

**Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats
Regulations Assessment and Marine Plan
Screening Determination for Christleton and
Littleton Neighbourhood Plan**

Prepared on behalf of Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
by

Cheshire West and Chester Council

April 2026

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1 Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), this document is the screening determination of the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan. This document also sets out the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and identifies whether Appropriate Assessment is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It also identifies whether further work is required to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan takes full account of the relevant Marine Plans.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the responsible authority (i.e. the Local Planning Authority) must carry out an environmental assessment for any plan or programme that is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, which sets the framework for future development consents of certain projects. It is likely that Development Plan Documents (DPDs), such as the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies and Neighbourhood Plans will require SEA as they will contain planning policies that influence the above list of topics, and which will be used to determine planning applications.

However, the regulations state that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at a local level unless it has been determined that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The regulations advise that a screening process is used to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This process should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in a SEA screening opinion, which is then sent to the statutory consultation bodies for comment. Once comments have been taken into account a screening determination is prepared setting out whether SEA is required and reasons for the decision and this must be made publicly available.

Please note that under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, SEA will be replaced by Environmental Outcomes Reports (EOR). The Regulations relating to EOR have not yet been introduced and as such, the existing SEA process has been followed in this document and will continue to be used until further Regulations and guidance are issued.

This screening determination has been based upon the policies set out in the draft Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan (v31 – submitted April 2026).

A draft screening opinion was produced in November 2025. The Council has a duty to consult Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The

statutory environmental bodies were consulted including Natural Resources Wales on 13 November 2025. Details of the bodies consulted and the responses received on SEA and HRA are provided in Appendix 7. Responses were received from Historic England and Natural England, who agreed with the outcome of the initial screening exercise, that SEA is not required. This final screening statement addresses comments made during the consultation.

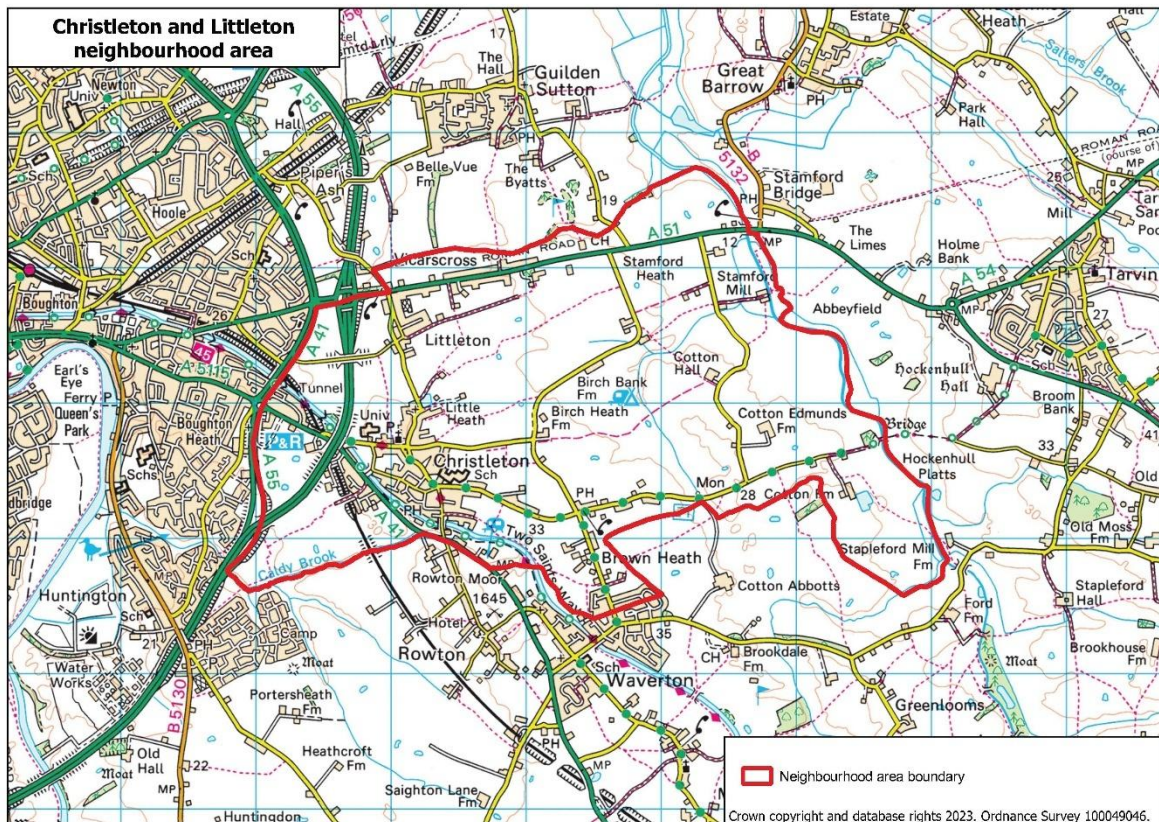
Location and geographical scope of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Area covers the whole of both Christleton and Littleton Parish Council areas. The Parishes of Christleton and Littleton are located within the Christleton and Huntington ward to the east of Chester and bounded to the west and the north by the A 41 and A51. The Shropshire Union Canal runs parallel to the A41 to the south of Christleton.

According to the 2021 Census, the two Parishes contains 960 households*. Christleton is the larger of the two villages. Key services and facilities include two churches, a primary school, high school and shop. The neighbouring villages are separated by agricultural land

Households: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021 (Build a Custom Area Profile) The data used in this profile are aggregated from small areas on a best-fit basis to the Local Plan settlement boundaries and therefore may differ slightly from other sources.

Map 1:



Relationship to other plans and programmes

Once made the Neighbourhood Plan will form part of development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. The policy framework once made will not work in isolation. The Neighbourhood Plan will work alongside the adopted Local Plan policies in place at the time it is made.

The Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policy; be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan; must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and meet EU obligations and human rights requirements.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (adopted July 2019). The Part One plan sets out the overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030, with supporting policies in Part Two.

The Local Plan policy framework has been taken into account when carrying out the screening exercise. This forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening assessment. It has considered the potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above the current adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two).

It is a legal requirement for Marine Plans to be considered in any decision affecting the marine area. The Marine Plans that are potentially relevant to neighbourhood planning in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) are the North West Marine Plan and the Welsh National Marine Plan. This is considered further in Chapter 4.

Scope of Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan is:

“The Parishes of Christleton and Littleton will continue to maintain their individual characters as vibrant villages with a strong sense of community. They will continue to be areas with a mix of age groups, where local people can live, work and enjoy a high quality of life. Importantly the unique character of each settlement will be retained and enhanced providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and green open spaces rich in wildlife for the benefit of the local communities. Importantly, the Green Belt and strategic green gaps will be retained to provide an important buffer between the settlements and the City of Chester to safeguard the rural character of the plan area”.

The objectives set within the Neighbourhood Plan are:

Christleton and Littleton must

- Maintain and enhance our wildlife corridors, cycling and walking networks and existing green spaces throughout and around the Villages
- Preserve and enhance the many heritage assets, and their setting, in the villages and along the canal
- Encourage young people to remain in the village by supporting affordable, low cost 2/3 bed energy efficient houses that are sympathetic with existing housing and heritage assets
- Reduce the A41/51 traffic, queuing on the A41/51 and cut through traffic through Christleton and Littleton at peak school arrival and leaving times
- Provide secure and sustainable environments for their inhabitants
- Continue to be part of the wider area of Chester but with the distinctive character of the two villages, protected by Green Belt, with local access to open spaces and the surrounding countryside
- Be communities which take pride in their appearance and physical heritage

- Be settlements where people of all ages and incomes can find high quality, well-designed, sustainable housing together with the community services and facilities they need, particularly health and education
- Provide a healthy environment for its communities with access to local and a wider network of open spaces with ample opportunities for cycling, walking, running and riding
- Provide sustainable transport links to both employment and leisure provision on roads, footways and cycleways that are safe for pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities
- Preserve locally important views within, into and out of the plan area.
- Be communities that are resilient to the impact of climate change that work towards a 'carbon neutral' sustainable outcome

The vision and objectives have been translated into plan policies covering the following topic areas:

- Housing needs
- Housing design
- Shropshire Union Canal
- Green gaps
- Local green spaces
- Incidental open spaces
- Conservation corridors and wildlife reserves
- Heritage assets
- Community facilities
- Local economy
- Communication infrastructure
- PROW
- Wildlife and biodiversity
- Local Views

The Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood plan has been prepared so as to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part One and Part Two).

The Parishes are located in the rural area of the borough and washed over Green Belt. Christleton is designated as a Local Service Centre under policy R1 of the Local Plan (Part Two). Additional restrictions apply to development in Christleton due to its location in the Green Belt in line with policy STRAT9 of the Local Plan (Part One) and the NPPF. Littleton is not identified within the Local Plan as a key or local service centre, therefore new development is restricted to certain types, as set out in Local Plan policy STRAT 9.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose land allocations for development and does not refer to 'excluded development' such as minerals or waste. There are policies relating to housing needs and design, green gaps and local green spaces, conservation corridors, heritage, community facilities, local economy, communication infrastructure, public rights of way, wildlife and biodiversity and local views.

The Plan also identifies a number of Parish Council actions relating to air quality, flooding, highways/traffic and cycling initiatives.

The Neighbourhood Plan provides local level guidance on how the community would like future development, as set and restricted by the Local Plan and national planning policy, to come forward.

This screening determination only considers the likelihood of significant environmental effects resulting from the draft policies, rather than assessing whether it meets the basic conditions and has appropriate regard to national policy which is a matter for the Examination.

2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative background and methodology

European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) required a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out for certain plans and programmes to assess their effects on the environment. This Directive was transposed in law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan fall within the scope of this legislation as it is a plan prepared for town and country planning or land use and will set the framework for future development consent of projects, in accordance with Part 3(2) of the SEA Directive. However, Neighbourhood Plans are land use

planning documents prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Part 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SEA is only required for documents that determine land use of a small area at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes where it is considered that it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Assessment of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects is carried out through the screening process.

If SEA is required, the assessment is usually incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal, which includes environmental factors as required under the SEA Directive, along with social and economic factors.

Screening methodology

The role of the screening exercise is to determine whether the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan's effects and of the area likely to be affected.

In order to undertake the identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken of each policy of the Neighbourhood Plan, its potential effects and its relationship to Local Plan (Part One) strategic policies and the policies in the Local Plan (Part Two). This helps to assess the impact that the Neighbourhood Plan will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table in Appendix 1.

The assessment of the significant environmental effects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan is set out in Appendix 2. The characteristics of the plans' effects and the area likely to be affected are set out in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

In accordance with Part 2(9) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, as a result of the SEA screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant

environmental effects arising from the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan is not required.

3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transposed the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a systematic process through which the performance of a plan or project can be assessed for its likely impact on the integrity of a European Site. European sites, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); Potential Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pSPA and cSAC); and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on it, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, should be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is to screen a plan or programme to identify if there are likely to be any significant effects on the European sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 European sites to include within the HRA:

- Oak Mere SAC;
- Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site;

- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC;
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar;
- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar (England and Wales)
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Information about all of these sites, the reasons for designation, pressures and pathways of impacts are provided in the HRA for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). Information about sites relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan is summarised in Appendix 4.

In addition, the HRA screening for the Local Plan Issues and Options in 2025 identified additional sites that are outside the CW&C borough boundary, but could potentially be impacted by policies in the Local Plan:

- Alyn Valley Woods SAC;
- Brown Moss SAC;
- Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites SAC;
- Fenn's, Whixhall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Halkyn Mountain SAC;
- Johnstown Newt Sites SAC;
- Manchester Mosses SAC;
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC; and
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar.

Map 2 shows the European sites that are within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area. All of the other European sites have been screened out from this assessment as impacts would not occur due to the distance or would be so small and

insignificant in scale that they would not have a Likely Significant Effect, even when combined with other plans or projects.

The following sites have been screened out as they are outside the 15km radius for the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area:

- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Alyn Valley Woods SAC;
- Brown Moss SAC;
- Fenn's, Whixhall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC
- Halkyn Mountain SAC;
- Johnstown Newt Sites SAC;
- Manchester Mosses SAC;
- Rixton Clay Pits SAC;
- Rostherne Mere Ramsar;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Due to the distance and scale of anticipated development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered relevant to include these sites in the HRA Screening of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan.

The European protected sites that fall within a 15km radius of the Neighbourhood Area (as shown on Map 2) are included within the HRA Screening. Due to the pathways of impact on these sites, the scale and location of the Neighbourhood Plan area and the scale of potential future developments means that some of the European sites can be screened out and do not require further assessment. The River Dee and Bala Lake SAC falls within the 15km radius of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area. However, it is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan. Indirect effects via abstraction and water quality / flow are also unlikely due to the distance and the small scale of the area, the anticipated small scale of any

developments (due to Green Belt restrictions as well as the policies) and the lack of pathways of impact.

The Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar also falls within the 15km radius of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area. However, it is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan. Indirect effects via air quality, abstraction and disturbance are also unlikely due to the distance and the small scale of the area, the anticipated small scale of any developments (due to Green Belt restrictions as well as the policies) and the lack of pathways of impact. The Welsh designations have recently been added for assessment. The Deeside and Buckley Newt sites SAC falls within the 15km radius, however the environmental vulnerabilities of this SAC are localised and therefore unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan.

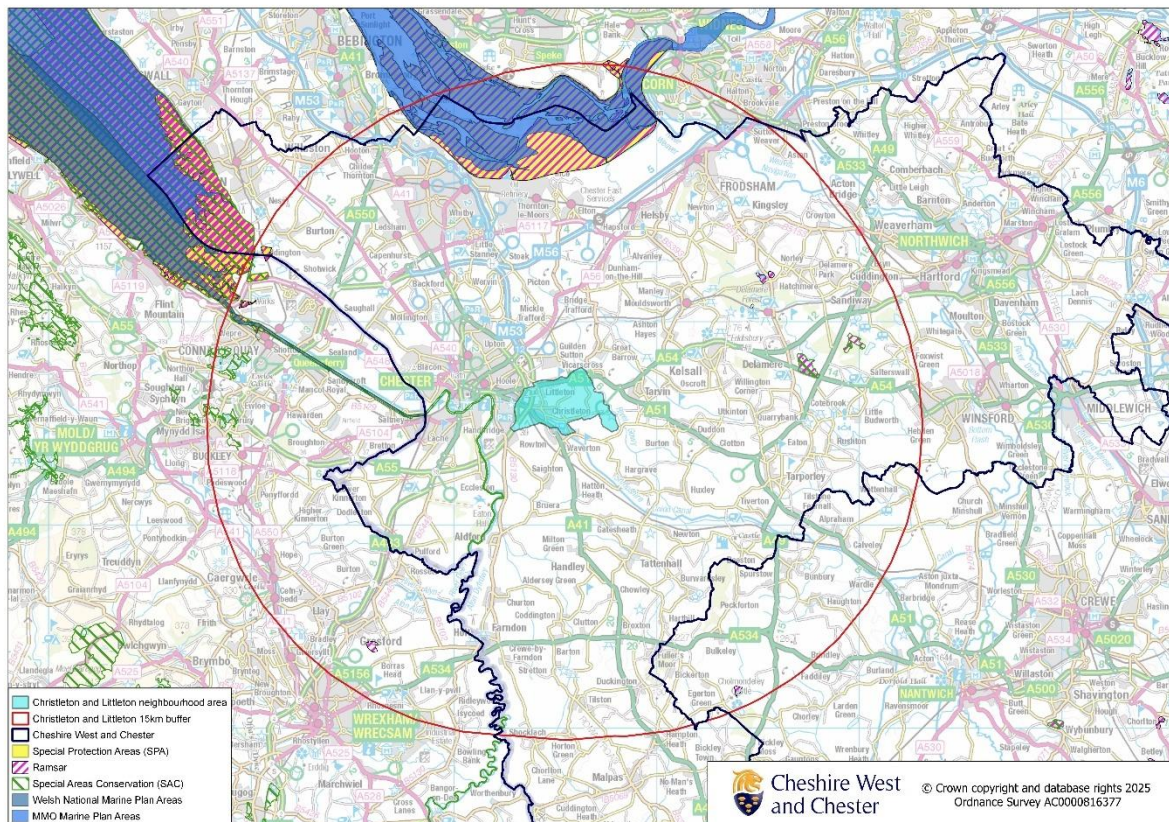
Appendix 5 identifies whether there could be potential impacts arising from the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, on the European protected site and their reasons for designation.

The conservation objectives of the European sites will be taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan. The potential effects of the Neighbourhood Plan over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

Map 2: European sites within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan area



The European sites are also subject to certain pressures that are outside the scope of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans and therefore have not been included in the assessment above. Table 1 below identifies the potential pressures (which may be relevant to one or several of the European sites) and explains why it is not considered relevant to the HRA of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 1: Potential pressures outside the scope of the HRA

Pressure	Reasons outside scope of this HRA
Disturbance of sediment releasing legacy heavy metal pollution that is bound into the sediment.	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan relate to land-based uses and operations, which will not disturb sediment within European sites.
Pollution via commercial shipping by chemical or noise pollution and dumping of litter at sea	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on commercial shipping.
Navigational / aggregate dredging resulting in physical loss and alteration of coastal processes or damage of marine benthic habitat	The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will not have a significant impact on navigational or aggregate dredging.

Fisheries and overfishing of particular species	Fishing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Livestock grazing	Grazing levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
Damage of marine benthic habitat directly from fishing methods	Commercial fishing methods and levels are not controlled through Neighbourhood Plans.
The need to manage continuing coastal erosion at protected sites outside CW&C	Neighbourhood Plans within CW&C will not impact on management of coastal erosion in areas outside CW&C.
The need to develop and maintain management practices which sustain the conservation value of the area for protected sites outside CW&C.	Neighbourhood Plans cannot influence management practices for protected sites outside CW&C.
Loss or damage of habitat as a result of increasing off-shore exploration and production activity associated with oil and natural gas on protected sites outside CW&C.	Neighbourhood Plans within CW&C cannot control oil and gas exploration and production activity outside CW&C.
Coastal squeeze from land reclamation and coastal flood defences and drainage in European sites outside CW&C.	Neighbourhood Plans within CW&C will not have a significant impact on coastal squeeze resulting from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage in areas outside CW&C.
Scrub encroachment, fire, siltation, heather management, peat digging, heather beetle, game management / hunting, quarrying and changes in species distributions.	Neighbourhood Plans within CW&C are unlikely to have a significant impact on scrub encroachment, risk of fire, siltation, heather management, peat digging, heather beetle, game management / hunting, quarrying or changes in species distributions.

HRA screening

The Neighbourhood Plan is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation and therefore needs to be assessed for Likely Significant Effects.

It is considered that as long as the proposed policies of a Neighbourhood Plan do not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) HRA Screening Report and do not have Likely Significant Effects beyond this, then Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan will not be required. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, which makes it less likely to have significant effects resulting from specific development supported through the Plan.

In March 2022, Natural England issued advice to Local Authorities about the adverse effect that nutrient pollution is having on habitats sites. Nutrient neutrality advice requires that competent authorities under the Habitats Regulations carefully consider the nutrient impacts of any new plans and projects on habitats sites and whether those impacts may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a protected site. Within CW&C, Oakmere and the West Midlands Meres and Mosses are identified as potentially affected sites.

The assessment in Appendix 5 identifies that there are unlikely to be any direct or indirect significant impacts on Oakmere and the West Midlands Meres and Mosses. This is due to the nature of the policies, the distance between the Neighbourhood Area and the protected areas and the anticipated small scale of any future development in the area (due to Green Belt restrictions and other local and national policies). The Plan does not provide land allocations and is within overall levels of growth established through the Local Plan. It is unlikely to create a significant source of water pollution and there is no hydrological connectivity between the protected sites and the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore not necessary to apply the nutrient neutrality methodology to the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix 5 identifies whether the Neighbourhood Plan alters the policy position for the area. It also assesses whether each policy has a Likely Significant Effect alone. If a Likely Significant Effect is identified, the policy would be taken forward for further investigation through Appropriate Assessment. If there is no Likely Significant Effect when considering the policy alone, the final column assesses whether the policy could have a Likely Significant Effect when combined with the effects of other relevant policies, plans or projects.

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan will not work in isolation and will be used alongside other development plan policies including the Local Plan (Part One) and Local Plan (Part Two) for determining planning applications for new development. The quantum of development to come forward in Christleton and Littleton in the future will be set by Local Plan policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will guide how this should come forward locally.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan in relation to Christleton and Littleton, although there were other more general potential impacts resulting from the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). However, this was considered within the HRAs for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) and the HRAs concluded that there were sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in the Local Plan. The policies and proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan will not add significantly to the impacts and will not prevent the mitigation and control measures from avoiding and mitigating the effects sufficiently.

Therefore, it is considered that any proposals coming forward for Christleton and Littleton in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan would not result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European site than already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

The Screening Determination made by Cheshire West and Chester Council is that the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be required.

4 Marine Plan Screening

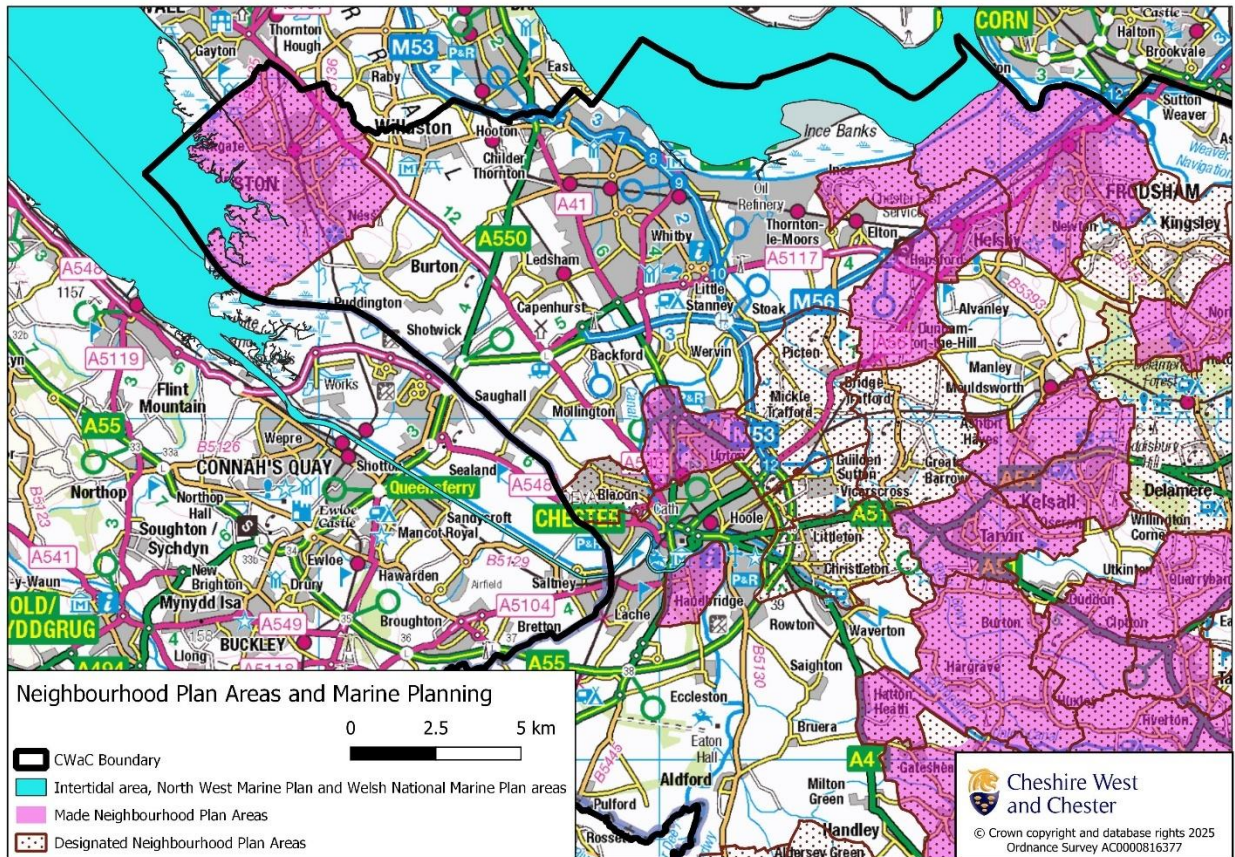
Marine planning ensures that the right activities happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way in marine areas.

Marine plans provide guidance on things to promote or avoid in certain marine locations. As the marine planning authority for England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for preparing marine plans in England for inshore and offshore waters.

The Marine Plans that are potentially relevant to neighbourhood planning in Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) are the North-West Marine Plan and the Welsh National Marine Plan. The diagram below shows the areas covered by these Marine Plans. Marine plans apply up to the mean high-water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers, as shown on the map.



Figure showing CW&C boundary in black. The light blue is the area covered by the North-West Marine Plan, and the darker turquoise the area covered by the Welsh National Marine Plan.



It is a legal requirement for marine plans to be considered in all decisions that affect England's marine area, now and into the future. Section 58(3) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires that public authorities must have regard to marine plans when taking any decisions which relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the UK marine area. This can include decision making relating to Neighbourhood Plans.

The policies set out in marine plans apply only in their area (i.e. up to the mean high-water springs mark – which includes the tidal extent of any rivers), but if a proposed activity may affect the plan area, this should be acknowledged and considered.

There are not statutory requirements or guidelines for the screening of Neighbourhood Plans to assess likelihood of impacts on the marine plan or marine area. To do this we undertake a three-stage process, with the first stage to assess the distance of the Neighbourhood Plan area from the marine area.

Stage 1

If a Neighbourhood Plan extends into the marine plan area, it will definitely be screened in. If a Neighbourhood Plan is within 1km of a marine plan area it should proceed to the next stage, but it is likely that it will need to be screened in. As the distance from mean high-water springs mark increases, the likelihood of being screened in reduces, however further assessment is required at the next stage.

Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan is approximately 11.4 km from the mean high-water springs mark for the North-West Marine Plan and 16 km from the mean high-water springs mark for the Welsh National Marine Plan. There are some drains and other water courses in the Christleton and Littleton area that drain towards and into the Manchester Ship Canal and therefore also drain into the Mersey Estuary. As this is part of the North-West Marine Plan area, this Marine Plan has been screened in. It is a significant distance to the North-West Marine Plan area, but potential impacts are investigated further below. The Welsh Marine Plan has been screened out due to the distance and the fact that there are no major watercourses that drain from the Christleton and Littleton area into the Marine Plan area.

The Shropshire Union Canal passes through Christleton and links to the River Dee and Manchester Ship Canal, which then ultimately links to the Mersey Estuary. Caldry Brook also runs through the Neighbourhood Area which drains directly into the River Dee.

There is no direct link from the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area area to the Mersey Estuary. Due to this fact and the distance from Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan area to the Mersey Estuary, it is not anticipated that there would be any impacts on that part of the North West Marine Plan area.

Stage 2

The second stage is to assess whether the plan includes proposed allocations and if so, whether these allocations have the potential to impact on the marine plan area. The potential for impacts will depend upon distance from the marine plan area, potential pathways of impact and scale and nature of the proposed allocation.

There are no allocations within the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan, so the assessment moves to stage 3.

Stage 3

The final stage is to assess whether the proposed policies have the potential to impact on the marine plan area.

The policies have been checked against the key policies in the marine plan using the [Explore Marine Plans](#) tool. When the tool was used, only the 'land' policies were relevant, which indicates no direct relationship with the marine plan area. It is possible that there may be indirect impacts via watercourses. As such, further assessment has been undertaken in Appendix 6.

All North-West Marine Plan policies will need to be considered. However, the nature of the Christleton and Littleton area and the distance to the Marine Plan area means that the key North-West Marine Plan policies that are likely to be most relevant are:

- NW-WQ-1 – Proposals that protect, enhance and restore water quality will be supported. Proposals that cause deterioration of water quality must demonstrate that they will avoid or minimise deterioration.
- NW-BIO-1 – Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported.

- NW-BIO-2 – Proposals that enhance or facilitate native species or habitat adaptation or connectivity, or native species migration, will be supported.

Conclusion

The Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan is generally anticipated to have a positive relationship with the North West Marine Plan and Welsh National Marine Plan. The policies are generally positively worded and are compatible with the objectives of the North West Marine Plan in terms of flood risk, runoff and water pollution, through policies 6.4 Green gaps, 6.5 Local Green Spaces, 6.13 wildlife and biodiversity and 6.2 design code, CWT 2 wildlife corridor, CWT 1 biodiversity, SUC 1 general development, SUC 3 ecology and SUC 4 water quality and contamination.

Water quality and contamination

The Neighbourhood Plan group will need to consider the impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan on the North-West Marine Plan and should specifically consider the impacts of any of those policies that have been screened in. The impact of the Neighbourhood Plan will also need to be considered as a whole.

The Local Planning Authority will inform the neighbourhood plan group of the outcome of the screening assessment. No additional work is suggested here as the policies are positively worded and compatible with the objectives of the Marine plan.

Appendix 1: SEA Screening – Overview of policies and identified effects of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy reference	Summary of policy	Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
Policy HN1 – Housing need	The policy supports the delivery housing to meet the locally identified needs for 12 dwellings as well as local connection households.	Population Human health	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development - STRAT 9 – Green Belt and countryside Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 3 – Design, character and visual amenity
Policy HN2 – Housing density	The policy restricts density to the village appropriate levels with an average of 16 dwellings per hectare on sites less than 1 hectare in size.	Landscape and townscape Air quality Climate Human health	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development - SOC 3 – Housing mix and type Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 19 – Proposals for residential development - DM 20 – Mix and type for new housing development
Policy HN3 – Brownfield or Greenfield Development	The policy discourages the co-location of new housing schemes and requires a design led approach.	Population Land Soil Landscape	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 9 – Green Belt and countryside - SOC 3 – Housing mix and type Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 19 – Proposals for residential development - DM 20 Mix and type for new housing development
HN4 – Rural exception sites	The policy supports small scale housing to meet local need adjacent to settlements.	Population	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC 2 – Rural exception sites <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 24 – Rural exception sites
HN5 – Infill and back land housing	The policy permits limited infill in the village and also resists back land development.	Population Human health Landscape and townscape Biodiversity	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 19 – Proposals for residential development
HN6 – Repurposing of empty buildings	The policy prioritises the reuse of vacant buildings.	Material assets Land Soil Heritage	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 4 – Sustainable construction
Housing design (Design Code Policies HDC1-HDC31)	The various Design Code policies require all development to comply with a detailed local Design Code covering requirements for green infrastructure, trees and planting, biodiversity, SuDs, lighting and dark skies, public spaces, movement, built form and identity.	Protecting landscape and townscape. Cultural heritage. Protecting local character. Climatic factors and air. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV6 – High quality design and sustainable construction -ENV2 – Landscape - ENV3 – Green Infrastructure - ENV1 – Flood risk

			<p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM4 – Sustainable construction -DM 44 – Protecting and enhancing the natural environment -DM 45 – Trees, woodland and hedgerows
Policy SUC 1 The multifunctional role of the canal	The policy recognises and safeguards the multifunctional role of the Shropshire Union Canal as a recreational route, green and blue infrastructure corridor, ecological network, heritage asset, sustainable transport route, drainage feature and climate mitigation asset.	<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Population Human Health Water Climatic Factor Landscape Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - ENV3 – Green infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 38 – Waterways and mooring facilities - DM 37 – Recreational routeways
Policy SUC 2 Development along the canal in Christleton	The policy sets criteria for development proposals along the canal requiring high-quality design, protection of landscape character, public access, ecological enhancement and safeguarding of canal infrastructure.	<p>Landscape Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Cultural Heritage Population Human Health Water</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 2 – Landscape - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable constructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 38 – Waterways and mooring facilities
Policy SUC 3 Heritage along the canal in Christleton	The policy relates specifically to the Christleton Canal Conservation Area – any development should safeguard the heritage value of the local Canal Conservation Areas and Listed structures and protect the historic significance of the canal corridor.	<p>Protect cultural heritage Protecting local character.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV5 – Historic Environment - ENV3 – Green infrastructure

			<p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 46 – Development in conservation areas - DM 37 – Recreational routeways
<p>Policy SUC 4 Biodiversity buffer</p>	<p>This policy sets out a requirement that development must deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of 10%. For land within 10m of a canal or river developers will need to deliver a minimum 10% net gain in watercourse biodiversity units.</p> <p>The policy also sets out a 20m biodiversity buffer between any property perimeter and the Canal River Trust boundary.</p>	<p>Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, Climatic factors, Population and human health.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside - ENV 2 – Landscapes - ENV 3 – Green infrastructure - ENV 4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
<p>Policy SUC 5 Water quality and contamination</p>	<p>New development proposals along the canal should safeguard water quality and protect against potential contamination of waterways, during construction and operation.</p>	<p>Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV3 – Green Infrastructure - ENV1 – Flood risk <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment <p>DM 37 – Recreational routeways</p>

<p>Policy SUC 6 Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>The policy recognised the crucial contribution the canal makes to the green and blue infrastructure in the plan area that must be conserved.</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Population and human health. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV3 – Green infrastructure - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and Countryside - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - SOC 5 – Health and wellbeing - ENV 2 – Landscape <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 35 – Open space and new development - DM 36 – Provision for sport and recreation - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment <p>DM 37 – Recreational routeways</p>
<p>Policy SUC7 New Moorings</p>	<p>This policy sets out the criteria to consider for proposals for new mooring facilities including consideration of the degradation of the canal environment.</p>	<p>Protecting local character. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV3 – Green infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 37 – Recreational routeways - DM 38 – Waterways and mooring facilities

<p>Policy HWB 1 – Health and well-being</p>	<p>The policy resists development harming health or environment and provides criteria proposals must follow.</p>	<p>Population Human health Air Water Soil</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC 5 – Health and well-being <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 29 – Health impacts of new development
<p>Policy GG1 – GG5 Green Gaps</p>	<p>Five areas of land to the west of the Neighbourhood Area are identified as ‘green gaps’ where development must not take place unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated or where development supports the role and function of the green gap.</p>	<p>Population and human health. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil. Air quality.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and Countryside - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - SOC 5 – Health and wellbeing - ENV 2 – Landscape - ENV3 – Green infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 35 – Open space and new development - DM 36 – Provision for sport and recreation - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
<p>Local green spaces Policy LGS1 – LGS11</p>	<p>Development in Local Green Spaces will only be supported in very special circumstances and must not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the harm to the Local Green Space is</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Population and human health. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and Countryside - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation

	<p>outweighed by other material considerations.</p> <p>Eleven local green spaces are identified using the assessment criteria in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Climatic factors. Water. Soil.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC 5 – Health and wellbeing - ENV 2 – Landscape <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 35 – Open space and new development - DM 36 – Provision for sport and recreation
<p>Incidental open spaces</p> <p>IOS1 – IOS3</p>	<p>Three areas are identified as incidental open space which must not be used for development.</p> <p>They have been identified as they provide a green and open setting to the dense residences and heritage assets in the centre of the village. They do not fall under the NPPF criteria but add to the open and rural appearance of the villages.</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Population and human health. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil. Air quality.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and Countryside - SOC6 – Open space, sport and recreation - SOC 5 – Health and wellbeing - ENV 2 – Landscape <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 35 – Open space and new development - DM 36 – Provision for sport and recreation
<p>Conservation corridors and wildlife reserves</p>	<p>The policy states that there must be no housing development or no access to housing development in the critical wildlife areas</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Population and human health.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside

C1 – C4	Three conservation corridors are identified and one wildlife reserve. The benefits and unique habitats of each are described within this section of the Plan.	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil. Air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOC 5 – Health and well-being - ENV 2 – Landscapes - ENV 3 – Green infrastructure - ENV 4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable construction <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment - DM 37 – Recreational routeways
HE1 – Christleton Conservation Area	Sets the design principles for development within the Christleton Conservation Area.	Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character.	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV5 – Historic Environment <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 46 – Development in conservation areas - DM 47 – Listed buildings - DM 48 – Non-designated heritage assets - DM 50 – Archaeology
HE 2 Re-use of historic buildings	The policy states that planning applications which propose the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non-designated heritage assets) must be supported where they contribute to their long-term use and safeguard the significance of the heritage asset.	Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character.	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV5 – Historic Environment <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p>

	Sets the criteria for proposals for the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non-designated heritage assets).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 46 – Development in conservation areas - DM 47 – Listed buildings - DM 48 – Non-designated heritage assets - DM 50 – Archaeology
HE 3 The Battle of Rowton Heath	This policy states that housing development must not damage the setting of the Battlefield bounded by Hatton Heath to the south, the Shropshire Union Canal to the east and Manor Farm to the west.	Cultural heritage Landscape	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 5 – Historic environment Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 49 – Registered Parks and Gardens and Battlefields
Policy CF1 Existing community facilities	The policy resists the loss or degradation of existing community facilities unless they are replaced with the neighbourhood plan area by facilities or services of equal or greater value that meet the local need.	Population Human health.	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 11 – Infrastructure - SOC 5 – Health and well-being - SOC 6 – Open space, sport and recreation Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 2 – Impact on residential amenity - DM 39 – Culture and community facilities
Policy CF2 New or improved community facilities	The policy supports the provision of new or improved community facilities where they demonstrably meet local needs, improve access to services and prioritise the use of previously developed land.	Population Human health Material assets Land Soil	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 1 – Sustainable development - STRAT 10 – Transport and accessibility - STRAT 11 – Infrastructure

			Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 39 – Culture and community facilities
Policy CF3 Community facilities and services required	The policy identifies specific community facility needs within the plan area, including early years provision, youth provision, indoor community space, additional allotments, and sport infrastructure.	Population Human health Soil Land Climate	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - START 1 – Sustainable development - ENV 3 – Green infrastructure Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 35 – Open space and new development - DM 39 – Culture and community facilities
Policy CF4 Community facilities not permitted	The policy restricts forms of community scale development that would be incompatible with village character, including uses generating excessive traffic, noise or new access points onto the A41/A51	Human health Air quality Population Landscape and townscape	Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies: - STRAT 10 – Transport and accessibility - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable construction Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies: - DM 3 – Design, character and visual amenity - DM 39 – Culture and community facilities
LE1 – Supporting Homeworking	Supports the provision of accommodation for homeworking subject to a list of criteria.	Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic) Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment.	Local Plan (Part One) policies: -STRAT 8 – Rural area -ECON1 – Economic growth, employment and enterprise

<p>LE2 – Supporting small scale business development</p>	<p>The policy sets the criteria for the conversion of existing buildings for new small-scale employment and service-related business</p>	<p>Population and health – supports social inclusion within the community, providing access to services in Christleton and Littleton.</p> <p>Supporting the economy (no direct SEA Topic)</p> <p>Population and health – supports access to local opportunities for employment.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -STRAT 8 – Rural area -ECON1 – Economic growth, employment and enterprise <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -R3 – Employment land provision in the rural area -DM5 – Protection and refurbishment of employment land and premises
<p>Policy C1 – Broadband</p>	<p>New developments should ensure that residential and business properties have Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband. Major developments should provide FTTP broadband to all new properties.</p>	<p>Population and human health,</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- STRAT11 – Infrastructure <p>Local Plan (Part Two) policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -DM 18 – ICT and telecommunications
<p>Public Rights of Way: PROW1 – PROW3</p>	<p>PROW are defined and the policy seeks to maintain, implement improvements and introduce new paths within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p>	<p>Population and human health, Cultural heritage and Landscape, Air and climatic factors, Soil, Protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT9 – (countryside and green belt) - STRAT10 – Transport and accessibility - STRAT11 – Infrastructure - SOC5 – Health and well being - ENV2 – Landscape <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 37 – Recreational routeways

<p>Policy CWT 1 Wildlife and biodiversity:</p>	<p>Any development adjacent or in close proximity to areas identified by Cheshire Wildlife Trust must incorporate substantial mitigation to minimise the residual effects on wildlife while also seeking to enhance the overall condition of habitats in order to achieve a measurable net-gain for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Population and human health. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil. Air quality.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside - SOC 5 – Health and well-being - ENV 2 – Landscapes - ENV 3 – Green infrastructure - ENV 4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable construction <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment - DM 37 – Recreational routeways
<p>Policy CWT 2 – Wildlife Corridors</p>	<p>Development proposals on land which lies within 15 meters of a Wildlife Corridor or Site of Designated Nature Conservation will be permitted provided they safeguard and enhance the elements for which the Corridor is identified and defined.</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Climatic factors. Water. Soil. Air quality.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 3 Green infrastructure - ENV 4 Biodiversity and geodiversity <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 44 – Protecting and enhancing the natural environment - DM 37 – Recreational routeways
<p>Policy LV1 - Landscape Quality, Countryside and Open Views</p>	<p>The policy states that all new development must respect and enhance significant local views and vistas and ensure that</p>	<p>Protecting landscape and townscape. Protecting local character. Cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 9 – Greenbelt and countryside

	significant local skylines are maintained and where possible, enhanced and protected from development. Development proposals must not, individually or cumulatively, significantly harm.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENV 2 – Landscapes - ENV 5 Historic environment - ENV 6 – High quality design and sustainable construction <p>Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DM 3 – Design, character and visual amenity
Policy INF1 – Sewage and Drainage	The policy considers drainage capacity - Any net increase in wastewater generation and the impact on the local sewerage and drainage works must be carefully considered in any new development proposal. New development will only be supported subject to a number of specific criteria including the implementation of SuDs.	Human health Water quality Soil	<p>Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STRAT 11 – Infrastructure

Appendix 2: SEA Screening – Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is a local level land use planning document to determine land use in a small area. Once made, it will work within the planning policy framework of the Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a local planning policy framework for Christleton and Littleton that will become part of the development plan for Cheshire West and Chester. It is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan. The Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan proposes four green gaps to the west of the Neighbourhood Area protected from new development unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated or where development supports the role and function of the green gap. These proposed gaps may not be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan (STRAT 9), however their designation provide additional restrictions to development in the Neighbourhood Area which will not lead to any significant negative environmental effects.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan policies will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan; other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It will therefore have limited influence over changing the policies in plans at the higher strategic level or lead to the development of further plans below it. The Neighbourhood Plan proposes four green gaps to the west of the</p>	<p>No</p>

	Neighbourhood Area protected from new development unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated or where development supports the role and function of the green gap. These proposed gaps may not be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan (STRAT 9), however their designation provide additional restrictions to development in the Neighbourhood Area which will not lead to any significant negative environmental effects.	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Neighbourhood Plan is required, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Whether this basic condition is met will be tested during the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the framework for the promotion of sustainable development is set by the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the adopted Local Plan for the borough. The Neighbourhood Plan will have limited influence over changing the sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.	No
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal scoping reports for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) provide a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester. There are no specific additional environmental problems identified for the Christleton and Littleton area.</p> <p>Some of the environmental issues and problems for Christleton and Littleton include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect Green Belt, the countryside, wildlife, biodiversity and local green spaces. • Maintain and enhance wildlife corridors, cycling and walking networks. • Reduce and manage traffic on the local road network • Achieve high quality design in new developments guided by the detailed Design Code. • Safeguard and enhance local heritage assets and safeguard and enhance local character, particularly in the Christleton Conservation Area and Canal Conservation Area. 	No

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a healthy environment for its communities with access to local and a wider network of open spaces with ample opportunities for cycling, walking, running and riding • Protect and provide community facilities and assets. <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will seek to address these issues.</p>	
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. It does include policies on these matters. The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in part 2 of this document.</p>	<p>No</p>

Appendix 3: SEA Screening – Characteristics of the plan’s effects and of the area likely to be affected

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Protecting landscape and townscape.	High probability as policies support the protection of landscape and townscape character. However, the Green Belt designation already prevents certain development. Green gaps are also proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan to add protection from development.	Potential small scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the wider than neighbourhood level – as would impact neighbourhood area and views from surrounding areas.	None – policies aim to protect and enhance landscape and townscape.	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No

¹ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects 1	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	Long term, over the Plan period.									
Cultural heritage	High probability as policies support the protection of the Christleton Conservation Area and Canal Conservation Area and local heritage assets. Long term, over the Plan period.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None – policies aim to protect the specific local cultural heritage areas and assets.	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	None	None identified.	No
Protecting local character.	High probability as the policies and Design Code support the protection of local character. However, the Green Belt designation already prevents certain development.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the wider than neighbourhood level – as would impact neighbourhood area and views from surrounding areas.	None – policies aim to protect and enhance local character.	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects 1	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	Long term, over the Plan period.									
Population and human health.	Medium probability as restrictive policies may impact on housing delivery. Policies promote sustainable travel. Medium to long term. And human health through walking, cycling and outdoor recreation and open spaces. Medium term.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect on health and potential mixed cumulative effects on housing delivery as promoting small scale housing (to a maximum of 6 units) housing on one specific site, but restrictions relating to heritage and biodiversity, green gaps may reduce	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects 1	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
		housing opportunities.								
Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Medium probability as policies refer to biodiversity requirements in very specific locations within the neighbourhood area e.g. wildlife and canal corridors. Long term, over the plan period.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the wider than neighbourhood level, as could connect to neighbouring biodiversity corridors.	None – policies aim to protect and enhance biodiversity.	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No
Climatic factors.	Medium probability over medium to long term. Policies promote passive design, renewable energy, SuDS and biodiversity net gains. The plan protects and enhances the green	Potential small-scale mixed cumulative effect as policies promote protection of planting / SuDs, green	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.		No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	infrastructure including nature recovery as well as sustainable transport.	spaces / biodiversity,.								
Water	High probability as policies seek to promote sustainable drainage systems and prevent water quality impact on biodiversity. Medium to long term.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the wider than neighbourhood level, as could reduce runoff and water quality issues in neighbouring areas as well as within the parish.	None – policies aim to protect water quality and reduce the risk of flooding.	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No
Soil	Low probability as no specific policies relating to soil. Some potential indirect impacts, but levels of development likely to be low.	Potential small-scale positive cumulative effect.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	None	None identified.	No

Identified the effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
	Medium to long term.									
Air quality	Low probability, long term. Policy supports accessibility by sustainable transport modes and reduction in localised traffic/designation of large 'green gaps'.	Potential small scale positive effects.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No
Supporting the economy (no direct SEA topic).	Low probability, long term depending on scale and type of employment development proposed. Policies relating to home working and the local economy.	Potential for small cumulative effects, depending on nature and location of development proposed.	None	None	Local small-scale impact at the neighbourhood level.	None	No relevant quality standards or limit values.	Minor impact only as Green Belt designation already restricts intensity of land use.	None identified.	No

Appendix 4 – HRA Screening – European sites relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts	Relevance to the Neighbourhood Area
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester	Water body with clear water of low nutrient status characteristics of oligotrophic waters and a marginal zone of shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). Site supports an assemblage of plants that are rare in the lowlands of England, including bog moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp) and the scarce narrow small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes – reduction in size of the mere due to natural lowering of the local water table caused by successive droughts, resulting in threat to shoreline communities from desiccation and invasion by birch and willow. - Atmospheric pollution from nearby roads. 	Potential impacts assessed in Appendix 5.
Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site	Located within Cheshire West and Chester	Series of open water and peatland sites supporting a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. This includes natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs with floating bog moss. Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes. - Despite number of visitors to some of the meres and mosses, interest features are resilient to recreational pressure and off-track trampling is not a significant issue due to the hazardous nature of the sites away from designated tracks and boardwalks. - Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation. 	Potential impacts assessed in Appendix 5.
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester	Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation. 	Potential impacts assessed in Appendix 5.
River Dee and Bala Lake SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester	The site contains the following Annex 1 habitats:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational activities, specifically fishing. 	The River Dee and Bala Lake SAC falls within the 15km radius

<p>England and Wales)</p>	<p>Chester. Identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester and also the receiving watercourse for wastewater treatment works discharge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Renunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation <p>The site contains the following Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) - Floating water-plaintain (<i>Luronium natans</i>) - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) - Bullhead (<i>Cottus gobio</i>) - Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of excessive abstraction resulting in a decrease in freshwater flows and an increase in sediment loading of water such that dehydration of interest features may occur. - Fish entrainment associated with abstraction. - Deterioration in water quality and changes in flow rates due to ex-industrial runoff, discharge of treated sewage effluent and agricultural runoff. - Introduction of invasive species. 	<p>of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area. However, it is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan. Indirect effects via abstraction and water quality / flow are also unlikely due to the distance and the small scale of the area, the anticipated small scale of any developments (due to Green Belt restrictions as well as the policies) and the lack of pathways of impact.</p>
<p>Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar</p>	<p>Located partially within Cheshire West and Chester</p>	<p>Designated for over-wintering and on passage birds.</p> <p>Over winter – Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius 44etanus</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus 44etanus44</i>).</p> <p>On passage – Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>).</p> <p>It also contains internationally important populations of Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) and Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance from abrasion (boating, anchoring, trampling). - Selective extraction of species (harvesting, bait digging, recreational fishing) - Visual presence of recreational activity. - Disturbance to birds from increased recreational pressure and wildfowling. - Coastal squeeze and loss of supporting habitat. - Deterioration in water quality. - Deterioration in air quality. - Introduction of non-native species. 	<p>Potential impacts assessed in Appendix 5.</p>

		It also has a 5 year peak mean (1998/99-2002/3) of 89,576 waterfowl.		
Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar	Downstream of the River Dee which is identified as a source of potable water for Cheshire West and Chester. Development in the Borough also creates potential water quality pathways.	<p>The site includes the following Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Renunculon Fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation. - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand. - Atlantic salt meadows. <p>The site contains the following Habitats Directive Annex II habitats and species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estuaries - Annual vegetation of drift lines - Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts - Embryonic shifting dunes - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation - Humid dune slacks - Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) - River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) - Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) <p>It also supports:</p> <p>During the breeding season –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) - Common tern (<i>Sterna 45etanus</i>) <p>On passage –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) <p>Over winter –</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</p> <p>The site also supports populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance from abrasion from recreational pressures on the upper shore, dredging operations and fisheries. - Disturbance from commercial / industrial developments. - Selective extraction of species (bait digging and shellfishing). - Deterioration in water quality. - Coastal squeeze from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage. - Air quality. - Excessive abstraction resulting in decrease in freshwater flows into the estuary. - Introduction of non-native species. 	The Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar falls within the 15km radius of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area. However, it is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan. Indirect effects via air quality, abstraction and disturbance are also unlikely due to the distance and the small scale of the area, the anticipated small scale of any developments (due to Green Belt restrictions as well as the policies) and the lack of pathways of impact.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) - Curlew (<i>Numenius 46etanus</i>) - Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) - Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) - Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) - Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) - Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) - Redshank (<i>Tringa 46etanus</i>) - Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) <p>The estuary also regularly supports 130,408 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1995-99).</p> <p>It also meets several Ramsar criteria as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats with large expanses of saltmarsh towards the head of the estuary. - Supporting an overall bird assemblage of international importance. - Supporting the following species at levels of international importance: Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius 46etanus</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa 46etanus</i>), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas Acuta</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>) and Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>). 		
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<p>Specials Areas of Conservation: Deeside and Buckley Newt sites</p>	<p>Located within the 15km radius of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p>	<p>With regard to the SAC, the site is designated under article 4.2 of the EC Directive 79/409 as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H91AO Old sessile woodland with Ilex and Blechnum. <p>5.36</p> <p>With regard to the SAC, the site is designated under article 4.2 of the EC Directive 79/409 as it hosts the following species listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S1166 Great crested newt Triturus cristatus. 	<p>With regards to the Deeside and Buckley Newt Sites SAC66, the following are listed as environmental vulnerabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Water quality; •Invasive species; •Predation; •Obstacles to movement; and •Recreational use. 	<p>The Deeside and Buckley Newt SAC falls within the 15km radius of the Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Area. However, it is a significant distance from the Neighbourhood Area and is unlikely to be directly affected by the policies in the plan. Indirect effects via air quality, abstraction and disturbance are also unlikely due to the distance and the small scale of the area, the anticipated small scale of any developments (due to Green Belt restrictions as well as the policies) and the lack of pathways of impact. The environmental vulnerabilities of this SAC are localised.</p>
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Appendix 5: HRA Screening – Screening of Neighbourhood Plan policies for Likely Significant Effect

Policy	Comment	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
Policy HN1 – Housing need	The policy supports the delivery housing to meet the locally identified needs for 12 dwellings as well as local connection households.	The policy does not allocate land, identify sites or promote development beyond locally identified needs. Development is small scale and controlled. No LSE.	No LSE.
Policy HN2 – Housing density	The policy restricts density to the village appropriate levels with an average of 16 dwellings per hectare on sites less than 1 hectare in size.	This is a protective, limiting policy. It reduces the likelihood of over-intensification and associated environmental pressure. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy HN3 – Brownfield or Greenfield Development	The policy discourages the co-location of new housing schemes and requires a design led approach.	No land allocation or encouragement of development, effects will be neutral or positive. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy HN4 – Rural exception sites	The policy supports small scale housing to meet local need adjacent to settlements.	Scale and location of development is controlled, unlikely to generate significant effects. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy HN5 – Infill and back land housing	The policy permits limited infill in the village and also resists back land development.	Protective policy preventing harmful forms of development. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy HN6 – Repurposing of empty buildings	The policy prioritises the reuse of vacant buildings.	Positive environmental effect through reduced land take. No LSE.	No LSE
Housing design (Design Code Policies HDC1-HDC31)	The various Design Code policies require all development to comply with a detailed local Design Code covering requirements for green infrastructure, trees and planting, biodiversity, SuDs, lighting and dark skies, public spaces, movement, built form and identity.	Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, SuDs and biodiversity. No significant impact on abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE.
Policy SUC 1 The Multifunctional Role of the Canal	The policy recognises and safeguards the multifunctional role of the Shropshire Union Canal as a recreational route, green and blue infrastructure corridor, ecological network, heritage asset, sustainable transport route, drainage feature and climate mitigation asset.	The policy is protective and descriptive. It does not allocate land or promote development. It safeguards existing environmental, recreational, hydrological and heritage functions and is likely to have neutral or positive effects. No LSE.	No LSE.

Policy SUC 2 Development along the canal in Christleton	The policy sets criteria for development proposals along the canal requiring high-quality design, protection of landscape character, public access, ecological enhancement and safeguarding of canal infrastructure.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No LSE.
Policy SUC 3 Heritage along the canal in Christleton	The policy relates specifically to the Christleton Canal Conservation Area – any development should safeguard the heritage value of the local Canal Conservation Areas and Listed structures and protect the historic significance of the canal corridor.	This is a protective heritage policy. It does not encourage development and instead restricts potentially harmful changes. No LSE.	No LSE.
Policy SUC 4 Biodiversity buffer	This policy sets out a requirement that development must deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of 10%. For land within 10m of a canal or river developers will need to deliver a minimum 10% net gain in watercourse biodiversity units. The policy also sets out a 20m biodiversity buffer between any property perimeter and the Canal River Trust boundary.	The policy is environmentally protective and enhancement focussed. It requires additional safeguards for biodiversity and watercourses. No LSE.	No LSE.
Policy SUC 5 Water Quality and Contamination	New development proposals should safeguard water quality and protect against potential contamination of waterways, during construction and operation.	This is a protective policy aimed at avoiding pollution and environmental harm. No LSE.	No LSE.
Policy SUC 6 Green Infrastructure	The policy recognises the crucial contribution the canal makes to the green and blue infrastructure in the plan area that must be conserved.	Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection and enhancement of the Shropshire Union Canal and its functionality. Small-scale impacts due to the relatively small size of the Neighbourhood area. No impacts on abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy SUC7 New Moorings	This policy sets out the criteria to consider for proposals for new mooring facilities including consideration of the degradation of the canal environment.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No LSE
Policy HWB 1 – Health and well-being	The policy resists development harming health or environment and provides criteria proposals must follow.	The policy is protective and therefore – No LSE.	No LSE
Policy GG1 – GG5	Five areas of land to the west of the Neighbourhood Area are identified as		No LSE

<p>Green Gaps</p>	<p>'green gaps' where development must not take place unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated or where development supports the role and function of the green gap.</p>	<p>Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through the designation of large areas of land to the west of the Neighbourhood Area as 'green gaps', Greater use of these existing Green Belt areas for recreation has the potential for recreational disturbance, however due to the relatively small population of the Neighbourhood Area, any disturbance is likely to be limited – no LSE</p> <p>Green spaces in the Neighbourhood Area could reduce pressure on other sites including coastal areas and meres. The green spaces already have some protection through the Local Plan and NPPF. No impact on abstraction or invasive species. No LSE.</p>	
<p>Local green spaces Policy LGS1 – LGS11</p>	<p>Development in Local Green Spaces will only be supported in very special circumstances and must not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the harm to the Local Green Space is outweighed by other material considerations. Eleven local green spaces are identified using the assessment criteria in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection of Local Green Spaces. Greater use of existing green spaces in the Neighbourhood Area could reduce pressure on other sites including coastal areas and meres. The green spaces already have some protection through the Local Plan and NPPF. No impact on abstraction or invasive species. No LSE.</p>	<p>No LSE</p>
<p>Incidental open spaces IOS1 – IOS3</p>	<p>Three areas are identified as incidental open space which must not be used for development. They have been identified as they provide a green and open setting to the dense residences and heritage assets in the centre of the village. They do not fall under the NPPF criteria but add to the open and rural appearance of the villages..</p>	<p>Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection of Incidental Open Spaces. Small-scale impacts due to the small size of the Incidental Open Spaces. No significant impact on recreational disturbance, abstraction or invasive species. No LSE.</p>	<p>No LSE</p>
<p>Conservation corridors and wildlife reserves C1 – C4</p>	<p>The policy states that there must be no housing development or no access to housing development in the critical wildlife areas Three conservation corridors are identified and one wildlife reserve. The benefits and unique habitats of each are described within this section of the Plan.</p>	<p>Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection and enhancement of the Nature Network and its functionality. Small-scale impacts due to the relatively small size of the Neighbourhood area. No impacts on abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.</p>	<p>No LSE</p>
<p>HE1 – Christleton Conservation Area</p>	<p>Sets the design principles for development within the Christleton Conservation Area.</p>	<p>No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.</p>	<p>No LSE</p>

HE 2 - Re-use of historic buildings	<p>The policy states that planning applications which propose the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non-designated heritage assets) must be supported where they contribute to their long-term use and safeguard the significance of the heritage asset.</p> <p>Sets the criteria for proposals for the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non- designated heritage assets).</p>	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE
HE 3 - The Battle of Rowton Heath	This policy states that housing development must not damage the setting of the Battlefield bounded by Hatton Heath to the south, the Shropshire Union Canal to the east and Manor Farm to the west..	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy CF1 - Existing community facilities	The policy resists the loss or degradation of existing community facilities unless they are replaced with the neighbourhood plan area by facilities or services of equal or greater value that meet the local need.	No links / pathways with water quality, atmospheric (air) pollution or recreational disturbance. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy CF2 – New or improved community facilities	The policy supports the provision of new or improved community facilities where they demonstrably meet local needs, improve access to services and prioritise the use of previously developed land.	The policy is criteria based and does not allocate land, specify sites or require facilities to be delivered. Potential effects are likely to be neutral or positive, particularly in relation to population wellbeing and accessibility. No LSE	No LSE
Policy CF3 – Community facilities and services required	The policy identifies specific community facility needs within the plan area, including early years provision, youth provision, indoor community space, additional allotments, and sport infrastructure.	The policy identifies areas of need and informs future decision-making. As such No LSE.	No LSE
Policy CF4 – Community facilities not permitted	The policy restricts forms of community scale development that would be incompatible with village character, including uses generating excessive traffic, noise or new access points onto the A41/A51	This is a restrictive and protective policy. By preventing development likely to generate adverse impacts, it reduces the risk of significant effects. No LSE	No LSE
LE1 – Supporting Homeworking	Supports the provision of accommodation for homeworking subject to a list of criteria.	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE

LE2 – Supporting small scale business development	The policy sets the criteria for the conversion of existing buildings for new small-scale employment and service-related business.	No links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No LSE
PolicyC1 – Broadband	New developments should ensure that residential and business properties have Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband. Major developments should provide FTTP broadband to all new properties.	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE
Public Rights of Way: PROW1 – PROW3	PROW are defined and the policy seeks to maintain, implement improvements and introduce new paths within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	Potential links/pathways with recreational disturbance, particularly regarding the reinstating of lost footpaths. The enhancements and reinstations could result in habitat loss or increased flood risk. This could also lead to increased activity in areas that previously were left alone – leading to further recreational disturbance. Although there is a potential for habitat loss and recreational disturbance, the changes will be very small scale and the potential future use of the routeways is likely to be low as the population of the two villages is low.	No LSE
Wildlife and biodiversity: Policy CWT 1	Any development adjacent or in close proximity to areas identified by Cheshire Wildlife Trust must incorporate substantial mitigation to minimise the residual effects on wildlife while also seeking to enhance the overall condition of habitats in order to achieve a measurable net-gain for biodiversity.	The policy aims to conserve or enhance biodiversity. Potential positive impact as a result of tree planting and habitat creation, also encouraging the growth of the ecological network and helping to minimise flood risk. No other links/pathways with recreational disturbance, water quality or atmospheric (air) pollution – no LSE	No LSE
Policy CWT 2 – Wildlife Corridors	Development proposals on land which lies within 15 meters of a Wildlife Corridor or Site of Designated Nature Conservation will be permitted provided they safeguard and enhance the elements for which the Corridor is identified and defined.	Generally positive impacts on water quality, hydrology, runoff and air pollution through protection and enhancement of the Nature Network and its functionality. Small-scale impacts due to the relatively small size of the Neighbourhood area. No impacts on abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE
Policy LV1 - Landscape Quality, Countryside and Open Views Local Views	The policy states that all new development must respect and enhance significant local views and vistas and ensure that significant local skylines are maintained and where possible, enhanced and protected from development. Development proposals must not, individually or cumulatively, significantly harm. Local	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE

	views have been identified and mapped.		
Policy INF1 – Sewage and Drainage	The policy considers drainage capacity - Any net increase in wastewater generation and the impact on the local sewerage and drainage works must be carefully considered in any new development proposal. New development will only be supported subject to a number of specific criteria including the implementation of SuDs.	No links or pathways with water quality, runoff, air pollution, abstraction, recreational disturbance or invasive species. No LSE.	No LSE

Appendix 6: Marine Plan Screening – Assessment of potential to impact on the North-West Marine Plan area

Policy	Key features of the policy	Potential pathways of impact	Assessment of potential to impact on the North West Marine Plan area	Assessment of potential to impact on the Welsh National Marine Plan area
Policy HN1 – Housing need	The policy supports the delivery housing to meet the locally identified needs for 12 dwellings as well as local connection households.	Wastewater and water quality	The number of housing supported is very small in scale and would therefore not give rise to any likely significant effects.	N/A
Policy HN2 – Housing density	The policy restricts density to the village appropriate levels with an average of 16 dwellings per hectare on sites less than 1 hectare in size.	Wastewater and water quality	N/A	N/A
Policy HN3 – Brownfield or Greenfield Development	The policy discourages the co-location of new housing schemes and requires a design led approach.	None	The policy seeks to limit cumulative impacts and there would therefore be no impact on the Marine Plan area.	N/A
Policy HN4 – Rural exception sites	The policy supports small scale housing to meet local need adjacent to settlements.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy HN5 – Infill and back land housing	The policy permits limited infill in the village and also resists back land development.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy HN6 – Repurposing of empty buildings	The policy prioritises the reuse of vacant buildings.	None	The policy actively reduces environmental pressures by favouring reuse over new builds.	N/A
Housing design (Design Code Policies HDC1-HDC31)	The various Design Code policies require all development to comply with a detailed local Design Code covering requirements for green infrastructure, trees and planting, biodiversity, SuDs, lighting and dark	Water quality and marine pollution.	Potential beneficial impacts on water quality as the policy requires new development to maximise retention of surface water on the site and minimise runoff through the use of SuDs. Small scale impacts due to distance from Marine Plan area.	Potential beneficial impacts on water quality as the policy requires new development to maximise retention of surface water on the site and minimise runoff through the use of SuDs. Small scale impacts due to distance from Marine Plan area.

	skies, public spaces, movement, built form and identity.			
Policy SUC 1 The Multifunctional role of the canal	The policy recognises and safeguards the multifunctional role of the Shropshire Union Canal as a recreational route, green and blue infrastructure corridor, ecological network, heritage asset, sustainable transport route, drainage feature and climate mitigation asset.	Recreational pressure, water quality and marine pollution	The policy relates to the Shropshire Union Canal, potential beneficial impacts – encourages environmental improvements near waterways, water quality protection – indirectly supports through design and landscaping improvements. Small scale impacts due to distance from Marine Plan area.	The policy relates to the Shropshire Union Canal, potential beneficial impacts – encourages environmental improvements near waterways, water quality protection – indirectly supports through design and landscaping improvements. Small scale impacts due to distance from Marine Plan area.
Policy SUC2 Development along the canal in Christleton	The policy sets criteria for development proposals along the canal requiring high-quality design, protection of landscape character, public access, ecological enhancement and safeguarding of canal infrastructure.	Local surface water runoff control	The policy limits the form, scale and nature of canal development, reducing downstream water quality risks	N/A
Policy SUC 3 Heritage along the canal in Christleton	The policy relates specifically to the Christleton Canal Conservation Area – any development should safeguard the heritage value of the local Canal Conservation Areas and Listed structures and protect the historic significance of the canal corridor.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy SUC 4 Biodiversity buffer	This policy sets out a requirement that development must deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of 10%. For land within 10m of a canal or river developers will need to deliver a minimum 10% net gain in watercourse biodiversity units. The policy also sets out a 20m biodiversity buffer between any property perimeter and the Canal River Trust boundary.	Improved surface water runoff	The policy is a protective policy that actively supports the North West Marine Plan objectives.	N/A
Policy SUC 5 Water quality	New development proposals should safeguard water quality and protect against potential contamination of	Reduced pollutants entering inland watercourses	The policy directly mitigates one of the few credible impact pathways.	N/A

and contamination	waterways, during construction and operation.			
Policy SUC 6 Green Infrastructure	The policy recognises the crucial contribution the canal makes to the green and blue infrastructure in the plan area that must be conserved.	Recreational access impact	Complements NWMP recreation and natural capital aims. Canal improvements can bolster public access and habitat connectivity at river-estuary junctions. Potential recreational disturbance, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	Complements NWMP recreation and natural capital aims. Canal improvements can bolster public access and habitat connectivity at river-estuary junctions. Potential recreational disturbance, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Policy SUC7 New Moorings	This policy sets out the criteria to consider for proposals for new mooring facilities including consideration of the degradation of the canal environment.	Boat traffic, pollution, habitat disturbance	Potential beneficial impacts as includes consideration of the degradation of the canal environment. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	Potential beneficial impacts as includes consideration of the degradation of the canal environment. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Policy HWB 1 – Health and well-being	The policy resists development harming health or environment and provides criteria proposals must follow.	The policy is restrictive and will prevent negative impacts.	N/A	N/A
Policy GG1 – GG5 Green Gaps	Five areas of land to the west of the Neighbourhood Area are identified as 'green gaps' where development must not take place unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated or where development supports the role and function of the green gap.	Recreational access impact	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Local green spaces Policy LGS1 – LGS11	Development in Local Green Spaces will only be supported in very special circumstances and must not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the harm to the Local Green Space is outweighed by other material considerations. Eleven local green spaces are identified using the assessment criteria in the NPPF.	Recreational access impact	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
IOS1 – IOS3	Three areas are identified as incidental open space which must not be used for development.	Recreational access impact	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green

Incidental open spaces	They have been identified as they provide a green and open setting to the dense residences and heritage assets in the centre of the village. They do not fall under the NPPF criteria but add to the open and rural appearance of the villages..		enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
C1 – C4 Conservation corridors and wildlife reserves	The policy states that there must be no housing development or no access to housing development in the critical wildlife areas Three conservation corridors are identified and one wildlife reserve. The benefits and unique habitats of each are described within this section of the Plan..	Habitat enhancement, aquatic corridor connectivity	No land-use policy to assess. The designation would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	No land-use policy to assess. The designation would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
HE1 – Christleton Conservation Area	Sets the design principles for development within the Christleton Conservation Area.	None	N/A	N/A
HE 2 Re-use of historic buildings	The policy states that planning applications which propose the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non-designated heritage assets) must be supported where they contribute to their long-term use and safeguard the significance of the heritage asset. Sets the criteria for proposals for the re-use of historic buildings (designated and non- designated heritage assets).	None	N/A	N/A
HE 3 The Battle of Rowton Heath	This policy states that housing development must not damage the setting of the Battlefield bounded by Hatton Heath to the south, the Shropshire Union Canal to the east and Manor Farm to the west..	None	N/A	N/A

Policy CF1 Existing community facilities	The policy resists the loss or degradation of existing community facilities unless they are replaced with the neighbourhood plan area by facilities or services of equal or greater value that meet the local need.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy CF 2 New or improved community facilities	The policy supports the provision of new or improved community facilities where they demonstrably meet local needs, improve access to services and prioritise the use of previously developed land.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy CF 3 Community facilities and services required	The policy identifies specific community facility needs within the plan area, including early years provision, youth provision, indoor community space, additional allotments, and sport infrastructure.	None	N/A	N/A
Policy CF4 – Community facilities not permitted	The policy restricts forms of community scale development that would be incompatible with village character, including uses generating excessive traffic, noise or new access points onto the A41/A51	None	N/A	N/A
LE1 – Supporting Homeworking	Supports the provision of accommodation for homeworking subject to a list of criteria.	None	N/A	N/A
LE2 – Supporting small scale business development	The policy sets the criteria for the conversion of existing buildings for new small-scale employment and service-related business.	None	N/A	N/A
PolicyC1 – Broadband	New developments should ensure that residential and business properties have Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband. Major	None	N/A	N/A

	developments should provide FTTP broadband to all new properties.			
Public Rights of Way: PROW1 – PROW3	PROW are defined and the policy seeks to maintain, implement improvements and introduce new paths within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.	Recreational access impact	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	No land-use policy to assess, however designating green gaps is likely to have positive impacts by preserving green infrastructure that enhances resilience and public amenity near marine areas, however due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Wildlife and biodiversity: Policy CWT 1	Any development adjacent or in close proximity to areas identified by Cheshire Wildlife Trust must incorporate substantial mitigation to minimise the residual effects on wildlife while also seeking to enhance the overall condition of habitats in order to achieve a measurable net-gain for biodiversity.	Habitat enhancement, aquatic corridor connectivity	The policy would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	The policy would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Policy CWT 2	Development proposals on land which lies within 15 meters of a Wildlife Corridor or Site of Designated Nature Conservation will be permitted provided they safeguard and enhance the elements for which the Corridor is identified and defined.	Habitat enhancement, aquatic corridor connectivity	The policy would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.	The policy would have potential positive impacts as it would supports cross-system biodiversity enhancement, including natural corridor connections from land through waterways to coastal habitats. Promotes cross-boundary ecological continuity. Due to the distance from the Marine Plan area the potential impacts are low.
Landscape Quality, Countryside and Open Views Local Views	The policy states that all new development must respect and enhance significant local views and vistas and ensure that significant local skylines are maintained and where possible, enhanced and protected from development. Development proposals must not, individually or cumulatively, significantly harm. Local views have been identified and mapped.	None	N/A	N/A

<p>Policy INF1 – Sewage and Drainage</p>	<p>The policy considers drainage capacity - Any net increase in wastewater generation and the impact on the local sewerage and drainage works must be carefully considered in any new development proposal. New development will only be supported subject to a number of specific criteria including the implementation of SuDs.</p>	<p>The downstream effects on the Dee Estuary, which forms part of the North West Inshore Marine Plan area. There is also potential effects on estuarine water quality, nutrients and protected habitats if wastewater capacity were exceeded.</p>	<p>The policy prevents the negative potential impacts on the Marine Plan area by establishing a clear refusal trigger where wastewater treatment capacity is insufficient.</p>	<p>Given the inland location of the plan area, distance from the Welsh Marine waters and the policy's preventative nature, the realistic impact which the policy could result in effects on Welsh marine areas.</p>
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Appendix 7: Comments received during consultation on initial screening opinion

Statutory environmental consultee	Date Consulted	Response
Environment Agency	13 th November 2025 and follow up on 19 th January 2026	None
Historic England	13 th November 2025	Yes – see correspondence below
Natural England	13 th November 2025 and follow up on 19 th January 2026	Yes – see correspondence below
Natural Resources Wales	13 th November 2025 and follow up on 19 th January 2026	None
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	13 th November 2025 and follow up on 19 th January 2026	Non-specific response received 19.01.26

Historic England Response: 16th December 2025

Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Opinion

We write in response to your e-mail of 13 November 2025, seeking a formal screening opinion from Historic England as to whether SEA is required for Christleton and Littleton Neighbourhood Plan. As the public body that advises on England's historic environment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine the advice given to the

question, “Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?” in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied at this time within the Initial Screening Determination.

The Neighbourhood Plan area includes a number of designated heritage assets. There are also other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value.

In the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 Annex II of the SEA Directive, and on the basis of the information supplied, we concur that the draft plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects upon the historic environment, and so Historic England are of the view that SEA is unlikely to be required.

We would like to stress that this opinion is based on the information made available on 13 November 2025. To avoid any doubt, this decision does not preclude Historic England providing further advice on later stages of the SEA process, should this be required, nor objecting to specific proposals that may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan), where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

The views of all statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for SEA is made.

Historic England advises that the conservation and archaeological staff for Cheshire West &

Chester Council and the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on: local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how policies or proposals can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of historic assets.

We request that you please send Historic England a copy of the determination as required by Reg 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Yours sincerely

Historic Places Adviser

Natural England Response – 28th January 2026

Christleton & Littleton Neighbourhood Plan - SEA, HRA & Marine Plan Screening Opinion

Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 13 November 2025 and 19 January 2026.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural

environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹ , either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the Planning Practice Guidance. This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the

proposals in the plan

- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's standing advice on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice.

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to

consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Consultations Team