

Neighbourhood Plan
Shenstone | Stonnall | Little Aston



Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic
Environmental Assessment**

Final Report

August 2015

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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Summary of responses from statutory bodies during SA scoping process
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1 INTRODUCTION

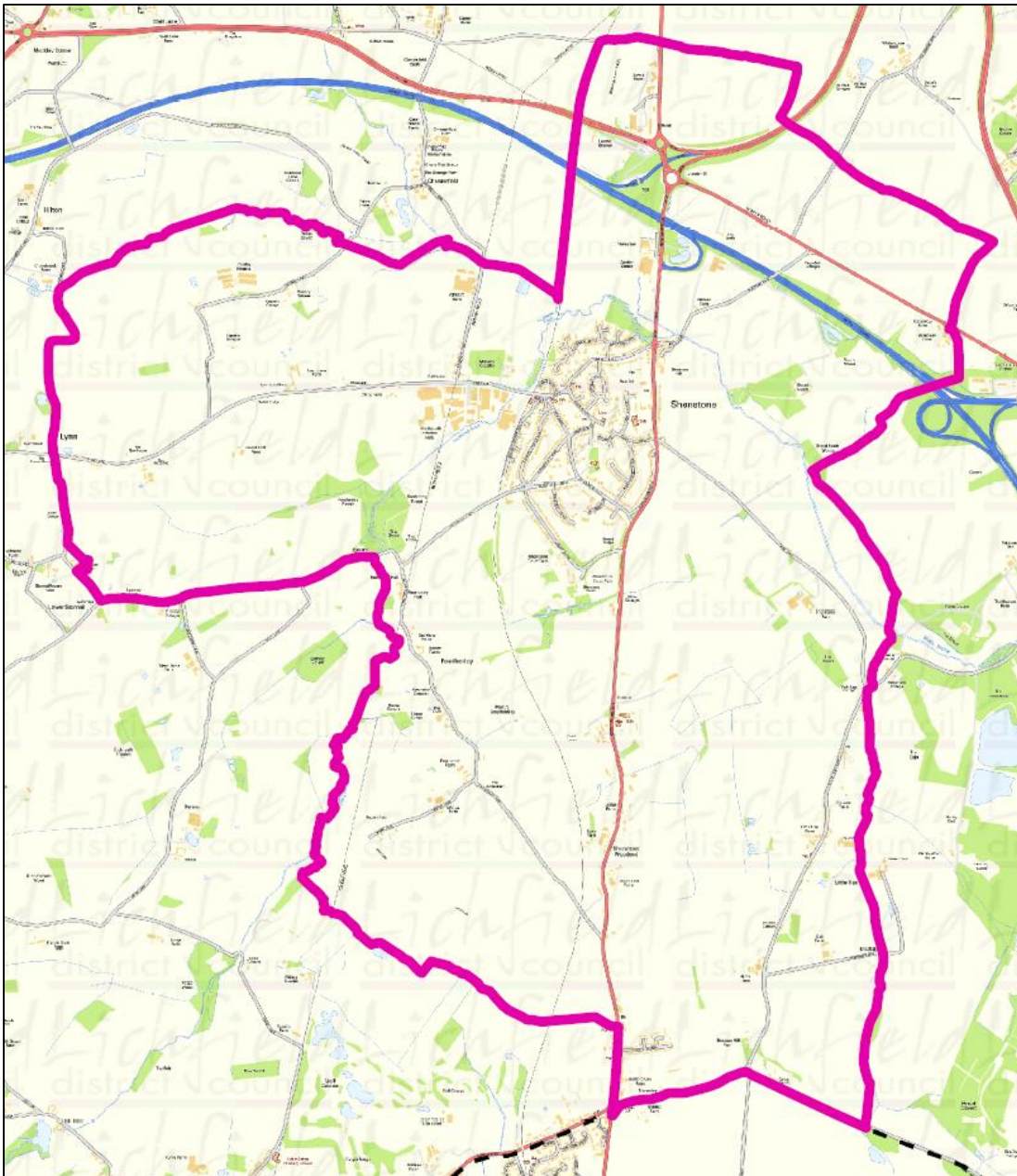
- 1.1 This document sets out the baseline information on the parish, the plans and policies influencing the production of the Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan, current sustainability issues that are facing the parish and the sustainability objectives that the Neighbourhood Plan should strive to achieve.
- 1.2 The consultation responses to the Shenstone Sustainability Framework Scoping Report published by Shenstone Parish Council in March 2015 have been taken into account when preparing the final sustainability framework on which to test the emerging policies. Where necessary, further assessment of the options will be undertaken, along with any updating of baseline data, plans and policies.
- 1.3 The sustainability objectives identified in this document have been the subject of consultation with Lichfield District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England during March and April 2015. The objectives have been amended to take account of the advice and comments received. A summary table of the comments from consultees is contained in Appendix A. In addition, comments from site promoters have resulted in a review of the sustainability assessment and clearer presentation of the assessment.
- 1.4 The commitment to the achievement of sustainable development has been set out in legislation introduced at both European and national level. In 2004 the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Strategic Environmental Assessment) was implemented in the UK. This sets out the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment, which has been incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal process. Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment process – for ease, this report is referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal from now on in this document, although it incorporates the elements required for Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 1.5 Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. It is about considering the long-term environmental, social and economic issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way. The UK Government has set five guiding principles to achieve the sustainable development purpose. These principles form the basis for policy in the UK and are as follows:
 - Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
 - Promoting good governance
 - Using sound science responsibly
- 1.6 One of the means by which sustainable development can be achieved is through the land-use planning process. The Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the Lichfield District Local Plan 2015. If approved by a referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will become a part of the development plan for the ward of Shenstone.

The Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan can help to achieve sustainable development as it aims to ensure that development meets the needs of people living and working in the parish, while at the same time helping to ensure that adverse environmental impact is minimised.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole of the pwardarish of Shenstone (see Figure 1.1). It has been prepared by a Steering Committee comprising members of Shenstone Parish Council and volunteers from the community. To inform the Sustainability Appraisal, four working groups were set up to collect data about Shenstone on a wide range of matters.
- 2.2 The majority of the district-wide data had already been collected for the Sustainability Appraisal for the Lichfield District Local Plan and had been obtained from the various sources best placed to provide accurate data in their relevant area of expertise. This information has enabled the environmental, social and economic issues facing both the district and Shenstone to be established.

Figure 1.1: Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan designated area



- 2.3 The Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan has been developed through an extensive programme of engagement with the local community. This included developing the following vision for the development of the village and parish up to 2031:

'In 2029, Shenstone is a still a quiet, desirable and attractive rural village which is popular with families but has a friendly community made up of a mix of generations. The village has continued to expand over time though a number of residential developments. This has enabled a significant number of residents with larger properties whose families have grown up and left the area to downsize and stay in Shenstone, moving to smaller properties within walking distance of the shops and services in the village.

New development has helped to provide smaller, affordable properties for first-time buyers, helping to keep more young people in the village. Improved access to rail services has helped them to access job opportunities in the larger centres of Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield and Lichfield.

Land at Birchbrook Industrial Estate has been developed for a mix of residential and employment uses. The residential development will provide excellent access to the countryside and people will also have step-free access to the station. The offices and light industrial uses provide jobs more aligned with the skills profile of the local community, meaning that more people live and work locally. The development has also meant that growth in the number of HGVs accessing the strategic road network through the village has been halted.

Development helped to fund improved access to the countryside and for cycling and walking generally. It has also funded the improvement of community infrastructure to provide for the range of needs of all the community. Shenstone has become a destination, where people can come to walk or cycle into the surrounding countryside and then return to enjoy a meal or a coffee in one of the eateries in the centre of the village.

In short, when compared to 2014, Shenstone has seen change as being 'more of the same' - a relatively small increase in housing and residents allowing the evolution of a successful place rather than a radical shift in being. This has helped to maintain the mix of generations while continuing to support a strong retail offer and community ethos.'

- 2.4 Lichfield District Council adopted its District Local Plan in February 2015. The District Plan Sustainability Appraisal identifies 12 sustainability objectives. The Shenstone Sustainability Appraisal has developed its own 10 sustainability objectives, based upon the sustainability objectives in Lichfield District Council's emerging District Local Plan. Local issues and objectives have been identified, and the indicators used to measure these are from local sources at a local scale wherever possible. These will help assess the sustainability issues facing Shenstone ward, to be addressed where possible in the Neighbourhood Plan.

3 POLICY CONTEXT

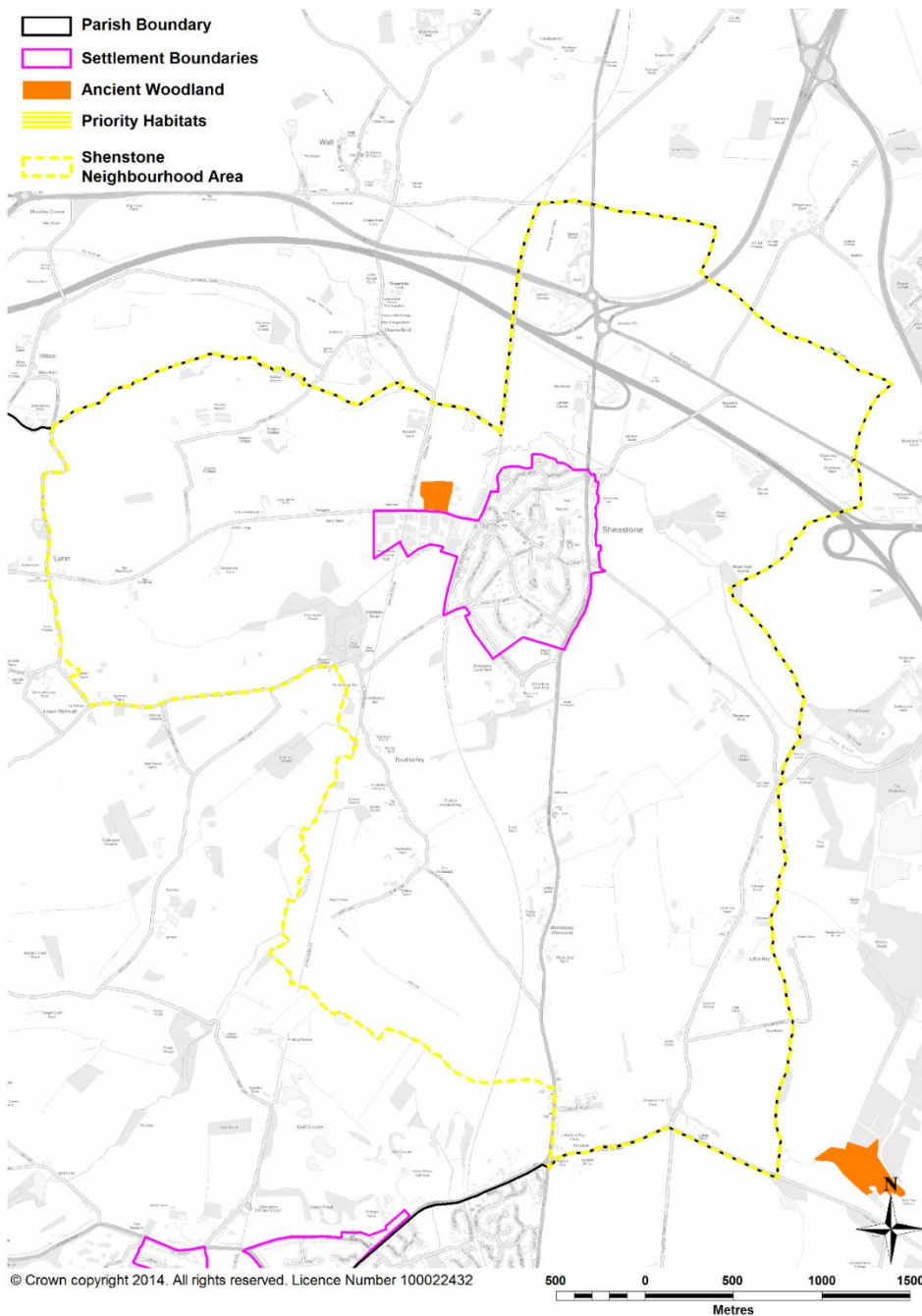
- 3.1 The Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in accordance with national and local planning policies. At the national level, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) establishes the scope and purpose of neighbourhood plans. At the local level, the development plan of Lichfield District comprises:
- 2015 Lichfield District Local Plan
 - 1998 Lichfield Local Plan (saved policies) - which remain saved until replaced by policies in the Local Plan: Allocations document
 - 1999 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Minerals Local Plan (saved policies)
 - 2013 Staffordshire Waste Local Plan.
- 3.2 Appendix B provides a summary of the programmes, plans and other documents which influence the Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan. Key objectives and indicators have been identified from the Submission District Plan and these have been incorporated into the sustainability framework and used to inform baseline data and the identification of key issues.
- 3.3 The aims, objectives and indicators from these policy documents have been used to develop the sustainability objectives. It should be noted that the policy context for the Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal is not static. Therefore as further relevant plans or programmes are developed, they will be reviewed and taken into account.

4 PARISH CHARACTERISTICS AND ISSUES

Nature conservation

- 4.1 The rural and relatively unspoilt landscape and the presence of a significant amount of ancient woodland provides the area with a rich conservation and biodiversity resource.
- 4.2 Figure 4.1 provides a map of the environmental features of the area.
- 4.3 The only environmental feature of significance in the neighbourhood plan area is the ancient woodland at Malkins Coppice. There is another ancient woodland outside the neighbourhood plan area to the south east.

Figure 4.1: Key environmental features



Species

- 4.4 There are two biodiversity alert sites in the ward. Malkins Coppice is a small pocket of ancient woodland and the Little Holmes is mostly a semi-improved grassland. Significant habitats within this area are mainly found within the two Biodiversity Alert Sites noted above. The following species are found there:

Protected species	Biodiversity Action Plan species
Common kingfisher	Sky Lark
Eurasian badger	
European water vole	
Whiskered/Brandt's bat	

Source: Staffordshire Ecological Services (2009) *Lichfield Ecological Study*

Natura 2000 wildlife sites

- 4.5 The ward is within 15 kilometres of the following Natura 2000 sites:
- Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Cannock Extension Canal
 - River Mease SAC
 - Humber Estuary SAC
- 4.6 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening was undertaken by LDC on the Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan. This found that there would be no significant effects upon the identified European sites as a result of the Plan. Therefore the further stages of Appropriate Assessment are not required for the Plan.

Landscape

- 4.7 Shenstone is a largely rural ward. The majority of the ward falls within the landscape character type 'Sandstone Estatelands in Cannock Chase and Cankwood'. The resulting landscape policy objective is 'landscape enhancement'. This area has also suffered erosion of strength of character and loss of condition of landscape elements, which has resulted in a landscape of medium quality. Development should be sustainably designed to a high quality with a requirement for environmental and biodiversity enhancement to maintain and improve the quality of the landscape.
- 4.8 The Lichfield Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment (2007) states at paragraph 5.17 that:

"In relation to the larger freestanding villages within the District, (ie. Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Whittington and Shenstone), with a degree of sustainability, the landscape and biodiversity considerations suggest that there are no 'showstopper' impacts that would prevent growth at all, however each has individual considerations that would limit the scale or direction of any peripheral growth. These include impact upon...parkland

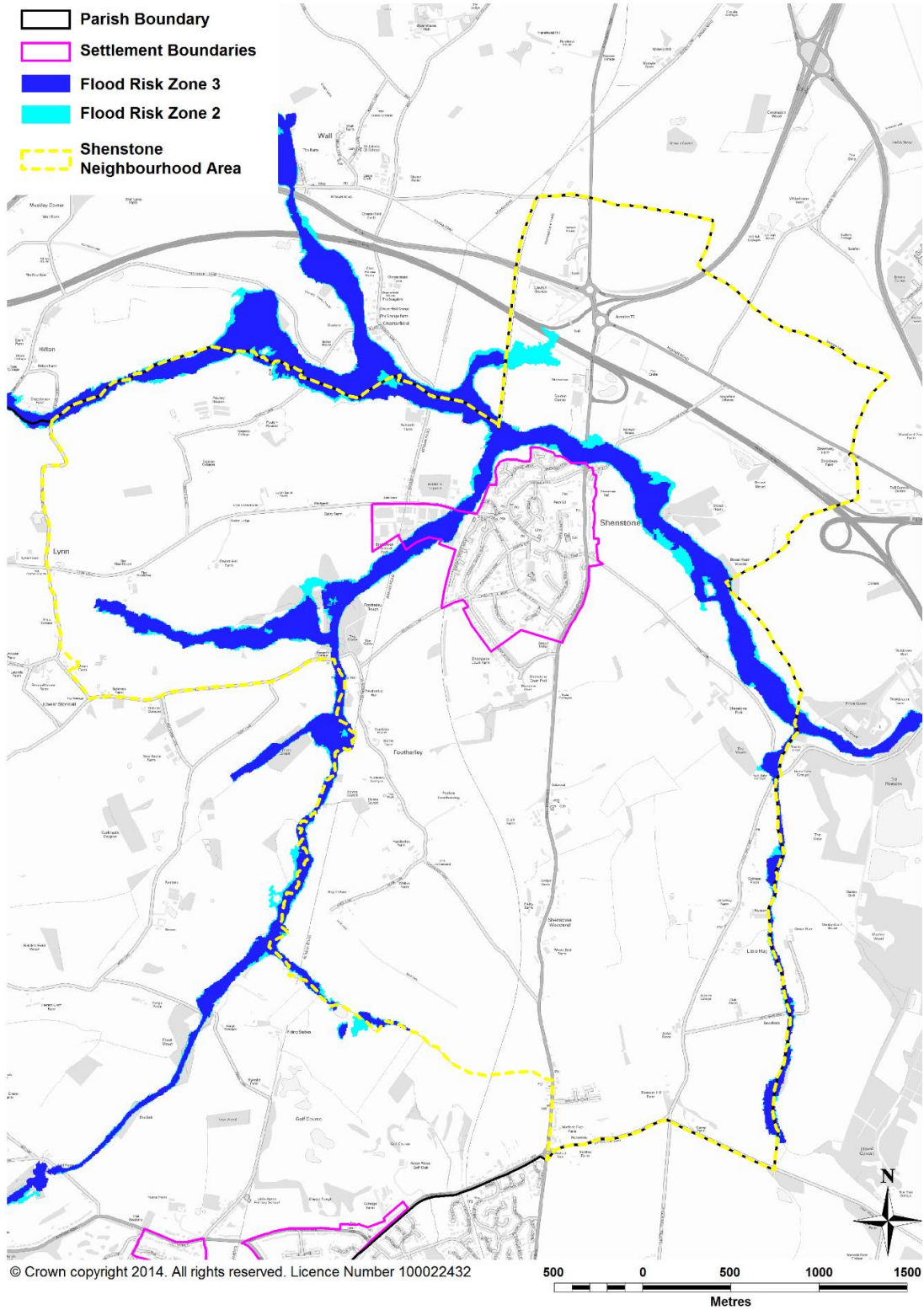
south of Shenstone. Such considerations suggest that whilst they would not prevent a broad spatial strategy, for example of key settlement development from being able to be implemented, there could be factors that would direct growth in a specific direction or limit it to a specific scale.”

- 4.9 A large deer park, lying in the south eastern portion of the ward, was established in the mid-13th century and survived until the 17th century. However, its boundary can still be traced in the surviving field boundaries and lanes and it is associated with the Shenstone Park moated site, a scheduled ancient monument, which survives as an earthwork.
- 4.10 The landscape park associated with The Moss has also influenced the local landscape and, despite housing development in its northern portion and the loss of the country house, the parkland character largely survives. This is apparent in the number of parkland trees, shelter belts and carriageways around the site of the house as well as a number of surviving historic structures associated with the estate including the home farm complex and the walled garden.
- 4.11 The Staffordshire Historic Farmsteads Survey (2009) project identified 24 historic farmsteads within the ward which retain a degree of their historic plan form. These historic farmsteads contribute to the local rural landscape character of the ward. In fact, 77% of the identified historic farmsteads in the ward are recorded as having high significance, having retained more than 50% or more of their historic form.
- 4.12 The 2009 Historic Landscape Character Assessment identifies that the surviving elements of the medieval landscape are limited and principally consist of the area of ancient woodland to the west of the settlement, areas of wetlands which survive along the line of Crane Brook and Black Brook.
- 4.13 Wetlands or floodplain fields line the sides of the river valleys. Some of these landscapes will have been extensively drained from the 17th century onwards, or have been utilised as watermeadows from the 18th/19th century whose earthworks and associated structures may survive so consequently these areas are considered to be sensitive to development.
- 4.14 To the south of the settlement is an area of 18th-19th planned field systems. These areas are characterised by either small or large fields that share very straight boundaries, giving them a geometric, planned appearance.
- 4.15 A map showing the historic land classifications is shown in Figure 4.2.

Water

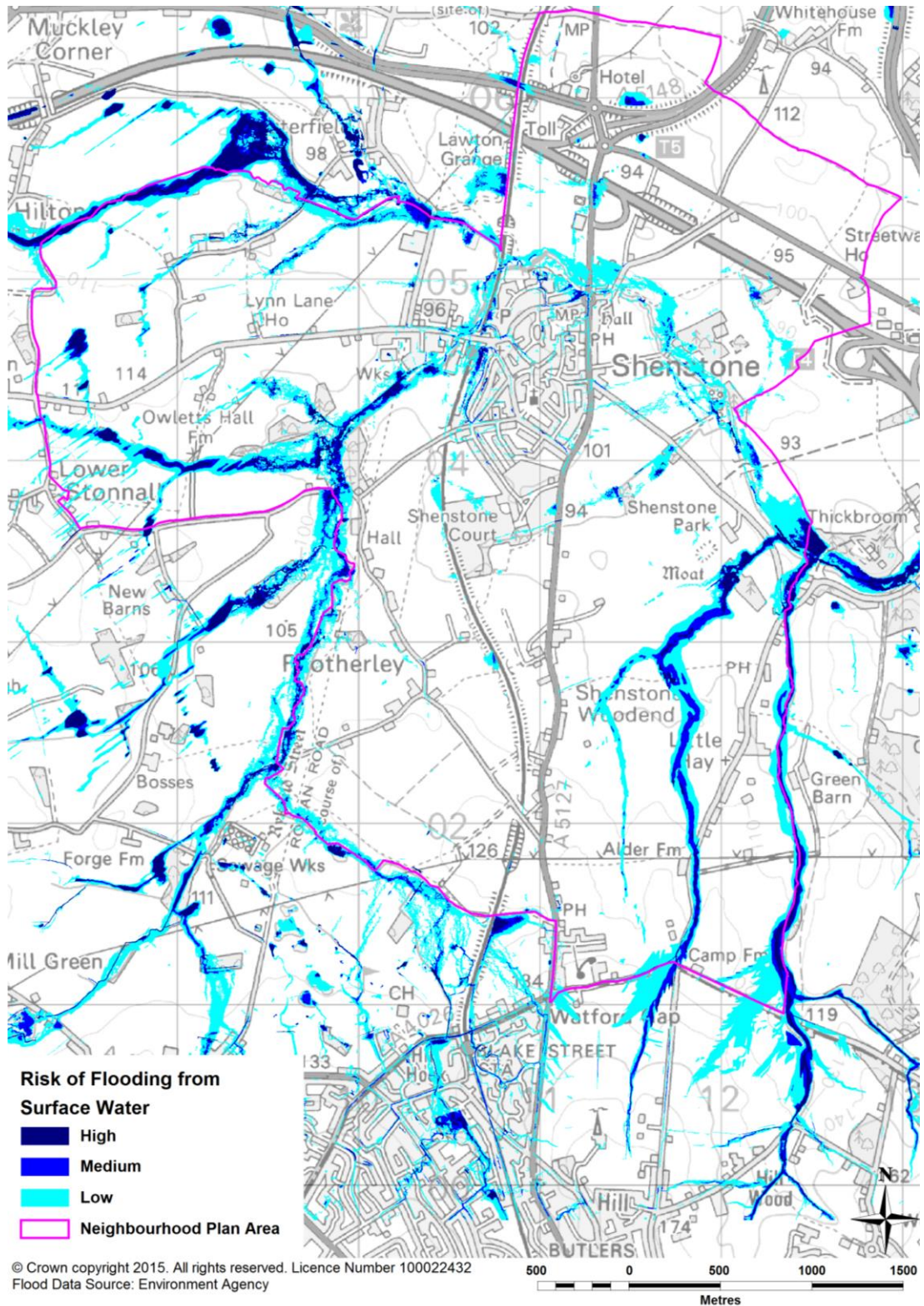
- 4.16 The high risk flood areas are shown in Figures 4.3 and 4.4 below. Of particular note is the area within flood zone 3 that passes through Shenstone village.

Figure 4.3: High flood risk areas in Shenstone neighbourhood plan area



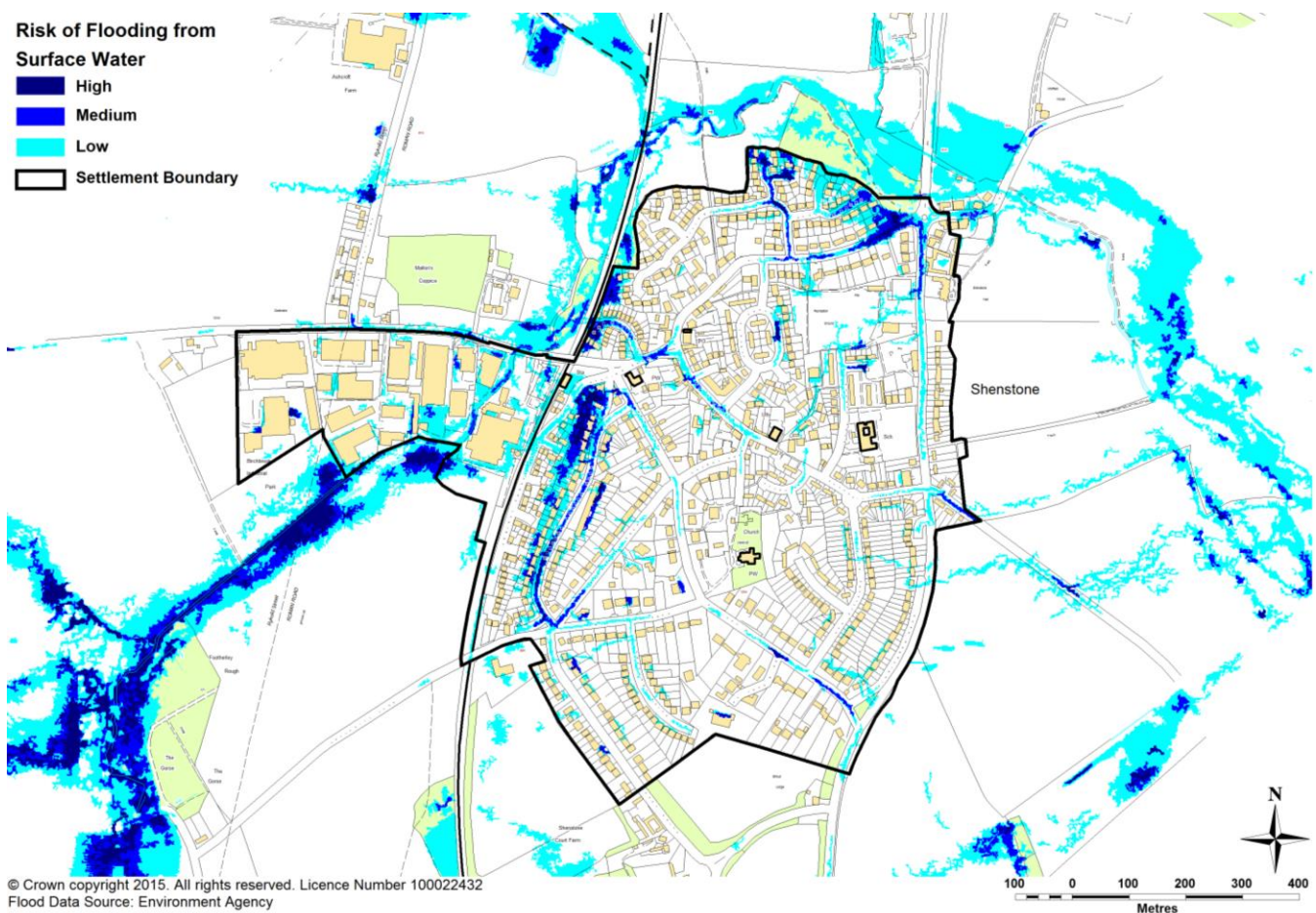
4.17 Surface water flooding is also a potential issue. Figures 4.5 and 4.6 show that this risk is high in a small band through the village and to the south of the Birchbrook Industrial Estate. Most of the rest of the ward and the village is at very low risk.

Figure 4.5: Surface water flooding in Shenstone ward



Source: Environment Agency

Figure 4.6: Surface water flooding in Shenstone village



Source: Environment Agency

Soils

- 4.18 Much of the main populated parts and surrounding areas of Shenstone ward are characterised by freely draining, slightly acidic, sandy soils. These soils have low fertility¹. Farmed land is particularly vulnerable to leaching of nitrate and pesticides to groundwater.
- 4.19 The large majority of the more rural farmland in the ward has loamy and sandy soil with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface. This has moderate fertility but shallow groundwater and marginal ditches to most fields mean that the water resource is vulnerable to pollution from nutrients, pesticides and wastes applied to the land.
- 4.20 A small section of land in the west of the ward is classified as freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soil. This has low fertility and is liable to experience groundwater contamination with nitrate.
- 4.21 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. Published by Natural England², the ALC provides a classification in 5 grades using a number of criteria including climate (temperature, rainfall, aspect, exposure, frost risk), site (gradient, micro-relief,

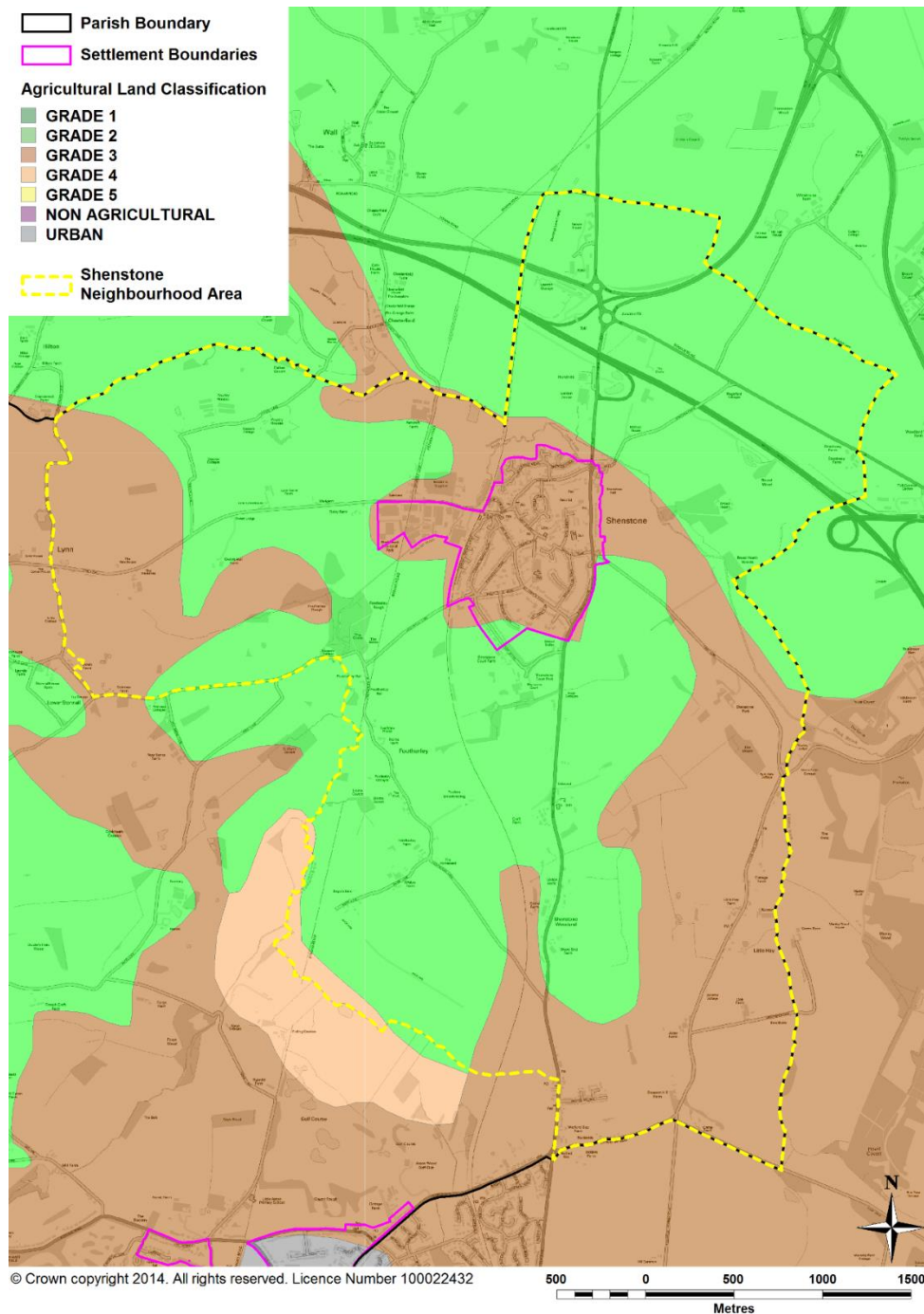
¹ Source: Cranfield Soilscape map

² <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4424325>

flood risk) and soil (depth, structure, texture, chemicals, stoniness). The scales ranges from 1 (high quality) to 5 – poorest.

- 4.22 The NPPF (paragraph 112) states that relevant planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality.
- 4.23 Figure 4.7 shows that the Shenstone neighbourhood plan area has a mix of predominantly grade 2 and grade 3 agricultural land. The Shenstone village area is almost entirely grade 3 land. It is notable that to the south of the village, the land is grade 2.

Figure 4.7: Agricultural land classification



Heritage

4.24 The ward includes 25 listed buildings, of which 23 are grade II listed and 2 are grade II*. Of this total, 17 are in or adjacent to the Shenstone village settlement area, with the majority being inside the settlement boundary. This is shown in Figures 4.8 and 4.9.

Figure 4.8: Listed buildings and Conservation Area in Shenstone ward

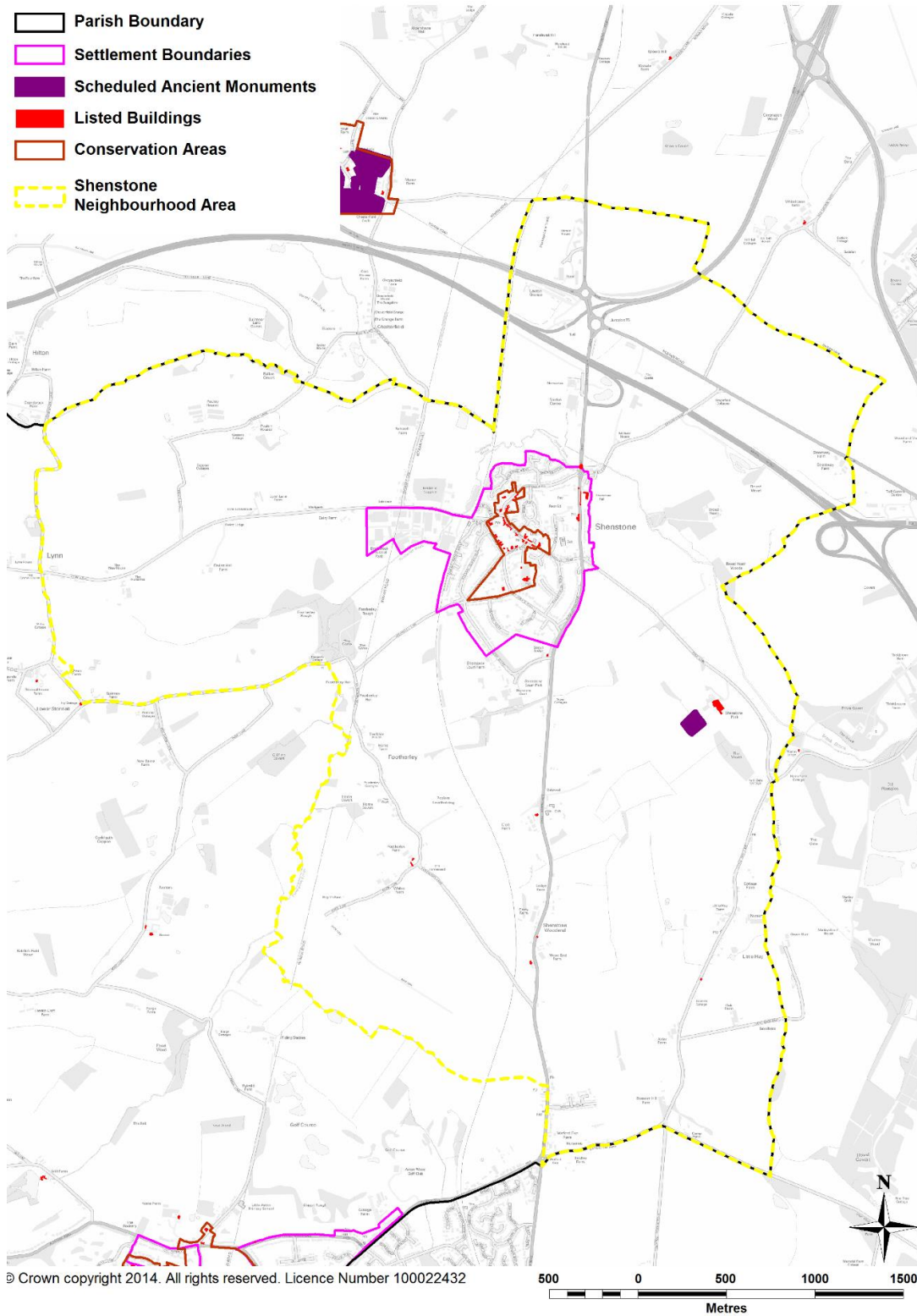
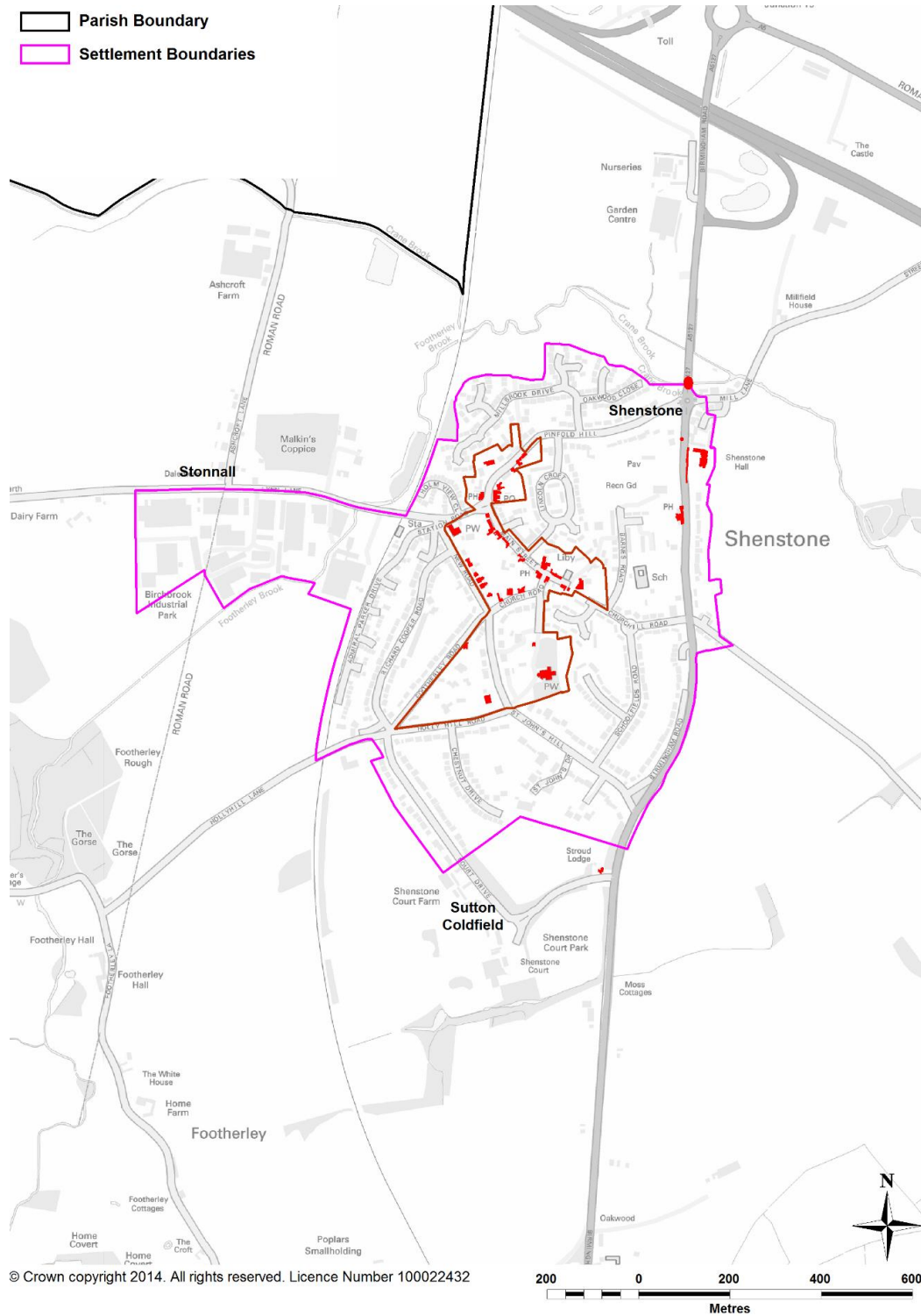


Figure 4.9: Listed buildings and Conservation Area in Shenstone village



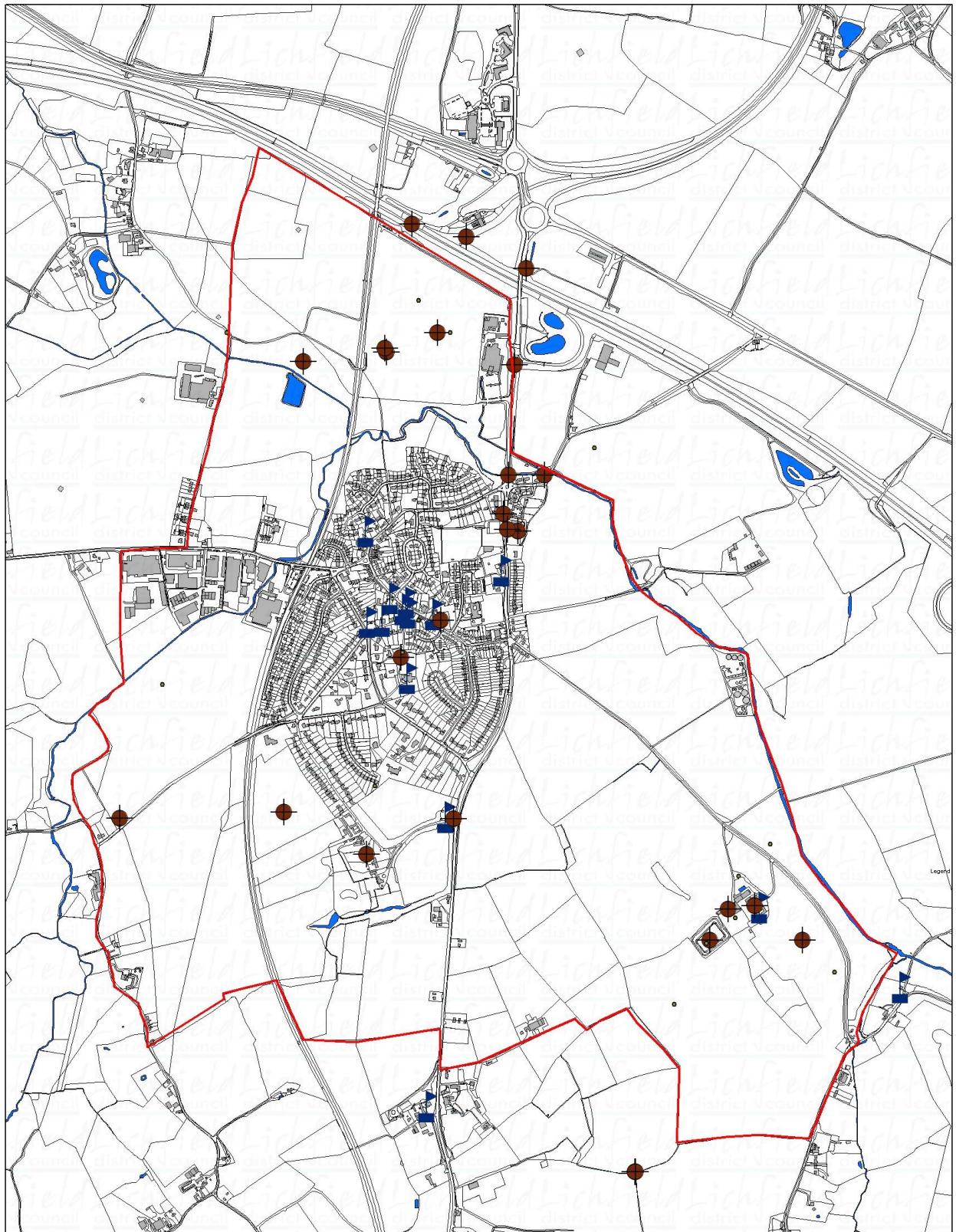
- 4.25 The only listed building at risk is the tower of Old St John's Church, which is grade II* listed.
- 4.26 There is one scheduled ancient monument in the ward, the Shenstone Park moated site.
- 4.27 There are also 24 locally listed buildings.

- 4.28 Part of Shenstone village is subject to conservation area status. This was first designated in 1977, extended in 1989 (land enclosed by Fotherley Road, Holly Hill Road and St. John's Hill) and then again in 1999 (the Trinity Methodist Church and the east side of New Road). It covers the historic core of the village, centred on Church Road and Main Street. Its status is mostly based on the style and architecture of the buildings although the limited amount of public open space, including the trees and hedges, give it a green setting and rural feel.
- 4.29 The following features contribute to the particular character of the Conservation Area:
- Buildings are often vernacular, that is they are not designed by a known architect but are built in a traditional cottage style from locally sourced materials.
 - Buildings are often of two storeys with a horizontal emphasis and are often comparatively close to the roadway with little private frontage.
 - Where curtilage walls are found they are of red brick with blue half rounded coping stones. Historically, there was little ornamentation to the curtilage of most houses.
 - The most prominent building material is red brick; Staffordshire blue clay tiles are the most predominant roofing material.
 - Several types of eaves detailing are to be found including dentilled brick, saw tooth brick and projecting brick courses.
 - Rainwater goods are traditionally cast iron; windows and doors are traditionally painted timber.
 - Lower status houses have casement windows; higher status houses sashes; dormer windows are not a common feature of the village.
 - Lintel treatment of windows varies; stone, wood, and segmental and gauged brick are all to be found.
- 4.30 The Historic Environment Landscape Character Assessment 2009 considered that medium or large scale development is likely to have some impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:
- the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings
 - the potential for below ground archaeological deposits
 - impact on the historic parkland of Shenstone Hall
- 4.31 There is potential for archaeological remains from all periods. The overall character of the Shenstone Historic Environment Character Zone (HECZ) for the pre-historic period is likely to have been of a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy.
- 4.32 Archaeological finds and crop marks provide evidence of continuous human activity in this area from the Palaeolithic onwards. Axes have been found dating from the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age and a flint scraper found in the area possibly dates to the Mesolithic. Evidence of a more permanent presence dates from the late Neolithic onwards with a ring ditch and possible henge visible as a crop mark. There is also a barrow and a ring ditch with a central burial all dating to the Bronze Age and visible as crop marks.
- 4.33 The line of the Roman road, Ryknild Street runs through the HECZ to the west of the main settlement. While there may be little evidence of this remaining on the surface there is considerable potential for stratified remains at a lower level. Ryknild Street meets Watling Street just to the north of this HECZ and the Roman town of Wall (Letocetum) is located to the north-west of the

HECZ. It is likely that the HECZ sat within the agricultural hinterland of Wall and as such may contain further as yet undiscovered evidence of Romano-British farmsteads as evidenced in the north of the HECZ.

- 4.34 The remains of the medieval church tower contain Anglo-Saxon masonry and the Shenstone was mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) confirming the early origins of the settlement.
- 4.35 The medieval moated site situated to the south-east of the settlement of Shenstone survives in a very good condition. There is documentary evidence that it was built on or near to the site of the Norman hunting lodge. The surrounding medieval deer park was established by 1236 and was still in use in the mid-17th century and has associations with Henry VIII. The physical remains of the deer park have been significantly compromised by 20th century developments in agriculture which have resulted in substantial increases in field size and boundary loss.
- 4.36 The Historic Environmental Record (HER) is shown in Figure 4.10.

Figure 4.10: Historic Environmental Record




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Email: info@lichfield.gov.uk

**Map 2: LHECZ 13:
Shenstone -
HER data
(excluding findspots and
documentary evidence)**

Scale: Not to Scale	Date: February 2009
Drawn By: Debbie Boffin	
Drawing No:	

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Key

-  Building
-  Monument

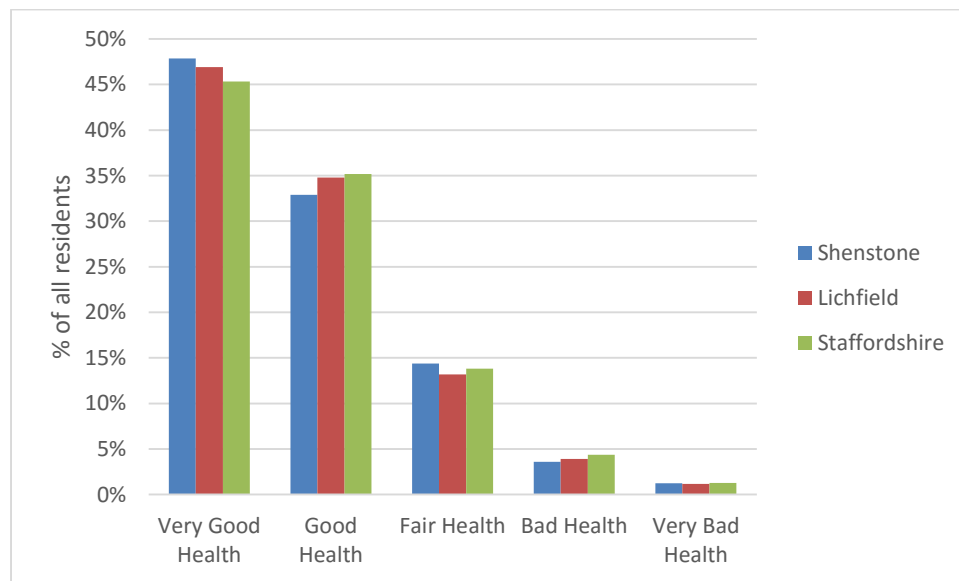
Air and Climate

- 4.37 Generally air pollution is low and most emissions are generated by traffic generated from the M6 Toll Road and the A5 that pass through the ward. There are no Air Quality Management Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Human characteristics

- 4.38 Figure 4.11 shows that the general health of Shenstone residents is good. Those with 'very good' health are above the district and county averages which more than offsets slightly lower proportions of those with 'good' health. Those in bad health represent less than 5% of the population.

Figure 4.11: General health, 2011



Source: 2011 Census

Roads and transport

- 4.39 The local roads serving Shenstone village are small, roads that are inappropriate for carrying significant volumes of traffic.
- 4.40 The major routes through the ward are the M6 Toll Road and the A5. These routes run through the northern and eastern parts of the ward and are sufficiently distant from Shenstone village to have no detrimental impact by way of noise. Birmingham Road runs north-south through the ward and connects the A5/M6 Toll Road junction with Shenstone village and with the Birmingham conurbation to the south.

Infrastructure

- 4.41 Shenstone has the following community infrastructure assets:
- A primary school
 - Church
 - A recreational spaces used for formal and informal recreation

- A number of pubs
- A local shopping/service centre
- A community hall

Economic characteristics

- 4.42 The 2011 Census recorded that the population of the Shenstone ward was 3,326 persons, living in 1,317 households. Since 2001, the population has grown by 120 persons, or 3.7%. Comparatively, the Lichfield district population grew by 7.4%. Over the same period, the number of households grew by 48 (3.8%) in Shenstone and by 9.9% in Lichfield district. This number will reflect the number of new houses built over the decade and also possibly the sub-division of existing properties into multiple households.
- 4.43 There has been a broad trend in the increase in population and number of households across the wider district but the rate of increase appears to be lower in Shenstone than in Lichfield district as a whole.
- 4.44 A potential barrier for access to housing is house prices – both in relative and absolute terms. In October 2014, the average price of a dwellings (all types) in the WS14 postcode area (covering Shenstone and the surrounding rural areas) was £283,600³. Based on a 95% mortgage, a couple would need a combined income of £89,800, or a single person an income of £77,000, to be able to buy such a property.

³ Source: www.home.co.uk

5 KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

SWOT analysis

- 5.1 Table 5.1 has been informed by the issues identified in the Neighbourhood Plan public workshops and consultation, and the baseline information collected in Section 3.

Table 5.1: SWOT analysis of issues facing Shenstone parish

<p>Strengths</p> <p>Low crime rate, valued school, conservation area, strong community spirit, good range of community activities, choice of pubs and shops, friendly church, access to Birmingham conurbation.</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>Traffic speed, volume and weight (particularly HGVs) and widespread parking issues, pedestrian vulnerability, infrequent public transport, limited health facilities e.g. doctors' surgery, limited activities for older children, high house prices, lack of affordable housing, poor residential design</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Improve pedestrian safety, implement traffic management, better balanced age distribution, improve contact and service to elderly, encourage use of renewable energy, encourage local businesses, expand community activities, improve network of footpaths</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>Climate change, loss of biodiversity, drought or water interruption/contamination, danger from traffic on strategic roads, inappropriate development leading to loss of rural character, loss of services such as buses, shops, loss of agricultural land and local food self sufficiency, loss of local distinctiveness through cumulative loss of local vernacular, insufficient housing development to address needs</p>

Key issues

- 5.2 There are a number of sustainability issues and challenges facing the ward. While Shenstone ward offers a high quality environment to residents and local businesses, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to manage and seek to resolve a series of issues over its lifetime if the ward is to continue to be successful while respecting its rural setting and the 'feel' of Shenstone village.
- 5.3 In the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan (and as a consequence a lack of vision and strategy for Shenstone), there will be fewer opportunities to address the issues and challenges facing the ward, as well as contributing to a reduction in the potential benefit to the community.

Table 5.2: Challenges and impacts of not having a neighbourhood plan

Challenges facing Shenstone Parish	Effect of not having a neighbourhood plan
Problem of traffic speed, volume and weight coming through Shenstone village	Residents lives will be further blighted and safety will be worsened by HGV movements
Viability of primary school	School roll reduces and therefore the school faces the threat of closure
Scale of housing growth	District Plan policies are strategic in nature but do require growth of settlements such as Shenstone therefore could be exposed to speculative applications for major housing. In sufficient delivery of housing could mean that housing needs are not properly addressed, both for Shenstone and its surrounding rural areas.
Lack of affordable housing for residents	No suitable sites for housing for local people would be delivered
Supporting an ageing population	Potential issues of care/support/transport and a lack of local homes suitable for the needs of older people
Inadequate and potentially reducing public transport options	Increased dependence on the private car and increasing isolation for those unable to afford a car
Support and flexibility for local businesses	The needs of businesses to grow and change may be restricted by current policies
Infrastructure improvements such as roads, crossings, parking, community facilities	Funding for infrastructure requirements may not arise
Pressures for development in countryside	District Plan policies are strategic in nature but do require growth of settlements which could therefore be ad-hoc and unplanned
Loss of agricultural land to development	Could result in unnecessary loss of agricultural land due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications
Poor access to services and facilities	Increased dependence on the private car to access services and inability to do so for those unable to afford a car Could result in the loss of the shops in the local centre with no alternative convenience retail provision.
Need to maintain and enhance the high quality natural environment, wildlife networks and biodiversity of the parish	Could result in unnecessary impacts on biodiversity due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications
Need to protect and enhance the historic buildings and environment of the parish	Could result in unnecessary impacts on heritage assets due to unplanned development coming forward through speculative applications

6 OBJECTIVES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The issues for the Neighbourhood Plan and the objectives for the Sustainability Appraisal, have been informed by the policy documents identified in section 2, in particular:
- the 2015 Lichfield District Local Plan
 - the results of the surveys and engagement events conducted throughout 2013 and 2014
 - the baseline information collected in section 4 and the sustainability challenges for Shenstone Parish identified in section 5.
- 6.2 The Objectives, and the Indicators used to measure them, are collectively known as the Sustainability Framework.
- 6.3 The Sustainability Appraisal measures the sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan through the identification of objectives and indicators. These will be used to predict the sustainability effects of the strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan, and the policies to deliver the strategy. The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal will include consideration of alternatives and information about likely future changes that will occur even without a new Neighbourhood Plan. These alternatives will be assessed against the Sustainability Framework in order to determine which option is the most sustainable. This will be used to inform the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan in order to make sure it is the most sustainable plan possible, given all realistic alternatives.
- 6.4 The Sustainability Appraisal assesses each of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan policies against the 10 Sustainability Objectives, which are in effect a measure of sustainability. Each policy is tested by applying a number of 'indicators' to it. This will help to judge the performance of the policy against each of the sustainability objectives. It is proposed that the performance of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will be measured against the objectives in terms of positive, neutral or negative impact.

7 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

7.1 In order to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Neighbourhood Plan, a total of 10 sustainability objectives have been identified to enable an assessment to be made of the emerging options and allow for recommendations and mitigation measures to be proposed.

7.2 The sustainability objectives have emerged through the following considerations:

- Through the review of documents listed in Appendix B
- As identified in the Baseline section
- To help address sustainability issues known locally
- To help address the 'weaknesses' outlined in the SWOT analysis

7.3 The sustainability objectives and indicators are as shown in Table 7.1:

Table 7.1: Sustainability objectives and criteria for the Shenstone Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability theme	Objectives	Indicators
1/Env	To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Shenstone in terms of its: - geology, landform, water systems and climate - ancient woodlands	- Area of Ancient Woodland within the parish. - Loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. - Number of developments in 'highly vulnerable' or 'more vulnerable' flood risk areas. - Restricted activities within Groundwater Source Protection Zones - Loss of any of these features through grant of planning consent.
2/Env	To protect and enhance the biodiversity of the parish, its wildlife habitats and species.	- Area of priority habitats within the parish - Condition of ancient woodland in parish
3/Env	To protect the identity and local distinctiveness of Shenstone village and to enhance the village streetscape.	- Number of listed buildings in built-up area. - Number of applications for listed building consent. - Number of applications in Conservation Area.
4/Env	To ensure that the community has access to high quality open space and recreation opportunities in order to facilitate a healthy lifestyle.	- Census figures on long term illness and general health. - Number/area of green spaces within walking distance of homes. - Number of formal recreation facilities within walking distance of homes.
5/Env	To protect the landscape setting of Shenstone village through use of land that does not impact on views of local significance and focusing development on previously developed land	- Loss of views of value, including Shenstone Church. - Development on previously developed land.
6/Env	To improve safe movement by non-car modes	- Traffic movements through Shenstone village, including HGV traffic. - Number and distance of new footpaths/cyclepaths.

Sustainability theme	Objectives	Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of rail passengers using Shenstone station. - Number of bus passengers accessing buses from Shenstone. - Speed data from police. - Number of safe crossing points in the village.
7/Soc	To ensure that housing firstly addresses the local needs of Shenstone but then also addresses the overall housing requirements for Shenstone as a Key Rural Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of housing built by dwelling size. - Number of people with a local connection on the Housing Register that are newly housed. - Number of affordable homes completed. - Number of dwellings delivered overall with reference to the Lichfield Local Plan requirement in Policy Shen4.
8/Econ	To maximise the potential of existing employment and support the needs of local employers/service providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of businesses retained. - Number of new businesses in the parish. - Number of local start-ups. - Data on employment levels. - Number of businesses and dwellings with access to superfast broadband.
9/Soc	To ensure that the community has adequate access to the key services it needs, including health facilities, convenience shops, and schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distance the population of the parish live from key services. - Availability of regular public transport. - Number of shops in village.
10/Soc	To ensure the provision of a range of community facilities that provide for the needs of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of community facilities within the parish.

8 ASSESSMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

- 8.1 As the Neighbourhood Plan has developed, the strategy and policies have been tested against these sustainability objectives, to identify appropriate policies for inclusion in the Plan.
- 8.2 Realistic policy options have been appraised against the Sustainability Objectives in order to ensure that the policies chosen for the Neighbourhood Plan are sustainable.
- 8.3 The following symbols have been used to record the impact of each option against each objective:

++	Significant positive impact on sustainability objective
+	Positive impact on sustainability objective
+?	Possible positive impact or slight positive impact on sustainability objective
0	No impact or neutral impact on sustainability objective
-?	Possible negative impact or slight negative impact on sustainability objective
-	Negative impact on sustainability objective
--	Significant negative impact on sustainability objective

- 8.4 In the tables below, 'LDLP' means the 'Lichfield District Local Plan 2015'.

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy GB1 – Protection of Green Belt boundaries										
Policy Options:										
Option A: To have an NP policy										
Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policies 1 and 13, Policy NR2										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	-?	0	+
B	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	-?	0	+
Preferred Policy Option:				A/B						
Summary and conclusion: There is minimal additional weight provided by Policy GB1 to that in the NPPF and LDLP policies. The scoring is therefore identical.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy SAC1 – Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 13, Policy NR7										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
B	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A/B						
Summary and conclusion: There is minimal additional weight provided by Policy SAC1 to that in the NPPF and LDLP policies 1. The scoring is therefore identical.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy H1 – Dwelling mix										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Policy H1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: No negative sustainability impacts are expected to result from this policy. Having a local policy ensures that the needs of Shenstone are specifically delivered.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy H2 – Residential infill and backland development										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Policy BE1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	+	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0
B	0	0	+?	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: No negative sustainability impacts are expected to result from this policy. Having a local policy ensures that the particular character of Shenstone as a rural village is specifically preserved.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy H3 – Design of residential development										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Policy BE1, Policy Shen 1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: This policy will have no negative impacts and will seek to ensure that development preserves Shenstone’s architectural styles that serve to retain its identity as a rural village.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy H4 – Provision of private amenity space to serve residential development										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Policy BE1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	+?	+?	+	+?	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	-?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
<p>Summary and conclusion: This policy will have no negative impacts and will seek to ensure that development preserves Shenstone’s open ‘feel’ as a rural village, as well as ensuring that all residents have access to private amenity space.</p>										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options
Policy HA1 – Land at Birchbrook Industrial Estate, Lynn Lane
Policy Options: To allocate any one or a combination of Site Options (A) to (E)

Sustainability theme	(A) Land at Birchbrook Industrial Estate	(B) Court Drive	(C) Court Drive Field	(D) Land north of Millbrook Drive	(E) Shenstone Pumping Station, Lynn Lane	Summary of appraisal
1/Env – Rural environment	0	-	-	0	0	Option (A) is on a brownfield site although part of the site is in Flood Zone 3, so residential development would need to be located elsewhere on the site. This will limit the potential area for residential development. Options (B) and (C) would result in the loss of Grade 2 agricultural land. Options (D) and (E) would result in the loss of Grade 3 agricultural land. Eastern part of Option (D) (about 50% of site area) is in Flood Zone 3 but promoter is proposing development to only be on land in Flood Zone 1. A very small part of Option (E) on the eastern side is in Flood Zone 3, the rest is in Flood Zone 1.
2/Env - Biodiversity	+	0	0	+	-	Options (A) and (D) have the potential to open up the Fotherley Brook as a green corridor. Option (B) has TPOs on the southern edge of the site which will limit the potential area for development, but this is only on a limited part of the overall site. Option (C) has some potential of bat roosting but this would need further assessment. Option (E) is adjacent to a Biodiversity Alert Site (Little Holmes, aka Malkins Coppice) so development could impact on wildlife.
3/Env - Heritage	0	0	0	0	0	None of the options would have an impact on the Conservation Area or any listed buildings.
4/Env – Health 10/Soc - Community	-	+	++	+	+	Option (A) has limited potential for green open space or for the provision of community facilities. Nothing has been offered by the promoter. With Options (B) and (E) , the promoters have proposed additional public open space which could include childrens' play areas. With Option (C) , the promoter has suggested five-a-side sports pitches and childrens' play areas. Alternatively, there is sufficient space to provide allotments. With Option (D) , the promoter has proposed additional public open space on the northern part of site. This would also open up the existing public open space on the Lammis Land.

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Sustainability theme	(A) Land at Birchbrook Industrial Estate	(B) Court Drive	(C) Court Drive Field	(D) Land north of Millbrook Drive	(E) Shenstone Pumping Station, Lynn Lane	Summary of appraisal
5/Env – Landscape	+	-	-	--	-	<p>Option (A) is brownfield and would have no impact on views as it sits between the built up area and the existing industrial area.</p> <p>Options (B) and (C) are greenfield sites and both would potentially have some limited impact on views of Shenstone from the south.</p> <p>Option (D) is greenfield and would potentially have some limited impact on views of Shenstone from the north. It would also be detrimental to views of the Lammas Land.</p> <p>Site (E) is greenfield and would potentially have some limited impact on views of Shenstone from the north-west.</p>
6/Env – Transport & Movement 9/Soc – Services	++	-?	-?	-?	+	<p>Option (A) is adjacent to the railway station and could provide direct step-free access to it. It is within 400m of the village centre and the nearest bus stop, so is within the acceptable walking distance of these facilities. The site has pedestrian access to the village centre across the Lynn Lane bridge.</p> <p>Options (B), (C), (D) and (E) are within the preferred maximum walking distance of the railway station, nearest bus stop and village centre. The sites could provide direct access to countryside and walking paths, with site (D) adjacent to two existing footpaths.</p> <p>Access to and from the existing estate road serving Option (A) via Lynn Lane is unlikely to create problems. For Options (B) and (C), access and volume of traffic onto the main highway would need to be considered. Option (D) would need to be accessed through an existing housing estate, which would add some limited additional traffic onto residential estate roads.</p> <p>Access to and from Option (E) is unlikely to create issues.</p>
7/Soc - Housing	+	++	++	+	+	<p>Site (A), reflecting the restriction on part of the site caused by being partly located in Flood Zone 3, can make a reasonable contribution towards addressing Shenstone’s housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Options (B) and (C) are both capable of making a very significant contribution towards addressing Shenstone’s housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Option (D) is capable of making a limited contribution towards addressing Shenstone’s housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing.</p> <p>Option (E) is capable of making a reasonable contribution towards addressing Shenstone’s housing needs, including the provision of affordable housing.</p>
8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	+?	0	0	0	0	<p>Option (A) will create additional commercial floorspace. Although this will be offset by the loss of existing floorspace, the current floorspace has limited demand (being currently unoccupied) and creates amenity issues due to HGV traffic through the village.</p> <p>Options (B), (C), (D) and (E) will not result in the loss of any commercial premises but will not create any new employment either.</p>

Preferred Policy Option:	Allocate Site Option (A)
<p>Summary and conclusion:</p> <p>Overall, all sites have negative impacts on at least one of the environmental objectives. Site (A) is the only site that is not likely to have an impact on the environment as currently exists. Sites (B)-(E) are all expected to have some impact on either the biodiversity of the area or the landscape. In particular for a village such as Shenstone, development on the edge of the settlement would have an impact on the historic parkland setting. Site (A) has limited potential to provide new green space to serve the community, whereas the other sites do provide that potential.</p> <p>There is a real mix of impacts on social objectives although they are generally positive, which is not surprising for sites seeking to provide housing. All sites will make a contribution to securing the range of housing required to address Shenstone’s needs, with the larger sites, (B) and (C) making a greater contribution. Site (A) is the only site that would not provide community facilities on-site, although it does create the opportunity to improve disabled access to the station. Sites (B)-(E) can provide a range of community benefits, with various things offered by site promoters. Where sites (B)-(D) perform less well compared to sites (A) and (E) is in terms of access to services in the village. Their location on the edge of the village, furthest away from the shops and railway station mean they are less likely to increase the proportion of non-car trips and to support the village shops and services.</p> <p>Only Site (A) is on an existing employment site and is proposing to provide employment as part of any redevelopment. So there is a balance between the loss of existing employment space and the provision of new space. The existing space is under-used and suitable for more traditional sectors whereas the new space to be provided, whilst smaller, would be more suitable for modern businesses to occupy. It therefore has the potential to provide a net economic benefit but this is not certain.</p> <p>Overall, Site (A) is the most sustainable site over all the objectives. In particular, its location close to the village means that it has very strong positive benefits in terms of addressing Objectives 6 and 9. The one issue relates to the part of the site that is in Flood Zone 3, meaning that development will need to be directed away from this area, thereby reducing the potential dwelling yield from the site. All the other sites are entirely or predominantly within the Green Belt, therefore the sustainability of Site (A) means that it represents a reasonable alternative to releasing any alternative site from the Green Belt.</p> <p>The allocation of a single site will only deliver a level of housing within the lower end of the range required by LDLP Policy Shen 4. However, the option of allocating further sites – necessitating Green Belt release – has been demonstrated through the assessment to have detrimental impacts, particularly on the surrounding landscape of Shenstone.</p> <p>The option of not allocating a site for development was considered but this would not be beneficial to the local needs of the area or contribute to the housing requirement in LDLP Policy Shen 4.</p>	

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy MO1 – Pedestrian access to Shenstone Railway Station										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 5, Policy Shen 2										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	+?	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: This policy will have no negative impacts and will help to improve access to non-car modes of transport for all users.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy MO2 – Parking at Shenstone Railway Station										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 5, Policies Shen 1 and 2										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	-?	0	0	+	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: The policy would potentially encourage more car use so could have a detrimental impact on 6/Env. However, this would help to increase rail usage and therefore lower longer distance car trips. It would also help to improve access to a key service.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy MO3 – Improvements to pedestrian and cycle routes										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policies 5 and 10, Policy Shen 2										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	+	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+?	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: This policy will have no negative impacts and will help to improve access to services and open space, as well as increasing the numbers of people travelling by non-car modes.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy MOV4 – Commercial parking										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 5, Policy Shen 2										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+?	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: Positive benefits should be gained from this proposed policy, specifically by ensuring that new commercial development does not add to on-street parking problems, so making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy GSC1 – Local green spaces										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policies 10 and 11										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
B	+	+	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+?
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: The NP proposes three sites for local green space designation. All comply with the criteria in the NPPF and offer significant environmental and community benefits. Not identifying vulnerable and cherished local green spaces risks losing them to unsuitable development in the future.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy GSC2 – Provision of community facilities at Shenstone Playing Fields										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policies 10 and 11,										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	++
B	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0	0	0	+
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: Positive benefits should be gained from this proposed policy, reflecting the specific nature of the needs of the community of Shenstone for improvements to a facility of particular importance.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy GSC3 – Minimising the environmental impact of development										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 13, Policies SC1-SC2, H1 and NR3-NR5, Shen 1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
B	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A/B						
Summary and conclusion: This policy will contribute to national biodiversity targets as well as fulfilling local environmental and social objectives. The inclusion of the policy gives emphasis to local designations and will protect Shenstone’s rich natural features and habitats.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy CO1 – New commercial development										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 7, Policy Shen 3										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	+	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: The NP policy seeks to ensure that B-class commercial business space is encouraged, provided it does not have a detrimental impact on traffic through the increase of HGV movements through the village. The policy therefore has positive benefits.										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy CO2 – Land at Birchbrook Industrial Estate										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 7, Policy Shen 3										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
<p>Summary and conclusion: The NP policy seeks to ensure that the only dedicated B-class commercial business park, which has empty units, is allowed to adapt to changing floorspace needs by creating smaller floorspace in a more attractive environment. This in turn will reduce the level of HGV movements which impacts on the village. This is supported by LDLP Policy Shen 3 which seeks to maximise the potential of the site to contribute to the long term sustainability of the village.</p>										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy CO3 – Protection of existing commercial premises										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Core Policy 7, Policy Shen 3										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
<p>Summary and conclusion: The NP policy seeks to ensure that the small number of vitally important shops and services which help Shenstone to thrive are maintained. This policy will also deliver economic benefits and will have a number of direct and indirect sustainability benefits.</p>										

Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policy options										
Policy CO4 – High speed broadband										
Policy Options: Option A: To have an NP policy Option B: To have no NP policy, LDLP Policy Rural 1										
Policy Options	1/Env - Biodiversity	2/Env - Biodiversity	3/Env – Heritage	4/Env - Health	5/Env - Landscape	6/Env - Transport & Movement	7/Soc - Housing	8/Econ – Employment & Commercial	9/Soc - Services	10/Soc - Community
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+?	+?	0
Preferred Policy Option:				A						
Summary and conclusion: The NP policy seeks to ensure specifically that broadband speeds are appropriate to serve modern needs of both residents and businesses. Without the policy, this specific telecommunications need may not be secured as part of new development.										

Cumulative effects of Neighbourhood Plan policies

- 8.5 While some of the policy options may individually have a minor impact (either positive or negative) on the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the parish, collectively they may have a much more significant impact. As part of this appraisal, the combined impacts of the policy proposals have been considered. It is acknowledged that there are a number of uncertainties in this respect, especially when considering the effects over the time scale of the Plan.
- 8.6 In most cases, assessing the social and economic effects of a policy results in many of the negative environmental sustainability impacts identified for individual policies being cancelled out. When appraising the cumulative impacts of all the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan these negative impacts have been addressed by other policies, illustrated in Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1: Cumulative impact of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Policy	Sustainability Objectives									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GB1	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	-?	0	+
SAC1	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
H1	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
H2	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
H3	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
H4	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0
HA1	0	+	0	-	+	++	+	+	+	-
MO1	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
MO2	0	0	0	0	0	-?	0	0	+	0
MO3	0	0	0	+	0	++	0	0	+	0
MO4	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0
GSC1	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
GSC2	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	++
GSC3	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
CO1	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
CO2	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0
CO3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
CO4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0

9 OVERALL CONCLUSION

- 9.1 For some of the policies that have a negative impact on the environment, there are other aspects that contribute to social or economic objectives. Other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and District Plan should mitigate against these.
- 9.2 Overall the most sustainable policy options have been chosen for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. None have any significant adverse effects, giving confidence that the policies in the Plan will contribute to sustainable development.

Appendix A Summary of responses from statutory bodies during SA scoping process

Statutory body and response	How response has been dealt with
<p>Historic England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key points of note as regards the identification, conservation and enhancement of designated as well as undesignated heritage assets; the positive utilization of historic farmsteads; the conservation and enhancement of historic townscape and landscape (as evidenced in the County Council 2009 Character Assessment); the positive reuse of redundant historic buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Scoping Report has expanded the Baseline Assessment in Section 3 and noted where specific items are present and where they are of relevance in considering potential site allocations.
<p>Natural England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan and the accompanying SEA and HRA screening report we have formed the view that the need for SEA has been triggered by uncertainty over the number of homes to be allocated within the NP and the potential for this to conflict with the district's site allocations process, which has yet to be concluded. Specifically although the NP acknowledges the Local Plan Strategy's objective to deliver between 50 and 150 homes in and around the village the relevant NP policy specifies a quantum of 'approximately 100 homes'. We advise that the 'Key issues' section of the scoping report should highlight this, particularly in view of the stated vulnerability of the NP area to speculative housing proposals. The location of the preferred major housing site in an area subject to flooding further strengthens the case for a focus on the sustainability of housing provision in the NP area. - As the site allocations process for residential development in the district is not yet complete the SEA for this NP should consider the sustainability issues around housing provision in the NP area and the effect of any 'under provision' on surrounding wards and parishes. - We welcome the baseline information for the NP area. Themes such as 'landscape enhancement', 'soils and best and most versatile land' and 'flood risk' will need particular attention when considering where and how many houses may be planned in the NP area. - In terms of taking a proportionate approach to the SEA process we are aware that the shortfall in housing provision offered by policy HA1 is about 50 homes. This relatively modest scale of under-provision should be reflected in the Council's approach to the SEA, notwithstanding that the issue of flood risk at the Birchbrook Industrial Estate has yet to be considered further. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This matter has been identified in the 'key issues' section of the Scoping Report. - This matter has been identified in the 'key issues' section of the Scoping Report. Sustainability Theme 7/Soc has been revised to reflect the wider role of Shenstone as a Key Rural Settlement with a quantum of housing to deliver. - These indicators are already included in Sustainability Themes 1/Env and 5/Env. The point however is noted. - Noted.

Statutory body and response	How response has been dealt with
<p>Environment Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are a number of Ordinary Watercourses with associated floodplain as well as significant areas at risk of surface water flooding. Section 3.15 of the report should indicate areas at risk of surface water flooding. - Table 5.1 'Environmental sustainability criteria use to assess possible site allocations' makes no reference to Source Protection Zones which are designated around Public Water Supply groundwater abstractions. Within Source Protection Zones certain activities may be restricted, for example underground storage of hazardous substances (e.g. petrol or diesel) in Zone 1. Such considerations should be taken into account during site allocation activities. - In addition to the Lichfield Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, the Plan should take account of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy being prepared by Staffordshire Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has been added in to Section 4 - This has been added into the sustainability objectives (1/Env) - This has been assessed and is included in Appendix B

Appendix B Summary of relevant plans and programmes

International context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
EU Habitats and Conservation of Wild Birds Directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC)		
To conserve fauna and flora and natural habitats of EU importance by the establishment of a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. This was designed to maintain both the distribution and abundance of threatened species and habitats.	Identifies endangered habitats and species requiring protection and need for re-establishment of denuded biotopes. Protected areas should be created, maintained and managed.	Plans should take account relevant SPA and SAC sites. If negative impacts are anticipated appropriate assessments should be undertaken. Above protecting the integrity and interest of European sites, the NP should consider objectives to protect and if possible, enhance biodiversity.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)		
To expand the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve 'good status' for all waters by 2015. • Water management should be based on river basins and a 'combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards. • Water management should include the closer involvement of community. 	Prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, provide protection and improve ecological condition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015 (or later subject to specific criteria). • meet the requirements of WFD protected areas • promote sustainable use of water • conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water • progressively reduce or phase out pollutants that pose significant threats to the aquatic environment / groundwater • help mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts. 	Plan should consider any significant hydrological / hydrogeological factors and ensure integration with existing catchment management plans. Plan should consider including objectives to protect and enhance water resources, quality and ecological function.
EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)		
Establishes limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of key pollutants in ambient air including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide / oxides of nitrogen, particulates. Maintain ambient air quality in areas where it is good and improve it in others.	Sets limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead.	Plan should consider (where relevant) the levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air. Plan should consider maintaining ambient air quality and including objectives with the aim of reducing air pollution and, where possible, enhancing air quality in respect of key pollutants.

National and regional context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)		
<p>Planning should drive and support sustainable economic development. It should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secure high quality design and good standard of amenity • take account of the different roles of areas, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside • support transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking account of flood risk and encourage the reuse of existing resources and encouraging the use of renewable resources. • contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. • encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed. • conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. • focus significant development in locations which are, or can be made sustainable. 	<p>Supports local and national targets with regard to biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p>Plan should contribute to the objective of achieving sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). SA Objectives should reflect the core planning principles and policies set out in the NPPF. The Plan should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to minimising impacts and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible • contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity – including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011		
<p>To encourage/ensure waste arises/is dealt with further up the waste hierarchy. Divert waste disposal away from landfill.</p>	<p>Target of 50% of household waste to be recycled.</p>	<p>Plan must have regard to the amended waste hierarchy. Policies and objectives should where possible encourage waste to be re-used, recycled or have value / energy recovery. If possible the Plan should discourage landfilling of waste.</p>
UK Climate Change Act 2008		
<p>The Act introduced a statutory target for reducing carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Target of reducing carbon emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 34% by 2020.</p>	<p>Planning can make a contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by influencing the location, scale and character of development. The plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions and greater resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>
The Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice) 2011		
<p>Mainstreaming the value of nature across society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature; 	<p>The process identifies the need to develop a set of key indicators to track progress</p>	<p>The Plan should consider how it can best contribute towards highlighting the value of nature and ensuring that it is protected and enhanced.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for NP and SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature; • strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and • showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. 		
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services		
<p>To halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. These outcomes will be delivered through action in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea • putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy • reducing environmental pressures • improving knowledge 	A series of priority actions have been identified to deliver the four identified actions.	The Plan should consider how it can best contribute towards protecting and enhancing ecological networks
Flood and Water Management Act 2010		
<p>Improve the management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses. To protect water supplies.</p>	<p>Local Authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood maps and plans. EA to prepare Local flood risk management strategies.</p>	The Plan should take account of flooding and water management issues and strategies and consider the inclusion of policies / objectives to reduce flood risks and other impacts on the water environment.
Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011		
<p>Government-wide plan for action on climate change at domestic and international levels.</p>	<p>Includes a range of sector-based plans and targets for low carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building • transport • industry • electricity • agriculture, land use, forestry and waste 	The Plan should include policies / objectives that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions.
Mainstreaming sustainable development 2011		
<p>This refreshed vision builds upon the principles that underpinned the UK's 2005 SD strategy, recognising the needs of the economy, society and the natural environment, alongside the use of good governance and sound science.</p>	<p>Promises a new set of indicators from DEFRA that link initiatives and include wellbeing.</p>	Plan should take account of climate change and promote sustainability through sustainable, low carbon and green economic growth.

County/local context

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011		
<p>To improve quality of life for the people of Staffordshire via three main transport-related objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting growth and regeneration. • Maintaining the highway network. • Making transport easier to use and places easier to get to. 	<p>Indicators include: congestion, mode of travel to work and school, cycling trips, accessibility, road traffic accidents, road and footway maintenance, street lighting, highway structures, road flooding, air quality and transport emissions.</p>	<p>The Plan should consider policies / objectives which contribute to transport sustainability. This should go beyond reducing carbon emissions to include economic growth, safety, pollution, traffic reduction and access to services.</p>
Staffordshire County Council – Leading for a Connected Staffordshire: Our Vision for 2014-18		
<p>This Strategy focuses on three key priority outcomes that address the vision of a connected Staffordshire, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be healthy and happy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth • Be healthier and more independent • Feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community. 	<p>The Strategy contains information about why these areas are a challenge to the County and sets out actions and clear and challenging targets against each priority.</p>	<p>Plan should consider including objectives / policies to support reductions in carbon emissions, and consider adaptation to a changing climate and the efficient use of resources.</p>
Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan		
<p>Maintain and, where practicable, enhance the wildlife and habitats that provide the natural character and diversity of Staffordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority habitats and species in Staffordshire • Set realistic and ambitious targets and timescales for priority habitats and species and to monitor progress towards them • Raise public awareness and encourage involvement in biodiversity action. 	<p>Staffordshire Biodiversity Record Centre inventory statistics for species and habitats e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare Species Inventory • Biodiversity Action Plan Species Inventory • Pond Inventory. 	<p>Plan should include consider including policies/objectives to: enhance (where possible) the wildlife and habitats that give rise to Staffordshire’s natural character and diversity.</p>
Staffordshire Landscape Assessment, 2001		
<p>Assessment of the different landscape character areas and their key features of significance</p>		<p>Plan should be consistent and take into account assessment of landscape capacity</p>
Lichfield Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2013)		
<p>Identifies all areas of flood risk within the district as well as what the level of risk is</p>	<p>Flood zone</p>	<p>The Plan needs to ensure that new development avoids areas identified at risk of flooding and that the existing level of flood risk within and outside Shenstone is not exacerbated and, where possible, reduced.</p>

Key objectives	Key targets/indicators	Key implications for Neighbourhood Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2014 (Consultation draft)		
To reduce flood risk in Staffordshire by assessing the risk of flooding in the County, where funding can found to manage flood risk, develop policies as a Lead Local Flood Authority and develop objectives and actions to manage flood risk.		Plan should ensure that allocations and policies seek to manage local flood risk in a sustainable manner
Lichfield Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment, 2007		
Identifies what is critical to the character of the District, what are the important characteristics that need protection from development and also where there is a need for investment in the landscape and biodiversity.		Plan should be consistent with the identified landforms and designations in the study.
Lichfield Historic Environment Character Assessment – Staffordshire County Council, 2009		
To identify areas or units of land based on their key historic landscape attributes.		The Plan should ensure that areas of historic landscape character are preserved and enhanced.
Lichfield District Ecological Assessment – Staffordshire Ecological Services, 2009		
A comprehensive ecological desk top study, and phase 1 habitat survey of proposed areas outlined for housing and employment development. This included potential development around Shenstone.		The Plan should ensure that areas of ecological sensitivity are protected.

