

Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Scoping Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Hamsey Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan in order to guide development in the parish until 2030. As sustainability is an important consideration in land use planning, this report has been used to identify issues that exist in the parish so that they can be addressed by the plan.
- 1.2 Another purpose of this report is to ensure that that regard has been given to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. An SEA Screening is included in this report as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 This report is structured in the following manner:
 - Section two provides background to the sustainability and Neighbourhood Plan;
 - Section three provides a profile of the parish;
 - Section four identifies the main sustainability issues in the parish.
- 1.4 This report has been made available for consultation for a six-week period between 24 November 2014 and 4 January 2015. Comments can be sent to us via **email** to ldf@lewes.gov.uk or by **post** to Neighbourhood Planning, Lewes District Council, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1AB.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Localism Act (2011) and related Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), local communities can have a larger say on the development of their area by undertaking neighbourhood planning.
- 2.2 On 1 October 2012 Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority designated Hamsey Parish as a neighbourhood area in order to allow the parish to produce a neighbourhood plan.
- 2.3 The Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan will conform with Lewes District Council Core Strategy, due for adoption in 2014. This will set out the strategic planning policy for the district until 2030. It is intended that Hamsey's local plan will supplement the Lewes Core Strategy, covering a number of different aspects relating to land use in the parish.

2.4 Sustainable development

- 2.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states, the aim of the planning system is to deliver sustainable development. This has been carried through in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires neighbourhood plans to contribute to the achievement of sustainable

development. We therefore intend to carry out a sustainability appraisal of the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan

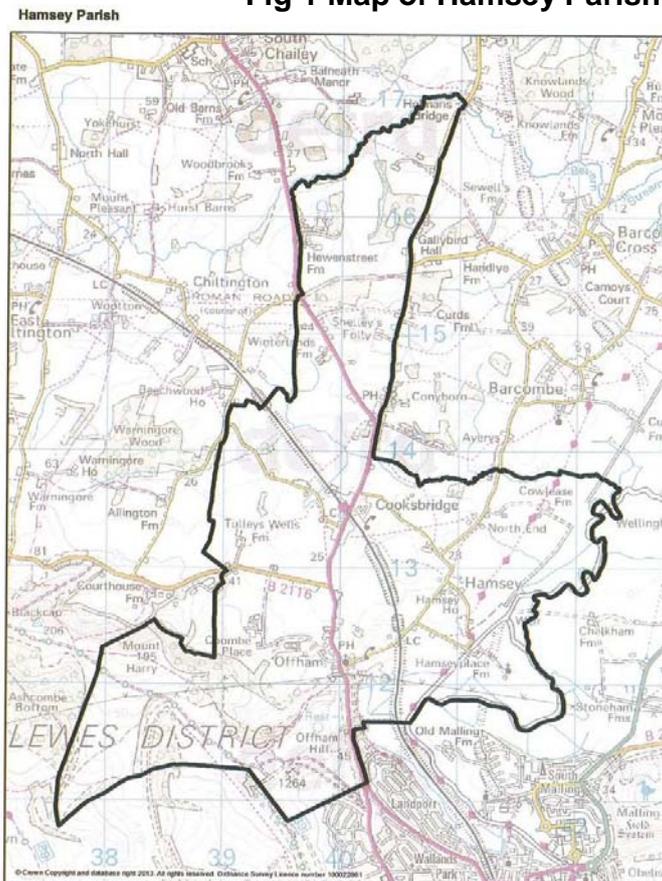
- 2.6 For their Joint Core Strategy, Lewes District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority carried out a full sustainability appraisal on the contents of their plan. This sustainability appraisal incorporated the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 2.7 In Appendix 1 the District Council has considered whether the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan needs to be accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In the light of this consideration it has been concluded that the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan would not have significant effect on the environment and therefore a full SEA is not required. We would like your views on this screening opinion.

3.0 Hamsey Parish Profile, 2014

3.1 Introduction

Hamsey Parish lies North of the county town of Lewes. It covers 1144 hectares, has a population of 620 and 250 households. It is a typical downland parish extending North from the South Downs.

Fig 1 Map of Hamsey Parish



The crest of the South Downs forms its southern boundary; six kilometres north the Bevern Stream forms the boundary; to the east the River Ouse is another natural feature forming a boundary. Within its boundaries the parish contains a variety of sedimentary rocks from the Cretaceous Period. The chalk of the Downs overlays gault clay which in turn overlays greensand. The rocks all dip to the south and are the southern part of the great anticline which formed in South East England when the Alps of Europe were created 11 million years ago.

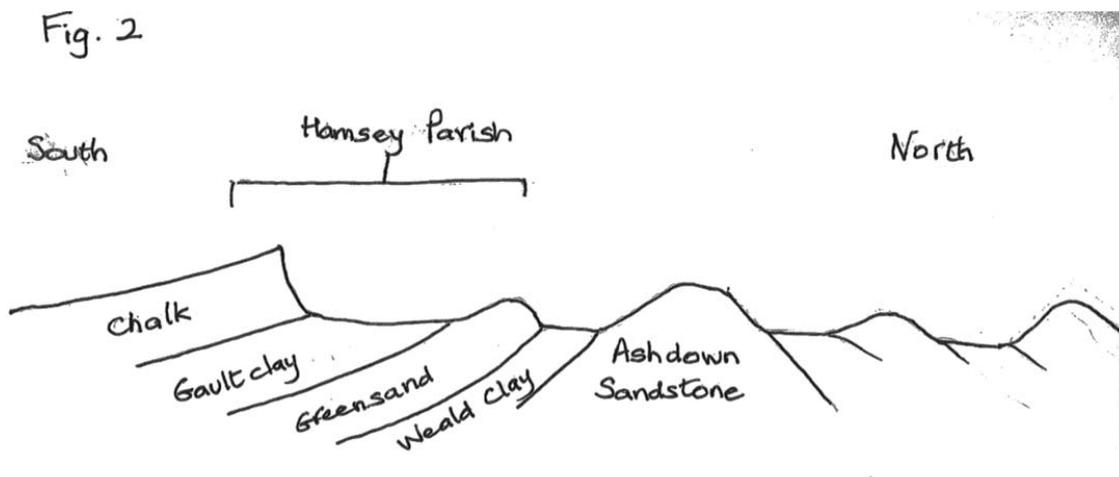


Fig 2 Cross section of Hamsey from N to S.

The present rural landscape of Hamsey reflects the different ways in which the local rocks respond to erosion by rivers, streams and the weather. Chalk is relatively hard and permeable making it resistant to erosion while clay is soft and impermeable thus creating the low-lying clay vales at the foot of the Downs. Greensand forms low hills because it is more difficult to erode than the clay.

The boundary of Hamsey was designed in medieval times to give the parish access to each of the soils which develop from the three major rocks of the region. The soils are described by Natural England as mediocre to good. Thin light soils form on the chalk. Heavy soils form on the clay. Both are most suitable for grassland rather than for arable farming. The mixing of these two soils, where their boundaries meet, produces a lighter loam like soil which is suitable for arable farming and is the highest grade soil (grade 2, Appendix 2 Map 9) in the parish. Greensand also produces a soil which has limited value for crops; its acidic soil is suitable for trees and bushes.

There is a long history of settlement in the parish going back to the Stone Age (Mesolithic times). Today there are five villages. The largest settlement is Cooksbridge. The village expanded with the coming of the railways when, largely affordable houses were built either side of the station. Prior to this it had been a very small settlement with a malthouse and a plant nursery. Hamsey village is a typical dispersed settlement located on lowland clay with the River Ouse forming its eastern boundary. Offham, in contrast to Hamsey, is a nucleated settlement clustered on the edge of the South Downs. Originally spring water availability would have determined the design of the village. Old Cooksbridge was the original Cooksbridge until the coming of the railways. Originally Old Cooksbridge had a brewery, leather works and a laundry. The final settlement lies in the north of the parish and is Bevern Bridge. The old Hamsey brickworks is located nearby.

The distribution of settlements in the parish means that two villages, Hamsey and Offham, fall within the South Downs National Park. (Appendix 2 Map 7) The Park boundary was drawn in such a way as to prevent Cooksbridge being included in the

Park When the decision to exclude it from the National Park was made Cooksbridge was described as an unexceptional village with no particular outstanding features. Being the largest settlement and geographically at the heart of the parish Cooksbridge has the potential to be a more effective focus for life in the parish.

3.2 Age Profile of the Parish

In common with most rural areas in South East England Hamsey Parish has a shortage of affordable property. This is part of the reason why the age profile for the parish reflects the exodus of many young people. The 15 – 29 age group make up 15.6% of the residents, (19% for England) and the 30-34 age group make up only 6.6% of residents. After age 45 people are moving into the parish and 31% of residents fall between 45 and 64 years, (25.4% for England). Not surprisingly settlements in the parish show higher rates of population change than rates for England as a whole. The figures suggest more affordable housing would bring greater stability to the parish.

Population estimates by 5 year age band

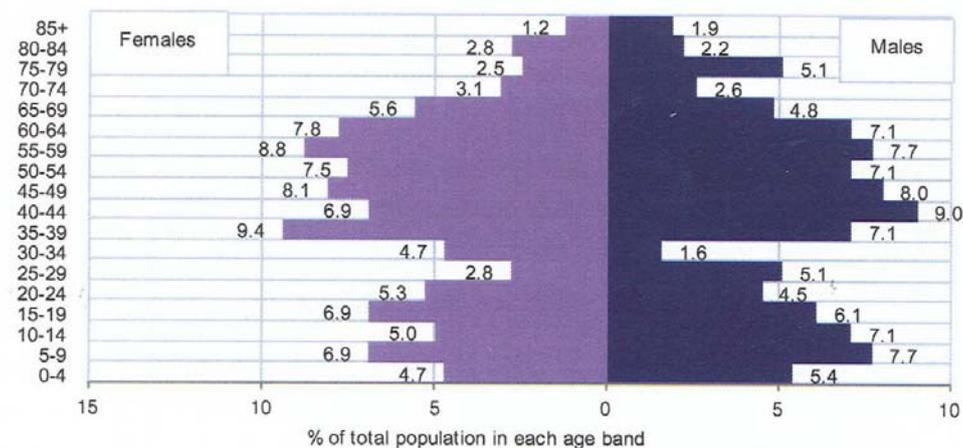


Fig 3 Age Profile of the parish

3.3 Deprivation

There are no households suffering from multiple deprivation in the parish. Out of working age residents 6.6% claim benefits, (13.9% for England); 1.5 % claim income support, (3.2% for England); 15.8% claim pension credit, (24.4% for England). In Hamsey parish 11.2% of Children (0 – 15) are in poverty, (21% for England). The average weekly household earnings in Hamsey total £950; for East Sussex the figure is £667 and for England £673. The figure for Hamsey reflects the wide disparity in income across the parish. While the parish compares favourably with the rest of the country, and indeed with East Sussex, the statistics show there are issues around individual and family deprivation.

3.4 Health

In the 2011 census people were asked to describe their health and well-being. Out of the 632 residents in Hamsey 52.4% said they had very good health; 32.6% good health; 11.6% fair health; 2.8% bad health and 0.6% very bad health. These figures compare very favourably with the % for England where 47.1% are in very good health and 4.3% are in bad health. A total of 35 people, from 0 – 65, have a limiting long term illness in Hamsey.

The average % of people taking regular exercise nationally is 13%. There is no reason to assume Hamsey is any different. The village and church hall are used for a variety of exercise classes. The children’s play area at the village hall has been upgraded and is an excellent facility for introducing children to exercise. Parents at the local school have started a running group for adults; it caters for the whole range of interests and abilities.

The village hall is located on a magnificent park overlooking the South Downs. The site was given to residents in 1944. It has the potential to act as a catalyst for the encouragement of exercise and healthy life styles which is not, as yet, fully realised.

3.5 Housing and Accommodation.

The introduction to this parish profile drew attention to the problem of affordable housing in the parish. It is one of the key issues to be addressed in the neighbourhood plan. Improving the parish through the opportunity to plan for the future to 2030 depends, to a great extent, on improving opportunities for young people to remain in the parish if they so wish.

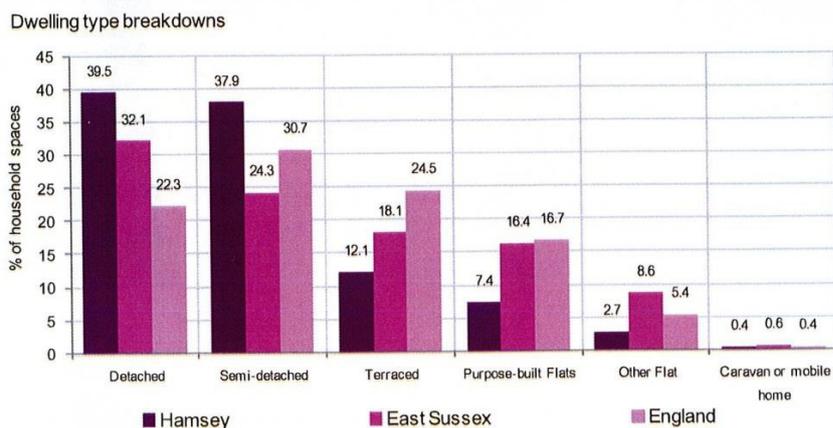
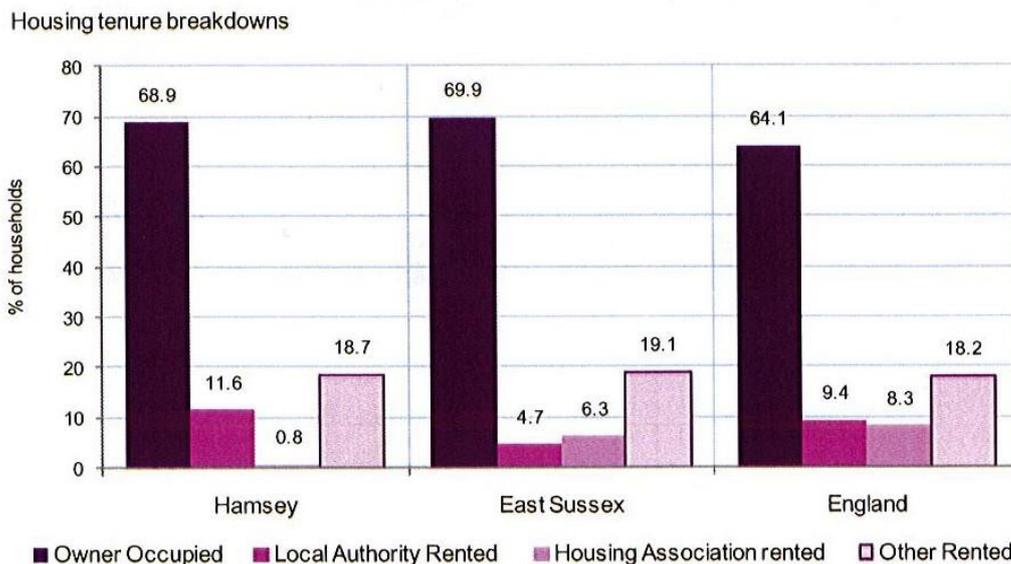


Fig 4 Dwelling Type breakdowns

The figures above illustrate how Hamsey has a greater emphasis on detached and semi-detached housing than the rest of the country including East Sussex. Where terraced housing and flats are concerned, Hamsey falls well below the proportion in other parts of the country. These figures help to illustrate the difficulties facing young adults wishing to live in Hamsey.



Source: Census 2011 (KS402EW)

Fig 5 Housing tenure Breakdowns

The parish has a higher % of Local Authority rented (31 houses) than elsewhere and a significantly smaller % of Housing Association rented houses than elsewhere. In terms of affordability, information from the Land Registry suggests that an affordability ratio of 10 means that the lowest quartile house price is ten times the lowest quartile income. The affordability ratio for Hamsey is 16.2. Further evidence of the problem the parish has with providing affordable housing.

An analysis of the condition of housing in Hamsey shows 6% are overcrowded, 7.6% are without central heating and 14.5% are suffering from fuel poverty (Census 2011). The latest Housing Needs Register is a snapshot of need in March 2012. It is not a forecast of need. All the needs identified in Hamsey are, not surprisingly, in Cooksbridge. The following have been identified: 2 one bedroom; 1 two bedroom and 3 three bedroom. When considering these figures it should be remembered that many people in need are reluctant to go on the Needs Register because they do not believe it will particularly help their case for more satisfactory accommodation.

Four of the parish, villages have listed buildings: Old Cooksbridge (13), Hamsey (14), Cooksbridge (7) and Offham 14. Any new developments in the parish must respect the special character of these buildings. (Appendix 2 Listed Buildings; maps 10 – 15)

3.6 Education

The parish is fortunate to have a community primary school that is a valued part of the

parish. In the last decade staff, parents and children have played an increasingly significant part in the life of the community.

The school buildings include temporary accommodation, which ideally needs updating. It has no facility where whole school communal activity can be shared. The popularity of the school suggests it has a secure future. Improvements to the accommodation would make this more certain.

Statistics, provided by Admissions at East Sussex County Council, on intake and destinations are set out below.

There are 16 children in the Reception Class for 2013/14 and of these 7 are from Hamsey. In 2012/13 there were 9 children transferring to secondary school. Their destinations were:

Priory School, Lewes 4

Chailey School 2

Ringmer Community College 1

Not known 2

Department for Education performance statistics for 2010/11 show Hamsey outperforming East Sussex and England in Key Stage 1 and on a par for Key Stage 2. At Key Stage 4, between 2004 and 2011 Hamsey was above the national average for four years and below for the other four.

There is no doubt that part of the reason for the popularity of the school, for parents from outside the parish, is the wish to see their children educated in a small primary school in a rural setting.

Post school activities on the school premises are directed at parents and their children. The facilities would lend themselves to providing educational opportunities for residents not directly connected to the school.

3.7 Qualifications

The Census 2011 shows the following levels of qualifications for Hamsey residents aged 16+:

12% with no qualification, (22.5% for England)

11.2% Level 1, (13.3% for England)

17.2% Level 2, (15.2% for England)

8.6% Level 3, (12.4% for England)

43.8% Level 4, (27.4% for England) (Degree Level)

People with no qualifications and degree level qualifications

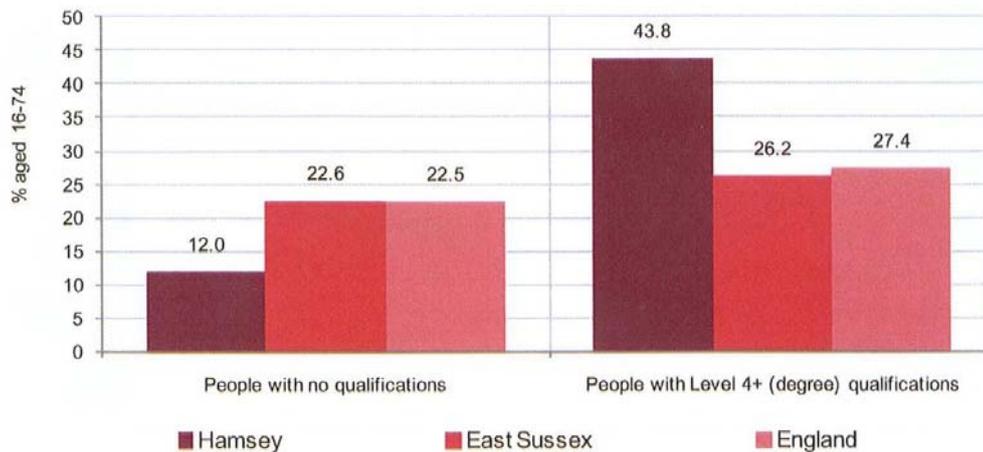


Fig 6 People with no qualifications and with degree level qualifications.

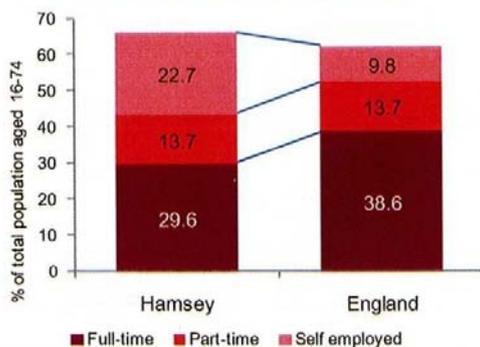
There is little published on local skills, but one commonly used proxy is 'qualifications'. (Although of course many people with low or no qualifications may be highly-skilled). Extending opportunities for improving skills ought to be a priority.

The above average numbers of residents with degree level qualifications is probably, in part, a reflection of the numbers moving into the Parish as adults and already qualified. The significant movement in and out if the parish has already been noted under 'The Age Profile of the Parish' above.

3.8 The Economy

In the Census 2011 Hamsey had 12 categories of employment. 72% of the population of Hamsey (16-74), (69.9% for England) are in employment. The distinctive characteristic of Hamsey is the % who are self employed. 22.7% are self-employed, (9.75%, for England). 8.8% work from home, (3.5% England).

People in employment, by employment status



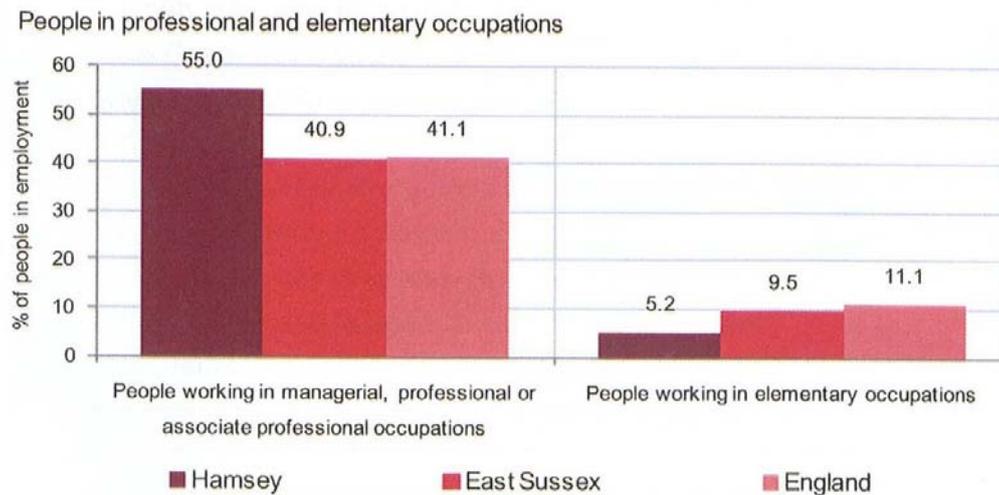
This data is based on standard definitions: 'Public sector jobs' are defined as jobs in Health, Education or Public Administration industry sectors. 'Private sector jobs' are those in other sectors. Voluntary sector jobs are not identified separately but are included within the public and private sector figures.

Source: Census 2011 (tables KS601EW, KS604EW and KS605EW)

Fig 7 People in Employment by Employment Status.

Note the % in full time employment in Hamsey is 29.6%, (38.6% for England) Employment in Hamsey, includes agriculture, orchid nursery, architect, stage lighting specialist, renovation, new building works, wholesale/ retail building supplies, small retail food, garage and three public houses. Some of these businesses are known nationally as well as regionally. They are often able to draw on a wide pool of skilled workers from outside the parish as well as from within. Wider opportunities for employment locally could be a motivating factor in increasing the levels of qualifications for those residents most at risk of part time work or unemployment.

The overall picture of local employment is probably not known by the majority of residents. There is a widely held assumption that movement out of the parish is necessary if you are seeking full time employment. The majority of those attracted to Hamsey to live, with their families, will either work from home or travel to London. Developing a more coherent view of employment possibilities in Hamsey and an improved infrastructure (cf fibre optic broadband) to support local employment are matters of some urgency, particularly for young people.



Source: Census 2011 tables (KS605EW and KS608EW)

Fig 8 People in Professional and elementary Occupations.

Unemployment in Hamsey 4.6% ,(4.4% for England). Where Hamsey is distinctive is unemployment amongst 16 – 24 year olds. Hamsey has 2.2%, (1.2% for England)

3.9 Travel

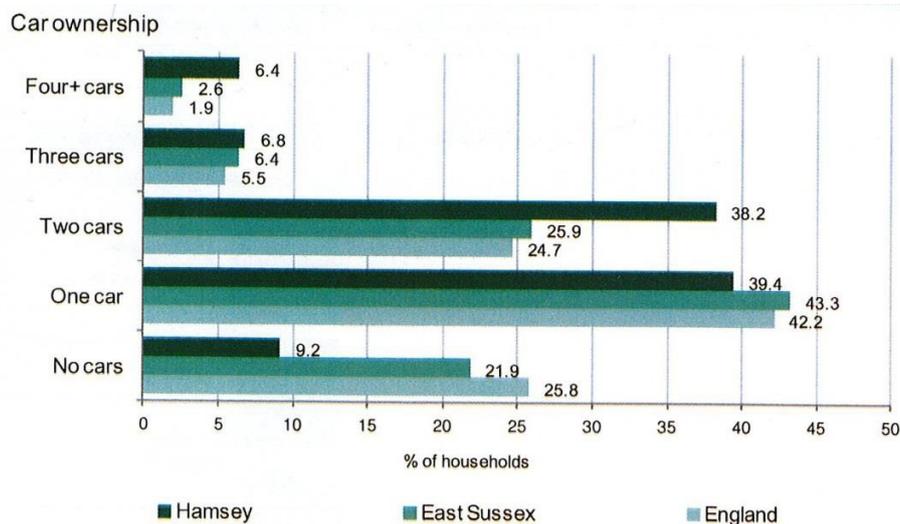
Cooksbridge, Station on the Hastings to Victoria line, is an important asset to the parish. Under the Station Partnership local people are involved in working with

Network Rail and Southern Rail to improve the quality of services. Under the Partnership the station has been transformed through, amongst a number of initiatives, the introduction of a community garden and displays by children at the local primary school. Information on local walks and links to the South Downs are available on the platforms. The transformation of a small station instigated by a dedicated group of local people strengthens the case for improved services at Cooksbridge.

The principal concern of the Station Partnership is to see the frequency of stopping trains improved. At present there are no trains at weekend and no trains in the middle of the day. The partnership has successfully lobbied for a late evening addition to trains from London.

The position of Cooksbridge station, surrounded by the South Downs National Park, makes it a possible point of entry to the South Downs. Access to the Downs would be greatly enhanced by co-ordinating footpaths from the station with those providing access to the Downs. Local children, supported by a fund provided by residents, have successfully contributed to heritage boards explaining the characteristic of the landscape on the route from Cooksbridge to the Downs.

The A275 links Hamsey to Lewes, the county town. The bus service is a lifeline for residents without cars. As with the trains there is a less than satisfactory bus service late at night and at weekends. There are also improvements that might result from more co-ordination of these two services.

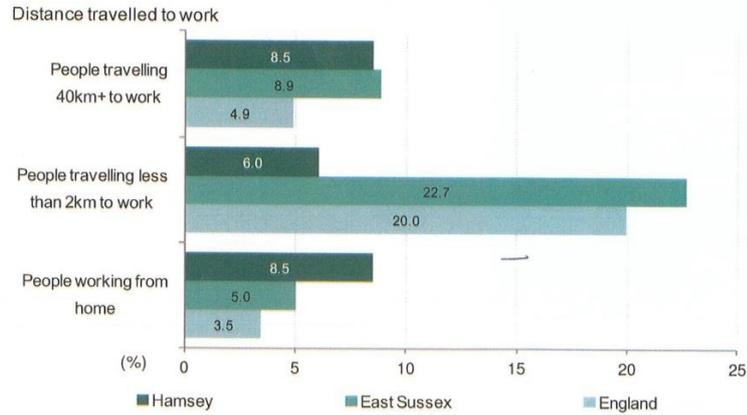


Source: Census 2011 (table KS404EW)

Fig 9 Car Ownership, Comparative Figures.

The overall use of cars by residents is higher than that for East Sussex and

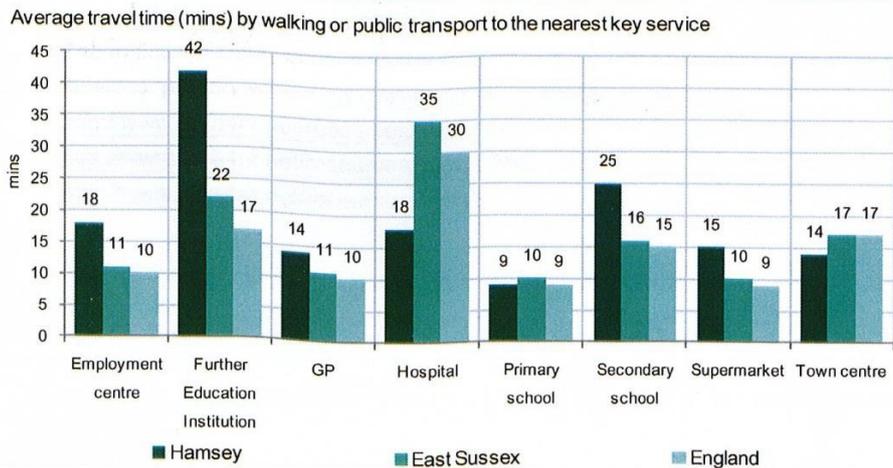
England. This is in part because of the problems with public transport (see above). Note that for England the % of households with no car is 25.8% while for Hamsey it is 9.2%. The number of two car households for Hamsey is 38.2%, (24.7% for England). In terms of creating a more sustainable community reducing car travel, and therefore carbon emissions, is essential in the future.



Source: Working from home (Census 2011 QS701EW) Distance travelled to work (Census 2001 UV 35), Travel to employment centres (DfT 2011)

Fig 10 Distance Travelled to Work. (Census 2011)

Working in London is the principal reason why Hamsey and East Sussex have a relatively high proportion of people travelling over 40km to work; 8.5% . (4.9% for England). The figures for people travelling less than 2km to work show Hamsey having far fewer people travelling the short distance than is the case in East Sussex and England, 6.0% (20.0% for England).



Source: DfT 2011

Fig 11 Average travel time (mins) by walking or public transport to the nearest key service. (Department of Transport).

Access to Further Education places young people in Hamsey at a disadvantage where travel is concerned.

Walking and cycling are forms of travel which would benefit from co-ordination with other forms of transport, and with places of work and recreation. Footpaths have grown up over time in a manner which has left significant gaps in their continuity. This is discouraging to those who wish to walk in safety and to avoid roads. If Cooksbridge is to link more effectively to the South Downs then the gaps in the provision of footpaths needs addressing. This would also enhance the position of Cooksbridge as the principal village of the parish.

On the subject of cycle routes there is an even more important gap in provision. There are in fact no dedicated cycle routes, which could encourage the use of cycling to work and/or study and leisure. It has already been noted that the parish has a high level of car ownership. Addressing this as an issue cannot be done in isolation from the encouragement of walking and cycling.

The presence of the school and the station in Cooksbridge, not surprisingly, contribute to a serious problem with parking. Improved co-ordination of transport in the parish will need to address this issue.

3.10 Environment

The position of Hamsey places it at the heart of one of the most distinctive landscapes in England. The views of the South Downs from the greensand ridge, two miles north of the Downs, is often quoted as one of the finest views in England (cf Alec Clifton-Taylor). In addition a stretch of the Ouse, a classic flood plain, forms the eastern boundary.

Approximately half of Hamsey is located in the newly created South Downs National Park. This initiative ought to improve the care and maintenance of the landscape. It will also encourage people to use the Downs for recreation whilst respecting the character of the region.

Appendix 2 includes the following maps relevant to a study of the environment:

Map 1 Biodiversity Opportunity Area. Shows the scarp face of the Downs and the Ouse floodplain located in Hamsey

Map 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest .These sites occupy much the same areas of Hamsey as the biodiversity sites in map 1.

Map 3 Local Wildlife Sites. There are two in Hamsey, One at Offham Hill and one adjacent to St Peter's Old Church.

Map 4 Priority Habitats. These are clustered mainly around the village of Offham

Map 5 Special Areas of Conservation (European Designation) There are no such areas in Hamsey but one lies across the Ouse from St Peter's old church.

Map 6 Ancient Woodland. One area at Coombe Plantation lies within Hamsey.
Map 7 Shows the area of Hamsey within the South Downs National Park.
Map 8 Shows Agricultural Land Classes in Hamsey
Map 9 Shows areas of flood risk in Hamsey

The maps show Hamsey has a rich variety of landscapes and wild life habitat's. These are assets to the parish and bring benefits which must be nurtured and respected in any plans for the future. Protection should not be restricted to the areas of biodiversity which lie along the scarp face of the South Downs and in the Ouse floodplain. The hedgerows in the clay vale are valuable habitats. Building developments can embrace biodiversity by the creation of spaces for diversity within the urban development. The parish is fortunate to be home to such exceptional rural landscapes.

Appendix 2 Map 9 Shows the areas adjacent to the Ouse which are at risk of flooding. The risk area extends into the village of Hamsey where it is adjacent to the Ouse. Since the major period of flooding, ten years ago much has been done to protect the area by ensuring ditches are well maintained.

What the map doesn't show are the areas flooded in Cooksbridge and Offham at the same time as Lewes was facing major floods. These floods were caused by runoff from the land. There needs to be vigilance to see that ditches are well maintained to ensure there is no repeat of this experience.

3.11 The Community

For such a small community with settlements in five distinct clusters Hamsey has a strong sense of identity. Its regular parish newsletter is an outstanding publication. Presentation and content set a high standard. There is no reason for residents to feel ill informed about events in the parish.

The recently completed (2007) new village hall – Beechwood Hall – also reflects the commitment of residents to improving opportunities for collective activities. The Hall is located in a park, which was given to the residents in 1944. It is only since the hall was completed in 2007 that the park has been available to improve leisure opportunities for residents. Since opening the Hall has been an outstanding success; it is financially self-sufficient and provides a first class venue for community events. The hall was built using locally resourced materials where possible and is heated by ground source heat and solar panels. A wind turbine contributes a sustainable supply of electricity.

The annual parish fete brings together all the partners who supported the building of a new hall. The school and the church are the largest institutions in the parish. Their participation in the planning of the Hall, and this neighbourhood plan, helps to network new initiatives to a significant group of residents who have children in the school and to churchgoers.

The church hall, also recently completed, is used for a monthly club for older

residents. Every effort is made to encourage the most vulnerable to participate. At the other end of the age scale provision for young children has been improved by upgrading the children's play area, which is located adjacent to the village hall.

Where the Hamsey parish is less well served is in the provision of a recognised centre to the parish. Cooksbridge, by far the largest settlement, has the potential to play this role; key amenities located in the Cooksbridge include the station, the school, the village hall, the rural park and the children's play area. Such a centre would have amenities, which encourage residents to make informal contact. The characteristics of a healthy sustainable community show that informal, as well as more organised activities, are valued. The informality could be one of the ways the community supports the more vulnerable residents whatever their age or background.

Encouraging this type of community development depends upon safe, well maintained footpaths and cycle routes which link the various sectors of the community to the centre.

The variety of initiatives which have enhanced the parish, over the last decade in particular, form a sound basis for the parish to create a more identifiable centre at the heart of the parish. This could be the basis for widening participation in life in the community and for building a more sustainable, caring and healthy community.

4.0 Sustainability issues arising out of the Parish Profile

- 4.1 The age profile of the parish points to the need to build more affordable houses that can accommodate the needs of families and young people wanting starter homes.
- 4.2 The rural nature of Hamsey supports the need to maintain and enhance the countryside and improve biodiversity.
- 4.3 Links between footpaths, new cycle paths and an improved public transport provision need enhancing to encourage increased movement by sustainable means and to reduce car dependency.
- 4.4 There is a need to provide a more focused centre for the residents of the parish where there are amenities, which support the daily lives of all ages and encourage shared opportunities for social, cultural and physical recreation.
- 4.5 The school is a valued part of the community and its position would be enhanced by improved buildings and more opportunities for post school study by young people and adults.
- 4.6 Employment opportunities in the parish need enhancing through the provision of employment spaces, and improved broadband support for home working and improved communication about the nature of employment opportunities in the parish.

Sources of information used in this Parish Profile.

- The Census 2011
- Population Turnover Rates, Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2009/10
- Place Survey 2008
- Indices of Deprivation, 2010, Local Government
- Working Age Benefits, Dept Work and Pensions
- Child Wellbeing Index 2010
- Land Registry, ONS 2007/8
- Department for Energy and Climate Change. 2010
- South Downs National Park Authority
- East Sussex County Council / Education and East Sussex in Figures.
- Natural England
- Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
- Lewes District Council/Planning

Appendix 1 – SEA Screening Opinion

1. As part of the process of making the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Parish Council have requested a screening opinion to see whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required as part of the plan-making process. Such a requirement can be screened out if it is felt, based on the information available, that the Neighbourhood Development Plan would not have a likely significant environmental affect.
2. In order to assess the likely significance of the plan on the environment, the purpose of the plan has been appraised against the criteria detailed in the regulations and Directive. This analysis has been made in Table 1.
3. The District Council has based its screening opinion on the understanding that the Hamsey Parish Council will prepare a Neighbourhood Plan that:
 - will have policies consistent with national policy
 - will have policies consistent with existing and emerging local policies
 - will not allocate sites for housing
 - will base policies on the evidence it has gained from documents such as this Sustainability Scoping Report.
4. If it is presented with additional information that changes its understanding as to what the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan will cover, the District Council reserves the right to undertake another Screening Assessment which may have different conclusions.

Table 1: Screening Assessment

Criteria	Notes	Likely Significant Effect?
1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	Neighbourhood Development Plans are the lowest-level statutory planning documents in the UK. As such, the Hamsey Neighbourhood Development Plan does not set a framework for other projects or plans outside of the Parish but will be used for guiding development in the Parish until 2030.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	Neighbourhood Development Plans are influenced by other plans, such as the Lewes District Core Strategy, currently at examination, as well as national planning policy and guidance. The plan is at the base of the hierarchy of national policy and is not intended to influence other plans and programmes.	No

Criteria	Notes	Likely Significant Effect?
(c)the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The Neighbourhood Development Plan, as directed by the National Planning Policy Framework, will help promote sustainable development and will consider the environment of the Parish.	No
(d)environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The state of the environment has been considered by those making the plan and the Sustainability Scoping Report has been produced to help with such consideration. Based on the information received to date, it is likely that the plan will attempt to reduce environmental problems and thus no significant negative impact is envisaged through the provisions in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.	No
(e)the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	Not applicable for the Neighbourhood Development Plan	No
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—		
(a)the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Development Plan will guide development in the parish until 2030, with the aim of having a positive impact on the parish and by promoting sustainable development.	No
(b)the cumulative nature of the effects;	The sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy considered the impact of development in the Parish alongside development in other settlements and parishes. Development in the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be consistent with the amount of development proposed in the Core Strategy. Neighbouring authorities have not objected to the Core Strategy and thus it is not thought the cross-boundary effects will occur. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy also considered the effects of development in neighbouring districts on protected sites.	No
(c)the trans-boundary nature of the effects;		No
(d)the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	It is not thought that anything in the Neighbourhood Development Plan will increase risks to human health.	No
(e)the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Development Plan, unlike most plans, is to be written for a very small area and population. Its impacts are unlikely to be extensive.	No

Criteria	Notes	Likely Significant Effect?
<p>(f)the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i)special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii)exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii)intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>In collecting information for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, information has been gained on the characteristics of the area – including information on land use, listed buildings, TPOs and SSSIs. There are no known environmental quality standards being exceeded. The plan is unlikely to lead to a significant intensification of land use nor is it felt that its provisions are likely to harm natural and cultural characteristics.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>(g)the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Core Strategy considered the impact of development in Lewes District and development will accord with that identified in the Core Strategy. A Habitats Regulation Screening has been undertaken and no significant effects are noted on European protected sites. It is not envisaged that SSSIs in the parish will be significantly affected by the provisions of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>

5. The above analysis was undertaken by Lewes District Council on behalf of the Parish Council. In light of the analysis, it is not thought likely that the Neighbourhood Development Plan would have a significant environmental effect. As such it is not considered that the Parish Council must undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

6. This Screening Opinion has been made available to the 3 statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage) for their views on the Screening Opinion. Comments on this screening opinion can be submitted by the following means.

- Email – ldf@lewes.gov.uk
- Mail – Neighbourhood Planning, Lewes District Council, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, BN7 1AB.