

# WOOL PARISH neighbourhood plan

## **Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2024–2038**

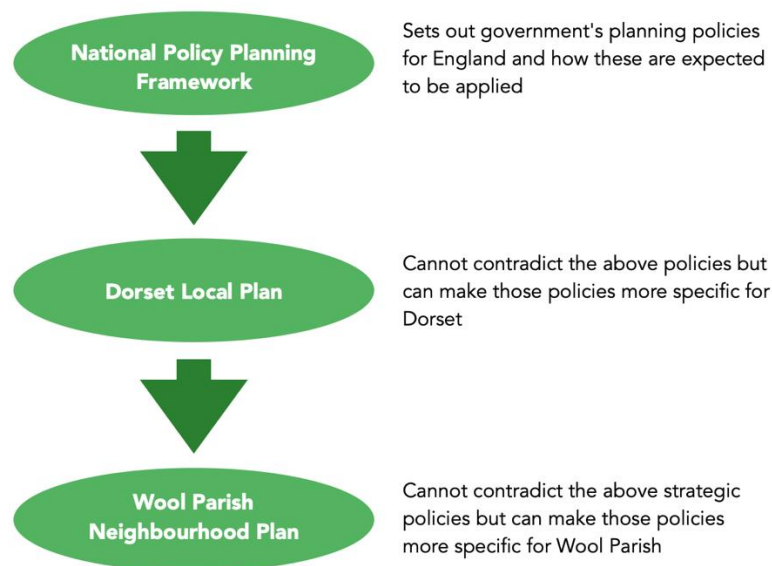
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## Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan which has been produced by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) on behalf of Wool Parish Council. Let me start by explaining what a neighbourhood plan can do for our Parish and, just as importantly, what it cannot do.

A neighbourhood plan is a community-led initiative which allows local people to shape the future of their area. Once adopted, Wool Parish's neighbourhood plan formally becomes part of the development plan for the area, and its policies take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan produced by Dorset Council.

The relationship between Wool Parish's neighbourhood plan, The Dorset Local Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is shown in the diagram below.



Regulations do not permit Wool's neighbourhood plan to be a vehicle for opposition to Dorset Local Plan policies. Regulations say that a neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with local plans and national policies. The fact that this applies to housing numbers has created a huge challenge for the NPSG when trying to represent the views of local people. From the feedback gathered during the creation of this plan, and the responses to various Dorset Council local plan consultations, it is overwhelmingly clear that residents of the parish oppose the number of houses being proposed by Dorset Council. They do not believe the number reflects local need; those who do need a house fear that it will be unaffordable anyway; and most are concerned that the existing infrastructure will not cope. Whilst regulations do not allow this neighbourhood plan to reduce the number of houses allocated for development in the area by Dorset Council, it can and does attempt to address the concerns regarding infrastructure and, to some extent, affordability.

Despite the concerns regarding housing numbers, this neighbourhood plan has been positively prepared, and it sets out a vision for the Parish that, as much as is allowed, reflects the views of local people and businesses.

Our Vision: The neighbourhood plan Vision is to ensure that the essential characteristics of Wool Parish which local people value and support are retained and where possible enhanced, whilst

services are improved with better connections between settlements, and local housing needs for all sections of the community are better met.

Extensive consultation was undertaken to produce the plan, including exhibitions, public meetings, walkabouts and surveys covering every household in the parish. A big thank you to all residents who attended the meetings and/or responded to the surveys. The feedback was analysed to identify the key issues, a summary of which was published, and forms the basis of the plan's objectives and policies on subjects such as transport, housing, environment, facilities and community. Not all the issues identified can be addressed in a neighbourhood plan, but Wool Parish Council will ensure that any such issues will be addressed by the appropriate means.

I cannot let the opportunity afforded by this introduction pass without paying tribute to the NPSG, a group of local volunteers who have worked for almost 5 years to produce this plan. We owe a huge debt to Martin Hiles who, as Chairman for several years, led the group with dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you also to Andrew Wilson who, when Martin left the parish, built on the previous work, showing the drive and focus to get the plan over the line. A big thank you goes to Steve Smith who has been 'the engine room' of the plan in terms of organisation, communication and analysis. The composition of the NPSG has been fluid over the years and grateful thanks are due to each one of them, particularly Chris Yarnold, Robin Thorn and Rod Webb who have been ever-present. Though not technically members of the steering group, thanks must go to local resident Trevor Hayles, who ably assisted Steve with the analysis of the surveys, also to Lee Searles (Andrea Pellegram Ltd) whose support, advice and assistance as a consultant has been invaluable.

It is my sincere hope that this neighbourhood plan will help to take our community in Wool, Bovington and East Burton through the next several years, where widespread development will inevitably bring changes to our parish; and that this plan will ensure that those changes are for the better.



**Kim Major, Chairman, Wool Parish Council.**

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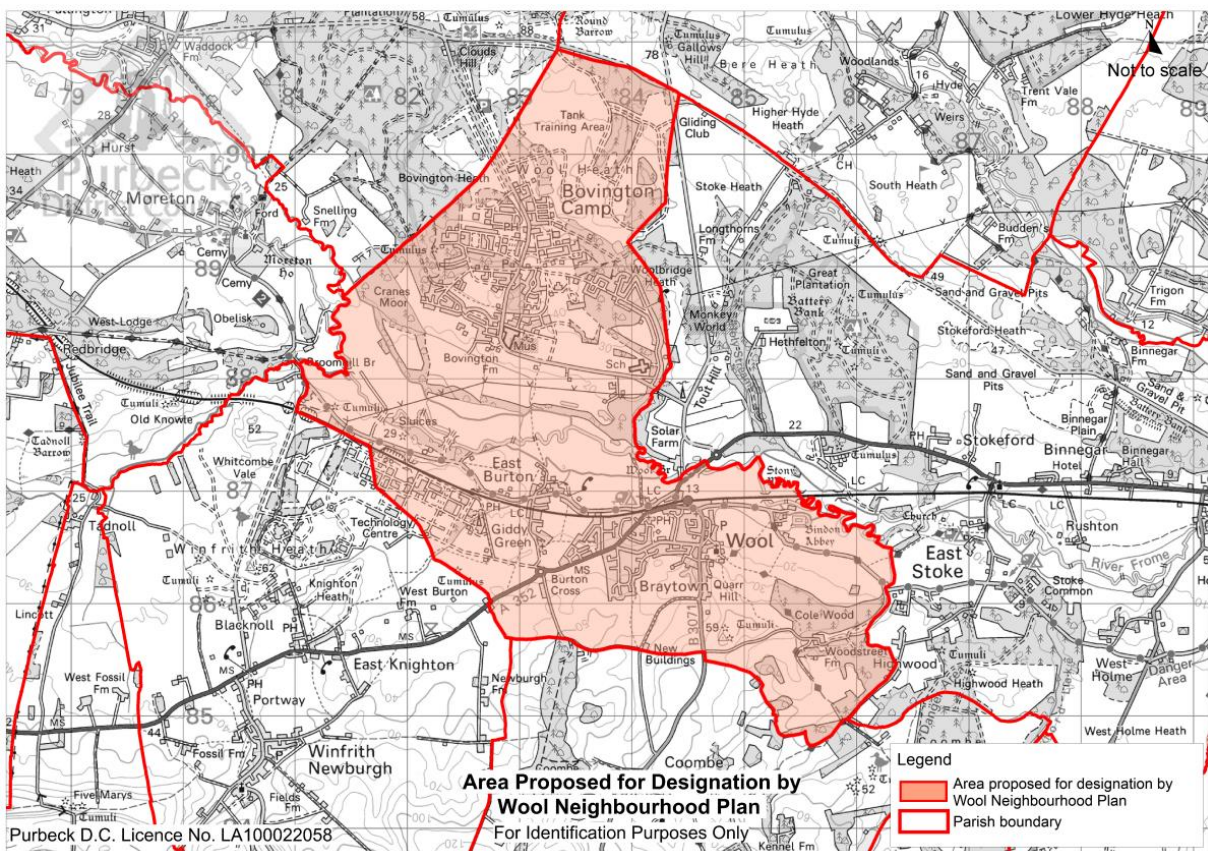
# 1. Neighbourhood Plan Preparation and Consultation

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

## Designated Neighbourhood Area

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

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



Source: Dorset Council

### **Basic Conditions for the Neighbourhood Plan**

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

### **Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts**

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



### **Requirement to promote Sustainable Development**

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

### **National Planning Policies**

12. The current version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in December 2023.<sup>1</sup> The NPPF sets out national planning policies in a single document and in so doing sets the framework for plan-making and decision-making on development proposals. The Framework explains the relationship between the NPPF, Local Plans and neighbourhood plans. This influences how local planning authorities approach the development of local plan policies and how they regard policies as strategic or non-strategic in nature. The NPPF identifies matters on which the government thinks local communities through neighbourhood plans can contribute to the achievement of national policy goals and also express their own ambitions and objectives.

### **Requirement for conformity with adopted plans**

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

### **Local Plans Context**

14. The adopted development plan for the area is made up of the following development plan documents:
  - The Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 (adopted on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024)
  - Adopted Waste Plan, 2019-2033
  - Minerals Strategy 2014 (for period 2014-2028)
  - Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Sites Plan 2019 (for period 2014-2028).
15. Dorset Council is preparing a new County-wide local plan. Following a review of its strategy approach in 2022, an update to the Local Development Scheme says that Dorset Council is now aiming to adopt a local plan in 2027. As of December 2024, Dorset Council has completed a Regulation 18 Options Consultation (January 2021).

## **Supporting Documents**

16. There are several supporting documents which were used to create the plan, set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> On 12 December 2024 a newer version of the NPPF was published. Paragraph 239 sets out transitional arrangements for neighbourhood plans, stating that the new NPPF only applies to neighbourhood plans submitted after 12 March 2025. As this neighbourhood plan was submitted before that date, it will continue to rely on the December 2023 version of the NPPF.

### *Neighbourhood Plan Supporting Documents*

- a) NPSG Terms of Reference
- b) Wool Parish Plan 2011
- c) Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Report
- d) Bus Survey Summary (Wool Parish Council)
- e) Beryl Bikes Usage Report (Wool Parish Council)
- f) Housing Needs Assessment (AECOM)
- g) PTAG Transport Plan (PTAG)
- h) Summary Infrastructure Report for Wool Neighbourhood Plan
- i) Cemetery Space Requirements (Andrea Pellegram Ltd (APL))
- j) Guidance for the assessment of Cycling Infrastructure Requirements (APL)
- k) Emerging Dorset Local Plan Policy Options for renewables, low carbon, energy (APL)
- l) SEA and HRA considerations (APL)
- m) Wool East Burton and Bovington Character Appraisal and Priorities (APL)
- n) Development Form in Wool and East Burton (APL)
- o) Wool Village Centre and Neighbourhood Shopping Parades (APL)
- p) Local Plan Infrastructure Assumptions for Wool (APL)
- q) River Flooding, Surface Flooding and Photographic Evidence (Wool Parish Council)
- r) Purbeck Local Plan – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2018 – additional comments by a local expert (Munro)

### *National and Local Guidance*

- a) NPPF December 2023 (HM Gov)
- b) LTNI/20 Cycling Infrastructure Design (HM Gov)
- c) Bovington Townscape Character Assessment – Parts 1 and 2 (Purbeck District Council (PDC))
- d) Bovington Townscape Character Assessment – Parts 3 to 6 (PDC)
- e) Wool Townscape Character Assessment – Part 1 (PDC)
- f) Wool Townscape Character Assessment – Part 2 (PDC)
- g) Wool Townscape Character Assessment – Part 3 (PDC)
- h) Wool Townscape Character Assessment – Parts 4 to 6 (PDC)
- i) Purbeck District Design Guide (PDC)
- j) MOU between Dorset Council and Saville Oct 2019 (Dorset Council)

## **Neighbourhood Plan Time Period**

17. The intention of this neighbourhood plan is to ensure that it is in conformity with adopted plans whilst ensuring conformity with updated requirements in the NPPF and with emerging local plans in preparation.
18. The neighbourhood plan meets the basic condition to conform with adopted local plan policies (which from July 2024 should cover the period to 2034) and national policies where these supersede them. It recognises options consultation proposals in emerging Dorset Local Plan (previously, it was

intended to cover the period to 2038), where these do not conflict with policies of the adopted plan or the NPPF.

The proposed time period for the neighbourhood plan is from 2024 to 2038, covering the end period of adopted and emerging local plans.

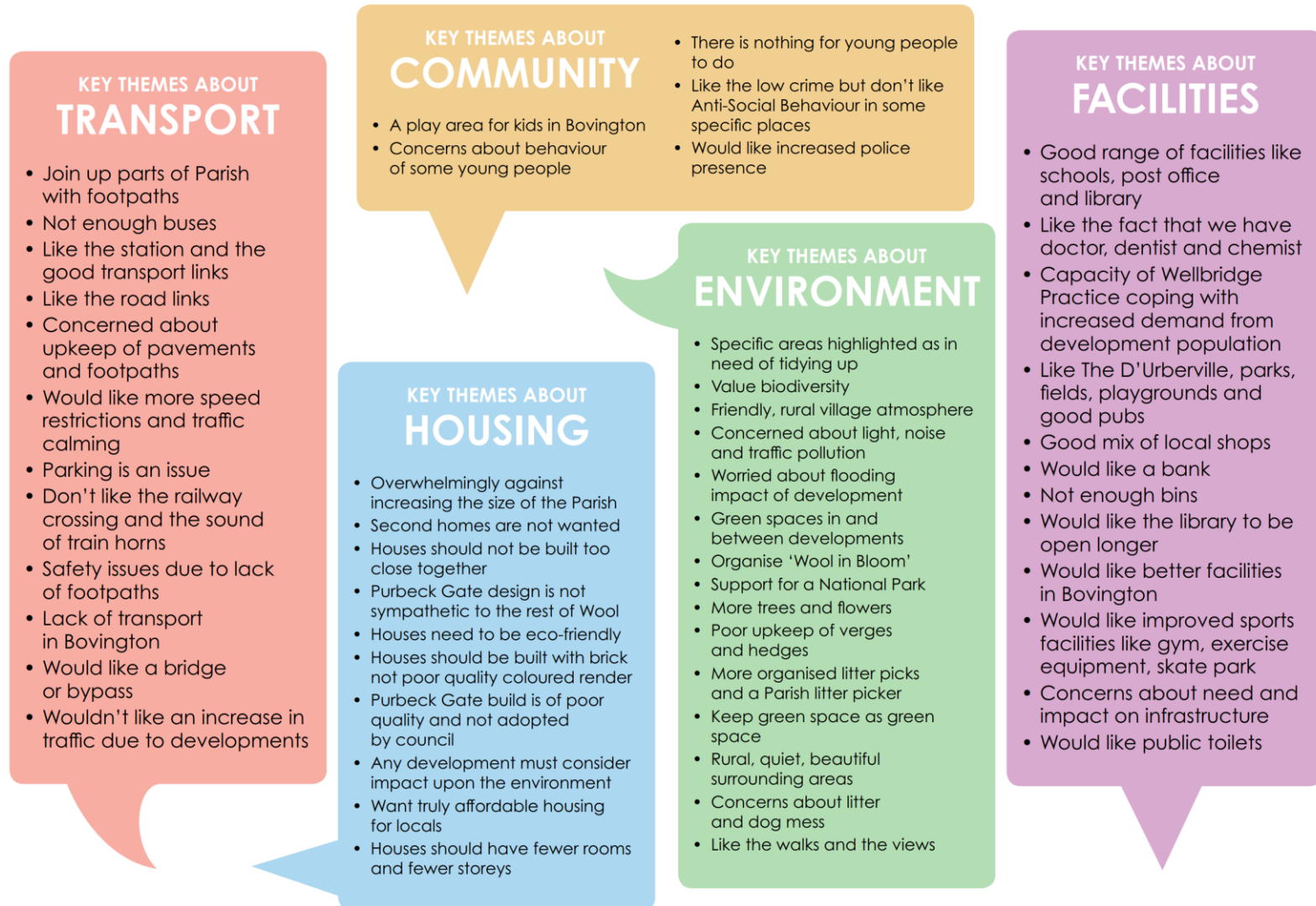
## Consultation with the Community

19. Effective engagement with the local community in Wool Parish has been essential to develop a vision and objectives for future development policies that can make a difference to local people in the parish. A Consultation Report has been prepared to support the neighbourhood plan and this provides details on consultation and engagement undertaken in its development. The Consultation Report provides information about the following:
- a) A review of key priorities identified in the 2011 Wool Parish Plan, actions taken to implement them and consideration to address outstanding matters.
  - b) Feedback from the Wool Annual Parish Meeting from 23 April 2018, which kick-started work on the neighbourhood plan.
  - c) A stall at the Wool Carnival on 16 June 2018.
  - d) A survey of residents in September–October 2019, collecting 201 responses.
  - e) Drop-in Sessions held during the same period as the survey with 29 people attending.
  - f) Community Walkabouts undertaken during July 2021 in which 34 people participated.
  - g) A school pupils survey undertaken in July 2021.
  - h) A neighbourhood plan Consultation meeting held on 14 March 2022 to discuss vision, objectives and priorities.
  - i) A survey of local community infrastructure and service providers undertaken in February 2022.
  - j) A survey of local bus use and future bus services was carried out in March–April 2022, collecting 191 responses.
  - k) Regulation 14 Consultation activities in January and February 2024, including Parish Newsletter articles, Facebook communications, a neighbourhood plan flyer, six drop-in sessions, a survey and hard copies in public places. 24 responses were received.

### 2019 Resident Survey Key Findings

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

Figure 2 – Key themes identified from 2019 neighbourhood plan survey



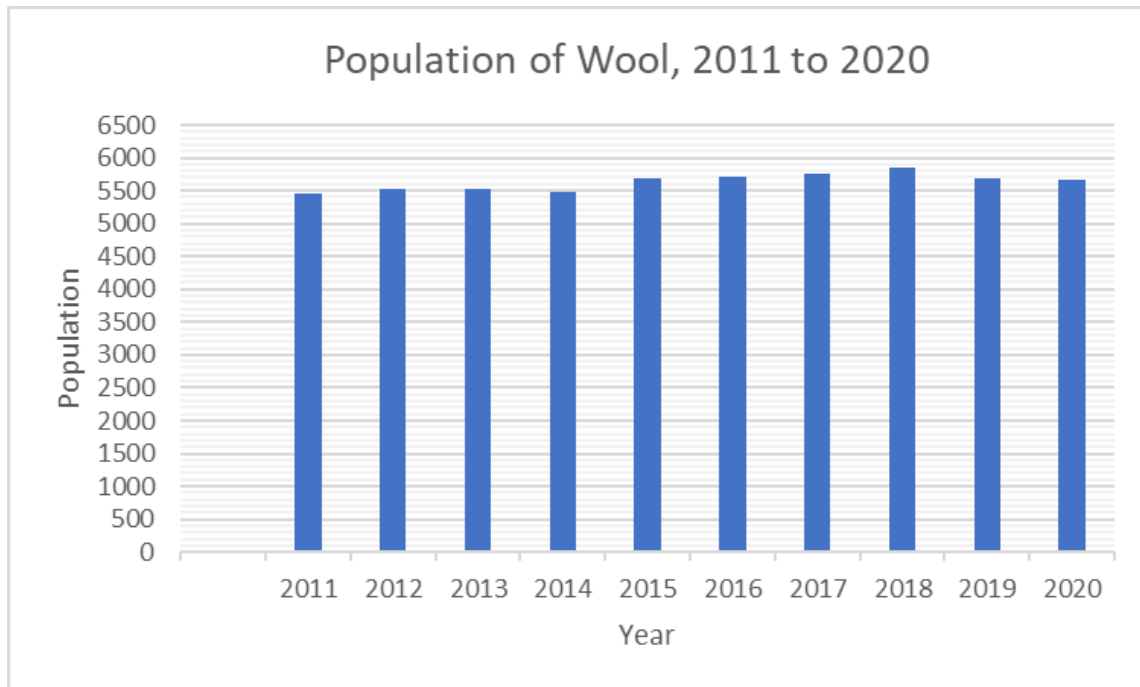
## 2. Social and Economic Conditions in Wool Parish

21. The Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan has drawn on social, economic and environmental information to identify the challenges and opportunities facing the local community. This section of the plan draws on published Dorset Council area profile information for Wool Parish and 2011/2021 Census Results to indicate where these challenges and opportunities exist.

### Parish Population

22. The 2011 Census recorded a population for the Parish of 5,454 people. Census 2021 Parish level results record the population as 5,378 people. Over the ten-year period, the population is virtually unchanged. Mid-Year estimates based on the 2011 Census provide an indication of population change during that period. Figure 3 charts the change in population according to the estimates. There was some growth and by 2018, the population had grown by 407 to a mid-year estimate of 5,861 population, before falling back. The 2021 Census recorded a rounded figure of 2,000 households in Wool Parish, essentially unchanged over the ten-year period (2,015 households in 2011).

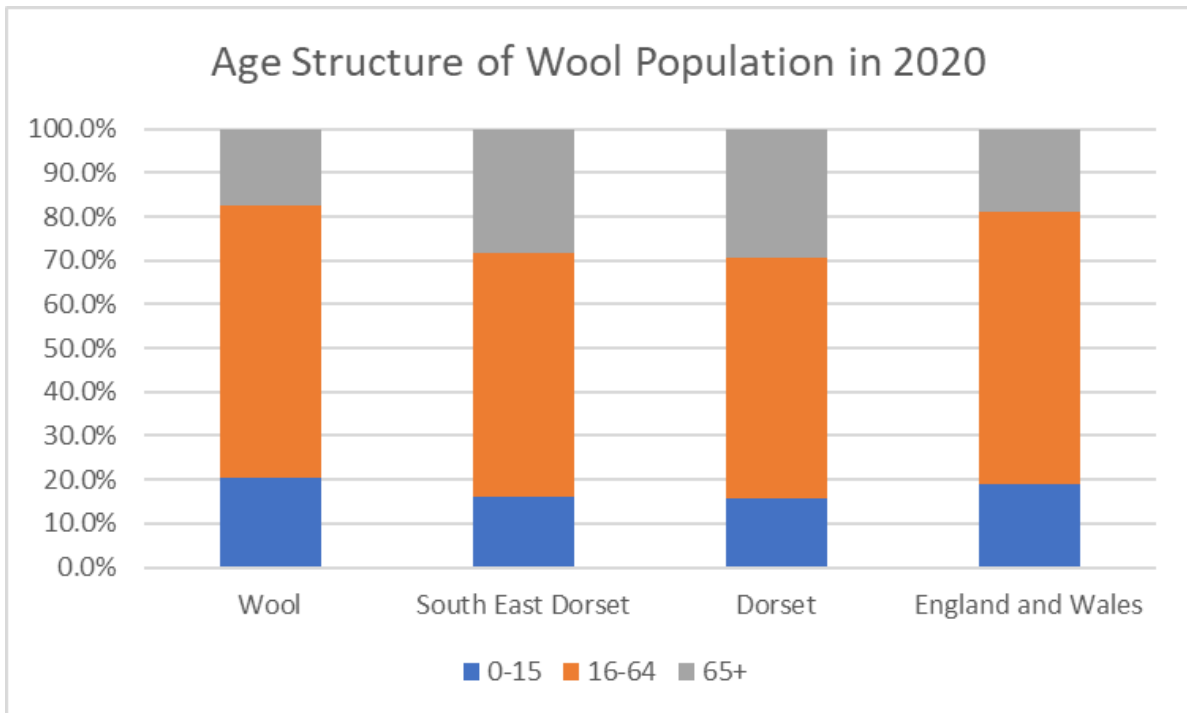
**Figure 3 - Estimated population in Wool 2011 to 2020**



Source: Mid-Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics courtesy of Dorset Area Profiles

23. Across South East Dorset as a whole, the split between male and females is 49.4% males and 50.6% females, according to 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates. In Wool Parish, the split is 51.6% males and 48.4% females according to the 2021 Census. In terms of age profile, Figure 4 demonstrates that there are larger proportions of children in the age range 0-15 years and adults of working age, 16-64 years, than in the rest of South East Dorset or Dorset as a whole, and is more similar to national proportions for England and Wales. 2021 Census results indicate that this broad population structure has been maintained. This is likely to be due to the presence of a significant (younger) military population in Bovington with extensive family accommodation there.

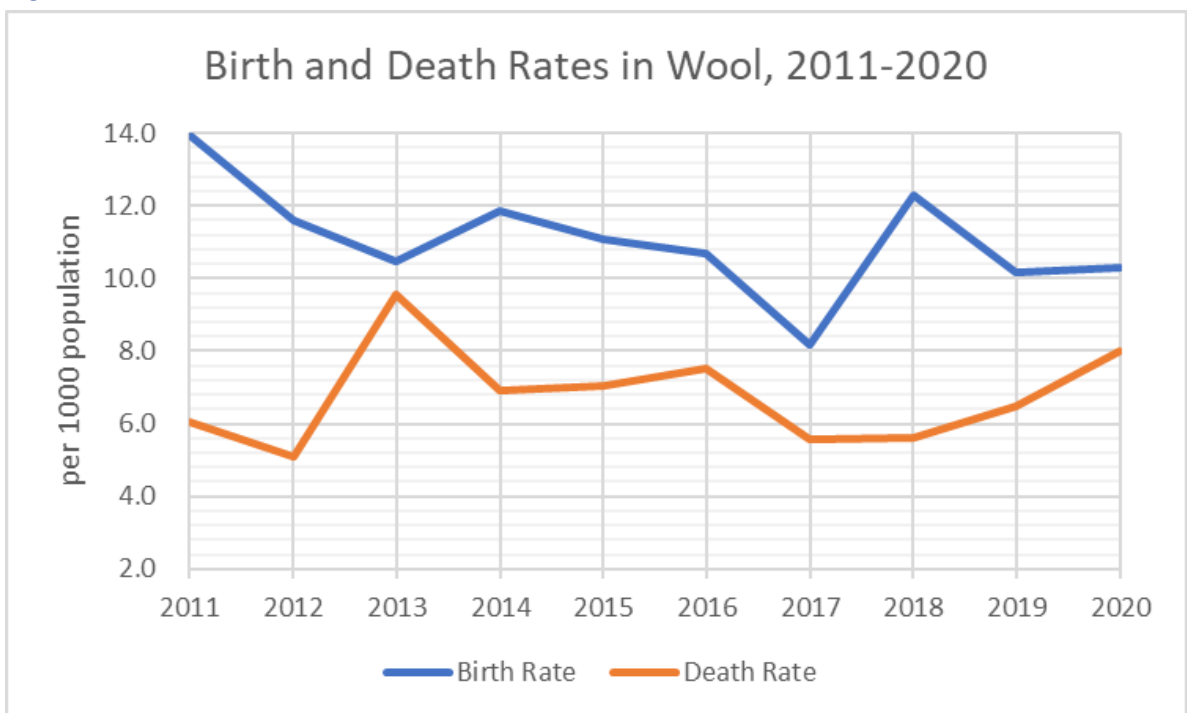
**Figure 4 – Age Structure of Population of Wool, 2020**



Source: Mid-Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics courtesy of Dorset Area Profiles

24. Trends in birth rates and death rates over the same period 2011–2020 (see Figure 5) show rises and falls. Applied to the population of Wool Parish, these rates translate to around 603 births and 370 deaths during this period.

**Figure 5 – Birth and Death Rates for Wool 2011–2020**



Source: Office for National Statistics

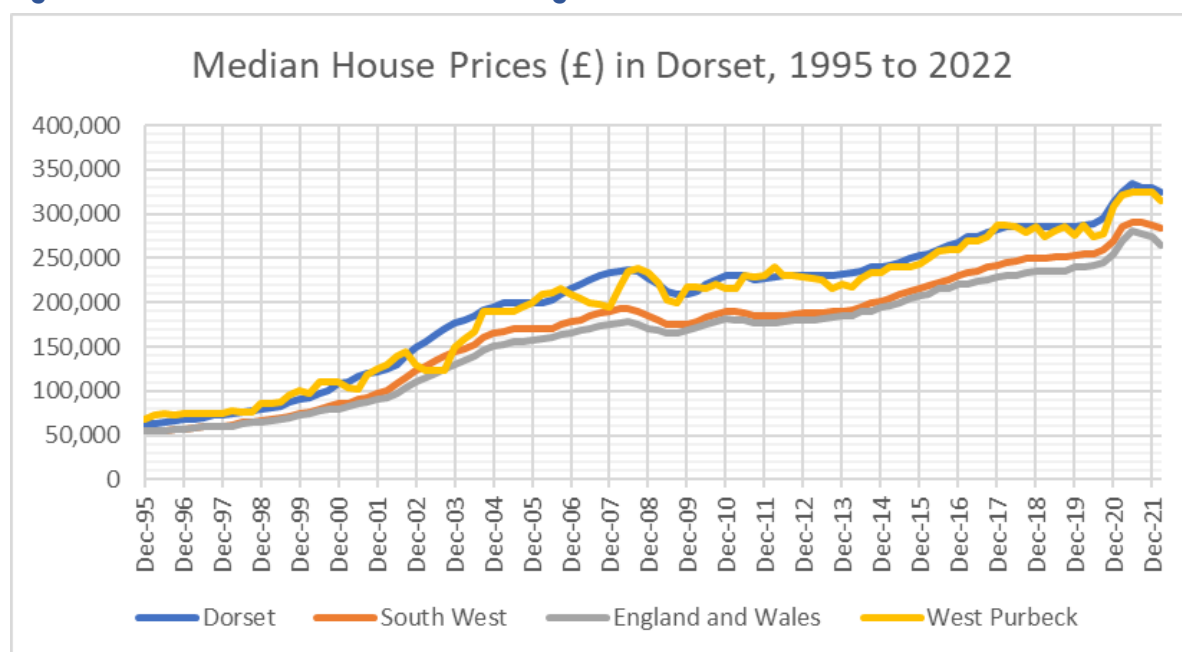
25. At the time of the 2021 Census, residents answered questions about religion. The Census recorded 64.8% of the population as Christian and 0.9% as following another religion. The Census recorded 27.2%

of the population as having no religion, whilst 7.1% of the population did not state a religion. Reflecting national trends, the 2021 Census indicates a significant change with 42.8% of the parish population stating they have no religion, 48.8% were Christian and other religions accounted for 2.7% of the population – Buddhist (0.8%), Hindu (0.7%) and Muslim (0.5%) religions are present. 5.7% of the population did not state a religion.

### House Prices

26. Figure 6 provides comparative information based on Office of National Statistics quarterly median house prices for all housing in Dorset, the Southwest Region, and for England and Wales. Average house prices in Dorset have been above regional and national averages since 1995 and prices have widened through the period so that in the year ending to March 2022, median house prices in Dorset were £325,000 compared to the Southwest average of £283,750 and the average for England and Wales, of £265,000. The average for West Purbeck Ward was £315,000, just below the Dorset Average. Further detailed information on house prices in Wool Parish is set out in the housing section.

**Figure 6 - Median House Prices for all housing**

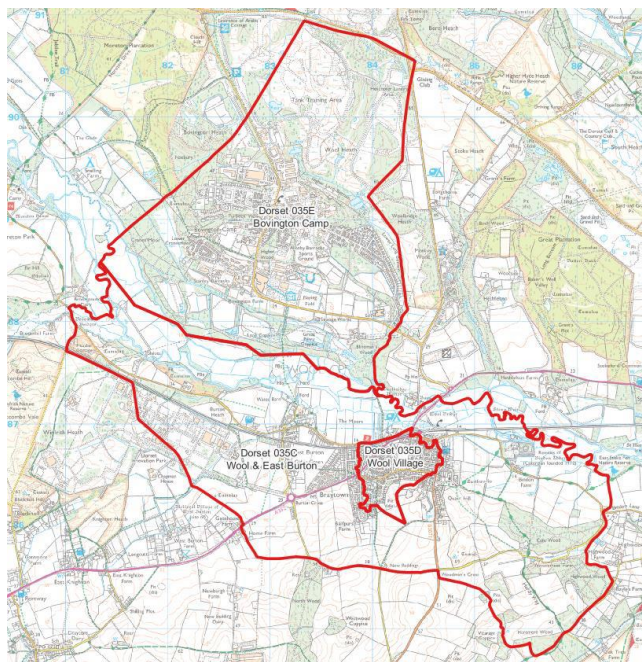


Source: ONS, Median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9, Table 1, and ONS Median house prices paid by ward HPSSA dataset 37, Table 1a, both Released 14 September 2022.

### Indices of Multiple Deprivation

27. The Government maintains statistics on relative levels of deprivation in England based on Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). The index of Multiple Deprivation measures how a particular LSOA compares in terms of deprivation relative to all LSOAs in England i.e. the national rank. The lower the ranking, the higher the level of deprivation in the area. The latest release is from 2019. Wool Parish is made up of three LSOAs – Wool Village, Wool & East Burton, and Bovington Camp, shown in Figure 7.

**Figure 7- Local Super Output Area Boundaries in Wool Parish**



Source: Dorset Council

28. Table 1 shows how different parts of Wool Parish perform against the indicators. As an important context, it is worth noting the population differences between Bovington Camp and the rest of Wool Parish – Bovington Camp has a younger population (42% between 16 and 39 years old compared to 20-23% in the rest of the parish), which is more male (almost 55% compared to 49%) and has over 12% living in communal housing accommodation (with none in the rest of Wool Parish). Only 7% are aged 65 and over in Bovington Camp (compared to 27-33% in the other LSOAs). The population of Bovington Camp is more transient with 84% of the population resident in the same address one year before the 2021 Census (compared to 90-92% for the rest of the parish).
29. The parish scores well on Crime, with Wool & East Burton LSOA and Bovington LSOA in the 20% least deprived areas nationally. Wool Village is in the 40% least deprived LSOAs. The parish has a higher proportion of resident population aged 0-15 years than the rest of South East Dorset and Dorset on average. The Index of Multiple Deprivation sub-domain for Education and Skills deprivation in relation to children and young people points to issues in relation to educational attainment, post-16 education and knock-on effects to entry into higher education. Bovington Camp LSOA is in the 20% most deprived areas nationally on this measure, and Wool Village LSOA is in the 40% most deprived. This position is similar to adjacent LSOAs but more widely within Southeast Dorset for similar LSOAs, the picture is better elsewhere. Adult Skills are better with the whole Parish in the middle 20% of LSOAs nationally.
30. In terms of health deprivation and disability, Wool Village is in the 40% most deprived LSOAs, Bovington is in the middle 20% whilst Wool and East Burton is in the least 40% deprived LSOAs. This indicates some difference in outcomes between different areas of the parish in relation to premature death, morbidity/disability, acute morbidity, mood and anxiety disorders.
31. All three LSOAs of Wool Parish are placed in the middle 20% of areas in terms of deprivation experienced through barriers to housing, including household overcrowding, homelessness and housing affordability.
32. Wool Village has excellent deprivation scores in relation to geographical barriers to services and is placed in the 20% least deprived LSOAs in England. In contrast, Bovington and Wool & East Burton



LSOAs are placed in the 40% most deprived areas in relation to access to services. The indicators which have led to these different outcomes are based on road distance to a range of services including a post office, a primary school, a general store/supermarket and a GP surgery.

33. In relation to the quality of housing (the indoors living environment), there is also wide contrast between different parts of the parish. Within the Wool Village LSOA, the housing is in a good condition and has central heating – the area is in the 20% least deprived areas. Wool & East Burton LSOA is in the 40% least deprived band. However, Bovington Camp LSOA is in the 40% most deprived set of LSOAs and this may reflect the different form of living accommodation provided in that area.
34. Bovington and Wool & East Burton are in the 20% least deprived LSOAs in England in relation to the outdoors living environment which is based on indicators of air quality and road traffic accidents involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Wool Village is in the 40% least deprived LSOAs which whilst good, may reflect the presence of the Dorchester Road running through the village with attendant emissions and traffic giving rise to accidents.

**Table 1 - Indices of Multiple Deprivation in Wool Parish LSOAs**

<b>Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category</b> LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	<b>Most deprived → Least deprived</b>				
<b>Wool Deprivation Ranking in Context of National LSOAs</b>	<b>Most 20%</b>	<b>Most 40%</b>	<b>Middle 20%</b>	<b>Least 40%</b>	<b>Least 20%</b>
<b>Overall Ranking of LSOAs on the Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>			BOV	WV/ WEB	
<b>People Indices</b>					
<b>Crime</b> - The Crime Domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation and is made up of several indicators based on the recorded numbers of violent crimes, burglaries, thefts and criminal damage.				WV	BOV/ WEB
<b>Education and skills deprivation - Children and young people sub-domain</b> - This domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population relating to children and young people and is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Stage 2 attainment: The scaled score of pupils taking Mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling Key Stage 2 exams</li> <li>• Key Stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent) exams</li> <li>• Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school</li> <li>• Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16</li> <li>• Entry to higher education: A measure of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education.</li> </ul>	BOV	WV/ WEB			
<b>Education and skills deprivation - Adult skills sub-domain</b> - This domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population relating to adults and is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult skills: The proportion of working-age adults with no or low qualifications, women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64.</li> <li>• English language proficiency: The proportion of working-age adults who cannot speak English or cannot speak English well, women aged 25 to 59 and men aged 25 to 64.</li> </ul>			BOV/ WV/ WEB		

<b>Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category</b> LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	<b>Most deprived → Least deprived</b>			
<b>Employment deprivation</b> – The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working-age population in an area that are involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.		WV	BOV/ WEB	
<b>Income deprivation affecting children sub-domain</b> – The income deprivation affecting children index gives the actual proportion of children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families. It is a supplementary index to the overall income domain, which is one of the domains that makes up the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019).		BOV	WV/ WEB	
<b>Income deprivation affecting older people sub-domain</b> – The income deprivation affecting older people index is a supplementary index to the overall income domain, which is one of the domains that makes up the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019). The score gives the proportion of adults aged 60 or over living in income deprived households.		BOV/ WV	WEB	
<b>Health deprivation and disability domain</b> of the ID 2019 is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years of potential life lost: an age and sex standardised measure of premature death</li> <li>• Comparative illness and disability ratio: an age and sex standardised morbidity/disability ratio</li> <li>• Acute morbidity: an age and sex standardised rate of emergency admission to hospital</li> <li>• Mood and anxiety disorders: a composite based on the rate of adults suffering from mood and anxiety disorders, hospital episodes data, suicide mortality data and health benefits data</li> </ul>	WV	BOV	WEB	
<b>Place indices</b>				
<b>The Barriers to Housing sub-domain</b> measures issues relating to access to housing such as affordability and is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household overcrowding: The proportion of all households in a Lower-layer Super Output Area which are judged to have insufficient space to meet the household’s needs</li> <li>• Homelessness: Local Authority District level rate of acceptances for housing assistance under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act, assigned to the constituent Lower-layer Super Output Areas</li> <li>• Housing affordability: Difficulty of access to owner-occupation or the private rental market, expressed as the inability to afford to enter owner-occupation or the private rental market.</li> </ul>		BOV/ WV/ WEB		

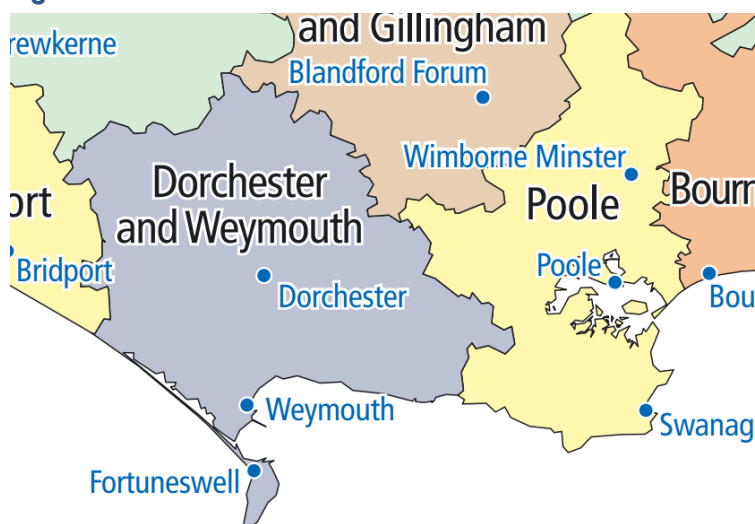
<b>Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Category/Sub-Category</b> LSOAs which make up the Parish are Wool & East Burton (E01020491), Wool Village (E01020492), Bovington Camp, (E01020493)	<b>Most deprived → Least deprived</b>			
<b>Geographical Barriers to Services sub-domain</b> relates to the physical proximity of local services and is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road distance to a post office: A measure of the mean distance to the closest post office for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area</li> <li>• Road distance to a primary school: A measure of the mean distance to the closest primary school for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area</li> <li>• Road distance to a general store or supermarket: A measure of the mean distance to the closest supermarket or general store for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area</li> <li>• Road distance to a GP surgery: A measure of the mean distance to the closest GP surgery for people living in the Lower-layer Super Output Area.</li> </ul>		BOV/ WEB		WV
<b>The 'indoors' living environment</b> measures the quality of housing and is made up of the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses without central heating: The proportion of houses that do not have central heating</li> <li>• Housing in poor condition: The proportion of social and private homes that fail to meet the Decent Homes standard.</li> </ul>		BOV	WEB	WV
<b>The 'outdoors' living environment</b> contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents, it is derived from the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality: A measure of air quality based on emissions rates for four pollutants</li> <li>• Road traffic accidents involving injury to pedestrians and cyclists.</li> </ul>			WV	BOV/ WEB

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, South East Dorset Sub Unitary Geography Maps

### Access and Connectivity

35. Wool Parish contains a major military site with military families in residence at Bovington, an employment site at the Dorset Innovation Park and the main settlement of East Burton and Wool Villages. Getting around within the parish is an important consideration and with the lack of regular daily local bus services, active travel and car use are important. The 2021 Census recorded 10.5% of households as having no car or van.
36. Planning for the car in new housing developments is important to producing well-designed and high-quality developments where the public spaces do not simply become large car parks. The 2021 Census recorded 48% of households as having two or more cars or vans which was a significant increase on the 39.9% recorded by the 2011 Census.
37. Wool Parish lies within the Travel to Work Area (TTWA) for Dorchester and Weymouth. Poole TTWA is to the east, facilitated by rail access and A-road routes (see Figure 8).

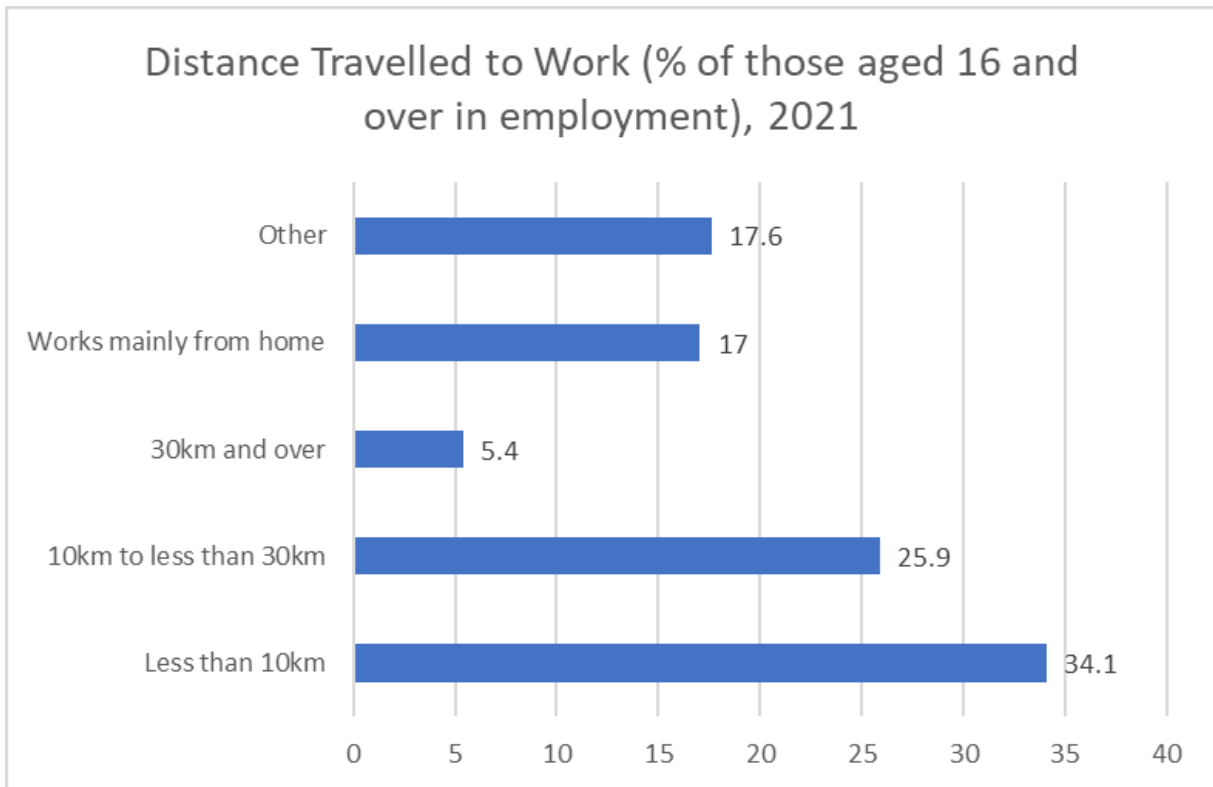
**Figure 8 - Travel to Work Areas for Wool**



Source: Office for National Statistics, December 2011

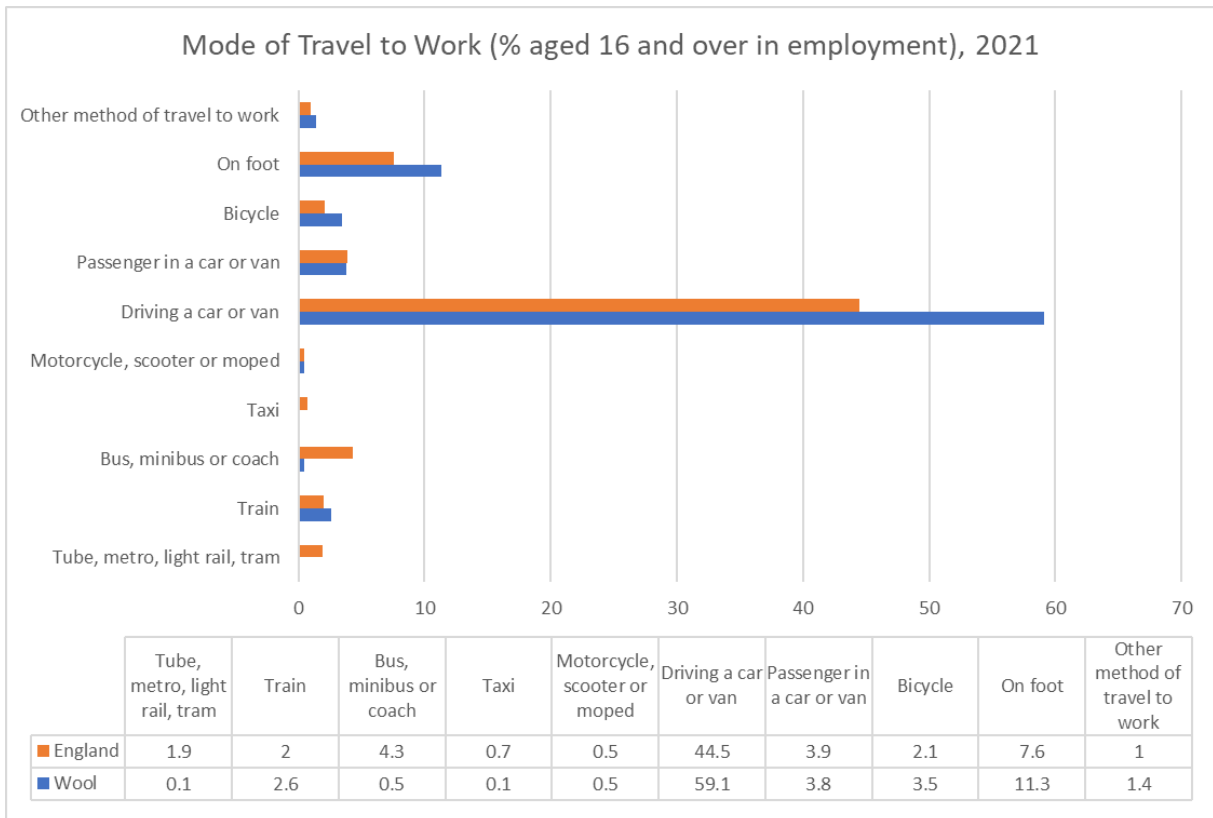
38. The data shows a larger proportion of younger people and working age people in the parish than in surrounding areas. A smaller proportion of people in active employment worked from home at the time of the 2021 Census than the England average (17% for Wool compared to 31.5% for England as a whole). 31.3% of workers travelled more than 10km to work (see Figure 9).
39. In terms of mode of transport used to get to work, the Figure 10 shows the great majority of those travelling to work using cars or vans. The 2021 Census recorded only 3.5% travelling by bike and 11% walking. Public Transport is shown to be not generally used for travel to work by people living in Wool, with only 0.5% taking the bus (unsurprising given the lack of buses) and 2.6% taking the train.

**Figure 9 – Travel to Work Distances, 2021**



Source: 2021 Census

**Figure 10 – Mode of Travel to Work, 2021**



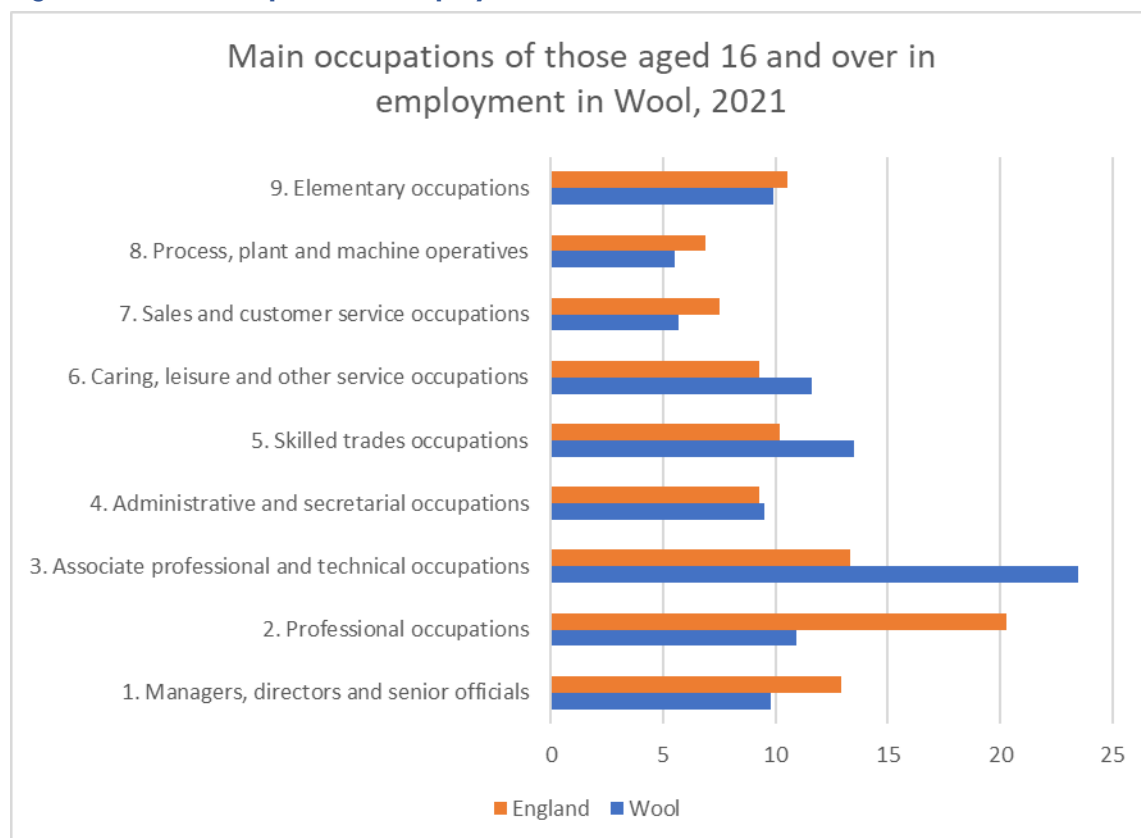
Source: 2021 Census

- 40. A local survey on buses indicated that there are significant numbers of people who require bus services, which currently are not provided all-year round, through the day or serve local destinations. Combined with lack of geographical access to services, this heightens the need for better public transport to connect different parts of the Parish.

**Economy and Skills**

- 41. The 2021 Census recorded 64% of the 16-64 years population of Wool Parish as economically active. This included 2.7% who were unemployed at the time of the census. This was a higher level of economic activity and a lower level of unemployment than for England as a whole.
- 42. In terms of the key sectors of employment (as recorded in the 2011 Census), 28.9% were in public administration and defence which may reflect the contribution of defence employment in Bovington. The next largest sectors were human health and social work activities (9.9%), Wholesale, retail and repair (9.1%), Accommodation and Food Services (8.15%) and Education (7.33%). The three sectors above delivering public services accounted for 46% of the employment of residents living in Wool.
- 43. Figure 11 provides a breakdown of occupations recorded in the 2021 Census and compares this to the England average. The most significant variations are in categories 1, 2 and 3, showing lower proportions in Wool of senior managers and professional occupations and higher proportions of associate professional, technical and skilled trades occupations in Wool compared to the England average.

**Figure 11 – Main Occupations of Employed Residents of Wool, 2021**



Source: 2021 Census

### 3. Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

44. The parish of Wool faces significant challenges arising from the potential for large amounts of planned housing development proposed in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 and emerging Dorset Local Plan, which would alter the character of Wool and East Burton. The parish also contains an Enterprise Zone with which it has little contact and connection in terms of employment. It has a major military site and faces challenges to provide transport connections and services so that military families can access services and facilities in Bovington, East Burton and Wool. A legacy nuclear power facility remains actively managed through its decommissioning.
45. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has actively engaged with local people to seek their views on the key aspects of life in Wool Parish which they like and don't like, and to find out the things local people would like to see more of and less of. This simple approach has yielded significant feedback through surveys, consultation meetings, walkabouts and drop-in sessions.
46. The valued aspects of life in Wool Parish are clear. A mix of good access to major towns (by rail) from Wool sits alongside easy access to countryside and the Dorset National Landscape. The position of the parish is seen as a key asset, providing access to key amenities whilst being far enough away to provide a relaxed, friendly community environment. The size of Wool provides just about enough services for people to perceive them to be good for a village of its size (except in relation to access to health services) but some would like a better supermarket, the nearest of which is in Wareham. There should be more for local young people to do (so that anti-social behaviour is reduced).
47. The response to surveys shows that, from what people say, services are clearly on the balance between sufficient and insufficient – the experience can vary. People feel Wool village could be a bit tidier and less scruffy, something they feel is exacerbated by the through-traffic. Local people think the level crossings, which split the parish in two, are a big problem. This is worsened during the tourist season (May to October). People worry how far back the queues would go if planned housing is delivered. No one thinks people will drive a different way avoiding the level crossing, they think there is insufficient parking at the rail station and that there are no bus services to provide an alternative. Some people say that, for a key service village (which how it is categorised in the Purbeck Local Plan), it should have more key services.
48. Local people like where they live. Clearly, they would like some things to be better – bus services and local public services, the quality of local infrastructure. They want to preserve the good things about where they live – village life, quiet environment, beautiful local countryside.
49. The Parish of Wool, as a community, has a say over the planned proposals and options for the development of around 1,000 houses in Wool. It is clear they are not wanted by local people at anything like this scale. The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 allocates sites to the west of Wool and adjacent to East Burton, with capacity for around 470 homes and 65 extra care homes. In relation to the future options consulted upon in 2021, the voice of the community will be heard in response to the Dorset Local Plan consultations and during its examination.
50. Regardless, the neighbourhood plan cannot be a vehicle for opposition to local plan policies and must be in general conformity with local plans and national policies. Given the neighbourhood plan is the key means by which the local community is expressing what it thinks and wants, this is potentially frustrating. Nevertheless, the neighbourhood plan can be used to ensure that, where allowed, local people can influence the shape and content of new development, if not the amount.
51. In this context, setting a Vision for the neighbourhood plan is a challenge. In essence, the community would imagine a future Wool which is essentially the same as today, but tidier and with better services



(and the level crossing issues are addressed). Some new housing would be provided to meet local needs, much the way it was previously provided, gradually.

52. That future is now unlikely. In the worst case, new development at the scale currently proposed will bring new communities that will change local character, potentially living in dense development which could be alien to local styles (which are varied but are generally low rise and less dense). They might resemble developments anywhere in the country.
53. Major new planned development may be subject to specific agreements between Dorset Council and developers such that there is little scope to influence affordable housing or provision of infrastructure in line with community requirements.
54. It is likely that an influx of newcomers will generate demand for better services which hopefully would improve over time but will also generate more traffic. More people travelling to work might support a bus service. Issues around the rail station might be resolved in time.
55. In the best case the neighbourhood plan can ensure that the community of Wool gets as much out of new development as it can to tackle the matters raised in consultation on the neighbourhood plan to preserve the essential nature of the community of Wool Parish and to improve life for local people where it can. Through this plan, the local community expresses a Vision and a set of Objectives to work towards the best outcome.

## Vision and Objectives

The neighbourhood plan Vision is to ensure that the essential characteristics of Wool Parish which local people value and support, are retained and where possible enhanced, whilst services are improved with better connections between settlements, and local housing needs for all sections of the community are better met.

56. Based on the Vision, some objectives are identified to help deliver it. The objectives form the basis for the following chapters of the neighbourhood plan which set out specific neighbourhood plan policies.

Objective 1 – Through good design, new development should be sustainable, and should respect and enhance the existing character of Wool Parish.

Objective 2 – Housing provision in Wool Parish should be tailored to meet the needs of residents.

Objective 3 – Community infrastructure and services should be protected and improved.

Objective 4 – Active travel and public transport connections between settlements in Wool Parish and with other key towns must be improved.

Objective 5 – Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity must be protected and should be improved.

## 4. Sustainable Buildings and Good Design

### Introduction

57. Residents of Wool Parish care deeply about how their area is developed to maintain and enhance positive features of its existing neighbourhoods and ensure that new areas of development create a positive contribution. The neighbourhood plan provides an opportunity to consider the positive design features that the local community want to promote more of, and the negative design features they would want to discourage.
58. The imperative for solid design policies in the neighbourhood plan is given extra force by the adoption of a National Model Design Code and the development of an area-wide design code being developed by Dorset Council. Wool Parish sits within the Purbeck Sub-Area, and it is to be expected that building styles and preferences of the Purbeck area are reflected in new development. The Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan identifies local traditions and preferred building design to be reflected in new development on local sites. It provides an opportunity to respond to community views on the local built environment.
59. Wool Village is a very old village which has for the most part the appearance of a modern settlement and is home to a wide range of post-medieval to post-war, and now modern, residential building styles. Development has largely been piecemeal and organic and so the shock of the large-scale and the new has been avoided, until recently. One recent development has raised concerns about the physical height of buildings in the development, about the perceived 'alien' design and, fundamentally, the quality of materials, construction and maintenance.
60. East Burton village is a small village partly connected to the adjacent Wool village. Site allocation options set out in the Regulation 18 Options Consultation Dorset Local Plan (January 2021) have indicated strategic site allocation options in the area to the west of East Burton village up to the east of the Dorset Police Headquarters and the Dorset Innovation Park. If pursued as a preferred option in the Dorset Local Plan, development in this area in would see the whole of the area in between East Burton village and these areas developed for housing.
61. Bovington sits apart and has been developed alongside and been wholly influenced by the Ministry of Defence establishment of Bovington Camp. Much of the fabric of Bovington has been developed to serve and provide amenities to people working there. The neighbourhood plan can support improvements to the environment of Bovington Camp through good design. However, planning decisions at Bovington should also take into account wider security and defence requirements, and support development required for operational defence and security purposes.<sup>2</sup>
62. Site allocations for Wool set out in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 occupy prominent positions with long views into the sites from the north, from currently open land subject to allocation proposals. Closer views of the sites, which are seen as rising land, exist from adjacent properties to the east (from which they are prominent) and from the Dorchester Road.
63. In the face of potentially transformative development, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that lessons are learnt from recent development and that any new development respects local styles and scale so that the attributes which make Wool a nice place to live are retained, continued and enhanced in new development.

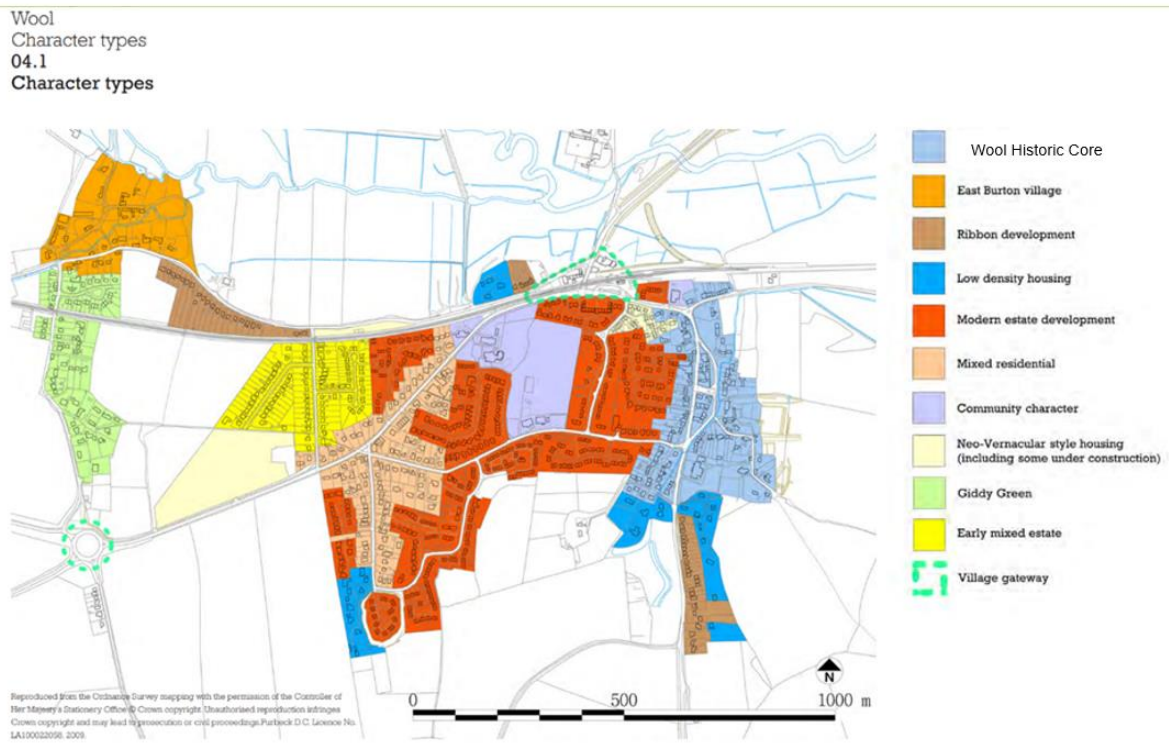
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<sup>2</sup> NPPF (2023) paragraph 101(b)

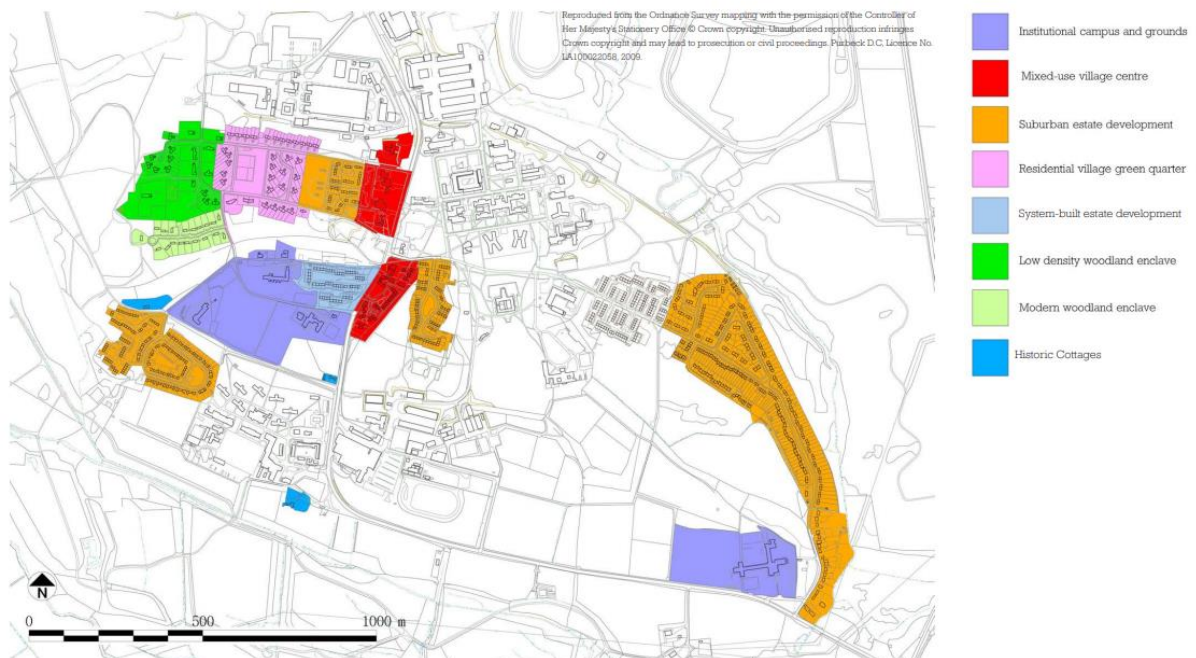
## Design Policies for Wool Village, East Burton Village and Bovington

64. Work has been undertaken to document design styles and design opportunities in the built environment of Bovington, Wool and East Burton Villages. The Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone and much of the MOD Estate at Bovington Camp have not been considered in this work owing to their unique position and strategic status.
65. The aim of this work is to provide information on predominant development styles with a view to indicating how future development should be designed to complement it, strengthen positive design features and address negative design impacts. Where this relates to MOD land at Bovington Camp, design themes may be subject to the operational defence requirements of the camp.
66. It seeks to identify opportunities to increase the legibility (understanding of the structure) of the built environment of Bovington, East Burton and Wool, to recognise and strengthen gateways, routes and key destinations. It identifies components of design which work well in terms of layout, landscaping and green infrastructure within developments.
67. A review of character features and priorities has been prepared as a supporting document to the neighbourhood plan. 'Wool, East Burton and Bovington Character Appraisal and Priorities', summarises the principles set out in Purbeck District Council's Wool Townscape Character Appraisal and the Bovington Townscape Character Appraisal. These identify important character types within Wool Parish and set clear principles for the design of new development. They identify important priorities for the management of development in different parts of the parish, including where opportunities may exist to enhance local character.
68. Ten Character Types were identified in the Wool Townscape Character Appraisal and eight Character Types were identified in the Bovington appraisal. These are shown in Figure 12. For each Character Type, typical character features were described, as were typical building design and form, the use of materials and approaches to plot layout. Priorities and aspirations for the protection and enhancement of each character type are also identified in Table 2. More information related to the key features of each of the eighteen Character Types identified within the parish is set out in Table 1 of the supporting document. It is important that proposals have regard to protecting and enhance key positive features in each character type area, to the avoidance of replicating negative features and to taking opportunities to enhance character.

**Figure 12 - Character Types in Wool Parish**



Bovington  
Character types  
04.1  
Character types



Source: Wool, East Burton and Bovington Character Appraisal and Priorities Supporting Document using Purbeck District Council Townscape Character Appraisal for Wool, 2012 (Matrix Partnership)

**Table 2 – Priorities for protection and enhancement of character type areas**

<b>TYPE/AREA</b>	<b>Priorities to Protect and Enhance Character</b>
<b>Wool Historic Core</b>	<p>As opportunities arise, replace indifferent modern buildings with more appropriate contextual designs.</p> <p>Avoid infill development within plots with large gardens that would change the character of Wool Village.</p> <p>Manage on-street parking to reduce and avoid the erosion of verges and banks.</p> <p>Avoid insensitive alteration or the over-extension of modest vernacular buildings.</p> <p>Discourage the replacement of hedges with modern fencing and consider how new fencing affects local character.</p> <p>Consider carefully whether highway ‘improvements’ such as the introduction of kerbs or formal pavements would erode the rural qualities associated with this area.</p> <p>Maintain the presence of local shops so that the local centre continues to function.</p> <p>Encourage maintenance on Cob and Thatch Structures.</p> <p>Avoid uncharacteristic concrete roof tiles.</p>
<b>East Burton Village</b>	<p>As opportunities arise, replace indifferent modern buildings with more appropriate contextual designs.</p> <p>Avoid infill development within plots with large gardens that would change the character of East Burton Village.</p> <p>Manage on-street parking to reduce and avoid the erosion of verges and banks.</p> <p>Avoid the insensitive alteration or the over-extension of modest vernacular buildings.</p> <p>Discourage the replacement of hedges with modern fencing and consider how new fencing affects local character.</p> <p>Consider carefully whether highway ‘improvements’ such as the introduction of kerbs or formal pavements would erode the rural qualities associated with this area.</p> <p>Support sensitive conversion of historic agricultural buildings to ensure their long-term retention and maintenance.</p>
<b>Ribbon Development</b>	<p>Prevent over-development through Infilling or redevelopment that could harm the pleasant low-density character of these areas.</p> <p>Design infill development to avoid the impacts on the definition of the streetscene associated with of the loss of boundary walls, widened entrances and additional parking.</p> <p>Avoid the conversion of front gardens to parking and garages located forward of the building line that would impact on the character and appearance of these areas.</p> <p>Avoid poorly designed extensions or conversions that could detract from the appearance of these areas.</p>

<p><b>Low Density Residential</b></p>	<p>Support potential for limited infill development on gap sites or large plots.</p> <p>Take opportunities to replace lower quality buildings through redevelopment.</p> <p>Protect the low-density character and important vegetation in determining proposals for the intensification of development through infilling or redevelopment of existing plots at greater densities.</p> <p>Consider the contribution and informal qualities of existing tracks and lanes in development proposals that would resurface and widen them or which would remove verges and create pavements.</p> <p>Avoid insensitive redevelopment where built forms become more dominant than the vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Modern Estate Development</b></p>	<p>Support new development in certain locations that could aid legibility (recognition of how the area is structured) and provide enhanced points of entry.</p> <p>In considering opportunities for redevelopment of some locations at higher densities, avoid harm to the suburban character of these locations.</p> <p>Design infill development to avoid the impacts on the definition of the streetscene associated with the loss of boundary walls, widened entrances and additional parking.</p> <p>Discourage conversion of front gardens to parking that could result in the loss of vegetation to the detriment of the appearance of the area.</p> <p>Avoid poorly designed extensions or conversions that could detract from the appearance of these areas.</p>
<p><b>Mixed Residential</b></p>	<p>As opportunities arise, replace indifferent modern buildings with more appropriate contextual designs.</p> <p>Support the redevelopment of existing post-war shopping parades to improve their design and appearance and create a stronger more identifiable village 'centre' in this location.</p> <p>Ensure that proposals for infilling or redevelopment of existing plots at greater densities do not harm the suburban character.</p>
<p><b>Neo-Vernacular Style Housing</b></p>	<p>Avoid replication of this style and ensure that future developments have regard to the local distinctiveness of Wool.</p> <p>Discourage further generic vernacular style housing development that lacks reference to the distinctiveness of the village and the Purbeck area.</p>
<p><b>Giddy Green</b></p>	<p>Avoid infill development within plots with large gardens that would impact on the low density and green character of this area.</p> <p>Manage on-street parking to reduce and avoid the erosion of verges and banks.</p> <p>Avoid insensitive alteration or the over-extension of modest vernacular buildings.</p> <p>Discourage the replacement of hedges with modern fencing and consider how new fencing affects local character.</p>

	<p>Consider carefully whether highway ‘improvements’ such as the introduction of kerbs or formal pavements would erode the rural qualities associated with this area.</p>
<b>Early Mixed Estate</b>	<p>Support limited replacement of existing dwellings where these are of indifferent quality and adverse impacts on the area are avoided.</p> <p>Ensure that development through infilling or redevelopment of existing plots at greater densities avoids harm to this area.</p>
<b>Village Gateway</b>	<p>Through the delivery of planned development in this area, prioritise significant improvements at this important gateway into Wool.</p> <p>Remove the dominance of highway engineering and create a new urban square/space.</p> <p>Consider how to overcome traffic/road infrastructure constraints that could limit potential for change.</p>
<b>Bovington</b>	
<b>Institutional Campus and Grounds</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities:</p> <p>Improve the design of institutional buildings through variation of design and character.</p> <p>New buildings should relate well to the wider townscape including a better presence on the road.</p> <p>Consider the replacement of some lower quality buildings.</p> <p>Create better screening of parking areas and amelioration of the effect of intrusive boundary fencing.</p> <p>Achieve sensitive building extensions and alterations.</p>
<b>Mixed Use Village Centre</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities on MOD land:</p> <p>Consider feasibility of creating a more concentrated village centre to create a more vibrant place.</p> <p>Similarly seek to overcome poor frontage onto the principal road including some excessive setbacks.</p> <p>Seek to improve the quality of development.</p> <p>Create a better planned and more coherent village centre.</p> <p>Improve the quality of the public realm.</p>
<b>Suburban Estate Development</b>	<p>Improve green spaces within the residential areas.</p> <p>Improve garage courts.</p> <p>Encourage new tree planting.</p> <p>Consider potential to re-landscape or develop some left-over spaces – heathland buffer permitting, including redevelopment of Arras Crescent area.</p> <p>Avoid further loss of boundary wall, fences and hedges.</p>

	<p>Avoid widening of entrances to provide off-street parking in front gardens that could undermine the quality and definition of the street scene.</p> <p>Discourage the loss of vegetation to the detriment to the appearance of the area.</p> <p>Ensure that extensions or loft conversions are well-designed.</p> <p>Avoid further loss of details, especially chimneys and chimneypots.</p>
<b>Residential Village Green Quarter</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities on MOD land:</p> <p>Improve house frontages dominated by garages.</p> <p>Improve scale of open space to better match the scale of development.</p> <p>Promote a stronger definition of central space with more prominent house frontages.</p> <p>Potentially encourage some more uses in the central open space.</p> <p>Use tree and hedge planting, especially to reduce the impact of wire netting around tennis courts and end walls of houses.</p> <p>Avoid unsympathetic alterations to houses.</p>
<b>System-Built Estate Development</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities on MOD land:</p> <p>Encourage some individuality between buildings where feasible.</p> <p>Improve internal green space.</p> <p>Improve back areas visible from surrounding spaces and roads.</p> <p>If feasible, improve detailing.</p> <p>Encourage tree planting.</p> <p>Ensure good maintenance of roads and parking areas</p>
<b>Low Density Woodland Enclave</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities on MOD land:</p> <p>Ensure any new development complements existing styles includes future potential mature landscape setting to match existing in time.</p> <p>Maintain the successful edge between the settlement and woodland/heath.</p> <p>Encourage boundary treatments in new development to avoid close-boarded fencing along edge of roads.</p> <p>Guard against insensitive building alterations.</p>
<b>Modern Woodland Enclave</b>	<p>Aspirations to address design improvements subject to military requirements and priorities on MOD land:</p> <p>Maintain quality of landscape setting in new development</p> <p>Avoid the dominance of parked cars on roads by promoting off-street parking.</p> <p>Encourage householders to create more interesting front gardens and encourage small flower beds in public areas.</p>



	Ensure redevelopments and small new developments maintain the contiguous character of the locality
<b>Historic Cottages</b>	<p>Encourage traditional rural building types to maintain/create a sense of place and associate Bovington with the wider rural area. Must ensure that this does not undermine the qualities of other character areas.</p> <p>Avoid further loss of boundary walls, fences and hedges to provide parking in front gardens at Bunker's Hill.</p> <p>Ensure extensions or loft conversions are well-designed.</p> <p>Avoid further loss of details, especially chimneys and chimneypots.</p>

Source: Wool, East Burton and Bovington Character Appraisal and Priorities Supporting Document using Purbeck District Council Townscape Character Appraisal for Wool, 2012 (Matrix Partnership)

### WOOL 1 - Design Principles for New Development in Wool Parish

Proposals for new development in Wool Parish should, through their design, have regard to the priorities to protect and enhance character set out in Table 2 in relevant character type areas identified in Figure 12. New buildings and property boundaries should use good quality and durable materials, the details of which should be included in planning applications.

## Residential Development Density and Form

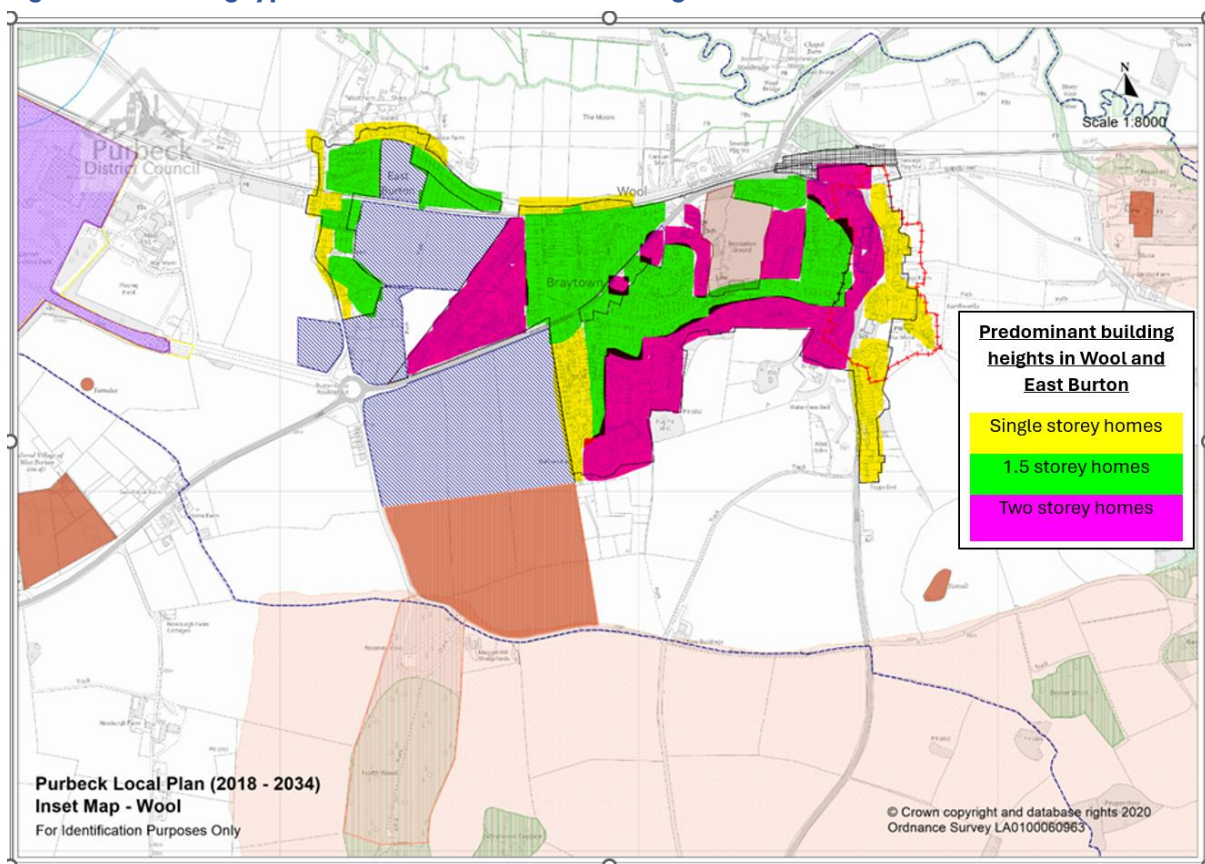
69. During the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, strong views were expressed about recent development in Wool which is viewed as poorly designed and built, with a poor relationship to adjacent areas of Wool and East Burton Villages. Local people have said they want new development to have a stronger regard to local design characteristics. Policy WOOL 1 requires that regard is had to the character type areas within the parish and the key priorities identified in support of them.
70. Further consideration is needed about the height, density and layout of new housing development in relation to residential amenity for existing and new residents. There is a strong concern in the community that the design of development on strategic housing allocation sites may resemble 'anywhere' edge of settlement estates of the type to be found across the country. A key challenge is to demonstrate that local community design characteristics can be consistent with strategic policy priorities to promote the efficient use of land.
71. A document called 'Development Form in Wool and East Burton', was prepared as a supporting document to the Neighbourhood Plan. The supporting document examines the broad structure of Wool and East Burton, the history of their development, the design and form of previous developments and the outcomes they created. A walking and desk survey was undertaken of previous estate-style developments which make up the bulk of the area of Wool Village, and the older areas of Wool Village and East Burton Village. It examined the density, scale and massing of different housing areas in Wool and East Burton, based on their period of development. This showed a predominance of certain building and development approaches:
  - The overall height of development in Wool is low with many properties at 1 or 1.5 storeys.
  - Two-storey properties are also low height.
  - Developments are often of mixed heights.
  - Apart from the Black Bear Inn, there were no three storey properties before Purbeck Gate

- A range of densities are apparent dependent on the age of properties, location and how they were developed.
  - High densities can be achieved using traditional development form (although this was not applied to Purbeck Gate)
  - Most properties in Wool sit well within their plots with private gardens to front and to the rear. This approach is maintained whether properties are larger or smaller.
  - The approach to development form lends an open character with low massing to most parts of Wool (although this was not applied to Purbeck Gate).
  - Topography on Wool's southern slopes has influenced development design resulting in a mix of 1, 1.5 and 2-storey properties arranged to work with the topography and landscaping to maintain openness of estates.
  - Some parts of proposed allocation sites will be affected by similar topographical influences in relation to existing development and the wider landscape.
72. A survey of developments in Bovington was not undertaken. The following general building and development approaches in Bovington are evident from the Bovington townscape appraisal:
- Generally, two-storey housing with some taller elements
  - Larger institutional buildings in public areas and behind the wire in MOD operational areas.
  - Variety of modern styles of low to medium quality, which lack details.
  - Extensive landscaping, some very good and other areas poor.
  - Spread-out neighbourhood centre with extensive set-backs.
  - Important surrounding woodland provides setting and screens Bovington from nearby areas.
  - Some areas lack direct walking routes to the neighbourhood centre.
  - Some areas have poor provision for car parking.
73. Whilst a wide range of housing development styles have been applied across time, there are core design features which are apparent in Wool and which are reflected in the built environment of the parish today. Care is needed to ensure new development can integrate with existing communities and built forms.
74. **Wool Village** - In Wool, low density, low height residential development is visible from main thoroughfares as these were often older properties that were developed earlier. Older properties are sometimes positioned forward on the road whilst bungalows are set back in their plots where possible. New development is always denser than older development – in some places, bungalows have been redeveloped into two storey homes. Almost all developments are estate developments. There are many roads within Wool which contained 1, 1.5 and 2 storey development mixed in where the 2-storey buildings are generally of low elevation. Low-elevation properties set back in their plots behind front gardens, lend many parts of Wool a very open feel, with big skies.
75. **Purbeck Gate** - The most recent large development was at Purbeck Gate. Buildings extend to 2.5 or 3 storeys but there are many at 1.5 storeys (very few are single storey). The larger buildings are in places positioned at the edges of the development and almost all buildings are positioned at the front of very small plots with no front gardens. The materials on show are a mixture of styles involving wood cladding, render, stonework details, red brick etc.
76. From the perspective of development in the rest of Wool, the density of development at Purbeck Gate is higher than other areas. From the perspective of character, it feels different to other developments

in Wool, and at a different scale. This is due to plot size, building position and the materials palette. The development presents a solid face of buildings to the outside.

77. **East Burton Village** - In East Burton, residential buildings tend to follow the form of older buildings in being 1 to 1.5 storeys, sat back in their plots, behind hedges, showing roofs to the street. Hedges are located on front boundaries and as such a more closed-in feel can result from the street. That said, much of East Burton development is along roads and in some places is directly adjacent to field or the water meadows, creating a rural feel.
78. Figure 13 shows the broad typology of housing development in Wool in terms of house type and building height. The green areas are predominantly bungalows of 1-storey, the yellow areas contain predominantly 1.5-storey homes and the magenta areas are predominantly 2-storey. As stated above, in Wool and East Burton as a whole, only the Black Bear Pub in Wool Village centre and some homes in Purbeck Gate extend higher than 2-storeys.

**Figure 13 - Building types in Wool and East Burton Villages**



Source: Andrea Pellegram Ltd (2023) drawing on Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 Proposals Map.

79. **Housing Densities** - The supporting document also examines the approximate densities of previous developments and discusses how housing density in different developments within Wool and East Burton affects the amenity and quality of living environments. Fifteen separate areas of development were identified, including the historic parts of Wool and East Burton. Outside of the historic cores, the other areas of development were largely denoted by separate estate developments from the mid-twentieth century onwards. These were surveyed to establish the broad approach to development layout and arrangement of car parking, gardens and landscaping.
80. Mid-20th century developments tended to provide larger plots with bungalow development. Houses were positioned in the middle of their plots providing front and rear garden space and off-road

parking. The provision of verges and other public space was minimised. The combination of low-height development and set back plot position created an open feel.

81. Later development became denser, with more 1.5 and 2 storey homes with some bungalows as well. The basic approach of earlier development was maintained, through provision of front garden areas, properties facing the road and private garden space. These areas introduced some public space and/or verges. This maintains a relatively open feel to these areas.
82. More recent developments exhibit the cramped feel of typical modern housing estates, based on smaller properties situated on very narrow plots, and larger properties placed on small plots with smaller gardens. Two-storey houses are normally placed to the front of the plot with a small strip of verge or no front garden area. These properties can appear more cramped. Often, the occupants have two cars with insufficient parking spaces. There can be nowhere to store waste bins which are therefore placed at the front. There is minimal landscaping, but dedicated provision is sometimes available for children's play.
83. A density standard of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph) was used by Dorset Council in the assessment of SHLAA sites (with appropriate density of development to be decided on a site-by-site basis). The neighbourhood plan supporting document shows that many parts of Wool have a lower density than this, but five of the fifteen areas reviewed have housing development which is at a higher density.
84. Three developments with a density just above the 30 dph (30-32 dph), at Lower Hillside Road/Vicarage Road, New Road and Burton Wood, provide semi-detached properties in traditional form, which are front-facing with front gardens, garages to the side, off-street parking for one car, bin storage to the rear and private rear gardens.
85. Two developments with the highest densities (above 38 dph) are Knowle Wood Knap and Purbeck Gate. These developments on the whole provide smaller homes, with a higher proportion in terraced form (and larger properties on small terraced plots). Buildings are generally set further forward. No front gardens are provided (with small planted verges instead), garages are provided to a small proportion of properties, and there is less off-street parking. Terraced properties store bins at the front. Street patterns are less legible (as a preference), many buildings are positioned at angles to other buildings (again as a preference) and rear gardens can be overlooked. There is a lack of on-street car parking to cater for the number of cars owned by occupants.
86. The Neighbourhood Plan supports well-designed housing development. In achieving an efficient use of available land to deliver new homes, it should remain possible to design development that provides good residential amenity and functions well in relation to people's everyday requirements and which relates well to the character type areas of the parish. Policy WOOL 2 sets out the features of new development which have proved deliverable in the parish and which should be demonstrated to have been considered in development proposals.

#### WOOL 2 - New Residential Development Form

Proposals for new residential development in Wool Parish should demonstrate positive approaches to deliver good residential amenity. In setting the density, layout and massing of new developments, proposals should demonstrate how they respond to the following principles:

a) The height of new development should not be overbearing in relation to neighbouring land uses, should not result in significant harm to the character of the surroundings and should aim to create a design which respects the character of the area.

- b) Where appropriate, new development should respond sensitively to changes in topography to reduce the potential for impacts on residential amenity resulting from overbearing development.
- c) Private front gardens should be provided where appropriate and where they are compatible with the character of the surrounding area. Street patterns should be legible and designed to provide rear garden space where overlooking is minimised.
- d) Where properties would have no rear-access, bin storage facilities should be provided at the front.
- e) Car parking provision should reflect the car parking strategy as agreed by the Local Planning Authority.

## Improving the local public realm

- 87. During the preparation of the neighbourhood plan and through dialogue with the local community, clear themes about the ability of local facilities, services and public realm to cope with additional users, and clear requirements for investment to improve key infrastructure to improve environmental quality were identified.
- 88. **Improve public spaces** – The playing field located behind the D’Urberville Centre is the only open access sports field in Wool and as such needs to be retained as open space. The open areas to the front of St Joseph’s Church and off Millennium Square with a frontage onto Dorchester Road are important and with the willing involvement and partnership of the landowners, more could be made of these to create a better-quality open space.
- 89. **Improve the function and environmental quality of Neighbourhood Centres for users** – A supporting document to the neighbourhood plan reviewed the provision and quality of Wool Village Centre and the two shopping parades in Braytown. It examined the provision of parking, cycle infrastructure and the quality of premises. In the context of a potentially greatly increased use of the facilities in these locations that will result from planned development, the need to improve the function and environmental quality of neighbourhood centres for users were identified. In particular, ensuring that sufficient car parking is available and cycle parking infrastructure is available, will be important.
- 90. **Improve the Level Crossing, Wool Railway Station and its Environs** – The photo survey in the neighbourhood plan documents library shows the presence of the railway in the Wool environment – the line, the level crossing and the station. The Wool Character Appraisal highlights how the level crossing and station form a gateway into Wool. Improvements are needed to Wool Station, to the environment around it and to how it is accessed by pedestrians and cyclists. New development in Wool should see a more intensively used railway and this means improving the station and environs.
- 91. The Wool Character Appraisal outlines the need for the entry into Wool at the level crossing to form a much higher quality gateway into Wool than it does at present. The neighbourhood plan would support initiatives to masterplan this area so that it provides the modernised facilities required, adequate car parking for an expanded population using the railway, better pedestrian and cycle access and parking. Importantly, it needs to provide a better experience and facilities for onward movement of the visitor to Wool.
- 92. **Improve the quality of the public realm/local environment on the main pedestrian route along Dorchester Road** to the shops, services and railway station, through a co-ordinated approach to the provision of street infrastructure and surfacing, to landscaping and planting and to boundary treatments of important sites – With planned development located wholly to the west of Wool and East Burton, significant reliance is being placed on pedestrian and cycle access to Wool Railway

Station for out-commuting. Whilst options are being explored, the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 indicates there is no requirement to improve bus services and operators do not see extra services or new local services as viable (this is contrary to views held by local people and Wool Parish Council).

93. It is important to ensure that the pedestrian and cycle routes from the west of Wool to the station are high quality, safe and pleasant. Elsewhere in the neighbourhood plan, this is addressed through the prism of network quality and safety. The photo survey shows parts of the route with residential and other plots located alongside. Few enhance the environment and most detract or at best are neutral in terms of contributing to environmental quality of this key route through Wool. Add in traffic levels at peak times, and when the level crossing is closed, and the overall perception of this route is that is a poor-quality environment for walking (this is not a cycle route but is the most direct means of access to the railway station from west of Wool).
94. The neighbourhood plan identifies the need for improvements to the environment along Dorchester Road and this is likely to be delivered through combinations of opportunities arising as development proposals come forward, but more likely through wider initiatives by Wool Parish Council working with partners over time.
95. **Improve key public buildings and infrastructure** - Similar to the railway line and station, and the Dorchester Road, which have a major influence on the look and feel of Wool Village, The BT Exchange on Station Road is prominent in approaches to Wool from the railway and to the historic village centre from the station. Its contribution is negative as a result of the design and decoration of the buildings and the upkeep of the site. The neighbourhood plan identifies the need to improve this 'eyesore' site, which would likely require wider partnerships to deliver.
96. The D'Urberville Centre is the main community building and activity centre open to all residents in Wool. Significant reliance will be placed on the effective use of this centre to meet increased need for community facilities in Wool resulting from population growth. The Centre was built in 1973 and was last subject to improvements in 2007. The exterior of the building and site is in need of a facelift.
97. **Improve surface water flood management infrastructure** - Dorset Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority and it has prepared a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to support policies in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034. The SFRA recognises that largescale development in Wool creates challenges in terms of managing flood risk in a complex hydrological setting. The Purbeck Local Plan site allocations for development on sites in Wool indicate that Dorset Council is confident development can take place safely with appropriate flood risk mitigation and drainage strategies in place.
98. The Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a supporting document which details local flood events, many of which relate to surface water flooding during storm events taking place in recent years. A photo archive is also provided within the document library supporting the Neighbourhood Plan, detailing the date and place of flooding. Some of these resulted from the failure of existing infrastructure to perform.
99. In managing surface water flows from any significant development, a further supporting document prepared to support the neighbourhood plan highlights the reliance on the use of field drainage systems maintained by farmers, highways drainage infrastructure maintained by Dorset Council, culverts along rivers maintained by riparian owners and the on-going availability of open surface water ponding areas. Importantly in the context of Wool Parish, it also recognises the importance of three small culverts along the railway line and the historic function of the water meadows. In short, once developers leave, flood risk will be managed by a multitude of individuals and organisations. Commitment is needed to ensure they are co-ordinated, maintained and where necessary improved.

### WOOL 3 – Improvements to the Local Environment

When using policies I1 and I7 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the need for improvements to the provision and management of flood protection and drainage infrastructure throughout the parish, in particular culverts, drainage channels and ponding areas important to surface water drainage functions.

Regard should also be given to opportunities to improve buildings and local environmental quality in Wool. This should include positive consideration of opportunities to improve the co-ordination and provision of facilities, buildings, surfacing, landscaping/planting, street furniture, boundary treatments, car parking, and the local public realm across Wool and in the following key locations:

- a) Neighbourhood Centres in Wool Village, Braytown and Bovington.
- b) Level Crossing, Wool Railway Station and its Environs.
- c) Key pedestrian route along Dorchester Road.
- d) The BT exchange on Station Road.
- e) The D'Urberville Business Centre near to Wool Railway Station.

## Sustainable Buildings

100. The climate emergency creates an imperative for local communities to take action to combat climate change and to mitigate its effects through design of new development. Wool Parish is no different and wants to support the development of new sustainable buildings and to support existing development to become more sustainable through measures to increase energy efficiency and incorporate low carbon and renewable energy technologies. It is important that new buildings in Wool are built ready for renewable or low carbon heat technologies, and should incorporate renewable energy generation to reduce fossil fuel energy demands and improve energy efficiency.
101. The government is regulating on home insulation and heating and is also providing incentives for homeowners to improve energy efficiency and reduce domestic emissions of greenhouse gases. Higher levels of energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions will be required in new buildings when Parts F and L Building Regulations requirements are applied from 2025 to meet the Future Homes Standard. There is no reason why new development design cannot incorporate these features now, or at least ensure that new development is ready to meet new requirements.
102. The occupants of new housing are often left with significant costs and difficulties in adapting newly-built homes to meet future requirements or take advantage of government initiatives to support change. New homes could be routinely built with roof top solar panels on them now. New homes will need space to be provided for heat pumps and this needs to be designed in – many new homes have little space to the front and at the back and it is not currently clear they could incorporate heat pumps.
103. Many smaller homes are designed with final entry doors to the front and rear which open directly into living spaces, which undermines the way heat pumps work to gradually heat spaces. New homes are often provided with plumbing and wiring which is not capable of accommodating new heating technologies which require greater water flow to heated water storage tanks. They don't have the space for the large water tanks. Radiators are too small and underfloor heating is not provided.

104. All this can render sustainable technologies unworkable or can be disruptive and costly to address. This could be avoided if required features and infrastructure are designed into new developments now, and they are built to good standards. Efforts to reflect these needs in planning policies are often objected to by developers who think that requirements should be laid out clearly in Building Regulations. This was certainly the response of developers to Regulation 18 policy options in the emerging Dorset Local Plan.
105. The NPPF (paragraph 164) says that local planning authorities should give significant weight to the need to support energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements to existing buildings. Dorset Council has published guidance on planning for climate change and has set a requirement for the submission of a Sustainability Checklist in support of applications for new developments.
106. What can a Neighbourhood Plan do to encourage better development design, built with good quality materials to good standards of construction? Wool Parish supports local efforts to improve the area's carbon footprint. Neighbourhood plan policies can support homeowners and developers to install renewable and other low carbon technologies within existing and on new developments. It can do this by encouraging high environmental performance in the development of new buildings and alterations/extensions to existing buildings.

#### WOOL 4 – Environmental Performance of Buildings

With reference to Dorset Council's Sustainability Checklist, new buildings and alterations/extensions to existing buildings are expected to achieve high standards of environmental performance, including where possible in relation to listed buildings. Positive support will be given to proposals within the existing framework for the preservation of heritage assets.

New development design in Wool should be future-proofed to support the achievement of lower carbon emissions, improved energy efficiency, better heat management and lower operating costs with new heating and energy generation technologies.

Proposals for development which include the following measures will be supported:

- a) Provide space within plots for heat pumps which should be positioned to ensure the amenity of occupants and neighbours is maintained.
- b) Incorporate design features to maintain heat balance within buildings, avoiding external doors opening directly into living spaces.
- c) Future-proofing to minimise the need for costly retrofits of new buildings.
- d) Incorporate roof top solar on new homes.
- e) Community energy schemes to provide heat and power to new developments.



## 5. Housing Needs in Wool Parish

### Introduction

107. The consultation undertaken to support the neighbourhood plan and the previous community-led Parish Plan show that village life in Wool Parish is valued, based on the balance of the size of the community, the available services and the relationship to the surrounding countryside. There is a concern that this balance will be lost if significant new development occurs.
108. The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 (Policy H5 Wool) identifies a housing requirement of around 470 dwellings and 65 extra care homes to be accommodated within Wool Parish on four allocated sites over the plan period. The Dorset Council Local Plan January 2021 Regulation Option Consultation options included options for a further 400 dwellings in Wool. A Preferred Options Consultation is awaited. Dorset Council expects to adopt a new Dorset-wide Local Plan in 2027.
109. The need for new housing to meet local housing needs is acknowledged. The neighbourhood plan survey shows that providing small amounts of affordable housing to meet local needs would be supported. Access to local housing is becoming more difficult for local people. Market housing is mostly out of reach for young families and new households, and so increased reliance is placed on different forms of affordable housing.
110. In other circumstances, the neighbourhood plan could allocate sites for affordable housing within settlements of the parish or on affordable-only rural housing exceptions sites adjacent to settlement boundaries. This is not going to happen. Dorset Council have already published a preferred strategy and further options to develop significant amounts of new housing in Wool Parish.
111. This would deliver affordable housing, much more than needed to meet local needs, as part of strategic provision of housing in the area to meet Dorset needs. With the amount of housing being promoted and being considered, there is no scope for further local provision in the neighbourhood plan. Whilst it is understood that Dorset Council is reviewing its strategy options, the community is extremely concerned about the potential impacts of nearly 1,000 new houses in the parish.
112. The Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan cannot take a contrary position to adopted strategic policies. The allocation of strategic housing sites for 470 dwellings and 65 extra care homes in Wool are set out in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034.
113. In line with policies in adopted and emerging plans, the neighbourhood plan can provide evidence of local housing needs and how, logically, these should be met on local developments. Strong evidence of local housing need should be used in the making and consideration of planning applications which may come forward, both in relation to principal consents and any reserved matters and amendments over time. The policy basis for this is set out below.

### Local Plan Policy Considerations

114. Policy H11 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 provides for the setting of locally-specific housing tenure requirements supported by a robust assessment of local housing needs. Policy H9 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 allows for neighbourhood plans to set distinct local housing mix requirements for different sizes and types of homes where justified by robust local evidence.
115. Policy H10 addresses requirements for adaptable and accessible homes on sites which are not proposed site allocations (where requirements are addressed specifically). The policy allows for neighbourhood plans to present evidence of local requirements which could result in changes in the proportion and design of adaptable and accessible homes.

116. The Housing Needs Assessment for Wool Parish has been prepared by AECOM to provide evidence in support of policies in the neighbourhood plan and its findings are discussed in this section.
117. In relations to site allocations in Wool under policy H5 of the Purbeck Local Plan, some matters relating to housing mix are strategic matters and are subject to memorandums of understanding agreed between Dorset Council and developers. These consider viability of meeting housing policy requirements in relation to infrastructure provision requirements. A summary of local understanding of the local plan view of infrastructure requirements in support of the planned developments has been prepared as a supporting document to the neighbourhood plan.

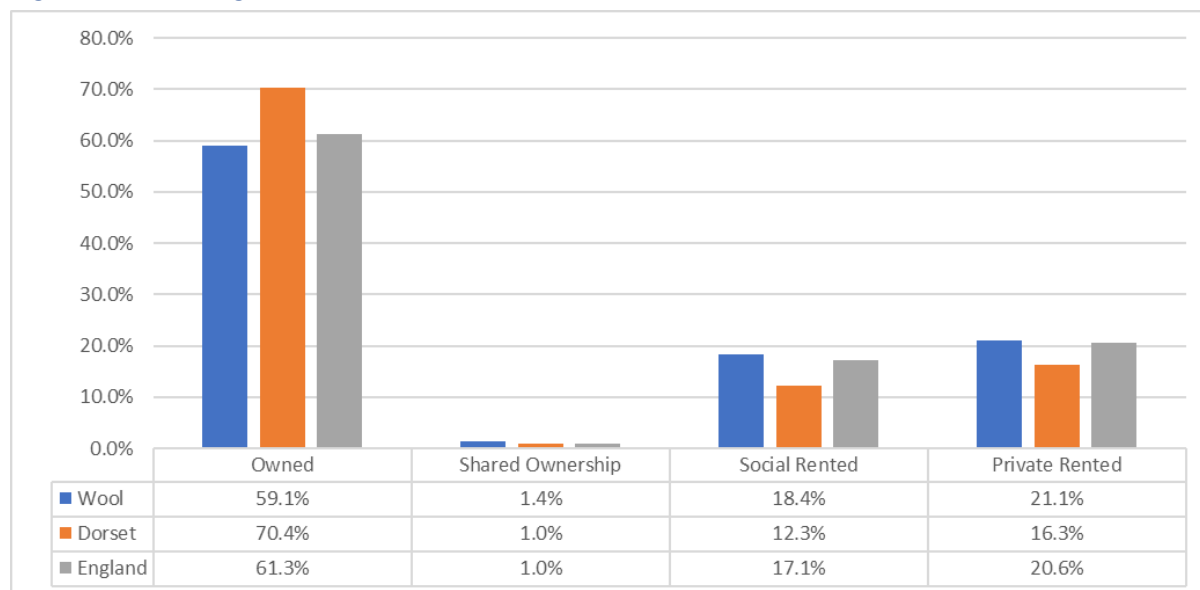
## **Housing Needs Assessment**

118. AECOM were commissioned to prepare a Housing Needs Assessment for Wool. This was prepared in 2023 using 2021 Census information and other available information which has supported development of policies in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 and the emerging Dorset Local Plan. The results demonstrate the broad requirements from new development in Wool Parish.
119. AECOM met with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to set the requirements for the study. Reflecting the issues raised during consultation with the community, the terms for the housing need assessment included a consideration of housing mix, housing tenure products and split, and the need for specialist accommodation for the elderly and other people, for example people with disabilities.
120. A key objective is to make sure new housing development delivers housing of a size and type and level of affordability which meets the needs of people living in the area. This has several dimensions including providing homes that new households and families can afford to maintain community cohesion and balance. In Wool, there is also a need to ensure sufficient housing is available to allow families to move up into larger houses and to attract newcomers particularly in relation to the establishment of new businesses in the area.
121. Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 policies relevant to the matters addressed in the Housing Needs Assessment are set out in Policies H2 Housing Land Supply, H5 Wool Allocations, H9 Housing Mix and H11 Affordable Housing. In all cases the Housing Needs Assessment provides information which supports policies in the neighbourhood plan which aids the effective implementation of these strategic policies in the Wool Parish context

## **Housing Affordability and Tenure**

122. Broadly speaking, Figure 14 shows that households in Wool own and rent in a similar pattern to the rest of England but this is not reflective of ownership and renting profiles in the rest of Dorset. In Wool, just over 59% of households are privately owned whilst the Dorset average is over 70%. Shared ownership rates are low (1.4%) and very slightly higher to the rest of Dorset and England (1%). Social and Private renting is in a higher proportion than the rest of Dorset.

**Figure 14 – Housing Tenure of Households in Wool Parish in 2021.**

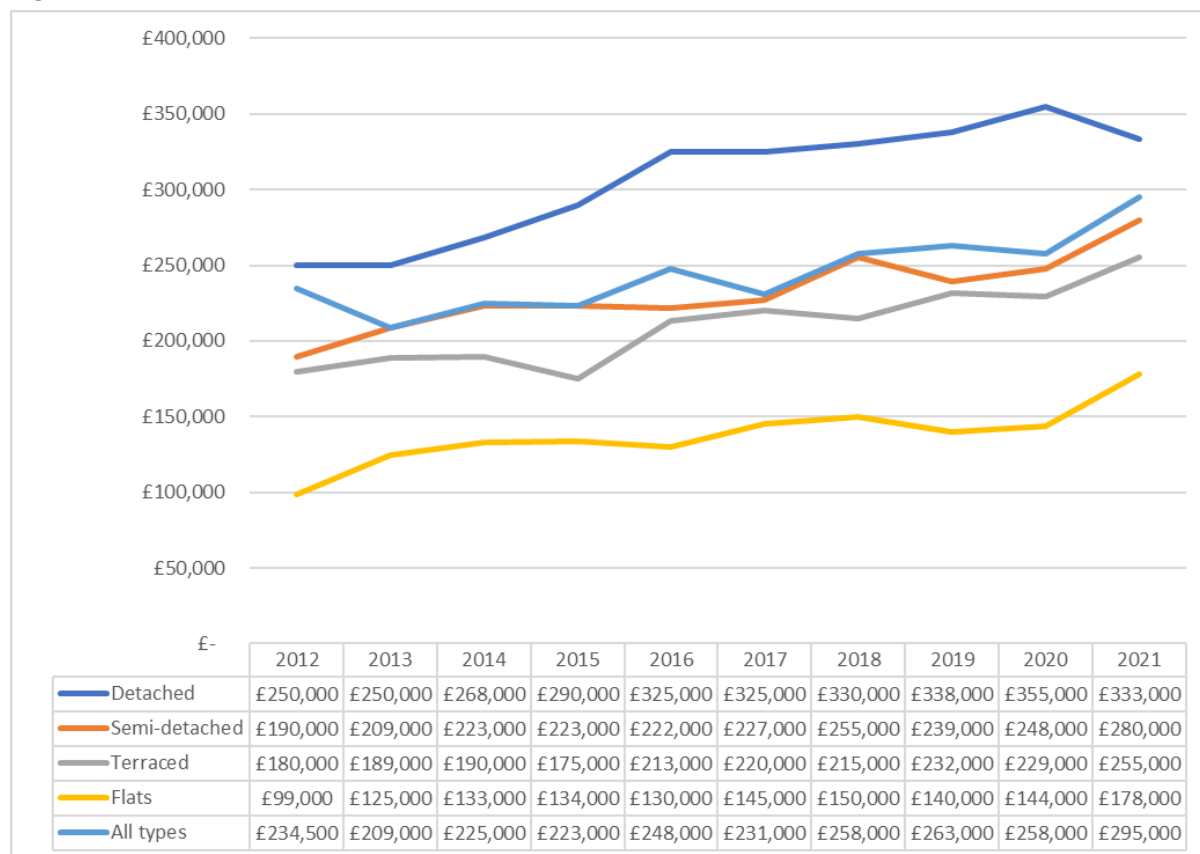


Source: AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, June 2023, Table 4-1

**Incomes and House Price Affordability**

- 123. The Housing Needs Assessment has provided Land Registry data for the period 2012–2021 on different house types within the parish. Figure 15 presents the median house price in each year of the period for detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, and for flats. The overall average for all types of home is also included. Over the period 2012–2021, the median price of all homes grew by an average 40.1%. The price of flats grew by 27.1%, terraced house prices grew by 18.6% and detached house prices grew by 24.3%. The largest growth in price was of semi-detached houses, the median average price of which grew by 47.1%. The data does not indicate the volume of sales.
- 124. An important consideration is the price of cheaper housing. Lower Quartile (the middle figure of the lowest 50%) house prices grew by 42% between 2012–2021 (to £250,000).
- 125. How affordable the price of housing is to local people depends on whether their income levels are sufficient to access it. Affordability will be in relation to owner occupation through purchase of homes, through renting, and through shared ownership.
- 126. The Housing Needs Assessment gathered available data to determine that (in 2018) average total household incomes within Wool Parish were £42,200. It also provides Dorset-wide data on lower quartile individual earnings, which were £14,530 in 2020. Two lower quartile earners in a household would therefore have a total household income of £29,060.

**Figure 15 – House Price Trends in Wool Parish, 2012–2021**



Source: data from Land Registry PPD, taken from AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, June 2023

127. An Affordability matrix is presented in Figure 16. This lists the different types of market and affordable housing products that are available, and the income required to access them in terms of affordability. The colour coding indicates unaffordable housing products (in red), housing products which are marginally affordable (in yellow) and affordable housing products (in green).
128. The Housing Needs Assessment makes assumptions that mortgages will be limited to 3.5 times single salary and 2.75 times joint salaries, and that housing costs would not exceed 30% of household income. On this basis, households on average incomes and lower quartile earning households with two incomes are not able to access local market housing for sale, including entry-level housing unless there is very large deposit. Private renting is not affordable for households with two lower quartile incomes, unless a higher proportion of income is devoted to paying rent.
129. Planned development on sites allocated in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 would go only some way to meet affordable housing needs identified in the Housing Needs Assessment. The need to secure the full 40% of housing from planned developments on an affordable basis is clear.

### First Homes

130. The Government introduced a First Homes product in 2021, which is set out in a Ministerial Statement of May 2021 and in Planning Practice Guidance. First Homes are affordable housing secured through Section 106 Planning Obligations.
131. The 'First Homes' product works by discounting and capping the price of market housing for first time buyers with the ability to prioritise their availability for local people and for key workers. Buyers must have an income less than £80,000 outside London. Legal restrictions ensure discounts are retained for future purchasers. Neighbourhood plans can apply additional criteria such as a lower income cap

and a local connection test. The level of discount is a minimum 30% and the maximum price after the discount is £250,000 outside London. Increased discounts can be justified and applied, also through neighbourhood plans.

**Figure 16 – Affordability Thresholds for different types of home in Wool**

Tenure	Mortgage value (90% of price)	Annual rent	Income required	Affordable on average incomes? £42,200	Affordable on LQ earnings (single earner)? £14,530	Affordable on LQ earnings (2 earners)? £29,060
<b>Market Housing</b>						
Median House Price	£265,500	-	<b>£75,857</b>	No	No	No
Estimated NA New Build Entry-Level House Price	£250,761		<b>£71,646</b>	No	No	No
LQ/Entry-level House Price	£225,000	-	<b>£64,286</b>	No	No	No
LA New Build Median House Price	£346,050	-	<b>£98,871</b>	No	No	No
Average Market Rent	-	£15,000	<b>£50,000</b>	No	No	No
Entry-level Market Rent	-	£9,120	<b>£30,400</b>	Yes	No	No
<b>Affordable Home Ownership</b>						
First Homes (-30%)	£175,533	-	<b>£50,152</b>	No	No	No
First Homes (-40%)	£150,457	-	<b>£42,988</b>	Marginal	No	No
First Homes (-50%)	£125,380	-	<b>£35,823</b>	Yes	No	No
Shared Ownership (50%)	£125,380	£3,483	<b>£47,432</b>	No	No	No
Shared Ownership (25%)	£62,690	£5,224	<b>£35,325</b>	Yes	No	No
Shared Ownership (10%)	£25,076	£6,269	<b>£28,061</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Affordable Rented Housing</b>						
Affordable Rent	-	£7,436	<b>£24,762</b>	Yes	No	Yes
Social Rent	-	£5,460	<b>£18,182</b>	Yes	No	Yes

Source: Wool Housing Needs Assessment, June 2023, Table 4-4

132. The Housing Needs Assessment has assessed whether households on average incomes can afford First Homes and has determined that with a maximum 50% discount on local newbuild median house prices, these households would be able to access this type of housing. At 40% discount, affordability to households on average incomes would be marginal. Lower Quartile Earners in two-earner households would need a discount larger than the scheme allows for entry level new homes and so would not be affordable.

### Shared Ownership

133. Shared ownership housing products combine payments to acquire equity in a property (the traditional 25% stake which is being reduced to a minimum 10% stake) with rent. The combined costs can be expensive to levels approaching those of private rent. Based on 10-25% equity stake, shared ownership homes would be affordable to households on average incomes in Wool, but not to lower quartile income households with one earner. A lower quartile income household with two earners would be able to afford shared ownership housing with the minimum 10% equity stake.

### Affordable and Social Rent

134. Social Rent tenure is housing owned by local authorities and housing associations and is usually available based on income and other eligibility criteria. Affordable Rent is available at no more than

80% of the local market rent with similar eligibility criteria. Figure 16 shows that lower quartile single income households in Wool cannot afford to access affordable rent or social rent accommodation. Two-earner lower quartile income households can afford both affordable rent and social rent. Dorset Council allocation policies seek to allocate 3 out of 4 social rent and affordable rent to local people.

### **Affordable Housing Tenure Policy**

135. Purbeck Local Plan (2012) policy AH set a requirement of 40% of homes from new development on greenfield sites to be affordable (there is no data to determine if any of the 19 dwellings completed in the last ten years in Wool were affordable). The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 sets range of requirements (20%, 30% and 40%) depending on the size of the development and whether it is a green or brownfield site. The Wool H5 allocation would need to accord with the Policy H11 requirement of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 for 40% affordable housing provision and the prescribed mix of 10% social rented, 65% affordable rented housing and 25% affordable home ownership. The developers are likely to seek flexibility on the mix of tenures based on viability concerns.
136. The government's First Homes scheme would take the first 25% of any affordable housing provided which could account for this element of affordable housing provision. The Housing Needs Assessment for Wool suggests that an additional 10% of affordable home ownership dwellings would be appropriate in the form of shared ownership housing with a 10% equity share. This would provide a total affordable home ownership proportion of 35% of the affordable housing delivered from allocations in Wool, based on the recommendations of the Housing Needs Assessment. This would provide 10 per cent more affordable home ownership than Purbeck Local Plan Policy Wool H5.
137. Provision of the remaining proportion of affordable housing for rent would comprise a balance between affordable rent and social rent set in consultation with Dorset Council's Housing Enabling Team, working with Registered Providers to ensure that average and lower quartile income households can access the housing made available.

### **WOOL 5 - Affordable Housing Tenure**

Affordable housing provided in Wool Parish should be secured in accordance with policy H11 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034. Where viable, the affordable housing tenure-split should be on the following basis:

First Homes provided as the first 25% of affordable housing should be made available at the maximum 50% discount in order to be affordable to local households.

Shared equity homes should form no more than 10% of affordable housing provision in Wool Parish. Equity stakes should be set at a 10% minimum.

Social Rent and Affordable Rent should form 65% of affordable housing provision through new development in Wool Parish. Social Rented homes should be provided in larger schemes to ensure that provision is made for lower quartile income households.

Social Rented and Affordable Rented homes should be allocated in accordance with Dorset Council's Allocation Policy. First Homes, discounted market sales housing and other affordable routes to home ownership should be prioritised for people with a local connection using the following criteria:

- a) Residency in Wool Parish for the last 2 years or 3 years out of the last 5 years;
- b) Close family continuous residency in Wool Parish (parents, siblings, non-dependent children) of 5 years;

c) Paid employment in Wool Parish of 16 hours per week average for minimum period of 1 year (including zero hours contracts);

d) Offer of permanent employment to social tenant in Wool Parish of 16 hours per week average for period no less than 1 year (including zero hours contracts) and where it is unreasonable to travel from current housing property.

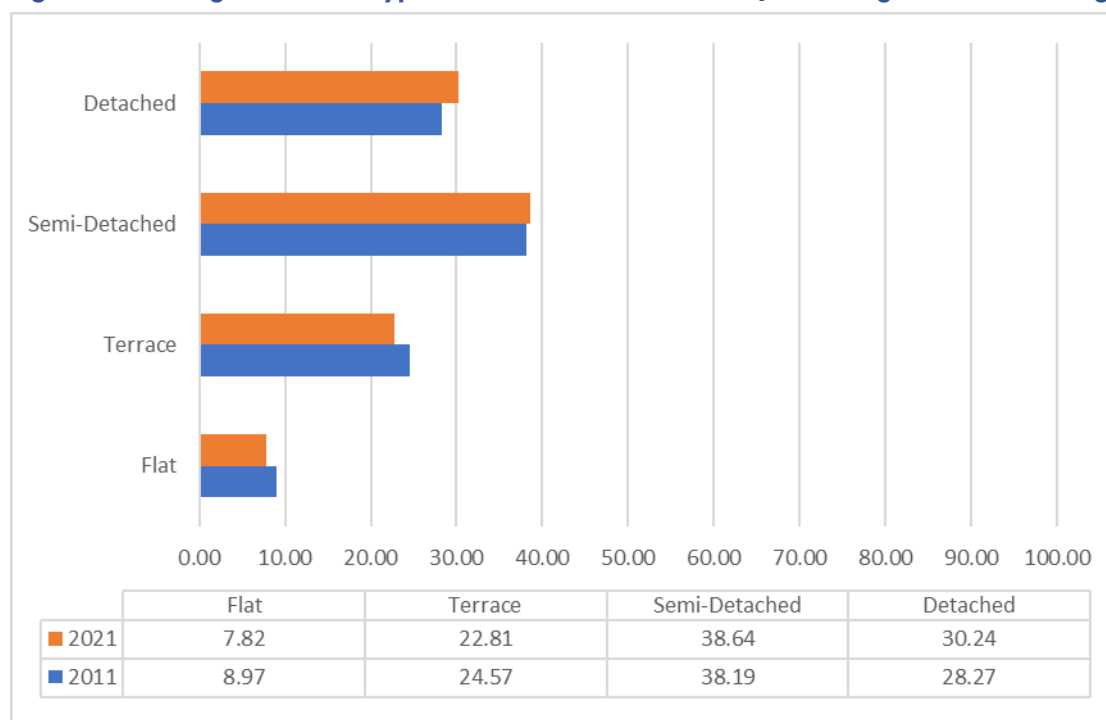
If there is no qualifying applicant, applicants will be considered from adjoining parishes using the same criteria.

If there is still no qualifying applicant, applicants will be considered from the wider Dorset Council area using the same criteria.

## Housing Type and Size Requirements in Wool

138. Understanding the composition of existing local housing in Wool is important to identifying what priorities should be adopted for future provision in the Parish. The Housing Needs Assessment provides a baseline default scenario onto which the considerations of strategy can be applied. Figure 17 shows changes in the composition of housing types between 2011-2021.

**Figure 17 – Changes in House Types in Wool Parish, 2011-2021 (Percentage of total dwellings)**



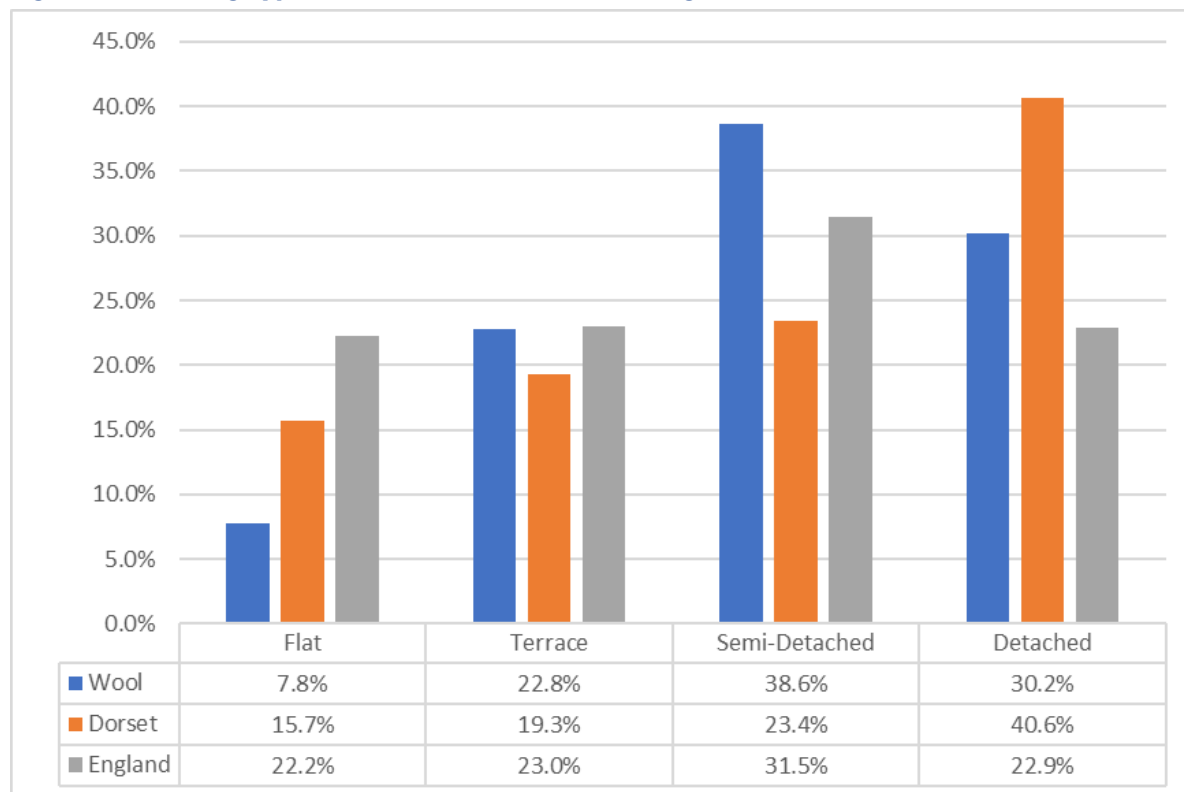
Source: AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, Table 5-1

139. Figure 18 compares the composition of housing in Wool Parish to Dorset and England, revealing that flats are significantly less evident in the parish than the rest of Dorset and England, whilst semi-detached houses form a greater proportion of housing than in the other areas. The proportion of detached houses is lower in Wool than the average for the rest of Dorset.
140. Figure 19 shows change in the size of residential properties in Wool Parish between 2011-2021, defined by the number of bedrooms. The proportion of the smallest properties (1-beds and 2-beds) declined between 2011 and 2021 whilst the larger properties (3-beds and 4+ beds) increased. A potential explanation for this could be that when the demand for larger properties is not met through lack of

availability, or when larger properties are not affordable to existing residents, then a response is to enlarge the property you have. This would result in a reduction in smaller properties over time.

141. Figure 20 shows that, compared to the rest of Dorset and England as a whole, 1-bedroom properties are a significantly smaller proportion of the housing stock in Wool Parish. There is a greater proportion of 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom properties with a lower proportion of large 4+ bedroom properties. This may relate to the low proportion of flats in the area.

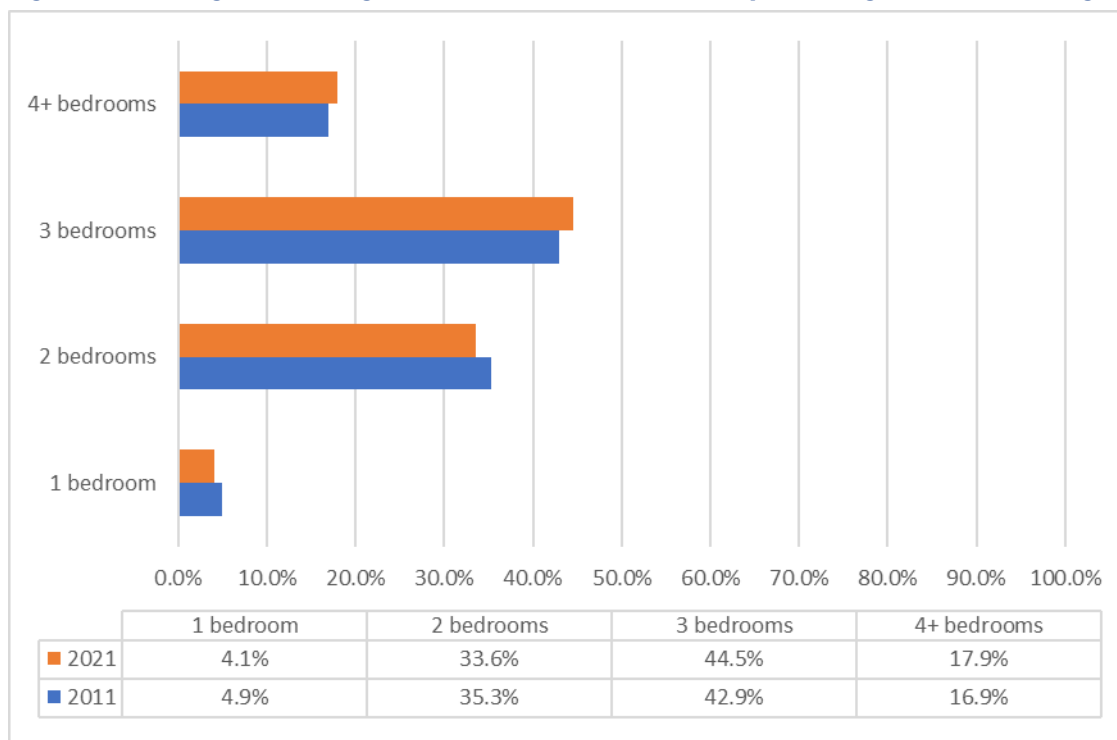
**Figure 18 –Housing Types in Wool Parish, Dorset and England, 2021**



Source: AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, Table 5-2

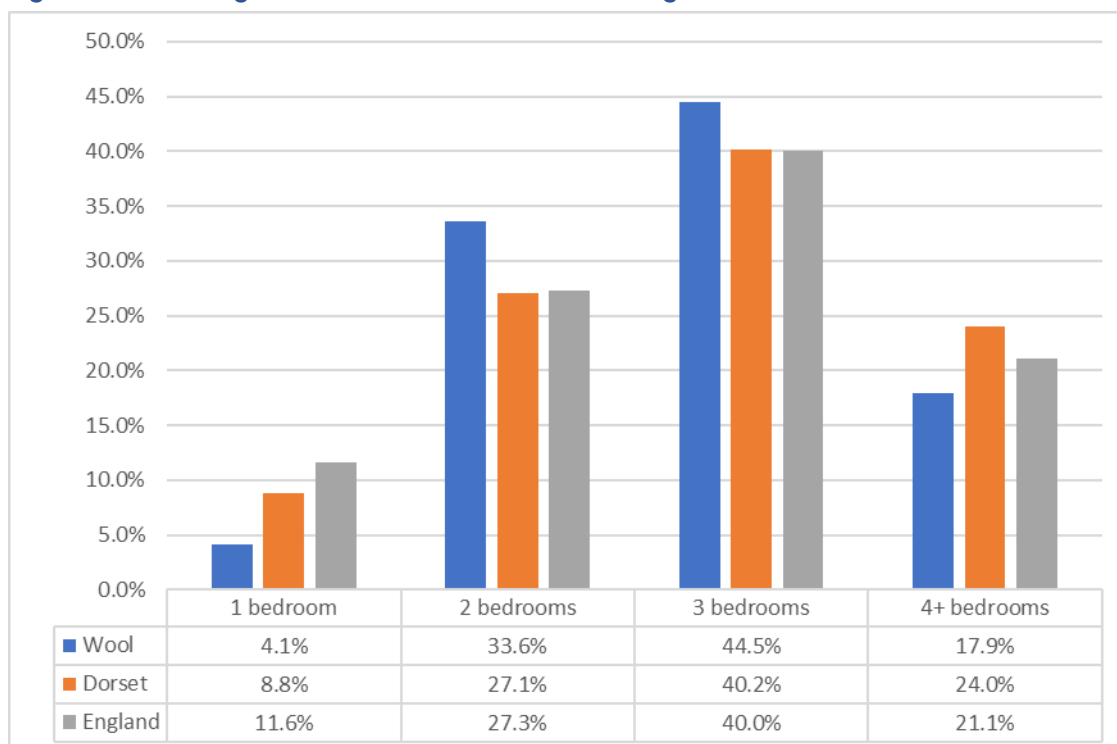


**Figure 19 – Change in Housing size in Wool Parish, 2011–2021 (percentage of total dwellings)**



Source: AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, Table 5-3

**Figure 20 – Housing size in Wool Parish, Dorset and England, 2021**



Source: AECOM Housing Needs Assessment, Table 5-4

### Housing for older people

- The Housing Needs Assessment has examined the projected population of elderly people living in Wool Parish and in particular those aged 75+ years, to 2038. The population overall is expected to grow and the proportion of elderly people in this category will grow as a proportion of the Wool

population. This is expected to translate into approximately an additional 184 households (to a total of 368 households) aged 75+ years. Somewhere between 65-84 households are considered likely to require specialist housing to meet their housing and care needs depending on assumptions made. There is a significant assumption that people living independently in this age group are living in suitable accommodation already, but there is no survey information available to confirm this.

#### **Care Homes**

143. Extra care accommodation has been provided for in policy H5 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034, though the precise nature of this provision is not clear and has changed from earlier proposals to provide a nursing home. It is not clear whether any of the units would be affordable or available for local nomination and so it is not possible to know whether the need for 17 care home beds identified in the Wool Housing Needs Assessment would be met through this development.

#### **Affordable Housing Type and Size Policy**

144. The Wool Housing Needs Assessment has examined the housing stock of the parish and has determined that there is a predominance of 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom properties which make up 80% of the dwellings. Consequently, there are smaller proportions of 1-bed flats and of larger 4+ bedroom properties than for Dorset as a whole.
145. Most people would probably not want a 1-bedroom flat by choice and would want at least a 2-bedroom dwelling, but the housing needs assessment for Wool indicates that the cheapest form of housing (likely to be the smallest 1-bed properties) is all that can be afforded (and even then this is marginal) by lower-quartile single income households. The provision of smaller properties would facilitate entry to the market by those currently unable to access it locally. It might also provide options for the elderly on lower incomes in 2 and 3 bed properties, looking for smaller accommodation.
146. If the existing occupation of housing by different age groups was projected onto the population in 2038, then this would mean creating a housing mix in the parish which focuses more on 1-bedroom properties and larger 4+bedroom properties than 2- and 3-bedroom properties. From the point of view of affordability, smaller properties will be more in reach than larger properties and may be attractive to downsizers. Larger properties will appeal to families currently occupying 2 and 3-bedroom homes, looking to move up.

#### **WOOL 6 – Housing types and sizes in Wool Parish**

Major planning applications for new housing in Wool Parish should include balanced provision of 1 bedroom and 4+ bedroom dwellings alongside 2-3 Bedroom dwellings, to meet identified housing needs in Wool.

## 6. Community Infrastructure

### Introduction

147. The provision of a good range of community services and facilities to support local people is the hallmark of a sustainable community and these should be present in Wool given its designation as a key service village. Dorset Council has planned a significant expansion to Wool and East Burton through site allocations in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034. It is important that local facilities and services can meet the needs of increased population that will result from new development. This section of the Neighbourhood Plan examines current local provision and identifies where this needs to be improved to meet the challenges presented by new development.

### Policy Context

148. Dorset Council has assessed the requirements for health and community facilities provision to support proposals in emerging local plans and has suggested how these will be met where new provision is required. This is through direct provision by developers, and use of Community Infrastructure Levy and public investment as required. The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 contains the following policies relevant to the consideration of requirements for community infrastructure in Wool.
- Policy 11 – Developer Contributions to deliver Purbeck’s Infrastructure.
  - Policy 12 – Improving Accessibility and Transport.
  - Policy 13 – Green Infrastructure, Trees and Hedgerows.
  - Policy 14 – Recreation, Sport and Open Space.
  - Policy 17 – Community Facilities and Services.
149. For each of the above policies, Dorset Council expects infrastructure to be delivered using standards, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Section 106 Developer Contributions and external funding. The CIL provided to parish councils is expected to be used to deliver local community requirements. However, CIL Relief will be applied to site allocations in Wool. Without a parish CIL, there is little scope for parish-led investment in local community infrastructure, facilities and services to meet demand arising from additional population occupying additional housing in the parish. In this context, it is important for the neighbourhood plan to set out local community infrastructure requirements and to seek active consideration of these requirements in implementation of policies 11 to 17 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034.

### Survey of infrastructure and service providers

150. The Purbeck Local Plan and emerging Dorset Local Plan provide statements about infrastructure requirements to support planned development. These are drawn from local plan policies, a memorandum of understanding relating to site allocations, and the Dorset Infrastructure Development Plan. A summary of Dorset Council’s position on infrastructure requirements for Wool is set out in a supporting document to the neighbourhood plan.
151. Consultation on local community facilities and services has taken place with local residents over an extensive period of time during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents who engaged in the survey to support the development of the neighbourhood plan, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, related significant concerns about the pressure on existing services. No new provision has been made since then and Covid-19 has created acknowledged additional pressures on access to local community/public services.

152. The neighbourhood plan started with extensive consultation and engagement. This followed on from the Parish Plan of more than ten years ago. When the public have been asked for their views about the future of the parish, throughout they have raised consistent themes and these do not accord with the conclusions about infrastructure set out in emerging Dorset local plans. However, these matters are regarded as strategic, and the neighbourhood plan must conform with them and so it cannot 'demand' or 'require' infrastructure deemed not required by Dorset Council.
153. Nevertheless, assumptions about infrastructure requirements in local plans are made following enquiries at a strategic scale and are fixed in time, and this means local details can sometimes be overlooked, overtaken by events or simply mistaken. Some elements of infrastructure requirements set out in emerging plans (such as relating to local libraries and other local community facilities) are assumed to be delivered through use of CIL accruing to parishes. But if CIL does not apply to the most strategic developments and the list of S106 requirements does not address these, then how can they be funded locally?
154. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has undertaken its own survey of local service providers to understand their needs in the context of planned development in emerging local plans. The purpose was to establish from these bodies their projected, planned or estimated provision of infrastructure development that would be needed to give the required stability and sustainability in Wool Parish over the period covered by the emerging Dorset Local Plan, assuming growth of housing in Wool in line with the potential development of up to 1,000 new homes.
155. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group sent out letters to 14 identified companies and organisations who operate infrastructure or provide services in the Parish. Seven organisations responded to the letter with a summary of the consideration of matters raised given below.
156. **Burial space** – All residents of the parish have a right of interment in the Churchyard of the Holy Rood. The Church of Holy Rood Parochial Church Council has indicated that they are utilising burial space within an extension to the Holy Rood Churchyard purchased some time ago and at current rates of usage, this will last a further 8-10 years (to 2030-2032). Over time, a significant expansion of the population of Wool Parish would result in an acceleration of the usage of burial space and a need for a larger extension to the south of the current extension. This is considered further later in this chapter.
157. **Community Hall** – The current community hall and meeting spaces at the D'Urberville Centre are currently adequate to meet the needs of the local community. A significant expansion in population would result in increased demand for community hall and meeting spaces. Currently facilities would need to be expanded to meet increased demand. This would most likely be required as a further development of the D'Urberville Centre.
158. **Primary School Provision** – St Mary and St Joseph, Wool Primary and Bovington Academy Schools are in federated academies and so not under the direct control of Dorset Council. All appear to have capacity in terms of available places at present. However, it is not clear whether this capacity is required or is sufficient for the future, or whether there is physical development capacity, should it be needed to support a growing population because of new development in Wool.
159. **Pre-school provision** – Wool Pre-school is a community-based pre-school welcoming families from Wool and surrounding areas. The Pre-school is a registered provider with Ofsted and is a registered charity, managed by a voluntary committee of parents. The Pre-school is registered for children aged 2 years until 5 years with a maximum capacity of 26 children during any session. Recent changes in legislation means that the pre-school requires more physical space.
160. **Community Library** – The community library is located in the D'Urberville Centre, and this is seen to be provided at a lower footprint than is recommended. To bring the library up to standard and to

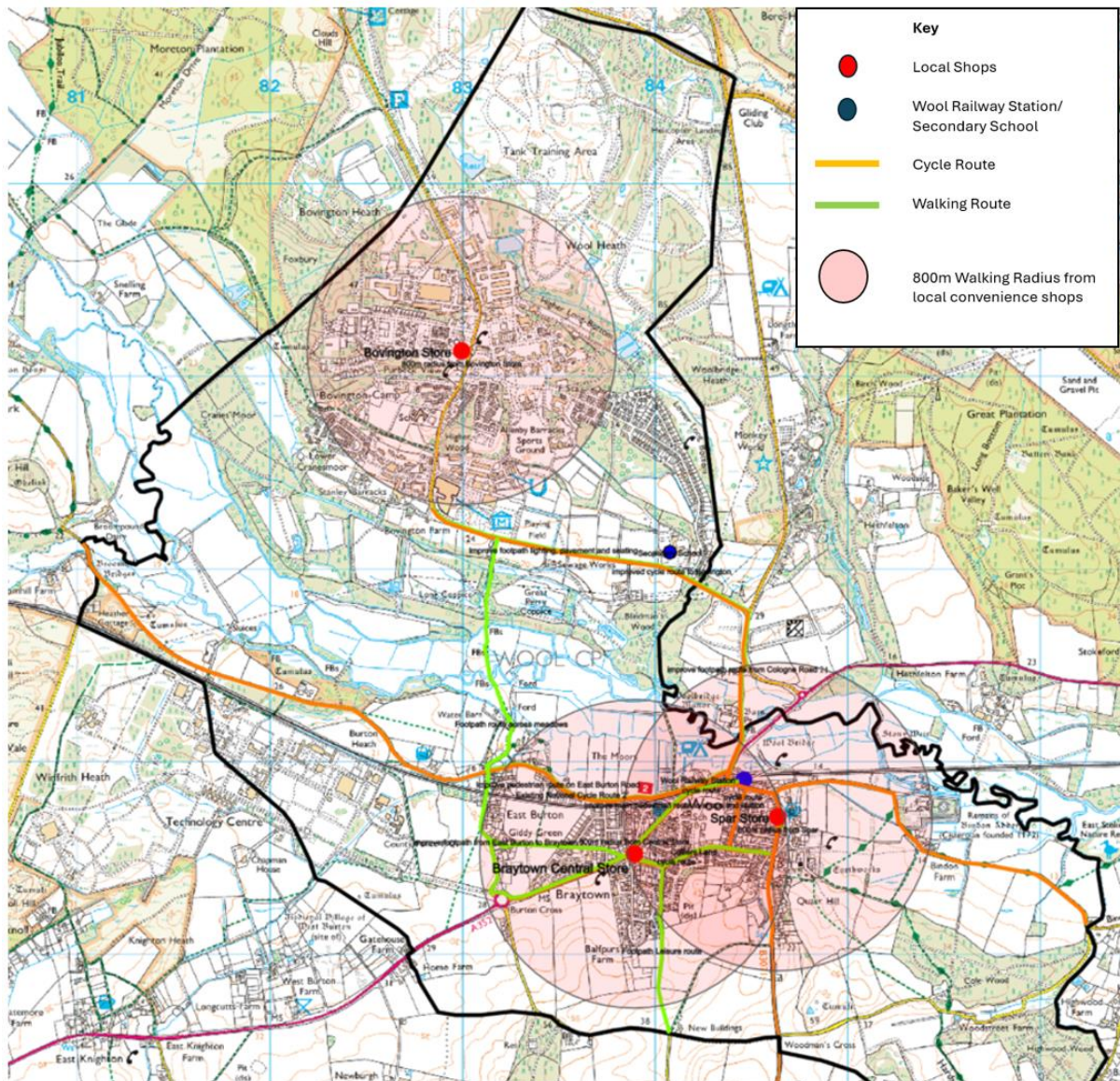
accommodate significant additional population, it is anticipated that a significant investment would be required, to be considered as part of the extension required to the D'Urberville Centre.

161. **GP Surgery** – Current premises are seen to be adequate to cater for an increased population in the area, with a more pressing difficulty being the recruitment of medical professionals to provide services.
162. **Highways and Public Transport** – The response from Dorset Highways to the survey raises some concern in the parish over the certainty of delivery of programmed schemes or schemes under consideration. The neighbourhood plan is unable to require schemes to be delivered in support of planned housing.
163. **Water Supplies and Wastewater Treatment** – Wessex Water has indicated that it has responded separately to Dorset Council and that requirements for investment arising from new development are addressed through existing mechanisms and so there is no role for the neighbourhood plan to define requirements further. This would also apply to electricity and gas infrastructure.

## Facilities in Local Community Use

164. The location and availability of key community facilities is relevant to the consideration of future development requirements to enable them to continue to function effectively.
165. **Shops selling essential goods including food** – Many people have identified the need for better food shopping facilities in the Parish in response to the neighbourhood plan consultation. The nearest large format supermarkets are in Dorchester (Tesco, 12.3 miles) and Weymouth (Morrisons, 13.8 miles), around a 25 miles round trip. The nearest mid-size supermarket in Wareham (J Sainsbury) is a 13 miles round trip. Most people will not undertake a large supermarket shop by train. Bus services are not frequent so the great majority journeys to nearby supermarkets will be undertaken by car.
166. Local grocery shops are therefore very important in meeting daily needs in Wool Parish. The location of local grocery shops which sell a range of essential goods including food is shown on Figure 21. Generally, a 15 minutes' walk is considered to be the maximum distance that people will regularly undertake on foot to access local services and so a clear objective of the Department for Transport is to promote walkable neighbourhoods. Many County highways departments have determined 800m as a maximum reasonable walking distance and use this in response to planning applications. Figure 21 shows 800m walking distances from existing grocery shops in the parish.
167. Changes to permitted development rights nationally have made it easier to lose shops to other uses, subject to rules which might enable designation of isolated shops as local community uses. The rules are that isolated shops must be a 1,000 metre radius from the next (in a straight line and regardless of the actual distance on foot).
168. A further rule is that shops should be selling a range of essential daily goods including food. The Bovington Store, Braytown Central Store and the Spar are the only three shops meeting this definition. The retail floorspace of each shop is less than 280sq.m. (another rule). On this basis, rather than commercial use class E, the Bovington Store can be protected as a local community use F2(a). This is the priority for the neighbourhood plan.
169. If either of the two shops in Wool Village closed, then the other would become a Local Community Use also (unless another shop opens within 1,000 metres of the remaining shop). The on-going position of the two shops will be monitored to ensure the appropriate consideration is given to proposals for change of use.

Figure 21 – Local Grocery Shop Provision in Wool Parish



Source: Andrea Pellegram Ltd (2023) (OS Licence ref: AC0000808348)

170. A further priority is to ensure that new housing development is provided with access to local shops on foot. The stated aim of national policies and both adopted and emerging local planning policies is to plan new development to support a reduction in the need to travel and to enable active travel by foot and cycle to local facilities in walkable neighbourhoods. New development in Wool should not exacerbate under-provision of local shops and necessitate car travel to distant shops. It should not encourage people to drive to local shops and the way to do this is by ensuring provision of appropriate retail space in new developments. Figure 21 shows the reasonable 800m limit of walking catchments from existing shops and planned new housing development should incorporate retail proposals to fill gaps in provision. Purbeck Local Plan Policy H5 expects the strategic residential developments at Wool to provide around 350 square metres of convenience retail space.
171. **Community Halls and Meeting Spaces** – Community hall and meeting space provision within the Parish is focused on three venues – The D’Urberville Centre, Kids of Wool and East Burton Village Hall provide space for community use and hire within the parish. The Cologne Road Community Room did provide for community use in Bovington, but it was closed in 2023 due to lack of bookings. Associated

with Bovington Camp, the Bovington Memorial Hall is run by the MOD but is available for wider community use.

172. The D'Urberville Centre provides the most flexible and accessible accommodation, and this facility is already at capacity, with waiting lists for new users. Kids of Wool is at capacity and East Burton Village Hall is around 40% utilised.
173. Bovington Academy and Wool Primary provide some meeting space for hire but the schools cannot let the hiring of premises interfere with the primary purpose of providing education to pupils. Other facilities which might normally be expected to be available for community use, are not available for public use in Wool, including two of the four local schools and three churches which provide limited opportunity for wider community use.
174. A full audit of community facilities is set out in **Appendix A**. Priorities for the improvement of community halls and meeting spaces within the Parish are set out in Table 3.

**Table 3 – Priorities for improvements to community halls and meeting spaces**

Facility	Priority for improvement	How Deliver?
D'Urberville Centre, Wool	<p>Extra bookable space, ideally a space comparable to the main hall.</p> <p>Improved accessibility for existing parts of the hall, e.g. the main kitchen.</p> <p>Increase capacity of sanitary drainage system.</p> <p>Car park improvements, e.g. resurfacing and marked bays.</p> <p>Extra library space is needed.</p> <p>Create extra storage space. Reduce ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour).</p> <p>External toilets are needed for close by facilities.</p> <p>An audio-visual system.</p>	<p>Extra bookable space could be achieved by building upward, converting the roof space, or relocating the youth club.</p> <p>Make all existing rooms more accessible by a combination of lifts/stairlifts and widening existing doors.</p> <p>Replace the drainage system in the carpark with a larger capacity drainage system.</p> <p>Resurface the carpark, mark out the bays and install EV charge points,</p> <p>Create extra library space by extending the building.</p> <p>Enclose the veranda at the rear to create extra storage space and reduce ASB.</p> <p>Create external public toilets.</p> <p>Install an audio-visual system.</p>
East Burton Village Hall	The hall is short of storage space and extra parking space would be helpful.	<p>An area for storage space has been identified but no funds available.</p> <p>Land to create parking space would need to be identified and purchased.</p>
Kids of Wool	<p>Extra physical space for pre-school.</p> <p>A heating system.</p>	<p>Extend the current building to provide more space.</p> <p>Heating system is planned.</p>

Source: Wool Parish Council (2023)

175. **Sports Fields** – Provision of outdoor sports pitches in Wool is less than in other equivalent and smaller parishes within the Purbeck Sub-Area. Historic provision of two adult pitches and a non-turfed pitch for football and cricket lies disused within the Dorset Innovation Park and was never available for public use. Other provision is owned and run by the MOD and is also not available for general

community use. Local schools lack sufficient outdoor space to add to local playing pitch resources or are specialist schools which do not make resources available for general community use. Bovington Academy and Wool Primary provide some playing field space for hire but the schools cannot let the hiring of premises interfere with the primary purpose of providing education to pupils. This leaves the Wool Playing Fields as the only sports playing field provision or sports provision permanently available for community use in the Parish.

176. To some extent, residents of the Bovington Barracks who are in the military or are military family members have access to 'private' sports facilities provided by the MOD. The nearest provision of facilities available for wider public use and hire is set out in Table 4. Given the provision within Bovington, this is based on access from Wool and East Burton. It should be noted that some housing in Bovington is occupied by civilians unconnected with the military and who therefore do not have access to the facilities there.

**Table 4 – The nearest provision of sports facilities to Wool and East Burton**

<b>Sports facilities available for public use</b>	<b>Location and distance from Wool</b>	<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>How Deliver?</b>
Football	Wool Playing Field, 0 miles	More pitches required as currently overused and not dedicated to football	Create alternative pitches with changing facilities
Skatepark	Wool and Bovington, 0 miles	Both skateparks have been recently refurbished/replaced.	
Short Mat Bowls	D'Urberville Centre, Wool, 0 miles	None. Adequate facilities exist.	
Basketball/Netball	MUGA in Bovington. Wareham, 5 miles	Create MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)	Create on Wool Playing Field
Rugby	Wareham, 5 miles		
Cricket	Wareham, 5 miles		
Hockey	Wareham, 5 miles		
Tennis	Bovington (not bookable). Wareham (bookable), 5 miles	Create MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)	Create on Wool Playing Field
Golf	Wareham, 5 miles. Hyde, Bere Regis, 4 miles		
Bowls	Hyde, Bere Regis, 4 miles		
Swimming	Wareham, 5 miles		
Athletics (track and field)	Weymouth and Poole, 11 miles		

Source: Wool Parish Council (2023)

177. Table 4 identifies priorities for the neighbourhood plan to increase opportunities for local sports through provision of additional facilities including for a wider range of activities. This could be an important element in providing a greater range of active informal and formal sports and leisure opportunities for young people living in Wool, who are less mobile in terms of independent travel. This was an important theme raised in consultation on the neighbourhood plan.
178. **Play Areas** – The main objective of this neighbourhood plan in relation to play area provision is to ensure that sufficient play area provision is provided and enhanced where needed. Current provision has been made directly by Wool Parish Council, by the MOD within Bovington and directly by developers, who continue to manage their sites through maintenance companies. Quality is variable across this provision. Across the provision identified in Table 5, priorities for play area provision and improvement are identified.



179. Facilities within the Parish are provided for small children only. Play Areas are currently able to accommodate children with disabilities, but improvements can always be made.
180. **Youth Facilities** – According to consultation on the neighbourhood plan, there is a low-level concern among some residents about groups of young people congregating with resulting perceived anti-social behaviour. Apart from the playing field and skate parks, there are no facilities for active leisure and sports in the Parish. Whilst there is a youth club (for younger teenagers) operating for periods each week in the D'Urberville Centre and in Bovington, there are no permanent places either in the open or facilities indoors where older young people can meet. There are no cafes open in Wool outside school hours. Encouraging the provision of some services and facilities which are attractive for young people is one of the aims of the neighbourhood plan.

**Table 5 – Priorities for Play Area Provision and Improvement in Wool Parish**

Location	Provider	Priority	How Deliver?
Wool Colliers Lane	Wool Parish Council	Delivered in 2015. Will need updating at some point.	Wool Parish Council to update site.
Wool Burton Wood	Raglan Housing	Needs updating and expanding.	Raglan to update site.
Purbeck Gate	Lulworth Estate	Delivered in 2010. Will need updating at some point.	Weld Estate to update site.
Bovington Swinton Avenue	MOD	Updated in 2023. Will need updating at some point.	MOD to update site.
Bovington Elles Road	MOD	Updated in 2023. Will need updating at some point.	MOD to update site.
Cologne Road	Wool Parish Council	High priority to provide	Wool Parish Council provides a very basic play area (1 basketball hoop and a couple of goal posts) behind Cologne Road Community Rooms. To provide an improved play area, Wool Parish Council will need to extend its current lease with the MOD and then secure funding for play equipment.

Source: Wool Parish Council (2023)

## Burial Space

181. The response to the community infrastructure survey for this neighbourhood plan provides an up-to-date estimate of remaining cemetery space for the interment of ashes and burials within Wool Parish, estimated to be of the order of 9 years. Given the right of interment in cemetery space associated with the Church of the Holy Rood, for every resident of the Parish, the future requirement for burial space will be directly linked to future population changes and linked mortality.
182. To establish the position more clearly, a supporting document to the neighbourhood plan has been prepared which provides an estimate of future requirements based on population change and mortality rates in the parish. Planned development has been considered based on established Office for National Statistics profiles for population growth arising from housing development (2.4 persons per household).
183. An estimate of current burial space capacity was obtained from The Ecclesiastical parish of Wool, East Stoke, Coombe Keynes, Bovington and East Burton. The Parochial Council Area has 250 burial spaces within Wool Parish (the other parishes also have their own churchyards available to them, but not to those with a connection to Wool Parish).
184. The main Churchyard is attached to The Church of the Holy Rood, Wool. A current resident of The Ecclesiastical parish of Wool, East Stoke, Coombe Keynes, Bovington and East Burton can be interred

in the Churchyard of Holy Rood Church if they have ever lived in any of the parishes or have a family member already interred at the Churchyard.

- 185. This means that there is use of the churchyard in Wool Parish by those with a connection to East Stoke and Combe Keynes Parishes and also from previous connections to Wool Parish. It is not clear how often this occurs over time. In 2022, four interments took place of this kind, but these were into existing family graves. This level of annual use by residents of the other parishes has been assumed.
- 186. Within Wool, the only burial spaces are within an extension to the Holy Rood churchyard with a total remaining capacity of 150 plots for cremation ashes and 250 plots for burials as of spring 2023. There were 12 burials and 16 ash interments in the churchyard in 2022.
- 187. Work has been undertaken to assess how long the available supply will last. This has considered the effects of high, central and low annual mortality rates. This is presented in Table 6, indicating that on a central scenario of mortality, burial space supply in Wool Parish will be exhausted by 2037-2038. Space for cremation ashes will be exhausted sooner. The main reason supply will last so long is that new planned development would take time to be delivered, but if it all came forward, with a parish population likely to be in excess of 8,000 people, annual deaths, and so burial space requirements, will be significantly higher on an annual basis than currently.

**Table 6 – Burial Space Capacity in Wool Parish assuming planned development**

Scenario (deaths per 1,000 population per annum)	When Ash spaces run out	When Burial Plots run out
High (10.5 deaths)	2031-2032	2036-2037
Central (10 deaths)	2032-2033	2037-2038
Low (9.5 deaths)	2033	2039

Source: Cemetery Space Requirements in Wool Parish (Andrea Pellegram Ltd)

- 188. Both cremation ash spaces and burial spaces at the Holy Rood Churchyard will become exhausted within the next 16 years under all scenarios relating to mortality if planned development occurs. A current extension which is now being utilised at the Holy Rood Churchyard was acquired 20 years ago, purchased by The Parochial Church Council to ensure uninterrupted supply of burial spaces. Planning for new burial space provision takes significant time, preparation and cost.
- 189. In view of the uplift in annual interment requirements resulting from population growth through planned development, it makes sense for contributions to be sought from new Major Development to allow further extension of the churchyard for additional burial space and cremation ash space.
- 190. The current extension to Holy Rood Churchyard was secured with the provision of 0.12 hectares of land which has yielded approximately 300 burial plots based on an assumed 3 square metres for each burial plot and allowing for pathways and separation between graves. It has also provided 150 smaller cremation ash plots. Provision of a similar amount of land adjacent to the existing churchyard would provide security for immediate future supply in the light of planned development in the Parish, bearing in mind that this would last only a further 15 years at anticipated rates of use.
- 191. Depending on whether further extensions to the Holy Rood Churchyard would be possible and desirable, a separate site may be needed to provide longer term burial land supply for an expanded population (to meet requirements for a longer 40-years period). Based on an annual requirement for 20 burials and 20 cremation ash interments each year in the late 2030s, this would require provision of space for 800 burials and 800 cremation ash interments.
- 192. A larger amount of land would likely be needed to accommodate boundary treatment, access and other chapel and works infrastructure needed to create a cemetery from scratch. Strategic burial

space provision for the parish would address future needs comprehensively. Given ongoing requirements this would also need to be capable of expansion in future.

193. Policy context – Wool Parish Council does not have the resources to plan for and deliver additional burial space provision (incorporating burial spaces and cremation ash spaces) to meet the long-term needs arising from planned strategic development. There will be no CIL accruing locally to assist and there is no indication that this is being actively considered in other ways. It will therefore be important for local evidence collected in support of the Neighbourhood Plan to be actively considered when using policies in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 to determine relevant planning applications. Policy 11 on developer contributions to deliver Purbeck’s local infrastructure, and Policy 17 on community facilities and services would appear to be the most relevant.

#### WOOL 7 – Burial Space Provision in Wool Parish

When using policies 11 and 17 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the need for burial space provision in Wool Parish.

194. **Library** – Currently, community library services are provided from within the D’Urberville Centre on a voluntary basis with support from Dorset Council and Wool Parish Council. The Community Library is open on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3–5pm or Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am–12 noon. As such there is no permanent Dorset Council–provided library in Wool Parish.
195. The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 indicates that there is no specific requirement for additional library services within requirements for community infrastructure to support planned housing development proposals in Wool. Dorset Council’s adopted and emerging local plans say that Parish Councils should use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money they receive from new development to fund new library provision if they wish. However, planned housing development in Wool would be subject to S106 Planning Obligations and not CIL – there would be no CIL accruing to Wool Parish Council to fund additional library service provision to meet the needs of a growing population.
196. **Health Facilities** – The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Survey of local service providers indicates that premises are sufficient for the current population and currently known planned growth. Human resources in the form of skilled medical professionals are lacking and are the main cause of problems local people have experienced and referred to in response to consultation on the neighbourhood plan. This has worsened since the Covid-19 pandemic. Other parts of the neighbourhood plan are seeking to improve the availability of affordable housing in Wool, to improve local access and enhance its local environment, shops and other amenities. Beyond this, the neighbourhood plan is not able to directly address labour shortages in the local primary care sector.
197. **Education Facilities** – Local primary schools have academy status. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group engagement with them indicates a need for Dorset Council to engage further to better understand their capacity to accommodate additional pupils should planned growth occur. This is beyond the scope of the neighbourhood plan.
198. Local Schools can provide important access by the community to school facilities out of hours. Wool Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to explore with local schools the use of school facilities for wider community use.
199. **Churches** – Local churches can play a significant role in community outreach of a general nature to foster a local sense of community and provide social support to vulnerable and isolated people. Wool

Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to explore with local churches how church facilities and initiatives could support the wider community in Wool Parish.

200. **Sustainable Transport** – The neighbourhood plan examines requirements for transport services including improvements to walking and cycling networks, local bus services and Wool rail station.
201. **Policy context** – The sections above demonstrate the relative sparsity of provision of local community facilities in Wool. There are few shops and no supermarkets. There are few community buildings to support local activities. Sports provision is limited to Wool Playing Field, which is over-capacity. Play facilities are fairly basic and are geared to younger age groups. Financial resources to support activities such as the library, are limited. The nearest alternatives require car travel given the lack of bus services.
202. Wool Parish Council will not be in a position to provide significant new financial support to provide new facilities, secure permissions for new facilities or support significant new activities to respond to the wider community needs arising from additional housing development and new population. It will be important for Dorset Council to have regard to local evidence collected in support of the Neighbourhood Plan and for it to actively consider this when using policies in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 to determine relevant planning applications. Policy 11 on developer contributions to deliver Purbeck’s local infrastructure, Policy 14 on recreation, sport and open space and Policy 17 on community facilities and services would appear to be the most relevant.
203. Proposals to re-develop sites which provided community facilities and infrastructure should only be consented when it is clearly demonstrable that a site is no longer required or financially viable for its current or an alternative community use and that a suitable buyer cannot be found. Applicants will demonstrate the genuine marketing efforts required in policy WOOL 8 by the following means:
  - The site has been continually marketed for its existing use (including other permitted uses) for 9 months over the last 12 months prior to the application being submitted.
  - All opportunities to re-let/re-occupy the site have been fully explored.
  - The site has been marketed using a variety of methods and marketing tools available that are likely to attract future occupiers (including advertising boards, online marketing and mailshots).
  - The site has been marketed at a price which is considered reasonable (i.e. using recent and similar transactions) for existing use and other suitable alternative uses agreed with the Council (applicant should submit at least 3 recent comparables).
  - Issues with re-occupying/ letting/ selling: When prospective owners/ tenants showed interest in the premises, why did they not pursue it any further? A full list of interest parties and their reasons for not pursuing this premises further for its permitted uses would need to be submitted.

#### WOOL 8 – Protection of sites in local community use

Proposals that will result in either the loss of or cause significant harm to a local community facility will be resisted, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the facility is no longer financially viable. Unless otherwise agreed by the local planning authority, this will require a site to be genuinely marketed for a continuous period of at least 9 months at a price which reflects its existing or last use.

The following sites/properties are considered to be local community facilities:

- a) The D'Urberville Centre, Colliers Lane, Wool
- b) Wool playing field and skate park, Colliers Lane, Wool
- c) Kids of Wool, Colliers Lane, Wool
- d) Play area, Meadow Lane, Wool
- e) Play area, Purbeck Gate, Wool
- f) Play area, Burton Road, Wool
- g) East Burton Village Hall, Burton Road, East Burton
- h) Bovington Community Hall, King George V Road, Bovington
- i) Play area, Elles Road, Bovington
- j) Play area, Swinton Avenue, Bovington
- k) Skatepark and MUGA, Swinton Avenue, Bovington
- l) Bovington Store, King George V Road, Bovington
- m) Wool Primary, Lulworth Road, Wool
- n) Bovington Academy, Bovington

Applications for development to improve local community facilities, including shops, will be supported in principle.

New residential development within the Plan area on sites larger than 1 hectare should be planned to promote walkable neighbourhoods and active travel. Local grocery shops should exist or be provided within 800m of the whole of the development.

#### WOOL 9 – Priorities for new community infrastructure and services for Wool Parish

When using policies I1, I4 and I7 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the impacts from development on the capacity of community infrastructure and services in Wool Parish. Where relevant and feasible, the following priority improvements for community infrastructure priorities to increase community building, play area and sport provision should be secured:

- a) The creation of a play area near Cologne Road
- b) Improvements to the D'Urberville Centre including extra bookable space, improved accessibility, car park improvements, a drainage capacity increase, extra library space, enclosing the veranda and external public toilets.
- c) Extended storage and parking at East Burton Village Hall
- d) A heating system and additional pre-school space for the Kids of Wool building.
- e) The creation of dedicated football pitches and changing facilities as an alternative to Wool playing fields. This could include athletics running track.
- f) The creation of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on Wool playing field.

## 7. Travel and Transport in Wool Parish

### Introduction

204. The impacts arising from existing traffic and those anticipated from future development are a significant concern to the residents of Wool Parish. Many feel the *de facto* adopted approach is traffic management through congestion. Bus services are too few to be relied upon. Walking and cycling alternatives are not attractive or realistic in terms of convenience, safety or the available facilities to park a bike, cross the road safely, or interchange with public transport.
205. The community believes that new development is going to exacerbate the situation. Through engagement in the development of the Wool Parish Neighbourhood Plan, it is clear that there are significant concerns about the likely funnelling of traffic through Wool from new developments to the west, constrained by the level crossing at Wool Railway Station, leading to congestion and pollution. This is what happens now.
206. **Policy Context** – Through Policy H5, the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 sets out specific policy transport requirements with regard to the delivery of strategic housing allocation sites in Wool. This is focused on ensuring the deliverability of allocation sites and is not necessarily focused on local ‘network’ matters. A more general infrastructure policy, Policy I2, sets out a comprehensive range of objectives and measures ‘to create a safe, well-maintained and efficient transport system across the District that supports economic growth and which:
- (a) builds on its location through improvements to road and rail connections and other public transport provision.
  - (b) promotes transport choice through improvements to public transport services, the protection and improvement of public rights of way and promotion of walking and cycling networks to provide a genuine alternative to the car and facilitate changes in travel habits.
  - (c) promotes and improves safety, security and opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices.’
207. Policy I2 says that ‘this will be achieved through the identification and promotion of opportunities to deliver improvements in road and rail connections, expansion of the District’s cycle and pedestrian routes, enhancing the connectivity between various modes of transport, and supporting the provision of local services and facilities that reduce the need to travel, including, wherever possible, reducing reliance on the car’.
208. In this context, the Neighbourhood Plan has considered what is needed locally to deliver these requirements for residents of Wool Parish as a whole in relation to rail station facilities, bus services, walking routes and cycling routes and facilities. This has been undertaken in the absence of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Wool.

### Understanding Local Travel Requirements

209. Wool Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have undertaken several activities to create an understanding of local priorities on travel and collect data to inform policy formulation for the neighbourhood plan. This is based on permanent year-round services for residents and military personnel (acknowledging that seasonal services are boosted in summer months to serve local tourism attractions).
210. **Local Bus Survey** – During Spring 2022, Wool Parish Council undertook a survey of local residents to gather information on the types of journeys made locally and the means by which they are travelled. The survey sought to understand the frequency and times journeys are undertaken and to gauge

views on whether using a bus would be considered if available. The survey and analysis of the responses are set out in supporting documents to the neighbourhood plan.

211. The survey was published online and in paper form (distributed by volunteers to all houses in the parish) and was open from 1 March 2022 to 30 April 2022. 191 responses were received detailing over 8,000 journeys taken per month (if you assume every journey is a round trip), which equates to 65,000 miles. The survey findings are summarised in Table 7.

**Table 7 – Wool Parish Bus Survey Findings**

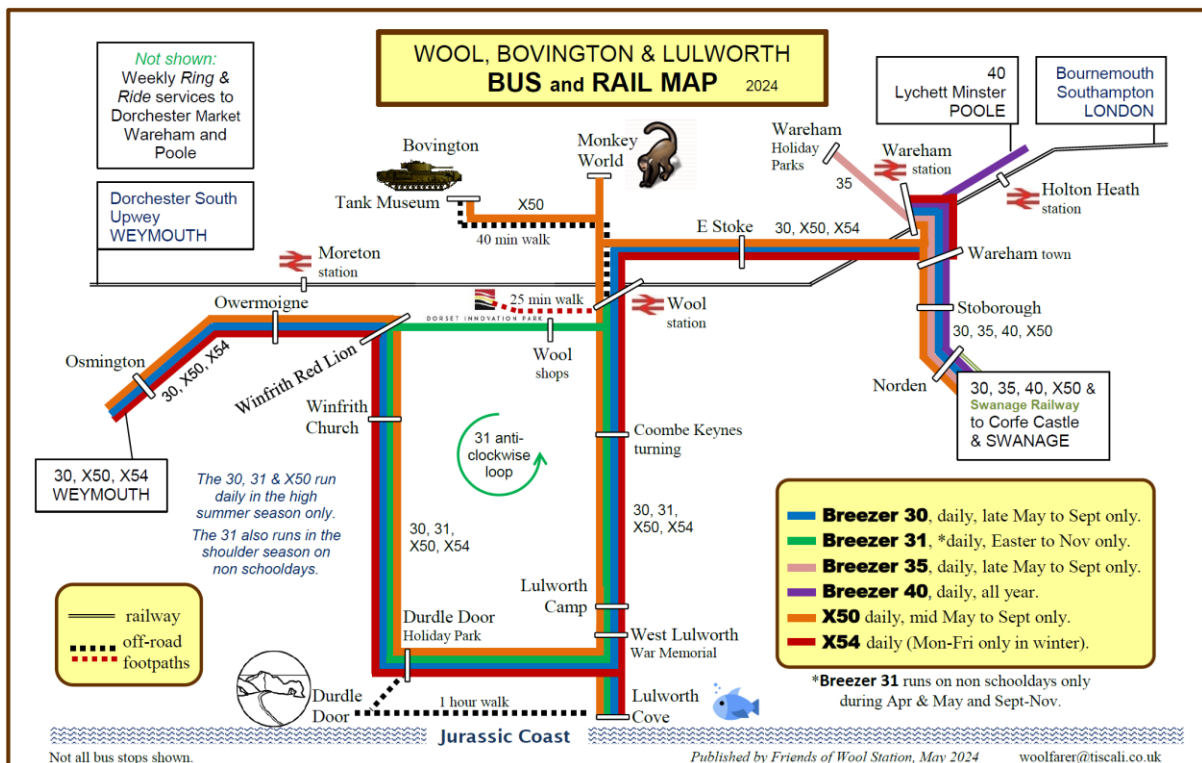
Theme	Evidence
There is a genuine need/desire for buses in the parish.	Only 36% of the people who responded said that they would not be prepared to pay more Council Tax for a bus service. The remaining 64% either said yes (38.5%) or left the question blank (25.5%). This is significant, if you ask someone whether they want something for free they will almost certainly say yes whereas if they indicate they are prepared to pay that demonstrates a genuine need/desire.
A lot of journeys would be made by bus instead of car.	Of the 65,000 miles worth of journeys, people indicated that about 57,000 of those miles would be done via bus instead (or left the question blank). There is a significant environmental benefit to this, particularly if an electric bus service were to be introduced. A lot of seniors no longer feel confident, or safe, driving but they are currently forced to drive due to a lack of public transport.
Bovington and Cologne Road must be connected to Wool by a regular bus.	Over 3,000 journeys per month (over 18,000 miles) either start or end at Bovington and Cologne Road. The need for a bus to/from Bovington was highlighted in the neighbourhood plan surveys and the bus survey data backs this up, as does the Beryl Bike usage data.
Wool needs to be connected to Dorchester by a regular bus.	Dorchester was the most popular destination which isn't currently serviced by a direct bus from Wool. Over 800 trips per month equating to over 18,000 miles.

212. **Beryl Bikes Usage** – In June 2022, Wool Parish Council introduced a local Beryl Bikes scheme whereby ten Beryl Bikes were installed at seven parking bays around the Parish, available for hire via a phone app. The scheme has been running successfully since then and it has provided valuable data on where people living in or visiting the parish travel using the bikes. Wool station is the most popular start/end point for journeys and the Bovington and Cologne Road bays are well used. The Bovington and Cologne Road bays would be more heavily used were electric bikes to be made available (Tout Hill is very steep on a bike).

### Local Bus Services

213. For commuting to work, people travelling from Wool to other nearby towns are most likely to drive. Bus services are not regular enough for them to be a viable option for all but a very small number of commuters.

Figure 22 – Current Local Bus Services



Source: Friends of Wool Station, May 2024

214. As Figure 22 shows, with regard to bus travel within the Parish, at present there is no means, all-year round, of connecting Bovington with shopping and community facilities and the train station in Wool. There is no bus link from Wool Rail Station to the Dorset Innovation Park. For people who find it difficult to walk long distances, some parts of the Parish are out of reach for regular visits.
215. The route between Bovington and Wool is of particular concern. There are no regular bus services connecting the two settlements. Older people living in the area, parents with children who do not own a car and young people generally must walk the 3.7 km distance which may be too great to be considered feasible for daily trips. The available pedestrian route lacks street lighting to the east of the Tank Museum entrance and benches for breaks in the long walk. Residents of Cologne Road have a long walk around into Bovington or into Wool given the lack of direct pedestrian access through to Bovington shops and facilities.

### Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG)

216. The PTAG is comprised of parish and town councils, the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership, bus companies and cycling groups. PTAG has produced a Transport Plan (Version 2.0 November 2022) and this set priorities for new core and secondary bus services which would serve Wool Parish:
- A core service introduction would be a new Weymouth to Poole bus service that would serve the Dorset Innovation Park and Wool Station enroute. This would operate hourly.
217. A new secondary service would connect places within Wool Parish, through a peak hourly service operating Monday to Friday from Dorset Innovation Park–Wool Station–Bovington Swinton Ave–Bovington Tank Museum–start of Cologne Rd. This would operate in between the core service creating a half-hourly service at peak times between the Dorset Innovation Park and Wool Station
218. The creation of a local looped bus service connecting all parts of the Parish to each other and to Wool Station and the Dorset Innovation Park is an important requirement now and for the future, particularly



if planned housing and further options for development come forward. PTAG proposals would provide this in peak hours for the purposes of journey to work.

219. Additional services would be required to meet the needs identified for local bus services outside peak hours. A Local bus service is needed to provide a reliable and frequent means of connection with rail services and to connect major destinations within the parish including the Dorset Innovation Park, local shops, school and health facilities in Wool and Bovington and the Tank Museum. Monkey World is located outside the parish but should also be considered as a destination. People may want to travel to these places throughout the day.

### **Bus Stops**

220. Within the parish, bus stops are currently located at the following locations:
- Wool station (one for both directions) c/w shelter
  - High Street at Colliers Lane Junction (West side)
  - Lulworth Road by entrance to Wool Primary Staff Car Park (East side)
  - Dorchester Road at Boots c/w shelter
  - Dorchester Road at Purbeck Gate (eastbound only)
  - A352 (Woolbridge) near garage
  - Cologne Road at community room (northbound only) c/w shelter but no flag
  - Cologne Road top end (terminus) c/w shelter but no flag
  - King George V Rd near Tank Museum
  - King George V Rd near shops (southbound only)
  - Tank Museum internal road near entrance (terminus for summer service)
  - Bovington Swinton Ave (terminus) c/w shelter but no flag
221. More bus stops are needed to cater for the current level of bus services, including summer buses at the following locations:
- Dorchester Road at The Ship (shown on [travelinesw.com](http://travelinesw.com), but both flags have disappeared)
  - Dorchester Road at Purbeck Gate (westbound)
  - Dorchester Road at Burton Cross roundabout (for DIP and Giddy Gn)
  - Bovington Lane at the Harbour School (for school and Cologne Road)
222. Linked to the provision of a local looped bus service, additional bus stops would be needed at the following locations
- King George V Road near primary school
  - King George V Road near shops (northbound)
  - King George V Road near Napier Way (future terminus?)
  - Dorset Police HQ turning
  - Dorset innovation Park

### **Policy**

223. Measures to deliver improved transport services within Wool Parish cannot be required through the neighbourhood plan. Whilst only 0.5% of locally resident employed people take the bus to work

(Census 2021), the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 Infrastructure Plan has already determined that no additional bus services are required to service additional housing development associated with housing allocation H5 Wool. Commercial bus service operators view local service deviation from main highways to serve villages as unviable and reducing the attractiveness of strategic bus routes.

224. Even so, Dorset Council will want local people to access local jobs ideally using sustainable travel means and would want the occupants of new housing in Wool to avoid placing undue strain on the level crossing and A352 through Wool. It would want people to use rail services for out-commuting – currently, only 2.6% do that according to the 2021 Census. There are also other strategic allocation sites in adjacent parishes which will add further population to the area.
225. In this context it is right that Wool Parish Council works with partners to create local bus services that better connect communities within the parish to their places of work and key services. This requires route connections, service frequencies and services operating at the weekends in order to provide confidence for travellers using sustainable transport options. This may also include Community Transport Services and Demand Responsive Services.

#### WOOL 10 – Bus services for Wool Parish

To facilitate access to local employment and facilities for residents of the parish and to promote sustainable travel options for commuters, new major developments are encouraged to provide financial contributions towards the creation of a new local bus service and bus stops to connect Bovington to the Dorset Innovation Park via Wool Station and key community facilities in Wool.

To facilitate access for employment, shopping, leisure and important services, proposals for bus services to provide direct connections from Wool to Dorchester will be strongly welcomed.

## Walking and Cycling

### Walkable neighbourhood

226. The key requirement for the delivery of a walkable Wool Parish is that key local facilities should be located and retained within an acceptable walking distance. In terms of walkable neighbourhoods, the distance normally applied is 800 metres. Walking routes must be legible, safe and attractive.
227. In Wool, the route from the western parts of the parish to Wool Railway Station is likely to become a key focus for pedestrian access to shops in Braytown, the school, community facilities and church around the Square and the D’Urberville Centre, the pub and the train station. At present, the main route is along a busy road, close to traffic and in a poor-quality environment. The photo survey supporting document shows elements of this route and indicates features which are positive, or which detract from the quality of the environment.
228. The junction of Colliers Lane and Dorchester Road at Braytown has been identified as requiring action to improve it for pedestrians and cyclists – it is perceived as particularly dangerous to cross when vehicles could be moving from 5 different directions and, owing to the junction design, traffic joins Colliers Lane from Dorchester Road at speed.
229. Direct walking routes are lacking between parts of Bovington around Cologne Road and Bovington neighbourhood centre. Bovington centre lacks a pedestrian crossing which would make it safer for the schoolchildren to cross. Main routes from Bovington to Wool via the level crossing are long and lacking in facilities such as lighting and seating.

230. Burton Road and parts of East Burton Road lack a footpath and the walking routes here are in close proximity to proposed allocation sites. The level crossing at East Burton is a current route taken by traffic wishing to avoid queues at the level crossing at Wool Railway Station. Future development is likely to give rise to increased traffic via these routes.
231. Safe pedestrian facilities are lacking to the southern extent of Wool Village on Lulworth Road where a 60mph zone meets a 30mph zone. This is a current concern highlighted in consultation with the community in the development of the neighbourhood plan.

### **Cycling Network and facilities**

232. Active travel objectives set by Government support walking and cycling. Cycling can be particularly effective in supporting non-car or public transport access to local shops and services. The neighbourhood plan supports cycling as a means of improving accessibility for local people. This means providing safe and convenient routes, and sufficient cycle parking infrastructure.
233. Dorset Explorer Map shows available cycle routes within Wool Parish and from this only the Sustrans National Cycle Route 2 is shown as a cycle route within the Parish. No other cycle lanes or crossing infrastructure are shown, but they do exist.
234. Actual cycle routes and cycle facilities within Wool Parish are shown on Wool Parish Council has collected data from the operation of the Beryl Bikes scheme which demonstrates the potential demand for cycling within the Parish. Good routes and facilities would encourage further take up of cycling to replace public and private motorised transport and for trips which connect to rail services.

### **Cycling network conditions and setting priorities for improvement**

235. The Government publishes guidance and standards for cycle infrastructure design, set out in LTNI/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design. This provides a framework for the local assessment of existing cycle infrastructure and the identification of priorities for future provision to address deficiencies and enhance infrastructure networks.
236. Local Authorities are required to publish a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. These are prepared with engagement and input from local communities to identify aspirations and priorities in a plan for local walking and cycling infrastructure.
237. Figure 23 shows the influence of geographical constraints within the parish on routes for movement. The River Frome flows west to east through Wool Parish and there is one main road crossing at Wool Bridge on the A352. The Rail line is located to the south of the river and runs in the same direction.
238. Movement between the north and the south of the parish can involve a lengthy route east, south and then west. The crossover is concentrated at the level crossing and river on the A352. The only other means of moving between Bovington and Wool/East Burton is via a public footpath across the water meadows. The feasibility of improving this route to take cycles and pedestrians across the meadows year-round and safe from flooding, could be explored in future.
239. Key community services located in Braytown and key employment opportunities at the Dorset Innovation Park are therefore at the furthest extent of journeys within the parish for those living in Bovington.
240. Wool Parish Council has collected data from the operation of the Beryl Bikes scheme which demonstrates the potential demand for cycling within the Parish. Good routes and facilities would encourage further take up of cycling to replace public and private motorised transport and for trips which connect to rail services.

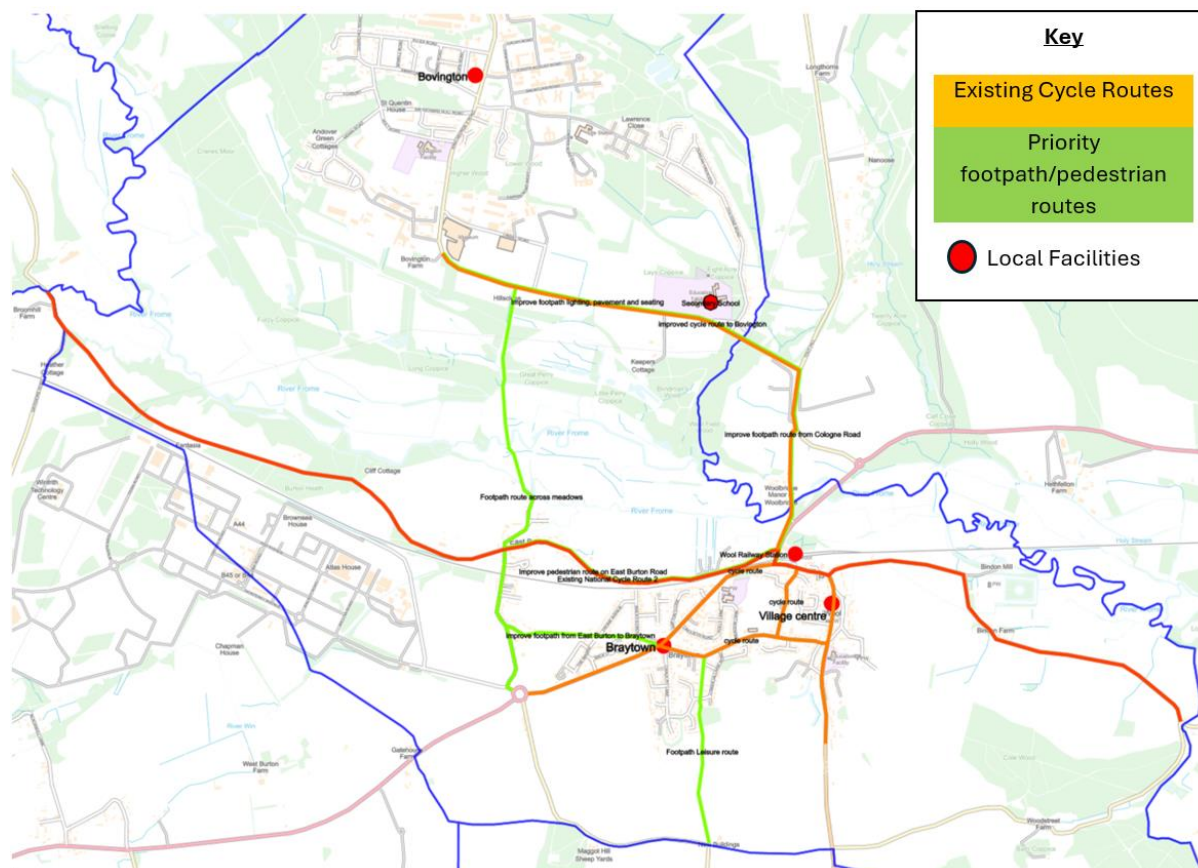
### **Cycling network conditions and setting priorities for improvement**

241. The Government publishes guidance and standards for cycle infrastructure design, set out in LTN1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design. This provides a framework for the local assessment of existing cycle infrastructure and the identification of priorities for future provision to address deficiencies and enhance infrastructure networks.
242. Local Authorities are required to publish a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. These are prepared with engagement and input from local communities to identify aspirations and priorities in a plan for local walking and cycling infrastructure.
243. Figure 23 shows existing cycle routes (orange) and priority footpath/pedestrian routes (green). Routes from Bovington to Wool go outside the parish boundary and then back in. These are shown for completeness only and do not set policy requirement outside the parish.
244. Wool Parish Council has collected data from the operation of the Beryl Bikes scheme which demonstrates the potential demand for cycling within the Parish. Good routes and facilities would encourage further take up of cycling to replace public and private motorised transport and for trips which connect to rail services.

### **Cycling network conditions and setting priorities for improvement**

245. The Government publishes guidance and standards for cycle infrastructure design, set out in LTN1/20 Cycle Infrastructure Design. This provides a framework for the local assessment of existing cycle infrastructure and the identification of priorities for future provision to address deficiencies and enhance infrastructure networks.
246. Local Authorities are required to publish a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. These are prepared with engagement and input from local communities to identify aspirations and priorities in a plan for local walking and cycling infrastructure.

**Figure 23 – Cycle routes and priority footpaths within Wool Parish**



Source: Andrea Pellegram Ltd, 2022 (OS Licence ref: AC0000808348)

247. For a council area the size of Dorset, separate LCWIPs are being put in place for different parts of the County. So far, Wool has not been covered and so the neighbourhood plan can make its own assessment of infrastructure quality and requirements.
248. In making a local attempt to establish credible assessment of quality of cycling infrastructure, reference should be made to the Core Principles of design set out in LTNI/20. The principles are described fully in a supporting document to the neighbourhood plan. The document also sets out guidance on the suitability of different types of cycle infrastructure according to road speeds and traffic volumes.

### Local Assessment of Cycle Routes

249. Table 8 demonstrates how the core design principles of LTNI/20 were applied to the cycling infrastructure of Wool Parish and priorities for further cycling infrastructure to improve the coherence, directness, safety, comfort and attractiveness of the network were considered. Where local knowledge and available data permitted, the need was recognised to protect cyclists from motor traffic on highways using the guidance set out in figure 4.1 of LTNI/20.
250. The priorities identified will be actioned through a variety of mechanisms. This will include direct contributions from new development, application of Community Infrastructure Levy, securing commitments from Dorset Council and other means as may be identified.

#### WOOL 11 - Improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure in Wool Parish

When using policy I2 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the need for improvements to cycling infrastructure and to pedestrian routes in Wool Parish. This should include positive consideration of opportunities to improve infrastructure on the following routes, as detailed in Table 8:

- a) The creation of an attractive pedestrian environment along the Dorchester Road from Braytown to Wool Railway Station.
- b) Improve pedestrian crossing facilities across Colliers Lane at the Junction with Dorchester Road and ensure that new development results in maintained or improved safety for pedestrians at this crossing.
- c) The creation of a direct pedestrian link suitable for all users between Cologne Road and Bovington Neighbourhood Centre.
- d) Pedestrian crossing facilities on King George V Road at Bovington Neighbourhood Centre.
- e) Improved pedestrian environment along main routes from Bovington to Wool Railway Station.
- f) Introduction of a pavement on the Lulworth Road South of Duck Street to the edge of the Village.
- g) Introduction of a pavement on Burton Road and East Burton Road.

**Table 8 – Assessment of cycling and walking infrastructure, and priorities for improvement**

<b>Cycle or Walking Route</b>	<b>Description of route and infrastructure</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>What are the Priorities for improvement?</b>
(Cycle) Monterey Avenue–Burton Cross Roundabout–Dorchester Road–Baileys Drove.	<p>Grade separated lane shared with pedestrians. Cycle filter lane for westward traffic to enter cycle lane after Baileys Drove.</p> <p>East of Baileys Drove the route is on road for about 100m. The pavement is less than 2m wide and the carriageway is less than 7m wide.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> Yes, however the route needs to carry on to connect to Colliers Lane</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Yes</p>	<p>Complete a section of cycle lane to connect with Colliers Lane and provide crossing/turning infrastructure between Dorchester Road and Colliers Lane.</p>
(Cycle) Colliers Lane–Breachfield–Station Road.	<p>Route is marked by cycle symbols on the road carriageway. No grade or lane separation. No painted lines. Small lamppost signs.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> No, not clear which way the route goes.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> Yes in terms of local facilities on Colliers Lane, but No in terms of access to the station, it takes a circuitous route to the station</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> Not at entry point at Junction of Colliers Lane and Dorchester Road</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> No, potential for parked cars to be in the way. Not clear what the route is.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> No</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Yes, this is a slow and not heavily trafficked road</p>	<p>To improve awareness of the cycle route through better signage and to more clearly mark the route to provide priority for cyclists where needed.</p> <p>Ensure the crossing at Station Road is suitable for cyclists.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient cycle parking is provided at Wool Station and key facilities on the route including health practice, the school, playing field facilities and D'Urberville Centre.</p>
(Cycle) East Burton Road–Wareham Road.	<p>Sustrans National Cycle Route 2. There are no design features for cycling on the route.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> This route has no design features.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> The route leads directly to the level crossing and station, and on to Wool Village centre, but is not convenient for other facilities in Wool.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> The road is narrow but lightly trafficked at present</p>	<p>At entry points to Wool from the west and at key junction with Wareham Road and through the level crossing to Station Road, improve</p>

Cycle or Walking Route	Description of route and infrastructure	Assessment	What are the Priorities for improvement?
		<p><b>Comfortable?</b></p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> The cycle route is not designed. Parts of the route are attractive in terms of surroundings</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Yes, given traffic volumes and speed limits</p>	<p>signage for through-cyclists on the national route.</p>
(Cycle) Wareham Road-Wool Bridge-Tout Hill-Bovington Lane-King George V Road (refers to sections within Wool Parish only)	<p>The route from the corner of East Burton Road is on pavement shared with pedestrians before a short stretch which is off-road for cyclists and pedestrians, before joining a short stretch of road carriageway which then becomes off-road from Wool Bridge through Tout Hill to Bovington Lane. At that point the cycle lane becomes shared with narrow pedestrian pavement for the length of Bovington Lane. It crosses from the south to the north side of the Lane at Cologne Road and continues to the junction of Lindsay Road and King George V Road.</p> <p>The route is unlit from just after the start until just before the entrance to the Tank Museum on Bovington Lane.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> On Bovington Lane, the route has no specific cycle lane design apart painted signs on the pavement</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> The route follows the road network and this creates a significant diversion to access services in Wool (there is no easy way to solve this)</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> The route is not lit and the cycle lane is located on a narrow pavement.</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> No. Pedestrian and Cycle conflict in a narrow space.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> No</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> The road is not heavily trafficked</p>	<p>Provide suitable lighting to provide safety for cyclists sharing the narrow pavement with pedestrians. Widen the cycle lane along Bovington Road.</p>
(Walk) Dorchester Road from Braytown to Wool Railway Station	<p>This is the main pedestrian route to the railway station and to shops and services in Wool, from existing and planned settlement on the western side of the village.</p> <p>The pavement is narrow in places and is generally less than 2 metres wide.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> The route is direct along the Dorchester Road to Wool Railway Station. Crossing the road to access the railway station, or earlier at some junctions lacks coherence.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> Yes, but not at junctions with Colliers Lane or at Wool Railway Station.</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> No. The route is close to traffic along its length and so can be noisy, with little respite and a lack of environmental quality in surroundings</p>	<p>The creation of an attractive pedestrian environment designed to promote active travel routes to key services and Wool Railway Station.</p>



Cycle or Walking Route	Description of route and infrastructure	Assessment	What are the Priorities for improvement?
		<p><b>Attractive?</b> No. The boundaries of development with a frontage on Dorchester Road are not attractive and there is no pedestrian infrastructure along the way.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Pavements are narrow in places, creating negative noise and air quality environment for pedestrians. In order to access key services and Wool Train Stations, Junctions need to be crossed which lack quality and feel unsafe to users.</p>	
(Walk) Colliers Lane at the Junction with Dorchester Road	<p>The junction is accessed by pedestrians using routes to Wool's railway station and to access shops at Braytown.</p> <p>The junction has two entrance/exits with a central triangle of land. Cars entering the junction to/from Dorchester Road (to/from West) can enter at speed depending on traffic conditions. Cars entering to/from the east need to make a harder turn and are generally moving more slowly.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> The junction is divided by a central triangle of land, leading to cars entering the junction from different directions and at different speeds which can be confusing for pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> No. the Junction is split into parts which operate in different ways.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> Does not feel safe for Pedestrians who need to treat each part of the junction differently.</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> The triangle of land is a pleasant space, a refuge in what is otherwise a difficult junction to negotiate for pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> The triangle is attractive owing to community improvements (tree, planting, seats, community phone box. The highways infrastructure is not attractive.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> The island provides some protection, but the geometry of parts of the junction create confusion for pedestrians.</p>	<p>Improve pedestrian crossing infrastructure and ensure that new development results in maintained or improved safety for pedestrians at this crossing.</p>
(Walk) Cologne Road to Bovington Neighbourhood Centre	<p>Cologne Road is a residential area. There is a significant distance from houses at the northern end of the road, south to the junction with Bovington Lane. The route west along Bovington is on narrow pavements shared with cyclists and is unlit for most of its length. The route turns into King George V Road into the centre of Bovington.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> No. The route is not direct, involve three different pedestrian environments with varying degrees of difficulty for pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> No. The current route is significantly longer based on a detour around the military site.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> No. The current requires walking along main road routes which have narrow pavements and are unlit in places. The pavement is shared with cycles.</p>	<p>The creation of a shorter direct pedestrian link from Cologne Road to Bovington centre suitable for all users.</p>

Cycle or Walking Route	Description of route and infrastructure	Assessment	What are the Priorities for improvement?
		<p><b>Comfortable?</b> No. The route is too long for regular access to local shops. The quality of the pedestrian link on the main road into Bovington is poor.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> Parts of the route lack natural surveillance and are unlit.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> There are no pedestrian crossing facilities to shops in Bovington.</p>	
(Walk) King George V Road at Bovington Neighbourhood Centre.	Schools and key shops are located on the west side of a very wide road, which whilst not heavily trafficked, is used by large military vehicles travelling at speed.	<p><b>Coherent?</b> For pedestrian seeking to access the school and shops in Bovington, crossing the road can feel unsafe.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> n/a. the issue raised is about a lack of crossing facilities.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> No, there are no pedestrian crossing facilities</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> No, crossing the road is not comfortable owing to its width and the potential for heavy vehicle traffic.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> There are no crossing facilities so not attractive.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> No</p>	The creation of pedestrian crossing facilities to allow pedestrians to cross the road in safety.
(Walk) Main route from Bovington to Wool Railway Station.	The route from Bovington to Wool is around 4.5km. Coming from Bovington, the route has pavement on the north side and then it changes to the south side a distance after Cologne Road. There are limited pedestrian crossing facilities at this point. The route is unlit for most of its length. There is no natural surveillance, there is one resting place with seats at the corner with Tout Hill.	<p><b>Coherent?</b> Yes, the route is clear, except at the Wool Railway Station.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> Yes, this is the shortest route on foot given lack of routes across the river.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> No. The route lacks natural surveillance, is unlit and has few facilities for regular pedestrian use.</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> No. The distance is long for walking route, and pedestrians will feel exposed.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> The surrounding from Tout Hill into</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Yes, except when crossing the road and/or when it is dark.</p>	Improve the pedestrian environment along this route.
(Walk) Lulworth Road South of Duck Street to the edge of the Village.	At the southern extent of Wool Village on Lulworth Road, a 60mph zone meets a 30mph zone. There are no pavements to serve the	<p><b>Coherent?</b> No, the pedestrian route is on the road.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> Yes, but on the main road.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> No, there is no protection from traffic for pedestrians.</p>	Improve the pedestrian environment. Introduce a pavement where possible.

Cycle or Walking Route	Description of route and infrastructure	Assessment	What are the Priorities for improvement?
	southernmost residential development (about 17 houses) at the southern end of Wool Village.	<p><b>Comfortable?</b> No, there is a risk of accident and injury particularly if traffic is speeding.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> No, this is not an attractive pedestrian route.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> No. There is no protection from traffic.</p>	
(Walk) Burton Road and East Burton Road	<p>Burton Road and parts of East Burton Road lack a footpath and the walking routes here are in close proximity to proposed allocation sites. It is assumed this would be an active travel pedestrian route for residents of planned developments to use to access Wool Railway Station.</p> <p>The level crossing at East Burton is a current route taken by traffic wishing to avoid queues at the level crossing at Wool Railway Station. Future development is likely to give rise to increased traffic via these routes.</p>	<p><b>Coherent?</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Direct?</b> yes, the route is direct.</p> <p><b>Safe?</b> No, the route lacks pedestrian pavements and is unlit, whilst it is likely to become much busier if planned development proceeds.</p> <p><b>Comfortable?</b> The route lacks lighting, but there are houses along some of its length on one side.</p> <p><b>Attractive?</b> Not adjacent to the railway line.</p> <p><b>Suitable protection from Traffic?</b> Not where pavements are lacking and/or the route is dark.</p>	Improve the pedestrian environment. Introduction a pavement where possible.

## Rail Station

251. Railway Services from Wool provide important connections to nearby towns and cities and to London. Good access from Wool via rail was confirmed in consultation as a key positive attribute of the area.
252. The station itself is a different matter. The indoor waiting facilities are locked when the station is unstaffed. The station has insufficient car parking. The overall quality of station buildings is poor. Connections to the rest of the parish and its key attractions are not well co-ordinated and overall, are lacking. Many visitors arrive by rail to the station and have insufficient options available to make their onward journey to nearby attractions.
253. As a key service village, Wool's railway station should provide attractive station facilities with integrated services for onward travel. It should provide good quality car parking, EV Charging points and cycle parking infrastructure. There is sufficient land for this around the station (subject to landowners' permission) and some potential to greatly improve the station environment. Given planned housing growth, there is an acknowledged requirement in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 to improve Wool Station.
254. Policy H5 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 (e & f) sets out requirements to improve accessibility between strategic allocation sites and nearby services (including Wool Railway Station and Dorset Innovation Park) and facilities by forming or improving defined walking and cycling routes. It seeks financial contributions toward improvements to the travel interchange at Wool Railway Station to include additional car parking, secure cycle storage, and electric vehicle charging points. Whilst this is welcome, requirements are linked to strategic site delivery only and do not consider the wider needs of the parish (other parts of the parish use the railway station, as do visitors to the area). Additionally, further local plan site allocation proposals are likely in time and so it is important that the neighbourhood plan sets out local objectives for improvements to Wool Railway Station to provide benefits for all residents and visitors.
255. The PTAG Purbeck Transport Plan (Table 1 of the PTAG plan) sets out improvement priorities for Wool Station as a mobility hub with a rail service. These include provision of spaces for carshare vehicles, bicycle hire, a dock for a bike share scheme, café, space for community interaction, a notice board, recycling bins, parcel delivery lockers, defibrillator point and water fountain to provide drinking water.
256. The supporting documents to the neighbourhood plan which examine character and development form, show the importance of Wool station and level crossing as a gateway into Wool, and as such both the need and the opportunity to improve it and the setting of the village.
257. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Friends of Wool Station have examined elements of station and level crossing provision to establish a clear view of requirements for improvement. Table 9 details the components of infrastructure at Wool Station and indicates priorities for improvement, also drawing on PTAG Transport Plan priorities.

**Table 9 – Wool Station Infrastructure Improvement Priorities**

<b>Component of Infrastructure</b>	<b>Current Provision</b>	<b>Priority for improvement</b>
Car parking spaces	25 carpark spaces 1 accessible carpark space 4 taxi bays 1 Beryl Bikes bay	More car parking spaces. Car Share spaces EV charging spaces Extended Beryl Bikes scheme, more bikes and potentially electric bikes.
Access to the station car park	Two entrance/exits to the station.	Traffic queueing makes car and bus access difficult

Component of Infrastructure	Current Provision	Priority for improvement
Bus Stop	There is a bus stop at the station	Adequate
Cycle Facilities	Limited bike hire scheme. Cycle racks on the platform.	Investigate electric bike scheme. Bicycle hire
Toilets	Insufficient opening hours, no disabled access	Need to be accessible and open longer
Ticket Office	The ticket office has restricted opening hours. Automated ticket vending machine on platform.	Ticket office opening hours should be extended.
Waiting Facilities	Facilities provided in the building. Limited opening hours.	Need more shelter on the platforms. Café. Drinking fountain. Community Notice Board.
Planting and landscaping	Organised by the Friends of Wool Station	Space for community interaction Recycling bins.
Security	A hotspot for anti-social behaviour	More CCTV.
Level Crossing	1 at the station (and 1 at Giddy Green)	Downtime needs to be more efficient with fewer mechanical breakdowns.

Source: Friends of Wool Station and Wool Parish Council (2023)

#### WOOL 12 - Improvements to Wool Rail Station

When using policy I2 and H5 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the broader requirements identified in the neighbourhood plan for improvements to Wool Railway Station. This should include positive consideration of the following measures:

- a) The provision of more car parking spaces
- b) The provision of spaces for carshare vehicles
- c) The provision of Electric Vehicle charging spaces
- d) The extension of the bike hire scheme. more bikes and potentially electric bikes
- e) Any Improvements to traffic queueing to allow better vehicular access to the station
- f) The provision of accessible toilets with longer opening hours
- g) The ticket office opening hours should be extended
- h) The provision of more shelter on the platforms
- i) The provision of a community notice board
- j) The provision of more CCTV and other initiatives to reduce antisocial behaviour
- k) Optimisation of the level crossing to reduce the downtime of the barrier and reduce the number of mechanical breakdowns
- l) Actions address drainage problems alongside the railway on approaches to Wool Station.

Wool Parish Council will work with the Friends of Wool Station and other partners to secure improvements to Wool Station and support the environmental improvement of its environs as a key gateway to Wool.

## 8. Green Infrastructure

258. This section of the neighbourhood plan sets out strategy and policies to protect and enhance a range of green infrastructure within Wool Parish.

### Local Green Spaces

259. In recognition of the need to clearly identify and protect important local green spaces, the neighbourhood plan identifies sites for which Local Green Space designation is sought. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group used their local knowledge and feedback from consultation to identify a long list of sites that could be considered for designation as Local Green Spaces.

260. A key principle of Local Green Space policy is that sites that do not need additional protection should not be designated. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group took this into account where appropriate. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group assessed against the criteria set out in paragraph 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework. To be suitable for designation, a site should:

- a) be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- b) be demonstrably special to a local community
- c) hold a particular local significance, for example, because of its
  - i. beauty,
  - ii. historic significance,
  - iii. recreational value (including as a playing field),
  - iv. tranquillity or
  - v. richness of its wildlife
- d) be local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

261. The results of the assessment of the sites and specific Local Green Space proposals are set out in **Appendix B**. The sites proposed for designation as Local Green Space have been subject to consultation directly with the relevant landowners.

#### WOOL 13 – Local Green Space Sites

The following sites, detailed in Appendix B, are designated as Local Green Spaces, and other than in very special circumstances, no inappropriate development will be permitted within them that would harm their green character and reason for designation.

GS01 East Burton Village Green

GS02 Millennium Square, Wool

### Allotments

262. Growing food in communities has multiple benefits in providing local sources of healthy fruit and vegetables, providing healthy outlets for active lifestyles for all age groups and retaining community knowledge about food and food growing. The provision of allotments is valued in Wool Parish, evidenced by the number of people on waiting lists to rent an allotment.

263. The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 does not propose a standard for allotments provision. It refers to the Southeast Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy 2010 and points to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan as the means through which community infrastructure requirements are addressed.

264. The Green Infrastructure Strategy does not set standards for allotments provision and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan indicates that allotments will be secured through CIL by parish and town councils who can fund and provide allotments, or through Section 106 Agreements in specific cases. As has been noted elsewhere in the neighbourhood plan, Wool Parish will not receive CIL from allocated housing sites to invest and meet the needs of a growing local population.
265. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends a quantitative standard of 20 plots per 1000 households (approximately 20 plots per 2200 people). The size of an allotment plot is 250 square metres (0.025ha) give a rough minimum requirement of at least 0.5 hectares per 1,000 households.
266. Within Wool Parish as a whole, there are currently 54 allotment plots. According to the 2021 Census, the population of the Parish is 5,400 and the number of households is 2,000. Considering the Parish as a whole against the NSALG Standard, there are sufficient allotment plots.
267. Allotments need to be in close proximity to those using them, so it makes sense to look at Bovington separately from Wool and East Burton given their separation. There are 19 plots located in Bovington and 35 plots are in Wool Village.
268. The population of Bovington LSOA was 2,586 in 2011 (Census results). Five more plots are required to meet the standard based on population within Bovington. The 2011 population of Wool Village and Wool and East Burton LSOAs was 2,784. This would indicate excess supply of plots based on the standard.
269. However, allotments provision is clearly insufficient to meet current demand. Around 35 people living in Wool Village and East Burton are on the waiting list for an allotment plot (June 2023 figure) and two people are on the waiting list in Bovington. The neighbourhood plan promotes further provision of allotments to meet sustained demand from residents to grow healthy food locally.
270. With regard to current supply, 5 additional allotment plots in Bovington and 10 additional plots Wool Village and East Burton are needed to meet demand and ensure that allotments can continue their role in community development and health.
271. Planned development in the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 would deliver 470 homes (adding not less than 470 households) and this would likely grow the number of people in Wool and East Burton by around 1,128 people (assuming 2.4 people per household). This would generate a further need for 10 allotment plots based on the standard for population, equivalent to roughly 0.25 hectares of allotments. Should emerging Dorset Local Plan proposals be included, this would generate a further 500+ dwellings and so generate a requirement for a further 10 plots.
272. Based on existing allotments provision and demand, population growth through planned development and the application of standards for allotment provision, 35 additional allotments will need to be provided during the neighbourhood plan period.

#### WOOL 14 – Allotments for Wool Parish

When using policies I1, I7 and H5 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 in the determination of relevant planning applications and to formulate investment priorities, Dorset Council should have regard to the need for allotments provision in Wool Parish. Positive consideration should be given to opportunities to provide allotments within strategic development sites in the parish or financial contributions to provision on other sites.

Future local plan proposals for development in Wool Parish should include requirement for allotment provision at the standard of 0.20 hectares of allotments per 1,000 population or at a standard deemed appropriate by Dorset Council.

## Habitat Protection and Biodiversity Net Gain

273. Nationally, European and internationally important wildlife sites are particularly focused on the heathlands, water meadows and Poole Harbour. The area is extremely rich in protected species.
274. Within 400m of a protected heathland site (SAC) residential development that would involve a net increase in dwellings, tourist accommodation and equestrian related development will not be permitted. Between 400m and 5km of a heathland site, mitigation measures are likely to be required to mitigate the adverse effects on the sites' integrity.
275. These can take the form of Heathland Infrastructure Projects (HIPs), including e.g. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) provision in accordance with the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework SPD1.
276. All development will need to accord with the Purbeck Local Plan 2018-2034 Policy E9 and the Recreation in Poole Harbour SPD. Developments will also be required to mitigate the impact of any increase in nitrogen produced by sewage from new homes that may adversely affect Poole Harbour, in line with the Local Plan policy.
277. Detailed advice and support is needed for parish councils in Dorset preparing neighbourhood plans and hopefully, in time, this will be available. The neighbourhood plan seeks to ensure that, where new development is proposed, opportunities for repair to habitats, enhancement of species and new habitat creation with the aim of strengthening nature recovery networks, are firstly available and secured in Wool Parish. The aim is to ensure that investment in Biodiversity Net Gain benefits the wildlife and people of the Parish and in the process contributes to the delivery of wider emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The mechanism for Biodiversity Net Gain has now been published and became mandatory on 12th February 2024 by virtue of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). This incentivises developers to provide the requisite 10% net gain as locally as possible to the development.
278. Opportunities may also exist to connect habitats and in so doing also provide new or improved walking links within the Parish. It should also provide a means to inform suitable landscape buffers between existing and new planned development.
279. Opportunities to restore and enhance blue infrastructure running through the parish should be considered, for example through natural flood management, river restoration including de-culverting or naturalisation, sustainable drainage systems and the protection of existing natural assets.

### WOOL 15 – Biodiversity Net Gain Opportunities for Wool Parish

Development will only be supported where it would not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity, either alone or in-combination, directly or indirectly, on European sites. New development should incorporate proposals to meet statutory requirements for bio-diversity net gain in full on land within Wool Parish to improve the local ecological network. Where this cannot be achieved within development sites or on land within the parish, then opportunities to establish off-site bio-diversity net gain should in the first instance be sought to improve ecological networks within close proximity to Wool Parish.



## 9. MONITORING, DELIVERY AND REVIEW

280. The neighbourhood plan seeks to achieve a number of things which will require further actions, active monitoring and periodic review to determine whether objectives and policies are being achieved and observed. Key requirements are identified in Table 10 below.

**Table 10 – Monitoring for neighbourhood plan delivery**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring indicators of policy implementation and performance</b>
WOOL 1 - Design Principles for New Development in Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 2 - New Residential Development Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 3 – Improvements to the Local Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Work with partners to secure commitments</li> </ul>
WOOL 4 – Environmental Performance of Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 5 – Affordable Housing Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Waiting List Information and local surveys</li> </ul>
WOOL 6 – Housing types and sizes in Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 7 – Burial Space Provision in Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to identify a site for extension or new site</li> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 8 – Protection of sites in local community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Data on use of local community facilities</li> <li>• Monitor status of local grocery shops to confirm use class.</li> </ul>
WOOL 9 – Priorities for new community infrastructure and services for Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Commitments by relevant agencies to investment in local services and infrastructure</li> </ul>
WOOL 10 – Bus services for Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Dorset Council and bus operator support for local bus services</li> </ul>
WOOL 11 - Improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure in Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Plan Policies supporting development in the parish</li> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> <li>• Dorset Council LCWIP</li> <li>• Data on cycle use in the parish</li> </ul>
WOOL 12 - Improvements to Wool Rail Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment commitments by Network Rail</li> <li>• Support from Dorset Council</li> <li>• Lobbying activity by Purbeck Transport Action Group</li> </ul>
WOOL 13 – Local Green Space Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor planning applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 14 – Allotments for Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain allotments provision at or above NSALG standard.</li> <li>• Waiting List Data.</li> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications</li> </ul>
WOOL 15 – Biodiversity Net Gain Opportunities for Wool Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site(s) on the National Biodiversity Net Gain Register.</li> <li>• Monitor Planning Applications.</li> <li>• Opportunities identified from Local Nature Recovery Strategy</li> </ul>

## Appendix A – Audit of Local Community Facilities

The Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 (*Submission Version and Main Modifications – final adopted plan not yet available*) addresses requirements for community services and infrastructure:

- Para 133 of the Purbeck Local Plan 2018–2034 indicates a requirement for expansion of Wool Church of England Primary School, Bovington Primary and St Mary and St Joseph’s Catholic School. The Infrastructure Development indicates a need for an additional 95 primary school places arising from planned development on allocated sites in Wool.
- Policy H5 (Wool Allocations) indicates specific requirements including 350sqm of new retail space to service essential daily shopping requirements and contributions for the (D’Urberville) Community Hall. Other requirements related to walking and cycling, and to other transport infrastructure are addressed elsewhere in the neighbourhood plan.
- Policy I7 says that new development should demonstrate that it can be adequately served by community facilities and services, providing contributions where needed. In this regard, *The Infrastructure Development Plan to support the Purbeck Local Plan* indicates that Wool Surgery does not need additional accommodation to address the needs of additional population resulting from planned development. It also indicates that social care, policy, fire and rescue services will be sufficient.
- The infrastructure development plan makes clear that local library provision will be discretionary and for action by Parish Councils using their CIL. However, Dorset Council have confirmed that planned housing sites in Wool Parish will attract CIL Relief, meaning no CIL will accrue to the Parish Council to fund local community facilities.
- There is a lack of firm knowledge in the Infrastructure Development Plan on the capacity of burial grounds to cater for planned increases in population in the Parish. This is addressed in this chapter of the neighbourhood plan.

### Key Community Services and Facilities

Work has been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to assess the level and quality of community facilities in the parish and to assess future requirements. This has been informed by a survey of organisations which operate infrastructure and delivery services in the Parish. The Table below lists community facilities in the Parish, describes their function, assesses actions required to maintain and improve them to meet current and future requirements.

Community Facility	Uses and Use Class
D’Urberville Centre. Colliers Lane, Wool	<p>The D’Urberville Centre is the main community facility for the Parish. It is a Charitable Trust. As well as providing the offices for the Parish Council, the centre provides a multi-purpose main hall of 150sqm with stage, kitchen and bar, with a maximum standing capacity of 200 people. There are also 3 other bookable rooms of varying size.</p> <p>In addition, there are several other meeting rooms of 68sqm, 32sqm, 29.5sqm and used by a variety of local clubs and organisations. Several weekly clubs are run from the facilities including a cancer support workshop, Slimming World, keep fit, a dance academy, line dancing, a Youth Club, singing, kickboxing, short mat bowls, amateur dramatics, a sewing club, and a Country Market.</p> <p>A Community Library is also run from the centre, open four times per week.</p>

<b>Community Facility</b>	<b>Uses and Use Class</b>
	<p>The centre experiences high demand and is now fully booked with regular users of the facilities. No regular bookings are taken at the weekend as there is high demand for new or one-off activities.</p> <p>The centre also has three changing rooms with showers with direct access to the playing fields outside the centre.</p> <p>In planning terms, the D'Urberville Centre is a F2 Community Use.</p>
<p>Wool Playing Field and skate park Colliers Lane, Wool</p>	<p>The playing field is a community asset owned by Wool Parish Council. There is a covenant on the land restricting its use to "the provision of playing fields and a pavilion either with or without a village hall" (although the pavilion was removed some years ago). The land is also registered with Fields in Trust which obliges Wool Parish Council to retain it for use as a public park, playing field or recreation ground, in perpetuity. The playing fields are the only such provision in Wool.</p> <p>The field is used mainly by dog walkers and footballers. There is one adult football pitch marked out and 3 or 4 smaller youth pitches. The pitches are used by around 15 local teams.</p> <p>There is a hard surfaced playing area with mini-football goals and basketball hoops.</p> <p>A skatepark was built in 2020 funded by the National Lottery and Sport England and is heavily used, not just by locals.</p> <p>A fruit orchard was planted in 2023.</p> <p>In planning terms, the sports field and skate park are a F2 Community Use.</p>
<p>Kids of Wool and Wool Pre-school, Colliers Lane, Wool</p>	<p>The Kids of Wool building provides a bookable community space. It is run by a charity. It is primarily occupied by Wool Pre-School which was established as a non-profit day nursery and is run by volunteers as a charity. The pre-school has capacity for 25 children and there is no waiting list. However, more space is required to fulfil new regulatory requirements.</p> <p>The community space (a hall) is also used by youth groups such as the scouts and rainbows. The community space is at capacity.</p> <p>In planning terms, the building is a F2 Community Use</p>
<p>Play Park, Meadow Lane, Wool</p>	<p>The facility is set out to a high standard and is maintained by Wool Parish Council, comprising a range of play equipment for younger children. It provides a centrally located play park facility in Wool Village, close to a local school, the day nursery, the community facilities at the D'Urberville Centre and the GP Surgery.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use</p>
<p>Play Area, Purbeck Gate, Wool</p>	<p>The facility was provided as part of the Purbeck Gate residential development and comprises a range of play equipment for younger children. It is maintained by Weld Estate, a management company appointed by the developer, Barratt Housing.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use</p>
<p>Play Area, Burton Wood, Wool</p>	<p>This is a small, fenced play area with a small amount of equipment, provided as part of a small development of houses in Burton Wood, for residents use only. It is maintained by Raglan Housing.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use</p>

<b>Community Facility</b>	<b>Uses and Use Class</b>
Allotments, Lulworth Road, Wool	35 allotment plots of varying size run by a committee for the residents of the parish. As of June 2023, there are 20 people on the waiting list.
East Burton Village Hall, Burton Road, Wool	<p>The East Burton Village Hall is run as a charity. Its accommodation comprises a Main Hall with a stage (the hall can be divided to create two smaller spaces) and two other smaller rooms. The hall hosts a variety of activities, wedding receptions and parties.</p> <p>There is a fully equipped kitchen and crockery, tables etc to seat 50 people for dinner. Local village events are also held from time to time including meals. The maximum standing capacity of the hall is 150 people. Currently, the hall is about 40% utilised.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use</p>
Bovington Community Hall but run by MOD.	<p>The facility is owned and managed by the MOD. It is almost exclusively used by the military.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use.</p>
Play Area, Elles Road, Bovington	<p>The facility is owned and managed by the MOD. It was refreshed in 2022 and is accessible. There are also tennis courts and a cycle proficiency training area which were refreshed in 2022.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use.</p>
Play Area, Swinton Avenue, Bovington	<p>The facility is owned and managed by the MOD. It was refreshed in 2022 and is accessible.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use.</p>
Skatepark and MUGA, Swinton Avenue, Bovington	<p>The facility is owned and managed by the MOD. The skatepark was refreshed in 2022.</p> <p>In planning use class terms, the facility is an F2 Community Use.</p>
Allotments, Holt Road, Bovington	19 allotment plots available for use by military, veterans and civilians. 2 civilians on the waiting list as of June 2023.
Bovington Store, King George V Road, Bovington	<p>This shop has a floorspace of approximately 270sqm and sells mostly essential goods including food. The Store is located 4km by road and footpath to the nearest similar shop (the Spar in Wool village centre). There is also a Greggs store and Post Office on the premises.</p> <p>This essential local community shop meets the conditions for it to be regarded as a local community use class F2.</p>
Spar, High St, Wool	<p>This shop has a floorspace of approximately 150sqm and sells mostly essential goods including food. The Store is located 1km by road to the nearest similar shop (the Central Store in Braytown) but is less distance as the crow flies. There are two routes via Lulworth Road and Colliers Lane, and by Station Road and Dorchester Road – both are 1km. There is also a Post Office on the premises.</p> <p>This essential local community shop does not meet the condition (1km as the crow flies to the next nearest grocery shop) for it to be regarded as a use class F2. It is therefore commercial use class E (a).</p>
Central Store, Braytown, Dorchester Road, Wool	<p>This shop has a floorspace of approximately 150sqm and sells mostly essential goods including food. The Store is located 1km by road to the nearest similar shop (the Spar in Wool village centre) but is less as the crow flies. There are two routes via Lulworth Road and Colliers Lane, and by Station Road and Dorchester Road – both are 1km.</p> <p>This essential local community shop does not meet the condition (1km as the crow flies to the next nearest grocery shop) for it to be regarded as a use class F2. It is therefore commercial use class E (a).</p>

<b>Community Facility</b>	<b>Uses and Use Class</b>
<b>Other Community Facilities</b>	
St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Folly Lane,	There is no public use of school facilities or outdoor sports and play facilities.  The school is a Learning and Non-Residential Institution within Planning Use Class F1.
Wool Church of England Primary School, Lulworth Road, Wool	A hall, classrooms and a playing field are available for public hire at certain times, subject to safeguarding conditions and not being used by the pupils. The school cannot let the hiring of premises interfere with the primary purpose of providing education to its pupils.  The school is a Learning and Non-Residential Institution within Planning Use Class F1.
Bovington Academy	A hall, classrooms, a playing field and a MUGA are available for public hire at certain times, subject to safeguarding conditions and not being used by the pupils. The school cannot let the hiring of premises interfere with the primary purpose of providing education to its pupils.  The school is a Learning and Non-Residential Institution within Planning Use Class F1.
Harbour School Dorset, School Road, Bovington	Harbour School Dorset is a state funded Special School for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. As such the school catchment will be much larger than Wool Parish and will cater for pupils from a wider area. Dorset Council arranges for school transport to bring in pupils as required. There is no public use of school facilities or outdoor sports and play facilities.  The school is a Learning and Non-Residential Institution within Planning Use Class F1.
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wool	The church does not provide general community space for hire by the public and no clubs or societies are based there, which are not connected with the core faith-based activities.  In planning use class terms, the Church building is in Use Class F1 Place of Worship.
Church of the Holy Rood, Wool, and Churchyard	The church does not provide general community space for hire by the public and no clubs or societies are based there, which are not connected with the core faith-based activities.  In planning use class terms, the Church building would therefore be regarded as Use Class F1 Place of Worship.  The Churchyard and burial ground extension are actively used for interment and for recreational visits and so are regarded as use class F2.
Wool Methodist Church, Wool	The church does not provide general community space for hire by the public and no clubs or societies are based there, which are not connected with the core faith-based activities.  In planning use class terms, the Church building would therefore be regarded as Use Class F1 Place of Worship.
Kingdom Hall, High Street Close, Wool	The church does not provide general community space for hire by the public and no clubs or societies are based there, which are not connected with the core faith-based activities.  In planning use class terms, the Church building is in Use Class F1 Place of Worship.
Wellbridge Practice (Wool Surgery), Meadow Lane, Wool	The surgery is part of the Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) that includes 5 other GP surgeries in the area providing frontline access to the NHS. Various services and staff are shared across the PCN, expanding services but limiting appointments at any one surgery.

<b>Community Facility</b>	<b>Uses and Use Class</b>
	<p>The Wellbridge was built larger than initially required with population growth in mind. It is not fully occupied now and is in fact understaffed by doctors considering its patient population due to a national shortage. There is a dispensing pharmacy within the building for use by patients who do not live within 1 mile of a pharmacy.</p> <p>As The Wellbridge Practice is situated in a rural area, it provides front line services to a number of villages and hamlets and has a very large catchment area. This area extends to Bovington and Moreton to the north, Crossways and Warmell to the west, the Chaldons, West Lulworth and East Lulworth to the south and East Stoke and East Holme to the east.</p> <p>Clinics and health centres are regarded as class E (e) commercial uses.</p>
MouthPeace Dental and Facial Aesthetics Practice, Chalk Pit Lane, Wool	<p>The dental practice is a private practice located in Braytown close to local shops.</p> <p>Clinics and health centres are regarded as class E commercial uses.</p>
<b>Facilities which are lacking</b>	
ATM and banking	<p>There are no banks and no free 24-hour cashpoints located in the parish but there are some located within shops which charge for usage, and cash can be withdrawn from the post office counter for free when open.</p>
NHS Dentist	<p>The nearest NHS dentist is in Wareham (5 miles).</p>
Additional land for burials beyond the next 9-10 years	<p>Land is required adjacent to existing provision.</p>

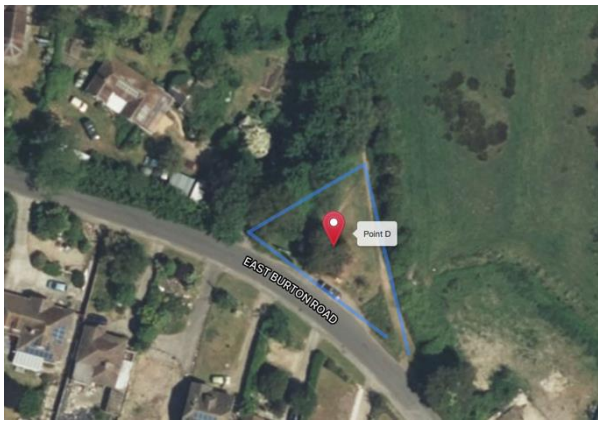
## Appendix B – Local Green Spaces

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members used their local knowledge and sought public opinion to identify candidate sites. Feedback from landowners was obtained and this was used alongside the criteria to assess the suitability of each site. The two sites meeting the criteria are listed below.

GS01 East Burton Village Green


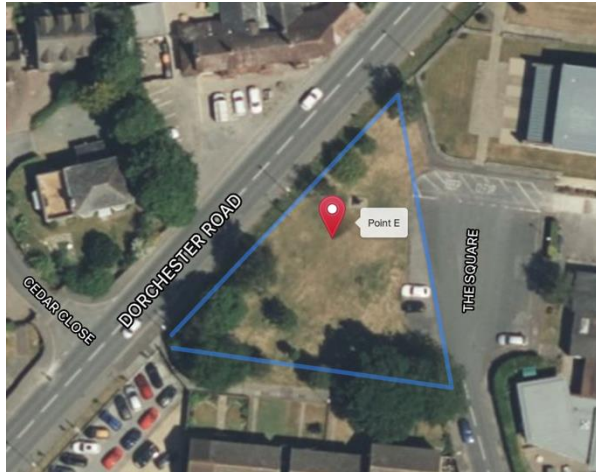
GS02 Millennium Square, Wool

### Local Green Space Assessment

GS01 East Burton Village Green	
<b>Site Information</b>	
Site Reference	<b>GS01</b>
Site Name	East Burton Village Green
Site Address	BH20 6HE
Grid Location	SY 83439 86951
Site Boundary Plan	
Site Area	0.0639 hectare
Site Ownership	Not registered with Land Registry but thought to belong to Wool Parish Council as it maintains the site.
<b>Site Attributes and Use</b>	
Description of Use	Although a small area of green, it is well maintained and looked after by locals. It is the only area where local information is displayed and therefore an important community asset. It is used for memorial trees and benches. and marks entrance to the water meadows.
Description of public access to the site	Fully accessible
Does the site have any special features such as trees, wildlife, landscape, heritage etc?	Memorial trees and wildlife
Is the site formally designated for any special features? Eg Site of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve, designated public open space, designated playing field, key walking and cycling route, designated heritage asset, local heritage asset, green belt, landscape designation, important trees and woodland etc	No

<b>Development potential and activity</b>	
Is the site the subject of planning applications for development?	No
Is the site allocated or safeguarded for development or proposed for allocation?	No
Landowner Consultation	Yes
<b>Assessment of site against NPPF Criteria:</b>	
a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	Yes
b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife	The site hosts 3 memorial trees, specifically a Horse Chestnut tree to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935, a Whitebeam tree to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2002 and an Oak tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. There is a structure erected to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee, the building of the village hall and the reinstatement of the site for use as a village green by locals. There is a Parish Council noticeboard on the site. There is a stone bench and a picnic table which are used by locals and walkers enjoying the walks across the water meadows.
c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Summary of Assessment	East Burton Village Green is a green space of communication and commemorative significance which marks the entrance to the water meadows.
Recommended for LGS Designation?	Yes

**GS02 Millennium Square, Wool**

<b>Site Information</b>	
Site Reference	<b>GS02</b>
Site Name	Millennium Square, Wool
Site Address	BH20 6EJ
Grid Location	SY 84098 86744
Site Boundary Plan	
	
Site Area	0.1133 hectare
Site Ownership	Not registered with Land Registry but thought to belong to Wool Parish Council as it maintains the site.
<b>Site Attributes and Use</b>	



Description of Use	Memorials and tree planting
Description of public access to the site	Fully accessible
Does the site have any special features such as trees, wildlife, landscape, heritage etc?	There is an ancient chestnut tree planted to celebrate the 25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee of King George V in 1935. The Millennium Stone also stands in Millennium Square which was unveiled on January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2000.
Is the site formally designated for any special features? Eg Site of Special Scientific Interest, Local Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve, designated public open space, designated playing field, key walking and cycling route, designated heritage asset, local heritage asset, green belt, landscape designation, important trees and woodland etc	No
<b>Development potential and activity</b>	
Is the site the subject of planning applications for development?	No
Is the site allocated or safeguarded for development or proposed for allocation?	No
Landowner Consultation	Yes, if belonging to Wool Parish Council
<b>Assessment of site against NPPF Criteria:</b>	
a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	Yes
b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife	Yes. Historic significance. Recreational space
c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes
Summary of Assessment	Millennium Square is a green space of local commemorative significance.
Recommended for LGS Designation?	Yes

### Areas that were requested by parishioners but not included following consideration

There were several candidate sites which did not meet the criteria. These are listed in the table.

Area	Reason for non-recommendation
The D'Urberville Field	The field is already protected by a covenant on the land restricting its use to "the provision of playing fields and a pavilion either with or without a village hall". The land is also subject to legal agreement between Fields in Trust and Wool Parish Council that the council will retain it for use as a green space, usually a public park, playing field or recreation ground, in perpetuity.
The Cross, Wool	Consultation on the proposed designation of The Cross as a Local Green Space led to the confirmation that the site is already registered as a Village Green and as such is protected from development. Additional protection through Local Green Space designation is not required.
Holy Rood and Churchyard	It is an active church and already protected by law.
Wool Village Pound	Already protected by statutory legislation as it is Grade II listed.
Water Meadows	It is an extensive tract of land so does not meet the criteria for Local Green Space protection.
Woolbridge Manor	Already protected by statutory legislation as it is Grade II listed

Bindon House Mill	Already protected by statutory legislation as it is Grade II listed
Bindon Abbey	Already protected by statutory legislation as it is Grade I listed
Cole Wood	This wood is actively managed woodland with recognition of the public footpath plus a permissive path provided by the landowner for additional public access. The landowner opposes wider access to the woodland due to its requirement to manage the site as a working woodland and to ensure protection of wildlife in key areas.
The Wool Stream and its source	It is an extensive tract of land so does not meet the criteria for Local Green Space protection.
Lulworth Road Allotments	This area is included within an agricultural tenancy. Any proposed development in this area will have to provide community benefit in line with, and as required by, any planning permission granted.
Coombe Wood	This wood is actively managed woodland, and a permissive bridleway is currently provided by the landowner. Additional future access is explicitly linked to an adjacent proposed development.
Braytown Triangle	The historic chestnut tree is already subject to a Tree Protection Order. The triangle itself may need alteration to address traffic management.
East Burton Churchyard	It is closed burial ground and already protected by law.
East Burton Bridge	It is more a place of interest than a green space so does not satisfy the criteria for Local Green Space protection.