

Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

November 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain legislative Basic Conditions. These include legal requirements in relation to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) set out within The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations)¹ and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (HRA Regulations)².
- 1.2. The Screening Report assesses the Chestfield Regulation 14 Draft Neighbourhood Plan's initial themes, evidence and draft policies for their environmental impact to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA. The report also screens the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan to determine whether it requires a full HRA ('appropriate assessment') in accordance with the HRA Regulations. This screening involves consideration of the potential for likely significant effects in relation to the qualifying features of European sites³ as a result of the implementation of the plan.
- 1.3. Alongside the submission of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan at Regulation 16, the plan must be submitted with either an SEA report, or a screening report confirming a statement of reasons as to why an SEA was not required. Under HRA Regulations, a Neighbourhood Plan can only be made when the competent authority is satisfied that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site. A SEA and HRA screening report must be consulted on with

¹ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) reflect the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, as transposed into UK law. Following the departure from the EU, the SEA Directive no longer applies, and it is the SEA Regulations that Neighbourhood Plans need to be comply with.

² Required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). While the UK is no longer a member of the EU and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, from which the HRA Regulations are derived, no longer applies, a requirement for HRA continues as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

³ For the purposes of this screening report this refers to Special Protection Areas (SPA), Sites of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar sites. See Section 6 for further detail.

the three strategic consultees; Historic England, The Environment Agency and Natural England.

2. The Local Plan

- 2.1. The Canterbury District Local Plan, adopted in 2017, sets out plans to develop the Canterbury district until 2031, aiming to:
- Create well-designed new communities, with good access to jobs and services
 - Make sure there is enough housing, and different types of housing, to meet the needs of local people and support new job creation
 - Protect sensitive landscape and wildlife areas, and other key environmental assets such as the World Heritage Site, the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Conservation Areas
 - Make certain that new infrastructure, such as transport, schools and health facilities are provided in parallel with development
 - Protect and strengthen town and village centres
 - Support growth of the Universities and Colleges
 - Support development of new and improved cultural and leisure facilities
- 2.2. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) (June 2025) sets out the anticipated timetable for preparing the Draft Local Plan which is currently at 'Stage 4' in the LDS timetable, 'Consultation analysis and preparation of a revised Draft Local Plan, including a focused consultation on specific policies (Regulation 18)'.

3. Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan

Vision, aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) was drafted by the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with a clear vision set out:

"The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan aims to support sustainable and sympathetically designed development within the parish; that ensures Chestfield retains the rural feel of a strong and safe village community by valuing the countryside, the open space, and the distinct separation from Whitstable and Herne Bay."

- 3.2. The Neighbourhood Plan consists of:
- A vision statement about what Chestfield should be like in the future
 - 21 policies covering 8 aspects, including:
 - Spatial Strategy

- Housing
 - Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure
 - Public Rights of Way, Promoted Routes, and Cycle Ways
 - Unadopted Roads
 - Biodiversity
 - Inclusive Streetscapes and Active Design
 - Secured by Design
- Local Green Spaces Audit and recommendations for designation of 8 Local Green Spaces.

3.3. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies to promote sustainable development within the Chestfield Neighbourhood Area.

3.4. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for any form of development. It does however recommend sites for designation as Local Green Space.

Neighbourhood Area

3.5. A map of the Neighbourhood Area can be seen below; this extends beyond the Chestfield Parish boundary to the west.

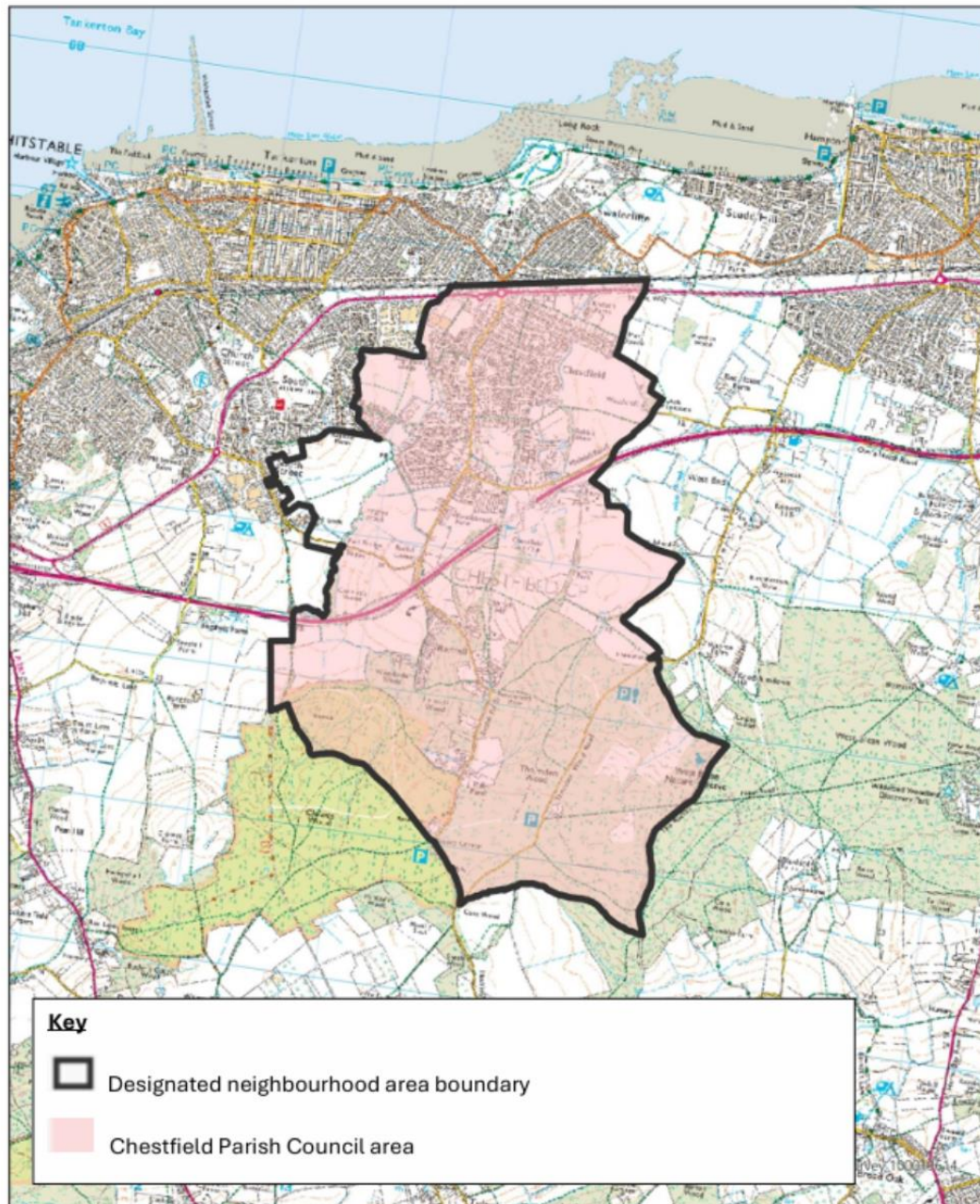


Figure 3.1: Map of Chestfield's Neighbourhood Area

- 3.6. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Area, as designated in April 2025, sits partly within the urban area of Whitstable. The north of the neighbourhood area is urban residential development, covered largely by the Chestfield Conservation Area, and within the south of the area is countryside, all of which sits within the Blean Woods Area of High Landscape Value, and the southernmost of which is also Ancient Woodland. Within the centre of the neighbourhood area is the hamlet of Radfall and to the north of Radfall is a draft Green Gap designation for the Green Gap 'between Whitstable and Radfall', as proposed in the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan to 2040 (2024). Within the west of the neighbourhood area is the draft site allocation, 'Brooklands Farm' in the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan to 2040 (2024). The neighbourhood area falls entirely within the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay

7.2km and Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries 6km Zones of Influence, meaning new development must comply with the relevant Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategies. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Area includes part of the Blean Woodland Complex and the West Blean and Thornden Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest to the south, the Blean Woods Local Landscape Designation⁴ and the Clowes Wood and Marley Wood Local Wildlife Site. To the south and west of the settlement of Chestfield are areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 and within the centre of the settlement are eleven listed buildings. There are no European sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas or Ramsar sites) within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

4. Summary of the Screening Assessment

Table 4.1: Summary of the SEA Screening Assessment

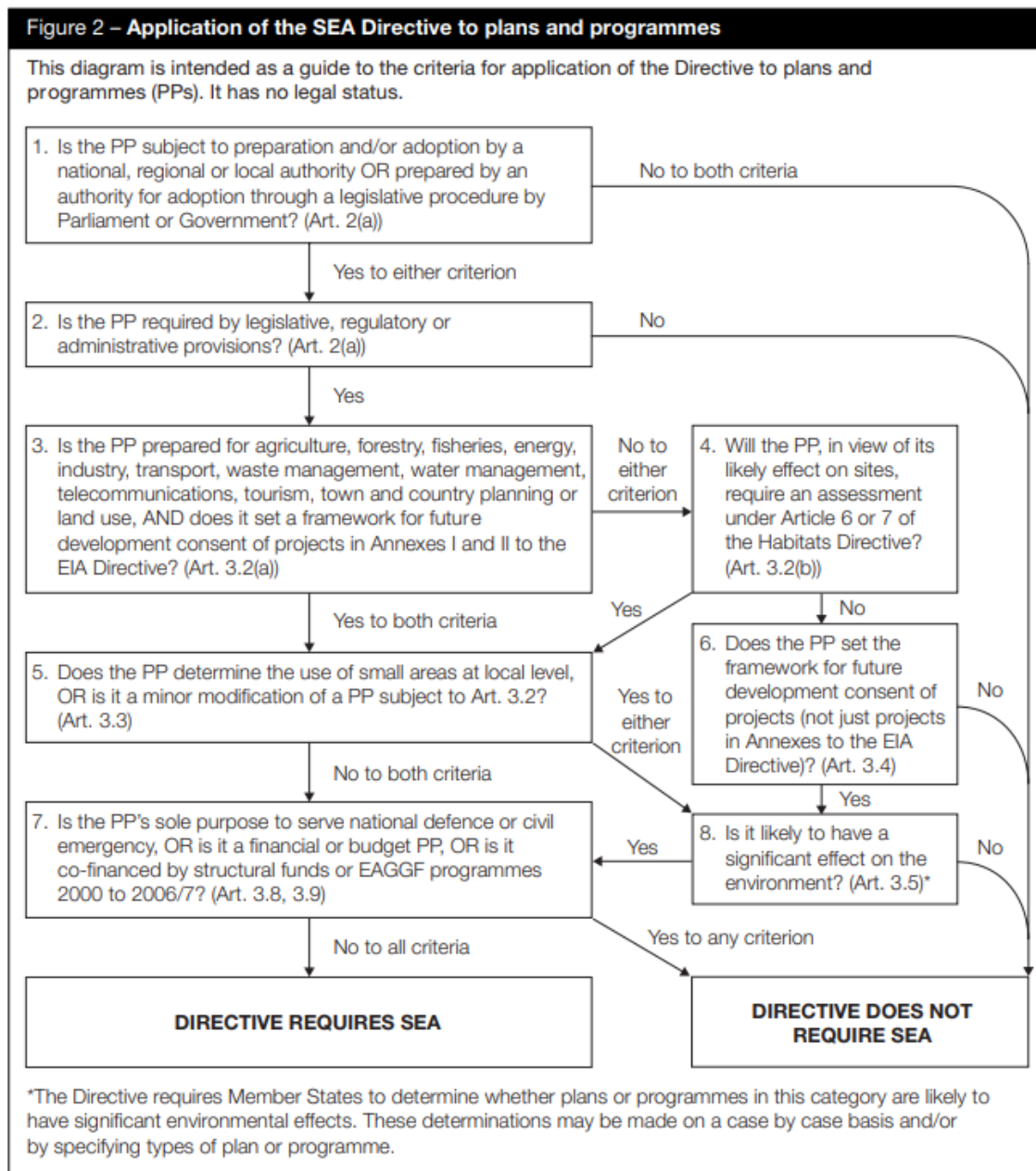
Summary	
Name of Neighbourhood	Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan
Geographic Coverage	The Parish of Chestfield including a parcel of land to the West of the Parish as seen in figure 2.1
Key Topics/scope of the Plan	• Housing • Design • Streetscape • Public Rights of Way (including cycleways) • Drainage and Sewerage • Local Green Spaces Audit and recommendations for designation
Summary of Screening opinion	
Name and job title of person undertaking screening opinion	Ella Gibbs-Walsh – Policy Officer (Planning) at Canterbury City Council
Date of assessment	20/08/2025
Conclusion of assessment	The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment
Reason for conclusion	No significant likely environmental effects of the Regulation 14 Draft Local Plan were identified. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development and proposes eight existing open spaces as Local Green Spaces.
Statutory Consultee	Summary of Comments
Historic England	No response was received from Historic England
Environment Agency	No response was received from the Environment Agency
Natural England	It is Natural England's advice, that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely.

⁴ as recommended in the Regulation 18 draft Local Plan to 2040 (2024)

5. SEA Screening Assessment

Assessment Part 1: Is an SEA Required?

- 5.1. As seen in the Figure 4.1 below, Paragraph 2.18 of the Government's 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'⁵ sets out a series of questions to determine whether an SEA is required. The questions outlined in this guide, are used in Table 4.1 to determine whether the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA.



⁵ The 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in figure 4.1 refers to the SEA Directive. This reflects the SEA Regulations.

Figure 5.1: Flow chart from the Government's 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'.

Table 5.1: Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Screening Assessment

Stage	Y/N	Reason
Q1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and will be 'made' by Canterbury City Council if voted in favour of, through the referendum.
		GO TO Q2.
Q2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, if 'made', it will form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental impacts and hence whether a full SEA is required under the Directive.
		GO TO Q3.
Q3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set out a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	N	Whilst the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan covers a range of land use matters, it does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites which would be under the EIA. It does however look to adopt policy which could be used to determines EIA development however, strategic sites are allocated in the Local Plan rather than in the Neighbourhood Plan.
		GO TO Q4.
Q4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))	N	An assessment is not required as there is no SPA, SAC or Ramsar site that will be impacted by the Neighbourhood Plan as per the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Section 6 of this report provides a screening assessment in line with the HRA Regulations. The Canterbury District Local Plan (2017) 'Habitat Regulations Assessment (Submission stage of draft local plan)', Amec, (Nov 14) states that the adopted Local Plan will not result in likely significant effects on European Sites. This was confirmed in the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment of the main modifications to the Submission Draft Local Plan policies', Amec Foster Wheeler, (June 2017).
		GO TO Q6.

Q6. Does the NP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once made, if voted in favour of, the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used to determine planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan does not however, propose the allocation of any development sites.
		GO TO Q8.
Q8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	No likely significant effects have been identified through the 'Assessment Part 2: Effect on the Environment' as seen in Tables 5.2 and 5.3.
DIRECTIVE DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA		

Assessment Part 2: Effect on the Environment

Table 5.2: The Characteristics of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria (from Schedule I of Regulations)	Assessment	Likely Significant Environmental Effect?
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size, and operating conditions or by allocating resources	Once made, the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan will form the framework for decision making for development proposals in the area. The Plan does not identify any development allocations however it does propose the designation of 8 sites as Local Green Space. These sites are outlined in the 'Local Green Spaces Audit and Designation' section of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan, on the balance of probability won't have any issues relevant to this, that are not dealt with through national policy or through the adopted or draft Canterbury District Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development, and Neighbourhood Plan policies will adhere to the strategic policies outlined in the adopted Local Plan.	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy	The influence of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan on other plans and/or programmes is limited. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan will sit below the Local Plan in the hierarchy of plans and must be in conformity with adopted documents and national planning policy.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration	As is a basic condition of Neighbourhood Planning, Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan	

of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan has a positive policy approach which aims to enhance the environment and so is unlikely to have an adverse impact. The positive impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are unlikely to be significant. The Plan does not allocate any sites for development.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan	Effects will be localised with limited impact on neighbouring areas; transboundary effects are not anticipated.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation assimilation law on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan, on the balance of probability won't have any issues relevant to this. As a basic condition, Neighbourhood Plans have to conform to strategic Local Plan policy and national policy and anything that is not dealt with through the Neighbourhood Plan, will be covered through national policy or through the adopted or draft Canterbury District Local Plan.	No

Table 5.3: The characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected

Criteria (from Schedule I of Regulations)	Assessment	Likely Significant Environmental Effect
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	An element of environmental change is likely to occur, as the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote sustainable development rather than prevent change. The impact of this change will depend upon individual proposals and will be assessed alongside the consideration of the planning application. The Neighbourhood Plan spans from 2025 to 2036, covering a period of eleven years. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan policies are generally protective or positively promote environmental enhancement. Any matters not included within the Neighbourhood Plan, will be covered by the District's Local Plan and by national policy.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects	The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any site allocations, and the Neighbourhood Plan policies are generally protective and/or positively promote environmental enhancement. Cumulative effects are therefore not likely to be apparent but potentially would be positive (and not significant) if they do arise. Any matters not covered by the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, are covered by the	No

	Canterbury City Council Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.	
The transboundary nature of the effects	Effects will be localised with limited impact on neighbouring areas; transboundary effects are not anticipated.	No
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	There is limited risk to human health or the environment as a result of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan. There are not likely to be any significant risks. The Plan seeks to promote well-being and health, by protecting and enhancing open spaces, and the network of public rights of way (including cycleways) that serve the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have any significant effects outside of the Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Neighbourhood Plan applies only within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: • Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values	The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan Area includes the following designations: • Ancient Woodland • Areas of High Landscape Value • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • Local Wildlife Sites • Conservation Area • Listed Buildings It is not anticipated that the policies as drafted in the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan would adversely impact on these designated areas. The aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to enhance and protect the open space and biodiversity within the Neighbourhood Area. In addition, policies are included to support good design. There are no sites allocated for proposed development within the Neighbourhood Plan and so there is no adverse impact anticipated, particularly regarding the SSSI, however this is relevant for all designations as listed above.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land-use	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate new sites for development and therefore there is no development proposed on greenfield land within the Neighbourhood Area as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised National, Community or International protection status.	It is not anticipated that the policies as drafted in the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan would adversely impact on any National Community or International protection status such as the SSSI which falls within the Neighbourhood Area. There are no designated landscapes within or near the Neighbourhood Plan area.	No

6. HRA Screening Assessment

Overview of HRA

- 6.1. The requirement to undertake HRA of plans is separate from the SEA process. The HRA refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess its potential for implications for European sites⁶ in line with the HRA Regulations⁷. European sites comprise:

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

- 6.2. SPAs are designated sites of international significance for bird conservation. They support rare and vulnerable bird species during key life stages such as breeding, feeding, wintering, or migration.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

- 6.3. SACs are protected areas aimed at protecting rare or threatened habitats and species. These may be at risk of disappearing, have limited natural distribution, or be unique to a region.

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance)

- 6.4. Ramsar sites are wetlands recognized for their ecological value, particularly for waterfowl. These areas are protected for their biological diversity and physical characteristics.
- 6.5. The HRA must determine whether the plan or project would adversely affect, or is likely to affect, the integrity of a European site in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

Screening

- 6.6. Stage 1 of HRA is the 'screening' stage which is undertaken to establish whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on European sites, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This section of the Screening Report forms a Stage 1 screening for the purposes of the Regulation 63 of the HRA Regulations.

⁶ "European site" is used in this document in its broadest sense, as an umbrella term for all designated Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Conservation (SAC). The UK European sites are no longer legally part of the 'Natura 2000' network of protected sites, with this being replaced in the UK by the 'national site network' which comprises all existing SACs and SPAs and any new SACs and SPAs designated under the Habitats Regulations (as amended). European site also refers to Ramsar sites, which do not form part of the network. Ramsar sites are not protected under the Habitats Regulations, but the Habitats Regulations are applied a matter of Government policy (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 para. 194) when considering development proposals that may affect them. The NPPF refers to 'habitats sites', although European sites is used in this screening to reflect the approach in the emerging Local Plan HRA documents.

⁷ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

- 6.7. At this screening stage mitigation measures should not be taken into account, in accordance with the People over Wind judgement (Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) Case C-323/17). The HRA screening does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of likely significant effects resulting from the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.8. If following screening, likely significant effects on European sites cannot be ruled out then a HRA Stage 2 'appropriate assessment' is required. An 'appropriate assessment' (if required) involves a closer examination of the plan or project where the effects on relevant European sites are significant or uncertain, to determine whether any sites will be subject to 'adverse effects on integrity' if the plan or project is given effect.

Relevant European Sites

- 6.9. There are no European Sites within the CNP area. A precautionary 15km buffer has been applied to consider European Sites outside the CNP area that may have impact pathways affected by the CNP. Table 6.1 identifies the relevant European Sites; the qualifying features of the designated site; the threats and pressures faced by the site; pathway impacts from the CNP; whether there are likely significant effects, including in combination; and, finally, whether the site has been screened in or out for Stage 2 'appropriate assessment'.

Table 6.1: European Sites within 15km of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) area

Name of Site	Qualifying Features	Threats/ pressures	Pathway impacts resulting from CNP	Likely significant effects (including in combination)	Screen in or out?
The Swale SPA/ Ramsar Circa 2.1km from the CNP area.	SPA: - A051w: Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> - A052w: Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> - A130w: Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> - A137w: Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - A141w: Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> - A160w: Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> - A162w: Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> - A672w: Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> - A675w: Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> - BBA: Breeding bird assemblage - WATR: Waterbird assemblage Ramsar: Crit. 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened eco. communities - Crit. 5 - regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds - Crit. 6 - regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of	SPA and Ramsar: The SSSI underpinning the SPA is in 'favourable' condition; however, the Site Improvement Plans (SIP) identifies several pressures and threats to site integrity, the following of which may be potentially influenced by Local Plans: • Coastal squeeze (sea level rise); • Public access/disturbance (boating and watersports, walking and fishing); • Air pollution (atmospheric nitrogen deposition).	The CNP area falls within the Thames, Medway and Swale Estuaries Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) defined 'Zones of influence' (Zol) for the European sites associated with the North Kent Marshes (including The Swale SPA/Ramsar). The Zol for The Swale SPA/Ramsar sites is 6km. Policy provisions for the SAMMS are already included in the adopted Local Plan (Policy SP6) (and are to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan) for contributions regarding recreational management as part of the SAMMS. There is no housing requirement for additional new homes in the CNP above that set out in the Local Plan, to which the CNP must conform. The CNP does not allocate new development. Therefore, there is no potential to affect	No	Out

	one species/subspecies of waterbirds No specific areas of functional land are identified; however dark-bellied brent geese are known to use nearby areas of agricultural land (typically within 5km of the SPA), including at Graveney Marshes / Seasalter. A permeable landscape and habitat linkages to facilitate movement of birds between the SPA and any off-site supporting habitat is considered critical to the breeding success and to adult fitness and survival.		potentially functionally linked land. The Swale Ramsar/SPA was screened out at Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) stage in relation to air quality impacts alone or in combination. In summary, there are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of housing growth above that in the Local Plan and the CNP does not allocate new land for development. Therefore, there are no impact pathways.		
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/ Ramsar Circa 0.55km from the CNP area.	SPA: - A140w: European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> - A169w: Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> - A195r: Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> Ramsar: - Crit. 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened eco. communities - Crit. 6 - regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species/subspecies of waterbirds	The SSSI underpinning the SPA, SAC and Ramsar site is in 'favourable' condition; however, the SIP identifies several pressures and threats to site integrity, the following of which may be potentially influenced by Local Plans: • Changes in species distribution (anthropogenic disturbance); • Public access/disturbance (dog walkers and vehicles); • Air pollution (atmospheric nitrogen deposition); • Water Pollution (insufficiently treated Sewage Treatment Works discharges). The remaining pressures and threats typically relate to local land management	The CNP area falls within the Thanet Coast SAMMS defined 'Zones of influence' (Zoi) for the European sites associated with the Thanet coast. The Zoi for the Thanet coast sites is 7.2km. Policy provisions for the SAMMS are already included in the adopted Local Plan (Policy SP6) (and are to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan) for contributions regarding recreational management as part of the SAMMS. There is no housing requirement for additional new	No	Out

	No specific areas of functional land are identified; however the Supplementary Advice to the conservation objectives (SACO) identifies the need for a permeable landscape and habitat linkages to facilitate movement of birds between the SPA and any off-site supporting habitat is considered critical to the breeding success and to adult fitness and survival. Golden plover are known to use non-designated agricultural land some distance from the European site.	issues. In this case, some non-native species are increasing, including the Pacific oyster <i>Crassostrea gigas</i>, common mussel and the native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i>; evidence of bait-digging and suggestions by local people of large-scale removal of cockles and oysters.	homes in the CNP above that set out in the Local Plan, to which the CNP must conform. The CNP does not allocate new development. Therefore, there is no potential to affect potentially functionally linked land. The Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/Ramsar was screened out at Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) stage in relation to potential for air quality and water quality impacts alone or in combination. In any event, the CNP does not include a housing or employment land requirement. In summary, there are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan and the CNP does not allocate new land for development. Therefore, there are no impact pathways.		
Thanet coast SAC	- H1170: Reefs - H8330: Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	The reef and submerged cave habitats associated with the Thanet Coast SAC may be subject to anthropogenic physical damage and disturbance from coastal recreational activities including sailing.	As noted above, the Thanet Coast SAMMS applies to the Thanet Coast sites and is included within existing Local Plan policy wording (SP6). The	No	Out

Circa 12.7km from the CNP area.		The SSSI underpinning the SPA, SAC and Ramsar site is in 'favourable' condition; however, the SIP identifies several pressures and threats to site integrity, the following of which may be potentially influenced by Local Plans: • Water Pollution (insufficiently treated Sewage Treatment Works discharges); The remaining pressures and threats typically relate to local land management issues that will not be influenced by the Local Plan. In this case, some non-native species are increasing, including the Pacific oyster <i>Crassostrea gigas</i>, common mussel and the native oyster <i>Ostrea edulis</i>; evidence of bait-digging and suggestions by local people of large-scale removal of cockles and oysters.	CNP does not include a requirement for additional new housing development. The Thanet Coast SAC was screened out at Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) in relation to potential for water quality impacts alone or in combination. In any event, the CNP does not include a housing or employment land requirement. There are no planned requirements in the NP to provide additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan. No impact pathways for the CNP.		
Outer Thames Estuary SPA Circa 0.95km from the CNP area.	- A001w: Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> - A193r: Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> - A195r: Little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	The SSSIs units underpinning the SPA are predominantly in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Units in 'unfavourable no change or 'unfavourable declining' condition are categorised as such primarily due to local land management issues (undergrazing of grasslands or water pollution). The pressures and threats typically relate to local land management issues that will not be influenced by Local Plans.	None arising from the CNP. Screened out at Local Plan level in adopted Local Plan HRA (2017), Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) alone or in combination. There are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan and the CNP does not	No	Out

			allocate new land for development. Therefore, there are no impact pathways.		
Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC Circa 0.6km from the CNP area.	- S4035: Fisher's estuarine moth <i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i>.	The SSSI unit that forms the SAC is in favourable condition but is heavily used by dog walkers and is vulnerable to under-management	The measures noted in the Thanet Coast SAMMS apply to the Thanet Coast SSSI unit of Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC with policy provisions already included in the Local Plan (SP6). There are no planned requirements in the NP to provide additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan, to which the CNP must conform, and no proposed allocations. There are no impact pathways for the CNP.	No	Out
Margate and Long Sands SAC Circa 6.4km from the CNP area.	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.	Commercial fishing activities.	None arising from the CNP. Screened out at Local Plan level in adopted Local Plan HRA (2017), Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) alone or in combination. There are no impact pathways for the CNP.	No	Out
Blean Complex SAC Circa 2.4km from the CNP area.	- H9160: Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the <i>Carpinion betuli</i>.	The SSSIs units underpinning the SAC are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition. The SIP identifies air pollution as the only threat to site integrity (principally in relation to the oak-hornbeam forests).	In terms of recreational pressures (although not recognised as threat) and impacts with regard to air pollution, there are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan. There are no sites allocated in the CNP. The HRA	No	Out

			for the adopted Local Plan (2017) found there would be no likely significant effect on the Blean Complex SAC in terms of air quality alone or in combination. In summary, there is no additional planned requirement for new development and there are no sites allocated in the CNP. There are no impact pathways for the CNP.		
Stodmarsh SAC Circa 4.1km from the CNP area.	- S1016: Desmoulin's whorl snail Vertigo moulinsiana	The SSSI units underpinning the SPA, Ramsar and SAC are in 'favourable', 'unfavourable recovering' and 'unfavourable - No change' condition; however, the SIP identifies several pressures and threats to site integrity, the following of which may be potentially influenced by Local Plans: • Water pollution (high nitrogen and orthophosphate levels); • Air pollution (atmospheric nitrogen deposition). • The remaining pressures and threats typically relate to local land management issues (overgrazing, scrub control, ditch management, etc.).	The HRA for the adopted Local Plan (2017) found there would be no likely significant effect on the Stodmarsh SAC alone or in combination. Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) found no adverse effects alone or in combination. Regardless, in terms of recreational pressures and impacts with regard to water quality and air pollution, there are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan. There are no sites allocated in the CNP. There are no impact pathways for the CNP.	No	Out

Stodmarsh SPA/ Ramsar Circa 4.1km from the CNP area.	SPA: - A021w: Great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> - A050w: Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> - A051r: Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> - A051w: Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> - A053w: Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> - A056w: Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> - A059w: Common pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> - A061w: Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> - A082w: Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> - A118w: Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> - A142w: Northern lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> - A153w: Common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> - A394w: Greater white-fronted goose <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> - BBA : Breeding bird assemblage SPA: - Crit. 2 - supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened eco. Communities (Six British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates. Two nationally rare plants, and five	The SSSI units underpinning the SPA, Ramsar and SAC are in 'favourable', 'unfavourable recovering' and 'unfavourable - No change' condition; however, the SIP identifies several pressures and threats to site integrity, the following of which may be potentially influenced by Local Plans: • Water pollution (high nitrogen and orthophosphate levels); • Air pollution (atmospheric nitrogen deposition). • The remaining pressures and threats typically relate to local land management issues (overgrazing, scrub control, ditch management, etc.).	The HRA for the adopted Local Plan (2017) found there would be no likely significant effect on the Stodmarsh SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination. Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025) found no adverse effects alone or in combination. Regardless, in terms of recreational pressures and impacts with regard to water quality and air pollution, there are no planned requirements in the CNP to provide an additional level of growth above that in the Local Plan. In relation to impacts on potentially functionally linked land, there are no sites allocated in the CNP. There are no impact pathways for the CNP.	No	Out
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	nationally scarce species. A diverse assemblage of rare wetland birds). No specific areas of functional land are identified; however a permeable landscape and habitat linkages to facilitate movement of birds between the SPA and any off-site supporting habitat is considered critical to the breeding success and to adult fitness and survival.				
Wye & Crundale Downs SAC Circa 14.5km from the NP area	- 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	The SIP identifies the following pressures or threats. • Overgrazing • Inappropriate scrub control • Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Screened out at Local Plan level in adopted Local Plan HRA (2017). Screened out at Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan HRA (2024), and Focused Consultation Draft Local Plan HRA (2025). Given the distance to the site and that the CNP does not include a housing requirement of site allocations, there are no impact pathways arising from the CNP.	No	Out

- 6.10. Table 6.1 outlines the consideration of European sites within a precautionary 15km buffer of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan area that could potentially have impact pathways as a result of the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan. The Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan does not propose site allocations or include a requirement for the delivery of new housing or employment growth additional to the adopted Local Plan (or emerging Local Plan). In line with the findings outlined in Table 6.1, it is considered that the Chestfield Neighbourhood Plan would not have likely significant effects on European sites alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, it is considered that an ‘appropriate assessment’ (Stage 2 of the HRA process) is not required.

7. Consultant feedback

- 7.1. Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England were consulted regarding the Chestfield Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening. Only one consultation response was received, this was from Natural England, and can be found in Appendix A.
- 7.2. None of the three consultees raised any concern that the policies as drafted in the Chestfield Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan, would likely cause significant effects on the environment.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1. Based on the above assessments outlined in Tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and Table 6.1, and the feedback for the statutory consultees, the Chestfield Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, and a Habitats Regulations ‘appropriate assessment’ is not required.
- 8.2. The assessment undertaken in Table 5.1 follows the process outlined in Figure 5.1 as taken from the ‘Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes’, from the Government’s ‘Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’, which assesses that a full SEA is not required. This considers the further assessment of environmental impact of the Chestfield Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan, through the legislation outlined in ‘The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004’, ‘Schedule 1, Regulations 9(2)(a) Criteria for determining the likely significance of the effects of the environment’.
- 8.3. The assessment detailed in Tables 5.2 and 5.3 do not identify any likely significant environmental impacts of the Chestfield Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan.

- 8.4. The assessment detailed in Table 6.1 also considers the effects of the Chestfield Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan in respect of designated European Sites. The assessment determines that the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to result in likely significant effects on designated European sites and therefore, a HRA 'appropriate assessment' is not required.