

Cheeseman's Green & Waterbrook AAP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

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Consultation

The Government have designated the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England (formerly Countryside Agency and English Nature) as “authorities with environmental responsibilities”⁽¹⁾. These agencies must be consulted by plan making authorities on the content of the Scoping Report and SEA requirements. The regulations also specify that the consultation bodies are to be given a period of 5 weeks to respond from the date when they receive the Scoping Report. The Scoping Report will also be sent out to other stakeholders that the Council believe have a valuable input and interest in the AAP being prepared. Guidance on consulting with these bodies is given in the ODPM Guidance. The complete list of consultees is listed below.

Table 1 List of Consultees	
Environment Agency	Natural England
English Heritage	

1 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

How to respond to this consultation

The SA Scoping Report for the Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook AAP will be the subject of a 5 week consultation from *11th May to 15th June 2009*.

Address	Contact details
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Consultation Questions

The Consultation questions are set out in Table 2. These are repeated later in the relevant sections of this document.

Table 2 Consultation Questions	
TASK A1 - Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives	
Q1	Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted?
Q2	Are there other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the AAP (other than those in preceding SA reports)?
TASK A2 - Collecting baseline information	
Q3	Do you agree that the baseline data collected is appropriate to the AAP?
Q4	Do you have, or know of, any additional relevant baseline data which should be added to that already listed?
Q5	Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data presented?
TASK A3 - Identifying Sustainability Issues	
Q6	Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues that need to be considered in the development of the AAP?
Q7	Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Ashford area that need to be considered in the development of the AAP?
TASK A4 - Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	
Q8	Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for the AAP?
Q9	Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities that need to be considered in the development of the AAP?
TASK A5 - Consulting on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal	
TASK B1 - Testing the DPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework	
Q10	Do you agree with the draft objectives of the AAP?
Q11	Are there any other sources of interaction between the AAP's objectives and the sustainability objectives in addition to those identified?

List of Abbreviations and Tables

List of abbreviations

Table 3 - Abbreviations	
ABC	Ashford Borough Council
AIWMS1	Ashford Integrated Water Management Study, Phase One
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
EA	Environment Agency
IRF	Integrated Regional Framework
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
AAP	Area Action Plan
DPD	Development Plan Document

Context and Purpose of the SEA/SA

Introduction

This SA Scoping Report for the **Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook AAP** is the first output of the SA process and DPD preparation. It forms part of the wider Sustainability Appraisal framework devised for the Local Development Framework. A final Sustainability Appraisal report will be prepared to accompany the AAP.

Background to the Sustainability Appraisal Process

New regulations require that the Ashford Local Development Framework, which is being produced to replace the existing local plan, must be subject to both Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires SAs to be carried out on Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

SAs help planning authorities to fulfil the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in preparing their plans through a structured assessment of the objectives and core strategies against key sustainability issues for their area.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) which implement European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, requires SEA of a wide range of plans and programmes, including LDFs. The objective of the SEA Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to promoting sustainable development.

SEA and SA are very closely linked. SA aims to integrate sustainability issues into decision making by appraising the plan or strategy using environmental, social and economic objectives. SEA also aims to facilitate sustainable development but its emphasis is on integrating environmental considerations into decision making through a thorough analysis of environmental issues.

Although the requirement to carry out both an SA and SEA is mandatory, it is possible to satisfy the requirements of both pieces of legislation through a single appraisal process. The Government has produced guidance for both undertaking SEA generally ⁽¹⁾ and for SA on Development Plan Documents ⁽²⁾ in particular which sets out details on how SA and SEA should be integrated into one process. The appraisal process for the DPDs therefore incorporates the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the SEA Regulations.

The Act requires local development documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The most widely accepted definition of sustainable development is: "*Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own*

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- 1 "A Practical Guide to the Strategy Environmental Assessment Directive" (ODPM, 2005)
 - 2 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

needs". At the start of the SA process of Ashford's LDF the principle sustainable development objectives were taken from the 1999 Better Quality of Life Strategy, however in 2005 the Government prepared the UK Sustainable Development Strategy⁽³⁾. These both contained a number of key principles:-

A Better Quality of Life (1999)	UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective protection of the environment • Social Progress • Prudent use of natural resources, and • Economic growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production • Climate Change • Natural Resource protection • Sustainable communities

The Ashford Local Development Framework

The Ashford LDF is the emerging development plan for Ashford. LDFs are the new form of spatial development plan introduced by the Government's planning reforms in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The LDF will replace the existing local plan. The new LDF will set out the strategy for the way in which land is used and to guide new development in the Borough for the period up to 2021.

The LDF will consist of a portfolio of documents. Central to this portfolio is the Core Strategy DPD (adopted July 2008) which sets out the overall vision for future development in the Borough and is the basis for other Local Development Documents (LDD). Other planned DPDs include:

- Town Centre Area Action Plan,
- Urban Sites & Infrastructure DPD,
- Chilmington Green and Discovery Park Area Action Plan,
- Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD,
- Generic Development Control DPD,
- Proposals Map

Supplementary Planning Documents as indicated in the Local Development Scheme (2007) include:-

- Design,
- Sustainable Design & Construction,
- Residential Space & Layout,
- Affordable Housing,
- Sustainable Drainage Systems,
- Infrastructure Contributions,
- Green Space and Water Environment,
- Broadband & Telecommunications

The Council's LDF Sustainability Appraisal objectives were developed as part of the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal. These will be used to test against the DPD objectives and options to ensure conformity with the parent document.

3 Securing the Future – UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005

Local Development Framework Sustainability Objectives

1. Enhancement of biodiversity and improvement of habitat richness
2. Reduce the proportion of journeys made by the private car, and promote more sustainable modes of transport
3. Maintain and enhance the quality of Ashford's landscape
4. Retain and promote sites of heritage and conservation importance
5. To make the most efficient use of land in all new development
6. To reduce the risk of flooding
7. Provide the ability to withstand impacts of climate change
8. To encourage high design quality and an appropriate 'sense of place' in new buildings
9. To ensure that everyone has access to good quality affordable houses that meets their needs
10. To reinforce the attractions of the town centre by encouraging a wide range of uses for the resident and the visitor
11. To ensure that all groups of the population have access to the health, education, leisure and recreation services which are required in terms of provision and access
12. To reduce the amount of crime and anti-social behaviour across the Borough
13. Promote thriving mixed-use development
14. To maximise brownfield land development
15. To avoid previously undeveloped land in the floodplain
16. Minimise irreversible loss of high-grade agricultural land
17. To reduce the amount of waste produced and maximise the rates of recycling other materials
18. To encourage the use of renewable resources and the provision of renewable energy within the Borough
19. To reach a balance between employment and housing growth
20. To generate a significant number of new jobs in accessible locations in Ashford
21. To enable a variety of quality employment opportunities in Ashford
22. To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of village and town centre

Purpose and Status of the Report

The SEA Regulations require that the consultation bodies shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the Environmental Report - this being the main written output from the SEA/SA process.

Scoping is the first task in this process. It consists of deciding the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA, including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods used, and the structure and contents of the SA report.

This Scoping Report relates to stage A of the process outlined in the latest ODPM guidance. Future tasks relate to Stage B to E. Within this scoping report the draft DPD objectives will be tested against the SA framework at the earliest opportunity to identify potential conflicts. The SA Report has brought forward Task B1 from the SA guidance into the scoping report so that the draft objectives of the AAP can be consulted on and conflicts raised at an early stage in the process. Objectives will be re-appraised in light of consultation responses and as part AAP Stage 2.

Table 4 - The SA process of a development plan document	
DPD Stage 1: Pre-production - Evidence gathering	
Stage A:- Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
A1	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives
A2	Collecting baseline information
A3	Identifying sustainability issues and problems
A4	Developing the SA framework
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA
DPD Stage 2: Production	
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
B1	Testing the DPD objectives
B2	Developing the DPD options
B3	Predicting the effects of the DPD
B4	Evaluating the effects of the DPD
B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
C1	Preparing SA Report
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report	
D1	Public participation on the SA Report and the draft DPD
D2 (i)	Appraising significant changes
DPD Stage 3: Examination	
D2 (ii)	Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
DPD Stage 4: Adoption and monitoring	
D3	Making decisions and providing information
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD	
E1	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring

Table 4 - The SA process of a development plan document

E2	Responding to adverse effects
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The timetable for the production of the Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook Area Action Plan is as follows:-

Table 5 - Timetable for AAP production

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Due</u>
Issues & Options	June 2009
Draft Submission	Autumn 2010
Submission	Spring 2011
Adoption	End of 2011

SA Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

TASK A1 Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives

TASK A1	
IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES	
<p>(i) Aim</p> <p>The SEA Directive requires that the SEA/SA should provide information on the plan's relationship with other relevant plans, policies and programmes.</p> <p>(ii) Method</p> <p>A review of new and relevant plans, programmes and strategies will take place at the start of every LDD and SA. This scoping report outlines those new and relevant plans, programmes and strategies that have come forward since the preparation of the LDF Core Strategy Scoping Report ⁽¹⁾. A review of relevant plans, programmes and strategies has previously been undertaken as part of the Core Strategy Issues and Options Stage in 2004. This review helped up date the 'Handbook for Change' ⁽²⁾ which details the full range of sustainability issues and environmental, social and economic priorities in Ashford. The Handbook for Change and the Core Strategy Issues and Options Scoping Report were subject to statutory consultation.</p>	
Consultation Question	
Q1	Have all relevant plans and programmes been consulted?
Q2	Are there other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence this DPD ?

1 As defined in Annex 1 (a) of the SEA Directive
 2 Ashford's Capacity: A Handbook for Change, Halcrow, December 2001 - subsequent update be SEA Team 2004. This report presents the outcomes of the Quality of Life capital Approach, identifying capacity thresholds and issues to help define growth

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development	2005	<p>Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable development and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life; ● Contributing to sustainable economic development ● Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities ● Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources, and ● Ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.
Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS1	2006	<p>Key planning Objectives are :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in doing so contribute to global sustainability; In enabling the provision of new homes, jobs , services and infrastructure and shaping the places where people live and work, it secures the highest viable standards of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions; Deliver patterns of urban growth that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking; and, overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car; Secure new development and shape places resilient to the effect of climate change in ways consistent with social cohesion and inclusion; Sustain biodiversity, and in doing so recognise that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change; Reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and Respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation.
Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard • A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural. • A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice • Housing developments in suitable location, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. • A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously developed land, where appropriate.

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	2004	<p>The Government's objectives for rural areas are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas ● To promote more sustainable patterns of development ● Improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their potential ● To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focusing most development in, or next to, existing towns and villages ● Preventing urban sprawl ● Discouraging the development of 'greenfield' land and where such land must be used, ensuring it is not used wastefully ● Promoting a range of uses to maximise the potential benefits of the countryside fringing urban areas ● Providing appropriate leisure opportunities to enable urban and rural dwellers to enjoy the wider countryside

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Planning Policy Statement 9 - Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan policies should seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. Plan policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology, and recognise the contributions that individual sites and areas make to conserving these resources in the wider environment Development policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development.
Planning Policy Statement 10 - Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	2005	PPS10 promotes the principles of the waste hierarchy of reduction, re-use, recycling and composting, energy recovery and disposal.
Planning Policy Guidance 13 - Transport	2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes more sustainable transport choices for both people and moving freight, Promotes accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<p>services by public transport, walking and cycling,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel, especially by car
Planning Policy Guidance 15 - Planning and the Historic Environment	1994	Sets out the government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment.
Planning Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning	1990	This PPG sets out the government's policy on archaeological remains on land and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside.
Planning Policy Guidance 17 - Sport and Recreation	2002	Sets out guidance for Local Planning Authorities on assessing the amount of open space in an area and identifying the needs and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation of local communities
Planning Policy Statement 22 - Renewable Energy	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the increased development of renewable energy resources to facilitate the Government's target to generate 10% of UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2010, with the aspiration to double that figure to 20% by 2020.

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England provided that technological and environmental issues can be addressed. Promotes the 'Merton style' policy, for LPAs to set a percentage of energy generation to come from on-site renewables.
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control	2004	<p>The governments objectives for contaminated land are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and environment To seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use and To seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable.
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk	2006	Aim is to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding,

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Code for Sustainable Homes: Setting the standard in sustainability for new homes	2008	<p>and to direct development away from areas at highest risk.</p> <p>The Code for Sustainable Homes is a standard designed to improve the overall sustainability of new homes by setting a single framework within which the home building industry can design and construct homes to higher environmental standards and offers a tool for developers to differentiate themselves within the market. The Code is based upon the previous EcoHomes standards as devised by the BRE.</p> <p>The Code complements the system of Energy Performance Certificates for new homes, which was introduced in April 2008 under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD).</p>
Ashford PPG17 Open Space Audit		<p>The overall aim of the study was to undertake, research, analyse and present conclusions meeting the requirements of PPG17. Specific aspirations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping to provide local people with networks of accessible, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<p>purpose, and are in sustainable locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing part of the evidence base for the development of appropriate policies in the Local Development Framework, and the Green and Blue Grid Strategy. • Providing an effective evidence base for the Borough Council in its planning and management of open spaces.
Ashford Green and Blue Grid Strategy	2008	<p>Sets out the agenda for environmental action across Ashford Borough. The Green and Blue Grid defines an integrated network of areas across Ashford Borough which can be expected to provide multi-functional benefits and which therefore merits significant investment. The Green & Blue Grid Strategy locates this network, describe why its important and provides a proactive and creative plan of action for ongoing investment in its conservation, management and development.</p>
Regional Housing Strategy	2006	<p>Sets out the framework for how housing will be provided and funded across the South East from 2006 onwards. The strategy sets out the housing priorities for the region from 2006 and calls for</p>

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		significant investment to tackle the shortage of high quality, affordable homes. It identifies the need to improve the condition of the region's existing housing stock as a key priority
Rural Strategy	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights the need for affordable housing that helps sustain mixed and viable rural communities Planning policy supports this aim through special provisions to provide affordable housing in small rural settlements
Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development	2006	Sets out the Government's ambition to deliver Zero Carbon Homes by 2016 through Building Regulation, Planning System and the Code for Sustainable Homes
Ashford Borough Council Housing Needs Survey	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the outstanding level of affordable housing need in Ashford Recommends a mix of house types in both market and social sectors
The Countryside In and Around Towns: A Vision for connecting Town and Country in the pursuit of Sustainable Development (Groundwork and Countryside Agency)	2005	<p>Sets out the vision for 10 functions of the countryside in and around towns :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bridge to the country A gateway to the town A health centre

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A classroom ● A recycling and renewable energy centre ● A productive landscape ● A cultural legacy ● A place for sustainable living ● An engine for regeneration ● A nature reserve
The Kent Design Guide (Kent Design Initiatives)	2005	Updates the previous Kent Design Guide to cover a wide spectrum of design issues (including an appendix on water efficient homes, sustainable construction and biodiversity).
Integrated Regional Framework	2004	25 objectives are set out which cover (a) Social progress that meets the needs of everyone, (b) Effective protection of the environment, (c) Prudent use of natural resources, (d) Maintenance of high and stable level of economic growth and employment
SEEDA Sustainability Checklist	2007	Sets out a checklist to incorporate sustainability into the design of new developments. The checklist covers Climate Change and Energy, Community, Place Making, Transport & Movement,

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Regional Economic Strategy (SEEDA)	2006	Ecology, Resources, Business, and Buildings Objectives Include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global Competitiveness ● Smart growth ● Sustainable Prosperity
The Future of Transport - a network for 2030 (DfT)	2004	The strategy has three central themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustained investment ● Improvements in transport management ● Planning ahead
Stour Catchments Flood Management Plan	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sets out how flood risk will be managed in the future ● Policy for Ashford includes (i) take further action to reduce flood risk and (ii) take action to increase the frequency of flooding to bring benefits locally or elsewhere.
Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	2003	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) are strategies for managing water resources at a local level. Although CAMS does consider water quality, the strategy is predominately about the amount of water available in the catchment.

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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies flood risk areas within the Borough. Advises on locations where specific flood mitigation measures are likely to be required
Ashford Cultural Strategy 2007 to 2011	2006	<p>Sets out over 20 key projects for culture in the borough under (a) Cultural Planning & Partnerships, (b) People and participation, (c) Place shaping, and (d) Prosperity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy recognised why culture matters to the growth of the town, these included Health, Learning, Community engagement, Design, Green Infrastructure, Public art, a thriving economy, and Tourism and heritage
OMAI Study for Ashford	2005	OMAI Ltd. Was commissioned by ABC's Cultural Services, and provides a comprehensive analysis of community infrastructure needs throughout the Ashford Borough. The Study identifies several actions in terms of the Councils investment priorities, community development, and contributions to "Better use of Resources" agenda.

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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
European Biodiversity Strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and sustainable biological diversity • Research, identification, monitoring and exchange of information • Education, training and awareness
The Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the European Community 2002-2012	2002	<p>The Thematic Strategies are a modernisation of EU environment policy-making, taking a broader, strategic approach. The Thematic Strategies build on the existing EU legal/regulatory framework and include new knowledge on threats to human health and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) • Soil Protection • Sustainable use of pesticides • Protect and conserve the marine environment • Waste prevention and recycling • Sustainable use of natural resources, and the urban environment
Securing the Future - UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	<p>The strategy contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new integrated vision building on the 1999 strategy – with stronger international and societal dimensions • five principles – with a more explicit focus on environmental limits

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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four agreed priorities – sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities, and • a new indicator set, which is more outcome focused, with commitments to look at new indicators such as on wellbeing.
Ashford Urban Capacity Study	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total estimated potential yield in the Urban Area is 9,399, including additional capacity from TUE infill estimates and Empty Homes estimate, the total potential yield is 10,251. • Balancing planning objectives • Use of development and planning briefs, design guides and competitions. • Phasing approach
Ashford Landscape Character Study	2005	This study provided a landscape character assessment of the hinterlands of Ashford Town. An outline review of the surrounding countryside was made together with an assessment of the environmental constraints and these guided the LDF and GADF zoning of potential expansion areas.

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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2004 - 2009	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan sets in place clear policies and actions for the conservation, management and enhancement of the AONB for five years to 2009 and sets a vision for the long term The management plan has been designed 'to ensure that the natural beauty and special character of the landscape and the vitality of the communities are recognised, maintained and strengthened'
Core Strategy Sustainability Report	2006	This report summarises the outcomes of the Sustainability Environmental Appraisal and the Sustainability Appraisal's of the Core Strategy, and provides an independent qualitative appraisal of the Core Strategy Issues and Options and Preferred Options.
Core Strategy SA Scoping Report	2005	The Scoping Report provides a systematic process for evaluating and anticipating the environmental consequences of proposed policies before they are adopted.

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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
Ashford Sustainable Energy Feasibility Study	2008	The study encompassed an analysis of the potential CO2 savings and costs for different sizes of development in Ashford. Further to this, the CO2 savings, installed costs and phasing were explored for five Pilot Sites, characteristic of developments coming forward in Ashford.
Gypsies and Travellers Needs Assessment	2006	The Gypsies and Travellers Needs Assessment identifies specific needs for gypsies and travellers and sets out how these needs may be met, as part of the wider housing strategy
Housing Needs Assessment	2005	This up-dates information on housing needs across the whole borough and makes direct reference to the requirement for affordable housing and what that scale of provision should be and has directly led to the Core Strategy policy. It details the role of an Affordable Housing SPD to supplement this policy.
South East Plan	2009	Measures needed to mitigate and adapt to the forecast effects of climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources use – introduces ecological foot printing

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Construction for new and refurbishment buildings to adopt and incorporate sustainable construction standards and techniques. This includes high standards of energy and water efficiency. • Sustainable Water resources and flood risk – promotes water efficiency and BREEAM 'very good' for water, encourages SUDS solutions. • Encouragement for 10% on site renewable energy target and support for EcoHomes/BREEAM • Encourages CHP and district heating
The Kent Design Guide: Water Efficiency Annex	2006	Illustrates how water efficiency standards can be met through the use of more water efficient appliances.
The Kent Design Guide: Sustainable Construction and Resource Efficiency Annex	2006	Sets out guidance that covers carbon emissions, energy, water, waste and sourcing of materials
The Kent Design Guide: Biodiversity Annex	2006	Provides guidance on common development issues where good design can lead to a better result for wildlife and for the quality of the wider natural environment

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
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Meeting the Energy Challenge (DTI)	2007	Sets a target to cutting CO2 emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020; Other policies include maintaining reliable energy supplies; ensuring that every home is adequately and affordably heated.
Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy (DTI)	2003	Sets a target of generating 10% of UK energy by renewable technologies by 2010 and 15% by 2020. Other policies include creating an energy system that ensures security of supply and affordable warmth, as well as an aspirational target of 60% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050.
Water efficiency in new developments (DCLG)	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposes proportionate regulation to encourage efficient water use in buildings – to underpin the Code for Sustainable Homes • Promoting water efficiency, • Proposes 3 options, one of which includes a whole building performance standard approach for water consumption of between 120 and 135 litres maximum consumption.
Government's Strategy for Combined Heat and Power to 2010	2004	Sets out the framework to support the growth of CHP capacity in the UK. Reinforces the 2000 target of at least 10,000MW of Good Quality CHP by 2010

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
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Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
SEEDA Taking Stock Report	2005	This sets out an analysis of the ecological footprint of the South-East
Ashford's Footprint: Now and in the future	2008	Sets out an analysis of the ecological footprint for Ashford
Ashford Employment Land Review	2008	The review provides forecasts for future employment land needs in the Borough by sector up to 2021
Security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water 2006/07 Report - Ofwat	2007	Outlines the domestic per capita consumption (pcc) of water for Mid Kent water area in 2006/07
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	1994	The UK Government response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed in 1992 and commits to a detailed plan for the protection of natural resources, has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.
Kent Biodiversity Action Plan	1997	Sets out 28 UK biodiversity action plan priority habitats and steps needed to secure a healthy future for the habitat and for the wildlife that depends on the habitat for their survival.
Regional Minerals Strategy	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Minerals Strategy sets out a regional framework up to 2016

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<p>for the development of minerals such as chalk, clay, sand and gravel; raw materials which are important for both the manufacturing and construction industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Minerals Strategy seeks to encourage more efficient use of minerals so as to reduce, and eventually eliminate, growth and demand.
Local Transport Plan for Kent (LTP)	2006 - 2011	<p>The Plan sets out a transport vision for Kent and aims to reduce congestion and pollution and tackle problems of accessibility and road safety, and also aims to tackle Kent's ten key objectives for Transport. Dealing with the subjects of:- Accessibility; Demand Management; Environment, Heritage and Communities; Health; Integration; Keep Kent Moving; Road Safety; Sustainable Regeneration; UK Connections; UK Gateway.</p>
Vision for Kent: Kent's Community Strategy	2006	<p>The Vision for Kent is the community strategy for the county. It sets the direction of travel for all the key players who are working to improve the quality of life for everybody in Kent. The Vision provides an</p>

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<p>overview of what Kent is like now, outlines some of the challenges we face and acts as an umbrella document for the activities of all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the key partners in Kent. It aims to pull us in a common direction. The Vision has been divided into eight key themes. Economic success – opportunities for all Learning for everyone Improving health, care and wellbeing Environmental excellence Stronger and safer communities Enjoying life Keeping Kent moving High quality homes
Kent Environmental Strategy: A focus for the future of Kent's environment	2003	<p>The Kent Environment Strategy has been developed to present the environmental issues affecting the whole of Kent. The Kent Environmental Strategy contains the following themes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On your doorstep - Improving your local environment A breath of fresh air – Ensuring the future quality of the air we breathe Nature matters - Protecting and enhancing Kent's biodiversity

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At the seaside - Making the most of Kent's coasts and seas ● The garden of England - Sustaining a working countryside that people can enjoy ● Energy Sense - Capturing and utilising energy resources creatively ● A sense of history - Protecting and promoting Kent's historic environment ● Sustainable Settlements - Creating sustainable cities and towns ● Travel wise - Moving towards more sustainable transport options ● Waste not - Reducing and managing Kent's waste responsibly ● Water wise - Ensuring improved and protected water and a reduced risk of flooding
Kent Prospects	2006 - 2012	<p>Produced by the Kent Partnership, Kent Prospects will serve as a five-year framework to help address a host of economic regeneration issues and opportunities in the run up to 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Aiming to enhance collaboratively the performance of the county's economy, 'Kent Prospects' focuses on:</p>

TASK A1: Plans, Programmes and Policies Review - Update		
Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives		
Document	Date	Issues/Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening the county's accessibility to domestic and European markets; ● The development of regeneration opportunities in the Thames Gateway and Ashford, coastal towns and key locations across the county; ● Rural regeneration; ● The development of learning, vocational skills, and higher education opportunities; ● The promotion of enterprise, innovation, job and investment opportunities; ● The development of pragmatic approaches to address climate change and environmental issues.

TASK A2 Baseline data assembly

TASK A2
BASELINE DATA ASSEMBLY
<p>(i) Aim</p> <p>The SEA Directive requires a significant level of understanding of the baseline environment; as defined in Annex 1 (b), 1 (c) and 1 (d), in order to inform both the appraised plan and future stages of the SEA/SA.</p> <p>The baseline information helps to inform the appraisal of the AAP and helps to identify sustainability issues and problems in Ashford. This section focus's on the baseline data specific to the AAP being prepared, more detailed baseline information for the Borough is detailed in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (October 2006) and the "Handbook for Change" (updated 2003). Establishing the economic, social and environmental baseline characteristics for the AAP being prepared provides the basis for establishing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An understanding of existing sustainability problems in the study area; ● the SEA/SA objectives to reduce these problems; and ● to establish the effects of the AAP. <p>This baseline stage requires the collection and processing of large amounts of raw data. The section outlines the key issues arising from the baseline analysis of the AAP and is set out according to individual SEA/SA topics.</p> <p>(ii) Method</p> <p>A significant amount of baseline data had already been collected as part of the Handbook for Change and Sustainability Appraisal of the Greater Ashford Development Framework and LDF Core Strategy. In particular, the 'Handbook for Change' identifies the full range of baseline information, trends and sustainability issues using the Quality of Life Methodology. This asks "What Matters & Why?" in Ashford, considering current trends in respect of those benefits and services which are most valued as well as identifying where particular problems exist. Furthermore, these issues identified in the Handbook have already been the subject of extensive consultation with more than 150 stakeholders in Ashford. It was considered that by building on the work already undertaken, the baseline data, which underpins the SA, could be strengthened and enhanced.</p> <p>Baseline data was typically supplied in three formats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GIS or other statistically displayed formats, ● numeric or statistical format, ● report format. <p>The data will be updated as new information becomes available. However data is not always available, especially at the local level and these gaps will be highlighted. Where methods for collecting this data in future are being reviewed, this is noted.</p>

TASK A2	
(iii) Output	
<p>The baseline information that has been collected on Ashford's current position in environmental, social and economic terms is presented in the Handbook for Change. Task A2 outlines additional baseline data relevant to the AAP. In many cases the data collected as part of previous Sustainability Appraisal work is appropriate. Collecting baseline information and summary of baseline information is shown below. The outcomes of the AAP's baseline information is shown as part of Task A3.</p>	
Consultation questions	
Q3	Do you agree that the baseline data collected is appropriate to the AAP?
Q4	Do you have, or know of, any additional relevant baseline data which should be added to that already listed?
Q5	Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data presented?

TASK A2: Collecting Baseline Information				
Theme	Data	Format	Source	Date
Biodiversity	Kent Habitat Survey	GIS data & Report	Kent County Council	2008
	Kent Biodiversity Action Plan	Report	Kent County Council	2004
	Kent Red Data Book	Report & Database	Kent County Council	2008
	Ashford Landscape Character Study	Report & GIS Data	Ashford Borough Council	2005
	Landscape Assessment of Kent	Report & GIS	Kent County Council	2004
	Ashford Rural Impacts Study	Report, Mapping & GIS	Natural England	2006
Water and Soil	Integrated Water Management Study	Report & Mapping	Environment Agency	2005
	Indicative Flood Risk Mapping	GIS	Environment Agency	2008
	Stour Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	Report & Data	Environment Agency	2003
	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2005
	River Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan (Draft)	Report & Data	Environment Agency	2006
Population & Human Health	Joint Waste Strategy for Kent	Report	Kent County Council	2007
	South East Regional Waste Management Statement	Report	SERTAB	2003
	Waste Statistics	Data	Kent Waste Forum	
	Public Health Report	Data	Ashford Primary Care Trust	2007

TASK A2: Collecting Baseline Information					
Theme	Data	Format	Source	Date	
Air	Ashford Annual Monitoring Report	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2007	
	Updating & Screening Assessment of Air Quality	Report	Ashford Borough Council	2007	
	Local Air Quality Review and Assessment (Annual Progress Report)	Report	Ashford Borough Council	2007	
Climatic Factors	Renewable Energy in Kent	Data	Kent Energy Centre		
	Renewable Energy in Kent: Resources and Prospects	Data & Report	Kent County Council	2002	
	PPS22: Renewable Energy	Government Report	Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) now Communities and Local Government	2004	
	SEE-Stats - Renewable Energy Installations in the South East	Web Interactive Map & Data	SEE-Stats	2006	
	Ashford Sustainable Energy Feasibility Study	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2008	
Material Assets	UK Sustainable Development Indicators	Data & Report	Sustainable Development Commission	2006	
	UK Energy in Brief	Data	Department for Trade & Industry	2006	
	Ashford Housing Capacity Study	GIS & Map Info	Ashford Borough Council	2005	
	Kent's Draft Municipal and Solid Waste Baseline Report	Data & Report	Kent County Council	2005	

TASK A2: Collecting Baseline Information				
Theme	Data	Format	Source	Date
Cultural Heritage & Landscape	National Monuments Record	Map & Data	English Heritage	
	Ashford PPG17 Open Space Audit	Map & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2008
	Ashford Green and Blue Grid Strategy	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2008
	Kent Landscape Assessment (K-LIS)	Report & Mapping	Kent County Council	2008
	Ashford Landscape Character Study	Report & Maps	Ashford Borough Council	2005
	Kent Economic Report	Report	Kent County Council	2008
	Kent Data Bulletins	SP Monitoring Data	Kent County Council	
Economic Development	Employment Land Monitoring Survey	Data	Kent County Council	2004/05
	PPS6: Planning for Town Centres	Government Report	Communities and Local Government	2005
	Ashford Employment Land Review	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2008
	Ashford Urban Capacity Study	Report, GIS & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2006
	Ashford Rural Settlements Housing Capacity Study	Report, GIS * Data	Ashford Borough Council	2005
	Ashford Annual Monitoring Report	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2007
Social Inclusion	Kent Housing Statistics	Report	Kent County Council	2001
	Annual Skills Review (South East)	Skills Insight	Learning and Skills Council	2007

TASK A2: Collecting Baseline Information				
Theme	Data	Format	Source	Date
	Learning & Skills in Kent & Medway (Channel Corridor)	Report & Data	Kent & Medway Learning & Skills Council	2007
	OMAI Study - Community Infrastructure	Report & Data	Ashford Borough Council	2005
	PPS3: Housing	Government Report	Communities and Local Government	2006
	Ashford Housing Needs Survey	Data & Report	Ashford Borough Council	2006
	Housing Background Document (Core Strategy)	Data & Report	Ashford Borough Council	2006
	Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment	Data & Report	Ashford Borough Council	2006

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Geology and Biodiversity: Enhancement of biodiversity and geology and improvement of habitat richness</p>	<p>There are two Nature Reserves in the Ashford Borough: Wye and Crundale Downs.</p> <p>There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the Borough of Ashford, totalling an estimated area of 1,335 hectares. These sites are designated as protected areas for their biological or geological interest. 33.6% of land designated as an SSSI within the Ashford Borough is found to be in a favourable condition.</p> <p>There are 68 sites within the Ashford Borough that have been identified by the Kent Wildlife Trust as Sites of Nature Conservation Interest having important county wide ecological value. There is 8.8 hectares of Local Nature Reserve designated per 1,000 population in the Borough.</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information

The Kent BAP identifies species and habitats that are of particular significance. Specific site level information for biodiversity in Kent can be obtained from the Kent and Medway Biological Record Centre.

BAP priority species and habitats in the Ashford Borough include: otter, water vole, white-clawed crayfish in unpolluted and unsilted river, with bank-side vegetation. Dormouse: Hazel coppice and other well managed woodland with multiple food sources. Nightingale: Dense shrub and coppice. Great crested newt: ponds, ditches with floating sweet grass and surrounding vegetative cover but without fish. Pearl boarded fitillary: woodland clearings and neutral grassland. Serotine bat: old buildings and tree holes for nesting and unimproved grassland for feeding grounds. Early gentian late spider orchid : Chalk grassland.

Key habitats occurring in and around Ashford. The protection of these nationally or regionally significant habitats is important (A Charter for Ashford's Wildlife, Wildlife Trust, July 2004)

- Acid grassland - Significant acid grassland areas occur within a short distance of the current urban area. The most important areas of acid grassland are at Hothfield Common, acid bog, mire and heath and at Hatch Park. Both sites are SSSIs and account for 70% of the acid grassland in the Borough (nature Conservation Strategy, February 2006)
- Grazing marsh - 'The areas of calcareous grassland around Ashford are found on the section of the North Downs that cross the north east of the Borough, most notably over the steep scarp lopes of the Downs overlooking Wye and Crundale. Other areas of grazing marsh remain within the Ashford floodplain, most significantly at South Willesborough Dykes.
- Heathland - 'Lowland heath is now very scarce. It is a national BAP priority habitat and a Habitats Directive Priority Habitat. In the Ashford Borough, the last fragments of lowland heath remaining in Kent are in the Hothfield and Hatch Park SSSI

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neutral grassland - some small areas of unimproved neutral grassland remain on low lying and seasonally flooded area within the floodplain of the Stour and its tributaries to the south and east of Ashford ● Rivers - The only river in the Borough to be designated an SSSI is the River Beult which starts at Smarden. It is of national importance as it is one of few clay rivers in England which retains a characteristic flora and fauna. The Great Stour and East Stour converge in the centre of Ashford and with several tributaries are associated with large areas of floodplain in and around the town. ● Standing open water - small ponds are characteristic of the Low Weald landscape, and occur within the Stour floodplain ● Woodland - A high proportion of the Borough's woodland is over 400 years old and classified as ancient woodland. Five woodlands are SSSIs and many more are SNCIs, most notably are the Ham Street Woods SSSI and Orlestone Forest, the largest SSSI in the Borough
<p>Flood Risk: to reduce the risk and vulnerability of flooding and protect the capacity and integrity of flood storage areas</p>	<p>Ashford is located in the upper part of the Stour catchment. Five main rivers run through the town and the underlying clay. Two detention reservoirs exist at Ruckinge and Whitewater.</p> <p>The Great Stour rises on the permeable Lower Greensand and receives a greater proportion of its flow from chalk springs at the foot of the Downs. Average rainfall varies over the catchment and averages 750mm around the Upper Stour, but it is higher on the top of the North Downs upstream of Ashford.</p> <p>The River Stour, which flows through the middle of Ashford, suffers from low flows in the summer months, where large areas around the town are prone to flooding.</p>
<p>Water: To protect and enhance the ground and surface waters and improve quality</p>	<p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chemical water quality in Ashford: 2004 - Good (16%), Fair (54%), Poor (29%) and Bad (0%)

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biological Water Quality in Ashford: 2004 - Good (87%), Fair (13%), Poor (0%) and Bad (0%) ● Phosphate levels in Ashford: 2004 - 87% High ● Nitrate Levels in Ashford: 2004 - 64% High <p>Groundwater Quality</p> <p>Nearly all Ashford's water supply is from the ground.. Springs maintain the flow and quality of the Stour. The Ashford Water Cycle Strategy aims to protect groundwater from over-abstraction and contamination through better land management and drainage, preventing high risk activities in vulnerable areas, and reduce the harmful pumping from groundwater.</p> <p>Surface Water Quality</p> <p>The River Ecosystem (RE) Classification Scheme takes account of European Directives such as the Freshwater Fish Directive and the Urban Waste water treatment directive. The river ecosystem class ranges from RE1 that is the highest quality to RE5 that is the lowest quality. The majority of the Great Stour and East Stour achieved an RE2 classification, downstream only achieved RE3 due to deterioration in water quality primarily as a result of the discharge from Bybrook WWWTW</p> <p>Bybrook Wastewater Treatment Works</p>	

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<p>The Ashford sewer system delivers flows to Bybrook WWTW which is located on the south bank of the Great Stour on the north east edge of the town, immediately to the north east of the M20. Bybrook WWTW receives and treats flows with a population equivalent (PE) of 160,000 of which approximately 75,000 PE is industrial (mainly food processing) input. The maximum consented dry weather flow is 18,000 Ml/d, but there is general agreement between Southern Water services and the Agency that this figure is now regularly exceeded.</p> <p>The current quality consent (all as 95 percentiles) is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suspended solids 30/30 mg/l (summer/winter) ● BOD 15/20 mg/l ● Ammonia 5 mg/l (summer only) ● Phosphorous 1 mg/l (rolling average). The WWTW generally achieves its quality consent
<p>Air: to improve atmospheric integrity and air quality</p>	<p>There are no air quality management areas in the Ashford Borough Ashford School Site (2004/05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PM10 Annual Mean 27ugm⁻³ (29ugm⁻³ in 2003) ● Nitrogen Dioxide Annual Mean 25ugm⁻³ (36ugm⁻³ in 2003/04)
<p>Climatic Factors: to stabilise climate change through the reduction of emissions, and withstand the unavoidable consequences</p>	<p>Domestic emissions per capita for Ashford (2004) - 2.6 tonnes CO²</p> <p>Total emissions per capita for Ashford (2004) - 9.4 tonnes CO² (includes industrial and commercial, road transport, land use change and forestry)</p> <p>Average annual domestic consumption of gas in kWh for Ashford (2004) - 18,992kWh</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Average annual domestic consumption of electricity in kWh for Ashford (2004) - 5,002kWh</p> <p>Daily domestic water use (per capita consumption, litres) for Ashford (2004) - 171 litres</p> <p>CO² Emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carbon Dioxide contributed 85% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2004 ● Annual emissions of CO² fell by 5.6 per cent between 1990 and 2004 ● 37% of carbon emissions were from energy industries, 21% from road transport, 18% from other industries and 16% from residential fossil fuel use. Since 1990, residential emissions have increased by 12%. <p>Residential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 53% of Residential Carbon Dioxide Emissions comes from Space Heating, 22% from Lights and Appliances, 20% from Water Heating and 5% Cooking <p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashford 2001/02 - 9.18%, 2002/03 - 12.42%, 2003/04 - 14.63%, 2004/05 - 14.42% <p>Ashford's Carbon Footprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashford's baseline ecological footprint today is 5.99gha per capita, it needs to have decreased by 47% by 2031 to meet 'One Planet' targets by 2050. In a best case scenario, Ashford may decrease its footprint by 17% to 4.96gha per capita. Ashford's carbon footprint is 13.15 tonnes per capita, it needs to have 	

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<p>decreased by 54% in 2031 to be in line with an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. In a best case scenario Ashford may decrease its footprint by 26% to 9.78 tonnes per capita (<i>Ashford's Footprint - Now and in the Future, 2008</i>)</p>
<p>Places: To promote thriving mixed use development of a high design quality, with an appropriate 'sense of place'</p>	<p>There are a number of high quality public facilities within the Borough including the Julie Rose Athletics Stadium, Tenterden Leisure Centre, newly refurbished Stour Centre, Ashford Mini Soccer Centre, Indoor Bowls Centre, the Skate and BMX park and courtside multi use games facilities. Other strengths within the town include McArthur Glen retail outlet, AMF bowling alley, Swanton House BME Centre and a multiplex cinema. There are several quality green spaces also within the town including Victoria Park, Memorial Gardens and North and South Park.</p> <p>There are also a number of visitor attractions throughout the Borough, the majority of them are run by the voluntary sector including the Kent and Sussex Railway, The Rear Breeds Centre at Woodchurch, Willesborough Windmill, Ashford and Tenterden museums and the Stour Valley Arts set in Kings Wood</p> <p>Amount of existing public recreation, sports, children's play, leisure, cultural, school and adult education, youth, health, public service and community facilities lost (unless satisfactory replacement facilities are provided) and gained as a result of new development. In 2006/07 there were 3 gains and 2 losses, which included the addition of an Environment Centre with visitor facilities, cafe, offices, multi use (education) rooms, workshop and a classroom at Singleton. Two school sites also benefited from development including a new sports hall and new buildings. There was the loss of two disused allotment sites.</p>
<p>Housing: to ensure that everyone has access to a good quality sustainably constructed affordable home that meets their needs</p>	<p>In 2006/07 there were 100 affordable housing completions. This accounts for 28% of the total housing completions (359) in 2006/07. Target of 1,400 affordable housing dwellings for the period 2006-2011.</p> <p>House prices (2006)</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Average price in the Ashford Borough: £223,001</p> <p>Average weekly full-time earnings: £423.90 in 2005</p> <p>In 2006/07 the number and location of planning permissions granted for dwelling sizes was:</p> <p>(r=rural, u=urban)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 bedroom: 13r, 96u ● 2 bedroom: 66r, 180u ● 3 bedroom: 92r, 123u ● 4 bedrooms: 45r, 16u ● >4 bedrooms: 4r, 1u 	<p>Quality of Life: to reduce the amount and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and encourage healthy lifestyles</p>
<p>Crime</p> <p>Number burglaries per 1,000 household (2001);</p> <p>Ashford 8.7%, South East 12.3%</p> <p>Violent offences in a public place per 1,000 population (2001);</p> <p>Ashford 7.1%, South East 9.1%</p> <p>Number of vehicle crimes per 1,000 population (2001)</p> <p>Ashford 8.8%, South East 13.5%</p> <p>Health</p>	

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<p>(% of resident population in each classification of health group - April 2001)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General Health: Good 70.2% (Ashford), 71.5% (South East) ● General Health: Fairly Good 22.6% (Ashford), 21.4% (South East) ● General Health: Not Good 7.2% (Ashford), 7.1% (South East) ● People with a limiting long term illness: 16.1% (Ashford), 15.5% (South East) ● People of working age with a long term illness: 11.8% (Ashford), 10.6% (South East) ● Households with one or more people with a long term illness: 31.4% (Ashford), 29.4% (South East) <p>Quality of Life</p> <p>MORI Survey (2001)</p> <p>85% of residents rate their quality of life in the area as very good or fairly good</p> <p>85% of residents are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood</p> <p>The most important factors in making somewhere a good place to live are: health services (38%), public safety/low crime levels (37%), the areas being free from vandalism/graffiti/damage to property (36%) and facilities for teenagers (31%)</p>
Heritage: conserve and enhance sites of heritage and conservation importance	There are over 3,000 listed buildings within the Borough of Ashford and 43 conservation areas
Access to services: to ensure that all groups of the population have access to the health, education, leisure and recreational	Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 rankings (1=most deprived)

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
services which are required in terms of provision and access to reduce social exclusion	<p>National rank: 225 (out of 354 districts in England)</p> <p>Regional rank: 26 (out of 67 districts in the South East)</p> <p>County rank: 8 (out of 12 districts in Kent, excluding Medway)</p> <p>Education and Skills</p> <p>Qualified Manpower persons (2001)</p> <p>All people aged 16-74: 73,012</p> <p>No qualification: 19,999 (27.4%)</p> <p>Highest qualifications, level 1: 14,082 (19.3%)</p> <p>Highest qualifications, level 2: 15,414 (21.1%)</p> <p>Highest qualifications, level 3: 5,609 (7.7%)</p> <p>Highest qualifications, level 4/5: 12,458 (17.1%)</p> <p>Other qualifications/level unknown: 5,449 (7.5%)</p> <p>Social Class and Economic Position</p> <p>Higher professional occupations: 1,897 (5.3%)</p> <p>Lower managerial and professional occupations: 7,071 (19.7%)</p> <p>Intermediate occupations: 1,585 (4.4%)</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<p>Small employers and own account workers: 4,752 (13.3%)</p> <p>Lower supervisory and technical occupations: 4,249 (11.9%)</p> <p>Semi-routine occupations: 2,755 (7.7%)</p> <p>Routine sales occupations: 3,713 (10.4%)</p> <p>Never worked: 412 (1.2%)</p> <p>Long term unemployed: 266 (0.7%)</p> <p>Full-time student: 1,886 (5.3%)</p> <p>Not classifiable for other reasons: 4,600 (12.8%)</p> <p>The 2006 mid-year population estimate for the Ashford Borough was 111,200. 5% of the population come from black and ethnic minority communities.</p> <p>Facilities and open space</p> <p>Some local green spaces and walking routes are listed below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashford Community Woodland, ● Ashford Green Corridor and Nature Reserve, ● Cuckoo Woods, ● Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve, ● Hothfield Common, ● Kent Downs, ● King's Wood, ● Parkwood Picnic Site,

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Warren, ● Wye National Nature Reserve <p>The 2008 PPG17 Open Space Audit for the Mersham and Sevington Parishes identifies a short fall in open space requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor Sports Space Required: 1.69ha (Mersham), 0.51ha (Sevington) = 2.2ha, ● Natural & Informal Greenspace Required: 2.12ha (Mersham), 0.64ha (Sevington) = 2.76ha ● Other Open Space Required: 0.65ha (Mersham), 0.25ha (Sevington) = 0.9ha <p>The Borough is well served for leisure facilities ranging from gyms and health clubs to pools and spas. The three leisure centres within the Borough are the Stour Centre, Julie Rose Stadium and Tenterden Leisure Centre.</p> <p>There is one public hospital in the Borough - The William Harvey Hospital in Ashford</p>
Land Use: to make the most efficient use of land and the use of previously developed land and buildings and reduce greenfield land use	<p>In 2006/07 there were 108 new and converted dwellings built on previously developed land, which is 30% of the 359 total net dwellings.</p> <p>Percentage of new dwellings completed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Less than 30 dwellings per hectare (13%) ii. Between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare (68%) iii. Above 50 dwellings per hectare (19%)

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Resources: to encourage the use of local renewable resources and the provision of sustainable energy within the Borough</p>	<p>The following indicators will be monitored as part of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD and will form part of the SA baseline once data becomes available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● % of new homes meeting the relevant Code for Sustainable Homes as set out in Policy CS10 ● % of new non-residential buildings meeting the appropriate BREEAM standard and credits as set out in Policy CS10 ● Reduction in average household water consumption (over existing consumption levels) in new developments ● % of carbon dioxide emissions reduced from new developments (major) for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CS3 Town Centre and CS4 Brownfield Urban Sites 2. CS5 Urban Extensions and CS4 Brownfield Urban Sites 3. CS6 Tenterden, the villages and the countryside 4. Existing and refurbishment <p>Renewable energy capacity installed within the Borough by type (MW in 2007) - Thermal heating: 4.6kWth, CO₂ displaced: 0.65 tonnes/year (Appledore Solar Project)</p>
<p>Waste: to deliver waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery over the disposal of waste</p>	<p>Percentage of tonnage of household waste arisings which have been recycled = 15.66% (2007)</p> <p>Percentage of tonnage of household waste arisings which have been sent for composting = 6.02% (2207)</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Balance: to reach a balance between employment and housing growth, with high and stable levels of income</p> <p>Employment: to generate a significant number of new jobs in accessible locations in Ashford</p>	<p>Kent County Council data shows that in 2004, there were 29,000 economically active males and 24,100 females, giving a total of 53,100 economically active people within the Borough.</p> <p>According to the 2004 Annual Business Inquiry, the largest employment sector in Ashford is distribution, hotels and restaurants (29.4% compared with 24.9% in 1995). This is followed by public administration, education and health (24.9% up from 23.7% in 1995); Banking, finance and insurance (15% up from 14.9% in 1995) and manufacturing (11.7% down from 13.1% in 1995). The Primary Industries and Transport and Communications sectors has also shrunk between 1995 and 2004 whilst construction grew from 2.8% to 6.5%</p> <p>Employee job numbers: 37,869 in 1996 have seen an increase of 20% over the last nine years to 47,300 employee jobs in 2005.</p> <p>Latest estimates have shown that 2,700 additional jobs have been created between 2004 and 2005.</p> <p>Unemployment has been generally falling in Ashford for several years. In February, 2008, unemployment was at 1.3% residential based, this is down substantially from a high of 7.7% in 1993.</p> <p>In 2004, 70.7% (3,493) of Ashford firms were very small operations (14 employees) followed by 14.6% with 5-10 people employed, and 48 companies (1%) employing 100 or more people</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information	
<p>Vitality: to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of village and town centres</p> <p>Variety: to promote economic diversity, growth and self sufficiency</p>	<p>Amount of high quality agricultural land (Grade 1, 2 and 3) lost to development (ha). In 2006/07 the number of planning applications granted on agricultural land: Grade 1 (major 0, Minor 2); Grade 2 (Major 6, Minor 28); Grade 3 (Major 31, Minor 170).</p> <p>Amount of existing tourism facilities lost (unless satisfactory replacement facilities are provided) and new tourism facilities gained as a result of new development. In 2006/07 there were 6 gains, this included the provision of a number of holiday lets, providing a further 11 bedrooms throughout the Borough. Plus the provision of leisure and a new swimming pool at one of Ashford's premier hotels. There were no losses.</p>
<p>Travel: to facilitate model shift and improve access to green spaces</p>	<p>Annual average peak hour traffic flow on principal roads = 52,213 (Ashford Cordon Survey 2006).</p> <p>Cycling in Ashford = 832 (2006)</p> <p>Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP, a hospital, a primary school, a secondary school, areas of employment, and a major retail centre = 27.6% in 2006/07.</p> <p>Although the Borough does have a good selection of cycle routes. Kent Highways have commissioned Sustrans to undertake a series of land negotiations in order to fill gaps in the Ashford cycle network (www.sustrans.org.uk)</p> <p>There is approximately 1200km of Public Rights of Way in Ashford, which accounts for approximately 18% of the total network for Kent. In 2004/05 the percentage of total length of footpaths and other rights of way, which were easy to use by members of the public, was 66% (KCC, Access Development Team).</p> <p>Distance travelled to work based on total population of Ashford in 2001 (48,872)</p>
<p>Transport: reduce the proportion and length of journeys made by car and promote more sustainable modes of transport (including public)</p>	<p>Annual average peak hour traffic flow on principal roads = 52,213 (Ashford Cordon Survey 2006).</p> <p>Cycling in Ashford = 832 (2006)</p> <p>Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP, a hospital, a primary school, a secondary school, areas of employment, and a major retail centre = 27.6% in 2006/07.</p> <p>Although the Borough does have a good selection of cycle routes. Kent Highways have commissioned Sustrans to undertake a series of land negotiations in order to fill gaps in the Ashford cycle network (www.sustrans.org.uk)</p> <p>There is approximately 1200km of Public Rights of Way in Ashford, which accounts for approximately 18% of the total network for Kent. In 2004/05 the percentage of total length of footpaths and other rights of way, which were easy to use by members of the public, was 66% (KCC, Access Development Team).</p> <p>Distance travelled to work based on total population of Ashford in 2001 (48,872)</p>

TASK A2: Summary of Baseline Information			
Distance travelled to work	Numbers of people travelling from home to work	% of how local population travelled to work	
Works mainly at or from home	5541	11	
Less than 2km	9998	20.5	
2km to less than 5km	9288	19	
5km to less than 10km	4731	10	
10km to less than 20km	5117	10.5	
20km to less than 30km	3832	7.8	
30km to less than 40km	2035	4	
40km to less than 60km	1235	2.5	
60km and over	4115	8.4	
No fixed place of work	2813	6	
Working outside the UK	147	0.3	
(Source: UK National Statistics 2001 Census)			
Please refer to the Ashford's Capacity: Handbook for Change (updated 2003) for more detailed baseline information for the Borough.			

TASK A3 Identifying Sustainability Issues

TASK A3	
IDENTIFYING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES	
<p>(i) Aim</p> <p>The SEA Directive requires that the existing environmental and sustainability issues are identified and taken into account. The aim of this task is to identify all of the issues potentially affecting Ashford and the AAP that will need to be addressed to achieve development that is more sustainable.</p>	
<p>(ii) Method</p> <p>The review of plans and programmes affecting the borough, the collation and up-dating the environmental baseline data informed the identification of a series of environmental problems or issues that could be addressed by, or affect the strategies and measures developed in this AAP. Such issues, problems and opportunities have been confirmed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ashford’s Capacity : A Handbook for Change (December 2001) ● SEA/SA of the Greater Ashford Development Framework ● SEA/SA of the Core Strategy ● Analysing baseline data and trends ● Tensions/ inconsistencies with other plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. Consultation on this Scoping Report may identify further issues or amend those already identified. 	
<p>(iii) Output</p> <p>The key sustainability issues identified for Ashford are set out in detail within the Ashford's Capacity: A Handbook for Change (2001) (updated 2003). The SA of the Core Strategy DPD set out the overarching sustainability issues that will need to be addressed further in DPDs. A further analysis of the baseline for the AAP has taken place and the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the AAP are set out below.</p>	
Consultation questions	
Q6	Do you agree that these are the key sustainability issues for the AAP?
Q7	Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities that need to be considered in the development of the AAP?

TASK A2		TASK A3			
Identifying sustainability issues and problems					
Baseline analysis	SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captains Wood (TPO) ancient woodland exists within the site, • SSSI to north of site and M20 (Hatch Deer Park), • Wetland and wet woodland to the west and including the Cheeseman's Green area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the relationship between the new urban extensions and the countryside and Green and Blue Grid network evolves, • Biodiversity impact of intensive development close to Captain's Wood, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to integrate parts of the development into the Green and Blue Grid, • Opportunities for an enhanced green edge to new development as a buffer to the countryside, • Design into the development areas of biodiversity benefit, • Opportunities to link habitats together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Soil, • Population and Human Health, • Air, • Cultural Heritage and landscape, • Social Inclusion <p>LDF SA Objectives: 1, 3, 4</p>	
Water and Soil	<p>Flood Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cheeseman's Green and Waterbrook area is divided by flood zone 2 and the East Stour River floodplain <p>Agricultural Land Quality across the whole site either good (grade 3) or very good (grade 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to contribute to flooding from surface water run off, • New development will add pressure on water resources and potentially water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate SUDS features both strategic and on-site, • Ensure water efficiency measures are included within development, • As far as possible to retain higher quality agricultural land within landscape areas to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, • Population and Human Health <p>LDF SA Objectives: 1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16</p>	

TASK A2		TASK A3		
Identifying sustainability issues and problems				
Baseline analysis	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
SA Theme	<p>Soil Type</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North of the site: freely draining, slightly acid, South of the site: slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid 		protect from permanent development	
Population & Human Health	<p>Mersham and Sevington (ward)</p> <p>Population (2001): 2222</p> <p>Dwelling numbers: 911</p> <p>General Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good: 74% Fairly good: 20% Not good: 6% <p>Deficiency in open space for Mersham and Sevington parishes (PPG17 Audit):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Sports space required: 2.2ha, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without the appropriate funding and phasing mechanisms, community facilities may lag behind housing development, The significant rise in population in a new community may bring additional crime or fear of crime within and outside the new development, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide community services in line with housing growth, Include designing out crime/secured by design initiatives within the development, Ensure walking and cycling opportunities exist within the site and links to the wider town, Create sufficient provision of open space (including amenity space, play space and sports pitches) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Soil, Air, Climatic Factors <p>LDF SA Objectives: 2, 11, 12</p>

TASK A2		TASK A3		
Baseline analysis	Identifying sustainability issues and problems			
SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural and Informal Greenspace: 2.76ha, Other open space: 0.9ha <p>The Green and Blue Grid outlines the requirements for Cheeseman's Green and Waterbrook to deliver the following types of open space for the increase in population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoors sports space (at 1.6ha/1000) = 20.8ha, Natural Greenspace required (at 2ha/1000) = 26ha Other space (incl. For children & young people at 0.8ha/1000) = 10.4 			
	No local baseline information	High dependency on private car use will result in congestion and negative impacts on air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in public transport viability and enhance role of public transport corridors, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and Human Health LDF SA Objectives: 2, 7

TASK A2		TASK A3		
Identifying sustainability issues and problems				
Baseline analysis	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
SA Theme			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable SMARTLINK bus service, • Provide Park and Ride to intercept traffic at the outer edge of Ashford town centre 	
Climatic factors	No local baseline information	New development could add to climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change mitigation measures (eg. On site energy generation, transport links) to produce a carbon neutral development should be built into the AAP, Implementation of Core Strategy CS10 Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, • Water and Soil, • Air, • Social Inclusion LDF SA Objectives: 2, 7, 17, 18

TASK A2		TASK A3			
Identifying sustainability issues and problems					
Baseline analysis	SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
Material Assets		<p>Amount of waste generated for Ashford Borough (2004/05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38,751 tonnes (86%) of Municipal Solid Waste sent to landfill, 6,295 tonnes (14%) of Municipal Solid Waste recycled or composted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significant rise in population and commercial development will generate a significant amount of waste, Development of up to 6,500 dwellings along with a large amount of employment will demand substantial quantities of building materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development must reduce waste from households and commercial activity and reduce the waste from construction activities, Sustainable construction materials should be used. Implementation of Core Strategy CS10 Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climatic Factors, Population and Human Health <p>LDF SA Objectives: 7, 17, 18</p>
Cultural Heritage & Landscape		<p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Ancient Monument at Orbital Park (north of the A2070, however not within the site) Archaeological remains: Roman Road through the southern extent of the Cheeseman's Green development area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New development will affect the landscape character of the area and could be visible from surrounding areas, including the countryside, Development could affect the setting of listed buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to ensure the ancient monument is maintained and not affected by development, Limit the amount of development on Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity <p>LDF SA Objectives: 1, 3, 4, 8</p>

TASK A2		TASK A3			
Identifying sustainability issues and problems					
Baseline analysis	SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of listed buildings exist within the site, Mersham Conservation Area to the north-east of the site 			
Economic Development		<p>Mersham with Singleton (ward)</p> <p>All people aged 16-74: 1598</p> <p>Part-time employment: 201</p> <p>Full-time employment: 639</p> <p>Self employed: 204</p> <p>Unemployed: 26</p> <p>Employment Land Potential at Waterbrook (Ashford Employment Land Review)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether employment growth is achieved alongside housing growth, Whether the employment growth would meet the needs of the local community (i.e. workers live where they work), Ensuring the types of employment uses do not affect the quality and setting of housing in the mixed use areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The creation of service sector jobs (e.g. Schools, shops, community facilities) to meet the needs of the area Investigate the incorporation of flexible building types which accommodate live and work units particularly in the central part of the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social inclusion, Population & Human Health <p>LDF SA Objectives: 11, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22</p>

TASK A2		TASK A3		
Baseline analysis	Identifying sustainability issues and problems			
SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Supply: 15ha (75,000m² of floorspace), Industrial Space: 6.4ha (19,200m² of floorspace) 			

TASK A2		TASK A3		
Baseline analysis	Identifying sustainability issues and problems			
SA Theme	Baseline situation	Action/Issues for Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook	Opportunities	Interrelationships
Social Inclusion	<p>Accommodation Types for Mersham and Sevington (ward)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached: 553 Semi-detached: 213 Terraced: 123 Apartments/flats: 21 Caravan/mobile structure: 3 <p>Affordable housing for Mersham and Sevington (ward)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council rented: 69 (8%) Registered Social Landlord: 3 (0.3%) <p>Mersham and Sevington (ward) Age Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-4: 110 (4.8%) 5-15: 337 (15%) 16-19: 94 (4.2%) 20-44: 626 (28%) 45-64: 628 (28%) 65+: 393 (17.5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of affordable housing is not sufficiently funded to keep pace with the remainder of development, The provision of community facilities lags significantly behind the construction of new homes, Provision of SMARTLINK public transport services is delayed until after significant development has occurred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a range of housing types and sizes to encourage all age groups into the area, Provide 30% affordable housing which are distributed throughout the development, Ensure the timely provision of infrastructure and services, including SMARTLINK, to provide for the new community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development <p>LDF SA Objectives: 9, 11, 12, 13</p>

TASK A4 Developing the SA framework

TASK A4

DEVELOPING THE SA FRAMEWORK

(i) Aim

Current guidance ⁽³⁾ on SEA/SA of land use and spatial plans advocates the use of objectives in the appraisal process. The identification of objectives forms the basis for the appraisal. It provides the starting point for ensuring that both the SEA/SA and sustainability issues are at the heart of and are fully integrated into the DPD as well as providing a focused and clarified approach to appraising the Area Action Plan.

In order to facilitate legibility and ease of understanding and use, the sustainability objectives and criteria have been set out in the form of an Appraisal Framework, outlined below. For consistency across the LDF and previous SEA/SA stages the appraisal of the emerging DPDs will broadly be based, with minor tweaks to ensure the appraisal framework is directly relevant to the topics of the DPDs, on the Appraisal Framework adopted for the Ashford Core Strategy.

(ii) Method

Similar to the Core Strategy SA Report, the AAP will be assessed against its ability to satisfy key themes as set out in 'Better Quality of Life' ⁽⁴⁾, of :

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources;
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

An additional "Transport" section has been included as transport issues are considered critical to future development in Ashford.

The sustainability criteria have been arranged according to themes and set out in a matrix, which will be used as the basis for the assessment of the DPD. The matrix enables the DPD to be assessed against the sustainability appraisal criteria. This facilitates legibility and transparency of the appraisal process. The broad sustainability effects of the DPD will be assessed, predictions made about the effects of the DPD on the sustainability criteria. The performance of the DPD will be assessed using a six point scale as follows:

Sustainability Appraisal Framework					
Objective	Criteria	Indicators	Targets	Predicted effects	Comments/Mitigation
Protection of the environment					

3 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities. ODPM, November 2005

4 A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK, May 1999, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

TASK A4					
Sustainability Appraisal Framework					
Social progress					
Prudent use of natural resources					
Economic growth					
Transport					
Appraisal scale					
++	Significant positive effect	+	Positive effect		
0	Neutral (no effect)	?	Effect uncertain		
-	Negative effect	--	Significant negative effects		
<p>As part of the LDF SA process, 22 strategic Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were also developed. This enables the AAP to be assessed against the objectives of the LDF.</p> <p>(iii) Output</p> <p>The appraisal framework is set out below.</p>					

TASK A4	
Consultation Questions	
Q8	Do you agree with the proposed SA framework? Are objectives, targets and indicators appropriate?
Q9	Should any other objectives, indicators or targets be added or should any be removed?

TASK A4 - THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK				
Theme	Sustainability Criteria	Indicators	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
Protection of the environment	Enhancement of biodiversity and improvement of habitat richness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of wildlife areas created as part of development Number of habitat enhancement measures Native species at risk especially protected 		
	Avoid adverse impacts of sites of heritage/conservation importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Grade I and II buildings at risk of decay Number of historic assets restored/reused 		
	Improved linkages between existing and/or proposed areas of semi-natural habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of wildlife corridors linking habitats, natural and semi-natural areas Length and richness of continuous Green corridors 		
	Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve over the longer term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollutant levels for Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, CO², lead, NO², PM10, SO² Number of days when air pollution reported as moderate or higher 		
	Maintain and enhance the quality of Ashford's landscape	Areas of landscape designation affected by development		
	Ability to withstand impacts of climate change (drought/flooding, measures at promoting reduced energy demand)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of homes and buildings built to Code for Sustainable Homes/BREEAM, Emissions of greenhouse gases 		
Social Progress	Respect and enhance the character of Ashford's villages	Type of building materials used in development (sympathetic/characteristic of village setting)		

TASK A4 - THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK				
Theme	Sustainability Criteria	Indicators	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
Prudent use of natural resources	To provide everyone with the opportunity to live in a decent home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability of good quality housing for all social groups including low income households, lone parent households, ethnic minorities, disabled and young people, ● Affordable housing completion figures 		
	Thriving mixed use development	Levels of mixed use development		
	Mix of housing types and tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types of new housing delivered ● % of affordable housing provided ● Affordable housing completion figures 		
	Prioritise brownfield land development	Levels of development on previously developed land		
	Avoid previously undeveloped land in the floodplain	% of development on previously undeveloped land in the floodplain		
	Protection and enhancement of ground and surface waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number and severity of pollution incidents to surface and ground water ● Length of Stour of good or fair chemical and biological water quality ● Population and health of fish in the River Stour ● Proportion of runoff from new development which is directed into Sustainable Drainage Systems 		
	Development at risk from flooding	Number of properties at risk from flooding		

TASK A4 - THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK				
Theme	Sustainability Criteria	Indicators	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
Economic Growth	Enhanced flood plain storage capacity	Measures put in place to enhance flood plain storage capacity and their effect		
	Densities in excess of PPS3 standards	Average density of development		
	To encourage sustained economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area, Diversity of economic sectors represented in the area 		
	To enable a variety of quality employment opportunities in Ashford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Unemployment rate Proportion of working age people in work 		
Transport	Balance between employment and housing growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of housing growth vs. job creation Out-commuting 		
	To facilitate modal shift	Proportion of trips made by public transport/foot/cycle		
	To reduce the number of essential trips and average distance travelled to a suite of facilities	Average distance of homes to local community facilities/town-wide facilities		
	Relationship of neighbourhoods to local amenities (average distance: 5 and 10 minute walks to shop, post office, pub etc)	% of population within 5-10 minute walking distance to local amenities		

TASK A4 - THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK				
Theme	Sustainability Criteria	Indicators	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
	Relationship of neighbourhoods to parks (areas of open space) of different sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss/gain open space ● % of population within 1,000m of a significant park/open space 		

Appraisal Score

++	Significant positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral (no effect)
?	Effect uncertain
-	Negative effect
--	Significant negative effect

SA Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

TASK B1 Testing the DPD objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework

TASK B1	
TESTING THE DPD OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE LDF SA FRAMEWORK	
<p>(i) Aim</p> <p>In order to ensure that the objectives of the DPD are in accordance with sustainability principles, the draft objectives of the DPD will be tested against the LDF Sustainability Appraisal objectives (as shown on page 9). This process will highlight where objectives are compatible with each other and highlight any areas which are incompatible with each other. Where this exercise leads to the identification of possible sources of conflict, consideration can then be given to ways in which they can be avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>This task has been brought forward to the SA Scoping Report stage to bring any conflict issues earlier on in the process of preparing the DPD. If amendments are made to the objectives these will be appraised in the next stage.</p>	
<p>(ii) Method</p> <p>The DPD objectives have been tested against the sustainability objectives by means of a compatibility matrix. The matrix presents the results of considering each objective against the LDF sustainability objectives.</p>	
<p>(iii) Output</p> <p>The results of this appraisal are shown below.</p>	
Consultation Questions	
Q10	Do you agree with draft objectives of the AAP?
Q11	Are there other sources of interaction between the document's objectives and the sustainability objectives in addition to those identified?

TASK B1	
TESTING THE CHEESEMAN'S GREEN/WATERBROOK AAP OBJECTIVES AGAINST THE LDF FRAMEWORK	
Objectives DPD	
A	To provide a comprehensive framework for 4,300 dwellings and 1,475 jobs and the timely introduction of associated community facilities and infrastructure up to 2021 whilst taking into account the second phase of development up to 2031.
B	To create a hierarchy of well distributed centres, facilities and public transport stops to deliver walkability and convenient access
C	To facilitate the creation of different mixed use areas with distinctive places each with their own character and identity and a 'High Street' with a strong sense of place and belonging
D	To ensure the generation of mixed house types, sizes and tenures including flexible housing designs to accommodate lifelong housing requirements
E	To ensure that the locally important habitats, landscape character and features, historic buildings and the functional floodplain are protected and enhanced and that the impact on the surrounding area is minimised
F	To ensure high quality public transport and walking/cycleway links to, from and through the community, commencing from the outset of the development
G	To provide for recreational use and enjoyment in and around the development

CHEESEMAN'S GREEN/WATERBROOK AAP																						
Cheeseman's Green/Waterbrook DPD objectives and SA Interaction Matrix																						
LDF Sustainability Objectives																						
DPD Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
A	?	C	?	?	C	C	C	C	C	-	C	C	C	N	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	C
B	?	C	-	?	C	C	C	C	-	-	C	C	C	N	C	N	-	-	C	C	C	C
C	?	-	C	?	C	C	C	C	-	-	C	C	C	N	C	N	-	-	C	C	C	C
D	-	-	-	-	C	-	C	C	C	-	-	C	C	N	-	-	C	-	-	-	-	C
E	C	-	C	C	C	C	C	C	-	-	-	-	C	N	C	?	-	-	-	-	-	C
F	?	C	-	-	C	-	C	-	-	-	C	C	C	N	C	-	-	-	-	-	-	C
G	?	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	-	-	C	-	C	N	C	C	-	-	-	-	-	C

Key	
C	Compatibility Objectives are not compatible
?	Uncertainty over compatibility No relationship between objectives

There were a number of potentially incompatible interactions identified. These conflicts will be assessed in the next stages of the SA.

Next Steps

The scoping report sets out the baseline information on the Borough, plans and policies influencing the production of the DPD, and current sustainability issues that are facing the Borough and the sustainability framework for assessing the DPD. The comments made on this document will be taken into account when developing the AAP options, and in which to test the options will be undertaken, along with any updates of baseline data, plans, policies and programmes. Future stages of the SA process include:

Stage B: Refining options and assessing the effects of the DPD

Firstly, following the consultation responses made on this document the sustainability objectives for the DPD will be re-appraised against the SA Framework, prior to the development of draft options. Options will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the DPD. Options will be appraised and effects predicted. Measures for monitoring the significant effects of the DPD will be developed.

Stage C: Documenting the appraisal process in the SEA/SA report:

The Regulations requires that an environmental report be prepared, and must specifically document:

- how environmental considerations have been specifically integrated into the plan development process, where mitigation measures have been taken on board, and reasons why mitigation measures have not been taken on board, and;
- Background to the selection of the preferred option(s).

Stage D: Consultation with the public and statutory bodies

The SEA Regulations set specific requirements for consultation with the Statutory Environmental Bodies, the public and other interested parties. The SA/Environmental Report will be made available for all these parties so that they can provide a response to the contents of the report. The consultation will also meet the requirements as set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This will include the DPD examination stage and any significant changes resulting from representations.

Stage E: Monitor the effects of the plan on the environment/sustainability

A monitoring strategy will be developed to allow the actual effects of the DPD to be tested against the predicted impacts, enabling significant problems to be identified and tackled over time, and baseline information to be gathered for future plans. The indicators set out in the Appraisal Framework and existing monitoring programmes will form the basis for the monitoring strategy, and will be linked to measuring progress towards the SEA/SA objectives. The monitoring strategy will be strongly linked to existing monitoring mechanisms in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The monitoring strategy may draw heavily on that of the Core Strategy SA Report.

