

# **Albourne Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan 2014 – 2031**

## **Plan Status - Submission Version – October 2015**



Note:

This document is available as follows:

On the Parish Council website: [www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.albourneparishcouncil.co.uk)

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## 1. Introduction and Neighbourhood Plan Area Map:

Albourne Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole Parish area for the period up to 2031. It sets out the development principles and allocation of areas for future building and land use.

This SUBMISSION Plan has been produced under the authority of the Localism Act 2011 which empowers parish councils and similar community groups to produce their own development plans. The plans, having been subject to rigorous tests to ensure that they comply with the relevant planning law and guidelines, and subject to the support from a local public referendum, then become the local planning guidance for the parish area. All subsequent planning applications would be tested against the policies in this Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan and other material considerations.

The Neighbourhood Plan process is:

(A) A CONSULTATION DRAFT Plan is published for public consultation (for a minimum 6 week period) and anybody is able to comment on any aspect.

(B) The Parish Council considers the responses and makes any adjustments it agrees are appropriate. The SUBMISSION Plan is then produced.

(C) This SUBMISSION Plan is lodged with the Local Planning Authorities, Mid Sussex District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority. If approved it will then be published for a further 6-week public consultation period.

(D) The SUBMISSION Neighbourhood Plan will then be assessed by an independent examiner, appointed by Mid Sussex District Council, and with the agreement of South Downs National Park Authority. This tests the legal correctness and conformity of the Plan, to ensure that it has properly considered other existing and formally adopted planning documents.

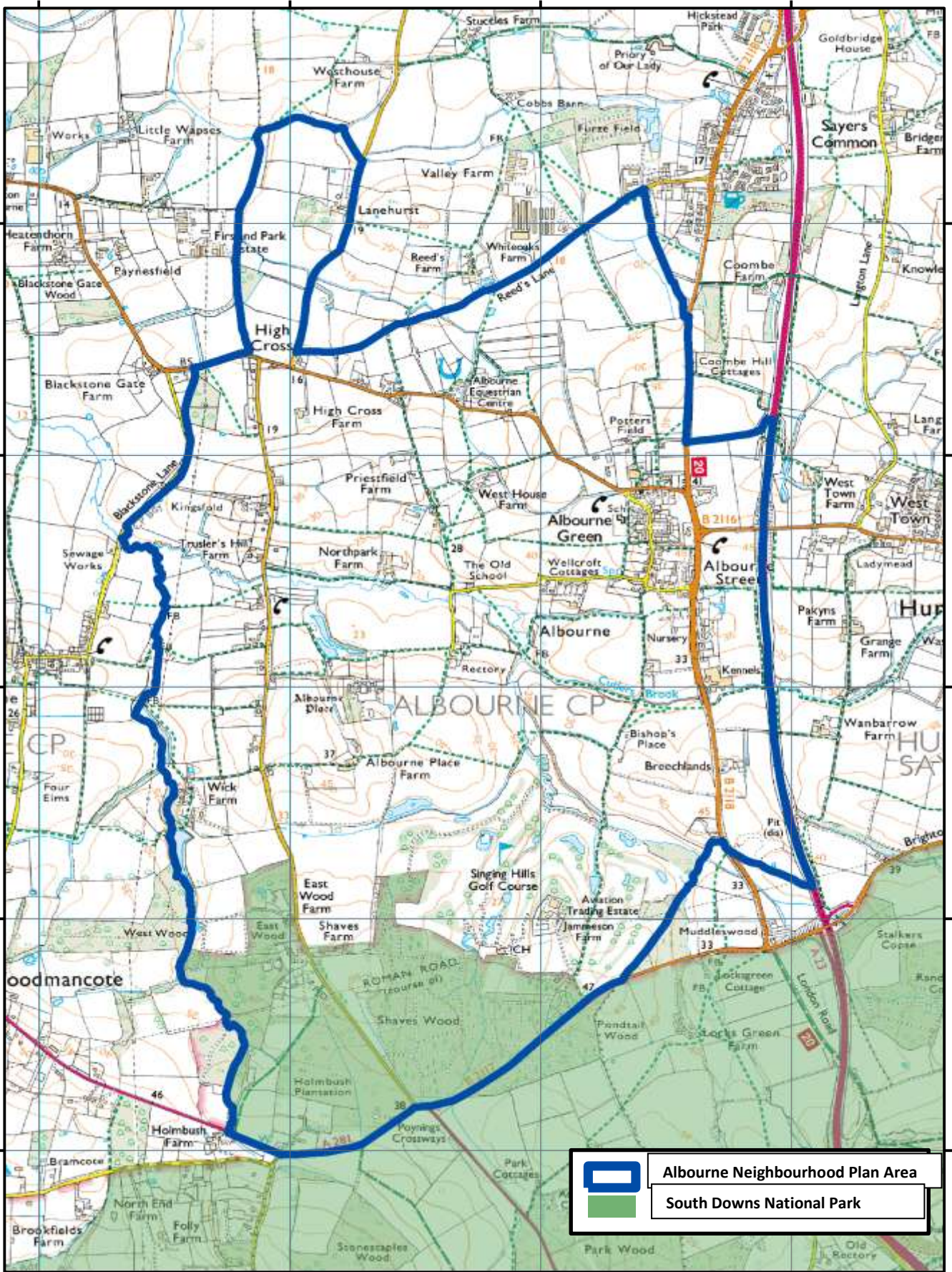
(E) If approved, the Plan will be put to a public referendum of the electors of the Parish. The Plan will be formally adopted if it is supported by over 50% of those voting. The question for the referendum will be:

*'Do you want Mid Sussex District Council and South Downs National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Albourne Parish area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'*

Following this process and its expected timetable, it is hoped that the public referendum will be during the first quarter of 2016.



ALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL



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## **2. Background and general policies**

### **2.1. Public consultation and feedback**

The Parish Council decided in 2011 to proceed with producing a Neighbourhood Plan. In early 2012 we sent out questionnaires to the whole parish area, outlining a range of policy options and seeking specific feedback on the parish, the future of housing, and the countryside & heritage. We asked some basic questions about how people wanted to see their community in the future, and received some very helpful feedback. We have also pulled together a lot of information about our village and our countryside.

A total of 250 specific responses to the questionnaire were received from 53 responding households and these were collated, with the results being presented at a public meeting in May 2012, at which further feedback was received. This input has formed a major part of the evidence base which the Parish Council has used to develop the policies in this Plan.

#### **Key themes from the feedback:**

- **Protect the countryside**
- **Avoid coalescence of the existing villages, keep countryside gaps**
- **Prevent “inappropriate” development**
- **Deal with traffic congestion and road safety issues**
- **Ensure enough school places**

### **2.2. Strategic Objectives**

As a result of all these consultations and surveys the Parish Council has adopted the following Strategic Objectives. These statements will be used to test every policy in this Plan:

#### **Strategic Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan**

- **Keeping the “village-feel” and sense of place**
- **Protecting and enhancing the environment**
- **Promoting economic vitality and diversity**
- **Ensuring cohesive and safe communities**

#### **Supporting healthy lifestyles**

(NOTE: These objectives are consistent with MSDC Local Plan of 2004, the saved policies in the emerging 2015 Local Plan, the principles of the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan and the special qualities of the SDNP.

### **2.3. Sustainability Appraisal**

As part of the gathering of evidence and the consultation with other authorities, the Parish Council has published its Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (of January 2013) and its Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (of March 2014), which contains the methodology and data analysis from which this Plan has been prepared. The Sustainability Appraisal is a ‘live’ document and has been continuously updated.

## **2.4. Built-up Areas**

The map which forms part of this Plan (Section 9) defines the “Built-up Area” for Albourne. The area outside this is ‘countryside’. Where relevant, the policies of the Mid Sussex Local Plan (2004), the emerging Mid Sussex District Plan and the emerging South Downs National Park Local Plan shall apply to these areas.

## **2.5. Other Plans and policy frameworks**

The Neighbourhood Plan should be in general conformity with and take account of the policies produced by senior and neighbouring authorities. We have consulted with and taken account of the following:

- 1. Mid Sussex District Council – Local Plan 2004 (Saved Policies)**
- 2. Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 – 2031 (Pre Submission June 2015)**
- 3. National Planning Policy Framework 2012**
- 4. West Sussex County Council – Waste Local Plan (2014)**
- 5. South Downs National Park Authority Partnership Management Plan and emerging Local Plan**
- 6. Woodmancote Parish Council emerging Neighbourhood Plan**
- 7. Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan**
- 8. Twineham Parish Council emerging Neighbourhood Plan**
- 9. West Sussex County Council – Minerals Local Plan (2003)**

## **2.6. Policies and Aims**

In line with emerging standard practice and based on feedback received on our Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Document, some of our original policy options do not directly relate to land use or development and should therefore not be part of a Neighbourhood Plan. However, since these are considered to be reasonable aspirations of the Parish Council, they should be included as such in this Plan. They are therefore included as “AIMS”.



### **3. Countryside, landscape and conservation**

#### **3.1. Countryside area of development restraint**

The Countryside of the Parish is defined as all that area outside the defined built-up area, as shown on the maps in Section 9.

The southern part of the Parish area is in the South Downs National Park and the planning policies of the Park Authority will prevail. The remainder of the Parish area is within the Low Weald area, largely under agricultural management, and interspersed with woodland, hedgerows, copses, and minor ponds and watercourses. The random pattern of small fields of the area, contributes to the landscape character and the diversity of flora and fauna. The countryside also contributes to the definition and setting of the built-up area.

#### **POLICY Countryside - ALC1: Conserving and enhancing character:**

**Development, including formal sports and recreation areas will only be permitted in the countryside, defined as the areas outside the Built up Area Boundary shown on the policy map where the following criteria are met:**

- 1. It is necessary for the purposes of agriculture, or some other use which has to be located in the countryside;**
- 2. It maintains, or where possible enhances, the quality of the rural and landscape character of the Parish area;**
- 3. It is supported by a specific policy reference elsewhere in this Plan.**
- 4. It is necessary for essential infrastructure and it can be demonstrated that there are no alternative sites suitable and available, and that the benefit outweighs any harm or loss.**

#### **3.2. The South Downs National Park**

The South West corner of the Parish lies within the South Downs National Park for which new planning policies are being developed through the emerging South Downs National Park Local Plan. This Plan will take account of the Partnership Management Plan (2014-2019) adopted by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). This sets out how the SDNPA will work with its partners to conserve and enhance this special place and manage change on a sustainable basis. The National Park designation confers the highest status of protection in terms of landscape and natural beauty in England. Great weight should be given to this as well as to the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage. The DEFRA National Park Circular (2010) identifies the need for a “collective renewed focus” of all Government and public bodies and statutory undertakers on achieving the National Park purposes. There is a socio-economic duty which should be considered in pursuing the two purposes.

**POLICY Countryside - ALC2: South Downs National Park**

**Any development that lies within the South Downs National Park shall ensure that the two purposes of National Park designation are achieved. The purposes, set out in the Environment Act 1995, are to:**

**Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities by the public.**

**In pursuing these purposes there is a duty on the National Park Authority and other public bodies to seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Park.**

**Development in the parish that contributes to the setting of the SDNP will only be permitted where it enhances and does not detract from the National Park's visual qualities and essential characteristics.**

**The policies of the SDNP Partnership Management Plan will be a material consideration for such development. The Neighbourhood Area Plan shows the area of National Park that lies within the Neighbourhood Plan area.**

### **3.3. Defining existing settlements and prevention of coalescence**

The pattern of this area of central Sussex is defined by the high density of small towns and villages separated by countryside, mostly under agricultural management, and areas of woodland. Each settlement has its own community and distinct character and local history which contribute to the quality of life in this part of the county. The area of the Parish (which is the Neighbourhood Plan area) is no exception to this and sometimes small distances between neighbouring towns and villages require protection from new development which could otherwise lead incrementally towards coalescence of settlements, the inter-visibility between separate communities, or a change in their pattern which could urbanise their character. Local Gaps in accordance with District Plan Policy DP10 and Local Plan Policies C2 & C3 are identified where development would individually or cumulatively result in coalescence and the loss of the separate identity and amenity of neighbouring settlements.



**POLICY Countryside - ALC3: Local Gaps and Preventing Coalescence:**

**Development will only be permitted in the countryside provided that it does not individually or cumulatively result in coalescence and loss of separate identity of neighbouring settlements or perception thereof; and provided that it does not conflict with other Countryside policies in this Plan. Development for essential infrastructure will be acceptable only where it can be demonstrated that there are no alternative sites suitable and available, and that the benefit outweighs any harm or loss. Local Gaps between the following settlements define those areas covered by this policy and are shown on Map 9.2 on Page 24.**

**Albourne and Sayers Common;  
Albourne and Hurstpierpoint;  
Albourne and Twineham.**

**3.4 Conservation Areas in the built environment**

Albourne has a single Conservation Area comprising the historic core of Albourne Street and the surrounding area. This will continue to be preserved for its intrinsic character and contribution to the local built environment. There has been no review of the boundaries of the conservation area since its inception, nor has any possible extension or modification been considered, nor have other areas of the Parish been formally considered for Conservation Area status.

The Conservation Area has boundaries onto countryside, particularly to the south and west and the setting of the Area in the context of the adjoining fields and woodland are an important part of their conservation. The Parish Council will aim to review the existing Conservation Area for possible modification and extension, and also review other areas of the Village and Parish to assess suitability for Conservation Area status.

**POLICY ALC4: Conservation Area;**

**Development will be supported where it enhances and does not detract from the Conservation area, and respects and is sympathetic to the character and setting of this area.**

### **3.5. Dark Skies Initiative**

Albourne Parish Council has resolved to support the SDNP Authority's stance on light pollution. Accordingly, the following Aim has been added to the Neighbourhood Plan since the Draft Consultation stage following input from local residents and the commencement of the South Downs National Park initiative relative to this subject.

#### **AIM: Dark Skies Initiative**

This Plan will support the implementation of policies by the SDNP Authority aimed at reducing light pollution and its overall landscape impact. These policies will seek to:

1. Eliminate any upward lighting that causes harmful sky glow,
2. Reduce light trespass to an acceptable level,
3. Reduce the impact of glare and direct visibility.

## 4. Housing

### 4.1 Housing targets:

The Mid Sussex District Council report: Local Housing Assessment (updated October 2011) sets out the calculation of housing need based on three different approaches. Each has to be taken into account, but the total need is not the sum of the elements:

Household formation (the changes in average size of households)

Demographic changes (migration, births and mortality rates)

Economic changes (job formation and growth)

Household formation: National and regional forecasts estimate the average household size to fall from 2.41 in 2011 to 2.30 in 2031, a drop of 4.6%. If this was applied to the Parish, and if the population did not change, there would be a requirement for 4.6% more homes to cater for the Plan period. The 2011 Census confirmed a total of 256 households in the Parish and similar falls in household size would represent an additional 12 homes, although contrary to national and regional forecasts, Albourne Parish showed a slight increase in average household size from 2001 to 2011.

Demographic changes: The Housing Assessment reports the Office for National Statistics prediction for the whole District to be an increase of 17,900 on the 2011 Census population of 139,860. This is an increase of 12.8%, based on current birth and mortality trends, and including net migration, but not taking account of specific planning policies which could introduce different housing allocations. If applied to the Parish, this would increase the estimated population by 82, from 644, in the 2011 Census, to 726 in 2031. This population growth would suggest a further 33 houses (at 2011 parish household size) or 36 houses (using projected national/regional household sizes for the end of the plan period.)

Economic changes: The Housing Assessment for the District projects the economic growth at 3% GVA per annum in the Plan period, leading to an additional 380 jobs per annum. On a straightforward population proportionate calculation, average job creation in the Parish would therefore be around 2 per annum through the 20 year Plan period. Such job creation of 40 over the Plan period, based on 57.5% of the population being typically 'economically active', leads to a population increase on the Parish of 69, and a corresponding housing need of 30.

The Proposed Submission Version Mid Sussex District Plan (2015) proposes that the Burgess Hill Town-wide Strategy Northern Arc development and other allocations to the east of Burgess Hill, will allocate sites for 3,500 - 4,000 homes. The demand for housing in this Neighbourhood Plan assumes that this development would absorb a significant part of the demographic and economic growth in the southern part of the District.

Therefore, to meet the needs of the future populations of the Parish, the number of new houses in the Plan period would range from 12 to 36 depending on the range and mix of methodologies used. As outlined in Aim Housing Development below, it is expected that the actual number of new dwellings built during the Plan period will be at or close to the high end of this range.

#### 4.2. Availability of housing sites:

Albourne is limited in its capacity to provide new sites for housing being a rural community with limited infrastructure and being situated on the borders of the South Downs National Park. New housing development which has a major impact on the character of the existing settlement and cannot be accommodated without a significant upgrade of infrastructure, such as additional schools and new roads, other than estate roads, will be resisted. Such changes would alter the shape and settlement pattern with detrimental effects on the community and harm the 'village feel' which is strongly supported by local people.

Any new housing development in the parish shall take account of the following constraints:

- i. Lack of existing infrastructure (Shops etc.)
- ii. Lack of transport connections and distance from rail transport;
- iii. The capacity of the existing primary school:
- iv. The constrained capacity of Downlands Community School, the main provider for secondary education for Albourne;
- v. The congestion in the Village centre exacerbated by the historic layout with its narrow lanes and limited parking;
- vi. The setting of the Conservation Areas and the listed buildings where there is a more restrictive approach to development close to these zones;
- vii. The National Park boundary and its setting;
- viii. The requirement to maintain the settlement pattern and to avoid coalescence with neighbouring settlements.

Having regard to these constraints, and based on data from the Albourne Parish Council Housing Needs Survey and the MSDC Common Housing Register, the plan will focus on delivering affordable houses for rent for locally qualifying applicants.

The expectation for future windfall development is considered sound as the projected number is derived from the average of "run rates" from the past 15 and 20 year periods and is somewhat lower than would be derived from the higher "run rate" for the past 10 years.

#### **AIM. Housing : New housing development.**

**Windfall development is expected to deliver at least 16 dwellings in the Plan area over the Plan period. In addition, the plan will aim to deliver 5 affordable for rent dwellings on two sites. The first site is described in Policy ALH2 and shown on Map 9.3 on page 24 and the second site will be a rural exception site as defined in the Rural Exceptions Aim.**

**In total, the above when taken together with the 13 newly built dwellings on the three sites outlined in Section 4.5 below (and also shown on Map 9.3 on page 24) takes the projected number of dwellings delivered during the Plan period to 34**

#### **4.3. Housing Sites:**

Prior to the preparation of this Plan, a principles based assessment criteria for Housing sites was developed by the Parish Council. Details of these criteria were shared with MSDC and formed part of the public consultation processes conducted in 2013, and met with very high levels of agreement. These criteria form the basis of the following policy.

##### **POLICY Housing – ALH1: Housing Development**

**Development will generally be supported within or immediately adjoining the Built Up Area Boundary provided that:**

- 1. The development is appropriate to a village setting in terms of scale, height and massing and,**
- 2. The development makes an appropriate use of a brownfield site, or**
- 3. The development is infill and surrounded by existing development**

#### **4.4. Housing Rural Exception sites;**

Our Housing Needs Survey shows a small but significant need for affordable rented housing for local People within the parish. The Parish Council has experience of working with relevant parties having facilitated a project of this nature on the Holders site. Given the delays to the local plan, and that our three previously identified potential housing sites (for a total 13 dwellings) have already been granted planning consent with no requirement to provide affordable housing or funding for that purpose, the Parish Council considers it appropriate to have a specific aim in this area.

##### **AIM Housing - : Exception Sites**

**Albourne Parish Council will seek a potential and deliverable small “rural exception site” for the delivery of approximately 3 dwellings. These dwellings to be homes for rent in perpetuity and delivered during the plan period.**



#### **4.5. Proposed sites for housing**

Prior to the preparation of this Plan, a Housing Sites Appraisal was undertaken around the Parish, and twelve separate locations were evaluated against the principles based assessment criteria outlined in Policy ALH1.

As part of the public consultation process conducted in 2012, a number of sites were put forward by residents and others and these were added to the list of potential sites already identified by the Parish Council for evaluation through its previous search for affordable exception sites. This resulted in four sites being selected to deliver a total 15 dwellings. Since that time, approval has been given for three of the four identified sites; namely those at Magnolia House, at Greenmead and adjacent to Softech House for a total of 13 dwellings, and 12 of these have been delivered during the Plan period, with one pending construction. These sites are shown on the attached map on page 25 labelled 4.5.

As part of the representations made to the draft Neighbourhood Plan, many of the previously evaluated sites were again put forward for consideration. The Council's further evaluation of these sites is contained with the Consultation Document.

In light of the above the Council is putting forward the following site which is expected to deliver approximately two affordable dwellings for rent in perpetuity

#### **POLICYALH2 - Proposed Housing Sites**

**The following specific site is allocated for new housing in Albourne:**

**H2 - Land adjacent to the allotments at Hay Lane, off The Street, Albourne - 2 houses.**

**The attached Map on page 25 shows the location of the site.**

## 5. Economy and Employment

### 5.1. Overview

This Plan seeks to set a framework which will encourage economic development to the benefit of the whole community. The framework will endeavor to encourage existing businesses to prosper and attract new businesses with high-quality employment opportunities.

There are about 40 businesses in our Parish, ranging from single person home-based businesses to successful larger employers such as Ernest Doe, Softech Global, Wickwoods Country Club and Singing Hills Golf Club. In addition to providing employment many Albourne based companies are also service providers to the local community and the wider area. The following issues are key elements of the policies in the Plan:

The Parish is in an area of generally high employment levels, mainly in the service sector. Over the next 20 years it is not expected that this balance will significantly change, but there is likely to be a need for more flexibility in the patterns of work, and where it is undertaken.

The desire to encourage people to work near their homes, avoiding excessive travel and sustaining peoples' well-being as well as the environment.

Encouraging opportunities arising from the South Downs National Park. The Parish is one of the principal 'gateways' into the Park and this should create jobs in tourism, including accommodation and education.

To encourage opportunities for a wide range of jobs, from part to full-time, manual and 'white-collar', and in the service, retail, agricultural and production sectors.

### 5.2. Employment sites

The existing developments at Albourne Court, High Cross Farm, Jammeson's Farm, Sovereign House and Softech House contain high quality employment activities which make a valuable contribution to the local economy.

**POLICY Employment ALE1: Albourne Court, High Cross Farm, Jammeson's Farm, Softech House and Sovereign House - Within the built up areas of these sites, (shown on map 9.2 on page 23) development which maintains and enhances employment in these locations, will be supported, subject to the requirements of any relevant policies and aims elsewhere in this plan.**

### 5.3. Superfast Broadband

This Plan recognises the importance of ensuring that the Parish benefits at the earliest possible date from the implementation of superfast broadband connectivity. West Sussex County Council, as the Authority responsible for promoting county-wide broadband improvements will be encouraged to support the Parish ‘black’ or ‘grey’ status designation in as many areas of the parish as possible.

**AIM Employment: Superfast Broadband:**  
**West Sussex County Council and the Rural Broadband Partnership will be encouraged to promote superfast broadband coverage with the aim of ensuring that the entire parish is designated as either black or grey area status.**

### 5.4. Tourism:

The proximity of the South Downs National Park offers the prospect of benefits to the economy and employment opportunities in the Parish. The development and management of facilities for tourism, including the provision of small scale hotel/holiday home accommodation and small craft-workshops relevant to the National Park economy, will be encouraged, providing that these are not in conflict with the characteristics of the National Park and the surrounding open countryside, and where there is not a material increase in traffic on the local road network.

**POLICY Employment ALE2: Tourism:**  
**Small scale, low impact development that is consistent with the Statutory Purposes of the National Park will be supported for facilities connected with tourism. This includes, but is not limited to, holiday accommodation, including hotel, motel, holiday homes and camp sites. Any new development or conversion for tourism will be required to:**

- a. not be in conflict with the characteristics of the National Park and the open countryside of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and**
- b. not result in a severe traffic impact either individually or cumulatively, and**
- c. provide for an appropriate level of parking for both vehicles and cycling, and**
- d. not result in a loss of amenity to neighbouring properties, including for noise.**
- e. where camping is being proposed, the campsite should provide on-site washing and toilet facilities.**

**This policy applies to the Neighbourhood Plan Area as a whole reflecting not only the boundary but also the proximity and setting of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the South Downs National Park**

## 6. Transport

### 6.1. Overview

The Parish Survey and parishioner feedback at the public sessions revealed the following significant traffic and transport concerns:

- Traffic congestion and pedestrian safety in The Street and adjacent to the School.
- On-street parking congestion in the Street and adjoining roads
- Road safety, traffic speed and HGV traffic volume on the London Road (B2118) and the Henfield Road (B2116).
- Outdated and inappropriate road signage and clutter
- Traffic noise from A23 Trunk Road

### 6.2. Road Safety – Major roads

With the growth in business activities at High Cross Farm, Firsland Park (on the Parish Boundary) and in other locations, there is increasing traffic, including HGVs utilizing the B2116 (main east/west route through the parish) and the B2118 (main north/south route through the parish). Measures will be introduced to mitigate the impact of this growth through changes aimed at addressing all significant and material impacts, including traffic and pedestrian safety issues, on the existing road network.

#### **AIM Transport: Road Safety: Major roads.**

**A specific scheme will be developed aimed at improving the safety of road users and pedestrians utilising the Albourne stretches of the B2118 and B2116 roads.**

### 6.3. Road Safety – Minor roads

The Parish area is served by a network of small lanes and minor roads, but still experiences high volumes of road traffic. The mix of cars, trucks, cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians on the roadway, can lead to considerable safety concerns. There is concern that vehicular traffic on the rural roads in the Parish travels at speeds that are unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders who regularly use the same roads and also that large, wide and heavy vehicles unrelated to the parish are using and/or being directed onto unsuitably small roads. The Council intends to examine the possible establishment of ‘quiet lanes’, 20mph zones, the introduction of ‘pinch points’ on roads into/out of the village and the imposition of weight, width and length restrictions on vehicles using the Parish’s rural and narrow roads.

#### **AIM Transport : Road Safety - Minor roads.**

**A specific scheme will be developed aimed at improving the safety of road users and pedestrians using The Street, Church Lane, Truslers Hill Lane, Shaveswood Lane and Reeds Lane.**

#### **6.4. Traffic congestion and parking**

There are significant, and at times serious, problems with traffic congestion and car parking arrangements in and around The Street, and in all areas adjacent to the School.

##### **AIM. Transport : Congestion - The Street Albourne:**

**A scheme to manage traffic congestion and parking arrangements in this area will be developed. It is intended that the scheme will include specific measures (in conjunction with the School) to seek to address the issues apparent at school drop off and pick up times.**

#### **6.5. Road Signage/Roadside clutter**

The current B2118 road, which runs north/south the entire length of the parish, was formerly the A23 Trunk Road. Accordingly, this road and its “feeder” roads retain virtually all their “trunk road standard” outsize signage. Much of this signage is aged and/or in poor condition, but is also completely out of keeping with what is now a rural B Road.

##### **AIM. Transport : Roadside signage and clutter – B2118 and B2116 east & west towards**

**B2118.** A proposal will be developed in conjunction with the Highways Dept. at WSCC to downscale and streamline all road signage on the B2118 and its feeder roads. The proposal will also seek to remove all unnecessary and inappropriate roadside clutter.

During the APNP Consultation period, APC learnt that the expected upgrading of the A23 Trunk road surface through the Parish was not likely to occur in the short or medium term. APC has resolved take steps to accelerate delivery of this much needed benefit, according an Aim reflecting this has been added to the Plan

#### **6.6. A23 Trunk Road – Surface Noise**

**AIM. Transport : A23 Road noise** – The Council will lobby the appropriate bodies to ensure the earliest delivery of an up to date “quiet tarmac” road surface for the length of this trunk road as it passes through this, and adjoining parishes.



## 7. Amenities

### 7.1. ALBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Albourne Village Hall is situated in the centre of the village on land leased from Mid Sussex District Council. The hall is administered by Albourne Parish Council (Custodian Trustees) via a committee consisting of Parish Councillors and co-opted Parishioners. The hall is well used by village and other organizations and is in a good state of repair.

#### **AIM. Amenities : Albourne Village Hall**

This Plan will support the continued improvements to facilities at the hall. These improvements will include renovation of the storage garage, upgrading and expansion of the hall facilities, kitchen improvements and full redecoration.

### 7.2. ALBOURNE RECREATION GROUND

The Albourne Recreation Ground generally known as the Village Green is owned and administered by Mid Sussex District Council. The site contains an enclosed children's playground, an informal football pitch and an all-weather surface Basketball pitch. The Recreation Ground can be accessed by pedestrian gateways from the north and east, by woodland footpath from the south, and from the west via the "Safer routes to School footpath" which crosses the site to one of the two eastern gateways. There is parking for the site, at the adjacent Albourne Village Hall.

#### **AIM. Amenities : Albourne Recreation Ground**

A scheme will be developed in conjunction with the District Council to upgrade the Children's play equipment and surfaces. The scheme will also seek to expand the facilities available on the site to appeal to a wider range of interests and ages.

### 7.3. SCHOOLS

Albourne Church of England Primary School has a single form entry and the current roll is just under 200 pupils. The school supports a wide geographic area taking pupils from Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common, Poynings, Pyecombe, Newtimber and from Albourne itself. It is considered important that primary age school children in Albourne should be able to attend school in their village. The School is nearing capacity and the recent increase in housebuilding in Albourne and the School's catchment area will place greater demands on places.

Secondary school places are largely served by Downlands Community School in Hassocks which most children in the Parish attend. Further education services are available in Haywards Heath, Brighton, and Crawley, and with some vocational training in Burgess Hill.

#### **AIM. Amenities : Albourne Village School**

The Council will support and assist efforts by the School to increase capacity and improve facilities for teachers and pupils.

## **7. Amenities - continued**

### **7.4. HEALTH SERVICES**

There is a substantial Health Centre and a Dental Practice in Hurstpierpoint, just over 1 mile from Albourne which generally serves the needs of the parish area. Hospitals, with A & E services, are available at Haywards Heath and east Brighton, about a 25 and 40 minute drive respectively.

### **7.5. PLACES OF WORSHIP**

The only formal place of public worship in the Parish is the Anglican St Bartholomew's Church which lies in the centre of the Parish at the far end of Church Lane. There is also a large Gospel Hall, administered by the Sussex Vale Gospel Trust, and located to the south-west of the Conservation Area and accessed from the B2118. There are also a number of large-congregation churches and services reflecting other religious denominations in neighbouring Hurstpierpoint and Burgess Hill. It is not felt necessary to allocate more provision in the Plan period.

### **7.6. ALLOTMENTS**

The Parish Council operates an allotment site of three plots adjacent to Hunters Mead and accessed from The Street Albourne Road. There is currently no waiting list for plots, although this may change with planned publicity. It is not however felt necessary to allocate more provision in the Plan period.

## 8. Schedule of Evidence

The following documents are part of the background information produced by the Parish Council in the consultation process and preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan:

1. Neighbourhood Plan Parish Questionnaire - May 2012
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Housing Residential Development Discussion Paper - July 2012
3. Neighbourhood Plan – Policy Discussion Paper - October 2012
4. Neighbourhood Plan Public Presentation – May 2013
5. Potential housing sites list - May 2012
6. Albourne Parish Council Housing Needs Survey - 2009
7. Neighbourhood Plan boundary
8. NP Public Responses Schedule
9. Neighbourhood Plan Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal - January 2013.

The following documents are part of the background information produced by others and collected by the Parish Council in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan:

1. Mid Sussex District Council Local Plan (2004);
2. Mid Sussex District Council Proposed Submission Version (June 2015);
3. National Heritage Map Albourne;
4. Multi-agency Geographic Information System - Extract 1 (MAGIC) map Albourne;
5. SFRA Mapping Albourne;
6. Mid-Sussex District Council Sustainability Appraisal DRAFT - November 2011;
7. Mid Sussex Local Development Framework Transport Study August 2008 – MVA consultancy;
8. West Sussex County Council Planning School Places - 2012/13;
9. WSCC Landscape Strategy + Vision September 2010;
10. Planning for the environment at the neighbourhood level – CPRE - June 2012;
11. WSCC 'WEST SUSSEX LIFE 2012' Economy;
12. WSCC 'WEST SUSSEX LIFE 2012' Housing;
13. WSCC 'WEST SUSSEX LIFE 2012' Culture and sport;
14. National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (DCLG);
15. MSDC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - March 2008;
16. MSDC Infrastructure Development Plan - Jan 2012;
17. MSDC Housing Assessment Oct 2011;
18. MSDC Habitat Regulation Assess Oct 2011;
19. Northern West Sussex – Mid Sussex – Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update – October 2012 (GVA);
20. MSDC - Small Scale housing sites allocation 2008;
21. MSDC Ancient woodland Feb 2007;
22. MSDC Landscape capacity July 2007;
23. Northern West Sussex, Employment Land Review, Part II – Final Draft Report, October 2010 G L Hearn;

Reference is made to APPENDIX 1 of the accompanying SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (March 2014) for a full list of all evidence used.

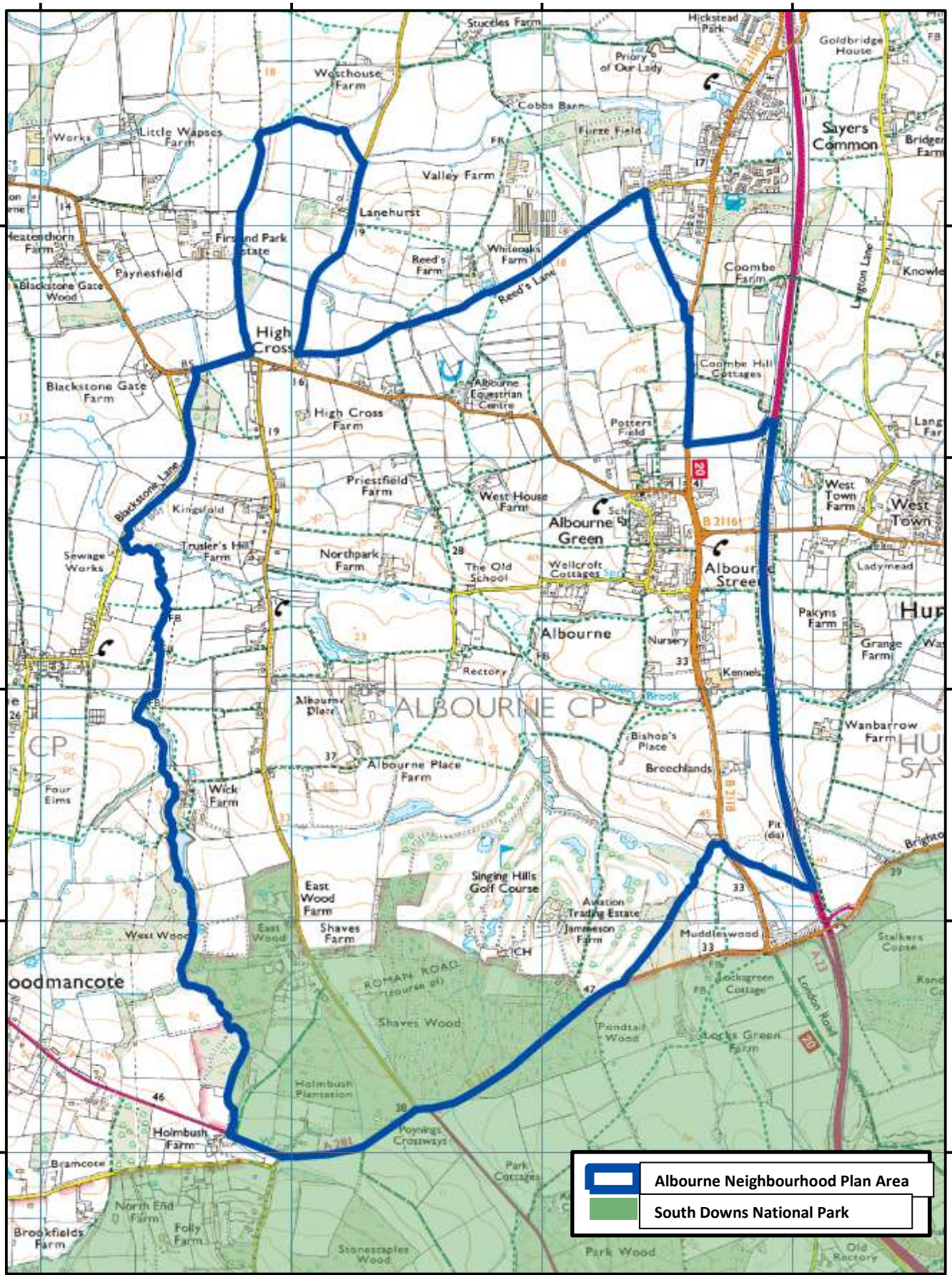
## **9. Maps**

9.1. The Neighbourhood Plan area also showing that part which lies within the South Downs National Park)

9.2. As 9.1 and also showing Local Gaps as described in Policy ALC3 on page 8 and key Employment sites as described in Policy ALE1 on page 14.

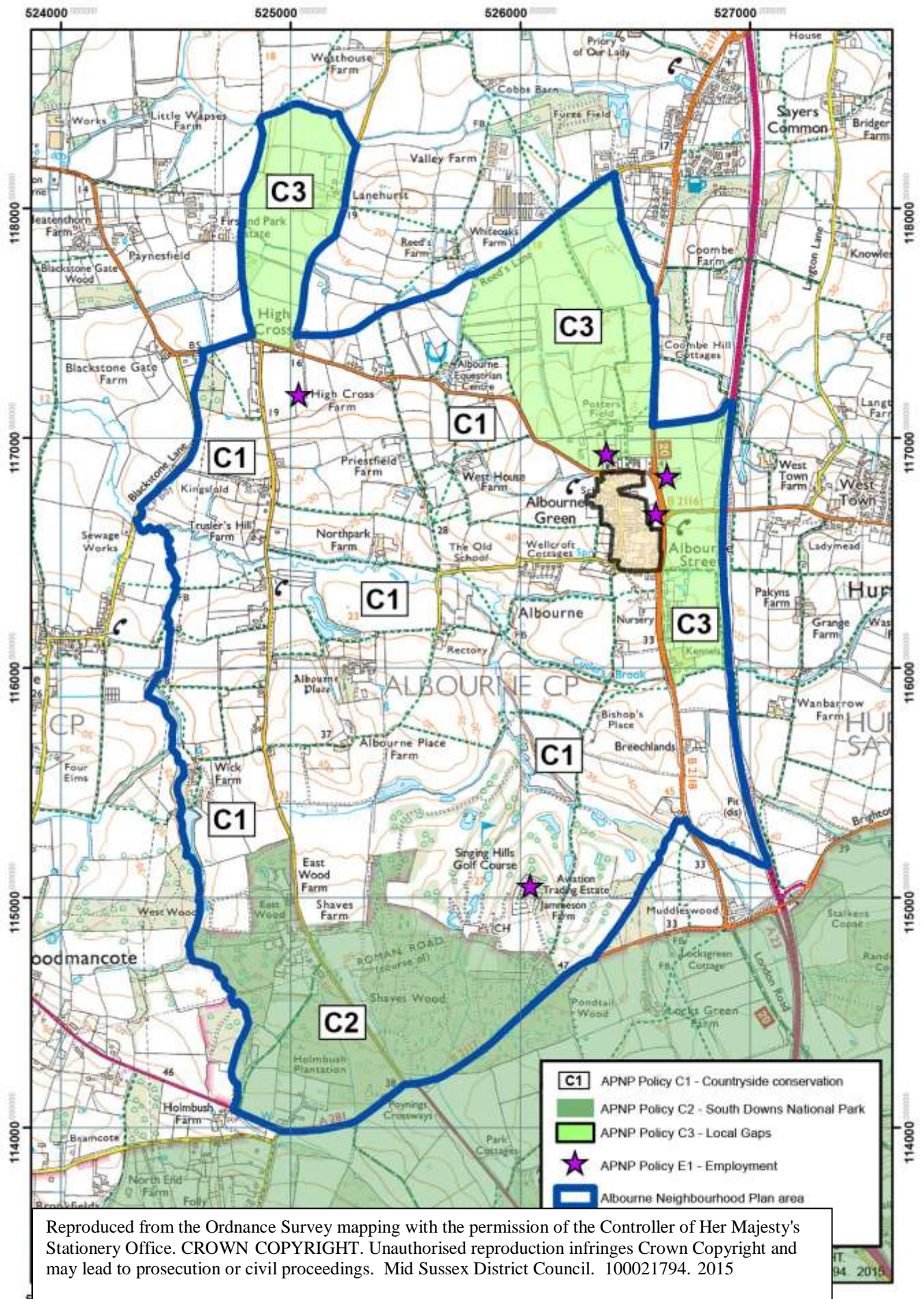
9.3. The Albourne Built-up Area and Conservation Area (also showing proposed site for housing development)



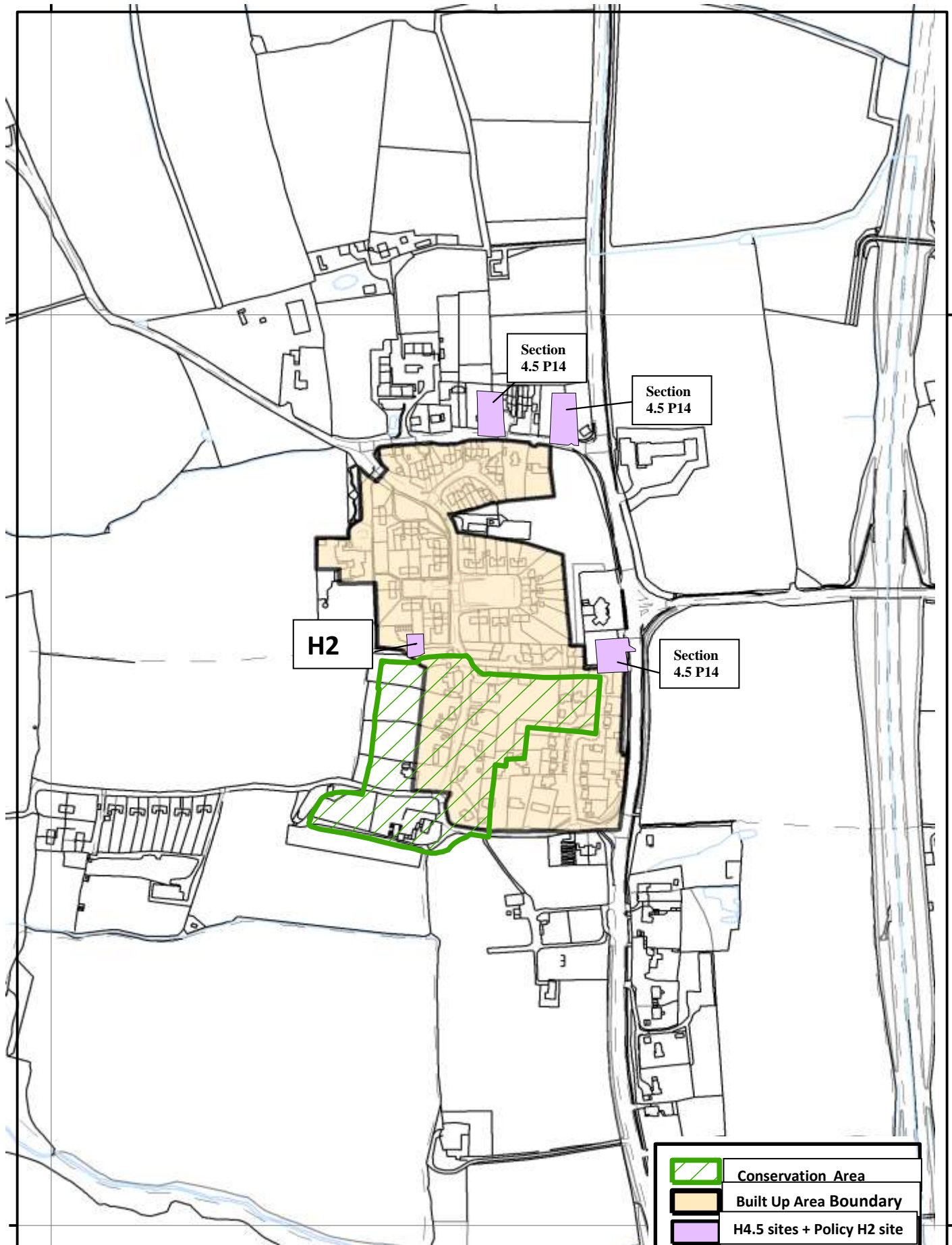


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