

SHREWTON VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2025-2040



Welcome to **Working Draft V3** of our Neighbourhood Plan

This draft V3 document is being submitted to Wilts Council for screening comments. At the same time, the NPSG requires your comments and feedback. All these comments will be combined into the final NP V3

Please email your comments to info@shrewton.info.

Future village review sessions will be arranged as required.

This will be backed up by information and discussion on www.shrewton.info, Shrewton.com, WhatsApp, posters, newsletters and by word of mouth.

All comments will be captured and reviewed through the NP2026 controlled change process.

Thank you.

Your volunteer Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. info@shrewton.info

Short of time? Please read the 'Quick Read' and comment on Section 4.

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Document Control

Document status

This is a controlled NP2026 working draft. It records the current policies, planning judgement and outstanding decision gates. It is not the final Regulation 14 version and does not pre-judge SEA, HRA, highways, wastewater or site-specific technical work.

Field	Controlled information
Document ID	NP2026-NP-001
Title	Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan
Version	3.0 Working Draft
Baseline	Neighbourhood Plan V2.6 and Site Options Assessment Report V3.1
Owner	Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Approving body	Shrewton Parish Council
Plan period	2025–2040
Purpose	Set out the draft spatial strategy and policies and record the current preferred housing option in principle.
Next formal review	After the open decision gates, SEA/HRA and before Regulation 14 consultation
Linked controls	SOAR V3.1; LVIA; SEA; HRA; Basic Conditions Statement; Consultation Statement; NP2026 Master Project Control Workbook

Version History

Version	Date	Principal change	Status
2.6	July 2026	SOAR V2.5 and LNRS update to the earlier draft.	Superseded
3.0	19 July 2026	Rebuilt under NP2026; aligned with SOAR V3.1, current legal tests, LNRS spatial evidence, decision gates and monitoring.	Working Draft

How the NP2026 process is applied

Evidence → Assessment → Planning Judgement → Preferred Option → Policy Requirements → Monitoring

Evidence is identified by an EV reference in the Master Project Control Workbook. Assumptions, dependencies and unresolved matters are stated expressly, and no conclusion is treated as final where a live evidence dependency or decision gate remains open.

Quick Read

What am I looking at?

This is Draft V3.0 of the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan. It has been rebuilt under the NP2026 controlled process and aligned with the 2026 Shrewton Site Options Assessment Report V3.1, including the March 2026 legal changes to neighbourhood planning, the provisional housing non-reduction test and the Wiltshire Council ArcGIS Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) evidence supplied on 17 July 2026. It is a working draft for technical and community review, not the final Regulation 14 Plan.

It has been produced following many months of changing government policies, public meetings, consultations, research and using the results of our village questionnaire, so we hope it reflects how our community wants to see the parish developing in the future.

Villagers and technical consultees are invited to comment on this controlled working draft. Comments will be recorded and considered through the NP2026 evidence, decision and change registers.

This is an opportunity to test the current policies and provisional site strategy before SEA, HRA and the other open decision gates are completed.

The formal commenting process requires accountability – we cannot accept anonymous comments. Therefore, comments can only be submitted either:

- by email to info@shrewton.info; or
- by post/hand to Rock House, The Hollow, SP3 4JY, or Rivendell, Nett Road or Lane End, Rollestone Road; or
- by hand at any drop-in session.

That said, everyone is, of course, free to discuss as they wish on various village social media channels including WhatsApp or Facebook.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan, and why do we want one?

A Neighbourhood Development Plan describes how a community wants land use to be managed and development to happen. Once made, it forms part of the statutory development plan and is used alongside the other development-plan policies when planning applications are decided.

What is in our Neighbourhood Plan?

We have a set of planning policies – rules and guidelines that describe what we want to see in development that needs planning permission – grouped in 11 topics:

1. Environment
2. Housing
3. Traffic
4. Access
5. Local Transport
6. Community Facilities
7. Businesses, Economy and Jobs
8. Crime and Community Safety
9. Protection and Enhancement of Shrewton's Heritage Assets
10. Schools Education and Training
11. Medical and Dental Facilities

Each policy starts with a background on a particular aspect of development, such as protecting the natural environment and our lovely landscape. This is followed by our intentions, that describe what each policy is intended to achieve. Each policy is supported by a set of objectives, whose achievement is necessary for compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan. The final section of each policy describes how each objective will be assessed.

Comments on earlier drafts have informed this Neighbourhood Plan Draft V3.0. Further comments and technical evidence will be logged, assessed and, where justified, incorporated through the controlled change process.

The next stage is technical consultation and environmental screening, followed by closure or explicit treatment of the pre-Regulation 14 decision gates.

Only after those steps and Parish Council approval will a Regulation 14 draft be issued for the formal six-week consultation. Submission, examination and referendum follow later if the Plan passes each stage.

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Foreword

Welcome to the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan.

In 2012, Shrewton Parish Council, in consultation with Orcheston Parish Council, decided to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Shrewton village under the 2011 Localism Act. In 2015, the work was suspended. In 2024 and in response to government priorities to increase housing development significantly, a new Parish Council decided to resurrect the neighbourhood planning activity and created new terms of reference for a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, made up of local volunteers, to complete development of the Neighbourhood Plan and achieve its approval by Wiltshire Council, in accordance with the formal consultation and approval process laid down by the Localism Act.

Built on earlier work and extensive community consultation, the Plan outlines policies to preserve Shrewton's character while allowing for new housing and improved infrastructure. Once a neighbourhood plan is approved, it is a legally recognised document that would be incorporated into Wiltshire Council plans and would also be recognised in any court of law.

The Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole of Shrewton village, including Shrewton Parish and contiguous houses, community facilities and infrastructure that sit just inside Orcheston Parish and Winterbourne Stoke Parish boundaries.

A neighbourhood plan gives local people and communities a stronger say in the future development of where they live and it is required to include a wide range of factors and issues of local importance. These include community facilities, the environment (green space and blue areas (water)), biodiversity, traffic, access, history and culture, housing, business, tourism, crime and safety, and our social and economic well-being.

Our plan also aims to address the four top community priorities:

- To protect the environment and nature, and to enhance biodiversity.
- To develop new housing and affordable housing to attract young families to the village and ensure the village's future as a safe and enjoyable place to live.
- To address the traffic issues that are becoming increasingly dangerous for individuals and damaging to our society
- To have the community facilities necessary to ensure community and individual wellbeing.

It is the Parish Council's intention that the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan, working within the Wiltshire Core Strategy, will become the starting point for deciding where and how development should take place, together with the type and quality of that development. In doing this the Parish Council is setting out to protect the parish from the adverse effects of unsolicited development bids and uncoordinated development, ensuring that any future building is sympathetic to and enhances the character of the village and benefits our local way of life.

Acknowledgements

This document has been developed and produced by the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and community groups of volunteers with wide-ranging skills and backgrounds on behalf of the whole Shrewton community.

The team would like to thank the following in preparation of the documents.

- Wiltshire Council for guidance and support on all matters related to neighbourhood planning.
- Shrewton Parish Council for their support and assistance.
- The community of Orcheston for their support and assistance.
- Locality (The Neighbourhood Planning Organisation) for grant funding and AECOM, their technical partner, for providing general advice and our Housing Needs Assessment Report.
- The community groups in Shrewton for providing input and support, in particular St Mary's Church, Shrewton Village School, Shrewton Social Club, Shrewton Village Hall & Recreation Ground, the Cricket Club, the Plume of Feathers, the Bustard Inn, the Scouts, Guides & Cubs, Gul and many other bodies.

The Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank the whole community for participating in the process and for coming together and supporting the Neighbourhood Plan over the past 10 months.

The following individuals gave up their time to ensure this document became a reality:

Patrick Curry – Chairman

Paul McKernan – Vice Chairman

Tony Bates

Mick Cotton

James Dwyer

Andrew Grant

Peter Highton

Andy Kelly

Jan McKernan

Mike Smith

Stephen Tarr

Introduction

The Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led planning document intended to shape the village's future while respecting its history, landscape and environment. Draft V3.0 covers 2025–2040 and is controlled through the NP2026 evidence, requirements, decisions, changes, risks, actions and monitoring registers. It uses the adopted Wiltshire development plan and current national policy and treats evidence from the withdrawn Wiltshire Local Plan Review only as factual background where it remains current and relevant. The draft site strategy remains conditional on the decision gates, SEA, HRA and later consultation.

Why a Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan

The current National Planning Policy Framework, revised in December 2024 and amended in February 2025, continues to place strong emphasis on significantly boosting the supply of homes, delivering sustainable development, protecting the natural and historic environment, and supporting well-designed places. This Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed against that national policy context so that it supports necessary growth while shaping where and how development should take place in Shrewton.

National policy expects the planning system to meet housing needs and support sustainable development. A neighbourhood plan cannot be used simply to prevent development, but it can allocate sites and shape the location, design and delivery of non-strategic development. Shrewton Parish Council therefore sponsors this Plan as the qualifying body, with the NPSG preparing the evidence and draft policies for consultation.

The Neighbourhood Plan provides a significant opportunity for local people to influence planning decisions, as planning applications are determined 'in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise'. Having a Neighbourhood Plan also increases the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that the parish receives from 15% to 25%.

Aim of the Neighbourhood Plan

The aim of the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan is to give villagers a legal means of guiding where and how any development in Shrewton should happen.

About the Neighbourhood Plan

What is in the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Neighbourhood Plan addresses a broad range of community priorities as well as identifying locations for housing and employment. It guides land use in ways that meet housing needs with quality design, protect the natural environment and open spaces, support community facilities and local businesses, and promote tourism and economic growth. The Plan also seeks to tackle traffic issues, improve transport, support schools and youth services, and enhance the overall quality of life in Shrewton

What Period Does the Neighbourhood Plan Cover?

The Plan covers 2025–2040. The adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy, Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan and relevant saved policies remain part of the development plan. The withdrawn Wiltshire Local Plan Review is not an emerging policy framework. SOAR V3.1 retains 72 dwellings only as a provisional comparative figure, derived from the earlier working position of 82 dwellings less five completions and five commitments. The figure, windfall treatment and monitoring baseline must be confirmed with Wiltshire Council before the Regulation 14 stage in the development process.

What Area Does the Neighbourhood Plan Cover?

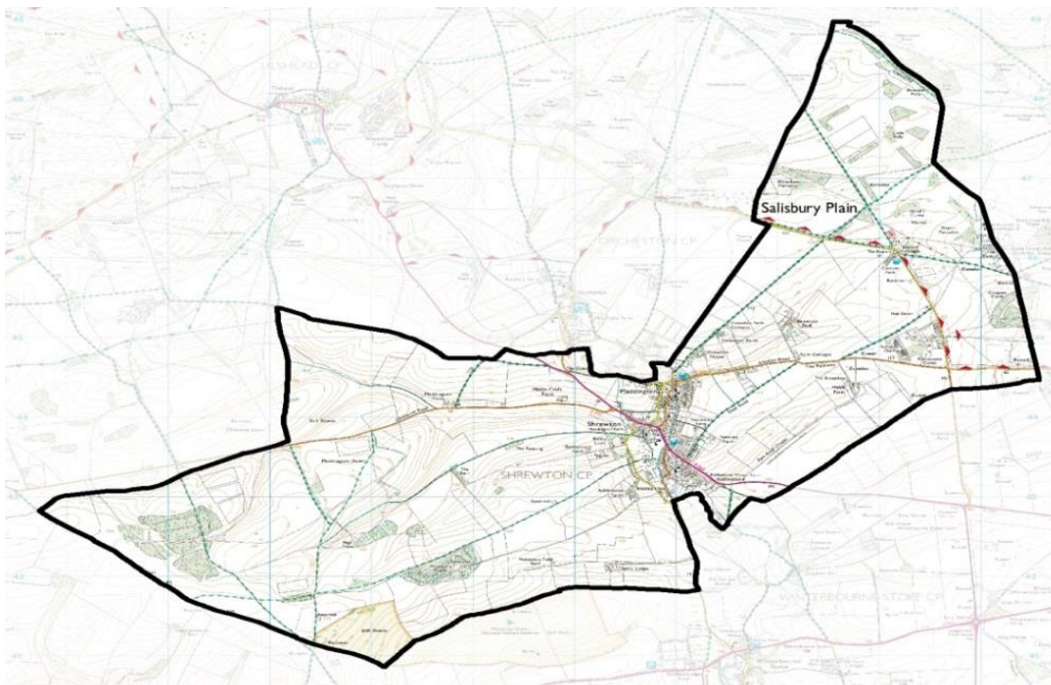


Figure 1 Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area

The designated area for the Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan, shown at Fig 1, covers the village of Shrewton, which includes Shrewton Parish and those parts of Orcheston and Winterbourne Stoke within Shrewton village. It

reflects a clear community identity and was approved by Wiltshire Council on 30 March 2015.

The designation area includes the Recreation Ground and the Shrewton Water Works, acknowledging that existing parish and settlement boundaries do not accurately represent Shrewton's present layout or future needs. Wilts Council recognises this boundary misalignment as an issue requiring further review. The Designated Area includes the whole of Shrewton Parish (blue/green border) and the Shrewton Recreation Ground (green border), shown in Fig 2.

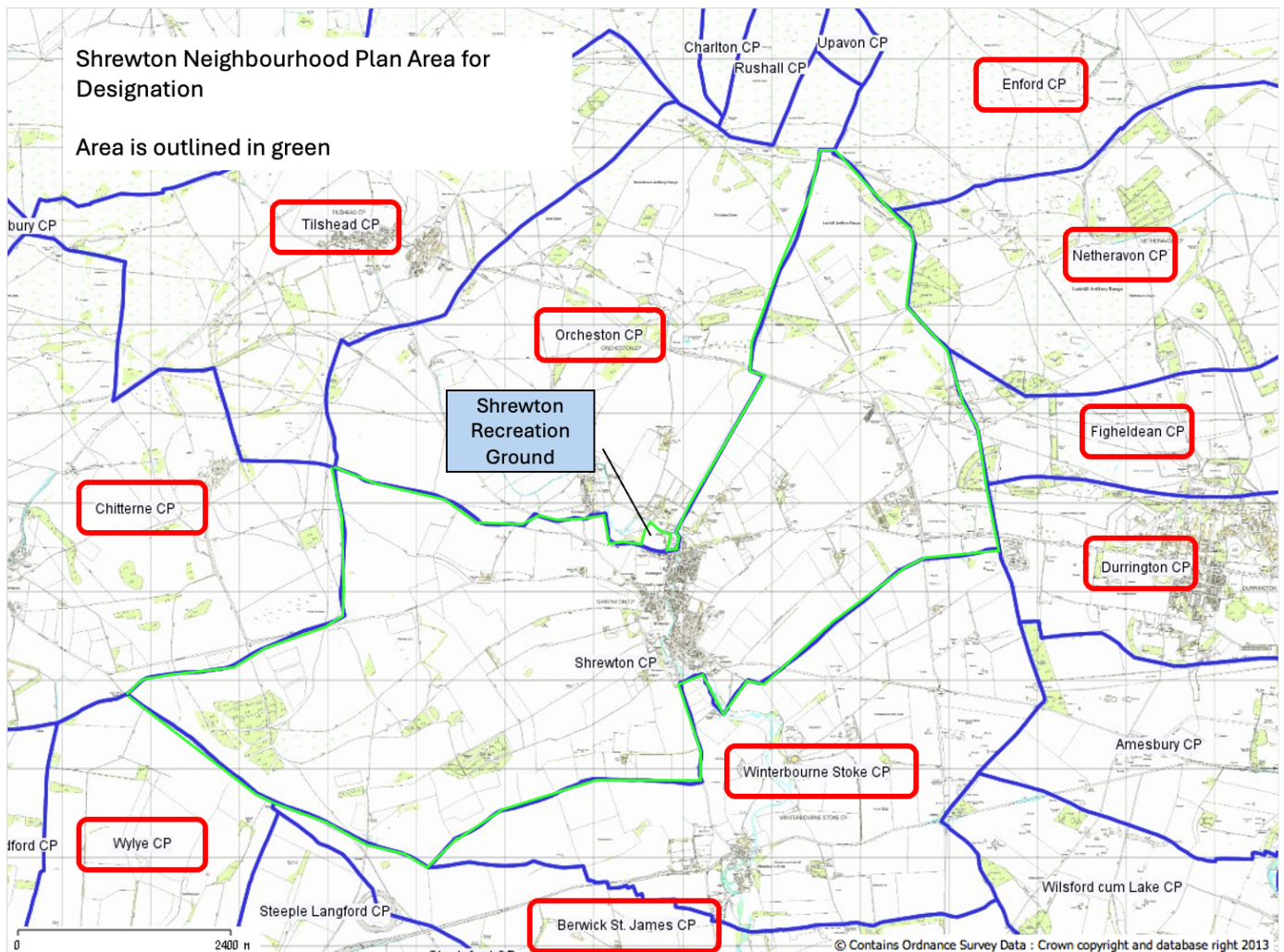


Figure 2 - Parish Boundary, Designation Area and adjoining Parishes

The Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan recognises that areas exist outside Shrewton Parish that are part of Shrewton village and its future. These include:

- In Orcheston Parish:
 - the Shrewton Village Hall and Recreation Ground;
 - an area of the Shrewton Settlement Boundary;

- SHELAA¹ 209, which sits due west of the Recreation Ground and north of The Hollow; and
 - Dwellings in The Hollow, Tanner's Lane and Elston Lane that form part of Shrewton village.
- In Winterbourne Stoke Parish:
 - Shrewton Sewage Works; and
 - Dwellings that form part of Shrewton village.

There has been dialogue with the adjoining parishes of Orcheston and Winterbourne Stoke, as well as with Larkhill Garrison and Amesbury Town Council (for Stonehenge). Shrewton Parish abuts ten neighbouring parishes and communicates with them. Discussions are on-going to clarify how the governance and planning decision-making will work for areas outside Shrewton Parish, but which are part of Shrewton village, in addition to shared issues and interests, such as traffic and tourism.

¹ Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. The Wilts Council register of land that has been offered by landowners and could potentially be used for housing development.

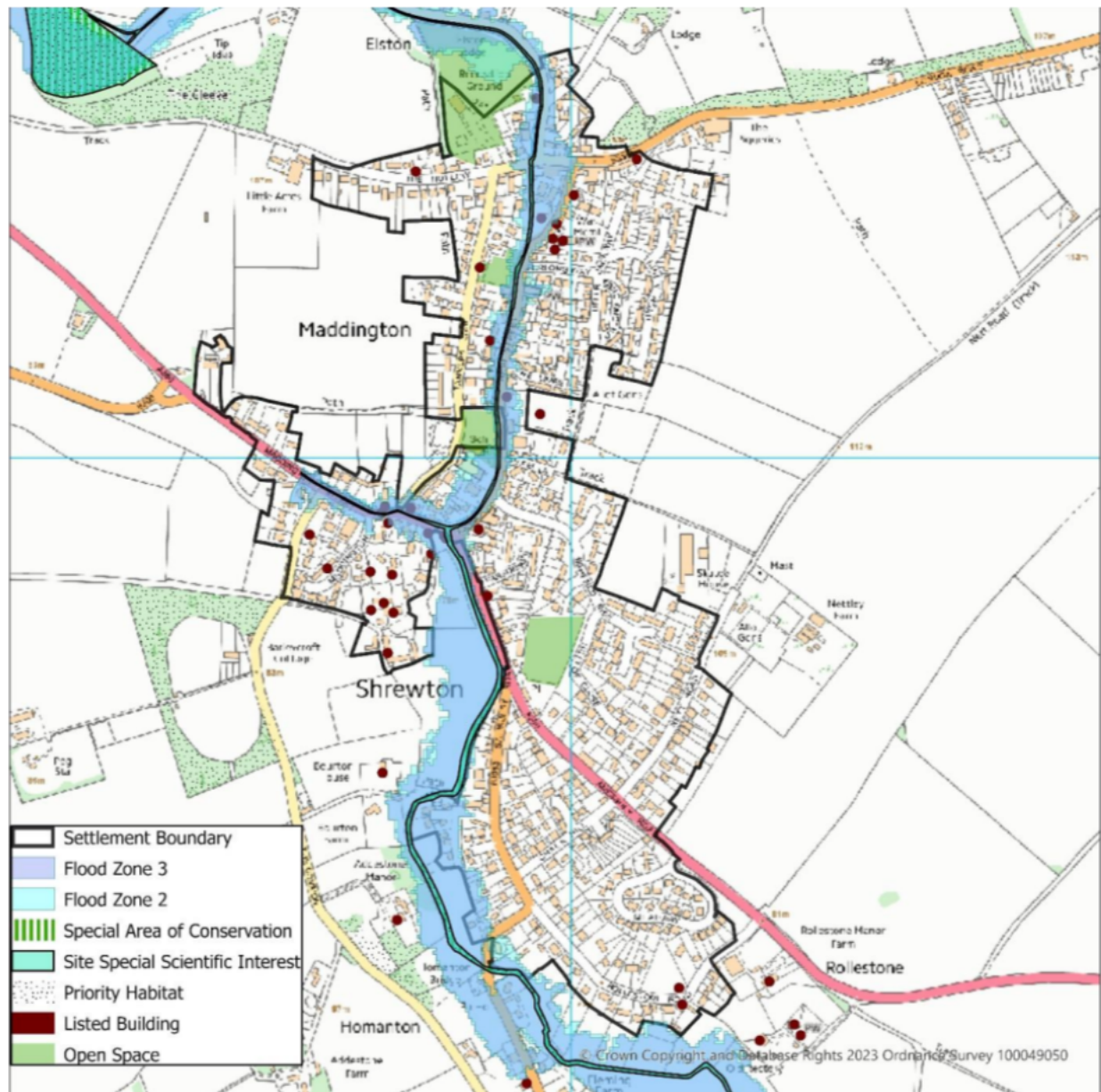


Figure 3 - Settlement Boundary

Community engagement

The Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan follows the Localism Act 2011 and has been developed through a legally compliant and consultative process led by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG). Community engagement began with a large village meeting on 19 September 2024, at which Shrewton Parish Council, as the qualifying body, agreed to support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Regular public meetings and online meetings followed. Feedback has been gathered through meetings, open days, written comments, online and paper questionnaires, and published draft reviews. The consultation evidence base should record the dates, distribution method, number of responses, response rate, treatment of paper and online returns, and any limitations so that the results can be understood as community evidence rather than unsupported opinion.

Analytics from the gathered data has been fed back to the community in writing and public meetings, together with comments on any published draft documents.

How this Plan is Organised

This Plan is divided into six sections:

Section 1: About Shrewton Today; a brief description of the village today and the key issues that have influenced the Plan

Section 2: The Vision for Shrewton to 2040.

Section 3: Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Strategy; the broad planning approach for Shrewton and how this conforms to higher level planning policy.

Section 4: Neighbourhood Plan Policies, including the preferred housing-allocation option in principle and the safeguards that must be tested before a final allocation is confirmed.

Section 5: Implementation

Section 6: Monitoring and Review; how the Plan will be monitored

Section 1: About Shrewton Today

Our Community

Shrewton's community is diverse, busy and friendly. The traditional life of the community has been enriched by the many incomers over the years, bringing different experiences, energy and ideas. The location, close to many nearby military establishments, means that many residents are Servicemen, veterans or are otherwise associated with the Armed Forces, with strong experiences of teamwork and community building, and they are a ready source of volunteers.

Villagers consider there is a good community spirit and value the importance of being a good neighbour. A high proportion are keen to volunteer for challenges (such as traffic, the Christmas fund, the playground and more) and events (the Flower Show, St George's Day, Duck Race and more) - but a sizeable proportion are not engaged. Part of the problem is the patchy nature of communication, which needs continuous attention.

As our community is ageing, we need to attract and retain more younger villagers and their families, to provide a healthy balance.

Volunteers make many things possible, particularly:

- Youth activities. There are Scouts, Beavers and Cubs for younger people in the village, together with occasional football and cricket training sessions for children. Older young people may need to travel outside the village for Explorer provision, and there are no dedicated local youth-club facilities.
- Sports. The village boasts its active and successful football and cricket clubs. Success has meant that they have had to seek out larger and better grounds.

Volunteering brings fellowship, fun, enjoyment, valued experiences, skills, abilities and knowledge. Volunteers are dedicated, compassionate and are willing to give their time to help others. Our churches are a valued source of community volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of our community – serving others brings its own rewards. We need to attract more volunteers to compensate for reductions in government funding and increasing needs for simple services within our community.

Volunteers have made Shrewton a better place, benefitting everyone. However, many potential volunteers have said they want to volunteer locally but they do not know where to go to find out more, and they'd like to see more organisation and management. A formally organised group of volunteers will be needed to implement aspects of this Neighbourhood Plan, and Shrewton has a rich pool of suitable volunteers to make this happen.

Character

Shrewton village has several distinct character areas:

- The High Street. High St is the former boundary road between the parishes of Shrewton and Maddington, the High Street contains an eclectic mix of houses and structures both in terms of style and age, ranging from the late 12th Century Anglican church to the new developments at The Limes and the Former Victorian School. This includes St Mary's Church, the Methodist Church, the Plume of Feathers, the shop and the houses to the east - mostly 19th century or older. Many of the buildings are of cob construction, several of which are thatched. Few are listed.



- Nett Road. Taking its name from the long extinct hamlet of Netton, Nett Road is a Byway Open To All Traffic. The houses, all built at the southern end of the road, date from the Victorian period to more modern individual properties.
- Rollestone Manor, Maddington Church and the houses around on the south side of the A360 - mostly 19th century or older.
- Salisbury Road. As the name suggests, Salisbury Road was the old road to Salisbury. It is a narrow road by today's standards with no footpaths. Several buildings facing the street pre-date the Victorian period. Four "Flood" cottages were built following the Shrewton Flood of 1841. Notable other buildings include the former Chants butchers' shop, Zion House, a former non-conformist church and The Wheatsheaf, a short-lived public house now a private house.
- The Common. A true country lane, passing through the former parishes of Addestone, Boughton and Homanton. Little of these former settlements remain except the respective Manor Houses.
- Highfield Rise. A development of chalet style bungalows built in the latter half of the 20th Century.

- London Road. Formerly the main coaching road from London to Devizes, the road has two separate settlement areas. At the junction of London Road and the High Street stands The George Inn, first mentioned in 1607. Leading up from the junction, the houses are predominantly late 18th and early 19th century cob or brick cottages, whilst closer to the edge of the village, there is a row of mid-19th century council properties. Further out, the former council houses on London Road, built in the 20th century.
- Tanners Lane. What was once the main road of Maddington village, the buildings along Tanners Lane range from the early 17th Century Maddington House to a more modern development at The Butts. Several properties along the lane are cob and/or thatched, of which only Cordery Cottage is listed.
- The Hollow. Based on a former Roman road, running east – west, it was part of the London to Devizes coaching road, The Hollow is a single track partly unadopted lane. It currently forms part of the parish boundary with Orcheston. There are no listed buildings on the Shrewton side of the road, however there is one - Sun and Moon, which is an early 18th century thatched cob cottage - that sits on the Orcheston side of the road.
- Leading off the bottom of The Hollow stands Mill Lane, it is a short private road containing the former mill and mill workers cottages.
- Elston Road. Elston Lane forms part of the parish boundary with Orcheston. There are no listed buildings on the Shrewton side of the road, however a late 17th century limestone and flint house sits on the Orcheston side of the road. Off Elston Lane is Hinde's Meadow - a collection of purpose-built bungalows reserved for OAPs.

The surrounding area contains part of the Parsonage Down National Nature Reserve, several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), large Special Areas of Conservation and many sites of historic interest. Shrewton's NPSG is working with Wiltshire Council, MOD and expert bodies to establish those elements of their conservation appraisals and management plans, which need to be actioned within Shrewton's community.

Housing

The 2021 Census² showed that Shrewton (Parish) had 830 households of which 37.2% (267) were 4 bed, 41.7% (346) were 3 bed, 20.5% (170) were two bed and 5.6% (46) single bed. This compares with the figures for

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/#E04011815>

England of 21%, 40.4%, 27.3% and 11.6% respectively. This shows that we have 79% 3 and 4 beds against the national figure of 61.4%.

This disparity in housing numbers was reflected in our Housing Needs Survey (details in Section 4) that highlighted the need for more small family houses with 2-3 bedrooms.

Age Profile

Census data indicates that Shrewton's population is ageing, consistent with wider rural and national trends. In 2001, approximately 46.3% of residents were aged 45 and over; this increased to 52.9% in 2011 and to approximately 57.5% by 2021 (Office for National Statistics Census data). More recent estimates suggest this proportion may now be around 58% in 2022, although this requires confirmation from referenced source data. While these figures indicate a clear trend, the statistical significance and policy implications must be interpreted with care. Age alone is not a determinant of housing need, employment status, or community participation.

Community facilities

Shrewton's community facilities have faced significant change over the last 15-20 years. The village has lost four of five pubs, and the old Victorian Village School, formerly a community asset, has been converted to housing. This loss should be balanced against the benefit of the modern, purpose-built school constructed opposite, which now provides an important educational facility for the village. The Laundry has also been lost to housing. In addition, the Village Hall, the Social Club and Maddington Church Hall are underused and face cash-flow, investment and maintenance challenges.

The paucity and limited quality of our community facilities have a negative social impact. It undermines Shrewton's ability to nurture its community spirit and for people to communicate and socialise together. Any investment in Shrewton's development must contribute to creating and improving much-needed community facilities, particularly to match any increase in housing numbers.

As Shrewton's population and housing continues to grow, we have seen a limited set of community facilities deteriorate and shrink. The Neighbourhood Plan must ensure that any future housing development is matched by the restoration and development of a suitable set of community facilities, and that they are used sufficiently to support their future maintenance and operation.

Business, economic development, jobs

Rural areas in the UK are experiencing a period of considerable change from social, economic, environmental and technological challenges. Agriculture, land management and local food production remain important to the rural economy and are increasingly relevant in the context of climate change, food security and population growth. At the same time, tourism, outdoor recreation, home working and small rural enterprises have become more significant parts of the local economy.

In common with many other large villages, Shrewton has lost much of its manual industry and local jobs. Its major local employers include the Bridge Garage and building firms, followed by farms, two shops, one pub, a restaurant, two part-time cafés, one hairdresser and a car painting workshop. Some villagers work in neighbouring towns or in MOD units, for which they need improved local transport.

There are no industrial facilities, no business park and no offices. However, sustainable economic development requires some of these to exist either in Shrewton or nearby. Accelerated by the Covid epidemic, there is a trend towards more working from home (WFH) with two earners in a household WFH and maybe an elderly parent to care for, and this is resulting in increasing requirements for hot-desk office spaces and also places for small meetings and craft working.

Tourism is growing, particularly because of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre, but Shrewton does not currently benefit fully from this activity. Any new business or visitor facilities should be appropriate in scale, complement existing village services, reduce the need for unnecessary journeys where possible, and avoid worsening traffic or undermining established facilities such as the village shop and Post Office.

The NPPF supports advanced, high-quality and reliable communications infrastructure as part of sustainable economic growth and social well-being. Planning policies and decisions should support full fibre broadband, next-generation mobile technology and other digital infrastructure where this can be provided without unacceptable harm to local character, amenity, heritage or environmental interests.

Over 95% of the village have broadband and email addresses communication – this is a recent development. The significant and growing adoption of Wessex Internet fibre to the property (FTTP), commenced in 2025, is delivering 230 Mb/s or more, compared to 70 Mb/s or less for legacy copper infrastructure operated by Openreach. As terrestrial television gives way to streaming services, so the demand for bandwidth is

slowly increasing, but the new FTTP provides significant performance and capacity that exceeds current and foreseeable demand.

The situation on mobile broadband has improved significantly with all four telecoms companies offering reliable 4G services with good coverage in the village, but coverage and performance diminish when heading N, W and E into areas that are largely owned by MOD.

Shrewton has the mobile and broadband data services to attract new businesses, home workers, tourists and visitors. This is a key factor in developing Shrewton's economy and meeting villagers' requirements for quality of life.

However, all of this dependence on the internet creates a critical dependency on resilient power to ensure internet connectivity. The replacement of landlines with Voice over Internet (VOIP) means that power failures that shut down the internet leave villagers with no back up means of contacting services in an emergency. Providing a resilient alternative to address this critical dependency is a national, county and village priority.

Local history and tourism

Shrewton is surrounded by history going back thousands of years. The World Heritage Site of Stonehenge covers a far bigger area than just the stones.

There are 41 listed buildings within the bounds of Shrewton as identified by English Heritage. Of these only 21 are residences. The remainder are other structures, such as the churches, monuments or milestones.

There are some significant and surprising omissions from this number. These include The George, The Bustard and The Plume of Feathers public houses together with The Methodist church and Zion House (former Non-conformist church) and The Priory.

In recent years the village has lost the Laundry buildings and the Victorian School has been converted into housing. Although this changed the character and use of the former school building, the village has benefitted from the modern purpose-built school opposite. There are many more buildings of historical significance, and their age and character add to the overall street scene and feel of the village.

Traffic



Shrewton lies at the crossroads of a major North-South axis (A360) and a short cut between the A303(T) and the A36(T). Congestion on the A303 or the A36 in our area routinely results in significant volumes of traffic diverting through the village as an alternative route. These east and west bound traffic flows meet in our village causing constant congestion, noise and pollution in the village.

Most of the traffic on Shrewton's roads is not local. It is national traffic passing through on its way to London, Bristol, Bath, Exeter, Southampton or beyond and is transiting across Salisbury Plain to join one of the major trunk routes for its onward journey.

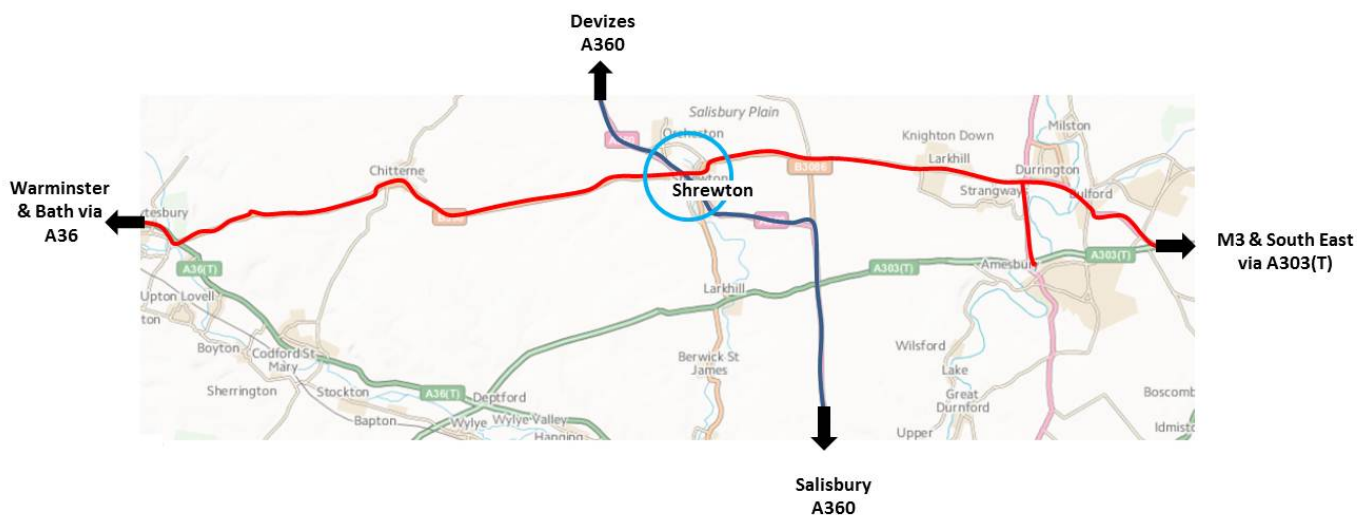


Figure 5

The closure of the A334 at Stonehenge Bottom in 2013 resulted in significantly increased delays on the A303 as Westbound traffic which used to leave the A303 and was forced to enter the narrow single carriageway section. This large increase in traffic levels resulted in more frequent and larger traffic jams and more “rat-running” through Shrewton. This was confirmed **12 years ago** by the 2014 Atkins and MOD surveys which stated that;

- On the peak Friday in August, 38% of southbound traffic through Shrewton had diverted off the A303, representing an additional 1100 cars a day.
- Drivers could save 20 minutes over an A303 transit time.
- Even at times of low levels of congestion on the A303, drivers had become conditioned to using the route through Shrewton and take to the rat-runs rather than risk delays.

Analytics from satnav data, indicated that drivers are routinely diverted away from the A303 along rat runs that go east and west, and north and south, which meet in Shrewton.

As the price of houses continues to increase in towns, there is a general increase in the distance of people’s commute to work, and this in turn leads to more commuters passing through the village.

The village roads cannot change to accommodate this increase in traffic so congestion and traffic density will continue to rise, thereby further increasing noise and environmental pollution. The increased traffic is increasing the risk of traffic collisions and heightening dangers to pedestrians and cyclists.

Worse, the village is now on the national HGV diversion route from Southampton docks to the Midlands and north west, and this can increase the traffic densities, harms, pollution and environmental damage yet further.

Today, the recent cancellation of the Stonehenge tunnel has made the problem much worse and there is no obvious solution in sight. Gridlock situations have begun to occur routinely. On some days, over 12,000 vehicles come through the village, which is a 11-fold increase in 11 years. A new traffic analysis survey is taking place now and will report in 2026.

Future traffic pressures are expected to increase as population, car ownership, nearby employment, Stonehenge visitor activity and military activity on Salisbury Plain grow. Future housing development cannot be allowed to worsen existing traffic problems and should instead help to mitigate them and enable much safer movement through the village.

Traffic is consistently identified by the community as the single most significant issue affecting quality of life in Shrewton. The scale of through-

traffic, much of it non-local, has safety, environmental, social and health impacts. Any future development must demonstrably avoid exacerbating these impacts and, where possible, contribute to their reduction.

We encourage local mitigations to add friction to through-traffic so they find alternative routes. In particular, the introduction of 20MPH limits on the village residential and B roads, scheduled for 2026, should cause satnav algorithms to keep most traffic on the A360. However, the lack of alternative local routes and the absence of enforcement cameras means that some through-traffic will always try to rat run through Shrewton.

There are two principal goals:

- To keep all through-traffic on the A360
- To modify the Rollestone Crossroads to keep traffic on the A360 and prevent through-traffic from entering the north end of the village.

To this end, there is a National Highways Design for the Rollestone Crossroads replacement (See Figure 4), which was proposed as part of the A303 tunnel project with 2024 costings. The Rollestone Crossroads is an accident blackspot and fatalities are just a matter of time as through-traffic speeds past. This plan is beyond the scope of our Local Traffic Management Plan however, the need for this redesign and additional road infrastructure improvements are critical to addressing the ability to accommodate new sustainable development safely.

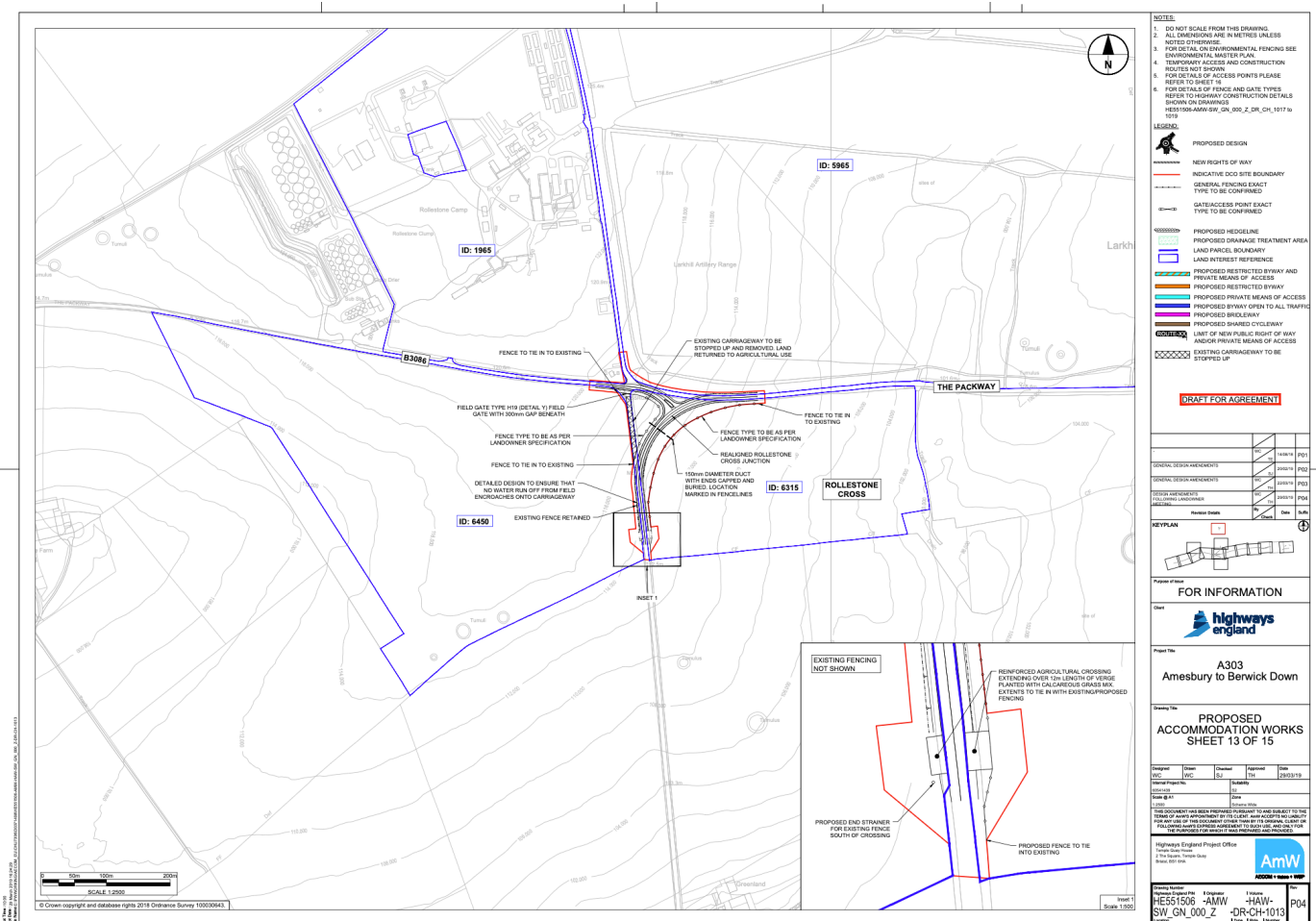


Figure 4 Proposed redesign for Rollestone Crossroads.

Transport

Being a rural village community in the centre of Salisbury Plain, transport is essential for many residents to be able to live and work in the village.

Whilst many residents are fortunate enough to be able to own and drive a car, there are significant numbers of residents for whom this is not the case. There is currently a bus service operated by Salisbury Reds (service No.2) which operates Mondays to Saturdays (excluding Bank Holidays) between Devizes and Salisbury, and this provides the village with connections to these important local economic centres and onward public transport options such as rail links.

There is also a school bus provision for pupils attending secondary schools in the local area and the Salisbury Reds No. 2 service also provides some service to South Wiltshire Grammar Schools in Salisbury.

This represents a reasonable level of service for a rural community, but such a service is a vital lifeline to 9% of households in Shrewton parish who do not have access to a car (source: 2021 Census), a total of 75 households.

Therefore, if the bus services were to be reduced or withdrawn, it would have a significant economic and social impact on the community. The present economic climate has shown how expensive it is to run rural bus services and significant numbers have been withdrawn since 2008.

It is therefore important that all efforts are made to support the existing bus services but also to ensure that this does not result in increased fares. This can be achieved by increasing patronage through improvements in information, such as real time passenger information at bus stops.

It is important to note that a frequent and fast bus service to Salisbury operates to the Stonehenge Visitor Centre which lies just 2 miles from the centre of Shrewton. Co-operation with English Heritage and Salisbury Reds to extend the Stonehenge bus service to Shrewton or combine it at certain times could provide a more direct and faster service to Salisbury.

Crime & community safety

Shrewton residents responding to the village survey by a large majority (77%), say crime and community safety is **not** a problem in our community'. Of the minority (23%) that did consider this a problem, the largest portion of the comments centred around traffic dangers and parking – covered by other areas within this neighbourhood plan. Notably, there was little mention of youth/anti-social behaviour, which is surprising as there is no provision for a youth club anymore in Shrewton. There was mention of a denigration of quality of life through littering and dog fouling.

Focusing on the crimes committed in the village, victims cited burglary (dwellings and outbuildings) as their biggest concern or stated they had been victims in the past. Wiltshire has amongst the lowest crime rates of the country, which includes burglary. Shrewton similarly has a relatively low crime rate in comparison with more populated areas or other parts of the country. However, reports of sightings of suspicious vehicles have increased as social media and door cameras have become increasingly prevalent. Views vary on whether we are lucky or in danger of becoming complacent and should be more alert. Crime is not considered a problem now, but it could easily become so in the current economic climate.

Local police have requested a “touch down point” in the village – a location where the police can meet frequently with individual villagers, and maintain a visible presence. The police are also encouraging villagers to support or participate in some of the nine Community Watch services, particularly to help in the fight against rural crime.

Health & wellbeing & culture & quality of life

Over 57.5% of the community is aged 45 or older, and the community is ageing. The general health of the village is on a par with the national average with 82.9% reported as being in good or very good health (England 82.2%) and 17.2% in fair, bad or very bad health (England 17.9%). It is the nature of illness that is changing, with more obesity and as people live longer, they suffer more illnesses (including the body just wearing out). Both require more carer support.

The community considers that the village is well served in respect of medical support by our doctors' surgery. However, they would like to see a dentist in the community.



There are only limited cultural opportunities in Shrewton and for most culture, such as theatre and music, the nearest location is Salisbury.

Wellbeing

The proximity of open land, footpaths and byways of Salisbury Plain provide a wealth of opportunity for wellbeing – walking, running, hiking, cycling, riding, shooting, ornithology, archaeology, conservation, forestry, gardening and more, all providing the outdoor exercise to enhance wellbeing and the quality of life. The outdoors is appreciated and enjoyed by the community.

However, there are additional requirements for wellbeing that are discussed in Section 4.

Quality of Life

The community benefits from diversity in age, background, employment and interests. It is important that this is sustained so both young people setting up home and older people wishing to downsize can afford to stay in the community. This must be a core driver of our housing policy.

In his 2008 report *Living Working Countryside: The Taylor review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing*, Matthew Taylor MP summed up the challenges faced by rural areas thus -

"For many villages and hamlets the choice is between becoming ever more exclusive enclaves of the wealthy and retired, or building the affordable homes to enable people who work in these communities to continue to live in them. In many cases just a handful of well designed homes, kept affordable in perpetuity for local people, will make all the difference to the sustainability of the community and its services. At the same time, we need to make sure that there are better opportunities for the people who live in these small rural communities to find quality work, and build successful businesses. Otherwise we will see more and more villages turn into commuter dormitories, at the cost of fewer local jobs, declining local services, and the loss of genuine community life."

This statement is as valid in 2026 as it was in 2008, maybe more so.

Schools, education and training

Shrewton is well served by a vibrant and active village Primary School and Preschool and has a good relationship with Appleford School.

The Neighbourhood Plan timescales are such that at the end of the Plan's years of implementation, today's primary school children will be young adults.

Section 2: The Vision for Shrewton. (2040)

Based on extensive community engagement...

Our vision is for Shrewton to:

- **Maintain its essential rural character and wildlife-rich environment;**
- **Have sufficient suitable housing in keeping with Shrewton's character for young families, particularly those with local roots; and**
- **Have the facilities for the community to thrive and villagers to live, work, develop, exercise and enjoy life in a safe and historical environment rich in nature.**

Section 3: Developing the Neighbourhood Plan

How the Neighbourhood Plan Fits into the Planning System

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025)

The operational national policy baseline is the National Planning Policy Framework published in December 2024 and amended in February 2025. Working Draft V3.0 has regard to that framework and does not treat later consultation material as adopted policy.

Adopted Wiltshire development plan and Local Plan Review withdrawal

The Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies Shrewton as a Large Village. The Core Strategy, Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan and relevant saved policies remain the adopted local policy framework. The submitted Wiltshire Local Plan Review was withdrawn from examination on 19 May 2026, so it is no longer an adopted or emerging framework, but its technical evidence can be used where it remains factual, current and relevant.

March 2026 legal framework and housing non-reduction

Sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 came into force on 25 March 2026. The former general-conformity Basic Condition no longer applies. The Plan must instead satisfy the housing non-reduction condition: it must not prevent housing already proposed in the development

plan and must not result in the development plan providing less housing than would be provided if the Neighbourhood Plan were not made. The removal of the former condition does not mean that adopted strategic policy can be ignored.

The March 2026 framework also requires neighbourhood plans, where appropriate, to address climate change and take account of a relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Working Draft V3.0 therefore records the with-Plan and without-Plan housing position, climate mitigation and adaptation, LNRS evidence and all open environmental and delivery dependencies.

The Plan's compliance position is provisional. It has regard to national policy and is designed to contribute to sustainable development, comply with the housing non-reduction test and respect environmental, habitats and human-rights obligations. Final compliance cannot be demonstrated until the housing baseline, SEA, HRA and other determinative decision gates have been completed.

Methodology

Site selection is documented in Shrewton Site Options Assessment Report V3.1 and controlled through the NP2026 Master Project Control Workbook. The process separates evidence, assessment, planning judgement, preferred option, policy requirements and monitoring. Each material evidence item has an EV reference, status and confidence rating, and uncertainty is recorded rather than converted into a favourable conclusion.

All reasonable alternatives are affected by significant environmental, wastewater, nutrient, landscape, access or infrastructure constraints. No retained site is treated as deliverable within the first five years on the present evidence. Relative suitability does not establish deliverability or permission in principle.

The Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS and the Wiltshire Council ArcGIS extract supplied on 17 July 2026 have been used as spatial biodiversity evidence. Visual comparison indicates an ACB relationship at S113 and no obvious direct APIB or ACB overlap across the main areas of S146, S151 or S154. That is a medium-confidence site-level interpretation, not a completed geospatial intersection.

Before Regulation 14, the exact S113, S146, S151 and S154 boundaries must be validated against the APIB, ACB and mapped-measure layers, and the relevant measure attributes and any overlap areas must be recorded.

SEA must use the LNRS baseline when comparing reasonable alternatives, mitigation, the preferred option and monitoring. HRA must assess relevant pathways to the River Avon SAC and Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA. A negative

HRA integrity conclusion cannot be outweighed by a more favourable wider planning balance.

The controlled NP2026 sequence is:

1. Identify and status the evidence, assumptions and reasonable alternatives.
2. Assess every reasonable alternative using consistent environmental, social, access, infrastructure and delivery criteria.
3. Record the planning judgement, including the weight given to benefits, harms, uncertainties and legal constraints.
4. Identify the preferred option in principle and translate the evidence into draft policy requirements.
5. Pass or explicitly resolve the pre-Regulation 14 decision gates before confirming an allocation.
6. Monitor the live evidence and record every material decision and change in the Master Project Control Workbook.

Updated Site Options Assessment V3.1 – summary

SOAR V3.1 compares S113, S146, S151 and S154 as the detailed reasonable alternatives and retains the longlist and initial-sift reasons for audit. All four detailed sites are constrained; none is described as unconstrained or immediately deliverable, and the preferred-option judgement remains conditional on the open gates.

S154 is the most appropriate reasonable alternative and the preferred, least-worst allocation option in principle. S151 remains the secondary reasonable alternative for SEA/HRA comparison and possible later contingency but is not a formal reserve allocation in this draft. S113 could make only a limited contribution if its River Till, indicated ACB, drainage, access and amenity constraints can be resolved. S146 is not proposed for allocation or reserve status.

S154 has sufficient scale for the provisional 72-dwelling comparison and the strongest settlement-integration and planning opportunity, but still requires exact LNRS validation, SEA/HRA, wastewater and nutrient solutions, highways and active-travel evidence, drainage, landscape-led capacity, heritage safeguards, availability and viability. S151 performs less well on A360 severance, pedestrian connectivity, access and visual exposure. S113 is too small and constrained to provide the principal allocation. S146's cumulative valley-side, skyline, River Till and access effects are not readily capable of satisfactory resolution.

Developing the Neighbourhood Plan

Community engagement and procedural fairness are essential to developing the Plan. The Consultation Statement and NP2026 registers will record how representations and new evidence are considered.

The NPSG prepares the evidence and draft policies on behalf of Shrewton Parish Council. Parish Council approval is a formal decision gate before the preferred option is confirmed for Regulation 14 consultation.

The superseded fixed-date programme has been replaced by the following controlled stage-and-gate programme. Dates are targets; legal and technical evidence, rather than a date alone, control progression.

Stage	Purpose	Current position
Controlled Working Draft V3.0	Align the Plan with SOAR V3.1 and record live evidence and decisions.	19 July 2026
Environmental screening	Seek SEA and HRA screening/scoping and validate exact LNRS site relationships.	Target: September 2026
Wiltshire site process	Present the provisional preferred option and reasonable alternatives without prejudging the final allocation.	Target: by 30 September 2026
Decision gates G1–G9	Close or transparently resolve housing, SEA, HRA, LNRS, wastewater, transport, landscape, viability and governance gates.	Open / partly complete
Regulation 14 consultation	Issue the formal six-week draft only after evidence and governance readiness are demonstrated.	Not started
Submission and examination	Submit under Regulation 15, independent examination and required modifications.	Future stage
Referendum and making	Community referendum and incorporation into the development plan if successful.	Future stage

Delivering the Neighbourhood Plan

After Regulation 14 consultation, the NPSG will assess and record representations and propose any changes. Shrewton Parish Council, as qualifying body, decides whether to submit the Plan to Wiltshire Council under Regulation 15. Wiltshire Council then arranges the submission consultation and independent examination. A referendum is held only if the Plan successfully completes those stages.

Section 4: Neighbourhood Plan Policies

This section contains the policies that are at the heart of the NP . The planning policies included in the Plan will be used to help determine planning applications within Shrewton parish (our Neighbourhood Plan Area). Government guidance sets out that a policy in a Neighbourhood Plan should be: “clear and unambiguous... It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared.”³ The following policies relate to the development and use of land in the designated Shrewton Parish Neighbourhood Area. They focus on specific planning matters that are of greatest interest to the village. There are many other policy matters that have been left to the adopted (and emerging) Wiltshire Local Plan to cover. This has avoided unnecessary repetition of policies between the two plans, though they have a mutual interdependence.

Each section contains a narrative providing background, a policy intent, the policy or policies, and a set of objectives against which progress on delivering the policy intent can be measured.

A wide range of requirements and issues have been considered in producing this Neighbourhood Plan. These are grouped under eleven policy headings:

1. Environment
2. Housing
3. Traffic
4. Access
5. Local Transport
6. Community Facilities
7. Businesses, Economy and Jobs
8. Crime and Community Safety
9. Protection and Enhancement of Shrewton’s Heritage Assets
10. Schools Education and Training
11. Medical and Dental Facilities



³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

Section 4 addresses each of these policy areas in detail.

Each section contains a narrative providing background, a policy intent, the policy or policies, and a set of objectives against which progress on delivering the policy intent can be measured.

Environment

Policy Intent

To go well beyond the minimal “do no damage” level and to implement environmental policies that improve the local environment, provide significant long-term mitigation to existing environmental threats and contribute to reducing the impact of climate change. Significant damage has already been done and the situation is worsening, therefore the implementation and enforcement of strong remedial policies is essential.

Background

The local environment is under severe pressure from increasing human activities, leading to more habitat loss, pesticide collateral damage, pollution, litter damage, water shortages and, ultimately, species loss. Two huge environmental threats stand out: water and traffic. This is in addition to the general threats of climate change and the requirement for carbon capture in any housing development.

Water

Water quality is Shrewton’s most pressing environmental issue.

The evidence base should include the River Till Monitoring Group report, Evaluation of Current and Proposed Legislation Protecting Chalk Streams, the adopted Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS and its APIB, ACB and mapped-measures layers, relevant Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure evidence and statutory environmental evidence.

- Shrewton sits on chalk aquifers that feed the River Till within the River Avon SAC catchment and other highly protected chalk streams. The aquifers are a vital water source for communities across Wiltshire and beyond. Their compromise would be catastrophic and irreparable. Fortunately, MOD’s Salisbury Plain Training Area minimises the upstream threat to the aquifers today. However, the downstream threat, to which Shrewton contributes, is not clear and we, the Shrewton villagers, want to ensure that any existing damage is repaired and all existing threats and risks are properly addressed. We have encountered conflicting views and information from water companies and government organisations. Nationally, there is plenty of evidence of failures of

responsibility, accountability, regulatory compliance and enforcement, and we remain very concerned that such failures could easily happen locally, because it has proved almost impossible to get to the truth and achieve credible assurances.

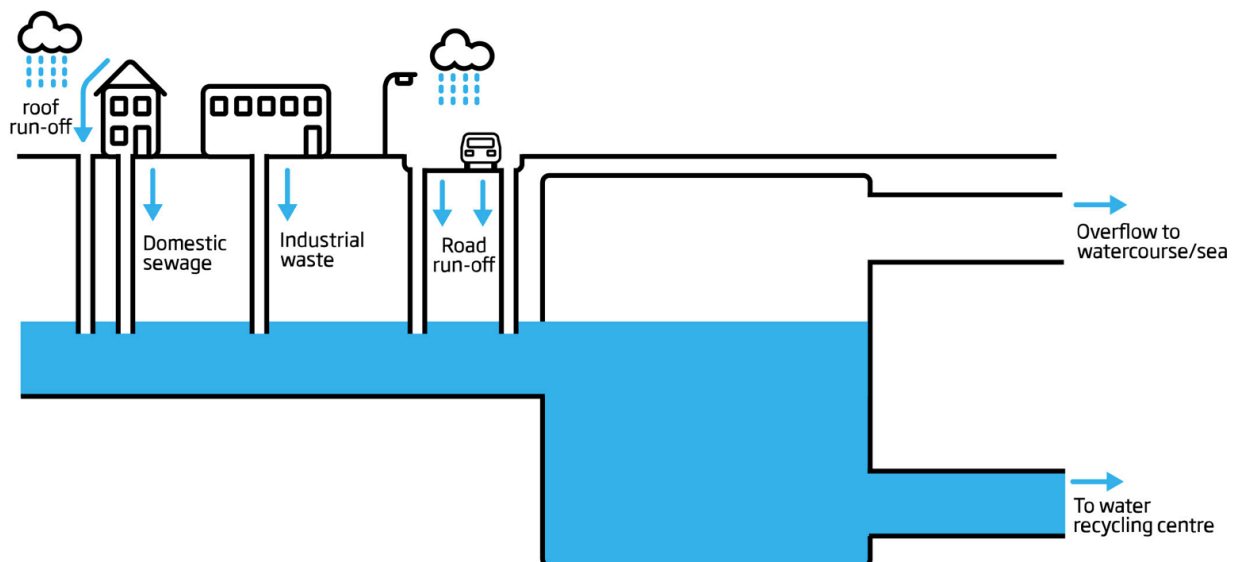
- The chalk streams and rivers remain vulnerable to run-off and groundwater. There are limits for phosphates and nitrates. Potential sources include domestic cleaning products, treated and untreated sewage, septic tank leachate, misconnections, highway run-off, fertilisers, livestock and other rural land uses. Nitrates are not currently considered the main planning issue locally, but phosphates are an issue for existing and new housing and may require remedial treatment or mitigation at source. Independent scientific evidence shows that nitrates are rapidly becoming a major ecological problem.

- Run off, particularly from roads, is an increasing concern for government and also for Shrewton as its through-traffic continues to skyrocket well beyond government norms. The Till and its feeder streams are particularly vulnerable.

- The biggest concern today is ground water and ground water discharges by Wessex Water. Wessex Water have discharged more than 230 times each year (2023:262 times, 2024: 235, 2025 to date:116) . However, Southwest Water experts have said the ground water discharges can range from high-quality water to industrial waste contamination. It has not yet been possible to get water quality data from Wessex Water for the discharges that have taken place, and the patchy data that is available is not consistent with Defra's patchy data.

- Wessex Water has funded plans to complete the Shrewton Storm Tank and meet new, more stringent water quality requirements by 2030, but these water quality targets are weak and not appropriate for chalkstreams.

The diagram below illustrates the different types of water to be treated. Unfortunately, the discharges classification as “ground water” can include different types of water, including industrial waste. A more precise categorisation is required if water quality is to be assured.



- Further information on developments regarding the water situation is at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB108043022570>.

Defra Sampling Results

https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/view/sampling-point/SW-50231076?_all=true Defra has a sampling point immediately downstream of the Shrewton water works. It classifies the discharges as Sewage Discharges – Final Treated Effluent, not groundwater. Defra has carried out 616 sampling exercises since 2000. Below is the latest extract from the Defra website at https://environment.data.gov.uk/water-quality/view/sampling-point/SW-50231076?_all=true.

Note that BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) is an indicator of organic matter present; it is considered that to be human waste. Clean water for humans is typically BOD 1-3. The BOD ATU scale is in milligrams/litre – the ATU is an additive for treating nitrogen:

mg/l	Rating	Remarks
1-8	Low	Relatively unpolluted or well-treated water
10-30	Moderate	Typical for standard treated effluent

mg/l	Rating	Remarks
100+	High	Significantly polluted, such as badly treated sewage.
1000+	Very High	Strong raw sewage

The BOD 5 Day ATU doesn't have a single fixed range. Instead, the range depends on the context, such as water quality being assessed or the treatment plant effluent.

According to Defra, Wessex Water appears to be treating for Moderate water quality standards (8-14 mg/l). Wessex Water is not meeting the standard for Low and is nowhere near the BOD standard for chalk streams, which is < 1mg/litre. Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, Shrewton would seem to be contributing to a significant and persistent downstream pollution and ecological hazard.

Wessex Water states that its Water Works is being upgraded to meet new government water quality requirements by 2030. However, the national water experts in HQ Wildlife Trust advise that headwater water treatment plans are not subject to the same regulations as the more frequently monitored plants near major conurbations. The current understanding is that Shrewton Water Works has to comply with the more general Descriptive Licence, whereas a larger water works would have to comply with a Prescriptive Licence for water works that includes more detailed mandatory targets. Consequently, the ecological requirements are largely lost or ignored, and it is these that are so important for chalk streams and for our ecology.

In a recent letter from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Emma Hardy) to the Catchment Based Area Chalk Group, Minister Hardy said:

We are taking forward action to improve chalk streams – the Government is ensuring a £2 billion investment from water companies towards chalk stream restoration, including £2.4 million through the Water Restoration Fund and Water Environment Fund for locally-led chalk stream clean-up projects across affected regions. Chalk streams will also be prioritised as part of the record £11 billion investment to improve 3,000 storm overflows. Chalk streams will benefit from the wider action the Government is taking to protect our waterways, including the strengthened powers of the water industry regulators introduced in the Water (Special Measures) Act.

This government position supports the Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy.

Lately, new evidence is emerging of a significant e-coli threat which, at times, exceeds the safe bathing limit in rivers. A new local initiative has

begun to establish a monitoring regime that can gather sufficient evidence to enable and enforce remedial action.

For planning purposes, the Neighbourhood Plan therefore takes a strong precautionary and evidence-led approach. The Plan supports development only where it can demonstrate, through competent assessment and agreement with the relevant statutory bodies and relevant stakeholders, that remedial actions are taken to restore the correct water quality, address increased flood and drainage risks, and improve designated habitats.

After discussion with the Environment Agency and HQ Wildlife Trusts, the NPSG also notes that the water quality licences to operate issued to Wessex Water are of the wrong type, which adds to the water quality problems. However, this error is considered to be widespread and will require collaborative action across a range of stakeholders to persuade Ministers to effect a national change.

The Parish Council will continue to seek confirmation from Wessex Water, Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England on the programme, standard and timing of any water quality, wastewater or storm-overflow improvements affecting Shrewton. These matters are also identified in Section 5 as implementation actions because the planning policy cannot itself control water-company investment programmes or environmental permits.

Further information about the water situation and additional considerations is at Annex B.

SNP 1 - Enhance and protect local water quality

Development proposals will be supported where they demonstrate, through proportionate technical evidence, that they will protect and, where practicable, enhance local and downstream water quality, including the River Till and River Avon SAC catchment.

Development proposals that would increase wastewater, surface-water run-off or pollution risk must show how those effects will be avoided, mitigated and managed for the lifetime of the development. Where required, proposals must be supported by Habitats Regulations Assessment, nutrient neutrality evidence, drainage assessment, water-quality assessment and any other evidence requested by Wiltshire Council, Natural England, the Environment Agency or the relevant water undertaker (Water Industry Act 1991 refers), which is Wessex Water for the Shrewton area.

SNP 2 - Modelling for wastewater infrastructure capacity

Development proposals that would connect to, or materially affect, the wastewater network will be supported only where they are accompanied by comprehensive independent modelling or confirmation from the relevant infrastructure provider demonstrating that capacity, treatment and environmental requirements will be met before any development begins, without causing unacceptable impacts on existing residents, designated habitats, watercourses, chalkstreams or groundwater.

Where modelling identifies a capacity, quality, drainage or environmental risk, development must not begin until the necessary mitigation, upgrade or alternative solution has been funded, secured and made operational through an appropriate planning condition, planning obligation or statutory mechanism.

SNP 3 - Minimising environmental impacts caused by traffic and run-off

Development proposals will be supported where they incorporate sustainable drainage and pollution-control measures that are proportionate to the scale and location of development and that reduce the risk of contaminated highway run-off entering groundwater, ditches, streams or the River Till catchment.

Major development and any development likely to affect sensitive water receptors should provide a drainage and maintenance strategy demonstrating how run-off will be captured, treated, attenuated and maintained for the lifetime of the development.

Climate change, Biodiversity and The Local Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that there are several significant and different perspectives and topics under the umbrella heading of Environment. We cannot mention them all but we highlight the following as mandatory considerations in planning applications:

- Tree Planting and rewilding for carbon capture and embedding CO2.
- Habitat protection and regeneration, including wildlife protection, restoration and biodiversity

Supporting evidence is listed in Annex A and the environmental policy background is developed further in Annex B.

Policy Context

As reflected by emerging legislation and national policy in England the provision of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) has become an integral element of the UK's approach to sustainable development.

Due to the integrated nature of GBI, this Strategy provides a framework to support delivery of the following key target areas for action in the government's 25-year Environment Plan:

- Using and managing land sustainably.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscape.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and well-being.
- Increasing resource efficiency, reducing pollution and waste.
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The national planning policy framework (NPPF) requires local plans to adopt a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and GBI, considering climate change factors such as flood risk, water, supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.

Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2025; spatial update 2026)

The LNRS comprises a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map. APIBs identify existing important biodiversity areas; ACBs identify places where specified recovery measures could be especially valuable. An ACB is not an additional statutory designation or an automatic exclusion from development, but the Plan must show how the strategy has been considered.

For Shrewton the principal networks include the River Till chalk-stream corridor, the Salisbury Plain and Parsonage Down chalk-grassland network and connected habitats around the settlement. Relevant mapped measures include CS, RSW, CG1, CG2, W1 and NOD.

The ArcGIS extract supplied on 17 July 2026 has been visually cross-referenced with the site-location evidence. Figure LNRS-1 overlays indicative boundaries for S113, S146, S150, S151 and S154 on the supplied view. The underlying ArcGIS capture did not display the SHELAA boundaries or all mapped-measure attributes; the site findings below remain medium-confidence interpretations and must be validated by exact GIS intersection before Regulation 14. S150 is shown for longlist context only and remains discounted at the initial sift.

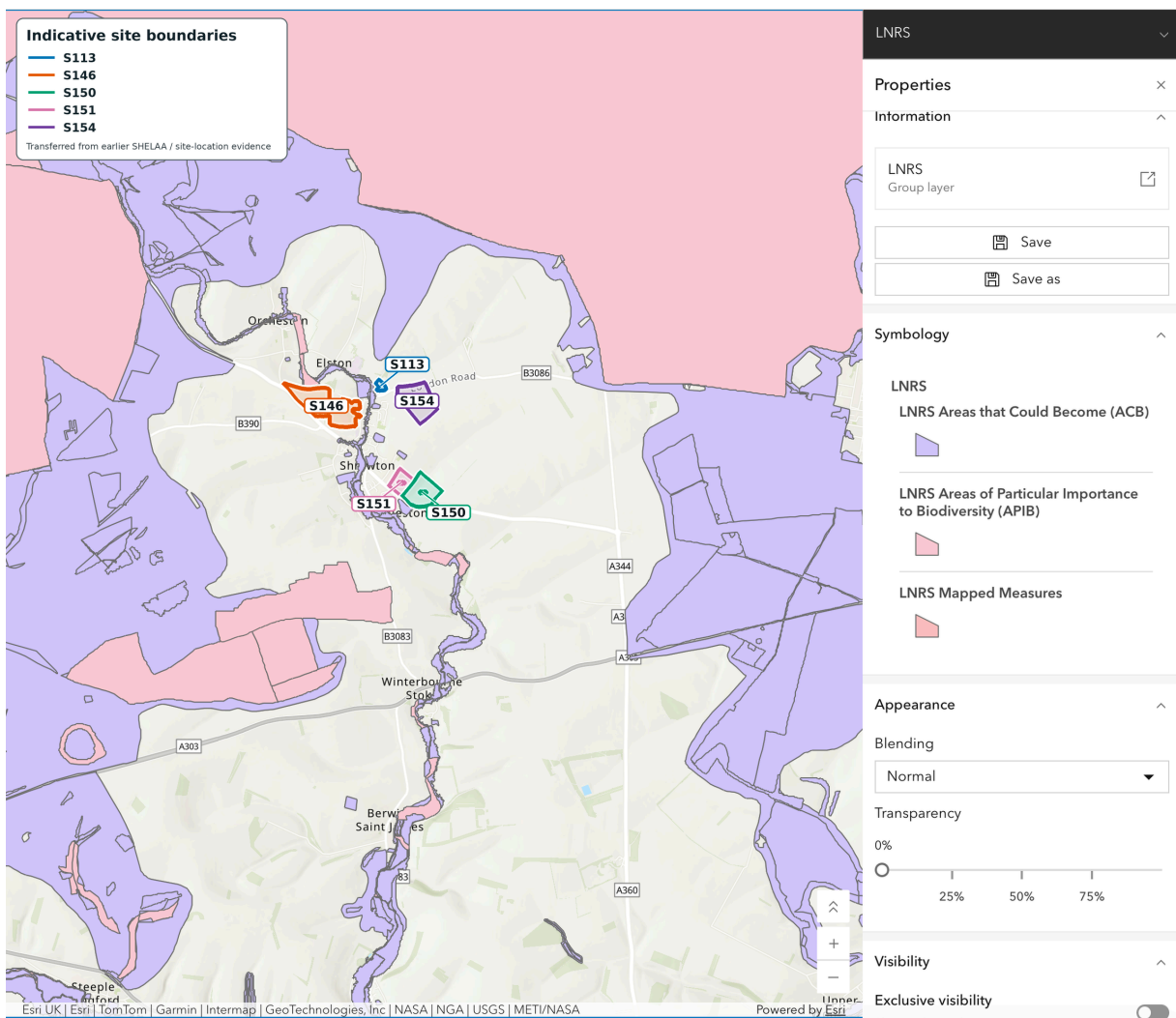


Figure LNRS-1 – Wiltshire Council ArcGIS LNRS mapping around Shrewton with indicative site boundaries for S113, S146, S150, S151 and S154.

Source: Wiltshire Council ArcGIS LNRS group layer, extract supplied 17 July 2026. Site boundaries transferred from the earlier SHELAA/site-location evidence for comparative illustration; not a cadastral survey or completed geospatial intersection.

Site	Current SOAR V3.1 interpretation	Controlled action
S113	An ACB polygon is indicated at the northern settlement edge in the location of the site.	Confirm exact overlap and measure attributes; test loss, fragmentation and delivery of the recovery measure in SEA/HRA.
S146	No obvious direct APIB/ACB overlap across the main site; nearby River Till-linked and western recovery networks remain relevant.	Validate the eastern edge, groundwater, habitat connectivity and mapped measures.
S151	No obvious direct APIB/ACB overlap; wider ACB areas lie east of the settlement.	Validate boundary, SPA supporting habitat, catchment and fragmentation pathways.
S154	No obvious direct APIB/ACB overlap across the main site; broader ACB areas lie north and east.	Validate boundary and adjacent measures; use landscape-led green and blue infrastructure to connect recovery opportunities.

Background

Salisbury Plain has the highest concentration of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the UK and consequently is closely regulated and monitored. It also has many Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Shrewton must play its part in helping the government and other organisations to protect and enhance the wider Salisbury Plain environment.

Government guidance requires planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or specified quality targets);
- recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;
- preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, considering relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

Plans should:

- distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework⁶⁵;
- take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Tree Planting and rewilding for carbon capture, embedding CO2

The Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy states: *Nett zero carbon means, on balance, not creating more CO₂ than is stored or offset. Any carbon emissions we create through the burning of fossil fuels must be balanced out by schemes to absorb it out of the atmosphere such as planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture and storage.*

Development of one house releases an estimated average of 50 tonnes of embedded CO₂. Nature can trap or sequester CO₂. An acre of woodland sequesters 5.9 tonnes of CO₂ per acre per year. Rough grassland sequesters CO₂ at a rate of 1 tonne per acre per year. This evidence supports a strong local aspiration for development to make meaningful contributions to tree planting, habitat creation and carbon sequestration, either on-site or through suitable nearby green and blue infrastructure projects, where justified and deliverable. Further details are in Annex B

Habitat protection, biodiversity and regeneration

Wiltshire Council's Green and Blue infrastructure (GBI) Strateg² has three goals in the natural environment plan and reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national goals and targets for improving the environment set out in governments 25-year Environment Plan 2018:

- Adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change
- Halting the loss of and improving biodiversity
- Contributing to health and well-being.

The Wiltshire GBI strategy includes the following priorities; creating more and better green spaces, to help prevent flooding and attract people to live work and invest in the area, planting the right trees in the right places to provide vital shade during heat waves and increase carbon storage capacity, enhancing and restoring important wildlife habitats (woodland, wetland, scrub and species rich grassland) improving air quality and supporting landscape beauty and character, as well as healthy lifestyles, active travel and access to nature via comprehensive walking and cycling networks.

The GBI strategy also contains the following planning principles.

Development in Wiltshire should seek to:

- Contribute to the delivery of high-quality multifunctional networks of GBI to provide long-term benefits for people places and nature in Wiltshire
- Embed GBI in ways that help reinforce and enhance the local natural and historic character of Wiltshire's landscapes and townscapes.
- Embed GBI in ways that help support nature recovery and reverse the decline in biodiversity in Wiltshire by providing biodiversity gain.
- Embed GBI in ways that help Wiltshire's communities and wildlife to be more resilient to a changing climate.
- Embed GBI in ways that help contribute to healthy living and wellbeing by providing financial contribution, access for recreation and relaxation.
- Contribute to long-term management and maintenance of related GBI through financial contribution, management schemes and management plans as appropriate.

Further details are in Annex B

SNP 4 - Retain and enhance local green and blue space

Shrewton has very little communal local green space within its settlement boundary. Development proposals will be supported where they provide, or contribute proportionately to, accessible green or blue space close to the village in a form consistent with Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) and local landscape, biodiversity and community needs.

Proposals must identify any APIB overlap or functional connection and any ACB recovery measure affecting the site. They should avoid fragmentation or deterioration of the River Till/River Avon SAC corridor, chalk grassland and SPA supporting habitat, and should deliver locally appropriate LNRS recovery opportunities where compatible with landscape, heritage and ecological evidence.

SNP 5 - Tree planting for carbon capture

Development proposals will be supported where they provide, or contribute proportionately to, native woodland planting, rough grassland, biodiversity enhancement and accessible green or blue infrastructure.

Planting and habitat creation must be based on site evidence and the relevant LNRS measure. Woodland planting must not be used where it would harm open chalk grassland, SPA supporting habitat, archaeology, key views or the open character of the Salisbury Plain landscape.

Objectives

Delivery of these policies will be measured through planning proposals that:

- Include a tree management plan to protect existing trees and introduce new trees, which like-for-like replacement of any trees lost within the first six years of planting.
- Explain how it will add suitable trees and other types of planting for the purposes of carbon capture, improving air quality and biodiversity.
- Include schemes that encourage the community to engage, maintain and nurture the trees.

Housing

Background

The term 'retired' is not used as a primary policy driver in this Plan, as individuals may retire at different ages and under varying circumstances. Where relevant, reference is made instead to age bands defined by the Office for National Statistics to ensure consistency and clarity.

The community benefits from diversity, in age, background, employment and interests. It is important that this is sustained. As part of this it is important that both young people setting up home and older people wishing to downsize can afford to stay in the community. This must be the driver of our housing policy.

The results of the 2025 Housing Needs Survey⁴ showed:

The 2023 Wiltshire LHNA identifies the need for 7,062 additional affordable rented homes over the period 2020-2038, which equates to 392.3 per annum, across Wiltshire. Pro-rated to Shrewton based on its fair share of the population, this equates to 1.6 homes per annum or 24.0 homes over the Neighbourhood Plan period 2025-2040.

Turning to affordable home ownership, AECOM estimates the potential demand for 5.1 such dwellings per annum in Shrewton, equating to a total of 76.7 over the Neighbourhood Plan period. The households identified in this estimate are, by and large, adequately housed and do not necessarily lack their own housing but would prefer to buy rather than rent.

The tenure mix identified in recent Wiltshire evidence of 65% social/affordable rented, and 35% affordable home ownership appears to offer a suitable benchmark because it prioritises the delivery of social/affordable rent whilst providing scope to deliver affordable home

⁴ Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) June 2025

ownership products. This should be checked against the latest Wiltshire position before Regulation 14 consultation.

AECOM modelling suggests that future housing delivery should focus on smaller and mid-sized dwellings, with an indicative policy range of 10-20% 1-bedroom dwellings, 35-45% 2-bedroom dwellings, 35-45% 3-bedroom dwellings, and 0-10% 4+ bedroom dwellings.

Recent Wiltshire evidence supports the requirement that new housing on market and affordable developments should be built to national standards for accessibility and adaptability (Category M4(2)). It also indicates that a minimum proportion of housing on larger sites should be built to Category M4(3) for wheelchair users. The exact percentage should be checked against the latest adopted or emerging Wiltshire policy before Regulation 14 consultation, but the evidence gathered justifies the Steering Group aligning with the local authority's accessibility approach.

The AECOM figures require further clarification because they appear to indicate a level of affordable housing need that exceeds the current interim working figure. The Plan therefore treats the figures as evidence of strong affordable housing need, rather than as a direct site-capacity requirement. Wiltshire is currently divided into 30% and 40% affordable housing areas. Shrewton is in a 30% area. This means that, for an interim working figure of 72 houses:

- 30% (approximately 22 houses) would be affordable housing, of which:
 - 65% would be affordable social rent = approximately 14 houses
 - 35% would be affordable home ownership = approximately 8 houses
- 70% (approximately 50 houses) would be sold on the open market

Further, the village focus is upon young families. It has a surplus of 4-bedroom houses and requires many more 2 and 3-bed houses. It has almost no requirements for 1-bed houses but does require 1.5 houses ("one and a half"); these are two-bedroom houses where the total house area is less than 70m², so it isn't liable for additional bedroom tax.

Existing Shrewton housing contains a wide range of housing styles and ages, ranging from medieval to mid 20th century. Whilst no single design will accommodate all proposed developments, a set of design criteria is required to ensure that the village retains its essential rural character. New designs, in keeping with evolving planning guidance and building regulations, must make best use of new technologies to reduce our thermal footprint and our effect on climate change. Planning proposals that incorporate community-based energy efficiency systems, such as

community ground-sourced heat pumps, solar arrays and wind turbines are strongly encouraged, more so than less efficient individual installations.

The design requirements are set out in Draft SNP Policy 9 below.

Recent changes in working patterns, caused in part by the COVID 19 pandemic, has led to an increased need for working from home facilities, which need to be factored into designs.

Policy Intent

To provide compliant, quality, thermally efficient housing with sufficient space and reasonably sized gardens that are good for young families.

Draft SNP Policy 6 - Housing Provision and Preferred Allocation Option

The Plan supports housing delivery in accordance with national policy, the adopted Wiltshire development plan and the latest available evidence. It uses 72 dwellings only as a provisional comparative figure. Before Regulation 14, Wiltshire Council must confirm the neighbourhood-area housing position and the completions, commitments, lapse risk and windfall baseline must be updated. The with-Plan and without-Plan housing non-reduction test must then be rerun.

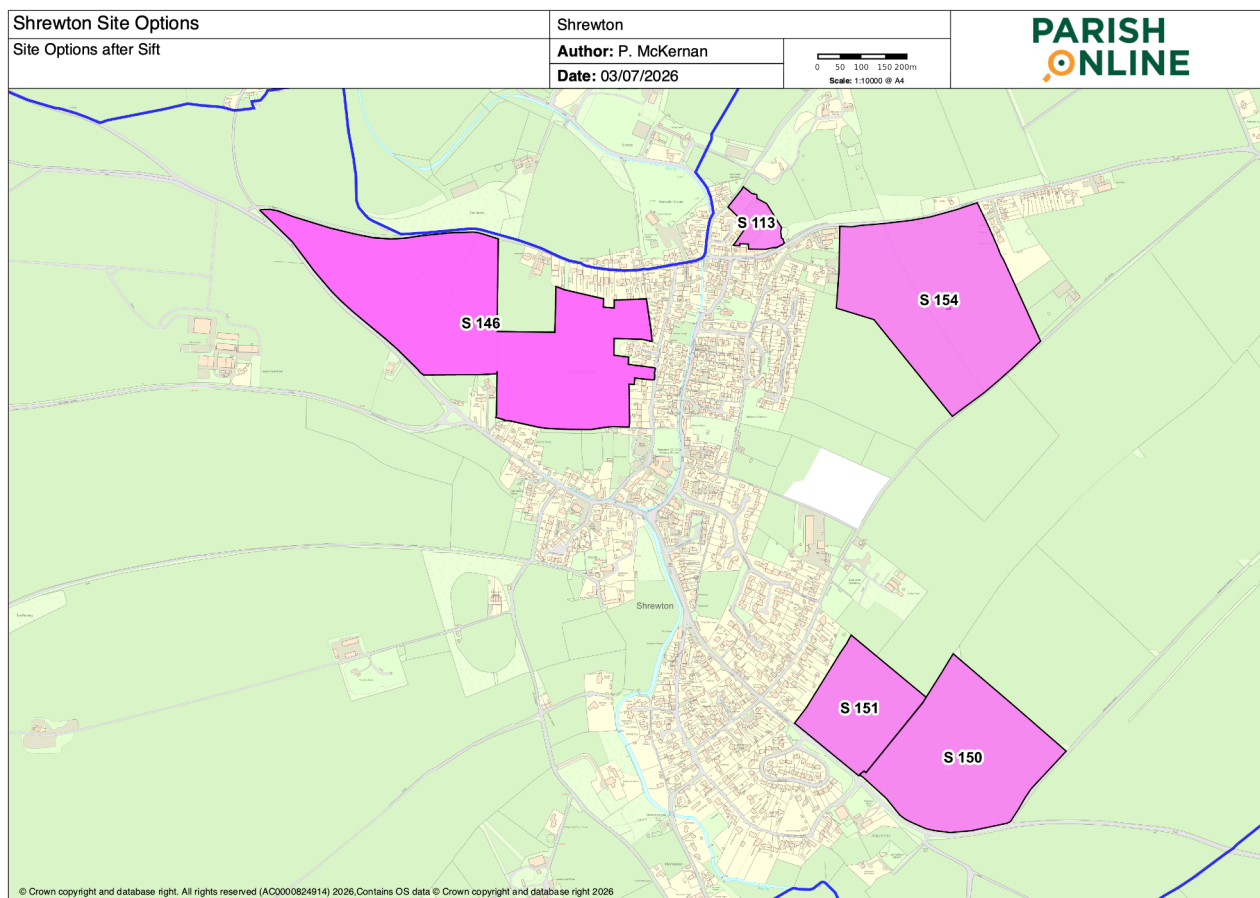


Figure 5 Map of Site Options post initial Sift

S154, Land south of London Road, is identified as the preferred allocation option in principle and the most appropriate reasonable alternative. It is not yet an unconditional or final allocation. It has sufficient scale for the provisional comparison, the strongest opportunity to integrate the existing London Road housing with the village, and greater scope for a landscaped masterplan, access design, phasing and infrastructure mitigation. The supplied LNRS map shows no obvious direct APIB or ACB overlap across the main site, although wider recovery areas and ecological pathways remain. The preference is conditional on decision gates G1–G9 and does not imply that planning permission will be granted.

Any proposed allocation boundary must be derived from the confirmed housing requirement, landscape-led capacity, environmental constraints and access design; it must not simply reproduce the gross SHELAA polygon. Development must be confined to lower and less visually exposed land and use a comprehensive masterplan to protect landscape character, key views, heritage, the Stonehenge World Heritage Site setting, residential amenity, ecological receptors and highway safety.

No building should begin until wastewater capacity, nutrient and chalkstream water-quality standards-based requirements, drainage, access,

transport, landscape, heritage, biodiversity and Habitats Regulations mitigation have been lawfully, technically and practically satisfied. Any attempts at a Grampian-style approach will be considered very high risk and likely subject to legal challenge because:

- It would create significant environmental damage on and off the site long before any occupation might happen and any benefits accrue. And there is a risk that occupation may not happen at all.
- It would distort the planning and regulatory processes and create a situation where commercial pressures could seek planning decisions that ignore environmental regulations and create significant additional environmental damage.

The developable area, dwelling number, phasing and policy wording remain provisional. They must be reviewed if any determinative gate fails or if SEA, HRA, exact LNRS validation or other technical evidence changes the comparative judgement.

S151, Land south of Nettleby Farm, is retained as the secondary reasonable alternative for SEA/HRA comparison and possible later contingency. Draft V3.0 does not designate it as a formal reserve allocation. It could be reconsidered only if S154 cannot proceed and safe A360 access, a direct continuous pedestrian route, route-to-school safety, landscape and environmental compliance, infrastructure capacity and nutrient neutrality can be demonstrated.

S113, Land to the rear of Hinde's Meadow, may be considered only for a limited contribution if the housing strategy shows a need for a smaller site. Its indicated ACB relationship, very close functional relationship with the River Till corridor, drainage and flood sensitivity, constrained access and relationship with existing homes must be resolved. It is not the preferred principal allocation.

S146, Land west of Tanners Lane, is not proposed for allocation or reserve status in the Plan period. Its service proximity does not outweigh the cumulative valley-side, skyline and sunset effects, River Till and source-protection relationships, access constraints, drainage and limited realistic capacity without enduring harm.

All housing proposals must provide a mix that responds to local evidence, with support for smaller, lower-cost, accessible and affordable homes for local needs. Proposals for large executive housing that do not respond to the identified local housing need will not be supported unless clearly justified by up-to-date evidence.

All preferred or retained alternatives must provide safe walking and cycling links, avoid unacceptable traffic effects, deliver biodiversity net gain and

connected green and blue infrastructure, protect the River Till and River Avon SAC catchment, avoid adverse effects on Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA and respond to the relevant LNRS evidence.

Pre-Regulation 14 decision gates

Gate	Evidence or decision required	Current status
G1 Housing	Written housing figure and updated completions, commitments, lapse risk and windfalls.	Open
G2 SEA	Screening/scoping and consistent reasonable-alternatives assessment or Environmental Report where required.	Open
G3 HRA	Screening and any appropriate assessment; confirm the legal integrity conclusion.	Open
G4 LNRS	Validate exact site boundaries against APIB, ACB and mapped measures; record attributes and overlap areas.	Partly complete
G5 Wastewater	Written wastewater, nutrient, water-quality and occupation-trigger position.	Open
G6 Transport	Proportionate access, network, active-travel and route-to-school evidence.	Open
G7 Landscape	Confirm developable boundary, capacity, key views and mitigation principles.	Partly complete
G8 Delivery	Confirm land control, programme, abnormal costs and viability.	Open
G9 Governance	Parish Council approval of the preferred option and consultation audit trail.	Open

SNP Policy 7 - Infill development

Limited infill development within the settlement boundary will be supported where it is small-scale, respects the character and spacing of the surrounding area, protects residential amenity, provides safe access, can be served by existing or planned infrastructure, and contributes to a balanced and sustainable housing mix.

Infill or redevelopment proposals will not be supported where they would result in cramped development, loss of important gaps, unacceptable impact on neighbours, highway safety concerns, harm to heritage or landscape character, or pressure on infrastructure that cannot be mitigated.

SNP Policy 8 - Local connection and affordable housing

Affordable housing delivered through this Plan should prioritise people with a demonstrable local connection to Shrewton and, where appropriate, the adjoining parishes, subject to national policy, the Wiltshire housing allocation framework, viability, equality duties and the terms of any planning obligation or nomination agreement.

The preferred local connection cascade is: first, households with a strong connection to Shrewton through residence, family support needs or employment; second, households with a connection to adjoining parishes; and third, households with a wider Wiltshire connection where no eligible local household is available.

The detailed eligibility criteria and cascade period will be agreed with Wiltshire Council at planning-application stage and secured through an appropriate planning obligation so that affordable homes remain available to eligible households in perpetuity where legally possible.

Developments that seek to reduce or avoid policy-compliant affordable housing provision will not be supported unless justified by robust and independently tested viability evidence.

SNP Policy 9 - Design

Development proposals must be of high quality and respond positively to Shrewton's rural character, historic settlement pattern, landscape setting and local distinctiveness.

Proposals will be supported where they demonstrate, through a Design and Access Statement or equivalent proportionate evidence, how the development responds to: height, scale, massing, layout, spacing, orientation and roofline; materials, boundary treatments and the public realm; local views, topography, trees, hedgerows, ponds and other natural features; heritage assets and their settings; safe, inclusive and well-connected pedestrian and cycle routes; biodiversity net gain and green/blue infrastructure; drainage, lighting and climate resilience; and infrastructure capacity including schools, community facilities and transport.

Development that would appear visually intrusive on sensitive skylines, fail to integrate with the village, harm important views or erode the character of historic lanes and settlement edges will not be supported unless the harm is clearly and effectively mitigated.

The NPPF Para 11 states that plans and decisions should apply a presumption of sustainable development in the absence of significant impacts. However, the adverse impacts of building in Shrewton far outweigh the benefits, which Para 11 (d) does not apply as this Plan exists.

Objectives

Housing delivery will be monitored against the confirmed requirement, completions, commitments, windfalls, site phasing, infrastructure triggers, affordable and accessible housing delivery, housing mix and the outcomes of the decision gates.

Traffic

Background

Shrewton is situated at a key crossroads on the A360 and is impacted by high volumes of traffic, much of which is passing through the village on its way to larger towns or as a route across Salisbury Plain. The absence of mitigation schemes for these issues, especially following the cancellation, in July 2024, of the Stonehenge Tunnel project, leaves the village vulnerable to further traffic disruptions.

Traffic volumes have a detrimental impact on villagers' daily lives. It is vital that we adopt strategies that reduce the volume and speed of traffic, improve road safety, and promote alternatives to car usage.

The traffic situation is significant and complex due to the cancellation of the A303 Stonehenge improvements, as outlined in Section 1. Shrewton's Traffic Management Plan, produced by the Shrewton Traffic Management Working Group, should be used as supporting evidence when considering proportionate mitigation for development proposals.

It is assumed that the problem of through-traffic passing through the core of the village will not be fully addressed until a worked-up improvement scheme at Rollestone Crossroads is delivered. The purpose of such a scheme would be to keep strategic through-traffic on the A360 and discourage avoidable traffic from continuing through Shrewton village.

Any major new development must demonstrate safe and suitable access and, where necessary, provide or contribute to proportionate traffic-management measures. The Plan should not assume that development itself will slow traffic; development can only be expected to fund or deliver mitigation that is necessary, directly related and fairly related in scale and kind.

The Parish Council will seek external funding and government support where appropriate, and work with Wiltshire Council and Highways England to advocate for long-term solutions to Shrewton's traffic issues.

Policy Intent

To reduce significantly:

- the excessive volume and speed of traffic through the village,
- the danger to life of villagers caused by excessive traffic and frustrated drivers,
- the traffic congestion
- the air, water and noise pollution upon villagers and the environment

To increase and restore:

- acceptable levels of road safety within the village of Shrewton,
- acceptable quality of life for villagers of all ages
- acceptable and peaceful character of a rural village

SNP Policy 10 - Traffic, movement and highway safety

Development proposals that are likely to generate a material increase in vehicle movements must be supported by a proportionate transport assessment or transport statement and, where appropriate, a travel plan.

Proposals will be supported where they demonstrate that they provide safe and suitable access for all users; avoid unacceptable impacts on highway safety; avoid severe cumulative impacts on the road network; minimise the need for short car journeys through the village; and provide or contribute to proportionate mitigation where required.

Major development must show how it will connect safely to the village by walking, cycling and public transport, including all-weather pedestrian links where practicable, and how it will avoid worsening traffic, speed, noise, air-quality and severance impacts within the village.

Planning obligations or conditions will be sought where necessary and directly related to the development, including traffic calming, safe crossings, footway improvements, cycle links, public-transport infrastructure and monitoring.

Objectives

Delivery of this policy will be monitored through:

1. The Shrewton Traffic Working Group who will play a key role in assessing the effectiveness of the traffic impact assessment output, monitor local traffic conditions and developing targeted actions to improve road safety and manage congestion.
2. The delivery of improvements as recorded in the Traffic Management Plan.
3. The village has a comprehensive set of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) that record traffic volume and speed. This data will be used to assess the effectiveness of interventions and guide future planning.
4. A reduction in the number drivers offered speed awareness or fixed penalty notices on village roads will be considered a measure of success.

Access

Background

Considering climate change and increased outdoor activity during COVID-19, expanding access to non-motorised travel routes is more crucial than ever. Shrewton residents already value this access, which also supports local businesses and tourism. Such infrastructure plays a key role in the national shift toward active travel, which includes walking, cycling, horse riding, and other physically active forms of transport.

Shrewton is surrounded by Military Lands (Salisbury Plain Training Area) with extensive rights of way (RoWs) connecting both eastwards and westwards to wider recreational networks, including King Alfred's Way, the Imber Range Perimeter Path and routes towards the Ridgeway. However, major roads such as the A303 and A360 severely disrupt safe access, especially for vulnerable users including pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. The lack of safe crossings and pavements heightens risk, and many RoWs are severed or discouraged by traffic hazards. Equestrian access is especially limited, with many routes difficult to reach without using dangerous roads. Strengthening local connectivity is essential as reliance on motor vehicles for short journeys remains high, despite the growing relevance of active travel.

Policy Intent

To improve non-vehicular routes throughout the village and to provide links to adjacent national and regional routes, including Stonehenge Visitor Centre, Salisbury Plain Training Area, King Alfred's Way, the Imber Range Perimeter Path and routes towards the Ridgeway. This will enhance non-vehicular access to adjacent communities and facilities, increase opportunities to access the countryside, and support through routes for tourists, cyclists, hikers, runners and equestrians.

To have footpaths that:

- connect all parts of the village, including any new developments;
- are direct rather than circuitous;
- are safe from road users of all kinds;
- can be used safely by children
- are well lit where safety is an issue

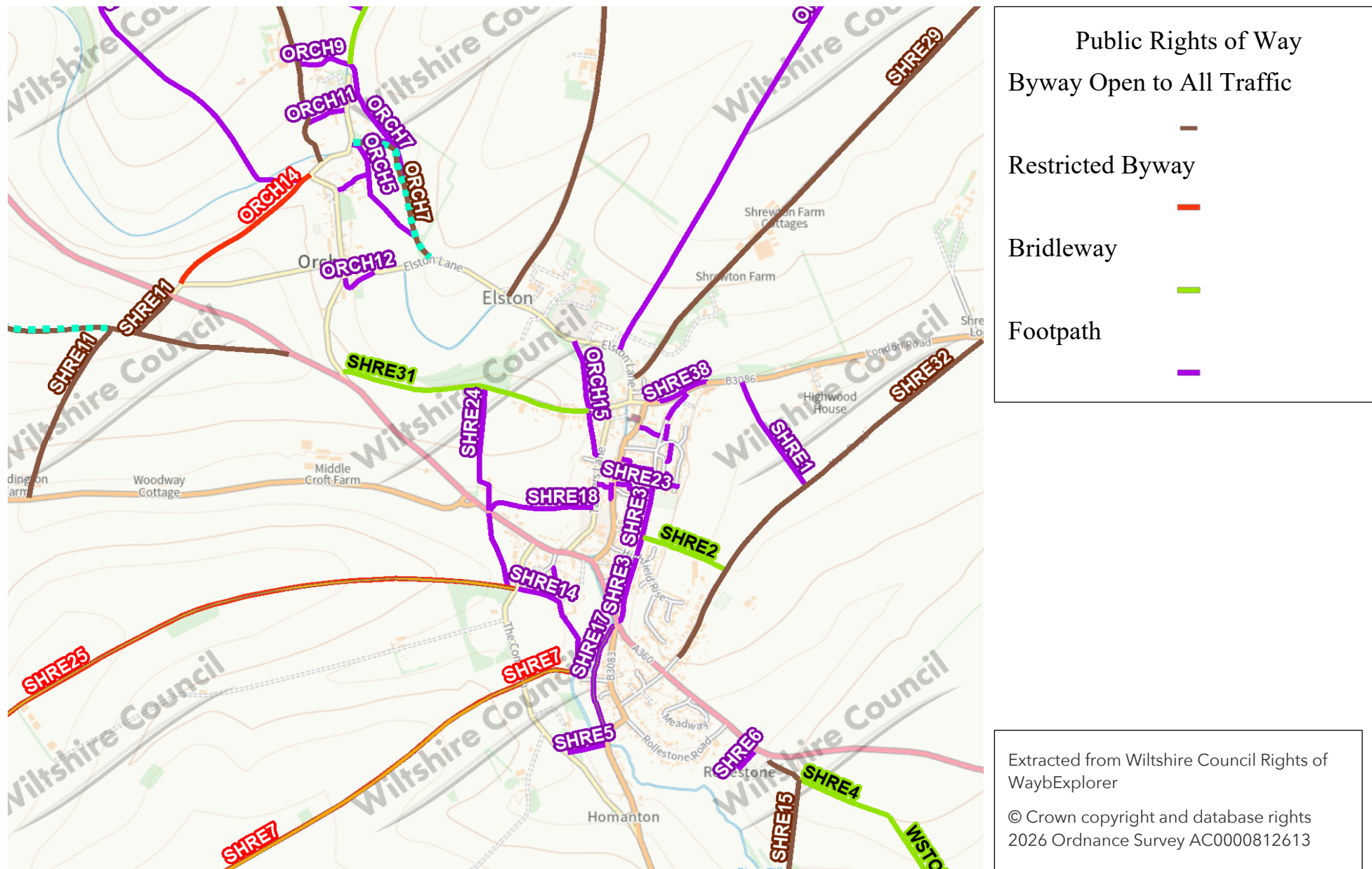


Figure 6 Shrewton Footpa

SNP Policy 11 - Active travel and access

Development proposals will be supported where they actively contribute to a safe, coherent, well-waymarked and accessible network of walking, cycling and, where appropriate, equestrian routes within Shrewton and between Shrewton, neighbouring communities, Salisbury Plain and wider recreational routes.

Where necessary to make development acceptable in planning terms, applicants will be expected to provide on-site links, off-site connections or proportionate financial contributions secured through planning conditions or obligations.

SNP Policy 12 - Connection to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site landscape

Development proposals that affect routes or land between Shrewton and the Stonehenge World Heritage Site landscape will be supported where they protect the Outstanding Universal Value, setting and character of the World Heritage Site and, where appropriate, improve non-vehicular access in a sensitive, landscape-led manner.

SNP Policy 13 - Connection to King Alfred's Way

Development proposals will be supported where they protect existing rights of way and, where directly related to the development, improve safe non-vehicular connections towards King Alfred's Way, the Imber Range Perimeter Path, routes towards the Ridgeway and the wider active-travel network.

Objectives

To increase significantly and measurably the numbers of tourists walking and cycling between Shrewton and the Stonehenge Visitors Centre.

To increase significantly and measurably individual and community access to Salisbury Plain Training Area and wider rights-of-way networks, particularly from any new housing developments, including through safe crossings, signage, waymarking and interpretation where appropriate.

Local Transport

Background

As a rural community situated in the heart of Salisbury Plain, Shrewton relies reliable, affordable transport for access to local economic centres such as

Salisbury and Devizes, and to enable residents to access important services, education, and employment opportunities. While many residents have access to private vehicles, approximately 12% of households in the parish (90 households) rely on public transport for their mobility.

The current bus service operated by Salisbury Reds (Service No. 2) is a crucial lifeline for these residents, providing connections to key destinations such as Salisbury, Devizes, and South Wiltshire Grammar Schools. However, the future of rural bus services remains uncertain, with increasing pressures on rural transport networks and the growing cost of running such services. If the service were reduced or withdrawn, it would disproportionately affect those without private cars, including the elderly, young people, and lower-income households.

In addition, Shrewton's proximity to the Stonehenge Visitor Centre offers an opportunity for improvement to the existing transport network, potentially offering better links to Salisbury and other destinations.

Policy Intent

To ensure that Shrewton remains well-connected with surrounding economic and social centres through accessible and sustainable transport options, ensuring that all residents, particularly those without access to private vehicles, have reliable, affordable, and efficient public transport choices.

SNP Policy 14 - Promotion of sustainable travel options

Development proposals will be supported where they improve opportunities for sustainable travel, including walking, cycling and public transport, through measures such as safe route connections, cycle parking, bus-stop improvements, wayfinding, public-realm improvements and travel-plan measures.

SNP Policy 15 - Improvement of transport infrastructure

Major development will be expected to make proportionate contributions to transport infrastructure where necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Such contributions may include bus shelters, seating, real-time information, safe crossings, footways, cycle infrastructure or other measures identified through the transport assessment and agreed with Wiltshire Council.

Objectives

Monitor sustainable transport provision using the Traffic Management Working Group to collect data on usage and the effectiveness of proposed measures. This group will gather feedback from residents to ensure the transportation

needs of the community are met and explore new opportunities for transport improvements.

Regularly review the provision of bus services in Shrewton to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and able to meet the needs of a growing population, recording the adjustment of services to meet emerging needs.

Contributing to and monitoring the impact on Shrewton of measures in the Local Transport Plan

Community Facilities

Background

Over the past two decades, Shrewton has experienced changes and reductions in community facilities, including the loss of all but one of its pubs, the conversion of the historic village school and the loss of other spaces to residential development. The only beneficial development has been the modern purpose-built school opposite the former school site, which had to be co-funded by a local charity. Remaining venues such as the Village Hall & Recreation Ground, Sports and Social Club, and Maddington Church Rooms face underuse, financial pressure and maintenance challenges. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that future housing development is accompanied by appropriate, viable and fit-for-purpose community facilities, justified by evidence and planning policies.

Important community-funded buildings in scope include: The Village Hall and The Sports and Social Club

Policy Intent

To reverse the decline in village community facilities, to ensure the continuation and enhancement of existing facilities and where possible to help deliver new facilities to meet village needs.

SNP Policy 16 - Support Community Facilities

Development proposals that support the retention, improvement or replacement of village community facilities will be supported where they meet identified community needs and are compatible with local character, residential amenity, highway safety and environmental constraints.

Developments that support specific provision for village youth facilities will be supported.

Where proportionate and directly related to the development, applicants should explain how the proposal will contribute to the delivery or improvement of community facilities in addition to meeting statutory planning requirements.

Objectives

There will be a presumption in favour of safeguarding existing facilities and against any proposals that would result in their loss.

Proposals that could result in loss of any community facility will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer fit for purpose or viable, or where an equivalent facility could be made available in the village.

Businesses, Economy and Jobs

Background

Shrewton, like many rural UK communities, faces economic transition. Traditional manual industries and local jobs have reduced, while farming, land management, tourism, home working and small rural enterprises remain important to the local economy. There is interest in flexible workspace, small meeting rooms and facilities that support remote working. Tourism linked to Stonehenge presents opportunities, but any new visitor, retail or hospitality use must be complementary to existing village services and must not worsen existing traffic, parking, economic or employment impacts.

With increasing homeworking trends, strong communication infrastructure is vital. Shrewton has reliable mobile coverage and is transitioning from copper broadband to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) and 5G, through the government Project Gigabit, delivered by Wessex Internet. There are no new requirements for broadband or mobile communications.

Policy Intent

To support small-scale employment, work-from-home, meeting, visitor and enterprise facilities where they meet local needs, complement existing village services, reduce unnecessary travel where possible and avoid unacceptable traffic, parking, heritage, landscape or environmental impacts.

SNP Policy 17 - Enabling local business and revenue generation

Development proposals for small-scale offices, work-from-home hubs, meeting rooms, visitor, tourism, hospitality or local retail uses will be supported where they are compatible with local character, residential amenity, highway safety, heritage and environmental constraints, and where they complement rather than undermine existing village facilities, including the shop and Post Office.

SNP Policy 18 - Tourism, Retail and Hospitality Facilities along A360

Development proposals for visitor, tourism, hospitality or enterprise facilities along the A360 will be supported where they are small-scale, complementary to existing village facilities and designed to avoid increasing traffic through the village centre. Suitable proposals may serve:

- Tourism and coach parties related to Stonehenge tourism.
- Holiday traffic
- Regular business commuters and travellers

Development proposals for retail, hospitality, visitor or enterprise facilities will be supported only where they:

1. Meet identified village needs or provide complementary visitor facilities without undermining the viability of existing village services.
2. Provide safe access, sufficient parking and servicing, and do not worsen on-street parking, village access, pedestrian safety or traffic conditions.

Crime and Community Safety

Background

Shrewton has relatively low crime rates, consistent with Wiltshire's position as one of the safest counties in the UK. A large majority (77%) of Shrewton residents in the village survey reported that crime and community safety are not concerns in the community. However, crime is on the increase. 23% of residents who did express concerns primarily highlighted issues related to traffic dangers and parking (addressed elsewhere in this plan), and concerns about rising burglary, break-ins, and anti-social behaviour. While youth-related anti-social behaviour was not identified as a primary concern, the lack of a youth club and concerns over rising rural crime, particularly break-ins by non-local individuals, suggest that proactive community action is required to maintain low crime levels and ensure public safety.

We should also support more measures to address the newer crime types such as fraud, identity theft and cybercrimes.

Local police have strongly recommended participation in relevant Community Watch Schemes (there are 10 of them), which could assist Shrewton significantly and more should be done to take advantage of some of them, particularly in new developments.

All crime countermeasures should support the ISO 31000 five stages for risk mitigation:

1. Identify the risk and assess the likelihood of it happening or the impact it might have.
2. Protect against the risk happening or causing harm. This should include deterrence.
3. Detect an abnormal event and that an incident or attack is taking place.
4. Respond to neutralise the threat and, if possible, have other means to continue normal operation.
5. Recover back to normality

As the incident rate of car and shed break-ins continues to increase, and police resources are unable to deter such criminals or prevent such thefts, so the community needs to introduce new countermeasures including prevention, surveillance and watch methods, particularly to capture quality evidence to enable successful prosecution.

Policy Intent

To deter crime.

To enhance the policing of Shrewton, to create community groups and facilities that support the detection and resolution of criminal activities, to protect the villagers from fraud, identity theft and other cyber and physical crimes. To make Shrewton a safer place to live and work.

SNP Policy 19 - Designing and building to deter crime

Development proposals will be supported where they are designed to create safe, inclusive and accessible places that reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. Proposals should apply Secured by Design principles where proportionate and should consider natural surveillance, lighting, boundary treatment, active frontages, legible routes, secure cycle and bin storage, and safe public spaces.

Major development should include a proportionate community-safety assessment as part of the design process. Surveillance infrastructure should be considered where appropriate and legally permissible, but it must be integrated sensitively and must not harm residential amenity, privacy, heritage significance or landscape character.

Community Action CS1 - Policing and community safety

The Parish Council will continue to work with Wiltshire Police and community groups to identify suitable opportunities for police touch-down points, community watch activity, fraud-awareness support and other non-planning safety initiatives.

Objectives

The effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives and community safety programs will be regularly reviewed through surveys, feedback from residents, and discussions at community meetings.

Protection and Enhancement of Shrewton's Heritage Assets

Background

Shrewton comprises several distinct areas, each with unique historical and architectural significance. These include the High Street with medieval to modern structures, rural lanes like Nett Road and The Common with Victorian and historic homes, and areas like Tanners Lane and London Road showcasing cob cottages and 17th–19th century buildings. Other areas, such as Highfield Rise and Hilltop Close, feature mid-20th century developments. Notably, some boundaries overlap with neighbouring parishes, complicating heritage considerations. Shrewton's NPSG is collaborating with Wiltshire Council, the MOD, and conservation bodies to integrate heritage and environmental protections into planning.

Policy Intent

To protect and enhance the historic character and heritage assets of Shrewton, ensuring that development proposals preserve or improve the setting, appearance, and significance of both designated and non-designated heritage assets.

SNP Policy 20 - Protection and Enhancement of Shrewton's Heritage Assets

The Neighbourhood Plan supports the creation and maintenance of a Local Heritage List to recognise non-designated buildings, structures and features of historical, architectural, townscape or community value. The Parish Council will work with Wiltshire Council, Historic England and the community to progress this work.

Development proposals affecting a listed building, scheduled monument, conservation area, the Stonehenge World Heritage Site landscape or the setting of any designated heritage asset must be supported by proportionate heritage evidence that describes the significance of the asset and demonstrates how that significance will be conserved or enhanced.

Development proposals affecting a non-designated heritage asset identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, local evidence base or any adopted local list should be accompanied by a proportionate Heritage Statement. Proposals should

conserve or enhance the asset's contribution to local character. Any harm must be clearly justified and balanced against the public benefits of the proposal.

New development in historic contexts will be supported where it respects local vernacular, street pattern, plot rhythm, scale, materials, boundary treatments, important gaps and views. Infill or redevelopment must not disrupt the spatial or visual integrity of historic streetscapes.

Where development is proposed in areas of known or potential archaeological interest, applicants should consult Wiltshire Council's Archaeology Service at an early stage. Archaeological assessment, monitoring or preservation in situ may be required where proportionate and necessary.

Proposals to restore, maintain or sensitively adapt heritage buildings that are underused or at risk will be supported where the proposed use sustains their significance and secures their long-term conservation.

Supporting Actions (Non-Policy)

- Maintain and expand the local heritage database (list) including photographs, historical records, and architectural details.
- Encourage the listing or local designation of buildings currently omitted but recognised as significant by the community.
- Promote education and interpretation of Shrewton's heritage through signage, digital archives, and local exhibitions.

See Appendix I to Annex C for the list of significant buildings.

Objectives

The success of these heritage policies will be monitored through the regular updates to the status of building on the local heritage database to ensure that the status of buildings on this list are not degraded by development activity.

Schools Education and Training

Background

Shrewton is well served by a vibrant and active village Primary School and Preschool and has a good relationship with Appleford School. The Neighbourhood Plan timescales are such that at the end of the Plan's years of implementation, today's primary school children will be young adults.

The Primary School and Preschool are co-located and collaborate well. Together, they have planning permission to create another classroom and contingency plans, with available space, for more classrooms if required, to meet any significant increase in children's numbers, such as 30%. They have land available for further expansion if required.

School plans have no requirement for expansion – current capacity would allow for 30% increase in pupil population without the need for new facilities, which could accommodate housing development within Shrewton, within government planning horizons.

Medical and Dental Facilities

Background

Over 57.5% of the community is aged 45 or older, and the community is ageing. The general health of the village is on a par with the national average with 82.9% reported as being in good or very good health (England 82.2%) and 17.2 in fair, bad or very bad health (England 17.9%). It is the nature of illness that is changing, with more obesity and more age-related illness (including the body just wearing out). Both require more carer support.

The community considers that the village is well served in respect of medical support - there is one GP surgery. However, the GP practice has confirmed that its current location could not cope with a significant increase in patient population (e.g. 72 houses or more), and a new, suitable premises would be required.

The community wants to have a dentist in the community. If a new medical centre were built then it should include a dental practice.

Policy Intent

To ensure that residents' ability to access medical facilities is maintained without any reduction in service or capacity, as the village population increases and housing development occurs.

Adequate dental facilities are required.

SNP Policy 21 - Medical facilities

Development proposals for the expansion, improvement or provision of medical facilities will be supported where they are accessible to the community, compatible with neighbouring uses, safely accessed by walking, cycling, public transport and vehicles, and can be accommodated without unacceptable traffic, parking, heritage, landscape or residential-amenity impacts.

SNP Policy 22 - Dental facilities

Development proposals for a dental facility in Shrewton will be supported where they meet the criteria in Policy 21 and, where possible, are located close to existing health, community or public-transport infrastructure.

Objectives

- To deliver a local dental facility
- To capture data that shows medical facilities provide a service that is as good as or better than existing NHS norms
- To ensure existing medical services are maintained to serve current and future residents, particularly arising from any housing development.

Section 5 – Implementation

NP2026 implementation priorities

Implementation priorities that depend on partnership working, infrastructure-provider programmes or external funding are recorded as actions rather than development-management policy. They include wastewater and storm-overflow improvement, wider traffic management, active travel, bus services, community safety and liaison with health, education and utility providers.

While the Plan is being prepared, the NPSG will review the NP2026 registers at least quarterly and at each formal stage. Material evidence changes require a Decisions Register entry, a Change Register entry and a check of every linked section and policy. Monitoring includes housing, windfalls, infrastructure, traffic, active travel, LNRS, biodiversity, SEA/HRA assumptions, landscape, site availability and the delivery programme.

Once this Plan is approved by a community Referendum, the NPSG will disband. Responsibility for implementing the plan will then fall to Wiltshire Council and SPC. SPC may decide to establish a permanent committee to deliver this task.

However, implementation of affordable housing and its administration is required to be managed by a Registered Provider that is responsible to the Regulator of Social Housing. Wiltshire Community Land Trust is a Registered Provider. It has advised that Shrewton set up a suitable body for implementing the affordable and social housing, before the NPSG disbands. This body should be part of, or managed by, a Registered Provider – an option is for a Shrewton CLT Working Group to form under the Wilts CLT, where the CLT is responsible for governance and financial management of the Shrewton CLT WG, but the WG acts as the intelligent customer on behalf of Shrewton and the occupiers of the social/affordable housing.

Section 6 – Monitoring and Review

Effective monitoring is an essential component in achieving sustainable development and sustainable communities. Monitoring provides crucial information to establish what is happening now and whether policies are working.

The Plan sets a spatial vision and policies for 2026–2040. Monitoring will show whether the policies are working, whether housing provision remains consistent with the housing non-reduction test and whether environmental and infrastructure safeguards are being delivered.

Review action will be triggered by a materially different Wiltshire housing figure, a change to the operational NPPF or legislation, an SEA/HRA conclusion that changes the planning judgement, failure or delay of a wastewater or nutrient solution, loss of site availability or safe access, a new reasonable alternative, or evidence that the Plan would provide less housing than the without-Plan position.

After the Plan is made, Shrewton Parish Council should review the indicators annually and carry out a formal review at least every five years, or sooner if a trigger materially affects the strategy.

List of Annexes

The annexes contain the supporting, technical and submission information required by the neighbourhood-planning process.

- A. Annex A - Supporting Documents;
- B. Annex B - The Environment;
- C. Annex C - Local History;
 - a. Appendix I to Annex C.

Annex A – Supporting Documents

Submission Documents

The regulations require that the neighbourhood plan submission must include the following.

- The proposed Neighbourhood Plan. This document.
 - A map of the neighbourhood area. Included in this document.
 - A Consultation Statement, which describes the outcome and responses to the six- week statutory consultation, with a summary of any previous consultations. Also included is an explanation of how the outcome of these consultations have informed the content of the plan.
Not required for pre-consultation drafts
- A Basic Conditions Statement explaining how the Plan meets the legal framework applying at submission, including the March 2026 housing non-reduction condition, national policy, sustainable development, Convention rights and applicable environmental obligations. It will also explain how the Plan addresses climate change and takes account of the LNRS. The final statement cannot be completed until the housing baseline, SEA, HRA and other determinative evidence are complete.
 - Sustainability Appraisal
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
 - Community Facilities Assessment.
 - Local History. Details are at Annex C.

Index of Evidence

The following documents have provided the evidence base used to formulate this plan. They are all available at www.shrewton.info:

1. Community Engagement and Consultation Evidence (live; to be consolidated in the Consultation Statement before submission).
2. Strategic Environmental Assessment: screening/scoping and reasonable-alternatives assessment; an Environmental Report if required.
3. Habitats Regulations Assessment: screening and any required appropriate assessment and integrity conclusion.
4. Housing Needs Survey (AECOM Shrewton Housing Needs Assessment June 2025)
5. Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)
SHELAA02SHELAAAppendix51AmesburyCommunityArea.pdf-5.pdf and
2024.10.15 shelaa-2017-appendix-5.pdf

Shrewton Site Options Assessment Report V3.1 – controlled evidence, reasonable alternatives, planning balance, provisional 72-dwelling comparison, S154 preferred allocation option in principle, S151 secondary reasonable alternative, limited S113 contribution, non-allocation of S146, LNRS ArcGIS interpretation, decision gates and monitoring.

Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy; Wiltshire Council ArcGIS APIB, ACB and mapped-measure evidence supplied 17 July 2026; Natural England designated-site data and conservation objectives.

Index of Maps

- Map 1 – Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan Designated Area
- Map 2 – Shrewton Settlement Boundary
- Map 3 – Historical assets
- Map 4 – Allotments, Amenity Open Spaces, Areas of Important Open Space
- Map 5 – Footpaths
- Map 6 – Bridleways
- Map 7 – Byways
- Map 8 – Restricted Byways
- Map 9 – Biodiversity, including LNRS APIB, ACB, mapped recovery measures and designated-site functional connections
- Map 11 – Housing Allocations
- Map 12 – Shrewton Community Facilities
- Map 13 – Sporting Facilities

Annex B - The Environment

All Rights of Way and access routes should be clearly and consistently waymarked. Improved waymarking will encourage local use, support wellbeing, and enable low-impact tourism without increasing vehicle traffic through the village.

Habitat loss through intense farming practices, urbanisation, pesticide collateral damage, water and air pollution, litter damage and water shortages have already led to the degradation and reduction of life-supporting ecosystems and biodiversity. The UK is one of the most depleted biodiverse countries in the world.

It is in this context that the Shrewton Neighbourhood plan endeavours to specify measures relating to future development that will not only 'do no harm' to the environment but will endeavour to actively counter environmental damage by placing conditions on development that will enhance the quality of the environment locally and mitigate damage in the wider context.

Climate change, Biodiversity and The Local Environment

In February 2019 Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency and pledged carbon neutrality by 2030. Wiltshire Council have declared this emergency because of the rapid rise in greenhouse gases being emitted by the actions of humankind and the consequential climatic changes that the world is beginning to witness in recent years.

It is important to recognise the need to minimise the continued emissions of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere but also to take positive measures that will contribute to the reduction of nett emissions by encouraging the planting of trees and other flora which by their actions absorb carbon dioxide.

Wiltshire Council climate emergency task group concluded that increasing tree cover across the county could help reduce nett emissions, benefit nature and improve peoples' mental health.¹

In September 2021 Wiltshire Council prepared a Green and Blue Infrastructure strategy. It's aim: '*Adaptation, mitigation and resilience towards climate change by 2030 we will have increased our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change through adoption of nature-based solutions.*'² It also seeks to halt the loss of and improvement to biodiversity and to contribute to health and wellbeing.

Tree Planting and Re-Wilding for Carbon Capture

Simply reducing the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere is not enough to tackle climate change. Efforts will also be required to capture and store carbon that already exist. Methods to reduce atmospheric CO₂ include planting new trees, restoring wetland and forest habitats and species rich grassland.³

The Wiltshire Green and Blue infrastructure Strategy states: *Nett zero carbon means, on balance, not creating more CO₂ than is stored or offset. Any carbon emissions we create through the burning of fossil fuels must be balanced out by schemes to absorb it out of the atmosphere such as planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture and storage*².

The current National Planning Policy Framework, revised in December 2024 and amended in February 2025, recognises the important contribution made by trees, green infrastructure and biodiversity networks to the character, quality and climate resilience of places.

A community survey in Wiltshire in 2020, concluded that climate change and renewable energy was to be the top priority policy requirement by respondents.⁴ These results indicate that there is widespread support for introducing more demanding policies and a more responsive approach from developers to make significant steps towards a carbon neutral future.

The Woodland Trust are calling for a minimum of 30% canopy cover across new developments to help mitigate the impact of the development. This is set out in the trust emergency tree plan for the UK.⁸ The study recommends that all development land includes a minimum 30% tree canopy cover.

Habitats

Wiltshire Council's Green and Blue infrastructure (GBI) Strategy² has three goals in the natural environment plan and reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national goals and targets for improving the environment set out in governments 25-year Environment Plan 2018⁵:

- Adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change
- Halting the loss of and improving biodiversity
- Contributing to health and well-being.

The Wiltshire GBI strategy includes the following priorities; creating more and better green spaces, to help prevent flooding and attract people to live work and invest in the area, planting the right trees in the right places to provide vital shade during heat waves and increase carbon storage capacity, enhancing and restoring important wildlife habitats (woodland, wetland, scrub and species rich grassland) improving air quality and supporting landscape beauty and character, as well as healthy lifestyles, active travel and access to nature via comprehensive walking and cycling networks.

The GBI strategy also contains the following planning principles.

Development in Wiltshire should seek to:

- Contribute to the delivery of high-quality multifunctional networks of GBI to provide long-term benefits for people places and nature in Wiltshire
- Embed GBI in ways that help reinforce and enhance the local natural and historic character of Wiltshire's landscapes and townscapes.
- Embed GBI in ways that help support nature recovery and reverse the decline in biodiversity in Wiltshire by providing biodiversity gain.
- Embed GBI in ways that help Wiltshire's communities and wildlife to be more resilient to a changing climate.
- Embed GBI in ways that help contribute to healthy living and wellbeing by providing financial contribution, access for recreation and relaxation.
- Contribute to long-term management and maintenance of related GBI through financial contribution, management schemes and management plans as appropriate.

Biodiversity intactness, i.e. the numbers of species and individuals found in the area has also been significantly impacted by land use pressures in the UK. This is according to research by the Natural History Museum which places the UK in the lowest 12% of countries worldwide for biodiversity intactness.

Policy Context

As reflected by emerging legislation and national policy in England the provision of GBI has become an integral element of the UK's approach to sustainable development.

Due to the integrated nature of GBI, this Strategy provides a framework to support delivery of the following key target areas for action in the government's 25-year Environment Plan:

- Using and managing land sustainably.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscape.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and well-being.
- Increasing resource efficiency, reducing pollution and waste.
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The national planning policy framework (NPPF) requires local plans to adopt a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and GBI, considering climate change factors such as flood risk, water, supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.

The adopted Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS adds a spatial nature-recovery baseline. For Shrewton, the relevant APIBs are the River Till SSSI/River Avon SAC corridor, Parsonage Down SSSI/NNR and Salisbury Plain

SSSI/SAC/SPA; relevant ACB measures are CS, RSW, CG1, CG2, W1 and NOD. Development evidence should identify exact APIB/ACB intersection and functional connectivity and explain how the appropriate recovery measure will be protected or delivered.

Embedded CO₂

Even the most ‘sustainable’ housing, that is housing that operates in the most sustainable way in the utility of solar panels, heat-pumps batteries etc. still represent a great deal of ‘embedded’ CO₂. Embedded CO₂ is the carbon emitted into the atmosphere during the manufacture of materials and the building of the house, so for example in the production of cement, concrete blocks, bricks, steel, transport, etc.

Consideration of the embedded CO₂ often goes ignored and should not be. The estimated cost of embedded CO₂ emitted in the production of each house is between 32 and 78 tonnes (AI). This is quite a broad spread of values but we can take a reasonable average value of 50 tonnes of embedded CO₂.

An acre of woodland sequesters 5.9 tonnes of CO₂ per acre per year⁹. Rough grassland sequesters CO₂ at a rate of 1 tonne per acre per year (AI).

If re-wilding is implemented as a mix of new woodland and rough grassland it should be possible to sequester 2 tonnes of carbon per acre per year.

Annex B Note 1: Tree planting for embedded carbon capture, nature regeneration and community wellbeing.

This evidence supports a local aspiration for new development to make meaningful and proportionate contributions to tree planting, rough grassland, habitat creation and carbon sequestration within or close to the Neighbourhood Plan area. The scale and location of any contribution should be justified by site evidence, biodiversity net gain requirements, land availability, viability, long-term management arrangements and any relevant planning-obligation tests.

Native woodland tree planting and rough grassland creation should use appropriate local species and should be designed to benefit the environment, support biodiversity and provide community amenity. This approach is consistent with Wiltshire’s Green and Blue Infrastructure policy and may complement site-specific canopy-cover, biodiversity net gain and LNRS requirements where justified by evidence. Habitat creation must follow the right habitat in the right place and must not damage open chalk grassland, SPA supporting habitat, archaeology or important open landscape character.

Provision may be made away from the development site itself though must remain close to the village in accordance with Natural England’s Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt).⁷

Water

The River Avon (Hampshire Avon) and its tributaries are among the world's finest chalk streams. Chalk streams such as the Avon are globally rare; over 80% of the world's chalk streams are found in England alone. They are highly sensitive ecosystems and as such are at risk from the changing climate and any pollution event. For this reason, the Avon and its tributaries are highly protected. The River Avon is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). As a tributary of the Avon, the River Till is designated an SSSI.

Development activity in Shrewton may threaten the integrity of the Avon catchment in several ways. Increasing the number of dwellings will inevitably increase the number of people living in the village which in turn will increase the quantity of wastewater requiring processing by the water recycling plant.

Sewerage discharge

Water companies are currently statutory consultees for local plans and non-statutory consultees to planning applications, although they do monitor planning applications and respond to potentially significant applications or where requested to do so by the LPA. Where a water company is concerned that a new development may impact upon their service to customers or the environment (for example by causing foul sewer flooding or pollution) they may request the LPA to impose a 'Grampian condition'.

A "Grampian condition" is a planning condition attached to a decision notice that prevents the start of a development until off-site works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant.

Development in areas where there is limited wastewater network capacity may increase pressure on the network, increasing the risk of a detrimental impact on customers, and increasing the likelihood of storm overflow operation. Early engagement between developers, Wiltshire Council and Wessex Water and further modelling of the network may be required at the planning application stage and will allow time for the strategic infrastructure required to serve these developments to be planned.

In 2023 the Shrewton wastewater recycling centre (WWRC) had one of the worst records for the number of hours of untreated sewerage discharge. Since the building of the natural reedbed processing the untreated storm/groundwater component of the waste, the quality of water has greatly improved. Further improvements to Shrewton WWRC are planned to be on stream from 2030.

Several locations in Shrewton have experienced occasions when the sewer infrastructure has clearly failed to cope with the volume of wastewater. Recent actions by the water company, notably the lining of some of the old porous

pipes may have gone some way to ensuring that these incidents do not re-occur. Detailed modelling of the performance of the sewer infrastructure must take place in advance of any development scheme taking place to ensure that these types of events do not re-occur.

Applicants should demonstrate, through proportionate wastewater modelling and engagement with the relevant statutory bodies and infrastructure providers, that development will not cause adverse effects on designated habitats, deterioration of water quality, or unacceptable impacts on existing dwellings, neighbourhoods or the environment. Any necessary mitigation or infrastructure upgrades should be identified, funded and secured before occupation.

Nutrient pollution

Nutrient pollution is a major environmental issue in freshwater habitats and estuaries. Increased levels of nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorus) can speed up the growth of certain plants. This process (called 'eutrophication') damages these water dependent sites and harms the plants and wildlife. In technical terms it can put sites in an 'unfavourable condition'. The sources of excess nutrients are site specific but include sewage treatment works, septic tanks, livestock, arable farming and industrial processes.

Nutrient pollution and development

Where sites are already in unfavourable condition, extra wastewater from new housing developments can make matters worse. However, when development is designed alongside suitable **mitigation** measures, the additional damage can often be avoided. In this context mitigation means action taken to stop nutrient pollution impacting sites.¹⁰

All developments that involve overnight accommodation that lie within the watershed of the River Avon SAC must be assessed for the additional nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) that they will contribute to the ecosystem.¹⁰ Developments in Shrewton currently only have to mitigate for phosphorous.

The developer is charged for the measures necessary to mitigate the additional nutrient burden entering the ecosystem. This is achieved by the developer purchasing credits from Natural England which are then distributed to landowners who put in place mitigation measures.

Surface water drainage and SuDS

Climate projections for the UK suggest that winters may become milder and wetter, and summers may become warmer, but with more frequent higher intensity rainfall events. This would be expected to increase the volume of runoff, and therefore the risk of flooding from surface water. Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS offer a way of draining surfaces, controlling the rate and volume of runoff leaving urban areas during high intensity rainfall, and

reducing flood risk to downstream communities through storage and controlled release of rainwater from development sites.

Wiltshire Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), is a statutory consultee to the planning system for surface water management within major development, which covers the following development scenarios:

- 10 or more dwellings
- a site larger than 0.5 hectares, where the number of dwellings is unknown
- building greater than 1,000 square metres
- a site larger than 1 hectare

SuDS are drainage features which attempt to replicate natural drainage patterns, through capturing rainwater at source, and releasing it slowly into the ground or a water body. They can help to manage flooding through controlling the quantity of surface water generated by a development, improve water quality by treating urban runoff and provide a useful function in aquifer recharge. SuDS can also deliver multiple benefits, through creating habitats for wildlife and green spaces for the community.¹¹

Annex B Note 2: Modelling for storm water SuDS infrastructure capacity

Applicants should demonstrate, through proportionate drainage assessment using up-to-date climate and storm data, that development will not increase flood risk, drainage pressure or water-quality impacts on existing dwellings, neighbourhoods or the environment. Any necessary mitigation should be identified, funded and secured before occupation.

Traffic

Traffic issues in the village are addressed in the main transport and traffic sections of this Plan. Additional housing may generate additional journeys, so proposals should demonstrate how traffic, congestion, noise, pollution, pedestrian safety and cycling safety impacts will be avoided, reduced or mitigated where proportionate and directly related to the development.

Actions should be taken wherever possible to introduce mitigating traffic calming measures and infrastructure for non-motorised journeys around the village supported such as additional footpaths and pavements.

Site selection should maximise the accessibility of village assets by non-motorised means thereby reducing the additional pollution cost from motorised traffic.

References

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6. UK Government 25-year Environment plan
7. RSPB State of Nature Report Summary, 2019 based on UK State of Nature Report, 2019
8. Natural England 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Greenspace Guidance
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Annex C – Local History

Shrewton is a rural village situated in a valley on Salisbury Plain, twelve miles north of Salisbury and six miles west of Amesbury. Originally known as Winterbourne, after the local river (later known as the Till.) The name Shrewton is first recorded in 1236. The name probably comes from sherrif's tun after the major landowner Edward of Salisbury and his descendants who were sheriffs of Salisbury.

There is evidence of prehistoric settlement, linked to nearby Stonehenge and Yarnbury Castle and Saxon remains have been found in the village. However, the proximity to Stonehenge and it's supporting settlements and/or a reluctance by landowners to permit archaeology, means that there have been only limited finds in the immediate village area.

In 1086 the Domesday book records three villages, all known as Winterbournes all in the hundred of Dolesfield; Shrewton, 43 households; Maddington 17 households and Addestone (N of Maddington) 8 households. In 1650 there was a proposal to merge the three parishes that was not implemented. The vicarages of Maddington and Shrewton were merged in 1869. The current parish was formed in 1934 when the parishes of Maddington, Rollestone (named for 1242–3 tenant Nicholas of Rollestone.) and Shrewton were merged.

The hamlets of Addestone, Homanton and Bourton were located between Rollestone and Maddington but today the locations are marked only by earthworks and major house names.

In addition, there are records of a hamlet called Netton, which in 1773 consisted of 15 households. The area of Nett Rd and adjacent farms take their names from this hamlet.

The village has always been a mixed pasture and arable land with sheep grazing on the downs and rarely, until recently, cattle. Most of the current trees have been planted since 1880, many of them by the military to enhance training on the plain.

The army acquired the north half of the parish between 1897 and 1902 when it became part of the Salisbury Plain training area. During the First and Second World War, Shrewton and the surrounding area made a major contribution to the war effort with numerous airfields, including a Balloon Unit at RAF Rollestone and a relief landing ground at Shrewton. The Bustard Inn, now owned by local charity GUL (God Unlimited) has played a significant part in recent aviation history and military aviation started at nearby Larkhill.

The major turnpikes from Amesbury to Warminster (part of the coach road from London to the West) and Salisbury to Devizes passed through the village and they are still visible in the layout of the village streets.

In 1898 there was a plan to extend the railway from Grateley through Amesbury to Shrewton but the line to Shrewton was never built. Similarly, during the expansion of training on the Plain during World War 1 there was a plan to extend the military railway from Larkhill to Shrewton.

Shrewton had four Church of England churches. Rollestone church on the Amesbury road, is probably the oldest, and both it and Maddington church are now maintained by the Church Conservation Trust. St Mary's in the High Street is the main village church for Shrewton. There is also a Methodist Church in the High Street. The Baptist Church is now a private home.

At times Shrewton has had a thriving selection of shops and facilities; in keeping with many rural villages these facilities are under constant threat and gradually diminishing. The village has no public house where once it had six! The redundant six were the site of the old Laundry in the High Street; the Catherine Wheel – now several houses – opposite the Roundhouse; the Wheatsheaf House, in Salisbury Road; The Royal Oak, now a private house and The Plume of Feathers and The George, which is currently unoccupied.

Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the parish is the new English Heritage Stonehenge Visitors Centre, which is the gateway for visitors to the Stones. The centre contains a display of local relics, but these are all on loan from either Salisbury or Devizes Museums both of which hold significant quantities of historical artefacts from the local area.

The arrival of the visitor's centre and the forthcoming Army Basing Plans will shape the future of the village as it adjusts to the changed routing and increased volume of traffic. Future plans will aim to retain the essential rural character of the village, preserve and celebrate our history whilst hopefully slowing or reversing the decline into a purely residential location, dependent on cars for access and with only limited infrastructure.

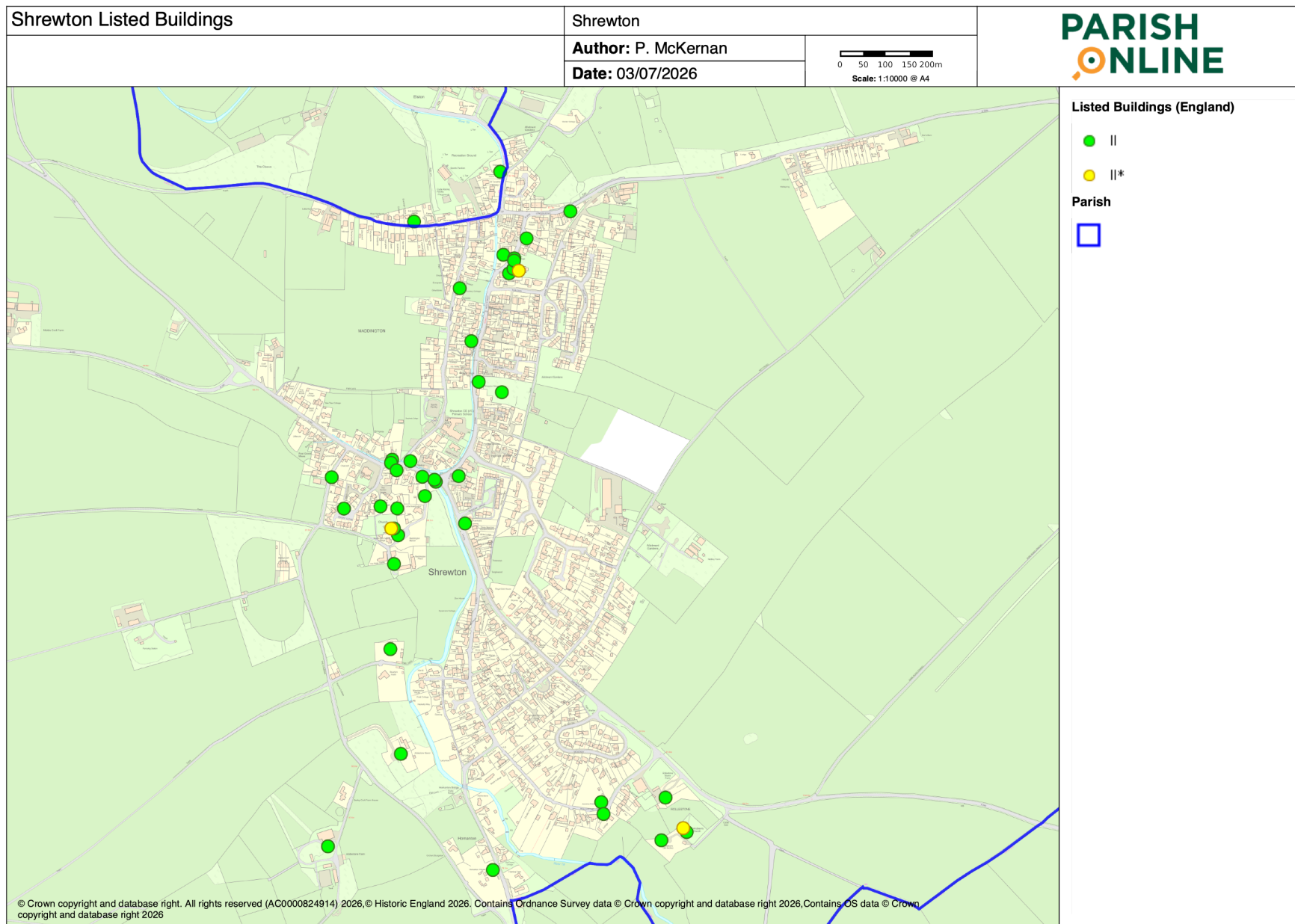


Figure 7 Listed Buildings not indexed to list in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 to Annex C – Local History– Locally Significant Heritage Assets (Non-Designated)

Ref. No.	Building Name / Address	Date / Period	Type / Use	Historic / Architectural Significance	Materials / Features	Current Condition	Community Value	Photo ref.
001	The Plume of Feathers, High St	18th–19th century	Former public house	Social hub for the village, part of historic High Street character	Brick and thatch, traditional façade	Fair	High	PF-01
002	Zion House, Salisbury Road	Early 19th century	Former non-conformist chapel	Example of religious diversity and vernacular design	Stone construction, arched windows	Good	Medium	ZH-01
003	The Priory, Tanners Lane	17th century	Residential	One of the older buildings in the village with historical ecclesiastical ties	Flint and thatch	Good	High	PR-01
004	The Methodist Church, High St	Late 19th century	Religious building	Active part of community life historically, reflects 19 th century village religious development	Brick with simple Gothic features	Fair	High	MC-01
005	The Bustard Inn, A360 outskirts	18th–19th century	Former coaching inn	Landmark building; historically served travellers and later local community	Stone and tile with distinctive proportions	Fair–Poor	Medium–High	BI-01
006	Former Victorian School, High St	Late 19th century	Former school (now housing)	Significant educational heritage; retained some architectural features	Brick, arched windows, bell tower (lost)	Good (altered)	High (historic)	VS-01
007	Cordery Cottage, Tanners Lane	17th–18th century	Residential	Thatched cob cottage; only listed building in its group	Cob, thatch, timber windows	Good	Medium	CC-01
008	Chants Butcher Shop, Salisbury Rd	19th century	Former butcher shop	Example of mixed commercial-residential use in village core	Brick, shopfront retained	Good	Medium	CB-01
009	The George Inn (now closed), London Rd	17th century	Former inn	One of Shrewton's oldest pubs, noted since 1607; historically significant	Brick and timber, historic signage	Poor (closed)	High (historic)	GI-01
010	Four "Flood Cottages", Salisbury Rd	c. 1841	Residential	Built in response to major village flood event; memorial to resilience	Brick terrace, traditional form	Good	Medium	FC-01

Additional candidate non-designated heritage assets for checking before finalisation:

Early former RFC huts at Rollestone Camp (SU09574487).

Pillbox at former relief airfield (SU08324633).