Sustainability Appraisal of the Medway Local Plan

Scoping Report

September 2023

LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

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SA Scoping Report

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About this report & notes for readers

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This SA Scoping Report is based on the best available information, including that provided to Lepus by Medway Council and information that is publicly available. No attempt to verify these secondary data sources has been made and they have been assumed to be accurate as published. This report was prepared between August and September 2023 and is subject to and limited by the information available during this time. This report has been produced to set out the scope of the potential sustainability impacts of the Medway Local Plan and meets the requirements of the SEA Regulations. It is not intended to be a substitute for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Appropriate Assessment (AA).

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

A&E	Accident and Emergency
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CA	Conservation Area
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
EV	Electric Vehicles
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographical Information System
GP	General Practitioner
ha	Hectare
HER	Historic Environment Record
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KCC	Kent County Council
LA	Local Authority
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LGV	Light commercial Goods Vehicle
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
LTC	Lower Thames Crossing
LTP	Local Transport Plan
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MLP	Medway Local Plan
MSA	Mineral Safeguarding Area
NCA	National Character Area
NHS	National Health Service
NIA	Nature Improvement Areas
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework

ONS	Office for National Statistics
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPP	Policies, Plans and Programmes
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RIGS	Regionally Important Geodiversity Site
RPG	Registered Park and Garden
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SM	Scheduled Monument
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WCS	Water Cycle Study
WRMP	Water Resources Management Plan

1 Introduction

1.1 This report

1.1.1 Medway Council have commissioned Lepus Consulting to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), to support the preparation of the Medway Local Plan (MLP). The purpose of SA is to assess the extent to which a plan or programme will help to achieve environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

1.1.2 This Scoping Report has been prepared as the first stage of the SA process for the MLP. This report will be published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency) as required by Regulation 12 (5) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004[1] (SEA Regulations).

1.2 The Medway area

1.2.1 The Medway Unitary Authority area comprises approximately 26,906.39ha with a population of approximately 279,827 people according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) population for mid-2021[2].

1.2.2 Medway is a Unitary Authority and represents one of the largest urban areas in the south-east of England, with an extensive rural hinterland. It is situated between the River Medway and the downs in north Kent, and extensive rural areas to the north east, on the Hoo Peninsula, and to the south, comprising the Kent Downs.

1.2.3 Medway is distinctive for its five historic towns, its waterfront regeneration, and its dramatic landscapes, with juxtapositions of the natural environment with modern infrastructure and commercial life. It is located within close proximity to London and the wider south-east and has strong links to London. It forms part of the Thames Estuary Corridor regeneration programme that seeks to boost the economy and infrastructure delivery including nationally significant projects such as the Lower Thames Crossing, near Gravesend.

[1] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made [Date accessed: 05/09/23]

[2] ONS (2021) Estimates of the population for the UK. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland [Date accessed: 05/09/23]

1.2.4 **Figure 1.1** shows the Medway Unitary Authority boundary, which comprises the plan area for the MLP. The five main towns of Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Strood and Rainham each have their own distinctive characters, with notable features including Rochester Castle and the historic dockyard in Chatham. The majority of Medway's service provision, including four universities, are located within these five towns. A network of smaller towns and villages also lie within the authority area. Alongside built heritage, Medway also supports a number of European sites of which are rich in biodiversity, in particular the wetlands and marshes within the Hoo Peninsula.

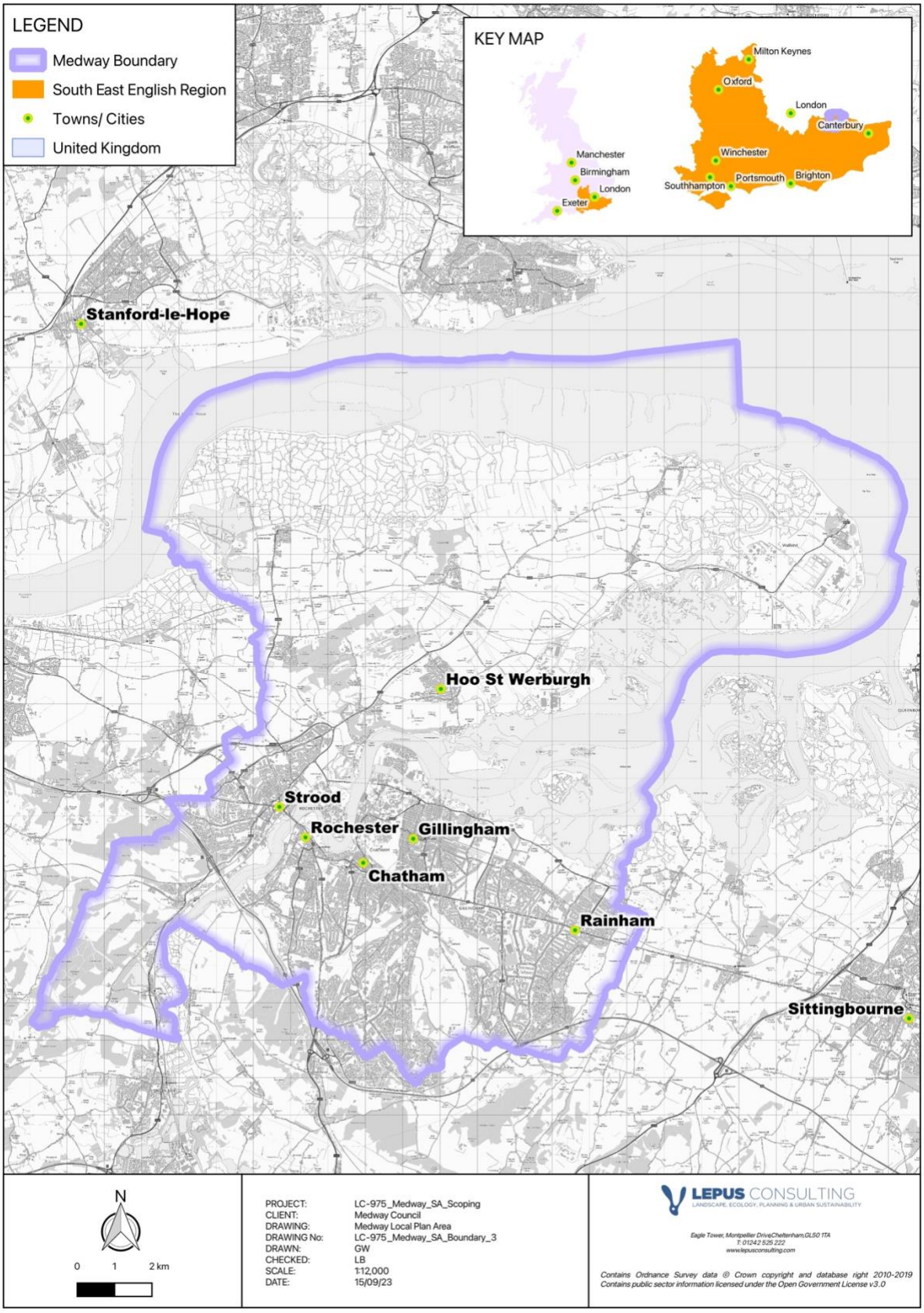

Figure 1.1: *The Medway Unitary Authority Area*

1.3 The Medway Local Plan

1.3.1 Medway Council is preparing a new Local Plan to set the framework for the area's growth up to 2040. The Medway Local Plan (MLP) will provide a framework for where and how new development can take place.

1.3.2 A Regulation 18 Consultation document has been prepared by Medway Council and is being consulted on alongside this SA Scoping Report, whereby the public will be asked to give their views on the topics and issues the MLP should cover. Comments received during the consultation will help to inform the plan making process and the following SA stages. Further consultations and opportunities to comment on the emerging MLP and accompanying SA outputs will occur at each plan making stage.

1.3.3 Once adopted, the MLP will form part of the statutory development plan for the district covering the period to 2040, replacing and updating the current Medway Local Plan (1996-2006), which was adopted in 2003[3].

1.3.4 Key facts relating to the MLP are presented in **Table 1.1.**

Table 1.1: *Key facts relating to the Medway Local Plan Area*

Responsible authority	Medway Council
Title of plan	Medway Local Plan
What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Local Plan is being developed in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
Area covered by the plan	Medway Unitary Authority Area (see **Figure 1.1**).
Purpose and/or objectives of the plan	The MLP aims to establish Medway as a leading regional city, connected to its surrounding coast and countryside; with a thriving economy, where residents enjoy a good quality of life and there is a clear strategy for addressing climate change and strengthening natural assets. The strategic objectives of the Plan are built around the intrinsic components of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental, with a cross cutting aim for infrastructure investment and the development of an intrinsic value which boosts pride in the local area.
Contact point	**Address:** Planning Service, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR **Contact No:** 01634 331629 **Email:** planning.policy@medway.gov.uk **Website:** www.medway.gov.uk/futuremedway

[3] Medway Council (2003) Medway Local Plan. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200149/planning_policy/146/current_planning_policies/3 [Date accessed: 05/09/23]

1.4 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.4.1 This document constitutes the SA Scoping Report for the MLP. This represents Stage A of SA process, according to the Planning Practice Guidance (2016, updated 2021) on SA.[4] (see **Figure 1.2**).

1.4.2 SA is the process of informing local development plans to maximise their sustainability value. SA is a statutory requirement for development plan documents, the key objective of which is to promote sustainable development.

1.4.3 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both obligations using a single appraisal process.

1.4.4 The European Union Directive 2001/42/EC[5] (SEA Directive) applies to a wide range of public plans and programmes on land use, energy, waste, agriculture, transport etc. (see Article 3(2) of the Directive for other plan or programme types). The SEA procedure can be summarised as the preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment and the reasonable alternatives of the proposed plan or programme are identified. The public and the relevant environmental authorities are informed and consulted on the draft plan or programme.

1.4.5 The Directive has been transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004[6] (SEA Regulations). Under the requirements of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations, specific types of plans that set the framework for the future development of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the MLP to be subject to SEA throughout its preparation.

1.4.6 SA is a UK-specific procedure used to appraise the impacts and effects of development plans in the UK. It is required by S19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004[7] and should be an appraisal of the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of development plans. The procedural requirement for SA resides in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012[8]. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making.

[4] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) Planning practice guidance. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[5] European Commission (2018) SEA. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[6] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[7] Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[8] Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012). Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

1.4.7 Public consultation is an important aspect of the integrated SA/SEA process.

1.5 Best Practice Guidance

1.5.1 Government policy recommends that both SA and SEA are undertaken under a single process, which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This is to be achieved through integrating the requirements of SEA into the SA process. The approach for carrying out an integrated SA and SEA is based on best practice guidance:

- European Commission (2004) Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plan and programmes on the environment[9]
- Office of Deputy Prime Minister (2005) A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive[10]
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[11]
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)[12]
- Royal Town Planning Institute (2018) Strategic Environmental Assessment, Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans[13]

1.6 SEA Regulations Requirements

1.6.1 This Scoping Report represents Stage A of the SA process (see **Figure 1.2**), and presents information in relation to:

- Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives
- Collecting baseline information
- Identifying sustainability problems and key issues
- Preparing the SA Framework
- Consultation arrangements on the scope of SA with the consultation bodies

[9] European Commission (2004) Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plan and programmes on the environment. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[10] Office of Deputy Prime Minister (2005) A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[11] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

[12] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) Planning practice guidance. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[13] Royal Town Planning Institute (2018) Strategic Environmental Assessment, Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans. Available at: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1822/sea-sapracticeadvicefull2018c.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

1.6.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations states the various topics that should be considered in the SEA appraisal process, including:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Population
- Human health
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)
- Landscape
- The inter-relationship between these factors

1.6.3 The policy, plan and programme (PPP) review, the baseline data and the other relevant sustainability issues are largely structured in accordance with the topics of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the details of which are presented in **Table 1.2**.

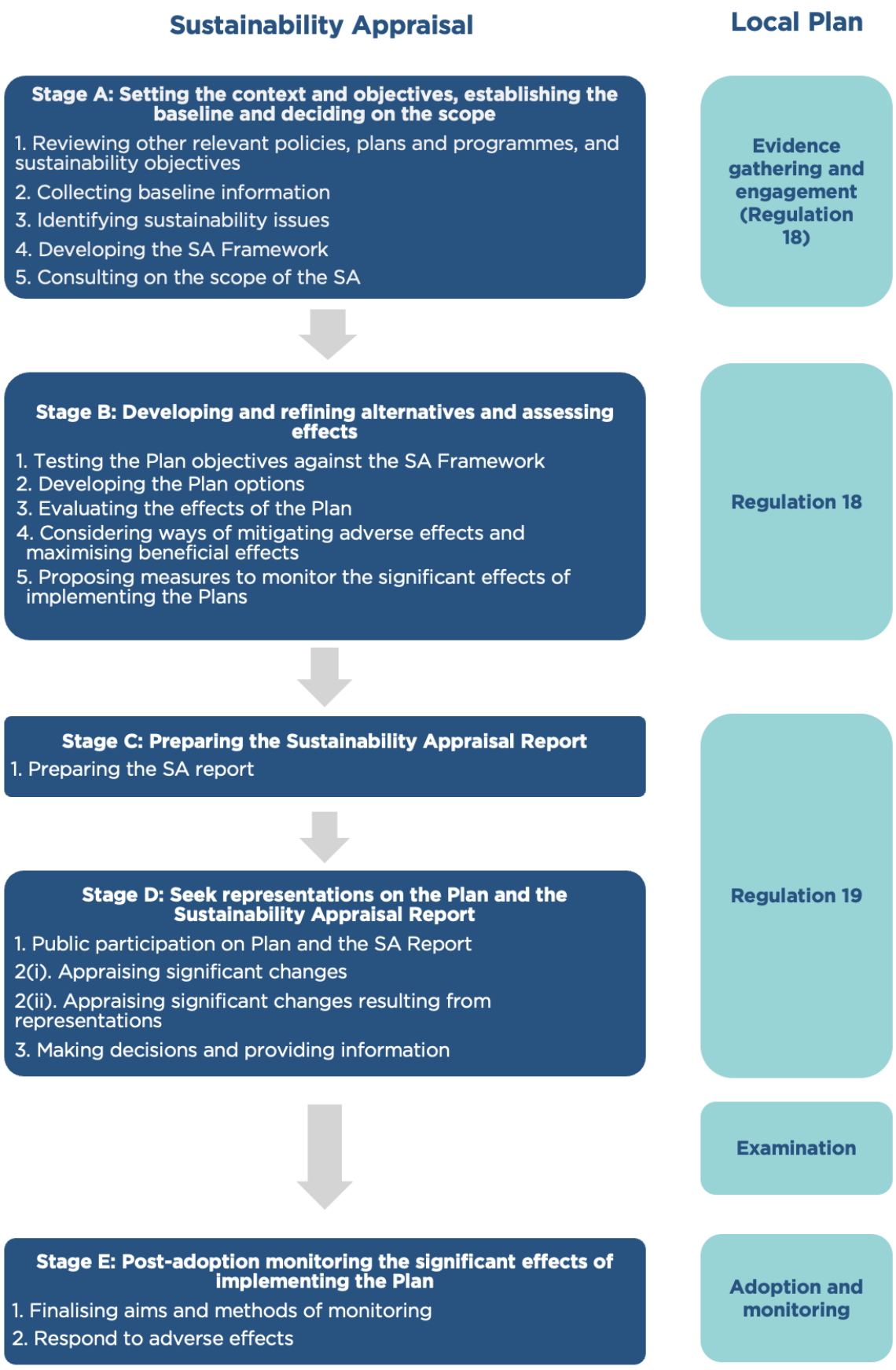

Figure 1.2: *Sustainability Appraisal process*

Table 1.2: *Sustainability themes*

Sustainability theme	SEA topic included in Schedule 2 of SEA Regulations	What is included in the sustainability theme? (not exhaustive)
Accessibility and transport	Population	Transportation infrastructure Walking and cycling Accessibility
Air quality	Air	Air pollution sources Air quality hotspots Air quality management
Biodiversity, flora, fauna and geodiversity	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Habitats and species Nature conservation designations Landscape features Geological features
Climatic factors	Climatic factors	Greenhouse gas emissions Effects of climate change Renewable and low-carbon energy Climate change adaptation Flooding
Human health	Human health	Access to healthcare Health inequalities Sport, fitness and activity levels
Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage	Designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings Historic landscape character Archaeological assets
Landscape and townscape	Landscape	Landscape designations Visual amenity; Landscape/townscape character Tranquility
Population and material assets	Population and material assets	Waste and recycling rates Minerals Employment and earnings Skills, education and unemployment Housing type, quality and affordability Population size and density Indices of Multiple Deprivation Crime Recreation and amenity
Water and Soil	Water and soil	Soils Water resources Water quality Contaminated land

1.7 Policy, Plan and Programme review

1.7.1 The MLP may be influenced in various ways by other policies, plans or programmes (PPPs), or by external sustainability objectives such as those put forward in higher strategies or by legislation. The SA/SEA process will consider potential synergies between these PPPs and address any inconsistencies and constraints.

1.7.2 A short introduction to each theme, based on the PPP review, is presented in **Chapters 2 - 10**. The full PPP Review is included in **Appendix A**.

1.8 Baseline data collection

1.8.1 **Chapters 2 - 10** review the current environmental, social, and economic conditions relevant to the MLP. The purpose of the baseline review is to help define the key sustainability issues for the MLP. The baseline data should be indicative of local circumstances, and should be up to date and fit for purpose.

1.8.2 One of the purposes of consultation on the Scoping Report is to seek views on whether the selected data is appropriate. The baseline has been constructed utilising a wide range of data sources, with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data used where available. The data has been presented through tables, text and GIS mapping, and all data sources have been referenced as appropriate.

1.8.3 Where data is available at a local scale it has been used to inform the scoping process. If local data is not available, regional information has been used. Where this is the case, it is clearly stated.

1.8.4 Within **Chapters 2 – 10**, a summary of the key sustainability issues that have been identified relating to each sustainability theme have also been provided.

1.9 Structure of the Scoping Report

1.9.1 This chapter has provided background information to the MLP and the accompanying SA. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2 –** Accessibility and transport
- **Chapter 3 –** Air Quality
- **Chapter 4 –** Biodiversity, flora, fauna and geodiversity
- **Chapter 5 –** Climatic factors
- **Chapter 6 –** Cultural heritage
- **Chapter 7 –** Human health
- **Chapter 8 –** Landscape and townscape
- **Chapter 9 –** Population and material assets
- **Chapter 10 –** Water and soil resources
- **Chapter 11 –** A summary of the likely evolution of the baseline in the absence of the Local Plan
- **Chapter 12 –** Outlines the purpose of the SA Framework and SA Objectives
- **Chapter 13 –** Outlines the next steps for the Local Plan and SA process
- **Appendix A –** Review of relevant PPPs

2 Accessibility and Transport

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Whilst not a topic listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations in itself, accessibility and transport interact with several other topics such as population and human health, material assets and climatic factors. Improving sustainable transport accessibility and usage would be likely to lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, encourage cycling and walking, and reduce congestion, with benefits to climate change mitigation, health and wellbeing and the economy.

2.1.2 Today, the transport industry faces great challenges with the need to modernise infrastructure and improve sustainability. European and UK transport PPPs currently aim to reduce congestion and pollution by creating better access to affordable and frequent sustainable transport modes and improving cycling and walking networks. The PPPs promote sustainable transport networks which also support economic growth. The introduction of car free zones, walkable neighbourhoods, and the development of new technologies such as electric vehicle charging points should form fundamental aspects of sustainable transport going forward.

2.1.3 The UK's 'Road to Zero Strategy'[14] outlines how it will support the transition to zero-emission road transport. The RTPI's 'Net Zero Transport: The role of spatial planning and place-based solutions'[15] further explores how different places could achieve a 80% decrease in surface transport emissions by 2030.

2.1.4 The south east of England is home to nationally important economic corridors, connecting large towns and cities and providing opportunities for sustainable development[16]. Therefore, a strong transport network is needed to support this growth. The proposed Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) will be likely to affect traffic flows within Medway to some extent, which may be better understood as the LTC Development Consent Order Examination progresses. It is essential that other road networks within Medway such as the A2, A228 and A229 are also developed to cope with increased traffic flows.

2.1.5 Medway is set within both an urban and rural setting, influencing transport use and the issues surrounding transport infrastructure in the district. The growing demand for travel within the plan area and the wider region has placed a strain on the local transport network.

[14] HM Government (2018) The Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[15] RTPI (2021) Net Zero Transport: The role of spatial planning and place-based solutions. Available at: RTPI (2021) Net Zero Transport: The role of spatial planning and place-based solutions. Available at: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9233/rtpi-net-zero-transport-january-2021.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[16] Transport for the South East (2021) Transport Strategy Annual Report. Available at: https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/app/uploads/2020/09/TfSE-transport-strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

2.2 Baseline data

Road Network

2.2.1 The Medway transport network provides links within the district and to surrounding neighbourhoods such as Maidstone, Sittingbourne and London. The major road network, comprising the A2, A228, A278, A289 and A229 spans the Medway area (see **Figure 2.2**). Medway is closely connected to the motorway network as M2 junctions 2 and 4 (within the LPA boundary) and junctions 1 and 3 (outside the LPA boundary to the west and the south, respectively) provide direct access to the Strategic Road Network[17].

2.2.2 Whilst Medway benefits from good motorway and rail accessibility, these methods of transport are frequently beset by congestion and the highways network is poorly designed as a result of its geography and the historical pattern of development, leading to issues related to capacity and safety in some areas.

2.2.3 The Kent County Council (KCC) Local Transport Plan 4 2016-2031[18] sets out clear objectives for dealing with transport issues within Kent. It draws on a number of national, regional, and local planning and transportation policy documents to ensure that the strategy guides the delivery of wider objectives. This is relevant to Medway, as transport is a key cross administrative border matter.

2.2.4 **Figure 2.1** shows the most common methods of travel to work in Medway, indicating that the majority of residents commute via driving a car or van, with smaller proportions opting for active travel or public transport.

[17] Medway Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2022) Available at: https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgconvert2pdf.aspx?id=64576 [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[18] Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock (2016-2031) Available at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/72668/Local-transport-plan-4.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

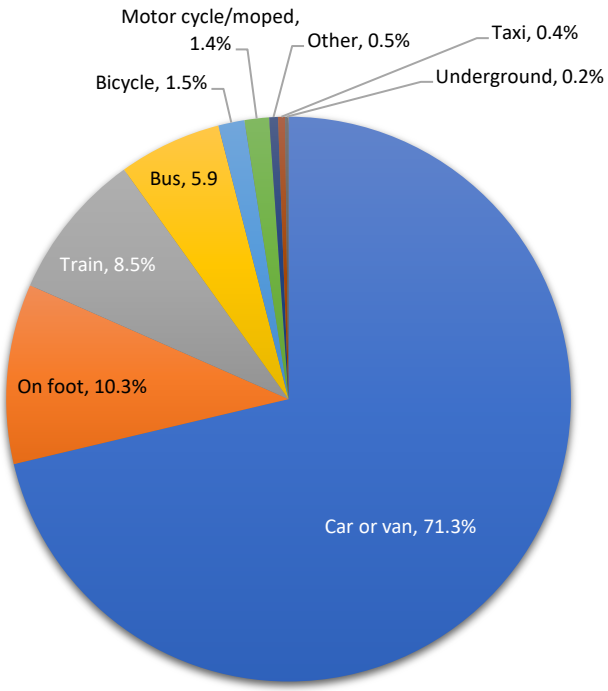

Figure 2.1: *Pie Chart showing mode of transport used to travel to work by residents in Medway as a percentage of 119,255 residents*[19]

*NB: 9,084 residents work from home and their data was not included

Electric vehicles

2.2.5 Electric and hybrid vehicles are growing rapidly in popularity in the UK. In 2014, around 500 electric cars were registered per month in the UK. By May 2020, more than 119,600 electric cars and 301,000 plug-in hybrids were on UK roads[20]. In 2020, electric cars constituted 12% of new car registrations in the UK, which is up from 2.9% in January 2018. The sale of new petrol and diesel cars will be banned in the UK by 2030. Road transport associated air pollution may therefore be expected to decrease over time as the uptake of lower emission vehicles increases. The MLP should seek to support the transition to electric vehicles.

Rail network

2.2.6 There are seven railway stations within the local area which includes Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham (see **Figure 2.3**). High speed trains also link Medway to London St Pancras International in just 35 minutes. The operator of the majority of rail services is Southeastern Railway.

[19] Kent County Council (2001) Travel to Work Patterns in Kent County. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/8197/Travel-to-work-patterns-in-Kent.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[20] Nextgreencar (2017) Electric car market statistics. Available at: http://www.nextgreencar.com/electric-cars/statistics/ [Date accessed: 05/09/23]

Public Rights of Way and Cycling Network

2.2.7 Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are paths within England and Wales on which the public have a legally protected right to access. Medway Council manages a network of 300km of PRoW, through the Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan[21].

2.2.8 Medway has a number of cycle routes that link the town centre to suburban areas, this includes NCR17 which is a part of the National Cycle Network route, providing an 11-mile commuter link between the Medway towns and Maidstone borough.

2.2.9 PRoW and cycle routes in Medway are shown on **Figure 2.4**.

2.3 Key issues

- Public transport and sustainable travel options are less widespread in more rural areas of the Plan area
- Distance and accessibility to key services and amenities, as well as employment opportunities, should be considered when determining where to locate new development
- Adverse impacts of high traffic volumes and a culture of dependency on private cars
- With the projected population increase there is a need to allow for extra traffic, reduce journey durations and improve accessibility for existing and new residents to low-carbon and more sustainable travel options including public transport
- Increased demand for electric vehicle charging points
- A dependency on road transport for work journeys combined with Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) use for goods transportation
- Increase in Light commercial Goods Vehicle (LGV) for deliveries of online purchases in the recent years

[21] Medway Council (2020) Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 to 2030. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/5080/medway_rights_of_way_improvement_plan_2020_to_2030_executive_summary [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

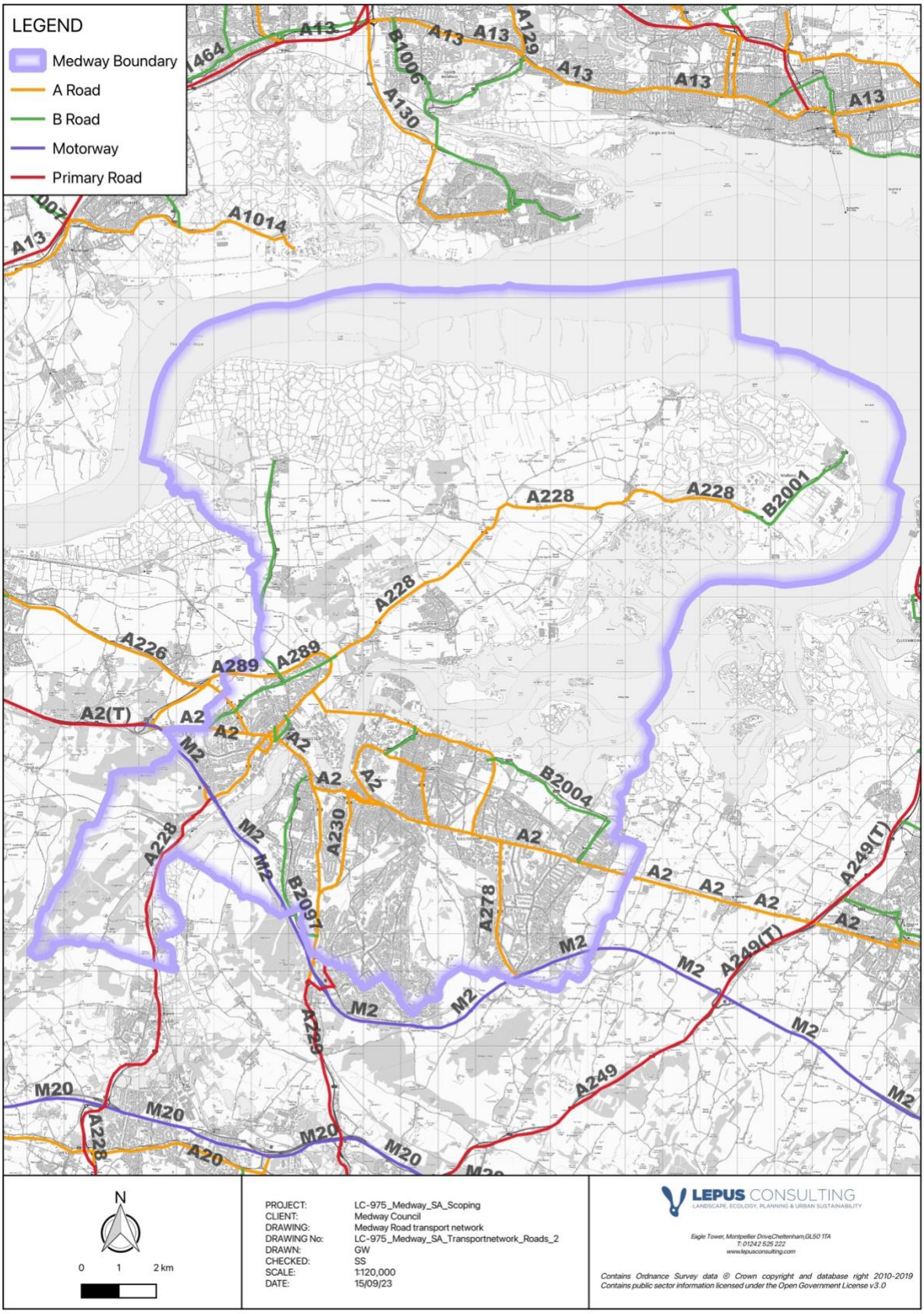

Figure 2.2: *Road network within and around Medway*

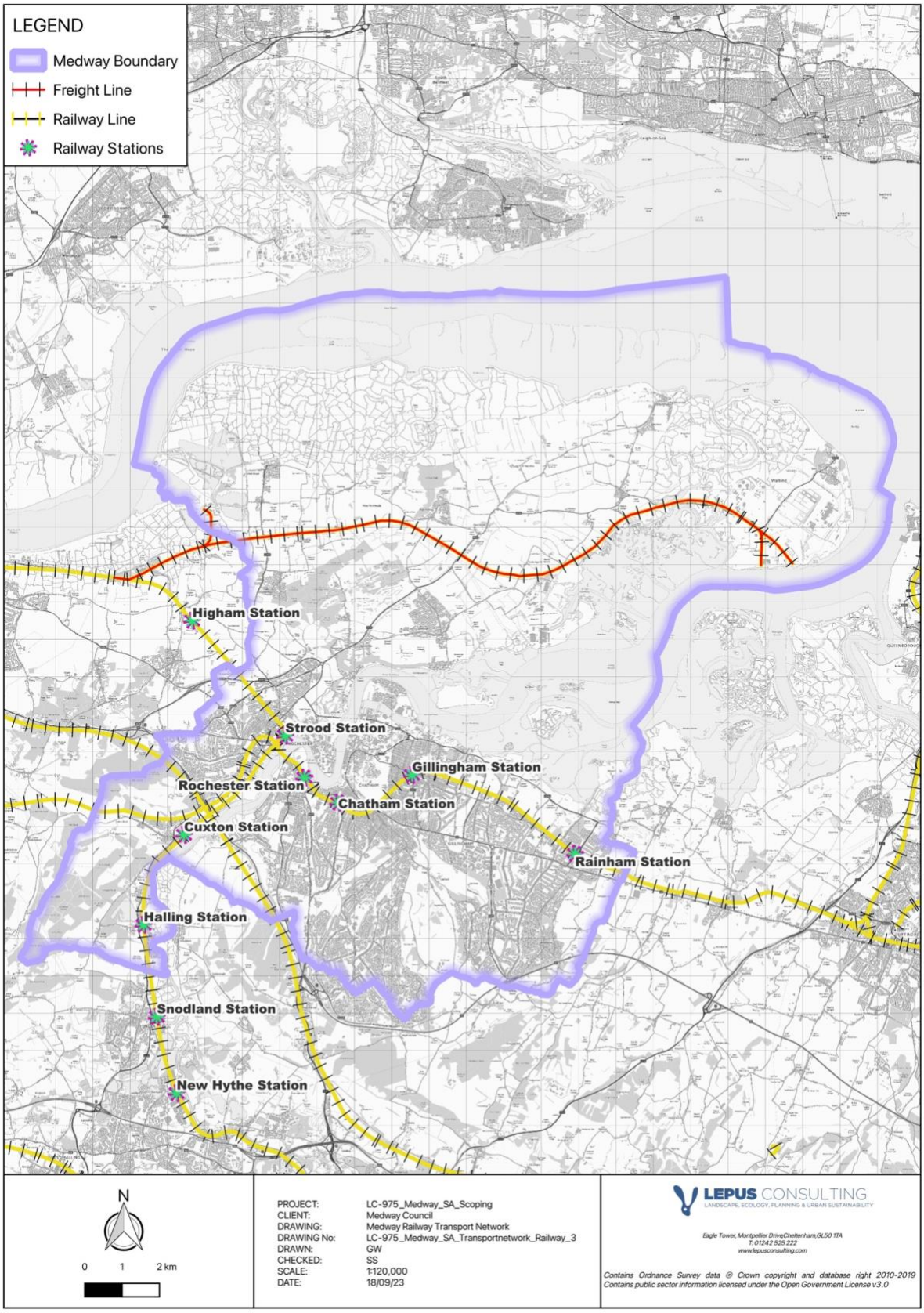

Figure 2.3: *Railway network within and around Medway LPA*

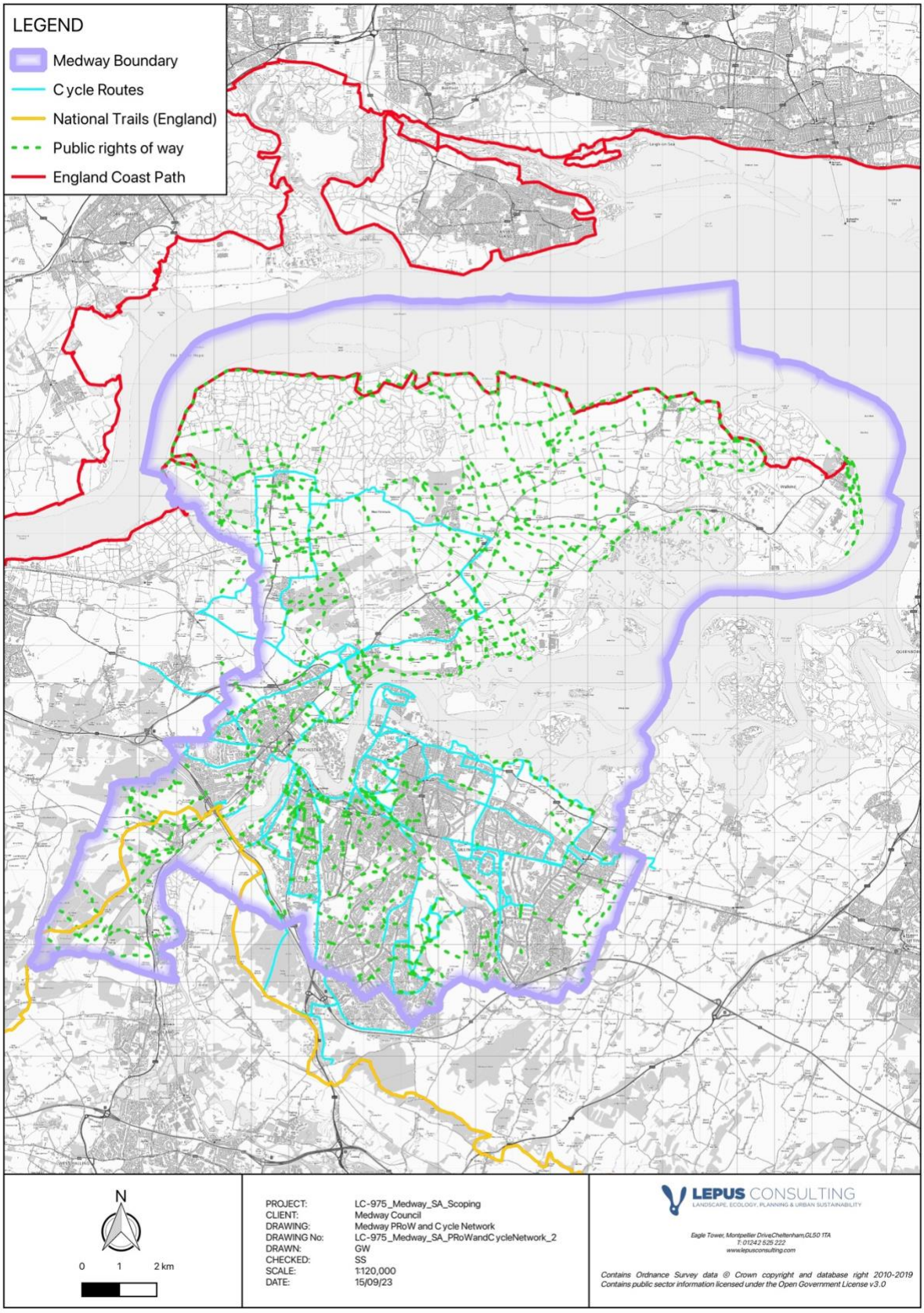

Figure 2.4: *PRoW links and Cycle network within Medway*

3 Air Quality

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Poor air quality is among the largest environmental risks to public health in the UK. Several objectives have been established in relation to air quality at both the European and the UK level (emanating from the 1996 EC Directive[22]). This includes the setting of targets for reducing emissions of specific pollutants to minimise negative impacts on health and the environment.

3.1.2 The Environment Act (1995) requires all local authorities to review and assess the air quality in their area. In areas where the air quality objectives are not anticipated to be met, councils are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). The Environment Act (2021) further strengthens the Local Air Quality Management framework.

3.1.3 In July 2017, the UK Government published a new plan[23] to tackle the issue of air pollution throughout the country. This plan focuses on meeting the legal requirements for reducing NO_2 set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010[24].

3.1.4 The Clean Air Strategy[25] published in 2019 illustrates how the government will tackle all sources of air pollution, making air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy. The strategy includes targets such as a commitment to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations across the UK, so that the number of people living in locations above the World Health Organisation's guideline level of 10$\mu g/m^3$ is reduced by 50% by 2025.

3.2 Baseline data

3.2.1 There are currently four AQMAs within Medway which are above the annual objective for NO_2: Central Medway; Rainham, Gillingham, and Four Elms Hill (see **Figure 3.1**). Gravesham A2 AQMA which lies in the adjoining Gravesham Borough Council, also borders Medway LPA in the west. The air quality objective for NO_2 is an annual average of 40ug/m3. This level has been exceeded within these areas.

3.2.2 Proposed development within the MLP may prevent the Council from achieving air quality targets and could result in negative impacts on the health of residents. It can also be assumed that proposed development will result in more traffic, thereby increasing traffic-

[22] EU Council Directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31996L0062&from=EN [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[23] Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport (2018) Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in UK. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-plan-for-nitrogen-dioxide-no2-in-uk-2017[Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[24] Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/contents/made [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[25] Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (2019) Clean Air Strategy. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019/clean-air-strategy-2019-executive-summary [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

related air pollution. Both existing and future residents will be exposed to the change in air quality.

3.2.3 The Medway Air Quality Action Plan (2015)[26] outlines the context and importance of air quality in Medway and sets out methods for identifying, calculating, and mitigating air quality issues associated with development proposals.

3.2.4 It is widely accepted that the effects of air pollution from road transport decreases with distance from the source of pollution. The Department for Transport (DfT) in their Transport Analysis Guidance consider that, *"beyond 200m from the link centre, the contribution of vehicle emissions to local pollution levels is not significant"*[27]. This statement is supported by National Highways and Natural England based on evidence presented in a number of research papers[28] [29]. Exposure to road transport associated emissions may have long term health impacts. Medway Council should therefore seek to direct new development and particularly infrastructure for vulnerable people away from main roads.

3.2.5 Air pollution, particularly excessive nitrogen deposition, is also known to be harmful to the health and functioning of natural habitats.

3.3 Key Issues

- The principal pollutant affecting air quality in Medway is nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), mostly originating from road traffic - reduction in NO_2 emissions is required
- There are areas of poor air quality within Medway including the strategic road network and AQMAs, and proximity of residential development to pollutants
- The rate of mortality attributable to particulate matter air pollution in Medway is higher than England's average

[26] Medway Council (2023) Medway Air Quality Action Plan 2015. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1982/medway_air_quality_action_plan_2015 [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[27] Department for Transport (2019) TAG unit A3 Environmental Impact Appraisal. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/825064/tag-unit-a3-environmental-impact-appraisal.pdf [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[28] Bignal, K., Ashmore, M & Power, S. (2004) The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution from road transport. English Nature Research Report No. 580, Peterborough. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/133002 [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[29] Ricardo-AEA (2016) The ecological effects of air pollution from road transport: an updated review. Natural England Commissioned Report No. 199. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6212190873845760 [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

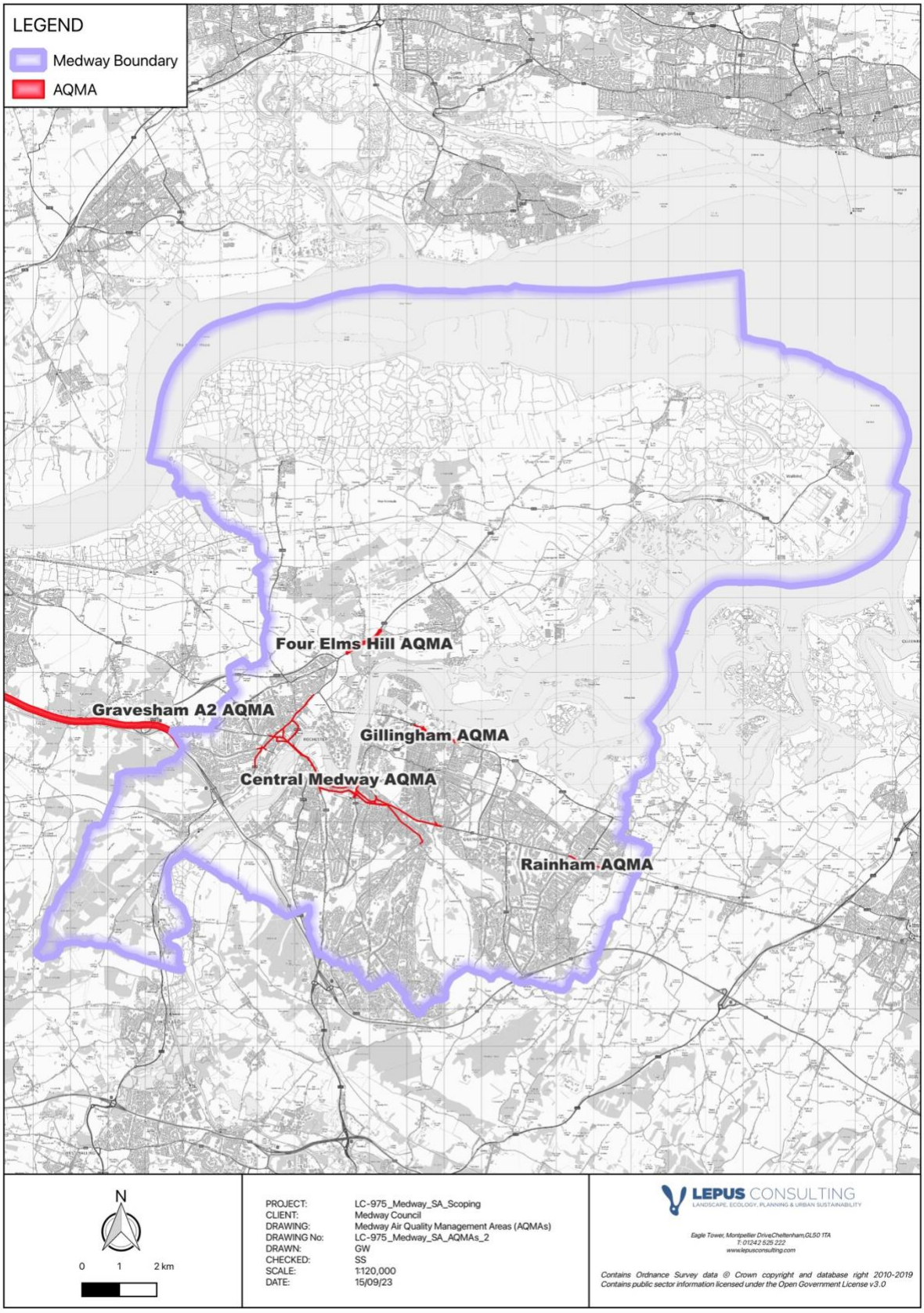

Figure 3.1: *AQMAs within and around Medway*

4 Biodiversity, flora and fauna, and geodiversity

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The conservation of biological and geological diversity (including a reversal of the current trend of biodiversity loss) and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats is of great importance. National and European policies identify a hierarchy of designations which aim to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. Key PPPs include the 25 Year Environment Plan[30], the Environmental Improvement Plan[31] and the Biodiversity Strategy for England[32] which seek to halt biodiversity loss, promote nature recovery, and expand multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) networks.

4.1.2 Paragraph 174 of the NPPF[33] states "*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by…recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services*".

4.1.3 The Natural Environment White Paper[34] focuses on promoting high quality natural environments, expanding multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) networks and initiating landscape-scale action to support ecological networks. The White Paper specifically seeks to: protect core areas of high nature conservation value; promote corridors and 'stepping-stones' to enable species to move between key areas; and initiate Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), where ecological functions and wildlife can be restored. This is supported by the Biodiversity Strategy for England[35] which aims to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems, and establish coherent ecological networks with more and better places for nature in order to benefit people and wildlife.

[30] HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [Date accessed: 25/08/23]

[31] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan [Date accessed: 04/09/23]

[32] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services [Date accessed: 25/08/23]

[33] GOV.UK (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[34] HM Government (2011) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[35] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services [Date accessed: 19/08/23]

4.1.4 Furthermore, the Environment Act 2021[36] seeks to halt the decline in species by 2030, tackle deforestation, and requires new developments to improve or create habitats for nature. An important aspect of the Environment Act is the focus on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and the incorporation of the Biodiversity Metric 4.0[37] (or its successor) into law to ensure all new development delivers 10% net gain in biodiversity. Mandatory BNG will come into force for Town and Country Planning Act developments in November 2023[38].

4.1.5 Local-level action plans for biodiversity and GI strategies should reflect these ecosystem-wide approaches and complement this with local priorities and goals to ensure that the MLP area's wildlife, ecology, geology and ecosystem services are protected and enhanced.

4.2 Baseline data

Internationally and European designated sites

4.2.1 Habitats sites (previously referred to as European sites) provide valuable ecological infrastructure for the protection of rare, endangered and/or vulnerable natural habitats and species of exceptional importance within the EU. These sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), classified under European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive). Additionally, paragraph 181 of the NPPF (2021) requires that sites listed under the Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat) are to be given the same protection as fully designated European sites.

4.2.2 Following the UK's exit from the EU, all European designated sites and species will retain the same levels of protection. A publication from Defra[39] outlines the extent of the changes made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), which largely relate to transferring functions from the European Commission to the relevant authorities in the UK.

4.2.3 Habitats sites, and associated functionally linked habitat, located within and in proximity to the local plan area, include the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar/SPA in the north and the east (see **Figure 4.1**). The North Downs Woodland SAC in the Medway Valley near Upper Halling has a total area of 454.18ha, coincident with the southwest of Medway as well as another area located south of the district. This SAC is protected for its mature Beech forests and Yew woods within a mosaic of scrub and areas of unimproved chalk grassland.

[36] Environment Act 2021. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[37] Natural England (2022) Biodiversity Metric 4.0. Available at: http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/6049804846366720 [Date accessed: 31/05/23]

[38] Natural England (2022) Biodiversity Metric Milestone – Defra consultation on the biodiversity metric. Available at: https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2022/08/05/biodiversity-metric-milestone-defra-consultation-on-the-biodiversity-metric/ [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[39] Defra (2021) Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017 [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

4.2.4 These internationally designated sites are vulnerable to the threats of air pollution, public access disturbances, habitat fragmentation, species decline and invasive species. It is necessary for the Council to demonstrate that the Local Plan will not exacerbate any threats or pressures such that site integrity is adversely affected by MLP proposals. Full details regarding the threats and pressures to each designation are explored in further detail in the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The outputs of the HRA process will help to inform the SA.

Nationally designated sites

4.2.5 There are eight SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) within Medway (see **Figure 4.2**), covering approximately 7,840.54ha: South Thames Estuary and Marshes; Medway Estuary and Marshes; Cobham Woods; Northward Hill; Dalham Farm; Chattenden Woods and Lodge Hill; Tower Hill to Cockham Wood, and Halling to Trottiscliffe Escarpment. One NNR, High Halstow NNR, is situated in the north of the Plan area on the Hoo Peninsula.

4.2.6 Natural England has developed Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for each SSSI unit in the country. IRZs are a Geographical Information System (GIS) tool which allow a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to SSSIs. They define zones around each site which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts[40]. Where a development proposal falls within more than one SSSI IRZ, the worst-case risk zone is reported upon in the assessment.

4.2.7 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) are abundant within the south, forming important areas of biodiversity that contribute to the ecological network within Medway's urban area. Although these sites do not have statutory protection, Medway Council should recognise the nature conservation value of these sites particularly with regard to planning and land management.

Priority Habitats

4.2.8 The current policy identified for UK Priority Habitats includes that provided by the NPPF paragraph 179, *"promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."*

4.2.9 Careful consideration should be given during the plan-making process to the potential impacts on the Section 41 list of habitats and species of principle importance that flow from the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006[41].

4.2.10 The Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy states that there are 387 species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity within section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 recorded in Kent. In total there are 943 priority species in England.

[40] Natural England (2022) Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 31 July 2022. Available at: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/5ae2af0c-1363-4d40-9d1a-e5a1381449f8/sssi-impact-risk-zones [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[41] Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

4.2.11 The Plan area also supports a plethora of priority habitats protected under the NERC Act, including:

- Good quality semi-improved grassland
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Mudflats
- Deciduous Woodland
- Saline Lagoon
- Traditional orchard.

4.2.12 These priority habitats support a diverse range of priority species[42], including but not limited to:

- Water vole (*Arvicola amphibous*)
- Otters (*Lutra lutra*)
- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)
- Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*)
- Bats, including Serontine (*Eptesicus serotinus*) and Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)
- Birds, including breeding waders, such as snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and curlew (*Numenius arquata*). Wintering wildfowl, including Bewick swans (*Cygnus bewickii*) and whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*)
- Insects, including pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*), Heath fritillary (*Melitaea athalia*) and bright wave (*Idaea ochrata*)
- Plants, including small cordgrass (*Spartina maritima*) and Three-lobed water crowfoot (*Ranunculus trichophyllus*).

Locally designated sites

4.2.13 Natural England encourages local authorities to formally designate appropriate sites as 'Local Nature Reserves' under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949[43]. A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designation demonstrates a commitment by the local authority to manage land for biodiversity, protect it from inappropriate development and provide opportunities for local people to study and enjoy wildlife.

4.2.14 The MLP area contains an important network of local designations running through the urban area, including eight LNRs covering approximately 454.18ha: Rede Common; Baty's Marsh; Darland Banks; Ambley Wood; South Wood; Levan Strice; Foxburrow Wood, and

[42] Kent Nature Partnership (2021) Kent Biodiversity Strategy. Available at: https://kentnature.org.uk/strategy/kent-biodiversity-strategy/ [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[43] National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/97 [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

Berengrave Chalk Pit. These also form important wildlife corridors, allowing species to move between habitats.

Geodiversity

4.2.15 Geodiversity is the collective term describing the geological variety of the earth's rocks, fossils, minerals, soils and landscapes together with the natural process that form and shape them. Geodiversity underpins biodiversity by providing diversity of habitat and the ecosystem, with the soil being the link between them. It also embraces the built environment by providing the basis for neighbourhood character and local distinctiveness through building stone and material. There are four Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) within Medway.

Green Infrastructure

4.2.16 Green Infrastructure (GI) is an important aspect of biodiversity. It is often described as a strategically planned network of multifunctional assets including natural and semi-natural areas, features, and green spaces in rural and urban, terrestrial and freshwater environments, which together enhance ecosystem health and resilience, contribute to biodiversity conservation and benefit human populations through the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services.

4.2.17 Medway is home to numerous green / open spaces, such as Ranscombe Farm and Cliffe Pools, alongside a number of smaller parks, greens and amenity spaces within the town and villages that are home to playgrounds and sports facilities. The Country Park at Capstone and Riverside are particularly valued for their proximity to the urban population in the LPA. Such GI provides the plan area with ecosystem services including storage and filtration of water, provision of natural flood protection, reduced availability of habitats and connectivity within the green network enabling movement of species.

4.2.18 The MLP should protect GI and look to increase GI where possible.

River ecology

4.2.19 Rivers are important habitats for unique plants and animals. The Medway Catchment is one of the largest in Southern England. Together, the Upper Medway, the Middle Medway, the River Eden, the Beult and the River Teise form the Medway Catchment. The Medway is a large catchment covering 1,857 km^2 of Surrey, Kent and East Sussex.[44]. Nearly three quarters of this catchment is protected by landscape designations. The catchment has numerous tributaries including the Eden, Teise and Beult. The River Beult is classified as a SSSI due to its Weald clay and characteristic plant communities. The estuary of the River Medway is an important natural wetland in northern Europe. The catchment has diverse geology and varied topography creating a combination of high and low gradient watercourses.

[44] Medway Catchment Partnership. Available at: https://medwaypartnership.org.uk/ [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

4.2.20 The MLP area lies within the Thames River Basin District. The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Thames[45] provides an update on the ecological status of the water environment. The water bodies comprising the Thames Basin are presented in Table 4.1 and their ecological status is presented in Table 4.2.

4.2.21 The RBMPs present the following objectives of the Water Framework Directive:

- To prevent deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater;
- To achieve objectives and standards for protected areas;
- To aim to achieve good status for all water bodies or, for heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies, good ecological potential and good surface water chemical status;
- To reverse any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater;
- The cessation of discharges, emissions and loses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters; and
- Progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants.

Table 4.1: *Number of water bodies in the Thames river basin*

Water body categories	Natural	Artificial	Heavily modified	Total
Rivers, canals and surface water transfers	288	21	74	417
Lake	8	47	18	73
Coastal	0	0	1	1
Estuarine	3	2	5	10
Groundwater	47	0	0	47
Thames river basin total	346	70	132	548

Table 4.2: *Ecological status of the Thames river basin surface waterbodies*

Ecological status or potential	Definition of status	No. of water bodies in Thames river basin
High	Near natural conditions. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impacts on amenity, wildlife or fisheries.	0
Good	Slight change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. No restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity or fisheries. Protects all but the most sensitive wildlife.	31
Moderate	Moderate change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. No impact on amenity. Some impact on wildlife and fisheries.	334

[45] Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2022) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/thames-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022 [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

Ecological status or potential	Definition of status	No. of water bodies in Thames river basin
Poor	Major change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Some restrictions on the beneficial uses of the water body. Some impact on amenity. Moderate impact on wildlife and fisheries.	117
Bad	Severe change from natural conditions as a result of human activity. Significant restriction on the beneficial uses of the water body. Major impact on amenity. Major impact on wildlife and fisheries with many species not present.	19

4.3 Key Issues

- Reduce impacts of pollution on ecology
- Balancing access to the countryside with conservation objectives
- Balancing the accommodation needs of the population with safeguarding the authority's valued environment
- It is essential that the Green Infrastructure provision and its accessibility is improved, conserved and enhanced to support the envisaged increase in population and accompanying housing provision
- Medway has a rich natural environment including expansive areas of nature conservation habitats which support rare and important species
- Medway's environmental designations and countryside (including agricultural land) is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand.

4.3.1 The following issues are especially relevant to Habitats sites in the Plan area:

- Air pollution: Land use planning has the potential to increase atmospheric emissions of pollutants to the air. These can result in adverse effects at Habitats sites such as eutrophication (nitrogen), acidification (nitrogen and sulphur) and direct toxicity (ozone, ammonia and nitrogen oxides)[46].
- Water resources and water levels: Urban development can change run off rates from urbanised areas to Habitats sites or watercourses which run through them. An increase in housing provision can also influence supply and demand for water within the region which may impact water levels.
- Water quality: Surface water run-off from urban areas has the potential to reduce the quality of water entering a catchment. Water quality may also be reduced through point source effluent discharges from new development at Wastewater Treatment Works and other controlled discharge sources.
- Recreational pressure: Increased development has the potential to increase recreational pressure upon Habitats sites which are accessible to the public.
- Urbanisation: Urban development has the potential to result in disturbing activities (such as noise, lighting and visual disturbance). Disturbance effects

[46] APIS (2016) Ecosystem Services and air pollution impacts. Available at: https://www.apis.ac.uk/ecosystem-services-and-air-pollution-impacts [Date Accessed: 21/06/23]

may impact upon Habitats sites themselves and also their qualifying features when outside a designated site boundary.

- Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation: Increased development has the potential to have direct and indirect impacts upon designated sites and habitat / species outside a designated site boundary which is functionally linked to the designation itself.
- Coastal squeeze: Given the location of the plan area and the coastal nature of adjacent Habitats sites, increased development has the potential to result in a loss of these natural habitats when considered alongside sea level rise.

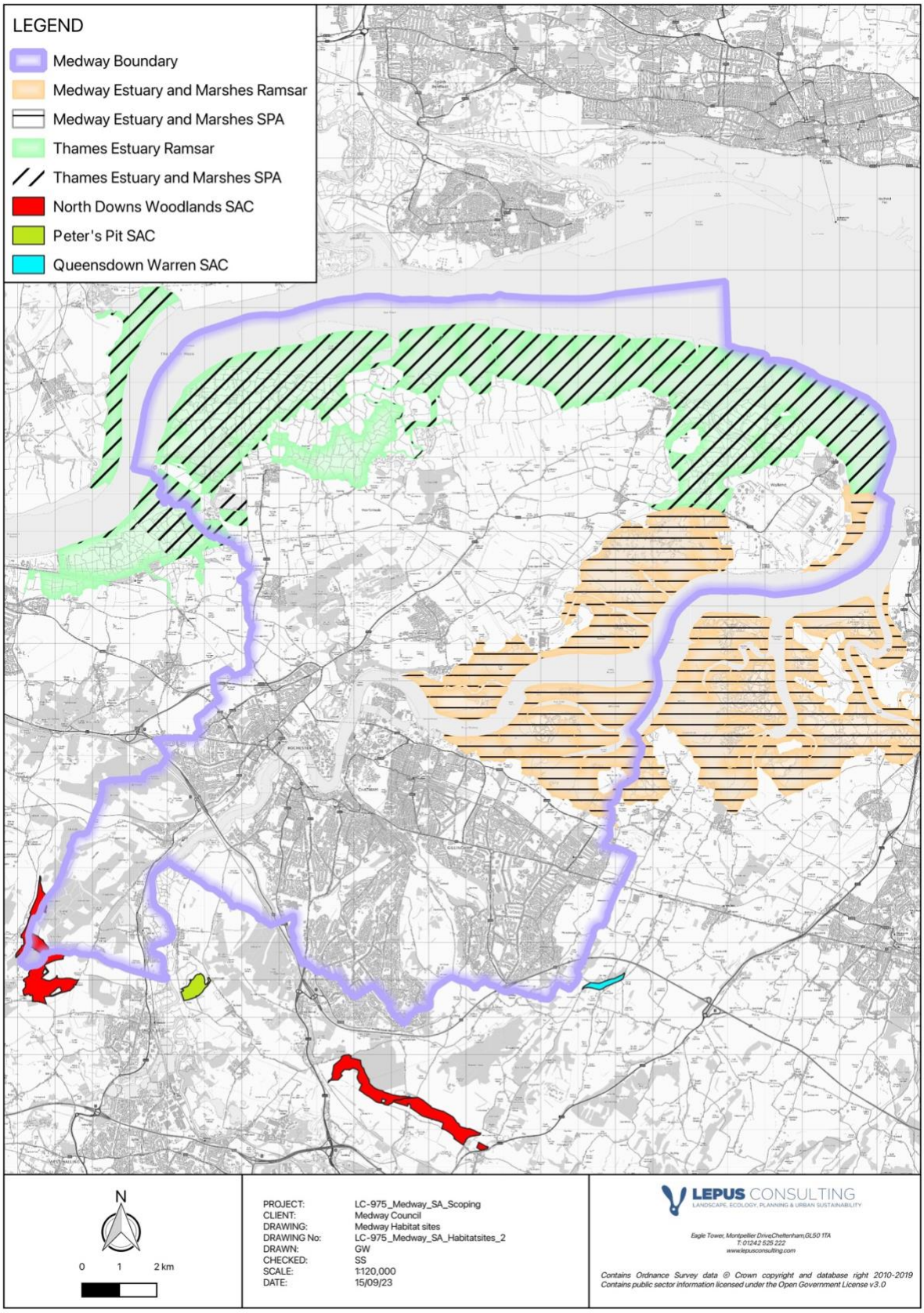

Figure 4.1: *Habitats sites within and around Medway*

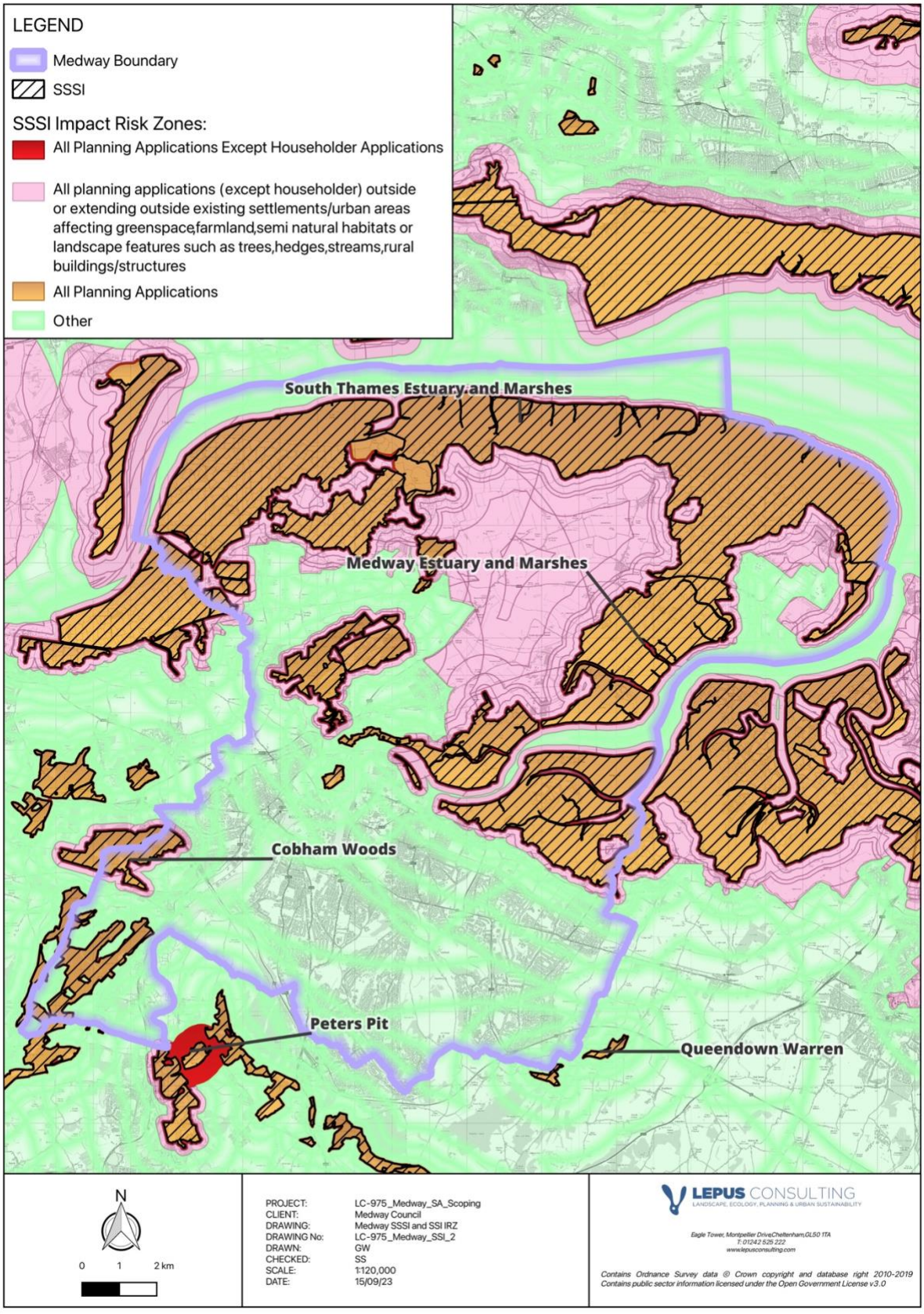

Figure 4.2: *SSSI and SSSI IRZs within and around Medway*

5 Climatic factors

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Anthropogenic climate change is predominantly the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GHGs are emitted from a wide variety of sources, including transport, construction, agriculture and waste. New development is likely to lead to a net increase in GHG emissions in the local area, although efforts can be made to help limit these increases.

5.1.2 Commitments to reduce GHG emissions have been introduced from the international level to the sub-regional level. The PPPs address policy development across all sectors and at all levels, combining both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply-side measures (low carbon options and renewables).

5.1.3 The UK is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC is the key forum which oversees international action to tackle climate change. The UNFCCC led the development and adoption of The Paris Agreement in 2015[47]. A total of 160 countries have pledged to cut their emissions as part of this process. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) report 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming'[48] recommended new emission targets: reducing GHG emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050.

5.1.4 Medway Council declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019[49]. The CCC's latest progress report[50] discusses the need for further measures to be implemented by the government to ensure the UK meets the net zero target.

[47] United Nations Climate Change (2015) The Paris Agreement. Available at: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[48] Committee on Climate Change (2019) Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming. Available at: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/ [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[49] Medway Council (2021) Climate Change. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/climatechange [Date accessed: 098/08/23]

[50] Reducing UK emissions: 2021 Progress Report to Parliament. Available at: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2021-progress-report-to-parliament/ [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

5.1.5 Climate change and energy efficiency PPPs to encourage sustainable development are set out by central government. The national Building Regulations require certain levels of sustainable construction to be met and provide guidance on additional, optional regulations for water and access[51]. The UK Government has outlined, through the Localism Act, the importance of sustainable development and its commitments to reducing carbon emissions and GHGs. The Carbon Plan[52] sets to reduce CO_2 emissions by 29% by 2017, 35% by 2022, and 50% by 2027 – for buildings this means a reduction between 24% and 39% compared to 2009 levels by 2027.

5.1.6 The Environment Agency (EA) provides guidance on flood risk for planners, developers and advisors in order to inform flood risk assessments and the plan-making process and stresses the importance of making allowances for climate change[53].

5.1.7 Adaptation measures proposed by the PPPs include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development, the promotion of new infrastructure such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), measures to increase biodiversity, measures dealing with overheating and improved maintenance to help address the changes that are likely to occur as a result of climate change. Through this approach, the government is seeking to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.

5.2 Baseline data

Carbon emissions

5.2.1 The average annual CO_2 emissions in the MLP area was 2.9 tonnes per capita in 2019, which is a decline from 5.3 tonnes in 2005[54]. This is the average of the combined figures for industrial, commercial, domestic and transport emissions.

5.2.2 Individually, a large proportion of development proposals in the Local Plan would be expected to result in a negligible impact on carbon emissions. However, when considered on a Plan- wide scale, the combined impact of emissions from all site allocations in the Local Plan could be significant.

5.2.3 Table 5.2 sets out the carbon emissions for Medway and the south east of England per sector. The majority of carbon emissions in Medway are from the domestic and transport sectors. Carbon emissions have gradually decreased between 2017 and 2019 across all sectors for the south east as a whole.

[51] DLUHC & MHCLG (2023) Building Regulations and Approved Documents index. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-regulations-and-approved-documents-index [Date accessed: 31/05/23]

[52] The Carbon Plan - reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-carbon-plan-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions--2 [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[53] Environment Agency (2021) Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[54] Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2019 [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

Table 5.1: *Carbon emissions (kt CO_2) by sector between 2017 and 2019*[55]

Area	Sector	2017	2018	2019
Medway	Industry	116,550	117,134	101,951
	Commercial	80,1681	68,151	55,230
	Domestic	353,218	355,027	343,881
	Transport	318,941	305,782	301,600
	Total	**909,762**	**874,926**	**820,480**
South east of England	Industry	5,942,508	5,781,275	5,390,653
	Commercial	4,595,782	4,480,126	4,035,760
	Domestic	13,267,988	13,335,823	12,973,305
	Transport	19,751,479	19,215,763	18,650,065
	Total	**43,179,534**	**42,417,478**	**40,507,909**

5.2.4 A major source of GHGs is from vehicle emissions. The majority of residents would be likely to have at least one vehicle per household. It is likely that residential and employment development proposed within the Local Plan would result in an associated increase in the number of vehicles on the road in the Plan area, and as such a consequent increase in GHG emissions would be expected, contributing to the Greenhouse Effect and exacerbating anthropogenic climate change. These GHG emissions are also likely to have implications for human health and biodiversity (see Chapters 4 and 7).

Potential Effects of Climate Change

5.2.5 The key changes for Kent in relation to climate change are listed below[56]:

- Hotter summers – an increase in average summer temperatures of 2- 3°C by 2040 and 5 – 6°C by 2080;
- Warmer winters with an increase in average winter temperature of 1 – 2°C by 2040 and 3 – 4°C by 2080;
- Drier summers with a reduction in average precipitation of 20 – 30% by 2040 and 30 – 50% by 2080;
- Wetter winters with an increase in average precipitation of 10 – 20% by 2040 and 20 – 30% by 2080; and
- Increases in sea-level rise by up to 0.3m by 2040 and 0.8m by 2080.

[55] Ibid

[56] The Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway (2020) Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

Renewable Energy and Flooding

5.2.6 One strategy to combat GHG emissions is to reduce the quantity of energy produced via fossil fuel led energy production[57]. In the last two decades, there has been a significant increase in the volume of energy generated through renewable energy sources. In 2020, 43.2% of the electricity generated in the UK was from renewable sources, compared to 36.9% in 2019[58].

5.2.7 Medway Council's Renewable Energy Capacity Study (2010)[59] found that the largest source of emissions arose from domestic properties. The domestic and commercial emissions projections identified a limited level of impact on overall building stock emissions as a result of new-builds only. The study suggested that the transition to a low carbon future will therefore require policy measures that target existing buildings as well as new development.

5.2.8 Vegetation and soils act as a carbon sinks, providing an important ecosystem service. Some sites proposed in the Local Plan would be likely to result in a net loss in vegetation cover (i.e. those comprising previously undeveloped land), and as such may compromise the carbon storage capacity of the natural environment. Furthermore, vegetation cover helps to reduce runoff, slowing the flow of surface water and reducing the risk of flooding.

5.2.9 The occurrence of extreme weather events is likely to increase in the near future due to the changing climate. In the UK, the rising risk of fluvial and pluvial (surface water) flooding is of primary concern. A complex network of waterways course through the Local Plan area, forming tributaries to the River Thames and/or River Medway. Associated with these waterways are differing extents of tidal, fluvial and pluvial flood risk.

Green Infrastructure

5.2.10 GI can play an important role in helping urban areas adapt to climate change, by filtering airborne pollutants, providing shade and local cooling, storing carbon and reducing surface water runoff[60]. The water environment (such as canals, rivers, and ponds) can also be referred to as Blue Infrastructure (BI) and often works alongside GI to provide multi-functional benefits including building resilience to climate change and acting as wildlife refuges and corridors. Medway, in addition to its rich green space, is home to an extensive network of waterways that provide biodiverse corridors for wildlife and recreation, including the River Medway and The Swale Estuary.

[57] RTPI (2018) Renewable Energy: Planning's role in delivering renewable energy in the new low carbon economy. Available at: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1834/renewableenergypracticeadvice2018.pdf [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[58] Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021) UK Energy in Brief. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1032260/UK_Energy_in_Brief_2021.pdf [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[59] Scott Wilson (2010) Renewable Energy Capacity Study. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2376/%20renewable_energy_capacity_study_2010 [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[60] Landscape Institute (no date) Green Infrastructure (GI). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/green-infrastructure/ [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

5.2.11 GI and BI should be conserved and enhanced, helping to maintain the ecosystem services they provide to Medway and should therefore be heavily considered in strategy and plans surrounding climate change mitigation in order for their services to be effective.

5.3 Key Issues

- Medway is a coastal authority and therefore at risk of flooding
- Highest mortality rates in the South East, attributable to anthropogenic factors
- Increased number of vehicles on the road will exacerbate congestion, which is likely to be the major source of emissions and air pollution within Medway

6 Cultural Heritage

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Historic environment priorities, from the international to the local level, seek to address a range of issues, particularly in relation to the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets that are irreplaceable and play an important role in place making and the quality of life for local residents. The Plan area has a rich heritage evidenced by an array of assets such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments (SM), Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG).

6.1.2 Historic England advocates the seeking of opportunities alongside development for delivering heritage-led regeneration, creating a strong sense of place and local distinctiveness, encouraging the use of traditional building skills, and promoting climate change resilience and innovative reuse of historic buildings where appropriate[61].

6.1.3 The MLP will also have a role to play in establishing cross-cutting provisions relating to development, including between the historic environment and the functionality of open spaces and landscape connectivity.

6.2 Baseline data

Designated features

6.2.1 The Medway Heritage Asset Review[62] states that there are 720 relevant entries in the national list of buildings of special architectural or historic importance within the Local Plan area:

- 49 Grade I Listed Buildings
- 78 Grade II* Listed Buildings
- 515 Grade II Listed Buildings
- 76 SMs
- Two RPGs.

6.2.2 Medway has 24 Conservation Areas, seven of which have published Conservation Area Appraisals[63].

6.2.3 Listed Buildings are shown on **Figure 6.1**, with other designations shown on **Figure 6.2**.

[61] Historic England (2016) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – Historic England Advice Note 8. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/ [Date accessed: 27/05/23]

[62] Medway Council (2017) Heritage Asset Review. Available at https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2368/heritage_asset_review [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[63] Medway Council (2021) Conservation Area Appraisals. Available at https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/download/47/conservation_area_appraisal [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

6.2.4 The draft Medway Heritage Strategy (2018) is expected to support the MLP and set out conservation and enhancement strategies for the historic assets within the MLP area[64].

6.2.5 Impacts on heritage assets will be largely determined by the specific layout and design of development proposals, as well as the nature and significance of the heritage asset. The level of the impact has been assessed based on the nature and significance of, and proximity of the proposal to, the heritage asset in question.

6.2.6 Adverse impacts on heritage assets can include direct loss or truncation of an asset, impacts on the existing setting of the asset and the character of the local area, as well as adverse impacts on views of, or from, the asset. These negative impacts are expected to be long-term and irreversible. It is anticipated that the MLP will require a Heritage Statement or Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to be prepared to accompany future planning applications, where appropriate.

Historic Landscape Character

6.2.7 The Historic Landscape Character Assessment 2001[65] identified 87 Historic Landscape Types within Kent. Medway has several defining features that add to the landscape character within the Plan area. These locations are located all across the local plan area and present the diverse historical nature of Medway, including Roman bricks and pottery, chalk quarries along the Thames estuary at Cliffe, Upnor Castle and a Georgian Dockyard[66].

Non-designated Features

6.2.8 Medway Council are in the process of developing a Local List of Heritage Assets to provide additional policy protection to those assets of heritage interest which are not subject to protection through national listing. Work is continuing on this project and, to date, a final version of the Local List has yet to be published.

6.2.9 The Medway Heritage Asset Review[67] identifies both designated and non-designated heritage assets within the LPA and provides recommendation to inform the development of a Heritage Strategy, in line with the NPPF.

6.2.10 Medway's location on the River Medway and the southern bank of the River Thames, provided the basis for the first settlements in Medway. The deep-water, mud-banked River Medway provided opportunity for the repair and storage of ships, in-turn giving rise to a number of ports, wharves and associated industries; along with the Royal Navy Dockyard and its associated fortifications, barracks and other defensive structures:

[64] Draft Medway Heritage Strategy. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/3478/draft_medway_heritage_strategy [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

[65] Kent County Council (2001) Historic Landscape Character Assessment 2001. Available at: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-1749-1/dissemination/pdf/report/Vol1.pdf [Date accessed: 31/05/23]

[66] Medway Council (2011) Medway Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2337/medway_landscape_character_assessment_map_2011 [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[67] Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2368/heritage_asset_review_2017 [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

- The high-quality agricultural land used primarily for the production of fruit and other crops, which led to the development of a number of farmhouses and other agricultural buildings;
- The presence of the Roman military road, Watling Street, and the associated river crossing at Rochester Bridge, constructed to link London with Canterbury and the ports with mainland Europe and beyond;
- The geology of the area primarily made up of chalk and flint but also clays, leading to the establishment of the local brick, cement and lime manufacturing industries of the Industrial Revolution-era; and
- The range of religious and ritual funerary structures and archaeology that can be dated back over two thousand years.

6.2.11 New development brings potential threats as well as opportunities in relation to the historic environment. Maintaining local distinctiveness, character and sense of place alongside delivering development can present challenges. However, new development can also stimulate new investment and potentially enhance the local townscape or improve the accessibility of heritage assets for local residents.

6.2.12 Historic England advocate the seeking of opportunities alongside development for delivering heritage-led regeneration [68], creating a strong sense of place and local distinctiveness, encouraging the use of traditional building skills, and promoting climate change resilience and innovative reuse of historic buildings where appropriate[69].

6.2.13 Building in Context[70] is a toolkit which aims to help local authorities enhance development proposals to better reflect its historic surroundings and local context. The eight Building in Context principles are that a successful project will:

- Start with an assessment of the value of retaining what is there;
- Relate to the geography and history of the place and lie of the land;
- Be informed by its own significance so that its character and identity will be appropriate to its use and context;
- Sit happily in the pattern of existing development and the routes through and around it;
- Respect important views;
- Respect the scale of neighbouring buildings;
- Use materials and building methods which are as high quality as those used in existing buildings; and

[68] Deloitte (2017) Heritage Works: A toolkit of best practice in heritage regeneration. Available at: https://bpf.org.uk/our-work/research-and-briefings/heritage-works-a-toolkit-of-best-practice-in-heritage-regeneration/ [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[69] Historic England (2016) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – Historic England Advice Note 8. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/ [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[70] Design Council. Building in Context. Available at: https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/fileadmin/uploads/dc/Documents/building-in-context-new-development-in-historic-areas.pdf [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

- Create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of the setting.

6.2.14 The Kent Historic Environment Record (HER)[71] has an extensive collection of information relating to several unitary authorities, including Medway. The database features archaeological discoveries, listed buildings, landscapes and excavations. No significant heritage assets have been identified in Medway.

6.3 Key Issues

- Medway has a rich military and cultural heritage
- There are numerous historic buildings that are listed
- The quality of design varies greatly across Medway
- Medway's rich heritage is at threat of being compromised to meet housing demand

[71] Heritage Gateway. Available at: https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/herdetail.aspx?crit=&ctid=97&id=4777 [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

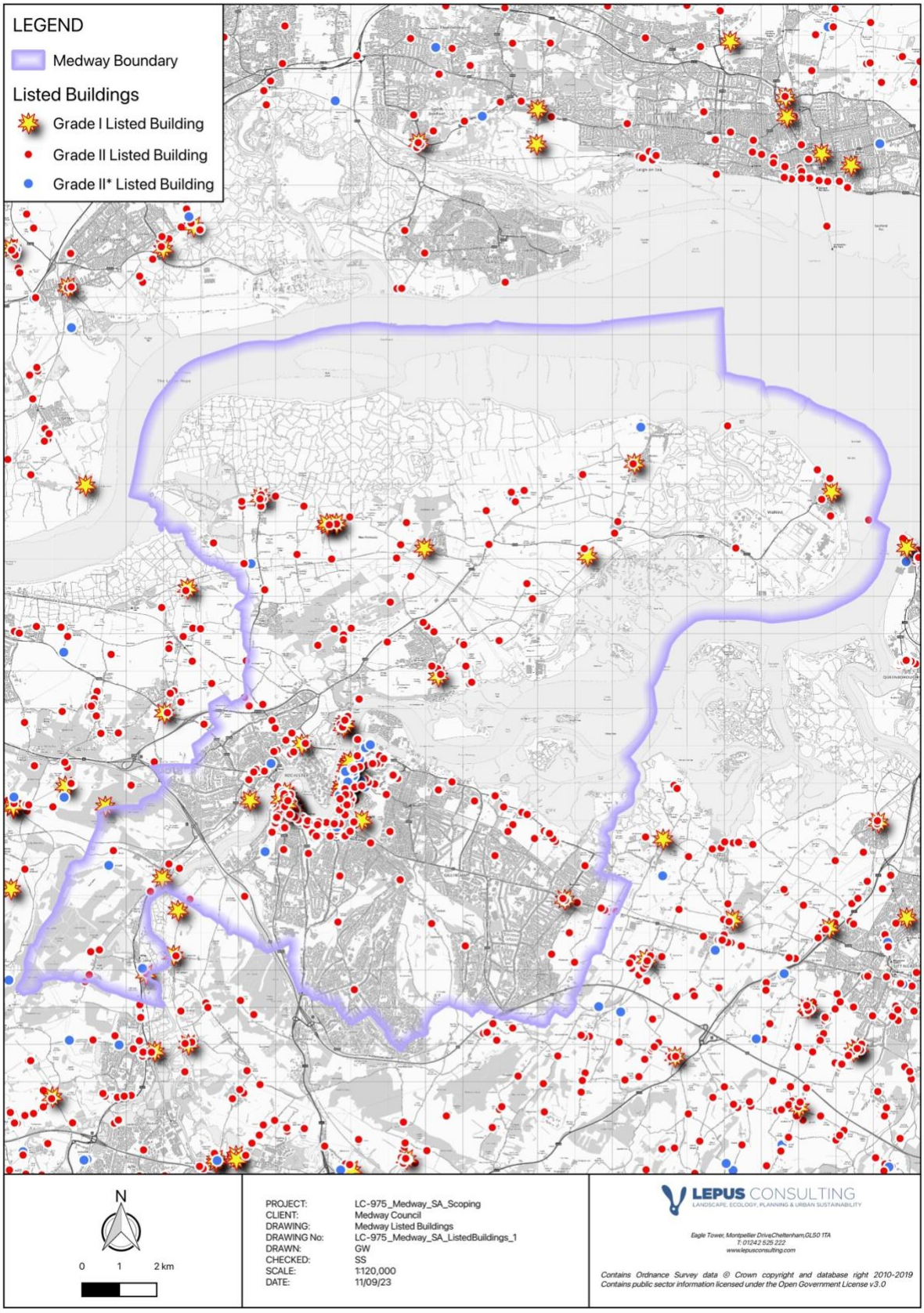

Figure 6.1: *Listed Buildings within and around Medway*

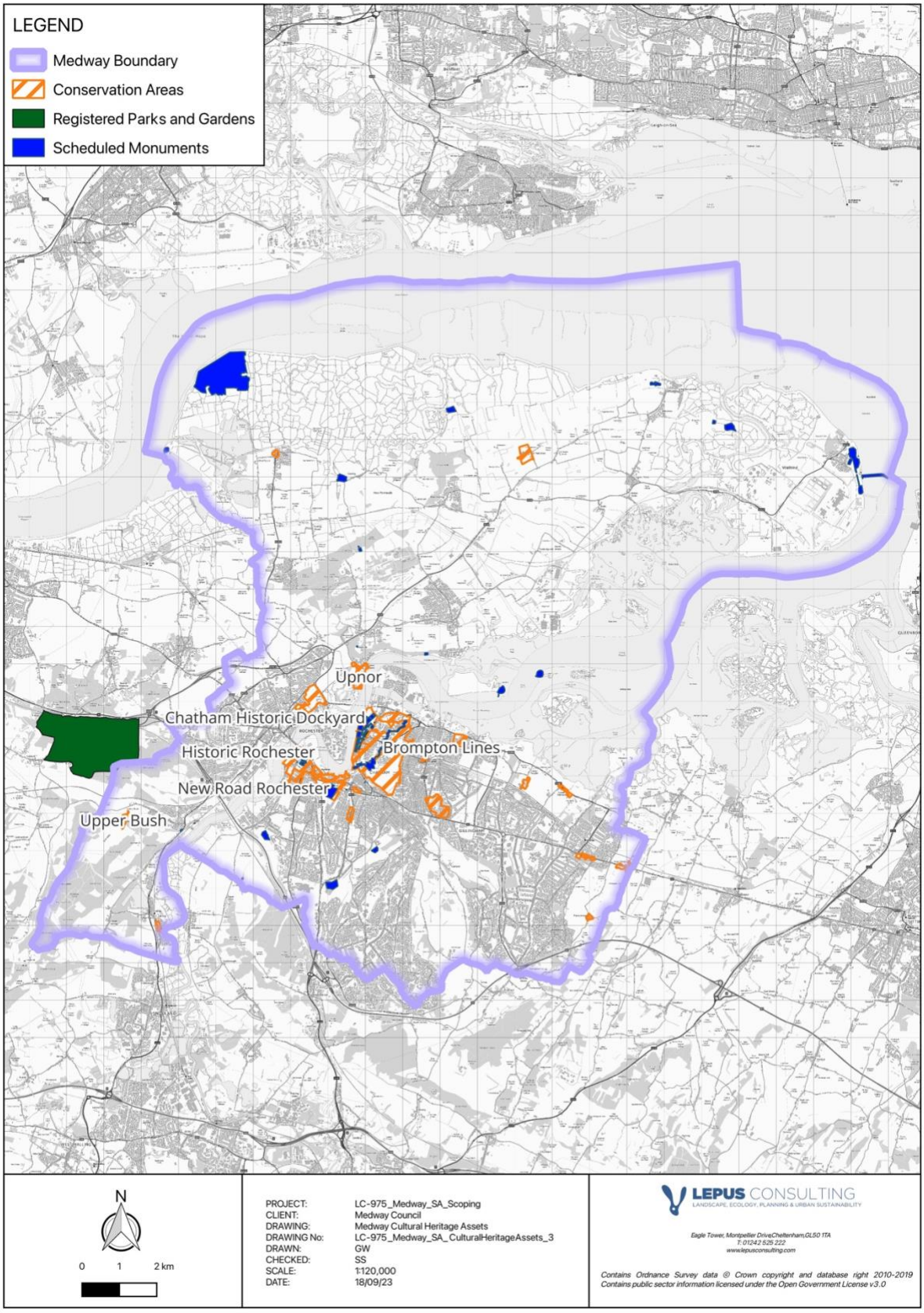

Figure 6.2: *Heritage assets within and around Medway*

7 Human Health

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 National and local health strategies and policies seek to promote the development of healthy communities, such as through delivering age-friendly environments for the elderly, encouraging healthier food choices, and facilitating active travel. In line with the NPPF, local planning authorities should seek to promote social interaction, create communities which are safe and accessible, and ensure there is good accessibility to a range of GI, sports facilities, local shops, cultural buildings, and outdoor space.

7.1.2 Public Health England's Strategy for 2020 – 2025[72] sets out priorities within the public health system and areas of focus including addressing health inequalities and narrowing the 'health gap' between poor and wealthy communities, reducing rates of infectious diseases, addressing unhealthy behaviours, and ensuring the potential of new technologies is realised.

7.1.3 Furthermore, improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy, reducing work related illness and accidents, increasing levels of sport and physical activity, improving accessibility to healthcare and leisure/ recreational facilities are also key priorities to address. At the local level, reports and strategies on GI provision and enhancement, sports facilities and open spaces should support this.

7.1.4 The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted issues with health inequalities, in particular the lack of access to outdoor space in some housing situations and the greater risks in terms of both physical and mental wellbeing this presents.

7.2 Baseline data

Health and wellbeing

7.2.1 The health statistics for Medway varies slightly from that of England. For example, the deprivation is higher and the average life expectancy is lower than that of England. Medway also has a 9.3% greater rate of adult obesity. However, slightly more (0.1%) adults are physically active in Medway, and there are 1.8 less suicides per 100,000 people. A summary of the Public Health Profiles is shown in **Table 7.1**.

7.2.2 The Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies and summarises the current and future health and social care needs of the local community in the MLP area[73].

[72] Public Health England (2019) PHE Strategy 2020-25. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-strategy-2020-to-2025 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[73] Medway's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200591/medway_s_joint_strategic_needs_assessment_jsna [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

Table 7.1: *Health statistics for Medway[74] in comparison to the England average*

	Deprivation score (IMD 2015)	Male life expectancy (yrs)	Female life expectancy (yrs)	Suicide rate (per 100,000)	Physically active adults (%)	Overweight or obese adults (%)
Medway	22.3	78.3	82.4	8.8	67.3	71.6
England	21.8	79.4	83.1	10.4	66.4	62.8

Health facilities

7.2.3 To help facilitate healthy and active lifestyles, residents need to have good access to NHS hospitals with an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department and GP (General Practice) surgeries. Ideally, residents should be within an approximate ten-minute walking distance to their nearest GP surgery, whilst a hospital within 5km would be considered a sustainable distance. Where distances to important health services exceed these guidelines, sustainable transport modes such as frequent and affordable bus routes should be available to residents.

7.2.4 There is only one NHS hospital with an A&E department in the Plan area: Medway Maritime Hospital. Other hospitals in or around the Plan area include Spire Alexandra Hospital, KIMS Hospital, Little Brooke Hospital and Maidstone Hospital. There are approximately 60 GP surgeries, some of which are private medical facilities, located predominantly in the south of the Plan area. The location of healthcare facilities is shown on **Figure 7.1**.

Green spaces and natural habitats

7.2.5 Exposure to a diverse range of natural habitats is significantly beneficial for physical and mental health and well-being. Good access to green/recreational areas can reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression[75]. Good access to green spaces is associated with healthy foetal growth in pregnant women, higher birth weights, healthy microbiomes in babies and reduced rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. Impacts of access to the natural environment are particularly significant for lower socio-economic groups.

7.2.6 Providing residents with sustainable access to a diverse range of natural habitats is an effective means of reducing health inequalities in the area. Medway's PRoW network is fragmented, with sections of footpaths throughout the urban areas as well as longer routes leading across the more rural Hoo Peninsula. These PRoW offer residents pedestrian access to the surrounding countryside and a good range of natural habitats.

[74] Public Health England (2019) Local Authority Health Profiles – Medway. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132701/ati/15/cid/4/tbm/1 [Date accessed: 08/08/23]

[75] BMC Health (2017) A cross-sectional analysis of green space prevalence and mental wellbeing in England. Available at: https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-017-4401-x [Date Accessed: 06/09/23]

7.2.7 The vision and strategic objectives of the MLP promote resilient GI, and the MLP has the potential to make contributions to landscapes, townscapes and biodiversity allowing local residents opportunities to visit natural outdoor spaces and view wildlife. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, can be protected through the NPPF.

7.2.8 Within Medway, there are a wide variety of public green spaces including parks, playing fields, allotments and sports facilities. All these open spaces positively contribute towards the health and wellbeing of residents, by helping to encourage physical exercise through sports, recreation and active travel.

Air pollution

7.2.9 As discussed in detail within **Chapter 7**, air pollution is a significant concern internationally, nationally and locally, with an average of 5.1% of mortality in England and 6.1% of mortality across Medway being attributed to particulate air pollution[76].

7.2.10 Development proposals located in close proximity to AQMAs or main roads would expose site end users to transport associated noise and air pollution, with adverse impacts on health and wellbeing. It is widely accepted that the effects of air pollution from road transport decreases with distance from the source of pollution. The Department for Transport (DfT) in their Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) consider that, "*beyond 200m from the link centre, the contribution of vehicle emissions to local pollution levels is not significant*"[77]. This statement is supported by Highways England and Natural England based on evidence presented in a number of research papers[7879].

7.2.11 There are four AQMAs in the Plan area: Central Medway, Four Elms Hill, Gillingham and Rainham AQMA. The M2 passes through the south area of the Plan area and there is a network of A-Roads which link to Dartford, Canterbury, Faversham, Maidstone and Tonbridge. The M2 provides access to the M25 making it a route in and out of London and around.

7.2.12 The issue of human health is dealt with under SA Objective 8 'Health and Wellbeing' with the aim of promoting access to health facilities and healthy lifestyles.

[76] NHS England (2019) Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution. Available at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/air%20quality#page/0/gid/1/pat/6/ati/102/are/E06000035/iid/30101/age/230/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/cid/4/tbm/1 [Date Accessed: 06/09/23]

[77] Department of Transport (2019) TAG unit A3 Environmental Impact Appraisal. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tag-unit-a3-environmental-impact-appraisal [Date Accessed: 06/09/23]

[78] Natural England (2011) The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution from road transport. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/133002 [Date Accessed: 06/09/23]

[79] Natural England (2016) The ecological effects of air pollution from road traffic: an updated review. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6212190873845760 [Date Accessed: 06/09/23]

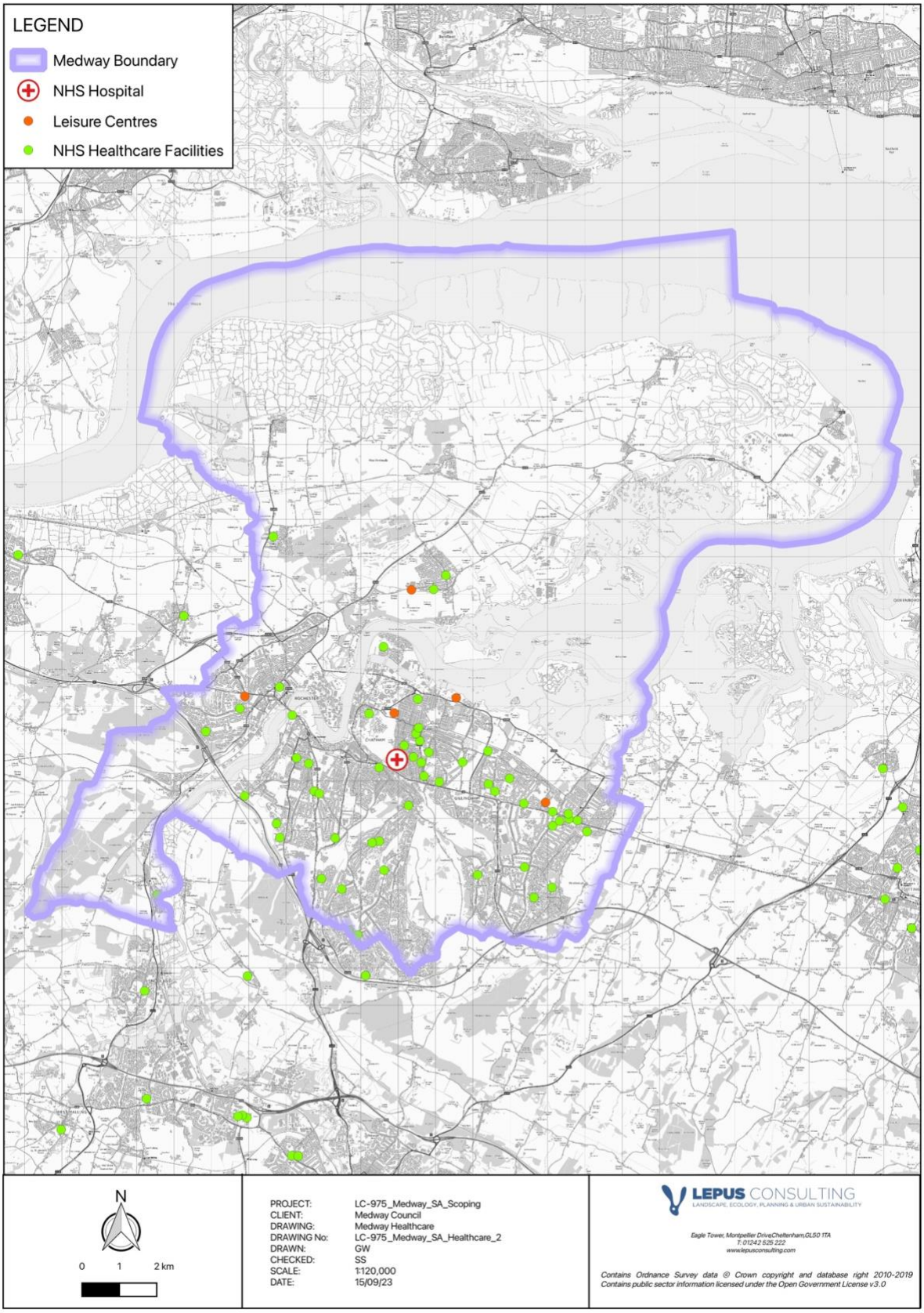

Figure 7.1: *Hospitals and Leisure centres within and around Medway*

8 Landscape and Townscape

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 At the European, national, regional and local levels emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings and sense of place. Landscape is described as comprising natural, cultural, social, aesthetic and perceptual elements. This includes flora, fauna, soils, land use, settlement, sight, smells and sound[80].

8.1.2 The PPPs seek to increase recognition of the linkages and interplay between the different aspects and roles of landscape, including local distinctiveness; the historic environment; natural resources; farming, forestry and food; education, leisure and recreation opportunities; transport and infrastructure; settlements and nature conservation.

8.1.3 The link between landscapes and a range of other aspects can be provided with a close focus on GI provision, with multi-functional benefits. In this respect policies should advocate the provision of open space, green networks and woodland as opportunities for sport and recreation, creating healthier communities as well as supporting and enhancing biodiversity. National Design Guidance [81] advocates well-designed places that are functional, attractive and provide a sense of safety, inclusion and community cohesion.

8.2 Baseline data

National Character Areas

8.2.1 Natural England has divided England into 159 distinct natural areas called National Character Areas (NCAs)[82]. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape. The MLP area coincides with three NCAs (see **Figure 8.1**): North Kent Plain, North Downs, and Greater Thames Estuary.

8.2.2 Key characteristics of The North Kent Plain NCA[83]:

- open area, low and gently undulating; and
- very productive agricultural area.

[80] Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-character-assessments-identify-and-describe-landscape-types [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[81] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2021) National Design Guide: Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[82] Natural England (2022) National Character Area Profiles. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[83] Natural England (2022) National Character Area Profiles. The North Kent Plain Profile 113. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2900242?category=587130 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

8.2.3 Key characteristics of The North Downs NCA[84]:

- chain of chalk hills that extends from the Hog's Back in Surrey and ends dramatically at the internationally renowned White Cliffs of Dover; and
- traditional small, nucleated villages, scattered farms and large houses with timber framing, flint walls and Wealden brick detailing.

8.2.4 Key characteristics of The Greater Thames Estuary:

- predominantly flat, low-lying coastal landscape;
- traditional unimproved wet pasture grazed with sheep and cattle combined with extensive drained and ploughed arable land protected from floods by sea walls, with some areas of more mixed agriculture on higher ground.

Landscape Character Area

8.2.5 Landscape Character Assessments help to identify key characteristics that together can create sense of place and the unique character of an area[85]. The current Medway Landscape Character Assessment (2011) has highlighted Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the plan area, identifying seven landscape types that incorporate 42 LCAs. The LCA is currently being updated. Listed below are the seven landscape types identified to date[86]:

- Capstone & Horsted Valleys
- Eastern Thames Marshes
- Hoo Peninsula
- Medway Marshes
- North Downs & Medway Valley
- North Kent Fruit Belt
- Urban and Industrial Areas

[84] Natural England (2022) National Character Area Profiles. The North Downs Profile 119. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/7036466?category=587130 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[85] An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014). Natural England. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[86] Medway Landscape Character Assessment (2011) Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2337/medway_landscape_character_assessment_map_2011 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Landscape Sensitivity

8.2.6 The Draft Hoo Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (February 2019)[87] has been produced to help inform the decision making regarding the potential development of an extension to Hoo St Werburgh. The study has identified ten land parcels within the Hoo Peninsula, and each parcel has been assessed for its sensitivity, value and capacity. The study states:

"Landscape Sensitivity depends on the type, nature and magnitude of the proposed change as well as on the landscape's characteristics. High sensitivity indicates a landscape vulnerable to change and therefore less able to accommodate change without significant adverse effects. Low sensitivity indicates a landscape sufficiently robust to accommodate change without significant adverse effects

Landscape capacity is the extent to which a particular landscape type is able to accept a specific kind of change (e.g. housing, mining, forestry, wind farms) without significant effects on its character. Capacity evaluates landscape sensitivity against landscape value and considers the degree to which landscape character is either vulnerable to change, or robust enough to recover from harm."

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

8.2.7 The south western and the south eastern part of the MLP area coincides with the Kent Downs AONB, north of the M20 (see **Figure 8.1**). Any development proposed in the MLP that lies within the AONB boundary could lead to adverse impacts on the AONB or its setting.

8.2.8 The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021-2026[88] sets out the future vision of the landscape and provides the strategies to be implemented that will ensure the special character of the landscape is recognised, valued and enhanced by the community for present and future use.

Green Belt

8.2.9 A small section of the local plan area lies within the London Green Belt. Although Green Belt itself is not necessarily of high landscape value, it often serves to protect the character and setting of historic towns and support landscape-scale biodiversity networks. New development could potentially increase noise and light pollution and reduce the perception of tranquillity in some areas.

[87] Hoo Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Study (2019). Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/6238/hoo_landscape_capacity_and_sensitivity_study [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[88] Kent Downs (2021) Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021-2026. Available at: https://kentdowns.org.uk/management-plan-2021-2026/ [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

8.2.10 Whilst the Green Belt is not a statutory landscape designation, it is a significant element of landscape protection in the area. The Green Belt is intended to[89]:

- check the unrestricted sprawl of larger built-up areas;
- prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

8.3 Key Issues

- Development has the potential to impact on the Kent Downs AONB
- There is limited land available for development which places increasing pressure on natural assets due to the projected population increase
- Development should maintain important aspects of Medway's varied landscapes, including historic parks and gardens and areas of high landscape value
- Development should have regard to the findings of the published Landscape Character Assessment
- Change to and impacts upon the views from sensitive landscapes, local residents and the PRoW network
- Alterations to the urban/rural fringe and increased risk of coalescence between settlements
- Increasing demand for housing results in increased pressure on landscapes to accommodate new growth

[89] Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) NPPF Chapter 13: Protecting Green Belt land. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

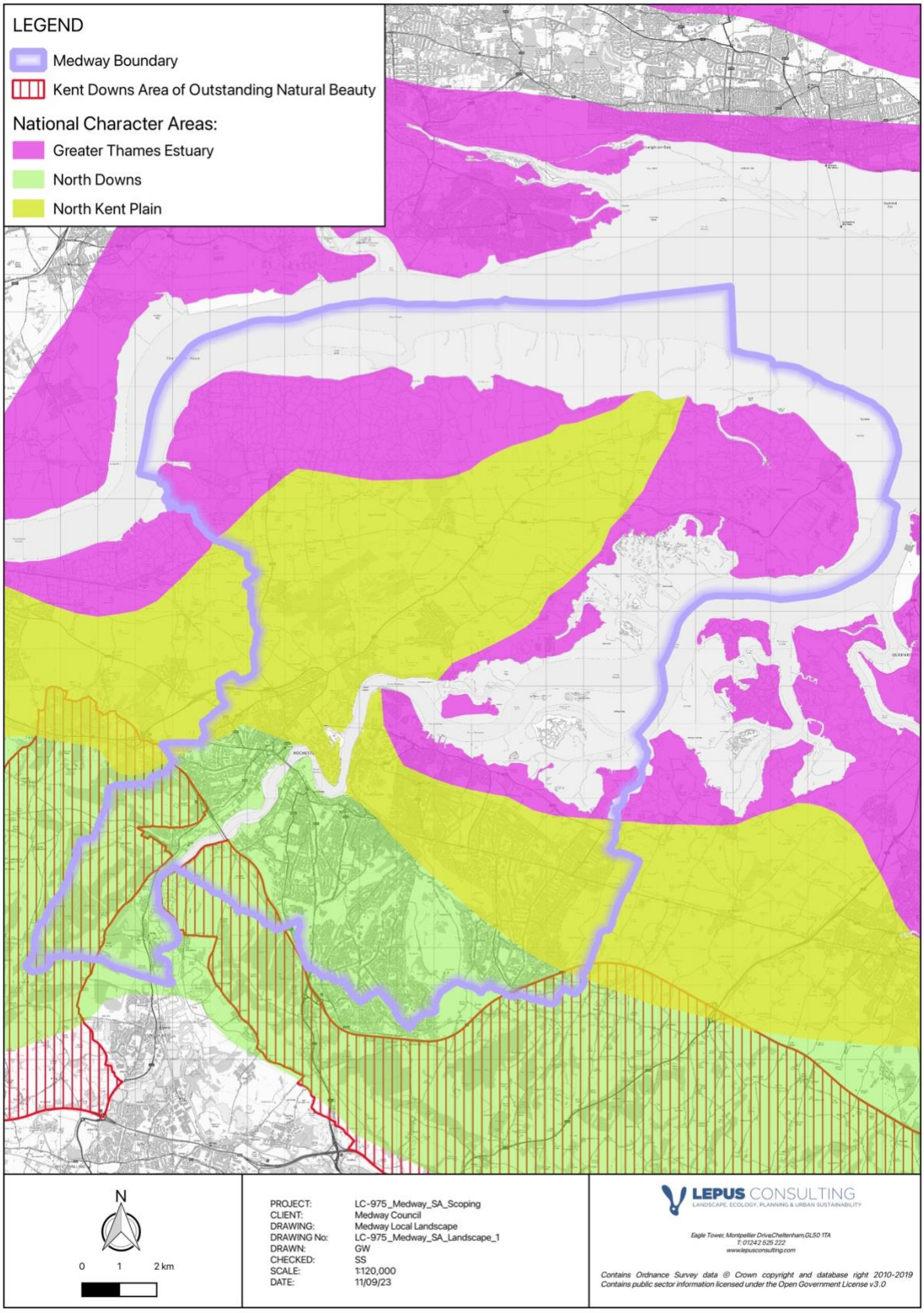

Figure 8.1: *NCA and AONB within and around Medway*

9 Population and Material assets

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 'Population' is a broad matter and includes topics such as: pollution and waste, housing, transport and accessibility, education, economy, and employment. The population topic seeks to create places where residents live a high quality of life for longer, are well educated and have the necessary skills to gain employment and succeed in modern society. Indicators of these objectives include the proximity of development proposals to schools, accessibility to employment land and proximity to services and amenities.

9.1.2 PPPs on population cover a range of different objectives, including tackling social exclusion; improving human rights and public participation; improving health; and ensuring every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of education failure, ill health, substance misuse, crime, and anti-social behaviour. At the regional and local levels, support for cultural diversity and young people are key aims.

9.1.3 'Material assets' cover a variety of built and natural assets which are accounted for in a range of topics. It is a requirement of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations to consider material assets, although the Regulations does not define them. The SA process considers material assets as the social, physical, and environmental infrastructure implications of the MLP.

9.1.4 The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including waste management, minerals, energy production and previously developed land. PPPs seek to the protect minerals resources and promote appropriate after uses for mineral workings and promote the 'waste hierarchy'.

9.2 Baseline Information

Population Size and Age Structure

9.2.1 In Medway, the population size has increased by 6.0% between 2011 – 2021, from 263,900 in 2011 to 279,800 in 2021. This is less than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South East (7.5%)[90].

9.2.2 Medway has an average (median) age of 38, between 2011-2021 which is lower than the average age of England (40) and in the south east (41). The number of people in Medway aged between 50-64 rose to 19.6% while the number of residents between 16-19 fell to 3.9% between 2011-2021.

[90] Office of National Statistics. Census 2021. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E06000035/ [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

Equality

9.2.3 Medway is not a very ethnically diverse area, with 84.3% of residents being White, followed by 5.6% of residents who identified as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African. The area is predominantly Christian (45.1%) with a further 43.0% reporting to have "no religion"[91].

9.2.4 The Equality Act 2010[92] provides a legal framework to protect individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and equal society. It seeks to highlight and strengthen the laws which prevent discrimination. Under the Equality Act, there are nine protected characteristics:

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

9.2.5 The Equality Act focuses of four main types of discrimination: direct discrimination; indirect discrimination; harassment; and victimisation.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

9.2.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) measures the relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England[93]. LSOAs are small areas designed to be of similar population, of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households.

9.2.7 IMD follows an established methodology which broadly defines deprivation to encompass a range of an individual's living conditions. The calculation is based on 39 indicators separated into seven distinct domains which are combined and weighted to calculate IMD. The seven domains are: income; employment; health deprivation and disability; education, skills and training; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment. All neighbourhoods, or LSOAs, are then ranked according to their level of deprivation in comparison to other areas.

[91] Office of National Statistics. Census 2021. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000110/ [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[92] Equality Act 2010. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[93] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) The English Indices of Deprivation 2019. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

9.2.8 The IMD was last updated in 2019[94]. Medway has 163 LSOAs, with four of these being ranked among the 10% most deprived in England.

Economy

9.2.9 The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. Other objectives include improvements to the education system to increase the skill levels of both children and adults, as well as improved productivity and innovation, particularly with regards to technology.

9.2.10 Key employment areas are defined as locations which will provide a range of employment opportunities from a variety of employment sectors, including retail parks, industrial estates and major local employers. A total of 150,000 (81.9%) people in Medway are economically active as of April 2022 (Table 9.1).

Table 9.1: *Employment by occupation within Medway and Great Britain April 2022 – March 2022*[95]

Occupation	Medway (Numbers)	Medway (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2020 Major Group 1-3	**74,600**	**51.3**	**56.6**	**51.5**
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	18,300	12.6	13.1	10.8
Professional Occupations	32,300	22.2	27.8	26.3
Associate Professional Occupations	23,900	16.4	15.4	14.2
Soc 2020 Major Group 4-5	**28,000**	**19.2**	**17.6**	**18.6**
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	16,900	11.6	9.5	9.6
Skilled Trades Occupations	11,100	7.6	8.1	9.0
Soc 2020 Major Group 6-7	**24,800**	**17.1**	**13.3**	**14.4**
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	12,300	8.5	7.5	8.1
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	12,500	8.6	5.8	6.3
Soc 2020 Major Group 8-9	**18,100**	**12.5**	**12.5**	**15.4**
Process Plant & Machine Operatives	7,400	5.1	4.4	5.8
Elementary Occupations	10,700	7.3	8.0	9.6

Education, Skills, and Training

9.2.11 In general, education attainment is fairly proportionate in Medway LPA to England and Wales. Table 9.2 presents the qualifications levels for the MLP area.

Table 9.2: *Qualifications percentage of adult population across Medway and England and Wales 2021*[96]

Qualifications	Medway (%)	England and Wales (%)
No qualification	19.4	18.2

[94] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) English indices of deprivation 2019. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019 [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[95] NOMIS official Labour Market Statistics. All people population Medway. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157282/report.aspx#tabrespop [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[96] Education England and Wales: Census 2021 Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/educationandchildcare/bulletins/educationenglandandwales/census2021#how-highest-level-of-qualification-varied-across-england-and-wales [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

Qualifications	Medway (%)	England and Wales (%)
Level 1 and entry level requirements	12.1	9.6
Level 2 qualifications	15.9	13.4
Apprenticeship	6.1	5.3
Level 3 qualifications	18.0	16.9
Level 4 qualifications	25.6	33.8
Other	3.0	2.8

9.2.12 There are a total of 106 schools in Medway, out of which 76 are primary, 19 are secondary and five are Special Education Needs (SEN) schools. In addition to the number of schools in Medway, there is also opportunity for further higher education at University of Kent, University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christ Church, Mid Kent College and University Technical College.

Waste

9.2.13 Throughout Medway and nationally, there is a need to increase the proportion of waste sent for reuse, recycling or compost and move away from the use of landfill for waste disposal. Government guidance, including the 25 Year Environment Plan[97] and Waste Strategy for England[98], highlight the importance of moving towards sustainable waste management in particular cutting down on hazardous waste and single-use plastics which lead to adverse implications for the health of people and the environment.

9.2.14 The proposed development within the local plan area and associated increase in residents will be expected to result in an increase in waste produced.

9.2.15 The proportion of local authority collected waste in the south east is above the national levels, collecting 4.1 million tonnes in 2020/21 which constitutes 15.9% of all local authority collected waste in England[99]. As per the Medway Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2005-2020), the council had set out targets for increasing the recycling rate (55% by 2020) and reducing biodegradable waste sent to landfill sites (35% of 1195 levels by 2020)[100].

[97] Defra (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[98] Defra (2018) Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[99] Waste managed by local authorities in England 2020/2021. Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040756/Statistics_on_waste_managed_by_local_authorities_in_England_in_2020_v2rev_accessible.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[100] Medway Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005-2020 Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1008/medway_waste_management.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

Renewable Energy

9.2.16 The topic of renewable energy is relevant to the theme of climate change. Renewable energy has been addressed under climate change in Chapter 5.

Minerals

9.2.17 Minerals are a finite, non-renewable resource and as such, their conservation and safeguarding for future generations is important. Nationally and locally important mineral resources are identified in Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). Where development proposals coincide with an identified MSA, there is potential for sterilisation of the mineral resource as a result of the proposed development, meaning minerals will be inaccessible for potential extraction in the future. This would therefore result in an adverse impact under the natural resources objective.

9.2.18 Medway is a Mineral Planning Authority and therefore is responsible to produce policies for management and to ensure steady and adequate supply of the minerals to meet local or regional needs[101]. The geology in Medway includes deposits of chalk, clay and sand and gravel, much of which is located on the Hoo Peninsula.

9.2.19 There is a need for a balanced approach between safeguarding mineral resources and supporting economic growth. The protection and extraction of minerals resources is important to help support the levels of development proposed over the Plan period and to meet demand for aggregates.

9.3 Key Issues

- The increasing population within the Plan area will inevitably create more waste and pollution
- It is important to ensure waste management accords with the waste hierarchy and reduces the overall quantity of waste
- Waste facilities will need to be provided to cater for a growing population, prevent fly tipping and increase recycling rates
- Need to provide suitable housing for a growing elderly population
- Too few jobs in relation to working age population
- Lower qualifications/skill levels result in lower earnings
- Many pockets of economic/income deprivation, with some suffering severe, multiple deprivation
- Distance and accessibility to educational facilities including primary schools, secondary schools and further/higher level educational facilities

[101] Medway Local Plan development. Section 12- Minerals, Waste and Energy. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2056/12_minerals_waste_and_energy [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

10 Water and Soil Resources

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, as translated into national law by the Water Framework Regulations 2003. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and other water bodies to 'good ecological status' by 2027; considering flood risk at all stages of the plan and development process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments.

10.1.2 National strategies have a focus on maintaining and protecting the availability of water. Water supply and use is guided by EA's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). The Thames[102] River Basin Management Plan (2015) sets out how water quality can be improved, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

10.1.3 The NPPF seeks to ensure that flood risk is considered at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Flood risk is discussed further in **Chapter 5**.

10.1.4 National policies and strategies on soil, including DEFRA's 'Safeguarding our Soils' strategy[103], seek to prevent soil pollution; reduce soil erosion from wind and water; maintain soil diversity; improve the quality of soil, including through promoting an increase in organic matter in soil and increase the resilience of soils to a changing climate. Focus should be placed on protecting the quality and availability of agricultural land, through reducing soil degradation and maintaining soil productivity.

10.2 Baseline data

Soil

10.2.1 As highlighted by the Soil Strategy for England[104], soil is a vital natural resource, with a range of key functions. These include:

- Support of food, fuel and fibre production;
- Environmental interaction functions (e.g. regulating the flow of and filtering substances from water, emitting and removing atmospheric gases, storing carbon);
- Support of habitats and biodiversity;

[102] Environment Agency (2015) Thames River Basin Management Plan. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718342/Thames_RBD_Part_1_river_ba sin_management_plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 26/08/23]

[103] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2011) Safeguarding our soils: A strategy for England. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[104] DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69261/pb13297-soil-strategy-090910.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

- Protection of cultural heritage and archaeology;
- Providing a platform for construction; and
- Providing raw materials.

10.2.2 Soil is an essential and non-renewable resource that provides a wide range of ecosystem services. It is also one of the most important natural carbon sinks available and is a vital resource in efforts to mitigate climate change.

10.2.3 It is therefore important for decision makers to make best efforts to preserve soil resources. Development can potentially have adverse impacts on soil stocks, such as by direct loss of soil (e.g. excavating), contamination, increased erosion, breakdown of structure and loss of nutrients. The quality of soils in the UK has rapidly degraded, predominantly due to intensive agricultural production and industrial pollution. The UK's soil continues to face three main threats[105]:

- Soil erosion by wind and rain (it is estimated that the UK loses 2.2 million tonnes of topsoil every year due to wind and water erosion)
- Compaction; and
- Organic matter decline.

10.2.4 Construction on land has the potential to exacerbate compaction of soils and the decline in organic matter, whilst all three are expected to be exacerbated by climate change.

10.2.5 In accordance with paragraph 174 of the NPPF, the MLP should recognise that development can have an irreversible adverse (cumulative) impact on the finite stock of best and most versatile (BMV) land. The loss of BMV land should be minimised, as mitigation is rarely possible. BMV is usually indicated by Agricultural Land Classification (ALC). The ALC system classifies land into five categories according to versatility and suitability for growing crops. The top three grades, Grades 1, 2 and 3a, are referred to as BMV land[106]. The grades are as follows:

- Grade 1 – excellent quality agricultural land
- Grade 2 – very good quality agricultural land
- Grade 3 – good to moderate quality agricultural land
  - Subgrade 3a – good quality agricultural land
  - Subgrade 3b – moderate quality agricultural land
- Grade 4 – poor quality agricultural land
- Grade 5 – very poor-quality agricultural land

[105] Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2009) Safeguarding our soils – A strategy for England. Defra, September 2009 [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[106] MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England And Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6257050620264448?category=5954148537204736 [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

10.2.6 The underlying soils of Medway give rise to a mix of classified agricultural land, the majority being of Grade 1, Grade 3, Grade 5 and Urban, followed by Grade 4 and small patches of Non-Agricultural (see **Figure 10.1**).

Soil pollution and Contaminated land

10.2.7 Soil pollution can refer to land which is contaminated by a range of pollutants including heavy metals, oils, chemicals, and radioactive substances[107]. Land is legally defined as 'contaminated land' where substances have the potential to cause:

- significant harm to people, property or protected species;
- significant pollution of surface water (for example lakes and rivers) or groundwater; or
- harm to people as a result of radioactivity.

10.2.8 In accordance with the core planning principles of the NPPF[108], development on previously developed land (PDL) will be recognised as an efficient use of land. Development on previously undeveloped land is not considered to be an efficient use of land. Development proposals situated on previously undeveloped land are expected to pose a threat to the soil resource within the proposal perimeter due to excavation, soil compaction, erosion and an increased risk of soil pollution and contamination during the construction phase. This is expected to be a permanent and irreversible impact.

10.2.9 It should be noted that PDL could also be of environmental value, and as such, potential impacts on natural resources shall be considered on a site-by-site basis.

Water resources

10.2.10 The national mandatory water efficiency standard is 125 litres per person per day, as set out in the Building Regulations 2010[109]. Medway Council may seek to introduce a higher standard of 110 litres per person per day in line with the Building Regulations Part G[110] optional requirement.

10.2.11 It is assumed that development proposals in the MLP will be subject to appropriate approvals and licensing for sustainable water supply from the Environment Agency.

[107] Contaminated land. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/contaminated-land [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[108] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[109] The Building Regulations 2010. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2214/contents/made [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[110] MHCLG (2016) Sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency: Approved Document G. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sanitation-hot-water-safety-and-water-efficiency-approved-document-g [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

10.2.12 Medway LPA is supplied by Southern Water. Sewerage services are also provided by Southern Water. Drivers of increased water demand include an increase in population, a decrease in household occupancy and climate change. The draft South Water Resource Management Plan[111] aims to manage and meet future demand through encouraging water use efficiency, for example by innovative techniques like integration of artificial intelligence for installing water meters and reducing leakage.

10.2.13 The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) prepared by each water company estimates future water demands and plans how these levels will be achieved. The WRMP forecasts a significant deficit that is likely to develop between supply and demand for water over time unless action is taken[112]. The WRMP outlines a number of demand management measures that need to be taken to ensure continued sustainable sources of supply including:

- Reducing abstraction from those water sources that have a detrimental impact on the environment;
- Making sure our future water abstractions do not pose a risk environmental deterioration, as required by the Water Framework Directive;
- Increasing the flexibility and resilience of our supply system;
- Increasing or optimizing deployable output from existing, sustainable sources where possible;
- Using catchment restoration techniques to improve habitats and ecological resilience to low flows; and
- Using catchment management measures to protect our sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks.

10.2.14 Catchment Area Management Strategies (CAMS) are six-year strategies developed by the Environment Agency for managing water resources at the local level. CAMS are to be produced for every river catchment area in England and Wales. The Local Plan area is located within the 'Medway', 'North Kent and Swale' and 'Thames Corridor' catchment areas[113].

[111] Draft South Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2080 (2020) Available at: https://cdn.southeastwater.co.uk/Publications/Water+resources+management+plan+2019/south-east-water-final-wrmp-2020-2080.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[112] Draft South Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2080 (2020) Available at: https://cdn.southeastwater.co.uk/Publications/Water+resources+management+plan+2019/south-east-water-final-wrmp-2020-2080.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[113] Environment Agency (2022) Catchment Data Explorer. Available at: http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/ [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

10.2.15 There is water available for licensing in the Medway catchment area[114], the North Kent catchment area[115] and restricted water available for the Thames catchment area[116].

10.2.16 The percentage reliability of consumptive abstraction in the Medway CAMS, North Kent CAMS and the Thames CAMS is available less than 30% of the time.

10.2.17 The Environment Agency proposes to define the 'hands off flow (HOF)' (the reduction in flow below which abstraction must stop) depending on the level of abstraction required, the perceived level of risk to the waterbody and any local features in need of additional protection.

10.2.18 Climate change as mentioned above can severely change the weather dynamics of the area and can cause implications on the water resources. Latest UK Climate Projections indicate that by 2050 Kent is likely to see winter temperatures to be warmer by 2.0°C, summers by 2.8°C; winter rainfall is likely to increase by 14% and summer rainfall likely to decrease by 24%[117]. These changes can increase the likelihood of a drought occurring regionally. Droughts can be characterised into three types that can occur separately or together[118]:

- Environmental drought occurs when a shortage of rainfall has detrimental impacts on the environment, likely resulting in reduced river flows, exceptionally low groundwater levels and insufficient moisture in soils.
- Agricultural drought is declared when there is not enough rainfall and moisture in soils to support crop production or farming practices.
- Water supply is where there is a shortage in rainfall causing water companies concern over the supply to their customers. This tends to take longer to develop as environmental or agricultural drought as water companies tend to have supply systems that are developed to cope with dry weather conditions.

[114] Environment Agency (2013) Medway Abstraction Licensing Strategy. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289875/LIT_1995_61b7f5.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[115] Environment Agency (2013) The North Kent and Swale Abstraction Licensing Strategy. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289868/LIT_1815_765a21.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[116] Environment Agency (2013). Thames Abstraction Licensing Strategy. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/849612/Thames-Abstraction-Licensing-Strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 29/08/23]

[117] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf Date accessed: [07/09/23]

[118] Drought Response Framework England. Environment Agency (2017) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625006/LIT_10104.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

10.2.19 Medway LPA could be threatened by the climate change effects that may influence water supply, with increasing potential of more water supply droughts. Medway will therefore be under the protection of the Southern Water Drought Plan (2019)[119] that has set out the strategy and activities that Southern Water will implement in managing impacts and mitigating the likelihood of a drought.

Water quality

10.2.20 Undertaking a Water Cycle Study (WCS) can help to inform Local Plans and Development Plan Documents with regard to wastewater infrastructure delivery requirements, water resources and water efficiency requirements to plan for sustainable growth. Through understanding environmental and infrastructure capacity, a WCS can identify joined up and cost-effective solutions that are resilient to climate change[120].

10.2.21 The vulnerability of groundwater to pollution is determined by the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil and rocks, which control the ease with which an unprotected hazard can affect groundwater. The EA has produced a document which provides information on how they manage and protect groundwater[121]. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) indicate the risk to groundwater supplies from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants.

10.2.22 There are three categories of SPZ[122] as follows:

- Zone 1 – Inner Protection Zone: the 50-day travel time from any point below the water table to the source, with a minimum radius of 50m
- Zone 2 – Outer Protection Zone: the 400-day travel time from a point below the water table to the source, with a minimum radius of 250-500m
- Zone 3 – Source Catchment Protection Zone: area around a source within which all groundwater recharge is discharged at the source

[119] Southern Water Drought Plan (2019) Available at: https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/2589/final-drought-plan-technical-summary.pdf Date accessed [07/09/23]

[120] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Water supply, wastewater and water quality. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-supply-wastewater-and-water-quality#water-cycle-studies [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[121] Environment Agency (2018) The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, February 2018, Version 1.2. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/692989/Envirnment-Agency-approach-to-groundwater-protection.pdf [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[122] Environment Agency (2019) Manual for the production of Groundwater Source Protection Zones – March 2019. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/822402/Manual-for-the-production-of-Groundwater-Source-Protection-Zones.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

10.2.23 Designed to protect individual groundwater sources, these zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. In this context they are used to inform pollution prevention measures in areas which are at a higher risk, and to monitor the activities of potential polluting activities nearby. SPZs are present in the south of the local plan area, with predominately zones of SPZ3, with smaller areas of SPZ2 and SPZ1.

10.2.24 Local authorities and developers can play a significant role in improving the local water environment, for example through Local Plan policies, urban regeneration or catchment restoration and GI projects. Typical improvements might include:

- Restoring rivers and floodplains or corridors to a more natural state
- Removing barriers to fish movement
- Promoting efficient and sustainable use of water resources in developments
- Promoting the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- De-culverting watercourses
- Managing pollution from wastewater

Flooding

10.2.25 The topic of flooding is relevant to the themes of soil, water and climate change. Flooding has been addressed under climate change in Chapter 5.

River ecology

10.2.26 The topic of river ecology is relevant to the themes of biodiversity, water and soil. River ecology has been addressed under biodiversity in Chapter 4.

Water pollution

10.2.27 Construction activities in or near watercourses have the potential to cause pollution, impact upon the bed and banks of watercourses and impact upon the quality of the water[123]. The River Thames flows along the boundary in the north, through the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar/ SPA (see **Figure 10.2**). The other main watercourses flowing through Medway are the River Medway and tributaries such as the Stoke Creek, East Hoo Creek, Tower Reach and Kingsnorth.

[123] World Health Organisation (1996) Water Quality Monitoring - A Practical Guide to the Design and Implementation of Freshwater Quality Studies and Monitoring Programmes: Chapter 2 – Water Quality. Available at: https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/41851 [Date accessed: 01/05/23]

10.2.28 An approximate 10m buffer zone from a watercourse should be used in which no works, clearance, storage or run-off should be permitted[124][125]. However, it is considered that development further away than this has the potential to lead to adverse impacts such as those resulting from runoff. Each development proposal will need to be evaluated according to land use type, size of development and exact location to determine the potential impacts on water quality.

10.3 Key issues

- Soil is a non-renewable resource that will continue to be lost. The majority of land within the plan area is ALC Grade 1, 3 and 5, which may be under threat from new development.
- The development of sites could cause soil erosion and soil loss.
- The Plan area contains SPZ1, SPZ2 and SPZ3 to the south of the plan area.
- There are a number of important water resources and marine habitats within and around Medway which are sensitive to pollutants
- The River Medway is a valued asset that is underused. However, development and/or use of the river must not compromise the marine life and ecosystems

[124] Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (no date) Advice and Information for planning approval on land which is of nature conservation value. Available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/advice-and-information-planning-approval-land-which-nature-conservation-value [Date accessed: 01/05/23]

[125] Wild Trout Trust. Buffer Zones. Available at: https://www.wildtrout.org/content/buffer-zones [Date accessed: 31/05/23]

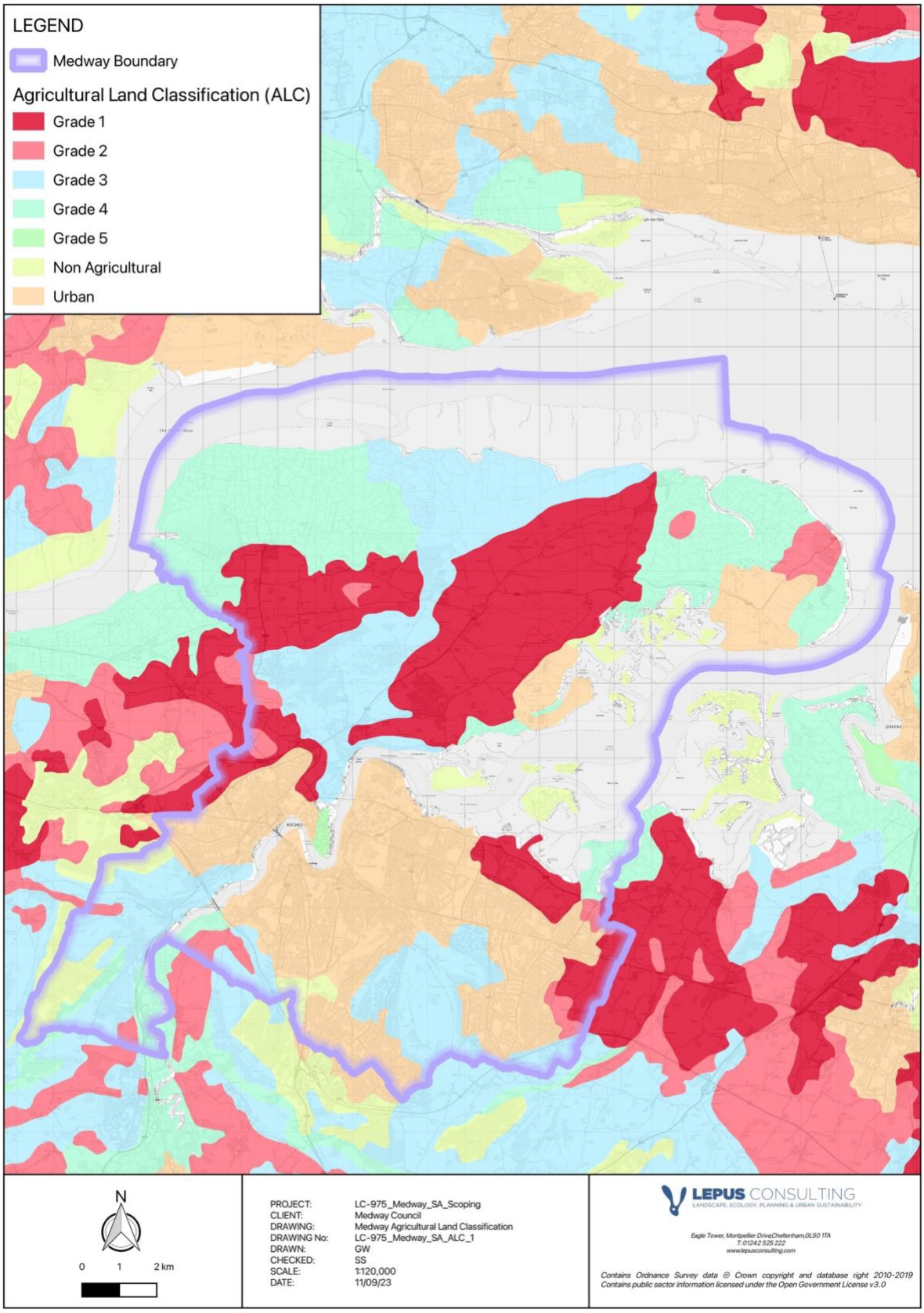

Figure 10.1: *Agricultural Land Classification within and around Medway*

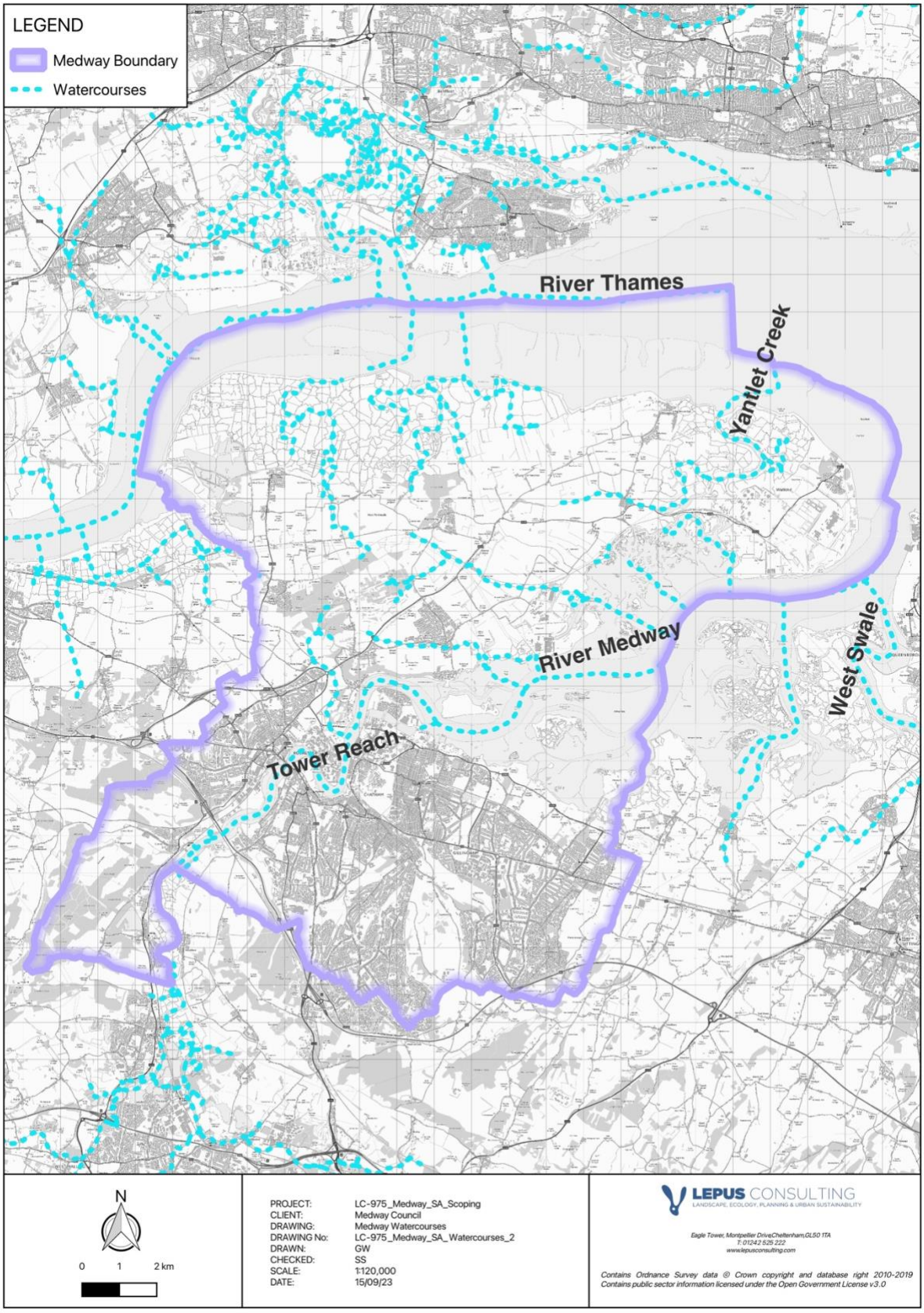

Figure 10.2: *Watercourses within and around Medway*

11 Future evolution of the baseline without the Plan

11.1.1 The SEA Regulations[126] requires the SA to present information on *"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme".*

11.1.2 Without the Local Plan, no new plan-led development would occur within the Medway area over and above that which is currently proposed in the adopted Medway Local Plan (2003)[127]. It is uncertain the extent to which development may occur, what its spatial characteristics may be and whether it would meet the needs of the community. In a 'no plan' scenario, other plans and policies would continue to be a material consideration in planning decisions and legislative protection would continue to be in place.

11.1.3 Based on local and national trend data, the likely evolution of the environment in the MLP area is presented in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1: *Future evolution of the baseline without the MLP*

Theme	Likely evolution of the environment without the MLP
Accessibility and Transport	• Congestion issues around Rochester, Chatham, Rainham, Strood and Gillingham could potentially be exacerbated due to a rising population. Medway is also impacted by development outside the boundary, for example, the proposed Lower Thames Crossing and development in neighbouring councils and key junctions in the wider area. • There is likely to be an increase in the composition of the road transport fleet which are electric or hybrid vehicles. • There is the potential both for the required infrastructure to support further growth not being delivered and for more dispersed patterns of development which could occur without a plan increasing the proportion of the population with poor access to services.
Air Quality	• Primary sources of air pollution in the UK include road transport, industry, imports and agriculture. These sources will not be expected to change. • Traffic and congestion are likely to increase with population growth, with implications in particular for air quality, residents and wildlife, especially those within 200m of main roads. • There are five AQMAs within and around Medway and the principal pollutant affecting air quality is nitrogen dioxide (NO2), mostly sourced from road traffic. Continuing to monitor air quality, especially within AQMAs, and implementation of measures outlined in Air Quality Action Plans will ensure that objectives are in place to decrease exceedances over time. • National trends suggest there is an increasing uptake of lower emission vehicle types, such as electric cars, which will be likely to help limit road

[126] Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

[127] Medway Council (2003) Medway Local Plan. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200149/planning_policy/146/current_planning_policies/3 [Date accessed: 08/09/23]

Theme	Likely evolution of the environment without the MLP
	transport associated emissions in the MLP area and will be likely to further improve air quality.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Geodiversity	• Sites designated for their national and international biodiversity and/or geodiversity value will continue to benefit from legislative protection. • Long-term prospects for protecting and enhancing the wealth of habitats and species in the area, and for further developing the existing Green Infrastructure network, would be reduced without a strong policy framework being established in the Plan. • It is uncertain if development will be placed near locally designated sites without the introduction of the Plan. Without the Plan, it may be difficult to help ensure that development is not of a type, scale and location that could potentially have a major adverse impact on either a biodiversity or geodiversity designation (of international, national or local significance) or on the functioning ecological network of the Plan area and the various essential ecosystem services this provides.
Climatic Factors	• CO_2 emissions in the transport sector may be likely to rise in line with local trends. An increasing uptake of electric vehicles, a trend seen across the UK, may help to alleviate these issues. • The risk of flooding will be likely to increase over time due to the changing climate, increasing the occurrence of extreme weather events. • The risk of surface water flooding will depend on the size, nature and extent of non-porous built surface cover in the future, and the effectiveness of the existing drainage system. • Total carbon emissions are expected to continue to decrease over the longer term as renewable energy becomes an increasingly competitive force in the UK energy market. • Technological advances, which may include renewable energies, electric vehicles, and efficient electricity supplies, will be expected to occur. • The lack of a planned growth strategy could lead to increased carbon emissions as development may be less likely to be in sustainable locations.
Cultural Heritage	• National and local guidance seeks to protect designated assets and their settings such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, and Registered Parks and Gardens. • The Heritage at Risk Register will continue to be managed by Historic England who will continue to work with stakeholders to protect these assets. • Further heritage assets are likely to be identified in the future, with or without the MLP.
Human Health	• The population across Medway is expected to continue to increase. This is likely to place greater pressure on the capacity of key services and amenities, including health and leisure facilities and housing. • The life expectancy of men and women is anticipated to rise over time, leading to an increasingly aging population. • Some residents will continue to need to travel relatively far, likely by driving, to reach important health facilities and services. • Dependent on behavioral patterns in society and the future policy approach to the concentration of late-night activities, the spatial patterns of higher crime in the towns centres seem likely to continue.

Theme	Likely evolution of the environment without the MLP
	• There could potentially be a rise in homelessness due to an unmet housing need. • Noise pollution from Rochester Airport and existing and new main roads is likely to remain a long-term issue.
Landscape and Townscape	• The London Green Belt will continue to benefit from legislative protection. • It is uncertain the extent to which development will seek to conserve and enhance the character of local landscape and townscapes. In the absence of MLP-led development, there could potentially be a rise in the quantity of new development which discords with the local character by altering the style and scale of development.
Population and Material Assets	• The population of Medway is expected to continue to increase, which will be likely to result in secondary effects. Some of these secondary effects could include effects on health, education and social inequalities due to poorer accommodation and the potential for fewer sustainable travel choices being available. • Energy consumption in all sectors is expected to increase. • Without the MLP, there is expected to be a shortage of Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites in the area. This could lead to existing residents who wish to form new households living in overcrowded conditions or using unauthorised pitches. • There will be less planning control over the location of future Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites, with potential for planning applications for new pitches being allowed in unsustainable locations and/or without necessary supporting infrastructure.
Soil and Water Resources	• Soil is a non-renewable resource that will be likely to continue to be lost. • Rates of soil erosion and loss of soil fertility will be likely to continue to rise due to the impacts of agriculture and climate change. • Without the MLP, there could potentially be less control over the location and scale of new Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople developments with potential to result in over-capacity issues at wastewater treatment works (either cumulatively or individually). • In the absence of MLP-led development, the efficiency and sustainability of water consumption may be unlikely to improve owing to the likely increase in population and associated water demand, depending on the nature of any future changes to national regulations, such as the Building Regulations and any emerging policy / regulations relating to water neutrality. • Water abstraction, consumption and treatment in the local area will continue to be managed by the Environment Agency and water companies through the Thames and south east RBMPs, WRMP and CAMS in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.

12 SA Framework

12.1 The purpose of the SA Framework

12.1.1 The MLP will be assessed through the SA Framework objectives, decision-making criteria, and indicators. The proposed SA Framework for the MLP is presented in **Table 12.1**.

12.1.2 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed, and compared. The SA Framework consists of SA Objectives, the achievement of which (where practicable), is measurable using indicators. SA Objectives and indicators can be revised as further baseline information is collected and sustainability issues and challenges are identified and are used in monitoring the implementation of the MLP.

12.1.3 To expand on the central focus of each SA Objective (as they are high-level and potentially open-ended) the SA Framework includes a series of questions or 'decision making criteria' for use when applying the SA Framework to the assessment of proposed policies.

12.2 SA Objectives

12.2.1 The purpose of the SA Objectives is to provide a way of ensuring the proposed policies consider the needs of the MLP area in terms of the environmental, social, and economic effects. The SEA topics identified in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations are one of the key determinants when considering which SA Objectives should be used for the environmental criteria. Consequently, the SA Objectives seek to reflect all subject areas to ensure the assessment process is transparent, robust, and thorough.

12.2.2 The SA Objectives have drawn on the baseline information, the key issues and other plans and programmes of particular interest discussed earlier in this Scoping Report (see **Chapters 2 - 10**). It should be noted that the ordering of the SA Objectives does not infer any prioritisation.

12.2.3 The proposed SA Framework for the SA of the MLP as set out in **Table 12.1** has been prepared based on the framework developed during the SA process alongside the former Medway Local Plan Review in 2021, which was consulted on as a standalone SA output with the statutory consultees prior to work on the Local Plan Review halting. The SA Framework has been reviewed and consolidated to ensure the SA Objectives are streamlined in accordance with the SEA topics.

Table 12.1: *Proposed SA Framework for the Medway Local Plan*

#	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	Indicators include (but are not limited to)
1	Climate Change Mitigation: Minimise Medway's contribution to climate change.	• Increase energy consumption or GHG emissions? • Generate or support renewable energy?	• Energy consumption • GHG emissions • Access to sustainable transport • Renewable energy generation • Green Infrastructure (carbon sink).
2	Climate Change Adaptation: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change.	• Increase the number of residents at risk of flooding? • Increase the risk of flooding? • Cause loss of Green Infrastructure.	• EA Flood (tidal and fluvial) map for planning • Safeguard of existing and future flood defence and protection of landward side of defences • Surface water flood risk • Number of developments given planning permission on floodplains contrary to EA advice • Presence or loss of Green Infrastructure (change in ecosystem services).
3	Biodiversity and Geodiversity: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of Medway.	• Conserve or enhance locally, regionally, nationally and internationally designated sites? • Conserve or enhance non-designated habitats of conservation importance along with protected and priority species and areas of Green Infrastructure? • Identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity • Protect or enhance geodiversity?	• Impacts on and opportunities to enhance European sites (SACs, SPAs and Ramsars) • Impacts on and opportunities to enhance nationally designated sites and features (SSSIs, Marine Conservation Zone and ancient woodland) • Impacts on and opportunities to enhance regional and locally designated sites (local nature reserves and sites of conservation interest). • Impacts on and opportunities to enhance Priority Habitats / Species of Principal Importance • Creation of new biodiversity or geodiversity assets • Conservation, enhancement and provision of multifunctional Green Infrastructure (the Green Infrastructure Strategy) and wider ecological networks through biodiversity net gain

#	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	Indicators include (but are not limited to)
			• Uplift in biodiversity units provided in new developments measured using the DEFRA Biodiversity Net Gain Metric • Impacts on geodiversity sites.
4	Landscape and Townscape: Conserve, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening their distinctiveness.	• Protect and enhance the local landscape? • Protect and enhance the local townscape?	• Development impacts on the Kent Downs AONB • Loss of areas of high landscape value • Use of locally sourced materials • Discordant with Landscape Character Areas • Change to and impacts upon views • Is development in-keeping with surroundings • Alterations to the urban / rural fringe • Increase of coalescence.
5	Pollution and Waste: Reduce waste generation, increase the reuse and recycling of materials whilst minimising the extent and impacts of water, air and noise pollution.	• Increase waste production? • Increase the risk of air, noise or water pollution to human and ecological receptors? • Increase the number of residents exposed to the risk of air, noise or water pollution? • Change in water quality.	• Number of residents in areas of poor air quality • Proximity to pollutants (e.g. busy roads) • Quality of waterways in or adjacent to sites • Local increases in road traffic or congestion • Proximity to Ground Water Source Protection Zones • Number of developments given planning permission contrary to EA advice relating to river water quality or the protection of groundwater • Proximity to AQMAs and current AQMA status • Promotion of waste reduction hierarchy.
6	Natural Resources: Protect, enhance and ensure the efficient use of Medway land, soils and water.	• Impact on demand capacity of local water sources? • Use previously developed land or existing buildings? • Result in the loss of best and most versatile soils?	• Proportion of previously developed land • Use of existing buildings • Likely impacts on soil fertility, structure and erosion • Best and most versatile soils • Loss of water storage capacity within soil • Impacts on mineral areas and safeguarded minerals wharves and railheads • Water quality of county's main watercourses

#	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	Indicators include (but are not limited to)
			• Re-use of contaminated land.
7	Housing: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community.	• Ensure that residents will have the opportunity to live in a home which meets their needs? • Result in the loss of, or otherwise impact on, any existing housing?	• Impacts on existing houses and estates; • Number of care homes • Deliver a mix of housing types to meet the needs of the community • Promotion of good design principles • Total number of homes planned for site.
8	Health and Wellbeing: Safeguard and improve the physical and mental health of residents.	• Provide residents with adequate access to necessary health facilities and services? • Encourage healthy lifestyles through improved accessibility to natural greenspaces and the PRoW/ cycle network?	• Access to health and community services/ facilities • Percentage of plan area's population with access to a natural greenspace within 400m of their home • Local air quality • Hectares of accessible open space per 1,000 population • Access to PRoW or cycle network • Reduce perception and fear of crime • Promotion of inclusive communities.
9	Cultural Heritage: Conserve, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of historic and cultural importance.	• Conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings? • Conserve features of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their regeneration and renewal?	• Number of Listed Buildings adversely impacted by development • Number of Listed Buildings partially damaged or lost • Number of archaeological sites, scheduled monuments and registered parks adversely impacted by development • Quantity of development which is discordant with the character or relevant management plans but given planning permission in Conservation Areas.
10	Transport and Accessibility: Improve the choice and efficiency of sustainable transport in Medway and reduce the need to travel.	• Improve travel choice, reduce journey need and shorten the length and duration of journeys? • Improve accessibility to key services and amenities for existing and new residents?	• Distance and accessibility to public transport options • Distance and accessibility to key services and amenities, as well as employment opportunities

#	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	Indicators include (but are not limited to)
			• Suitability of existing routes of access into sites, considering anticipated increases in usage.
11	Education: Improve education, skills and qualifications in Medway.	• Raise educational attainment levels for residents in the plan area? • Offer residents with frequent, affordable and sustainable access to educational facilities?	• Distance and accessibility to educational facilities, including primary schools, secondary schools and further / higher level educational facilities • Local education attainment levels.
12	Economy and Employment: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant and sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth.	• Ensure a mix of employment opportunities? • Ensure high and stable levels of employment? • Strengthen and support key retail centres?	• Access and distance to local employment opportunities • Local employment rates • Mix of employment opportunities • Inclusion of 'high added value' employment sectors • Increases or decreases in quantity of employment land in the district • Access and distance to local town centres to support retail circuits and small and independent businesses in town centres.

13 Next Steps

13.1 Overview

13.1.1 This chapter summarises the stages of, and approach to, the processes that will be carried out for the MLP following consultation at the Scoping stage. Where appropriate, the assessment methods to be used have been included.

13.1.2 Following consultation on this SA Scoping Report, the next stage of the SA will involve identifying, evaluating and describing reasonable alternatives and assessing the next consultation version of the MLP, which at the time of writing is expected to be the Regulation 19 version of the MLP.

13.2 Refining options and assessing effects

13.2.1 The assessment of options (or alternatives) is an important requirement of the SEA Regulations, which requires the Environmental Report to include the following information about reasonable alternatives:

13.2.2 *"an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information".*

13.2.3 Reasonable alternatives will be assessed through the SA process, to enable options for the MLP to be explored. In this way, the SA can provide a coherent story of the MLP's evolution and choice of options.

13.3 Sustainability Appraisal methodology

13.3.1 In terms of the assessment methodology, an assessment of all policies and proposals identified by the Council will be undertaken. Findings from the assessment will be presented in a single-line matrix format. The high-level matrix is not a conclusive tool or model. Its main function is to identify at a strategic level whether or not the assessment requires a more detailed examination or whether satisfactory conclusions may be drawn from the high-level assessment without the need for further detailed analysis of a particular policy.

13.3.2 The assessment of policies and options will include:

- A description of the predicted effect
- The duration of the effect: whether the effect is long, medium or short term
- The frequency of the effect
- Whether the effect is temporary or permanent
- The geographic significance: whether the effect is of local, regional, national or international significance
- The magnitude of effect
- The severity of significance
- Whether mitigation is required/possible to reduce the effect.

13.3.3 As required by the SEA Regulations, cumulative, indirect and synergistic effects will also be identified and evaluated during the assessment. An explanation of these is as follows:

- Cumulative effects arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the Local Plan have a combined effect;
- Indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the Local Plan but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway; and
- Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

13.3.4 The assessment of these effects will be presented in tabular format and show where the different effects arise when two or more draft policies operate together.

13.3.5 Wherever possible, throughout the appraisal process, GIS will be used as an analytical tool to examine the spatial distribution of identified effects.

Habitats Regulations Assessments

Sustainability Appraisals

Strategic Environmental Assessments

Landscape Character Assessments

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments

Green Belt Reviews

Expert Witness

Ecological Impact Assessments

Habitat and Ecology Surveys

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CHELTENHAM

Appendix A: Plan, Policy, and Programme Review

A.1 Accessibility and transport

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to accessibility and transport
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[1]	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes guidance on promoting sustainable transport. The NPPF requires development plans to seek to reduce GHG emissions and congestion, reduce the need to travel, and explore opportunities for the sustainable movement of people and goods. Transport should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals so that: • the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed; • opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated; • opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued; • the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and considered – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and • patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.
Department for Transport: Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (2008)[2]	Outlines five national goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines the key components of national infrastructure, discusses the difficulties of planning over the long term in the context of uncertain future demand and describes the substantial investments we are making to tackle congestion and crowding on transport networks. The National Goals for Transport are as follows: Goal 1: To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change. Goal 2: To support economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks. Goal 3: To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society. Goal 4: To contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health. Goal 5: To improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment.

[1] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[2] Department for Transport: Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228953/7226.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to accessibility and transport
Department for Transport: Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail (2017)[3]	The document describes the government's strategic vision for the railways, and the actions that will be taken to make it a reality. The key priorities include: 1. A more reliable railway 2. An expanded network 3. A better deal for passengers 4. A modern workforce 5. A productive and innovative sector
Royal Town Planning Institute. Net Zero Transport: The role of spatial planning and place-based solutions (2021)[4]	The research explores how different places can achieve an 80% reduction in surface transport emissions by 2030, as part of a pathway to net zero by 2050.
Cycling and walking plan for England (2020)[5]	The 'Gear change: a bold vision for cycling and walking' document sets out a vision for a travel revolution in England's streets, towns and communities. The plan sets out the multiple benefits of increased cycling and walking including health, congestion, the economy and air quality, and the vision that "cycling and walking will be the natural first choice for many journeys with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030". The plan sets out four main themes to achieve this vision: • Theme 1: Better streets for cycling and people; • Theme 2: Cycling at the heart of decision-making; • Theme 3: Empowering and encouraging Local Authorities; and • Theme 4: Enabling people to cycle and protecting them when they do.

[3] Department for Transport (2017) Connecting people: a strategic vision for rail. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-strategic-vision-for-rail [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[4] RTPI (2021) Net Zero Transport: The role of spatial planning and place-based solutions. Available at: https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/9233/rtpi-net-zero-transport-january-2021.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[5] Department for Transport (2020) Cycling and walking plan for England. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to accessibility and transport
Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018)[6]	This report outlines the transition to zero-emission road transport. This includes measures to reduce emissions from vehicles including specific targets for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), promoting low- and zero- emission cars and developing high quality electric vehicle infrastructure networks. The document sets out new measures to place the UK at the forefront of designing and manufacturing zero emission vehicles. One of the main aims in the document is for almost every car/van to be zero emission by 2050, a long-term aim. The transition is stated to be led by industry and consumers and how a strong, clean economy can be achieved.
Transport for the South East: Transport Strategy Annual Report 2021[7]	This strategy is supported by 16 constituent local transport authorities, 5 local enterprise partnerships, 46 district and borough councils and wider key stakeholders. The strategy aims to deliver a safe, sustainable, and integrated transport system improving the quality of life for all residents.
Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 to 2030[8]	The plan sets out our priorities and how the council will improve public rights of way for residents and visitors over the period of 10 years.
Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF) (2018 update)[9]	This document provides insight into the emerging development and infrastructure requirements that would be required to support growth across Kent and Medway. Medway have several issues: • Congestion on highway networks in town centres and arterial routes • The capacity limitations of the M2, especially in the context of the Lower Thames Crossing. • Rail capacity on the North Kent line is stretched and will shortly be overcapacity with current growth rates. • An ethically and socially diverse sub-region, with areas of prosperity and dynamic growth, but also some of the most deprived localities in the South East. • Unemployment remains above the regional average. • Healthcare provision is struggling to keep up with growth.

[6] Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739460/road-to-zero.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[7] Transport for the South East (2021) Transport Strategy Annual Report. Available at: https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/app/uploads/2020/09/TfSE-transport-strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[8] Medway Council (2020) Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 to 2030. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/5080/medway_rights_of_way_improvement_plan_2020_to_2030_executive_summary [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

[9] Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework (GIF) (2018 update) Available at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80145/GIF-Framework-full-document.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to accessibility and transport
The Kent Design Guide (2008)[10]	The document is aimed at assisting designers and others to achieve high standards of design and constructing by promoting main principles that underlie Local Planning Authorities' criteria for the assessment of planning applications. The Design Guide promotes a sustainable approach to development, where under the Design Guide, designers are encouraged to take into consideration the arrangement of buildings and enclosures to allow easy pedestrian movement and an emphasis on 'connection' to produce social and economic benefits.
Medway Local Transport Plan 2011-2026[11]	This plan sets out Medway's transport strategy for the next 15 years, embracing the wider aspirations for Medway to be a City of learning, culture, tourism and enterprise at the heart of the Thames Gateway. It will prioritise addressing wiser social, economic and environmental challenges for the area, whilst taking into account emerging government policy, the developing North Kent Transport Strategy and the priorities of Medway Council and its partners.

[10] Kent Design Initiative (2008) The Kent Design Guide [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/12092/design-guide-foreword.pdf and https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/12093/design-guide-value.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[11] Medway Council (2023) Local Transport Plan 2011-2026. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1995/local_transport_plan_2011-2026 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

A.2 Air

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to air
EC Air Quality Directive (1996)[12]	Aims to improve air quality throughout Europe by controlling the level of certain pollutants and monitoring their concentrations. In particular, the Directive aims to establish levels for different air pollutants; draw up common methods for assessing air quality; methods to improve air quality; and make sure that information on air quality is easily accessible to Member States and the public.
Clean Air Strategy (2019)[13]	This Clean Air Strategy sets out how the Government will tackle all sources of air pollution, making air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy. The strategy includes targets such as a commitment to reduce PM2.5 concentrations across the UK, so that the number of people living in locations above the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline level of 10 μg/m3 is reduced by 50% by 2025.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[14]	The NPPF states that plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk of, air or water pollution. Plans should consider the presence of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)[15]	The document sets out government action to help achieve natural world regain and retain good health. The main goals of the Plan are to achieve: • Clean air; • Clean and plentiful water; • Thriving plants and wildlife; • A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought; • Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently; and • Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. The Plan seeks to achieve clean air by: • Meeting legally binding targets to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants. This should halve the effects of air pollution on health by 2030;

[12] EC Air Quality Directive (1996) Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31996L0062&from=ES [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[13] DEFRA et al. (2019) Clean Air Strategy 2019. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[14] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[15] DEFRA (2021) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to air
	• Ending the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040; and • Maintaining the continuous improvement in industrial emissions by building on existing good practice and the successful regulatory framework. The 2021 Environment Act (9th November 2021) embeds several of these aspects into the new legislation.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023[16]	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To achieve clean air, the EIP sets out to: • Cut overall air pollution by tackling the key sources of emissions, including reducing the maximum limits for domestic burning appliances in Smoke Control Areas. • Tackle specific hotspots by challenging councils to improve air quality more quickly, while supporting them with clear guidance, funding, and tools. • Reduce ammonia emissions (crucial for sensitive natural habitats) by using incentives in our new farming schemes, investing £13 million in slurry storage infrastructure in 2023 and considering expanding environmental permitting conditions to dairy and intensive beef farms.
Department for Transport (2019) TAG unit A3 Environmental Impact Appraisal [17]	The Environmental Impact Appraisal is undertaken as a part of the transport appraisal process, with the objective being to inform the business case for a transport investment proposal. Including the five stages relevant for appraisals in relation to air quality impacts.
Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport (2018) Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) in UK (2018)[18]	National plan to tackle the issue of air pollution throughout the country.

[16] DEFRA (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[17] Department for Transport (2019) TAG unit A3 Environmental Impact Appraisal. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/825064/tag-unit-a3-environmental-impact-appraisal.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[18]Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs and Department for Transport (2018) Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in UK. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633269/air-quality-plan-overview.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to air
Kent Environment Strategy[19]	Sets targets in relation to the quality of the environment. One target being to decrease the number of days of moderate or high air pollution and the concentration of pollutants (align with the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership and national monitoring standards).
Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy (2020)[20]	Document sets out how Kent and Medway will respond to the UK climate emergency. Focusing on four aims: evidence, policy and strategy, leadership, and action. The strategy has a vision of net-zero emissions by 2050 for the county of Kent; where there will be no deaths associated with poor air quality due to competitive, innovative and a resilient low carbon economy.
Medway Air Quality Action Plan 2015[21]	This plan identifies twelve measures to improve air quality within Medway. It proposes a range of actions including redesigning road layouts, smoothing traffic flow and reducing queuing traffic as well as providing sufficient information to educate residents and businesses about options they can make to help reduce vehicle use in the Medway area. The action plan also sets out the framework of partnership working with internal departments and external organisations, with which the actions have been developed and will be progressed and monitored.
Medway Council Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (2022)[22]	The ASR highlights a trend of decreasing measured concentrations of NO2 at most sites from 2011 to 2021, however exceedances of the NO2 annual mean concentrations are still observed at monitoring sites with Central Medway and Four Elms Hill AQMA. The ASR notes Medway Council's priorities for the future including those outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan, seeking to improve air quality and in particular reduce road traffic emissions whilst accommodating the large demand for development in the authority area.

[19] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[20] Kent County Council (2020) Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy, June 2020. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/112401/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 18/09/23]

[21] Medway Council (2023) Medway Air Quality Action Plan 2015. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1982/medway_air_quality_action_plan_2015 [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[22] Medway Council (2022) Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7827/air_quality_annual_status_report_2022.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

A.3 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)[23]	The aims of the Convention include the conservation of biological diversity (including a commitment to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss), the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)[24]	The Convention seeks to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and to monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species.
Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992 (the Habitats Directive)[25]	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. The provisions of the Directive require Member States to introduce a range of measures, including: • Maintain or restore European protected habitats and species listed in the Annexes at a favourable conservation status as defined in Articles 1 and 2; • Contribute to a coherent European ecological network of protected sites by designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II. These measures are also to be applied to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Article 4 of the Birds Directive. Together SACs and SPAs make up the Natura 2000 network (Article 3); • Ensure conservation measures are in place to appropriately manage SACs and ensure appropriate assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of an SAC. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In such cases compensatory measures are necessary to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network (Article 6); • Member States shall also endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape that support the Natura 2000 network (Articles 3 and 10); • Undertake surveillance of habitats and species (Article 11);

[23] UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

[24] Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) Available at: https://rm.coe.int/1680078aff [Date accessed: 06/08/23]

[25] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043 [Date accessed: 06/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
	• Ensure strict protection of species listed on Annex IV (Article 12 for animals and Article 13 for plants). • Report on the implementation of the Directive every six years (Article 17), including assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats listed on the Annexes to the Directive.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Habitats Regulations)[26]	The Habitats Regulations transposes into UK national law the Habitats Directive and also consolidates all amendments that have been made to the previous 1994 Regulations. This means that competent authorities have a general duty in the exercise of any of their functions to have regard to the Directive.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)[27]	The document sets out government action to help achieve natural world regain and retain good health. The main goals of the Plan are to achieve: • Clean air; • Clean and plentiful water; • Thriving plants and wildlife; • A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought; • Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently; and • Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023[28]	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. The apex goal of the EIP is to improve nature, achieving thriving plants and wildlife, building on the Global Biodiversity Framework as agreed at the UN Nature Summit COP15 including a commitment to protect 30% of global land and 30% of global ocean by 2030. To achieve this, the EIP sets out to: • Launch the Species Survival Fund to create, enhance and restore habitats. • Create, restore, and extend around 70 areas for wildlife through projects including new National Nature Reserves, and the next

[26] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations) Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[27] A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[28] DEFRA (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
	rounds of the Landscape Recovery Projects. • Protect 30% of our land and sea for nature through the Nature Recovery Network and enhanced protections for our marine protected areas. We intend to designate the first Highly Protected Marine Areas this year. • Implement the Environment Act 2021, including rolling out Local Nature Recovery Strategies to identify areas to create and restore habitat, and Biodiversity Net Gain to enhance the built environment.
DEFRA: Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)[29]	The England biodiversity strategy 2020 ties in with the EU biodiversity strategy in addition to drawing links to the concept of ecosystem services. The strategy's vision for England is: "*By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone*". The Strategy's overall mission is: "*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*".
TCPA: Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities (2004)[30]	The development process should consider ecological potential of all areas including both greenfield and brownfield sites. Local authorities and developers have a responsibility to mitigate impacts of development on designated sites and priority habitats and species and avoid damage to ecosystems.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[31]	The NPPF includes guidance on promoting the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. It requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; • minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.
Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife	The Making Space for Nature report, which investigated the resilience of England's ecological network to multiple pressures, concluded

29 DEFRA (2011). Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

30 TCPA: Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities (2004) Available at: https://library.uniteddiversity.coop/Ecovillages_and_Low_Impact_Development/Biodiversity%20by%20Design.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

31 MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
sites and ecological network (2010)[32]	that England's wildlife sites do not comprise of a coherent and resilient ecological network. The report advocates the need for a step change in conservation of England's wildlife sites to ensure they are able to adapt and become part of a strong and resilient network. The report summarises what needs to be done to improve England's wildlife sites to enhance the resilience and coherence of England's ecological network in four words; more, bigger, better, and joined. There are five key approaches which encompass these, which also take into account of the land around the ecological network: • Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management. • Increase the size of current wildlife sites. • Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'. • Create new sites. • Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.
The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 (2021)[33]	The Trees Action Plan sets out how the government will tackle the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, in line with the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan. The plan provides a strategic framework for implementing the Nature for Climate Fund and outlines over 80 policy actions the government is taking over this Parliament to help deliver this vision. Planting vastly more trees in England, and protecting and improving our existing woodlands, will be key to the government's plan to achieve net zero and to create a Nature Recovery Network across the length of England.
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. The Natural Environment White Paper. (HM Government 2011)[34]	Published in June 2011, the Natural Environment White paper sets out the government's plans to ensure the natural environment is protected and fully integrated into society and economic growth. The White Paper sets out four key aims: • Protecting and improving our natural environment; • Growing a green economy; • Reconnecting people and nature; and • International and EU leadership.
Natural England Site Improvement Plans:	The plans provide a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the sites and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features.

[32] Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network (2010) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-space-for-nature-a-review-of-englands-wildlife-sites-published-today [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[33] DEFRA (2021) England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-trees-action-plan-2021-to-2024 [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[34] The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. The Natural Environment White Paper. (HM Government 2011) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
• **North Downs Woodlands SAC**[35] • **Greater Thames Complex**[36] • **Peters Pit SAC**[37]	
A Living Landscape for the South East (2006)[38]	This document sets out a vision for the South East Ecological Network. The network will act as a model for rebuilding the regions biodiversity in a way which will: • Increase the ability of the environment to deliver ecosystem services. • Link places where people live to wild places and the wider countryside. • Link and extend important wildlife sites and habitats, and buffer wild species against the impacts of climate change.
Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045 [39]	The Kent Biodiversity Strategy aims to deliver, over a 25-year period, the maintenance, restoration, and creation of habitats that are thriving with wildlife and plants, ensuring the county's terrestrial, freshwater, intertidal and marine environments regain and retain good health. The Strategy looks to protect and recover threatened species and enhance the wildlife habitats that Kent is particularly important for. The strategy sets out the following goals in Kent to be achieved for 2045: • A rich and growing terrestrial biodiversity, underpinned by more resilient and coherent ecological networks and healthy, well-functioning ecosystems. • Clean, plentiful and biologically diverse freshwater and intertidal ecosystems underpinned by implementation of a catchment based approach. • A reverse in the loss of marine biodiversity and delivering clean, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas through good management.

[35] Natural England (2015) Site Improvement Plan: North Downs Woodlands. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6363401429188608 [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[36] Natural England (2015) Site Improvement Plan: Greater Thames Complex. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6270737467834368 [Date accessed: 14/09/23]

[37] Natural England (2014) Site Improvement Plan: Peters Pit. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5643865918799872 [Date accessed: 14/09/23]

[38] The South East Wildlife Trusts (2006) A Living Landscape for the South East. Available at: https://dnu7gk7p9afoo.cloudfront.net/a-living-landscape-for-the-south-east.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[39] Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045. Available at: https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s96710/20-00025%20-%20Kent%20Biodiversity%20Strategy%20March%202020.pdf [Date accessed: 13/04/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to biodiversity, flora and fauna
	• The widest possible range of ages and backgrounds will be benefiting from the mental and physical health benefits of the natural environment; and we will have inspired the next generation to take on guardianship of the county's biodiversity.
Kent Environment Strategy (2016)[40]	Sets targets in relation to the quality of the environment. In relation to biodiversity the following targets have been set: • A minimum of 65% of local wildlife sites will be in positive management and 95% of SSSIs will be in favorable recovery by 2020. • 60% of local wildlife sites will be in positive management. • SSSIs will be in favourable or recovering status by 2020. • Status of bird and butterfly specifies in Kent and Medway are quantified. • Complete a natural capital assessment for Kent by 2017.
Kent and Medway Making Space for Nature Programme[41] and emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway will work with partners and stakeholders to collaboratively establish shared priorities for the delivery of nature recovery and environmental improvements, in order to create a network of wildlife-rich places across the county. This local nature recovery strategy (LNRS) will be one of 48 – together these will cover the whole of England, with no gaps or overlaps, to deliver the government's commitment to ending the decline of nature and supporting its recovery. Kent County Council is the Responsible Authority for developing the county's LNRS and are currently establishing the delivery structure for the project, including recruiting the project team and setting up governance and steering groups.
Medway Valley Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (2015)[42]	Contains the Vision for the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (SLEP), 'The SLEP will use landscape as the common thread to tie together cross disciplinary aspirations and aims. It also sets out opportunities for biodiversity and water quality enhancement: • Enhance wildlife connectivity between sites. • Improve the management of woodland, hedgerows and • Trees, and improve their resilient to climate change. • Manage wetland sites and expand them where practical. • To enhance biodiversity value and flood storage capacity. • Increase the biodiversity value of rivers and streams. • Work with developers and planners to achieve positive biodiversity gains through new development.

[40] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[41] Kent County Council (2023) Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway. Available at: https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/ [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[42] Medway Valley Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (2015) Available at: https://healthsustainabilityplanning.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MVSLEP-Complete-FINAL-Low-Res-27.03.151.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

A.4 Climatic factors

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to climatic factors
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)[43]	Sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.
IPCC Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)[44]	Commits member nations to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases.
EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme Community 2002-2012 (2002)[45]	Climate change has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP's main objective is a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases without a reduction in levels of growth and prosperity, as well as adaptation and preparation for the effects of climate change.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)[46]	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The Sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)[47]	The UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 – an increase in the share of renewables from about 2.25% in 2008. The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out how the Government will achieve this target through utilising a variety of mechanisms to encourage Renewable Energy provision in the UK. This includes streamlining the planning system, increasing investment in technologies as well as improving funding for advice and awareness raising.

[43] UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) Available at: https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[44] IPCC Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997) Available at: https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[45] EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme Community 2002-2012 Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/action-programme/strategies_en.htm [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

[46] EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) Available at: https://www.eea.europa.eu/policy-documents/renewed-eu-strategy-for-sustainable-development [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

[47] UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-renewable-energy-strategy [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to climatic factors
UK Renewable Energy Roadmap Update (2013)[48]	This is the second Update to the 2011 Renewable Energy Roadmap. It sets out the progress that has been made and the changes that have occurred in the sector over the past year. It also describes the continuing high ambitions and actions along with the challenges going forward.
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)[49]	The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan sets out how the UK will meet the Climate Change Act's legally binding target of 34% cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. It also seeks to deliver emissions cuts of 18% on 2008 levels. The main aims of the Transition Plan include the following: • Producing 30% of energy from renewables by 2020; • Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing; • Increasing the number of people in 'green jobs'; and • Supporting the use and development of clean technologies.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[50]	The NPPF includes guidance on climate change, flooding, and coastal change. Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure. To support the move to a low carbon future, planning authorities should: • plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; • actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and • when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards. Local plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by: • applying the Sequential Test; • if necessary, applying the Exception Test;

[48] UK Renewable Energy Roadmap Update Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-renewable-energy-roadmap-second-update [Date accessed: 11/09/23]

[49] The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-low-carbon-transition-plan-national-strategy-for-climate-and-energy [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[50] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to climatic factors
	• safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management; • using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023[51]	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To mitigate and adapt to climate change, the EIP sets out to: • Update on our progress and plans to reach net zero. • Publish a Land Use Framework in 2023, setting out how we will balance multiple demands on our land including climate mitigation and adaptation. • Publish the third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) in 2023 that will set out our five year strategy to build the UK's climate resilience. • Continue our role as a global leader in tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation and push for an integrated approach to international action.
Energy Saving Trust: Renewable Energy Sources for Homes in Urban Environments (2005)[52]	Provides information about the integration of renewable energy sources into new and existing dwellings in urban environments. It covers the basic principles, benefits, limitations, costs and suitability of various technologies.
Environment Agency, Adapting to Climate Change: A Checklist for Development (2005)[53]	The document contains a checklist and guidance for new developments to adapt to climate change. The main actions are summarised in a checklist.
The Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on	This guide is intended as an introduction to some of the key issues associated with the climate crisis, to ensure that Local Planning Authorities: 1. Ensure that tackling the climate crisis is at the heart of the vision for the future of our communities; 2. Recognise how vital planning is to securing that vision – both directly, through facilitating the extension of renewable energy

[51] DEFRA (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[52] Energy Saving Trust: Renewable Energy Sources for Homes in Urban Environments Available at: https://www.buildingcentre.co.uk/media/_file/pdf/22220_pdf30.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[53] Environment Agency, Adapting to Climate Change: A Checklist for Development Available at: https://www.ukcip.org.uk/wp-content/Wizard/Checklist_for_development.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to climatic factors
Planning for Climate Change (2021)[54]	generation, and strategically, through practical nature-based solutions and design actions that can promote sustainable travel, urban cooling, or natural flood defence; and 3. Finally, recognise how many of the actions necessary to tackle the climate crisis are also key in creating healthy, ecologically rich, prosperous and beautiful places for us and for future generations. The guide is intended as a starting point on the vital journey to put in place practical solutions which will halt the rise in temperatures and begin to reverse the climate crisis.
Kent Environment Strategy[55]	Strategy that looks to support a competitive and resilient economy, with business innovation in low carbon and environmental services driving economic growth. The strategy looks to drive its environment strategy through three themes: • Building the foundations for delivery: 1. Bridging gaps in understanding our risks and opportunities to identify actions; 2 Integrating and influencing strategy and policy; 3 Building resources, capabilities and changing behavior; 4 Monitoring and evaluation. • Making best use of existing resources. • Toward a sustainable future regarding resilience from the county's communities, businesses and services under environmental pressures and threats. In relation to wider climate aims, Kent County Council is aware of the action it must take to combat the wider climate emergency. Additional low carbon and appropriate renewable energy infrastructure, as well as an increase in uptake of energy efficiency initiatives will be needed to ensure targets are met.
The Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway (2020)[56]	The Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway (CCRIA) provides a detailed assessment of the county's current and future risks, opportunities, and impacts of climate change. It provides recommendations for further action and provides evidence to inform local climate change adaption whilst raising awareness among local authorities, businesses and communities.
Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy (2020)[57]	Document sets out how Kent and Medway will respond to the UK climate emergency. Focusing on four aims: evidence, policy and strategy, leadership, and action. The strategy has a vision of net-zero emissions by 2050 for the county of Kent; where there will be no deaths associated with poor air quality due to competitive, innovative and a resilient low carbon economy.

[54] TCPA & RTPI (2021) The Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change. Available at: https://tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/tcpartpiclimateguide_oct2021_final.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[55] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[56] The Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway (2020) Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/111381/CCRIA-for-Kent-and-Medway-part-one-methodology-and-summary-findings.pdf [Date accessed: 19/04/23]

[57] Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy (2020) Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/112401/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to climatic factors
Medway Refreshed Climate Change Action Plan 2022[58]	An action plan to respond to climate change at a local level. This plan prioritises: • Emission reduction pathways • Planning and development • Climate emergency funding • Transport, travel and digital connectivity • Renewable energy generation • Green and blue infrastructure • Supporting low carbon business

[58] Medway Council (2023) Climate Change Action Plan. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/climatechangeplan [Date accessed: 04/08/23]

A.5 Cultural heritage

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to cultural heritage
Council of Europe: Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)[59]	Aims for signatories to protect their architectural heritage by means of identifying monuments, buildings and sites to be protected; preventing the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties; providing financial support by the public authorities for maintaining and restoring the architectural heritage on its territory; and supporting scientific research for identifying and analysing the harmful effects of pollution and for defining ways and means to reduce or eradicate these effects.
Council of Europe: The Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta Convention) (1992)[60]	The convention defines archaeological heritage and identifies measures for its protection. Aims include integrated conservation of the archaeological heritage and financing of archaeological research and conservation.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[61]	The NPPF includes guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It seeks to ensure local authorities plan recognise heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner that reflects their significance. Planning authorities should take into account: • The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; • The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; and • The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.
English Heritage and CABE: Buildings in Context: New Development in Historic Areas (2002)[62]	Aims to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts by showing 15 case studies in which achievement is far above the ordinary and trying to draw some lessons both about design and about the development and planning process, particularly regarding building in sensitive locations.

[59] Council of Europe: Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985). Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/council-of-europe [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[60] Council of Europe: The Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised). Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/herein-system/council-of-europe [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[61] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[62] English Heritage and CABE: Buildings in Context: New Development in Historic Areas (2002). Available at: https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/building-in-context-new-development-in-historic-areas.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to cultural heritage
Historic England: Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)[63]	This Historic England document sets out the framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment. This is presented under the following six headline 'principles': Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.
Historic England: Tall Buildings: Historic England Advice Note 4 (2015)[64]	This Historic England Advice Note updates previous guidance by Historic England and CABE, produced in 2007. It seeks to guide people involved in planning for and designing tall buildings so that they may be delivered in a sustainable and successful way through the development plan and development management process. The advice is for all relevant developers, designers, local authorities and other interested parties.
Historic England (2015) The Historic Environment in Local Plans, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1[65]	Practice Advice note is to provide information to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG).
Historic England (2015) Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good	The purpose of this Historic England Good Practice Advice note is to provide information in relation to assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.

[63] Historic England: Conservation Principles Polices and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008). Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[64] Historic England: Tall Buildings: Historic England Advice Note 4. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/tall-buildings-advice-note-4/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[65] Historic England (2015) The Historic Environment in Local Plans, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 1. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa1-historic-environment-local-plans/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to cultural heritage
Practice Advice in Planning: 2[66]	
Historic England (2015) The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3[67]	This document sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.
The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans Historic England Advice Note 3 (2015)[68]	The purpose of this Historic England advice note is to support all those involved in the Local Plan site allocation process in implementing historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG). In addition to these documents, this advice should be read in conjunction with the relevant Good Practice Advice and Historic England advice notes. Alternative approaches may be equally acceptable, provided they are demonstrably compliant with legislation and national policy objectives.
Kent Environment Strategy[69]	Strategy that sets targets in relation to the quality of the environment. A sub-priority stated in the strategy in relation to cultural heritage, to develop heritage strategies to improve understanding and management of the historic environment.
Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation (2001)[70]	The primary aim of the Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project was to produce a digital map of Kent's Historic Landscape Types with associated explanatory text, that would: • enhance the formulation of development plans, structural planning programmes, development control and conservation activities. • establish a framework, in conjunction with the complimentary county-wide landscape assessment, for future Historic Landscape Assessment and research activities within Kent.

[66] Historic England (2015) Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[67] Historic England (2015) The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[68] The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans Historic England Advice Note 3 (2015). Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-environment-and-site-allocations-in-local-plans/ [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[69] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

[70] Croft, A.; Munby, N. and Ridley, M. (2001) Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation. Available at: https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/kent_hlc_2014/index.cfm [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to cultural heritage
	A total of 87 Historic Landscape Types were defined and these were grouped into fourteen broad categories and used in the mapping.
Draft Medway Heritage Strategy (2018)[71]	The Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017 provides an overview of the historic environment in Medway, outlining its significance and identifying opportunities for further protection and enhancement. In order to make the most of these opportunities, a set of objectives have been identified that collectively form the emerging Medway Heritage Strategy: • Objective 1: Conserve and enhance Medway's heritage assets. • Objective 2: Work with Medway's heritage assets to help deliver sustainable development. • Objective 3: Increase the understanding and community involvement with Medway's heritage assets. Through the delivery of these objectives, the Medway Heritage Strategy aims to provide the framework for how we conserve, enhance and enjoy our heritage both in the immediate and long term future.

[71] Medway Council (2018) Draft Medway Heritage Strategy 2018. Available at: https://www.m13/04/23edway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3478/draft_medway_heritage_strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

A.6 Human health

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to human health
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England White Paper (2011)[72]	Sets out the government's approach to tackling threats to public health and dealing with health inequalities. It sets out an approach that will: • Protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline; • Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, and tackle the wider factors that influence it; • Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework; • Reflect the government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and • Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.
Public Health Strategy 2020-2025 (2019)[73]	The strategy sets out priorities within the public health system and areas of focus including addressing health inequalities and narrowing the 'health gap' between poor and wealthy communities, reducing rates of infectious diseases, addressing unhealthy behaviours and ensuring the potential of new technologies is realised.
Improving health and work: changing lives: The Government's Response to Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working-age population (2008)[74]	This sets out the government's response to a review into the health of Britain's working age population conducted by Dame Carol Black. The vision is to: "*create a society where the positive links between work and health are recognised by all, where everyone aspires to a healthy and fulfilling working life and where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work*". To achieve the vision three key aspirations have been identified: 1. creating new perspectives on health and work; 2. improving work and workplaces; and 3. supporting people to work.

[72] DoH (2011) Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England White Paper Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-lives-healthy-people-our-strategy-for-public-health-in-england [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[73] Public Health England (2019) PHE Strategy 2020 to 2025 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phe-strategy-2020-to-2025 [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[74] Improving health and work: changing lives. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-health-and-work-changing-lives [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to human health
	Through these three aspirations Britain's working population will fulfil their full potential, create stronger communities and help relive the financial burden of health problems on the economy.
DoH: Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (2006)[75]	Puts emphasis on moving healthcare into the community and will therefore have an impact on sustainable development considerations, including supporting local economies and how people travel to healthcare facilities.
Forestry Commission: Trees and Woodlands – Nature's Health Service (2005)[76]	Provides detailed examples of how the Woodland Sector (trees, woodlands and green spaces) can significantly contribute to people's health, well-being (physical, psychological and social) and quality of life. Increasing levels of physical activity is a particular priority.
Accessible Natural Green Space Standards Towns and Cities: Review & Toolkit for Implementation (2003)[77]	Aims to help Local Authorities develop policies which acknowledge, protect and enhance the contribution natural spaces make to local sustainability. Three aspects of natural space in cities and towns are discussed: their biodiversity; their ability to cope with urban pollution; ensuring natural spaces are accessible to everyone.
Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2021)[78]	The strategy has the aim of improving health and wellbeing outcomes, deliver better coordinated quality care, improve the public's experience of integrated health and social care services, and ensure that the individual is involved and at the heart of everything. The strategy has identified four priorities: • tackle key health issues where Kent is performing worse than the England average. • tackle health inequalities • tackle gaps in provision • transform services to improve outcomes, patient experience, and value for money.

[75] DoH (2006) Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-health-our-care-our-say-a-new-direction-for-community-services [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[76] Forestry Commission (2005) Trees and Woodlands - Nature's Health Service Available at: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/trees-and-woodlands-natures-health-service/ [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[77] Accessible Natural Green Space Standards Towns and Cities: Review & Toolkit for Implementation Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/65021 [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[78] Kent Council Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2021) Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/12407/Joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to human health
Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023[79]	Aims to make the lives of all people in Medway 'as full, meaningful and healthy as possible'. This will be achieved through making Medway a place where people are enabled and encouraged to look after themselves and others, services are accessible and delivered equally well across the area.
Medway Council Playing Pitch Strategy (2019)[80]	The updated Playing Pitch Strategy has been produced by Medway Council to determine whether the current supply of outdoor sports facilities within the study area is sufficient to support the current and future demands aligned to population growth, housing projections and the strategic needs of sport, health and wellbeing within Medway. This document uses the data gathered in the Needs Assessment (which accompanies this document) to present sport specific scenarios and recommendations for sports and specific sites. This is done is two ways, firstly through future scenarios which aim to address identified deficits on a macro, area wide level and secondly through a site by site action plan. The site by site action plan provides recommendations that, if implemented, would improve the quality of the sites and provision in the study area as a whole.
Emerging Medway Open Spaces Study[81]	Management consultancy, Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP), have been appointed by Medway Council to carry out an assessment on Medway's public open spaces. Public open space provides opportunities for sport and recreation, socialising, tourism and wildlife. They make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities, ecosystems and economies. Up to date information is needed on Medway's open spaces. This is to ensure that there is suitable provision of accessible, high quality open spaces that meet the needs and aspirations of local communities, local people and people who work in or visit the area.

[79] Medway Council (2022) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Available at: https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAIQw7AJahcKEwi476n6hcqAAxUAAAAAHQAAAAAQAg&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.medway.gov.uk%2Fdownload%2Fdownloads%2Fid%2F3710%2Fjoint_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2018_to_2023.pdf&psig=AOvVaw07xjLSnZBgFYmjeyCtAVRF&ust=1691480124396229&opi=89978449 [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

[80] Medway Council (2019) Medway Council Playing Pitch Strategy – October 2019. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4521/medway_council_playing_pitch_strategy_-_strategy_document.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[81] Medway Council (2023) Medway Open Space Study. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200664/greenspace_regeneration_projects/1719/medway_open_space_study [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

A.7 Landscape

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to landscape
Council of Europe: European Landscape Convention (2006)[82]	Aims to promote the protection, management and planning (including active design and creation of Europe's landscapes, both rural and urban, and to foster European co-operation on landscape issues.
English Heritage and CABE: Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007)[83]	Provides advice and guidance on good practice in relation to tall buildings in the planning process and to highlight other related issues, which need to be taken into account, i.e., where tall buildings would and would not be appropriate.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[84]	The NPPF sates that development could seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness; both aesthetic considerations and connections between people and places should be considered. The NPPF also promotes the protection and enhancements of valued landscapes, giving greatest weight to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023[85]	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help to restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To enhance beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment, the EIP sets out to: • Work across government to fulfil a new and ambitious commitment that everyone should live within 15 minutes walk of a green or blue space. • Continue our delivery of the England Coast Path and the Coast to Coast National Trail. • Green the Green Belt as set out in the Levelling Up White Paper by identifying key areas for nature restoration. • Invest in a new national landscapes partnership for National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and National Trails. • Extend the delivery of our Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, using lessons learned to inform future farming schemes. Invest in active travel, with a vision for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. £35 million

[82] Council of Europe: European Landscape Convention (2006) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236096/8413.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[83] English Heritage and CABE: Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007) Available at: https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/guidance-on-tall-buildings_0.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[84] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[85] DEFRA (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan [Date accessed: 22/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to landscape
	funding has already been committed this financial year.
MHCLG: National Design Guide: Planning practice guidance for beautiful, enduring and successful places (2021)[86]	This design guide illustrates how well-designed places that are beautiful, enduring and successful can be achieved in practice. It forms part of the government's collection of planning practice guidance and should be read alongside the separate planning practice guidance on design process and tools.
Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)[87]	The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of our towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape as part of the Nature Recovery Network. The Green Infrastructure Framework comprises: • Green Infrastructure Principles: the why, what and how of good green infrastructure. • Green Infrastructure Standards: guidance on national standards for green infrastructure quantity and quality. • Green Infrastructure Maps: mapped environmental, socio-economic datasets to support the standards. • Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide: practical, evidence-based advice on how to design good quality green infrastructure. • Green Infrastructure Process Journeys: guides on how to apply all the products in the Green Infrastructure Framework.
Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021-2026[88]	As a statutory plan required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2021-2026 sets out the shared vision of the future of this special landscape. The plan identifies the key issues, opportunities and threats facing the landscape and sets out aims and principles for the positive conservation and enhancement of the Kent Downs for a five-year period. The goal of the Management Plan is to ensure that the natural beauty and special character of the landscape and vitality of the communities are recognised, valued, enhanced, and strengthened well into the future. The plan seeks to: • Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB ensuring they meet the challenges of the future; • Support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty; and • Value, sustain and promote the benefits that AONBs provide for society including clean air and water, food, and carbon storage.

[86] MHCLG & DLUHC (2021) National design guide. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[87] Natural England (2023) Green Infrastructure Framework. Available at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[88] Kent Downs AONB Management Plan (2021) Available at: https://kentdowns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/The-Kent-Downs-AONB-Management-Plan-2021-2026-Adopted.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to landscape
The Kent Design Guide (2008)[89]	The document is aimed at assisting designers and others to achieve high standards of design and constructing by promoting main principles that underlie Local Planning Authorities' criteria for the assessment of planning applications. The Design Guide promotes a sustainable approach to development, where under the Design Guide, designers are encouraged to take into consideration the arrangement of buildings and enclosures to allow easy pedestrian movement and an emphasis on 'connection' to produce social and economic benefits.
Medway Valley Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (2015)[90]	Contains the Vision for the Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (SLEP). The SLEP will use landscape as the common thread to tie together cross disciplinary aspirations and aims. It also sets out opportunities for biodiversity and water quality enhancement: • Enhance wildlife connectivity between sites. • Improve the management of woodland, hedgerows and • Trees, and improve their resilient to climate change. • Manage wetland sites and expand them where practical. • To enhance biodiversity value and flood storage capacity. • Increase the biodiversity value of rivers and streams.
Medway Landscape Character Assessment (2011)[91]	The Landscape Character Assessment (2011) was originally prepared to inform the Medway Core Strategy. It divides Medway's countryside into six principal areas – Eastern Thames Marshes; Medway Marshes; Hoo Peninsula; North Kent Fruit Belt; Capstone and Horsted Valleys; North Downs and Medway Valley. The study adopts a consistent methodology and follows a rigorous analytical process in defining a series of local landscape character areas. Each summary sheet provides a character area map, a description, a list of characteristics, an analysis of condition and sensitivity, a list of issues, recommended actions and a set of guidelines. The Landscape Character Assessment is due to be updated in 2023, the outputs of which will be used to inform the SA.

[89] Kent Design Initiative (2008) The Kent Design Guide Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/12092/design-guide-foreword.pdf and https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/12093/design-guide-value.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[90] Medway Valley Strategic Landscape Enhancement Plan (2015) Available at: https://healthsustainabilityplanning.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MVSLEP-Complete-FINAL-Low-Res-27.03.151.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[91] Medway Council (2011) Medway Landscape Character Assessment, March 2011. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2340/medway_landscape_character_assessment_main_report_2011.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to landscape
Medway Draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework (2021)[92]	Medway's Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework sets out Medway's strategic network of green and blue infrastructure. It provides an assessment of the needs and opportunities, strategic priorities and future actions. The framework takes a multi-functional and cross boundary approach to green infrastructure planning. Although this evidence base is presented in themes, an important aspect of green infrastructure planning is to take a multidisciplinary approach and to seek opportunities which address issues across many areas. This includes consideration of: • Biodiversity, trees and woodlands; • Access, recreation and active travel; • Health and wellbeing; • Blue infrastructure and the coast; and • Landscape character and heritage.
Draft Hoo Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study (2019)[93]	The Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study provides a review of Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) and other potential development sites for an enlarged settlement at Hoo St Werburgh. The main purpose of the study is to ensure that new development within the enlarged settlement is sited sensitively and appropriately within its landscape context. The study considers landscape character, visual amenity and landscape value. It incorporates a review of baseline data from related disciplines including public health, biodiversity, blue and green infrastructure, heritage and transport. A Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study is a recognised method of developing an understanding of landscape sensitivity and value; and the capacity of a landscape to absorb change. It is commonly used when planning for new and enlarged settlements. The study has identified ten land parcels within the Hoo Peninsula, and each parcel has been assessed for its sensitivity, value and capacity.

[92] Medway Council (2021) Medway Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework: Consultation Draft 4 October 2021. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/6279/medway_green_and_blue_infrastructure_framework.pdf [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

[93] Medway Council (2019) Hoo Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study – Draft. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/6238/hoo_landscape_capacity_and_sensitivity_study [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

A.8 Population and material assets

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies, and programmes in relation to population and material assets
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[94]	The NPPF includes guidance on promoting healthy communities. The NPPF requires planning authorities to aim to achieve places which promote: • Opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity. • Safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and • Safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. In order to deliver the social, recreational, and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should: • Plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses, and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments. • Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs. • Ensure that established shops, facilities, and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and • Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.
Social Exclusion Unit: Preventing Social Exclusion (2001)[95]	The primary aims are to prevent social exclusion and reintegrate people who have become excluded. Improvement is required in the areas of truancy, rough sleeping, teenage pregnancy, youth at risk and deprived neighbourhoods.
DCLG Homes for the future: more affordable, more	The Housing Green Paper outlines plans for delivering homes; new ways of identifying and using land for development; more social housing- ensuring that a decent home at an affordable price is for the many; building homes more quickly; more affordable homes; and greener homes – with high environmental standards and flagship developments leading the way.

[94] National Planning Policy Framework Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[95] Social Exclusion Unit: Preventing Social Exclusion (2001) Available at: http://www.bris.ac.uk/poverty/downloads/keyofficialdocuments/Preventing%20Social%20Exclusion.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies, and programmes in relation to population and material assets
sustainable (2007)[96]	
ODPM & Home Office: Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004)[97]	Practical guide to designs and layouts that may help with crime prevention and community safety, including well-defined routes, places structured so that different uses do not cause conflict, places designed to include natural surveillance and places designed with management and maintenance in mind.
Cabinet Office: Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion (2006)[98]	Sets out an action plan to improve the life chances of those who suffer, or may suffer in the future, from disadvantage. Guiding principles for action include: better identification and earlier intervention; systematically identifying 'what works'; promoting multi-agency working; personalisation, rights and responsibilities; and supporting achievement and managing underperformance.
Homes England strategic plan 2023 to 2028[99]	This 5-year plan spans financial year 2023 to 2024 to financial year 2027 to 2028. It outlines: • Homes England's mission • Strategic objectives and aims • how performance will be measured The plan seeks to drive regeneration and housing delivery to create high-quality homes and thriving places. This will support greater social justice, the levelling up of communities across England and the creation of places people are proud to call home, in line with the priorities of the government's Levelling Up White Paper.
EC Waste Framework Directive (1975, updated 2006)[100]	Objective is the protection of human health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, treatment, storage, and tipping of waste. Particular focus is placed on the re-use of recovered materials as raw materials; restricting the production of waste; promoting clean technologies; and the drawing up of waste management plans.
EC Landfill Directive (1999)[101]	Aims to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health,

[96] DCLG Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (2007) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/243191/7191.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[97] ODPM & Home Office: Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7784/147627.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[98] Cabinet Office: Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion Available at: https://www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty/downloads/keyofficialdocuments/reaching_out_full.pdf [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[99] Homes England (2023) Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-england-strategic-plan-2023-to-2028 [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[100] EC Waste Framework Directive Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31975L0442 [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[101] EC Landfill Directive (1999) Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31999L0031 [Date accessed: 04/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies, and programmes in relation to population and material assets
	from the landfilling of waste, during the whole lifecycle of the landfill.
Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England (2018)[102]	The Waste Strategy sets out how the government will: • preserve our stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy; • minimise the damage caused to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully; and • deal with waste crime. It combines actions to take now with firm commitments for the coming years and gives a clear longer-term policy direction in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan. The strategy promotes a more circular economy (re-use, remanufacture, repair, recycle) to keep resources in use for as long as possible.
Waste Management Plan for England (2021)[103]	The Waste Management Plan for England is an analysis of the current waste management situation in England. The plan does not introduce new policies or change how waste is managed in England. Its aim is to bring current waste management policies together under one national plan.
DECC Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)[104]	Sets out government's long term energy policy, including requirements for cleaner, smarter energy; improved energy efficiency; reduced carbon emissions; and reliable, competitive, and affordable supplies. The White Paper sets out the UK's international and domestic energy strategy, in the shape of four policy goals: • aiming to cut CO2 emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020. • maintaining the reliability of energy supplies. • promoting competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and • ensuring every home is heated adequately and affordably.
DTI Micro Generation Strategy (2006)[105]	Acknowledges that local authorities can be pro-active in promoting small-scale, local renewable energy generation schemes through "*sensible use of planning policies*".

[102] DEFRA & EA (2018) Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[103] DEFRA (2021) Waste Management Plan for England 2021. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021 [Date accessed: 23/08/23]

[104] DECC Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meeting-the-energy-challenge-a-white-paper-on-energy [Date accessed: 04/08/2023]

[105] DTI Micro Generation Strategy. Available at: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2006/10/ofgem-microgen-next-steps-oct-2006.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies, and programmes in relation to population and material assets
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)[106]	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was reviewed in 2009 and "*underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified*". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU, and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.
DEFRA, Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) (2010)[107]	This document seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation and guidance that relate to noise. The key aims of this document are as follows: • Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life. • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.
Kent Environment Strategy: A Strategy for Environment, Health and Economy (2016)[108]	Strategy that sets targets in relation to the quality and needs of the environment and economy, considering both challenges and opportunities for growth. Most notably the sustained austerity on the public sector finances with a need for a refined system that works more efficiently. Therefore, it is important to identify opportunities to deliver across outcomes, working in partnership and accessing external funding wherever possible.
Kent County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2020)[109]	The adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (KMWLP) is part of the Development Plan for planning purposes. It sets out the overarching framework for the strategy and planning policies for sustainable minerals extraction, importation and recycling, and the management of all waste streams that are generated in Kent, together with their spatial implications. This includes consideration of the economic, social, and environmental aspects of strategic minerals and waste planning within the county.
Medway Local Housing Needs Assessment (2021)[110]	The Medway Local Housing Needs Assessment (LNHA) 2021 provides up to date evidence to inform the strategies, policies and decisions of the council and its partners. The overarching aim of the study is to inform the production and review of the Local Plan and housing strategies by providing robust evidence of the housing needs of Medway. The evidence may also be used as a measurement on which

[106] EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) Available at: https://www.eea.europa.eu/policy-documents/renewed-eu-strategy-for-sustainable-development [Date accessed: 06/08/23]

[107] DEFRA (2010) Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-policy-statement-for-england [Date accessed: 06/08/23]

[108] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[109] Kent County council Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2020) Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/112584/Kent-Mineral-Sites-Plan.pdf [Date accessed 06/09/23]

[110] Medway Council (2021) Local Housing Needs Assessment 2021: Final Report, August 2021. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/6239/medway_local_housing_needs_assessment_2021 [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies, and programmes in relation to population and material assets
	five-year housing land supply and Housing Delivery Test calculations are based. The assessment considers future housing need across all sections of the community over the period 2021 to 2037 and to 2040.
Medway 2035[111]	Medway 2035 sets out the regeneration aims and objectives for Medway across six priority areas. These areas include: • destination and placemaking - putting Medway on the map as a smart and sustainable city • inward investment - increasing high value businesses and expanding high quality employment • innovation - continuing to support the creation and growth of businesses • business accommodation and digital connectivity - providing the right infrastructure for business success • sector growth - enhancing a strong, mixed economy • improving employability - matching business demand and supply of skills. Medway 2035 will be accompanied by a Regeneration Delivery Plan - a framework for delivering the identified objectives, with short, medium and long term actions.

[111] Medway 2035 Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/3615/medway_2035 [Date accessed: 30/08/23]

A.9 Water and soil

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
DEFRA: Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2011)[112]	The Soil Strategy for England outlines the government's approach to safeguarding our soils for the long term. It provides a vision to guide future policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that are needed to take to prevent further degradation of our soils, enhance, restore and ensure their resilience, and improve understanding of the threats to soil and best practice in responding to them. Key objectives of the strategy include: • Better protection for agricultural soils. • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon. • Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate. • Preventing soil pollution. • Effective soil protection during construction and development; and • Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.
DEFRA: Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A. Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012)[113]	This document establishes a legal framework for dealing with contaminated land in England. This document provides guidelines for how local authorities should implement the regime, including how they should go about deciding whether land is contaminated land in the legal sense of the term. Key aims are as follows: • To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. • To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use. • To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable, and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021)[114]	The NPPF states that plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk of, air or water pollution. The NPPF states that planning should protect and enhance soils, particularly those recognised as best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a).

[112] DEFRA (2011) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[113] DEFRA (2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A. Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223705/pb13735cont-land-guidance.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[114] MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC[115]	This provides an overarching strategy, including a requirement for EU Member States to ensure that they achieve 'good ecological status' by 2015. River Basin Management Plans were defined as the key means of achieving this. They contain the main issues for the water environment and the actions we all need to take to deal with them.
HM Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction (2008)[116]	Encourages the construction industry to adopt a more sustainable approach towards development; identifies eleven themes for targeting Action, which includes conserving water resources.
DEFRA The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2003)[117]	Requires all inland and coastal waters to reach 'good' status by 2015. It mandates that: • Development must not cause a deterioration in status of a waterbody; and • Development must not prevent future attainment of 'good status', hence it is not acceptable to allow an impact to occur just because other impacts are causing the status of a water body to already be less than good. • This is being done by establishing a river basin district structure within which demanding environmental objectives are being set, including ecological targets for surface waters.
Environment Agency: Building a Better Environment: Our role in development and how we can help (2013)[118]	Guidance on addressing key environmental issues through the development process (focusing mainly on the issues dealt with by the Environment Agency), including managing flood risk, surface water management, use of water resources, preventing pollution.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)[119]	The document sets out Government action to help achieve natural world regain and retain good health. The main goals of the Plan are to achieve: • Clean air. • Clean and plentiful water.

[115] Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[116] HM Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction Available at: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/+/http:/www.bis.gov.uk/files/file46535.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[117] The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/3242/contents/made [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[118] Environment Agency (2013) Building a Better Environment: Our role in development and how we can help Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289894/LIT_2745_c8ed3d.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[119] DEFRA (2021) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
	• Thriving plants and wildlife. • A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought. • Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently; and • Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. The Plan seeks to achieve clean and plentiful water by: • Reducing the damaging abstraction of water from rivers and groundwater, ensuring that by 2021 the proportion of water bodies with enough water to support environmental standards increases from 82% to 90% for surface water bodies and from 72% to 77% for groundwater bodies. • Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans. • Supporting OFWAT's ambitions on leakage, minimising the amount of water lost through leakage year on year, with water companies expected to reduce leakage by at least an average of 15% by 2025; and • Minimising by 2030 the harmful bacteria in our designated bathing waters and continuing to improve the cleanliness of our waters. We will make sure that potential bathers are warned of any short-term pollution risks. The 2021 Environment Act (9th November, 2021) embeds several of these aspects into the new legislation.
Environment Agency (2009) Flooding in England: national Assessment of Flood Risk[120]	An assessment produced to look into areas at risk from flooding by rivers and sea and the strategy/mitigation needed to reduce the risk of future flooding.
South East Inshore Marine Plan[121]	The South East Marine Plan is one of four marine plans developed concurrently, which will mean for the first time all of English waters will have a marine plan in place. It covers an area of around 3,900 square kilometres of inshore waters between Felixstowe in Suffolk and west of Dover in Kent. The Plan introduces a strategic approach to planning within the English inshore waters between Felixstowe in Suffolk, and west of Dover in Kent. It provides a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision-making by marine users and regulators on where, when, or how activities might take place within the south east inshore marine plan area.

[120] Environment Agency (2009) Flooding in England: National Assessment of Flood Risk. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292928/geho0609bqds-e-e.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[121] South East Inshore Marine Plan (June 2021). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004493/FINAL_South_East_Marine_Plan__1_.pdf [Date accessed: 18/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2022)[122]	A River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) contains the local environmental objectives for water bodies and protected areas that government, the Environment Agency, and other public bodies use to: • make planning decisions. • decide on the conditions to include in environmental permits. • target action, including informing funding decisions. • An assessment of the current condition of each water body and, if it is not in good condition, the reasons why. • Summaries of the programmes of measures, including: • the government's legal and administrative framework for protecting and improving waters in England. • current and planned programmes of improvement actions • principles to be followed when choosing future actions. • summaries at a catchment scale, including the local catchment partnership's vision and priorities for future action.
Draft South Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2080 (2020)[123]	The plan sets out how water supply will be balanced and how water can be delivered reliably and efficiently. The plan explains how water will be managed in the face of a growing population and changing climate and how it can contribute to helping protect the environment.
Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency, 2019)[124]	The Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (MEASS) sets out the best economic, environmental and technically appropriate approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risk over the next 100 years. The Strategy assesses how to best protect people and properties, designated habitat and agricultural land over the next 100 years. It identifies the best technical solutions for flood defence, while also considering the impacts and benefits for local communities, the environment and the cost to the taxpayer. In developing MEASS, a wide range of studies have been carried out to understand the likely impacts of climate change and sea level rise over the short, medium and long-term on: • the existing flood defences; • the flood risk to communities and infrastructure; and

[122] Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2022) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/thames-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022 [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[123] South East Water (2020) Draft South Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2080. Available at: https://cdn.southeastwater.co.uk/Publications/Water+resources+management+plan+2019/south-east-water-final-wrmp-2020-2080.pdf [Date accessed: 07/09/23]

[124] Environment Agency (2019) Medway Estuary and Swale flood and coastal risk management strategy. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy [Date accessed: 18/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
	• internationally important habitat and other land.
Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan Review (2010) **Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan (2010)**	A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. The SMPs promote management policies for a coastline into the 22nd century, to achieve long-term objectives, while being technically sustainable, environmentally acceptable and economically viable. It provides a high level, step by step management plan for meeting objectives with appropriate management change i.e. a 'route map' for decision makers to move from the present situation towards a more sustainable future. The boundaries of the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP and the Medway Estuary & Swale SMP have been established to link at the mouth of each of the Medway & Swale estuaries at the 'Schedule 4 Boundary' (Coast Protection Act 1949) where the estuary officially meets the sea. This is the common interface of the Medway Estuary & Swale and the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMPs.
Medway Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014[125]	The strategy will look to build upon previous strategies to reduce flood risk in identified areas of risk and continue to develop an understanding of flood risk. The aims of the local strategy are to support and improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent through appropriate flood risk management and to ensure that we all work together effectively to understand and deliver appropriate flood risk management in Kent.
Kent Environment Strategy[126]	The strategy sets the targets to reduce water use from 160 to 140 litres per person per day and ensure 28 Kent and Medway water bodies will be at good status by 2021.
Southern Water Drought Plan (2019)[127]	The document sets out the activities Southern Water will implement to manage the impacts of drought, based on current circumstances and existing infrastructure. The plan covers Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, and The Isle of Wight. The Drought Plan includes information on the following: • How we define a drought and the trigger levels we use to determine the status of our water resources and the corresponding activities we should be undertaking. • Customer and stakeholder communication during a drought and the consultation the company will undertake during a drought, including working with neighbouring water companies. • Demand management activities we will promote to conserve water. • Activities we will undertake to maintain or increase the amount of water available to us, and an assessment of how these could impact the environment and how we propose to monitor and mitigate this.

[125] Capita Symonds & URS (2014) Medway Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Final Report, July 2014. Available at: https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2868/local_flood_risk_management_strategy [Date accessed: 15/09/23]

[126] Kent County Council (2016) Kent Environment Strategy [online] Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[127] Southern Water Drought Plan (2019) Available at: https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/2589/final-drought-plan-technical-summary.pdf Date accessed: 06/09/23]

Title of PPP	Main objectives of relevant plans, policies and programmes in relation to soil
Medway and North Kent & Swale Abstraction Licensing Strategies	Abstraction Licensing Strategies are produced to consider the impact of abstraction at all flows. The strategies help to manage future abstraction more sustainably and outline where there may be need to reduce current rates of abstraction and the approach to time limiting licenses. Separate strategies cover the Medway and North Kent Catchment areas.
River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)[128]	The Plan gives an overview of the flood risk in the Medway catchment and sets out our preferred plan for sustainable flood risk management over the next 50 to 100 years. The plan identifies flood risk management policies to assist all key decision makers in the catchment.
Kent and Medway Shoreline Pollution Emergency Plan (2023)[129]	Objectives of this plan are to: • outline organisational responsibilities for shoreline pollution planning and response • provide emergency points of contact • determine relevant operational requirements of agencies in Kent • ensure the availability of personnel for effective co-ordination and delivery of the response • ensure that appropriate personnel are trained and exercised • ensure that liaison takes place across key partners • ensure effective planning for, and operational interventions to, pollution incidents impacting Kent's natural and built coastal environment • collate existing zonal shoreline access and sensitivity information and booming plans for Kent and Medway in one document.

[128] River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) Environment Agency. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293890/Medway_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf [Date accessed: 06/09/23]

[129] Kent County Council (2023) Kent and Medway Shoreline Pollution Plan. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/housing,-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/flooding-drainage-and-water-management-policies-and-guidance/kent-and-medway-shoreline-pollution-emergency-plan [Date accessed: 07/08/23]

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