale of White Horse District Council Head of Planning approved the designation.

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

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

2.8 The East Challow Neighbourhood Area application was submitted by East Challow Parish Council who are the 'Relevant Body' for the purposes of Section 61G(1a).

2.9 The designated Neighbourhood Area is indicated below in Figure 1:

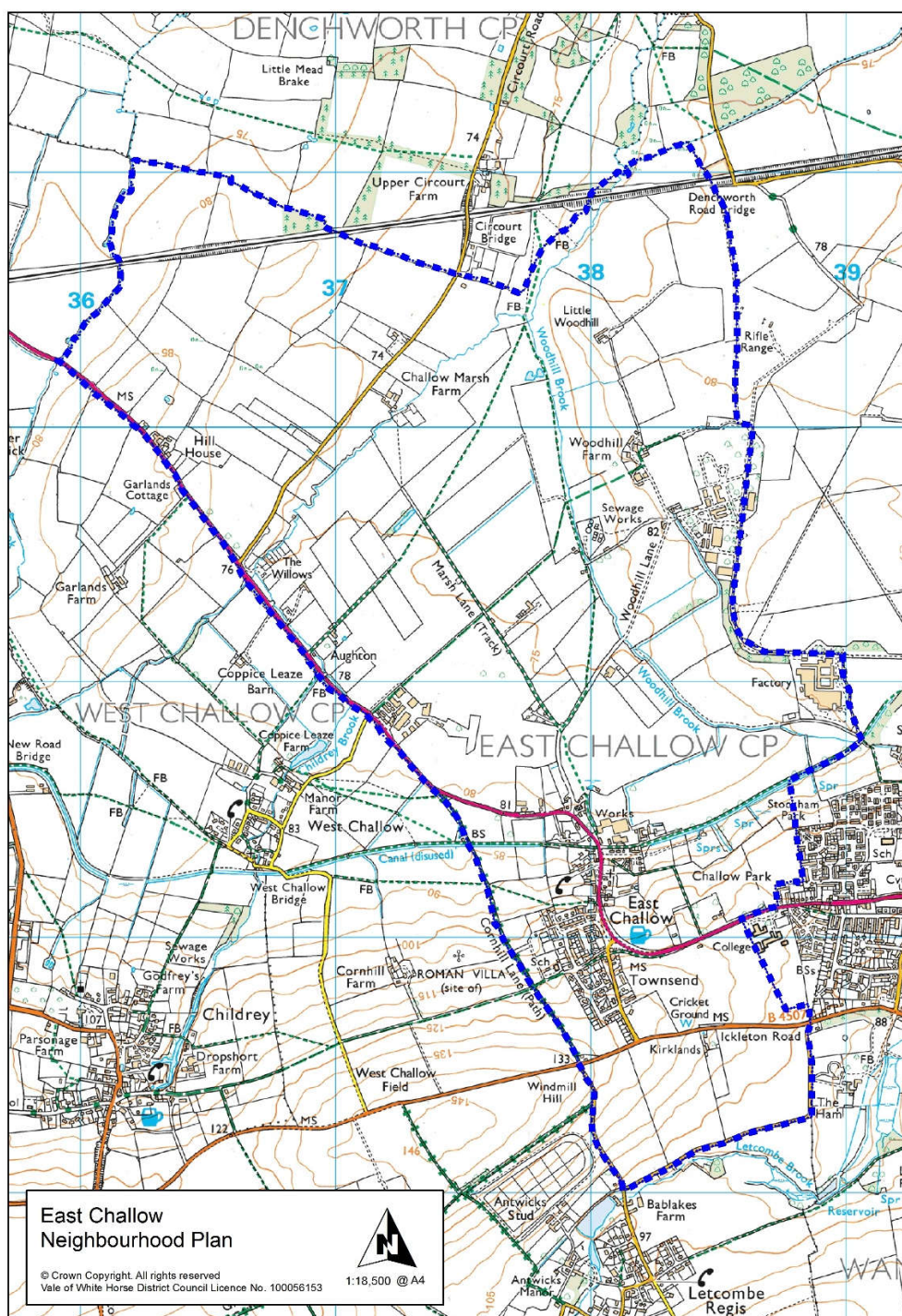


Figure 1: Designated Neighbourhood Area, 11th November 2016

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

- 2.10 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 2.11 Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Basic Conditions Statement specify the period over which the Plan is to have effect, namely the period 2022 - 2031. This aligns with the end date of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Parts 1 and 2 (adopted December 2016 and October 2019 respectively).

Does the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan include provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'?

- 2.12 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). 'Excluded Development' is defined in Section 61K of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as development that consists of a county matter (ie minerals and waste matters); or the carrying out of prescribed operations / development / development in a prescribed area; development within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; or nationally significant infrastructure projects.
- 2.13 The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'.

Does the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?

- 2.14 This requirement is described in Section 38B (1c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 2.15 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the entire area within the parish boundary and does not include land that forms part of another neighbourhood area.

Are there any other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the East Challow neighbourhood area?

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

2.17 There are no other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the East Challow Neighbourhood Area.

Does the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan contain policies that relate to the development and use of land?

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

Does the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'Basic Conditions'?

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

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

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

- (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan
- (b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
- (c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (in this case the Vale of White Horse District Council)
- (d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as incorporated into UK law
- (e) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites (this is a 'Prescribed Condition')

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

2.23 Schedule 4B (8(6)) also indicates that it is necessary to consider whether the neighbourhood plan is "*compatible with the Convention rights*". The interpretation section (s.17) in Schedule 4B confirms that "*the Convention rights*" has the same

meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998. This will be considered in Section 6 of this Statement.

3 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL POLICY / ADVICE

- 3.1 The East Challow Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated July 2021. The Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to the guidance set out on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, published by the Government in 2014 and updated on a rolling basis.
- 3.2 The Parish Council believes that the Neighbourhood Plan plans positively for future development in the Parish and that it is consistent with the provisions of the adopted Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Parts 1 and 2.
- 3.3 Set out in Table 1 below, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF and NPPG. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

Table 1: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan Policies to National Policy and Advice

NP Policy Number and Description	NPPF / NPPG paragraph	Comment on Conformity
All Policies	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 12-14, 18, 21, 29-30, 37, 50, 101, 127, 140 and 156 (neighbourhood planning).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 41-001-20190509-41-107-20200925 (neighbourhood planning)</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan has been drafted having regard to the extensive policy and guidance contained in the Government’s NPPF and NPPG resources. The policy and guidance has fundamentally informed and shaped the policies in this neighbourhood plan as a result.</p>
L1 Maintaining the Separate Identities of East Challow, Grove and Wantage	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 68-70 (delivering housing), 77-79 (rural housing), 119-121 (making effective use of land), 124-125 (density), 126-135 (design), 174 (natural environment), 130 and 185 (amenity).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 67-009-20190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 66-00420190722 to 66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).</p>	<p>This policy draws on comprehensive landscape and village character evidence to identify where the village is vulnerable to coalescence with Grove and Wantage and where it will be important to maintain East Challow’s separate physical and visual identity.</p> <p>In so doing, it reflects the policy approach in paragraph 170 of the NPPF by protecting and enhancing the landscape in the area and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside between East Challow.</p> <p>The approach set out in the policy reflects those aspects of national planning policy and guidance that are relevant, in particular those aspects dealing with amenity, design and landscape quality.</p>
L2 Ensuring That the Village Remains a Part of an Essential Rural Landscape	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 68-70 (delivering housing), 77-79 (rural housing), 119-121 (making effective use of land), 124-125 (density), 126-135 (design), 174 (natural environment), 130 and 185 (amenity).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 67-009-20190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 66-00420190722 to</p>	<p>Policy L2 reflects the policy approach in paragraph 170 of the NPPF by protecting and enhancing the landscape character areas and the AONB and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the rural landscape, consistent with Sections 12 and 16 of the NPPF.</p>

		66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).	
L3	Preservation of Important Views and Vistas	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 126-135 (design) and 185(c) (dark landscapes). NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20191101 (light pollution).	This policy draws on the evidence contained in the landscape assessment and parish character appraisal documents to identify and manage the impact of development on the important views that are listed, in a way that is consistent with the requirements at NPPF (sections 12 and 15) by ensuring that the design of development reflects the special qualities of the area.
L4	Local Green Spaces	NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 20, 92, 154, 175, 186 (green infrastructure) and 98-103 (open space / Local Green Space and recreation) NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 37-005-20140306 to 37-022-20140306 (Local green Space) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure).	This policy draws on the evidence provided in the Local Green Space evidence document and seeks to conserve existing green infrastructure that define the unique character of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This policy complies with the requirements set out in the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF (especially Section 8) and the associated guidance in the NPPG.
HO1	Meeting the Needs of the Local Population	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 59-71 (housing mix and affordability), 77-79 (rural housing), 117-119 (making effective use of land), 122-123 (density), 124-131 (design), 127 (space standards) NPPG Paragraphs 67-001-20190722 to 67-015-20210524 (housing need and affordability), 2a-017-20190220 to 2a-024-20190220 (affordable housing need), 3-001-20190626 to 63-019-20190626 (housing for older and disabled people), 56-001-20150327 to 56-023-20160519 (technical standards), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-004-20190722 to 66-005-20190722 (density).	The NPPF contains detailed guidance on meeting the housing needs of communities through the provision of different types of housing development where the need is supported by good evidence. Section 5 of the NPPF and the associated NPPG guidance provide significant detail in this regard and Policy HO1 reflects this approach by supporting proposals that meet the specific needs of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This is consistent with the thrust of national policy which seeks to ensure a range of housing development is provided at the time and in the location it is needed.
D1	Alignment of Development with the	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 117-119 (making effective use of land), 122-123 (density), 124-131 (design), 170, 172 (AONBs and landscape), 127, 180 (amenity etc), 184-202	This policy draws on evidence in the Parish Character Appraisal and Design Code and Principles document to develop a detailed policy dealing with a wide range of

	Vernacular Architecture and Housing Density	(heritage) and 170, 174-177 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure). NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 66-004-20190722 to 66-005-20190722 (density), 31-001-20191101 to 31-007-20191101 (light pollution), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity / daylight), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 and 18a-039-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (heritage) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure)	development management matters from design to density, scale, massing, amenity, landscaping / AONB impacts / mitigation, fibre broadband and energy conservation. The policy draws on the detailed national policy in the NPPF and is therefore in conformity with the relevant sections of the NPPF (sections 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16 in particular) and the associated guidance in the NPPG.
HE1	Protection of Heritage Assets	NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 126-135 (design) and 194-208 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment). NPPG Paragraphs 18a-022-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (historic environment), 26-004-20191001 (design).	This policy reflects national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment including its designated and non-designated heritage assets (both above and below ground), as set out in the NPPF. This policy also draws upon Neighbourhood Plan evidence in the Parish Character Appraisal, to deliver a policy that is consistent with national policy on preserving heritage assets.
E1	General Development of Businesses	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 80-85 (economy), 108-111 (transport); 127, 180, 182 (amenity / pollution), 170, 172 (landscape), NPPG paragraphs 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport)	This policy supports the expansion of existing businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, subject to meeting a range of specific criteria. This is consistent with the Government's approach set out in the NPPF and in particular paragraphs 81, 84 and 85 (employment) and 152 (low carbon future / climate change).
E2	Development of New Businesses	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 80-85 (economy), 108-111 (transport); 127, 180, 182 (amenity / pollution), 170, 172 (landscape), NPPG paragraphs 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport)	This policy supports the development of new businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, consistent with the national approach set out in the Section 6 of the NPPF.

C1	Provision of New or Enhanced Community Facilities	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 54, 56-57 (planning obligations), 57, 121 (viability), 80-84 (the economy), 91-92, 94 (healthy / safe communities), 96-97 (open space / recreation), 182 (pollution)</p> <p>NPPG paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation); 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 53-007-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places); 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability); and 23b-001-20190315 to 23b-038-20190901 (planning obligations).</p>	<p>This policy seeks to improve existing community facilities and infrastructure, as well as encouraging provision of new facilities such as a village shop or public house. This is central to the Government's theme for supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities (sections 6 and 8 of the NPPF). It draws heavily on the Community Facilities Assessment Evidence Base document.</p>
C2	Preservation of Existing Community Facilities	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 57, 121 (viability), 80-84 (the economy), 91-92, 94 (healthy / safe communities), 96-97 (open space / recreation), 182 (pollution)</p> <p>NPPG paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation); 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 53-007-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places); 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect existing community facilities from loss or harm. This is central to the Government's theme for supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities (sections 6 and 8 of the NPPF).</p>
CL1	Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 117-119 (making effective use of land), 124-131 (design), 148-153 (climate change), 170, 172 (landscape) and 170, 174-177 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure)</p>	<p>This policy supports measures to secure renewable energy generation from low carbon sources and thus to slow down climate change. The policy draws on the detailed national policy in the NPPF and is therefore in conformity with the relevant sections of the NPPF (sections 12, 14 and 15 in particular) and the associated guidance in the NPPG.</p>
CL2	Support for Innovative Approaches to Construction	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 117-119 (making effective use of land), 124-131 (design) and 148-153 (climate change).</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable construction technologies and in doing so, echoes national policy in the NPPF (section 12, 14 and 15 in particular) and the associated guidance in the NPPG.</p>

		NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change) and 66-004-20190722 to 66-005-20190722 (density).	
FP1	Integration of Public Transport With Community Facilities and Green Infrastructure	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 54, 56-57 (planning obligations), 91 (healthy communities), 102-104 and 108-110 (transport), 127 (design) and 20, 92, 154, 174-182, 186 (biodiversity / net gain / green infrastructure)..</p> <p>NPPG paragraphs 37-004-20140306 (rights of way) and 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure) and 23b-001-20190315 to 23b-038-20190901 (planning obligations).</p>	This policy supports proposals for integration of cycle and pedestrian routes with the green infrastructure network in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Improving rights of way is a key component of the Government’s policy for healthy communities and sustainable transport, and this policy is therefore in accordance with the approach in the NPPF in sections 8 and 9, whilst the value of the green infrastructure network is consistent with policy in the NPPF at section 15.
FP2	Improvement and Expansion of Existing Footways and Cycle Routes	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 54, 56-57 (planning obligations), 91 (healthy communities), 102-104 and 108-110 (transport), 127 (design).</p> <p>NPPG paragraphs 37-004-20140306 (rights of way) and 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 23b-001-20190315 to 23b-038-20190901 (planning obligations).</p>	This policy supports proposals for enhanced cycle and pedestrian routes and new crossing points in the event the Wantage Western Relief Road is brought forward. Improving rights of way / access to rights of way is a key component of the Government’s policy for healthy communities and sustainable transport and this policy is therefore in accordance with the approach in the NPPF in sections 8 and 9.
FP3	Maintenance of the Wilts and Berks Canal and Associated Infrastructure	<p>NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 91-92, 94 (healthy / safe communities), 96-97 (open space / recreation) and 20, 92, 154, 174-182, 186 (biodiversity / net gain / green infrastructure).</p> <p>NPPG paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation); 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure).</p>	This policy seeks to preserve the existing community value of the Canal as a recreational and wildlife resource. This is central to the Government’s theme for encouraging healthy communities, sustainable transport and biodiversity (sections 8, 9 and 15 of the NPPF).
FP4	Maintenance of the Route, Alignment and Infrastructure	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 91 (healthy communities), 102-104 and 108-110 (transport), 127 (design), 189-205, 208 (heritage).	This policy seeks to ensure that new development protects the historic route of the Wilts & Berks Canal where possible. This is consistent with the approach to the promotion of sustainable modes of transportation, healthy communities

	of the Wilts and Berks Canal	NPPG paragraphs 37-004-20140306 (rights of way), 18a-022-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (historic environment) and 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport).	and heritage preservation as set out in detail in the NPPF and NPPG.
P1	Parking Facilities	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 102, 108-109 (traffic / highways) 124-131 (design), Ministerial statement on Parking 2015. NPPG Paragraphs 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design).	This policy accords with national planning policy and guidance in this regard to ensure appropriate levels of parking are provided (NPPF section 9) as well as EV charging points where possible (NPPF section 14), a measure which strongly accords with the national approach to moving away from fossil fuels.
EV1	Green Corridors	NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 119-120 (making effective use of land), 126-135 (design), 153 and Section 14 generally (climate change - flood risk) and 20, 92, 154, 174-182, 186 (biodiversity / net gain / green infrastructure). NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 7-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure).	Trees are significant features in the landscape throughout the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The safeguarding of existing trees is central to the policy objectives in paragraphs 170 and 175 of the NPPF. Encouragement of replacement planting (as part of the achievement of net gains) is central to NPPF policy at paragraphs 170, 174 and 175 in particular as well as elsewhere throughout the NPPF in relation to the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure.
EV2	Biodiversity	NPPF paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 170 and 172 (AONBs and landscape) and 20, 91, 150, 170-177, 181 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure). NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure)	Policy EV2 builds on the requirement for a minimum percentage of biodiversity net gain as required in the Environment Act 2021 and the NPPF (Section 15). The policy also seeks to protect and enhance the local biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and therefore in both respects the policy is considered to be in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF, in particular Section 15.

4 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

4.2 In addressing the above basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that:

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

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

Sustainable Development Category	Responsibility
Economic (Econ.)	The Plan supports the development of rural businesses (existing and new) with locally tailored policies that support the Local Plan’s employment policies. Renewable / low carbon energy proposals and innovative construction methods are also supported.
Social (So.)	The Plan’s policies recognise the social dimension by seeking to preserve and enhance community facilities, supporting the provision of new community facilities, seeking to ensure that new housing fulfills the needs of the local community and promoting active and sustainable travel. Emphasis has been placed on the need to manage parking in the Plan area. The Plan identifies proposed Local Green Spaces and Views valued for their social benefits.
Environmental (En.)	The Plan encourages development to respect the local character, landscape, biodiversity, heritage and a range of other environmental attributes of the Parish, as well as protecting the identity of individual settlements by using rural character, landscape and separation policies.

4.4 The Vision of the Neighbourhood Plan states:

“Our vision for East Challow is that the village will remain in a rural setting within the Plan Area, separate from the urban communities of Wantage and Grove, and with a strong identity and community spirit. New residents in the new housing developments will have integrated well into the community and facilities will have improved to provide essential

and non-essential needs for all residents. The economic life of the village will be thriving with businesses at both business parks performing effectively and with commercial activities run from private dwellings. Businesses and residents will be supplied with clean energy, some of which will be generated locally. Active travel will have been implemented with improvements in the cycle network and other public rights of way and an improved community bus service connecting local villages. The green environment will have been improved with healthy wild flora and fauna.”

- 4.5 This Vision is supported by a series of Objectives. The following table shows how the NDP Objectives relate to the more detailed sustainability themes:

Sustainability ‘Themes’	Category	Neighbourhood Plan Objective
1. Biodiversity	En.	10, 12
2. Water Resources and Flood Risk	En.	10, 12
3. Climatic Factors	En.	8
4. Landscape and Townscape	En.	1, 2, 4, 5
5. Healthy Communities	So.	3, 7, 9, 10
6. Education and Skills	So.	6, 7
7. Economy and Enterprise	Econ.	6, 7, 8
8. Land and Soil Resources	En.	3, 8, 11

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

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

Table 2: Assessment of Sustainability of Neighbourhood Plan Policies

NP Policy Number and Description		Achievement of Sustainable Development		
		Economic	Social	Environmental
L1	Maintaining the Separate Identities of East Challow, Grove and Wantage	0	++	++
L2	Ensuring That the Village Remains a Part of an Essential Rural Landscape	0	++	++
L3	Preservation of Important Views and Vistas	0	++	++
L4	Local Green Spaces	0	++	++
HO1	Meeting the Needs of the Local Population	+	++	0
D1	Alignment of Development with the Vernacular Architecture and Housing Density	+	++	++
HE1	Protection of Heritage Assets	0	++	++
E1	General Development of Businesses	++	++	0
E2	Development of New Businesses	++	++	0
C1	Provision of New or Enhanced Community Facilities	++	++	+
C2	Preservation of Existing Community Facilities	++	++	+
CL1	Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	++	++	++
CL2	Support for Innovative Approaches to Construction	++	++	++
FP1	Integration of Public Transport With Community Facilities and Green Infrastructure	0	++	++
FP2	Improvement and Expansion of Existing Footways and Cycle Routes	0	++	++
FP3	Maintenance of the Wilts and Berks Canal and Associated Infrastructure	0	++	0
FP4	Maintenance of the Route, Alignment and Infrastructure of the Wilts and Berks Canal	0	++	++
P1	Parking Facilities	0	++	0
EV1	Green Corridors	0	++	++
EV2	Biodiversity	0	++	++

5 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

- 5.1 The Development Plan in the Vale of White Horse District area is the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Parts 1 and 2 (adopted December 2016 and October 2019 respectively).
- 5.2 The policies of the ECNP are shown in Table 3 below. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is accompanied by a statement describing the 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the Development Plan.
- 5.3 Any Development Plan strategic policy that is not identified in Table 3 is not considered to be directly relevant to the ECNP.

Table 3: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan Policies to the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan

NP Policy Number and Description		VWHDC Local Plan (Parts 1 & 2) 2031 Strategic Policies	Comment on Conformity
L1	Maintaining the Separate Identities of East Challow, Grove and Wantage	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP3 Settlement Hierarchy, CP4 Meeting Our Housing Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP17 Delivery of Strategic Highway Improvements within the South-East Vale Sub-Area, CP18 Safeguarding of Land for Transport Schemes in the South East Vale Sub-Area (Site E10), CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	This policy sets out measures to ensure that proposals do not compromise important gaps between settlements and maintain landscape and views, matters that are key aspects of the associated strategic policies.
L2	Ensuring That the Village Remains a Part of an Essential Rural Landscape	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP3 Settlement Hierarchy, CP4 Meeting Our Housing Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	The policy aligns with VWHDC Local Plan part 1 Core policies 43 and particularly 44 (Landscape) which seeks to protect and enhance major biological landscape features including trees, hedges, fields and water courses, topographical and historical features, views and, although with the A and B roads traversing the parish, tranquillity. All applications for development whether this be dwellings or business premises will be measured against the points in this Core Policy.
L3	Preservation of Important Views and Vistas	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP3 Settlement Hierarchy, CP4 Meeting Our Housing Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46	This policy, based upon CP44, outlines the need for all proposed new development to safeguard or enhance key views & vistas. The policy is also consistent with policy CP43, where the long and short vistas are an integral part of the beauty of the countryside around the Plan Area.

		Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	.
L4	Local Green Spaces	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	This policy seeks to ensure that areas of green space that are important to the community are protected. In this regard it is consistent with a number of the Local Plan part 1 core policies as indicated in the adjacent column, and also with Local Plan Part 2 policy DP 8 which emphasizes the importance of maintaining or improving existing facilities and protecting against the loss of facilities used by the community.
HO1	Meeting the Needs of the Local Population	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP3 Settlement Hierarchy, CP4 Meeting Our Housing Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP22 Housing Mix, CP23 Housing Density, CP24 Affordable Housing, CP25 Rural Exception Sites, CP26 Accommodating Current and Future Needs of the Ageing Population, CP27 Meeting the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People	This policy will ensure that the housing needs of the community are given proper consideration at the planning application stage, consistent with a range of the Local Plan's core policies as indicated.
D1	Alignment of Development with the Vernacular Architecture and Housing Density	LPP1 Core policies CP23 Housing Density, CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP39 The Historic Environment, CP40 Sustainable Design and Construction, CP41 Renewable Energy, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	This policy aligns with the Vale Design Guide 2015 and LPP1 Core Policies 37-39, 40 and 41 (including the increasing expectation to generate renewable energy), 42 (need to take into account flood risk), 43 (use of natural resources), 44 (use of natural features), 45 (importance of saving green infrastructure) and 46 (need for conservation and biodiversity improvement). Local Plan part 2 also covers loss of amenity as a result of development (Development Policy 23) and siting in respect of existing development (DP24).
HE1	Protection of Heritage Assets	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP37 Design and	Local Plan part 1 Core Policy 39 describes issues around development and conservation and heritage assets and Part 2 Development Policy 36 also emphasises the irreplaceability of

		Local Distinctiveness, CP39 The Historic Environment	heritage assets and that development should conserve or enhance their significance, supported by LPP2 policies DP38 (Listed buildings) and DP39 (Archaeology and scheduled monuments). This policy will help to ensure that these policies are applied at a very local level within the Plan Area.
E1	General Development of Businesses	LPP1 Core policies CP6 Meeting Business and Employment Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP28 New Employment Development on Unallocated Sites, CP 29 Change of Use of Existing Employment Land and Premises, CP31 Development to Support the Visitor Economy and LPP2 Development policy 10 Ancillary Uses on Employment Land	This policy and policy E2 will help to encourage the expansion of existing businesses whilst also promoting new business and protecting existing businesses from loss. The approach adopted in both policies complements the strategic approach in policies CP28 and CP29 in particular.
E2	Development of New Businesses	LPP1 Core policies CP6 Meeting Business and Employment Needs, CP20 Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area, CP28 New Employment Development on Unallocated Sites, CP 29 Change of Use of Existing Employment Land and Premises, CP31 Development to Support the Visitor Economy and LPP2 Development policy 10 Ancillary Uses on Employment Land	This policy and policy E1 will help to encourage the expansion of existing businesses whilst also promoting new business and protecting existing businesses from loss. The approach adopted in both policies complements the strategic approach in policies CP28 and CP29 in particular.
C1	Provision of New or Enhanced Community Facilities	LPP1 Core policies CP7 Providing Supporting Infrastructure and Services, CP32 Retail Development and Other Main Town Centre Uses and LPP2 Development policy 8 Community Services and Facilities	In providing a framework for the determination of applications for new or enhanced community facilities, and protecting existing facilities, this policy and policy C2 support the strategic approach in the Local Plan part 1. Furthermore, the Local Plan Part 2 DP 8 and 9 emphasise the importance of maintain or improving existing facilities. DP 12 indicates the importance of farm shops and equestrian establishments and DP14 emphasise the importance of a village shop to the community and of the desirability of developing a shop

			should one not exist. These two policies will support this Local Plan approach.
C2	Preservation of Existing Community Facilities	LPP1 Core policies CP7 Providing Supporting Infrastructure and Services, CP32 Retail Development and Other Main Town Centre Uses and LPP2 Development policy 8 Community Services and Facilities	In providing a framework for the determination of applications for new or enhanced community facilities, and protecting existing facilities, this policy and policy C1 support the strategic approach in the Local Plan part 1. Furthermore, the Local Plan Part 2 DP 8 and 9 emphasise the importance of maintain or improving existing facilities. DP 12 indicates the importance of farm shops and equestrian establishments and DP14 emphasise the importance of a village shop to the community and of the desirability of developing a shop should one not exist. These two policies will support this Local Plan approach.
CL1	Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP40 Sustainable Design and Construction, CP41 Renewable Energy, CP42 Flood Risk, CP43 Natural Resources	Responding appropriately to the climate emergency is one of the Strategic Objectives and informs the Spatial Strategy of the Local Plan (Core Policies 40 (Sustainable Design and Construction) and 41 (renewable Energy). The policy is therefore in conformity with the strategic policies that bring the strategy into effect.
CL2	Support for Innovative Approaches to Construction	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP40 Sustainable Design and Construction, CP41 Renewable Energy, CP42 Flood Risk, CP43 Natural Resources	This policy echoes LPP1 Core Policy 40 (Sustainable Design and Construction) and is therefore in conformity with the strategic approach in the Local Plan.
FP1	Integration of Public Transport With Community Facilities and Green Infrastructure	LPP1 Core policies CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking and CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure,	LPP1 Core Policy 37 indicates the need to provide links to green infrastructure through Rights of Way and to provide sustainable transport connections. Core Policy 45 expects net gains in green infrastructure. LPP2 Development Policy 31 covers protection of

		CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	Public Rights of Way and Open Access Areas. This policy will assist in achieving these policy objectives.
FP2	Improvement and Expansion of Existing Footways and Cycle Routes	LPP1 Core policies CP17 Delivery of Strategic Highway Improvements within the South-East Vale Sub-Area, CP18 Safeguarding of Land for Transport Schemes in the South East Vale Sub-Area, CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking and CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness	LPP1 Core Policy 37 indicates the need to provide links to green infrastructure through Rights of Way and to provide sustainable transport connections. Core Policy 45 expects net gains in green infrastructure. LPP2 Development Policy 31 covers protection of Public Rights of Way and Open Access Areas. This policy will assist in achieving these policy objectives. Land for the proposed Wantage Western Relief Road has been safeguarded by Vale Local Plan Part 1 policies CP17 and CP18 and Appendix E site 10 (Wantage Western Relief Road). Where this impacts on existing PRoWs, provision should be made for suitable pedestrian / cycle crossing points to enable people to continue to use severed PRoWs, and this policy will help to achieve this.
FP3	Maintenance of the Wilts and Berks Canal and Associated Infrastructure	LPP1 Core policies CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking, CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity (see also LPP1 paragraphs 6.123-6.124).	This policy will help to deliver the LPP1 policy objectives outline in the adjacent column, whilst supporting the non-strategic approach in LPP2 development policy 32 (Wilts and Berks Canal).
FP4	Maintenance of the Route, Alignment and Infrastructure of the Wilts and Berks Canal	LPP1 Core policies CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking, CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity (see also LPP1 paragraphs 6.123-6.124).	This policy will help to deliver the LPP1 policy objectives outline in the adjacent column, whilst supporting the non-strategic approach in LPP2 development policy 32 (Wilts and Berks Canal).

P1	Parking Facilities	LPP1 Core policies CP33 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, CP35 Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking and CP37 Design and Local Distinctiveness	This policy adds a locally specific approach to the delivery of parking that is consistent with the strategic policies in LPP1.
EV1	Green Corridors	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	This policy and policy EV2 complement LPP1 Core Policies 44-46 by protecting the nature and quality of the landscape whilst seeking a net gain in green infrastructure and biodiversity and conservation.
EV2	Biodiversity	LPP1 Core Policies CP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development, CP43 Natural Resources, CP44 Landscape, CP45 Green Infrastructure, CP46 Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity	This policy and policy EV1 complement LPP1 Core Policies 44-46 by protecting the nature and quality of the landscape whilst seeking a net gain in green infrastructure and biodiversity and conservation.

6 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS / PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 6.5 The fifth Basic Condition requirement that ‘Prescribed Conditions’ are met means – for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan – that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan must not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulations assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.
- 6.6 This requirement was introduced by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 6.7 Furthermore it is necessary to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations which are the same as those set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Human Rights Act 1998

- 6.8 Dealing with this last matter first, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, being cognisant of the obligations in relation to Human Rights, have sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 6.9 These rights can be summarised as follows:
- The right to life
 - The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment
 - Protection against slavery and forced labour
 - The right to liberty and freedom
 - The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law
 - Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry
 - Freedom of thought, religion and belief
 - Free speech and peaceful protest
 - No discrimination
 - Protection of property
 - The right to an education
 - The right to free elections

- 6.10 The process of developing this Neighbourhood Plan has involved a significant amount of public consultation, seeking to engage with as full a range of consultees as possible

to ensure the greatest opportunity for discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (see Consultation Statement for details).

- 6.11 This engagement with the local community (through consultation with a wide array of individuals, businesses, landowners and community organisations) has provided many opportunities for the community to feed back and be involved in the process. This has meant that in having the opportunity to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to seek to influence it where appropriate, respondents have been able to ensure, through discussion and feedback, that those rights identified above have been protected throughout the process.
- 6.12 In addition, as **Appendix A** to this Statement demonstrates, an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been carried out to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 6.13 The Neighbourhood Plan steering group, on behalf of East Challow Parish Council, submitted a formal request to the Vale of White Horse District Council concerning the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Appropriate Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan on 7th April 2021.
- 6.14 A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was issued by the Vale of White Horse District Council on the 12th August 2021. The conclusion of this Screening Statement was that the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan does not require either a SEA or a HRA Appropriate Assessment. The Statement explained (paragraphs 17-19) that:

“17. The East Challow NDP is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the East Challow Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required.

18. Based on the assessment presented in Appendices 1 & 3, the East Challow NDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.

19. The East Challow NDP does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment.”

- 6.15 As a consequence, it is considered that the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and indeed it is compatible with, the SEA, Habitats and Wild Birds Directives,

and that the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), are met.

Other EU Obligations as Transposed into UK Legislation

- 6.16 Furthermore, the Plan does not contain policies which would have implications for air quality, water or waste and it is therefore compatible with the EU Directives dealing with those matters, as transposed into UK legislation.
- 6.17 Finally, the Plan does not propose individual projects or projects of a scale which would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and therefore the Plan is also compatible with the EIA Directive as transposed into UK legislation.

Equality

- 6.18 Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements; and that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.
- 6.19 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan is provided at in **Appendix A** to this document. The assessment concludes that the policies in the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan submission version will in some cases result in positive impacts for the disability and age protected characteristics because the policies seek to secure provision of / improvements to accommodation, access, accessibility and parking. In other cases the policies will have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

7 CONCLUSIONS

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

APPENDIX A: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF EAST CHALLOW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The table below identifies each policy and assesses the policy against each of the protected characteristics. The final column is for comments including any actions arising from the assessment of each specific policy.

Finally, conclusions are drawn for the exercise and the conclusions fed into the Basic Conditions Statement findings.

NP Policy Number and Description		Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Race	Religion and belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Pregnancy and maternity	Comments
L1	Maintaining the Separate Identities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L2	Essential Rural Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L3	Important Views and Vistas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L4	Local Green Spaces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HO1	Needs of the Local Population	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy will help to meet local needs including for retirement purposes or those with additional needs / supported living as required.
D1	Vernacular Architecture / Housing Density	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Design of new homes should accord with national space standards and guidance on 'Lifetime' / adaptable homes.
HE1	Protection of Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
E1	General Development of Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
E2	Development of New Businesses	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports provision of appropriate access arrangements.
C1	Community Facilities	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the provision of improved access to facilities.
C2	Community Facilities	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the provision of improved access to facilities.
CL1	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CL2	Innovative Construction										
FP1	Integration of Public Transport	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy has the potential to improve accessibility for all users of all ages including those with disabilities.
FP2	Improvement of Foot / Cycle Routes	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy has the potential to improve accessibility for all users of all ages including those with disabilities.
FP3	Wilts and Berks Canal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FP4	Wilts and Berks Canal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P1	Parking Facilities	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Provision of appropriate levels of parking should include disabled parking provision.
EV1	Green Corridors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
EV2	Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Having regard to the above it can be seen that the policies in the East Challow Neighbourhood Plan submission version will in some cases result in positive impacts for the disability and age protected characteristics because the policies seek to secure provision of / improvements to accommodation, access, accessibility and parking. In other cases the policies will have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics. None of the impacts are considered to be negative and therefore no mitigation measures are proposed.