

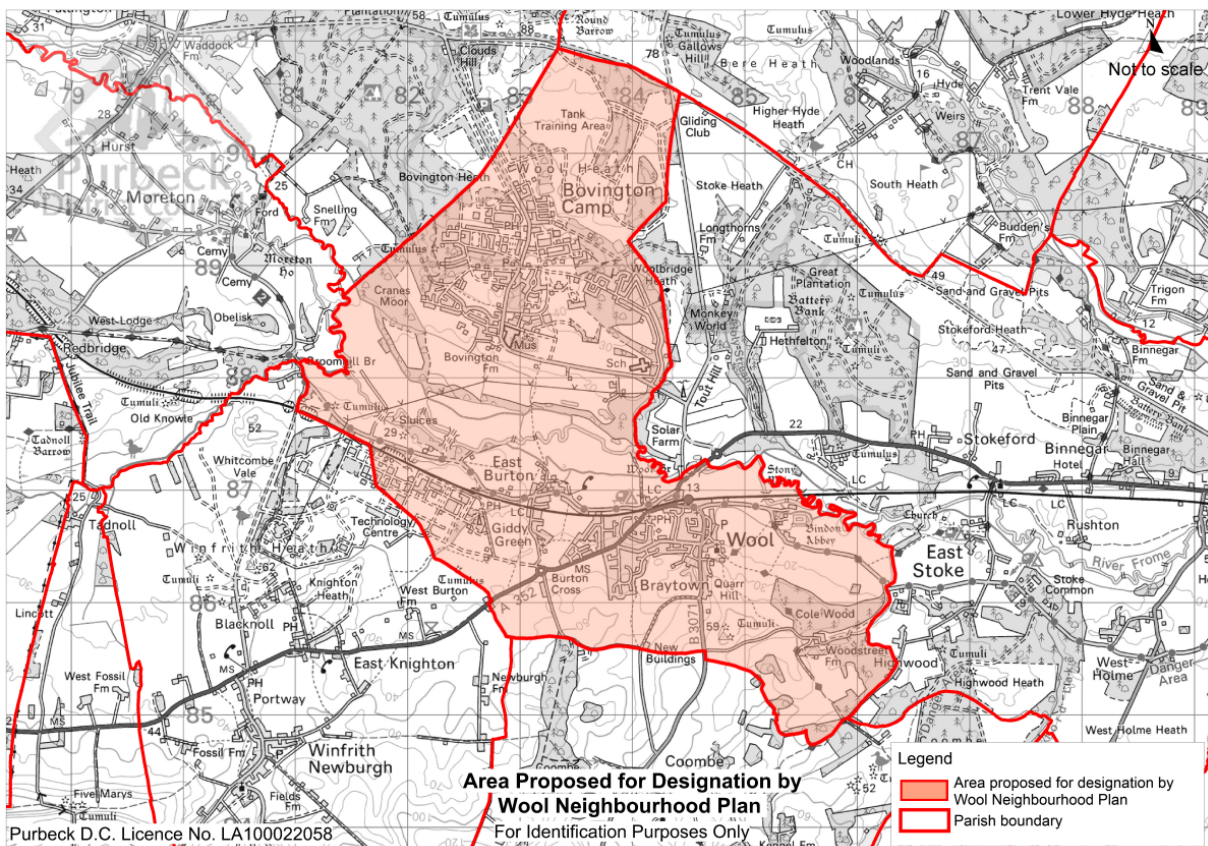
# 1. Neighbourhood Plan Preparation and Consultation

1. This section of the neighbourhood plan confirms that the plan has been prepared in relation to the following:
  - A designated Neighbourhood Area
  - Meeting Basic Conditions requirements for the preparation of neighbourhood plans
  - Screening the likelihood of potentially significant environmental effects arising from plan proposals.
  - Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development
  - Ensuring broad conformity with national policies and strategic policies in adopted local plans.
  - A time period for which the neighbourhood plan has been prepared.
  - Extensive public consultation and engagement in the formation of the plan.

## Designated Neighbourhood Area

2. Wool Parish Council applied for designation of the Neighbourhood Area for its neighbourhood plan with an area based on the boundary of the parish. This was approved by Purbeck District Council on 29 June 2018. The Neighbourhood Area is set out in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 – Wool Parish Neighbourhood Area Boundary**



## Basic Conditions for the Neighbourhood Plan

3. Neighbourhood plans must operate in accordance with guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which says that succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings. This applies to plans at all levels and so neighbourhood plans should play their part in the planning system in the same way.
4. A key reference to the role of neighbourhood planning is set out in Paragraph 29 of the NPPF. Here, it says neighbourhood plans give communities the power to develop a shared vision for their areas and through them shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan.
5. Neighbourhood plans are required to meet Basic Conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to Neighbourhood Development Plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. A Basic Conditions Statement is published alongside the neighbourhood plan to demonstrate how the plan meets basic conditions.
6. Importantly, neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies. A key requirement is that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.
7. Once the neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, its policies will be considered alongside Local Plan policies under section 38(6) of the 1990 Act when determining planning applications. Where they are in conflict, neighbourhood plan policies will take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the local plan covering the Neighbourhood Area, until they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently.

### Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts

8. The NPPF says that neighbourhood plans may require Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), but only where there are potentially significant environmental effects arising from their implementation. HRA or SEA are more likely to be required where there are environmental assets present which are sensitive to the effects of development, and where a neighbourhood plan which allocates sites for development or would in other ways promote development, could potentially generate impacts on them.
9. The area covered by the Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan has important environmental designations which are relevant under regulations for the consideration of screening for HRA and SEA. These include the presence of Dorset Heathland SAC/SPA/RAMSAR/SSSI sites located within the parish boundary and areas of buffer zone to them. The area also contains Scheduled Monuments. A part of the parish sits within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and much of the parish outside the AONB boundary forms the setting of the AONB. Areas of Ancient Woodland located within the Neighbourhood Area form irreplaceable habitats. Areas of higher-level flood risk run along the River Frome corridor and the parish forms a catchment from which run off from development can impact on water quality.
10. Within this context, the neighbourhood plan does not propose to allocate sites for development or promote additional development affecting sensitive sites, or create additional visitor pressures on sensitive sites. A Screening Opinion from Dorset Council has confirmed that HRA/SEA is not required for the neighbourhood Plan.

#### Requirement to promote Sustainable Development

11. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that the Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan should seek to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through meeting economic, social and environmental objectives (set out in paragraph 8 of the NPPF). The Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with these requirements in mind. The Basic Conditions Statement published alongside this plan of this neighbourhood plan demonstrates how policies in the plan will contribute to sustainable development objectives.

#### National Planning Policies

12. The current version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in September 2023. The NPPF sets out national planning policies in a single document and in so doing sets the framework for plan-making and decision-making on development proposals. The Framework explains the relationship between the NPPF, Local Plans and neighbourhood plans. This influences how local planning authorities approach the development of local plan policies and how they regard policies as strategic or non-strategic in nature. The NPPF identifies matters on which the government thinks local communities through neighbourhood plans can contribute to the achievement of national policy goals and also express their own ambitions and objectives.

#### Requirement for conformity with adopted plans

13. At the time of writing, two Basic Conditions set down in regulations are that policies in the neighbourhood plan must have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State; and they must be in broad conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area. The Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates how the policies of the plan conform with national and local policies.

#### Local Plans Context

14. The adopted development plan for the area is made up of the following development plan documents:
  - Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 adopted in November 2012. It covers the period 2006–2027
  - Adopted Waste Plan, 2019–2033
  - Minerals Strategy 2014 (for period 2014–2028)
  - Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Sites Plan 2019 (for period 2014–2028).
15. In many aspects of detailed local planning policies, the adopted Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 is now increasingly out of date, with successive changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in place, changes to use classes affecting planning control of changes of use of shops, and a step change in policies for sustainability.
16. Following local government reorganisation leading to the creation of Dorset Council in 2019, Dorset Council has continued to develop, complete and adopt the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 that was already in preparation by the former Purbeck District Council, and it has reached an advanced stage of preparation. The current version of this plan is a Submission Version with a consolidated set of Main, Further and draft Supplementary Modifications. The draft Supplementary Modifications were published by Dorset Council for consultation on 10th November 2023.
17. Dorset Council is preparing a new County-wide local plan. Following a review of its strategy approach in 2022, an update to the Local Development Scheme says that Dorset Council is now aiming to adopt a local plan in 2026. As of October 2023, Dorset Council has completed a Regulation 18 Options Consultation (January 2021).

## Neighbourhood Plan Time Period

18. The intention of this neighbourhood plan is to ensure that it is in conformity with adopted plans whilst ensuring conformity with updated requirements in the NPPF and with emerging local plans in preparation.
19. The plan should meet the basic requirement to conform with adopted local policies or national policies where these supersede them. It should then seek to reflect and strengthen the local detail of emerging policies of the Purbeck Local Plan which is at an advanced stage of preparation, where these do not conflict with policies of the adopted plan or the NPPF. Finally, there is an opportunity to take account of policy options set out in the January 2021 Options Consultation Draft Dorset Local Plan.

The proposed time period for the neighbourhood plan is to 2038, covering the end period of adopted and emerging local plans.

## Consultation with the Community

20. Effective engagement with the local community in Wool Parish has been essential to develop a vision and objectives for future development policies that can make a difference to local people in the parish. A full Consultation Report has been prepared to support the neighbourhood plan and this provides details on consultation and engagement undertaken in its development. The Consultation Report provides information about the following:
  - a) A review of key priorities identified in the 2011 Wool Parish Plan, actions taken to implement them and consideration to address outstanding matters.
  - b) Feedback from the Wool Annual Parish Meeting from 23 April 2018, which kick-started work on the neighbourhood plan.
  - c) A stall at the Wool Carnival on 16 June 2018.
  - d) A survey of residents in September–October 2019, collecting 201 responses.
  - e) Drop-in Sessions held during the same period as the survey with 29 people attending.
  - f) Community Walkabouts undertaken during July 2021 in which 34 people participated.
  - g) A school pupils survey undertaken in July 2021.
  - h) A neighbourhood plan Consultation meeting held on 14 March 2022 to discuss vision, objectives and priorities.
  - i) A survey of local community infrastructure and service providers undertaken in February 2022.
  - j) A survey of local bus use and future bus services was carried out in March–April 2022, collecting 191 responses.

### 2019 Resident Survey Key Findings

21. The Survey questionnaire asked people to indicate what they like and don't like about Wool, Bovington and East Burton, and what they would and would not like to see in these villages. A large number of matters were identified across these four elements by the 201 respondents to the survey. An extract from the feedback flyer is provided below in Figure 2. This shows the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group interpretation of key themes from the survey.

Figure 2 – Key themes identified from 2019 neighbourhood plan survey

