Appendix D: Baseline Analysis

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 An essential part of the SA process is the identification of current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is only with a knowledge of existing conditions, and a consideration of their likely evolution, can the effects of the Local Plan be identified and appraised and its subsequent success or otherwise be monitored. The SEA Directive also requires that the evolution of the baseline conditions of the plan area (that would take place without the plan or programme) is identified, described and taken into account.

1.1.2 The SA Scoping Report included an analysis of the socio-economic and environmental baseline conditions for the Canterbury City area along with how these are likely to change in the future. This informed the development of the SA Framework. The baseline has been updated where appropriate to reflect, in particular, consultation responses to the Scoping Report and any recently published evidence base.

1.1.3 The baseline analysis is presented for the following topic areas:

- Air Quality;
- Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation;
- Biodiversity;
- Landscape, Land Use and Geology;
- Water: Flooding Quality and Resources;
- Waste;
- Population and Human Health;
- Historic Environment;
- Housing;
- Economy; and
- Transport.

1.1.4 To inform the analysis, data has been drawn from a variety of sources, including: the 2021 Census; Nomis; Office for National Statistics Canterbury City Council's Authority Monitoring Reports; the emerging Local Plan evidence base; Environment Agency; Historic England; Kent County Council; Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019; and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

1.1.5 The key sustainability issues arising from the review of baseline conditions are summarised at the end of each topic.

1.2 Air Quality

Air Quality Management Areas

1.2.1 Canterbury City Council (The Council) has two automatic air quality monitoring sites at Chaucer Technology School and Military Road in Canterbury. There are a further 56 non-

automatic monitoring sites around the District, where nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is monitored by diffusion tubes.

1.2.2 The Air Quality Annual Status Report[1] (ASR) published in June 2023[2], had the following headline findings:

- The annual and 1-hour mean NO2 AQS objectives were met at all of the monitoring locations except at DT68.
- Annual mean NO_2 concentrations within the Herne 1 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) are well below the levels of the 2022 objective and the Council is considering the removal of this AQMA following further data that supports this finding.
- The 2022 diffusion tube monitoring results show that concentrations of NO_2 across the district were overall higher than in 2021.
- The annual mean NO2 concentration did not exceed 60µg/m^3 at any monitoring location and therefore exceedances of the NO2 AQS 1-hour mean objective of 200µg/m^3 at these locations is unlikely. Neither of the two continuous NO_2 monitoring sites recorded any exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective in 2022.
- The annual mean PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentration did not exceed the objectives 40µg/m^3 and 20µg/m^3 respectively. The 24-hour mean PM10 objective was also met.
- For the start of 2022, four additional diffusion tubes were added throughout the Canterbury District to provide more thorough coverage (DT75, DT77, DT78 and DT79), and 22 sites were decommissioned.

1.2.3 Within the district, two AQMAs have been declared, both in relation to exceedances in nitrogen dioxide (NO_2):

- Canterbury 3- This was declared in April 2018, when No.2 AQMA for Canterbury City Centre was extended. Canterbury AQMA No. 2 was initially declared in 2011 and as of 2023, is being kept in place due to an ongoing need to improve air quality with it (see **Figure D1.1**); and
- Herne 1- This is at the junction of the A291 and School Lane and was declared on 1st April 2018 but is currently being reviewed as this AQMA might no longer be needed due to considerable air quality improvements within it (see **Figure D1.2**).

[1] Available on the council's website or by this link https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1146/air_quality_status_report_2019.pdf

[2] Canterbury City Council (2023) Air Quality Annual Status Report. Available online: canterbury-city-council-annual-status-report-2023 (kentair.org.uk) [Accessed February 2024].

Figure D1.1 Canterbury 3 AQMA

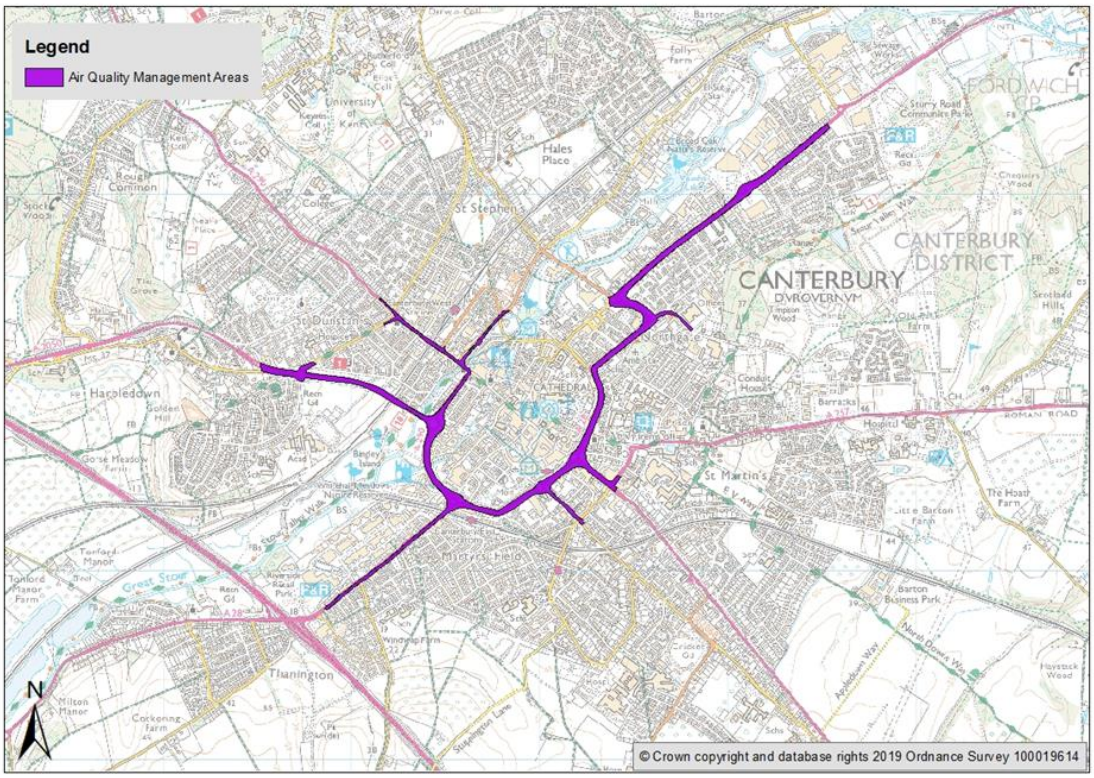
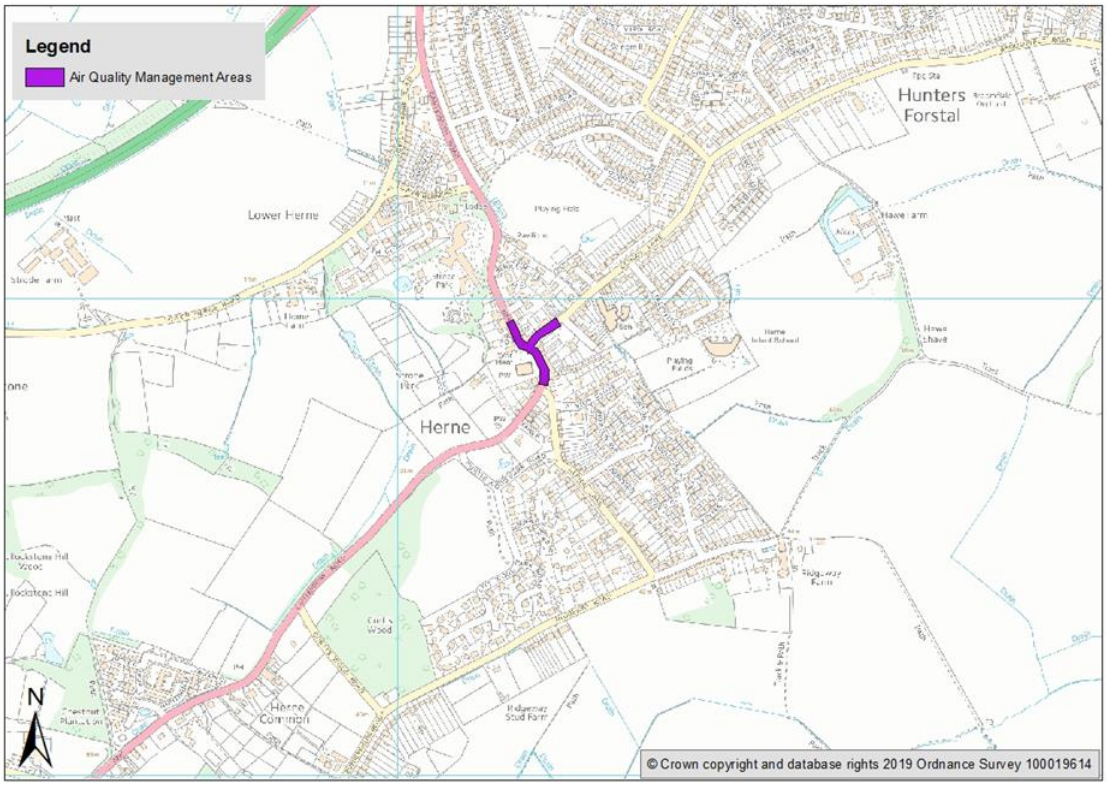


Figure D1.2 Herne 1 AQMA



Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.2.4 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Concentrations of NO_2 across the district were overall higher in 2022 than in 2021 and this would likely continue without a new Local Plan. PM_{10} concentrations are stable but could start to rise without an updated Local Plan, as the main source of air pollution is road traffic. The amount of cars on the road would increase as the population of the district grows and without strategic overview on the location and requirements of development more cars could be encouraged into use. For example, it would be unlikely that any car-free schemes would occur.
- Past trends would suggest the AQMA around Canterbury, at least, would need to be extended to cover more of the city centre. There would be a potential for new AQMAs to be declared and the potential for the Herne AQMA to not be disbanded if air quality decreases in quality.

Key sustainability issues

- The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the A2, A28 and A299.
- Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) operate in relation to nitrogen dioxide (NO2) where a national air quality objective is not likely to be achieved.

1.3 Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation

Climate Change

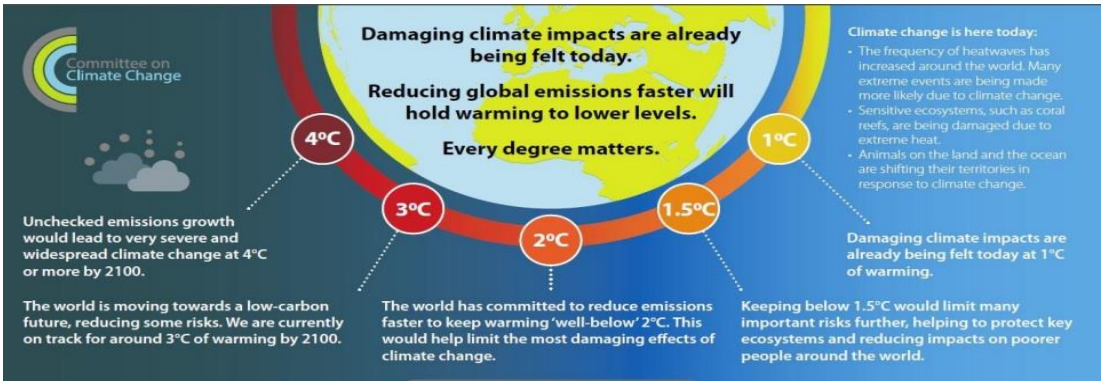
1.3.1 According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) human activities have already caused global warming. Since pre-industrial times the global mean surface temperature has been estimated to have risen by 1℃. If this continues at the current rate, global warming is likely to reach an increase of 1.5℃ between 2030 and 2052[3].

1.3.2 The IPCC estimates that the actions currently pledged are not enough to reach commitments; with current ambition likely to result in warming of 3℃ by 2100 (see **Figure D1.3**). Warming of 2℃ and above will lead to significant impacts around the world and in the UK; such as sea level rise, flooding, heatwaves, water shortages and falling crop yields.

1.3.3 Although there is limited information on the specific impacts to the District, all of these impacts are likely. With a long coastline and reasonably main rivers through the District, it would be a substantial risk of flooding and coastal erosion. Water shortage and failing crops would also be likely to occur.

1.3.4 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 18th July 2019[4] with a target of achieving net zero emissions for the Council by 2030. The declaration states that the Council will seek to work with all stakeholders including housebuilders to jointly reduce carbon emissions. The Council also seeks to ensure that the review of the Local Plan and the Transport Strategy be used to improve the energy efficiency and carbon neutrality of future developments.

Figure D1.3 Committee on Climate Change – impact of temperature rises



Source: Committee on Climate Change (2019)

Energy consumption

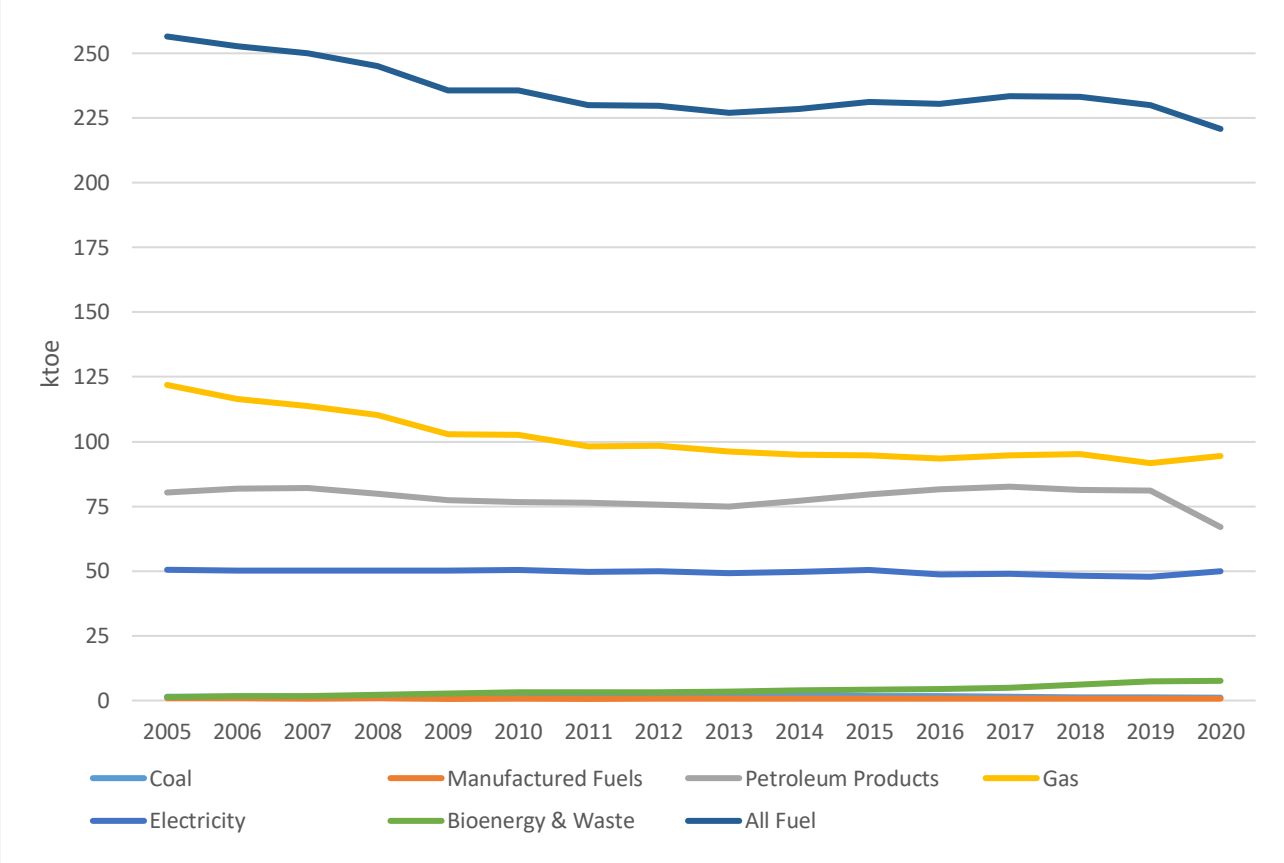
1.3.5 The amount of energy used can impact the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) released into the atmosphere. The graph in **Figure D1.4** splits the amount of energy used within the District by the different fuel types used. This figure is based on thousands of tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) for each type of fuel. The amount of energy used by gas has decreased

[3] IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. Available from: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

[4] Council meeting minutes available via: https://democracy.canterbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=138&MId=12133&Ver=4

significantly since 2005, while the amount from bioenergy & waste has increased. Whilst seeing steady usage since 2005, the amount of petroleum products has decreased considerably since 2019.

Figure D1.4 Total energy consumption (ktoe) per fuel type across the District, 2005-2020



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)[5]

1.3.6 The District contributes a lower percentage of its total fuel from coal, manufactured fuels, and petroleum products than both the South East and England (**Table D1.1**). Conversely, a higher percentage is from gas. The percentage from bioenergy & waste has steadily been increasing across all three locations. The District is more reliant on gas fuel types than both the South East of England and England.

[5] Statistical data set on the total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level (Last updated 29 September 2022). Available from: Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Table D1.1 Percentage contribution of each fuel type to the entire fuel consumption for Canterbury, the South East and England between 2005 and 2020

Canterbury																
Fuel Type	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Coal %	0.58	0.55	0.56	0.69	0.81	0.85	0.87	0.87	1.06	0.96	0.69	0.69	0.60	0.56	0.52	0.50
Manufactured Fuels %	0.35	0.36	0.32	0.37	0.25	0.30	0.26	0.30	0.35	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.34	0.30	0.32
Petroleum Products %	31.31	32.41	32.88	32.57	32.84	32.50	33.17	32.91	33.03	33.74	34.49	35.44	35.39	34.92	35.28	30.34
Gas %	47.52	46.06	45.48	44.98	43.61	43.57	42.70	42.84	42.36	41.53	40.93	40.52	40.62	40.88	39.89	42.75
Electricity %	19.69	19.91	20.08	20.45	21.34	21.38	21.61	21.72	21.62	21.71	21.81	21.13	20.95	20.68	20.79	22.64
Bioenergy & Waste %	0.51	0.71	0.68	0.94	1.15	1.36	1.39	1.35	1.54	1.75	1.77	1.95	2.10	2.62	3.18	3.44
South East England																
Fuel Type	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Coal %	0.92	1.07	1.18	0.83	0.90	1.17	1.20	1.20	1.33	1.18	0.85	0.83	0.69	0.63	0.54	0.54
Manufactured Fuels %	1.69	1.65	1.61	1.67	1.44	1.48	2.12	1.84	1.70	1.65	1.55	1.49	1.49	1.27	1.60	1.47
Petroleum Products %	41.94	42.89	43.24	42.57	43.95	43.11	42.93	43.39	43.79	43.99	45.27	45.95	45.58	45.24	44.62	39.78
Gas %	36.38	34.54	34.36	34.46	32.42	32.95	32.20	31.90	31.47	31.40	30.82	30.81	31.11	31.41	31.46	35.00
Electricity %	17.67	18.27	18.06	18.70	19.10	18.99	19.21	19.42	19.48	19.37	19.06	18.56	18.56	18.38	18.30	19.26
Bioenergy & Waste %	1.41	1.59	1.55	1.77	2.19	2.31	2.34	2.25	2.23	2.43	2.45	2.36	2.57	3.07	3.49	3.95
England																
Fuel Type	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Coal %	1.25	1.16	1.27	1.34	1.32	1.46	1.47	1.42	1.66	1.56	1.28	1.21	1.07	1.03	0.92	0.88
Manufactured Fuels %	2.55	2.61	2.47	2.20	1.93	1.79	1.89	2.03	2.03	1.96	1.76	1.50	1.44	1.37	1.41	1.38
Petroleum Products %	36.62	37.43	37.99	37.77	38.58	38.44	38.96	38.84	38.36	38.65	39.87	40.62	40.37	40.07	39.86	35.70

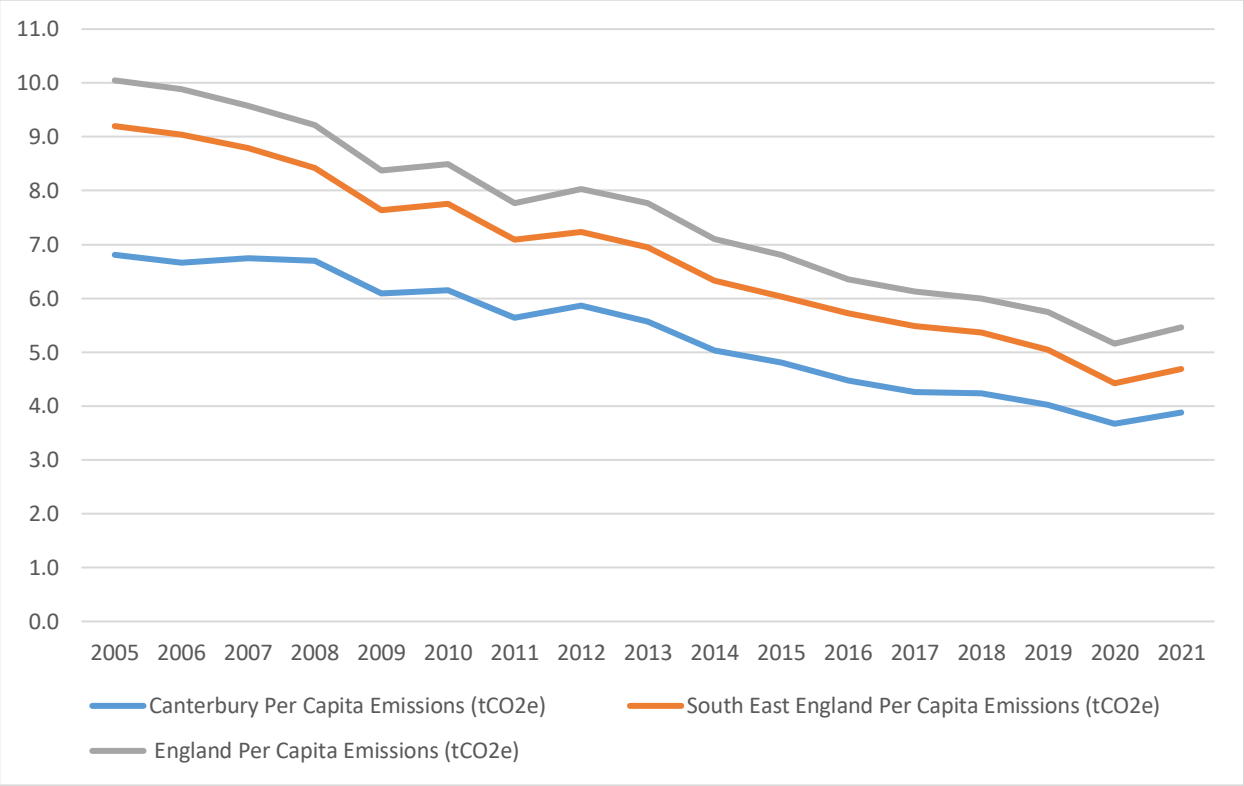
Gas %	39.94	38.48	38.12	37.82	36.68	36.54	35.87	35.73	35.40	35.16	34.56	34.50	35.03	35.13	35.12	38.42
Electricity %	18.71	19.22	19.04	19.39	19.79	19.86	19.83	20.13	20.33	20.14	19.87	19.45	19.16	18.88	18.71	19.18
Bioenergy & Waste %	0.92	1.09	1.11	1.48	1.70	1.91	1.99	1.83	2.21	2.54	2.66	2.73	2.93	3.52	3.99	4.44

Source: BEIS Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom (2005-2020)

Carbon emissions

1.3.7 The government collects data and publishes estimates on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions the Local Authorities within the UK produce. **Figure D1.5** highlights the per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Canterbury, South East England and England. It shows that across all of these areas, the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions per capita has fallen drastically.

Figure D1.5 Greenhouse gas emissions per capita for Canterbury City Council, South East and England from 2005 to 2021

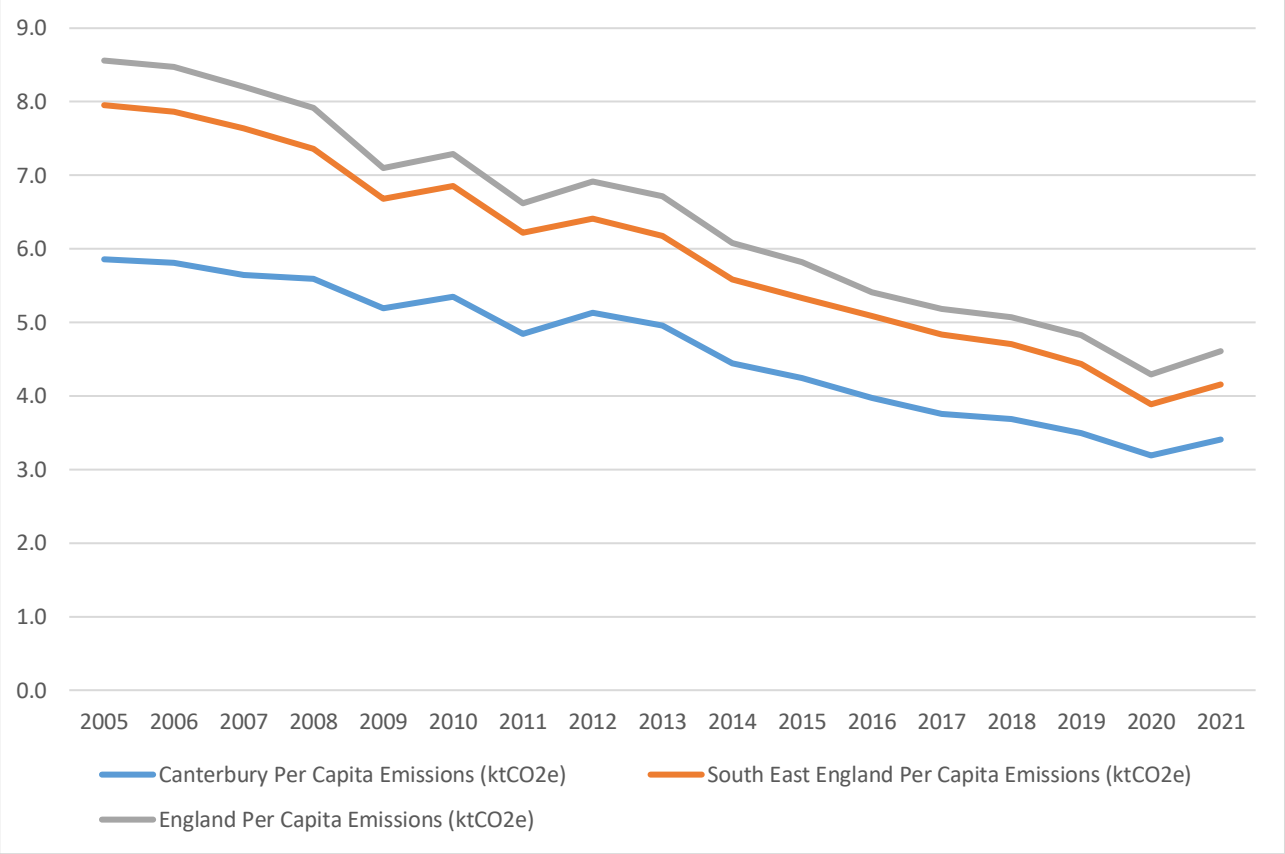


Source: BEIS[6]

1.3.8 The government collects data on carbon emissions from a range of sources. **Figure D1.6** demonstrates that carbon emissions in the District were below the national and regional average in 2005 and the District's carbon emissions had fallen by roughly 36% by 2021.

[6] National Statistics on the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Figure D1.6 CO_2 levels per capita for Canterbury City Council, South East and England, from 2005 to 2021



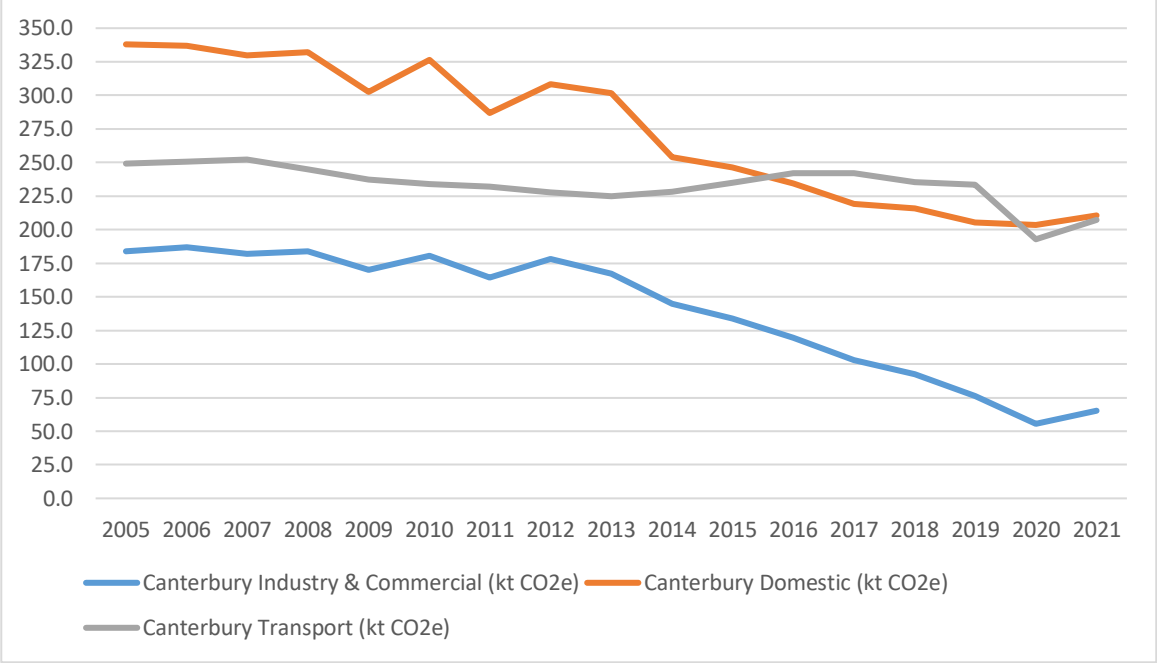
Source: BEIS[7]

1.3.1 When compared to the South East and England, the District generally has lower CO2 levels per capita. The total CO2 emissions for transport, however, is marginally higher than the England estimates.

1.3.2 The data for the District, South East and England has been broken down for further analysis (**Figure D1.7, Figure D1.8, Figure D1.9**). The total amount has been split into three main areas: industry & commercial; domestic; and transport. The industry & commercial, domestic and grand total CO_2 emissions estimates have all decreased over time. While the transport levels[8] were decreasing until a small increase in 2016 through to 2019, these started to rise again since 2020. This reflects broader patterns at the regional and national levels.

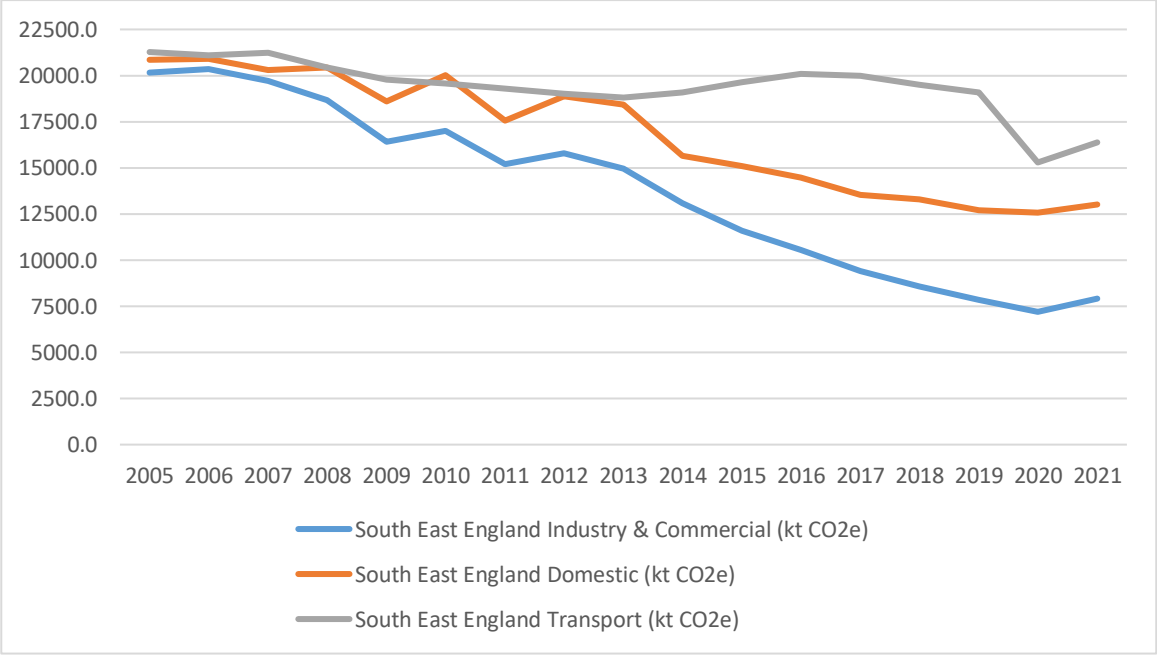
[7] National Statistics on the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[8] These figures are based on emissions within the scope of local authorities; therefore motorways are not included. Stated within the government's report on the national statistics data release: UK local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Figure D1.7 CO_2 emission levels by industry for Canterbury City Council, from 2005 to 2021



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy[9]

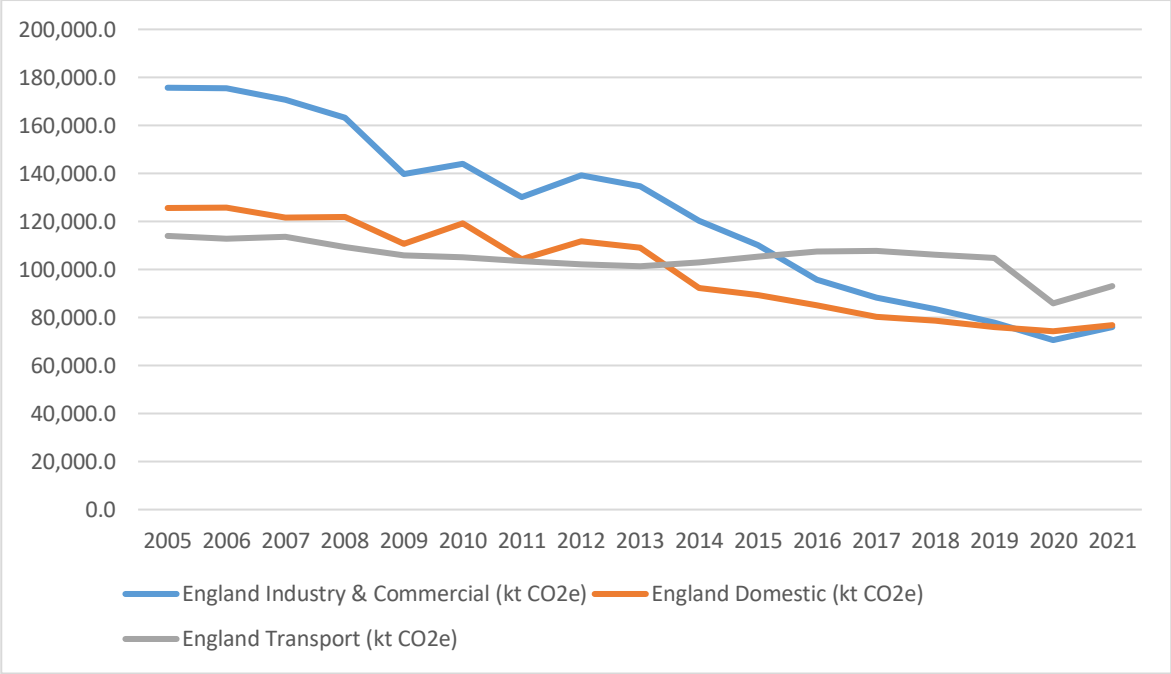
Figure D1.8 CO_2 emission levels by industry for South East England, from 2005 to 2021



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy[10]

[9] National Statistics on the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[10] National Statistics on the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Figure D1.9 CO_2 emission levels by industry for England, from 2005 to 2021



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy[11]

Alternative Energy

1.3.3 There are several different types of renewable energy projects already in operation within the District (**Table D1.2**). The Kentish Flats (approximately 8.8km from Herne Bay) is one of those projects and has provided offshore wind power to the national grid since December 2005. The site contains 30 turbines which can produce 3MW each, meaning the project has a total capacity of 90MW. When operating at capacity that is enough energy to power 100,000 homes[12].

Table D1.2 Renewable energy projects in operation (2023)

Site Name	Technology Type	Installed Capacity (MW)
Kentish Flats	Wind turbines	90
Shelford Landfill Scheme	Landfill Gas	1.90
Shelford Generation Plant II	Landfill Gas	8.00
Shelford WTE Plant	EfW Incineration	16.10

[11] National Statistics on the UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2021. Available from: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[12] 4C Offshore, 2019.Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm. Available from: https://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/kentish-flats-united-kingdom-uk12.html

Site Name	Technology Type	Installed Capacity (MW)
Woodlands Farm Solar Park	Solar Photovoltaics	10.00
Owls Hatch Road	Solar Photovoltaics	48.00
Nackington Farm Solar Park- Site C	Solar Photovoltaics	12.00
Nackington Farm Solar Park- Site A	Solar Photovoltaics	11.00
Nackington Farm Solar Park- Site B	Solar Photovoltaics	16.60
Molehill Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	18.00
Littlebourne	Solar Photovoltaics	17.00
Thanet Way, Herne Bay Solar Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	20.00
Nickle Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	0.35
Amery Court Farm - Solar Array	Solar Photovoltaics	N/A
Ryse Hydrogen Limited, Thanet Way - Hydrogen Electrolysis Facility	Hydrogen	N/A
Mansfield Farms, Nickle Lane - Solar Array	Solar Photovoltaics	0.37
Morrisons, Ten Perch Road - Solar Pv Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.42
Swalecliffe Community Primary School, Bridgefield Road - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.20

Source: The Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) managed by Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd (Eunomia) on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero[13]

1.3.4 Additionally, an examination for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Cleve Hill Solar Park took place in 2019 and a DCO was granted on 28th May 2020[14]. The site is approximately 2km northeast of Faversham and 5km west of Whitstable. Although this is outside of the District the decision could have an impact on the amount of energy provided by renewable energy as the site is due to provide a total capacity of around 350MW.

[13] Research and analysis on Renewable Energy Planning Database quarterly extract (Last updated 7 November 2023) Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-energy-planning-database-monthly-extract

[14] Planning Inspectorate, National Infrastructure Planning: Cleve Hill Development Consent Order. Further information available from: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/cleve-hill-solar-park/

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.3.5 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- The Council is unlikely to achieve a target of achieving net zero emissions for the Council by 2030.
- Without active intervention such as could be provided within the Local Plan the global temperature will continue to rise, leading to flooding and extreme weather which will adversely affect human lives.
- CO_2 levels are likely to start rising again within the District because the increasing population will lead to an increase in the demand on resources and the additional traffic will lead to an increase in congestion as there will be limited strategic oversight.
- There would be little, to no, contributions from developers to improve infrastructure to reduce congestion and pollution.
- Without strategic overview any renewables which are built, which would likely be limited anyway, are probably going to be in an unsustainable location where the harm is likely to outweigh the benefits.
- Without LP policies to encourage energy efficiency and sustainable, high quality development designs the reliance on natural resources will increase as more energy is likely to be used due to an increase in people. That energy could then be wasted through poor designs or provided by unsustainable, environmentally damaging fuel sources.

Key sustainability issues

- The urgent need to address climate change to reduce the current and future threat to Canterbury District's population, wildlife, natural resources, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets (including flood risk).
- The need to maintain the general trend in the decrease of emission of greenhouse gases (particularly CO_2) within the district, especially by trying to reduce the amount of CO_2 from transport in particular on A roads.
- The need to promote sustainable forms of energy and encourage renewable energy projects in the appropriate location.
- To become as energy efficient as possible, while reducing the overall energy consumption.

1.4 Biodiversity

Overview

1.4.1 There are several designated sites within the District at varying levels of protection. It is important to note that at all levels there are additional sites outside the District's administrative boundaries which could be impacted by development or the Local Plan Review. These will be considered as, or when, it becomes appropriate to do so.

International Designations

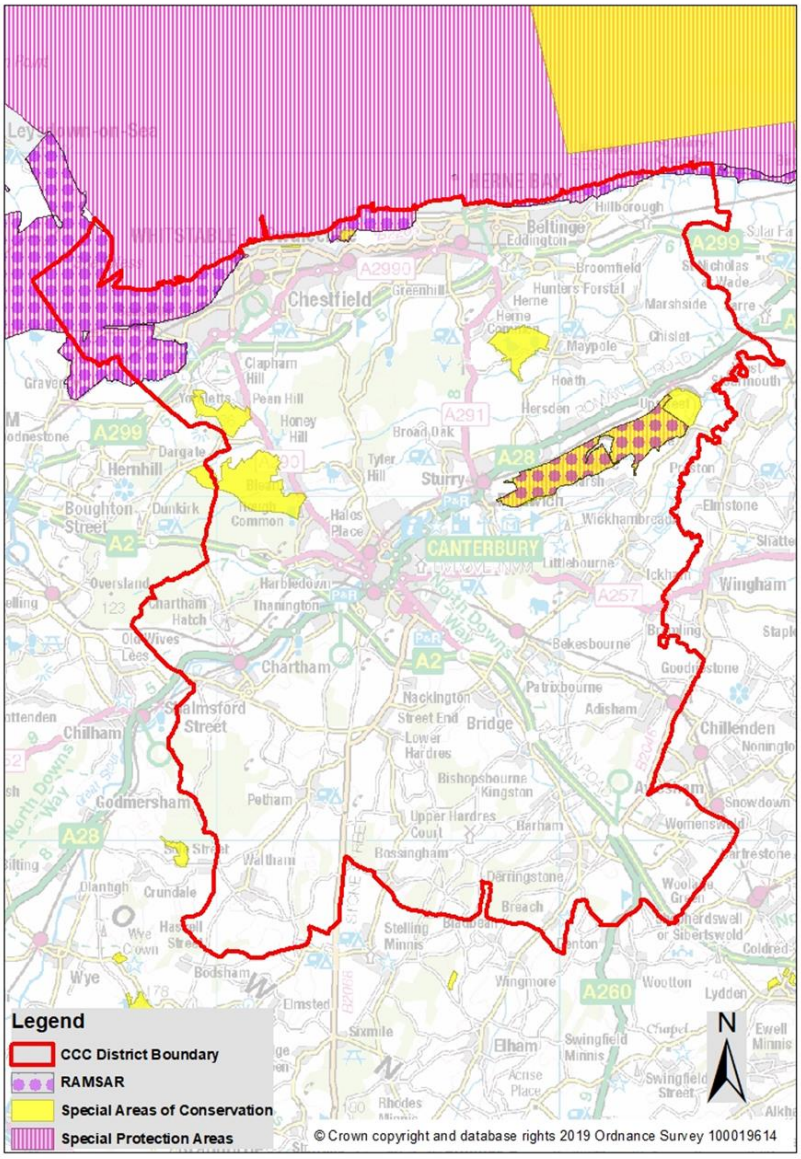
1.4.2 The most important sites for biodiversity and individual wildlife species receive statutory protection under international and national legislation[15]. Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are internationally important and are afforded the highest level of protection. There are currently five internationally designated sites within the District (see **Figure D1.10**):

- Stodmarsh (SAC, SPA, Ramsar);
- Blean Complex (SAC);
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay (SPA, Ramsar);
- The Swale (SPA and Ramsar); and
- Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe (SAC).

1.4.3 Stodmarsh and the Swales are important wetland sites in addition to the Thanet coast and Sandwich Bay. These sites can be susceptible to impacts from degradation in water quality and quantity which can cause changes in the composition of vegetation structure, plant species, the balance of nutrients which can also affect the use of the habitat by animal species. The findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), which will consider such issues, will be taken into account in the SA where relevant. Almost all of the Blean Complex is classified as ancient woodland. Ancient woodland forms an important biodiversity aspect of the District (see further information in **Section 1.5**).

[15] These sites have international legislative protection but in preparation for Brexit, the government transposed the protection into national legislation.

Figure D1.10 Designated international sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites) within the District



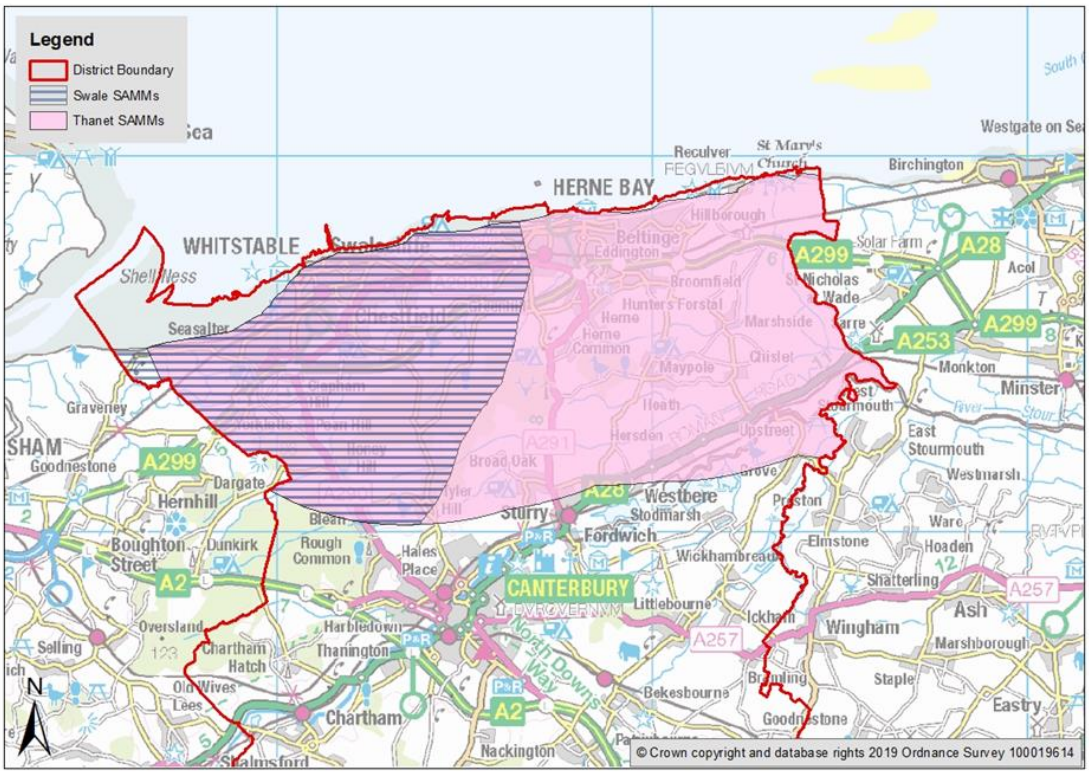
1.4.4 Mitigation strategies were agreed with Natural England due to the findings of the council's previous SA and HRA work. These strategies were put in place to deal with any likely significant effects resulting from new development within the District, causing an increase in recreational disturbance on the coastal SPAs and Ramsar sites which could affect the protected wintering birds.

1.4.5 Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategies (SAMMs) were set up with identified 'zones of influence' based upon visitor surveys. Within these zones developers pay a financial contribution tariff based upon the number of bedrooms a new development provides. These contributions are used to fund mitigation strategies.

1.4.6 There are 2 SAMMs within the District (see **Figure D1.11**):

- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/ Ramsar which has a 7.2 km zone of influence; and
- The Swale SPA/ Ramsar which has a 6km zone of influence.

Figure D1.11 Thanet SAMMs area and Swale SAMMs area within the District



National Designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

1.4.7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 15 SSSI sites within the District (see **Figure D1.12**):

- West Blean and Thornden Woods;
- Stodmarsh;
- Ileden and Oxenden Woods;
- Tankerton Slopes;
- Thanet Coast;
- Church Woods, Blean;
- East Blean Woods;
- Larkey Valley Wood;
- Yockletts Bank;
- Sturry Pit;
- Preston Marshes;
- Lynsore Bottom;
- Ellenden Wood;

- Chequer's Wood and Old Park; and
- The Swale.

1.4.8 The condition of the SSSI sites within the District have been consistently improving since 2008. The majority of the land mass of the 15 SSSIs in the District are either in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition[16] (or a mixture of both) although some have pockets in lower condition. The latest Natural England assessments accessed in 2024[17] show:

- Four are in 100% Favourable condition (Larkey Valley Wood, Yockletts Bank, Ellenden Wood, Tankerton Slopes);
- One is in 100% Unfavourable Recovering condition (Preston Marshes);
- One is in 100% Unfavourable Declining condition (Sturry Pit);
- Five are in mixed Favourable and Unfavourable Recovering condition (Chequers Wood and Old Park 2.54% unfavourable declining, Ileden and Oxenden Woods 14.65% unfavourable recovering, Thanet Coast 21.90% unfavourable recovering, Church Woods Blean 7.82% unfavourable recovering, East Blean Woods 14.45% unfavourable declining); and
- Four have small areas of Unfavourable No Change, or Unfavourable Declining condition (West Blean and Thornden Woods 40.55% unfavourable recovering, 7.57% unfavourable no change and 4.19% unfavourable declining, Lynsore Bottom 33.65% unfavourable no change, The Swale 2.17% unfavourable, and Stodmarsh 27.31 unfavourable recovering and 18.63% unfavourable no change).

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

1.4.9 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are a type of Marine Protected Area which are important to ensure the conservation of the diverse nationally rare or threatened habitats and/or species and those places containing habitats and/or species that are representative of the biodiversity in our seas. There are 2 MCZs within the District:

- The Swale Estuary; and
- Thanet Coast.

1.4.10 The UK Government is currently trialling a new type of marine protection designation: Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)[18]. HPMA's are designated seas and shorelines that would highly limit any activity within these areas to allow them to fully recover. None of the MCZ in Canterbury were picked to trial the HPMA protections, but might be designated as HPMAs in the future.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

1.4.11 National Nature Reserves (NNRs), declared by Natural England, represent many of the finest wildlife and geological sites. As well as managing some of our most pristine habitats, our rarest species and our most significant geology, most reserves offer great opportunities to the public, as well as schools and specialist audiences, to experience England's natural heritage. There are two NNRs within the District:

[16] Often simply known as Recovering condition. The Hierarchy is Favourable; Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable No Change; Unfavourable Declining; Part Destroyed; and Destroyed
[17] Natural England https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ [Accessed February 2024]
[18] HM Government (2023) Highly Protected Marine Areas. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highly-protected-marine-areas/highly-protected-marine-areas-hpmas [Accessed February 2024].

- Stodmarsh; and
- Blean Woods.

1.4.12 The MCZs and NNRs are shown on **Figure D1.13**.

Figure D1.12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest within the District

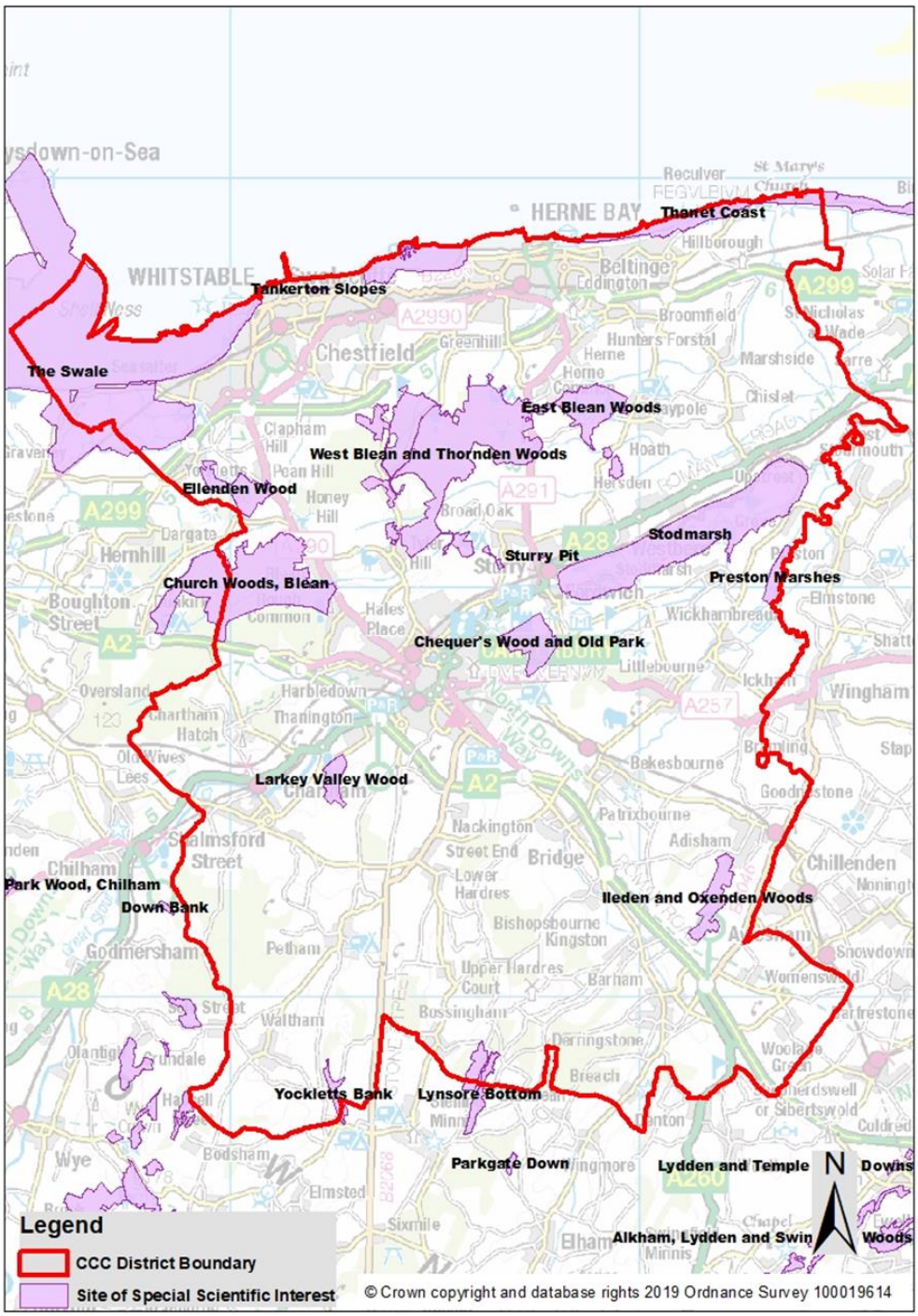
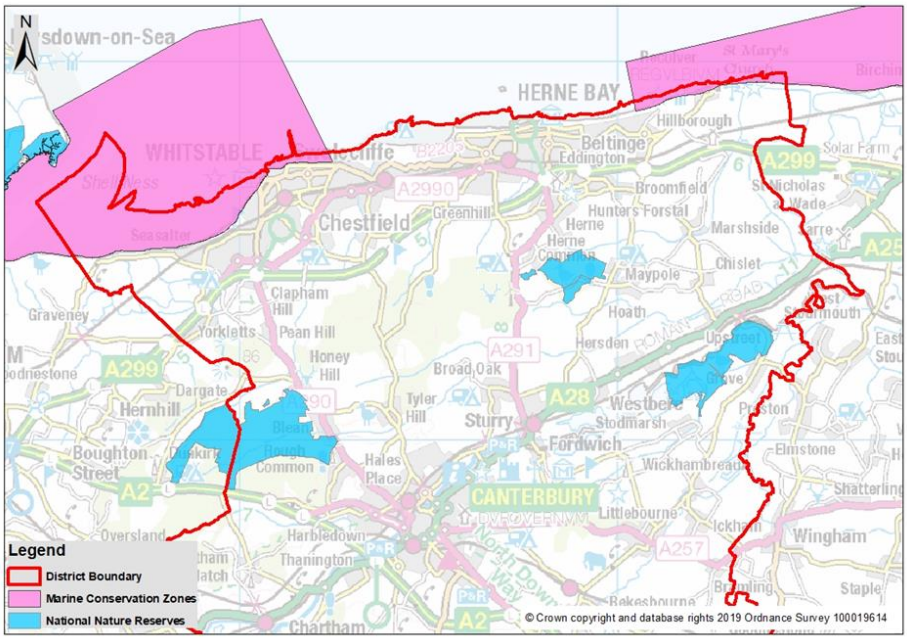


Figure D1.13 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) within the District



Note: The NNR furthest to the East is Stodmarsh NNR, while the ones farthest North and West are both Blean Woods.

RSPB Reserves

1.4.13 There are two Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserves within the District:

- Seasalter Levels; and
- Blean Woods.

Local Designations

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

1.4.14 LNRs are protected by statute, under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and amended by Schedule 11 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, by principal local authorities. LNRs are designed to increase public enjoyment and understanding of nature, as well as promoting nature conservation. There are 11 LNRs within the District (see **Figure D1.14**):

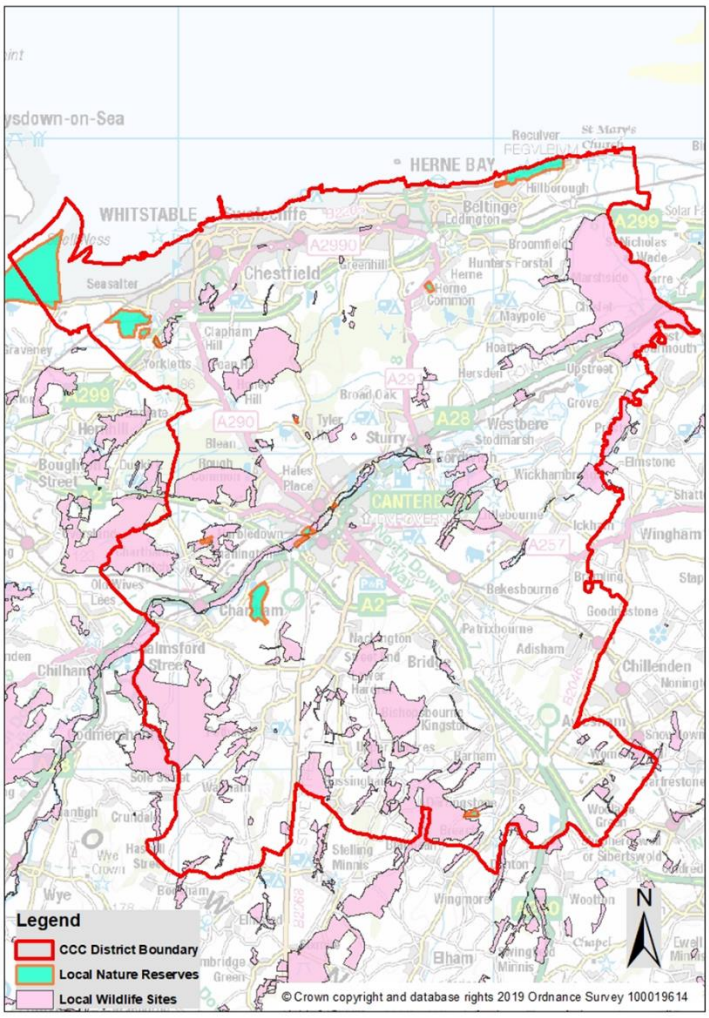
- Larkey Valley Wood;
- Bus Company Island;
- Curtis Wood;
- Seasalter Levels;
- Bishopstone Cliffs;
- Foxes Cross Bottom;
- Tyler Hill Meadow;

- Jumping Downs;
- No Man's Orchard;
- Whitehall Meadows; and
- South Bank of the Swale.

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

1.4.15 LWS are non-statutory sites of significant value designated for the conservation of wildlife. The range of habitats and geological features of local significance within the District has led to the identification of 49 LWS. These sites represent local character and distinctiveness and have an important role to play in meeting local and national targets for biodiversity conservation (see **Figure D1.14**).

Figure D1.14 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in the District



Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR)

1.4.16 Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR) are a network of roadside verges that have been identified through the Road Verge Project (a partnership between Kent County Council, Kent Highways and Kent Wildlife Trust) as containing scarce or threatened habitats or

species. Due to their linear nature they also act as important wildlife corridors, enabling species to travel between other habitats. There are nine RNR within the District which are all managed by Kent Wildlife Trust.

Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA)

1.4.17 Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOAs) produced by the Kent Biodiversity Partnership are spatial reflections of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy. They are areas where biodiversity improvements are likely to have the most beneficial results for establishing large habitat areas and/or networks. There are five BOAs within the Canterbury City District:

- East Kent Woodlands and Downs;
- Thanet Cliffs and Shore;
- Lower Stour Wetlands;
- The Blean; and
- North Kent Marshes.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.4.18 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Although several sites will be protected under other designations, without strategic oversight there is a chance development will be built in inappropriate locations. This could have various impacts from secondary effects like increased traffic causing increased pollutants which could negatively affect species of fauna or flora, to the permanent loss of or irreversible damage to biodiversity.
- The Local Plan contains the policy which requires developers to contribute to SAMMs, so the loss of this policy will remove the connected and uniform mitigation approach across several districts. This could have subsequent effects of duplicating or missing essential mitigation leading to secondary negative impacts.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Ensure development does not negatively impact biodiversity, and conserve and enhance biodiversity and protected sites and species.
- The need to minimise or mitigate any adverse impacts of: coastal squeeze; increased levels of public access/disturbance; increased development; and any associated impacts on the District's rich biodiversity.
- The need to achieve biodiversity net gain (BNG) within new development and improve the environment including through the long-term enhancement and creation of well-connected, functional habitats.

1.5 Landscape, Land Use and Geology

Overview

1.5.1 Canterbury City Council is located in north-east Kent and consists of 30,885 hectares. The south of the District is part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The north of the City contains landscape which is dominated by the extensive Blean Complex, an ancient woodland. Further north and east, the landscape is characterised by grazing marsh, wetland and saltmarsh and coastal environments. Canterbury's agricultural heritage has also shaped much of the Districts' landscape. As a result of significant landscape quality, large areas of the District have been designated for their landscape value and the diversity of these landscapes gives rise to a wide range of wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

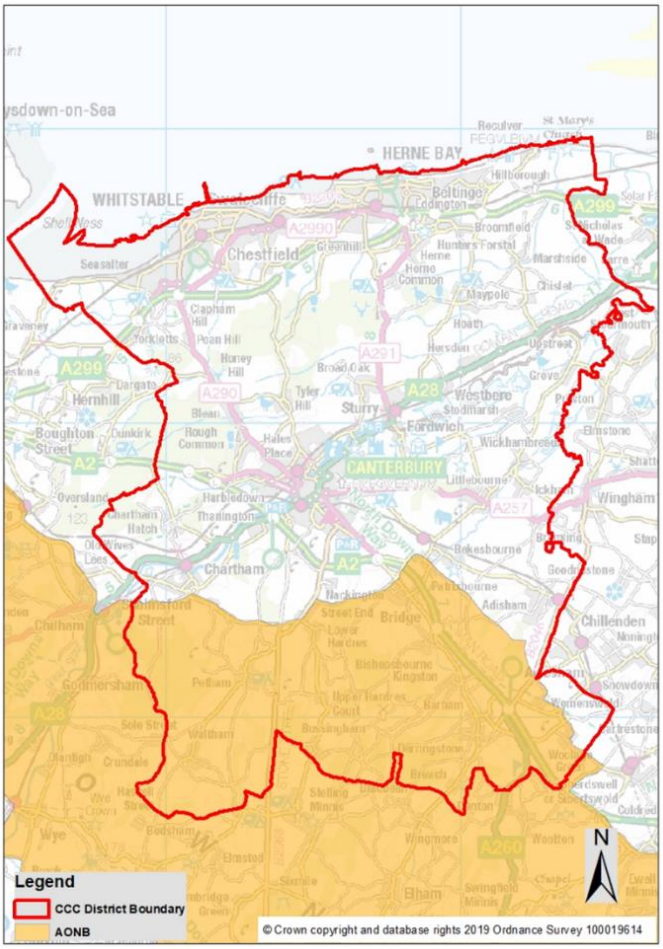
Character Areas

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

1.5.2 The Kent Downs AONB is a statutory national designation and covers about 27% of the District[19]. The primary purpose of this designation is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which relates not only to the area's landscape value but also its fauna, flora and geology. As part of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan[20] a full review of the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) was taken forward. There are six landscape character types (LCTs) within the Kent Downs AONB, reflecting the area's underlying geology and its topography; these are Chalk Scarp and Vales, Chalk Cliffs and Coast, Chalk Downs, Greensand, Low Weald and River Valleys. The National Character Areas which cover the Kent Downs AONB Include the North Downs (119), Wealden Greensand (120) and Romney Marshes (123). See **Figure D1.15**.

[19] Designated area based on GIS data gathered from Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust in June 2015.
[20] Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021-2026. Available from: https://kentdowns.org.uk/management-plan-2021-2026/

Figure D1.15 Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within the District



National Character Area

1.5.3 159 national character areas were created by Natural England across England, due to each area being distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. There are three national character areas covering the District[21]:

- Greater Thames Estuary;
- North Kent Plain; and
- North Downs.

Canterbury City Council Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal

1.5.4 The Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020[22] categorises the landscapes of Canterbury into nine LCTs and 42 LCAs. **Table D1.3** identifies these LCTs and the LCAs that are within them, with **Figure D1.16** showing where they are.

[21] National Character Areas https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-south-east-england-and-london

[22] Canterbury City Council (2020) Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal. Available online: Historic and natural environment - Google Drive [Accessed February 2024].

Table D1.3 Landscape Character Types and Areas (2020)

LCA no.	LCA name
A: Open Coastal Edge	
A1	Beltinge Coast
A2	Swalecliffe Coast
B: Coastal and Inland Marshes	
B1	Chislet Marshes and Snake Drove
B2	Nethergong Sparre Penn Inlet
B3	Seasalter Coastal Marshes
B4	Reculver Coastal Marshes
C: Coastal Hinterland	
C1	Chestfield Gap and Greenhill
C2	Chestfield Farmland
C3	Court Lees and Millstrood Farmlands
C4	Ford and Maypole Mixed Farmlands
C5	Hillborough Arable Farmlands
C6	Wraik Hill
C7	Yorkletts Farmlands
D: The Blean – Woodland	
D1	Harbledown

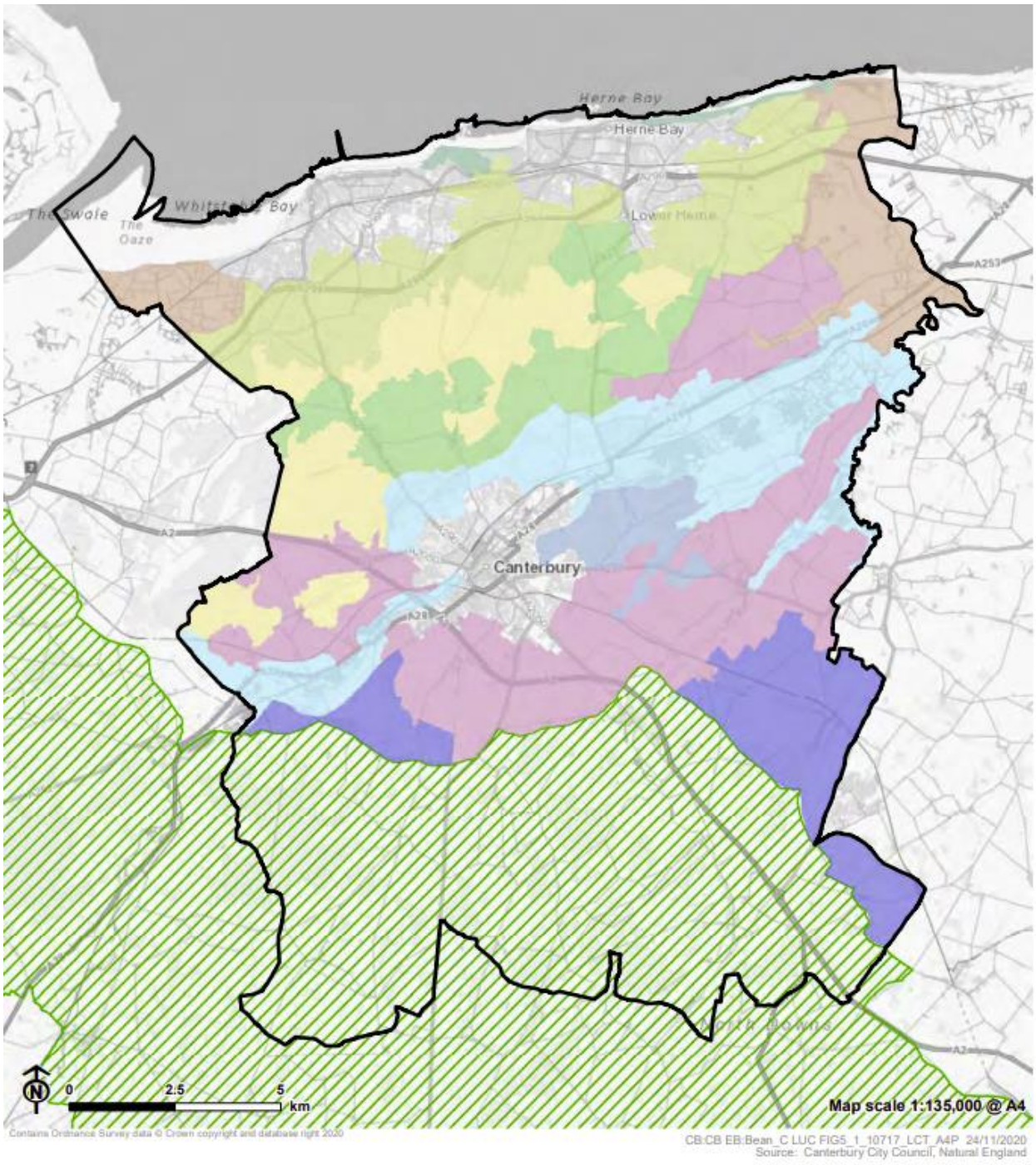
D2	Thornden
D3	Ellenden and Victory Woods
D4	East Blean
D5	Bigbury Hill
D6	Denstead Woods
E: The Blean – Farmland	
E1	Herne Common
E2	Sarre Penn Valley
E3	Amery Court Farmland
F: River Valleys	
F1	Stour Valley Sides
F2	Stour Valley Slopes
F3	Hersden Ridge
F4	Stodmarsh Ridge
F5	Little Stour Valley
F6	Stour Valley – Sturry and Fordwich
F7	Stour Valley West
F8	Westbere and Stodmarsh Valley
G: Stour Valley Woodlands	

G1	Old Park
G2	Trenley Park Woodlands
H: Central Mixed Farmlands	
H1	Harbledown Fruit Belt
H2	Hoath Farmlands
H3	Ickham Farmlands
H4	Nackington Farmlands
H5	Nailbourne Parklands
H6	Littlebourne Fruit Belt
H7	Wickhambreaux Horticultural Belt
I: Downland	
I1	Adisham Arable Downland
I2	Bramling Downland
I3	Chartham and Shalmsford Download

Source: CCC[23]

[23] Canterbury City Council (2020) Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal. Available online: Historic and natural environment - Google Drive [Accessed February 2024].

Figure D1.16 Canterbury Landscape Character Types (2020)



Source: CCC[24]

[24] Canterbury City Council (2020) Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal. Available online: Historic and natural environment - Google Drive [Accessed February 2024].

Seascape Character Assessment

1.5.5 A Seascape Character Assessment was produced for the Marine Management Organisations South East Inshore Marine Plan. The District's entire coastline is within the marine plans area and covered by the Swale, Kentish Flats and Margate Sand marine character area[25]. The Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020 identifies the coastline of Canterbury as being within the Swale, Kentish Flats and Margate Sand Marine Character Area[26].

Landscape

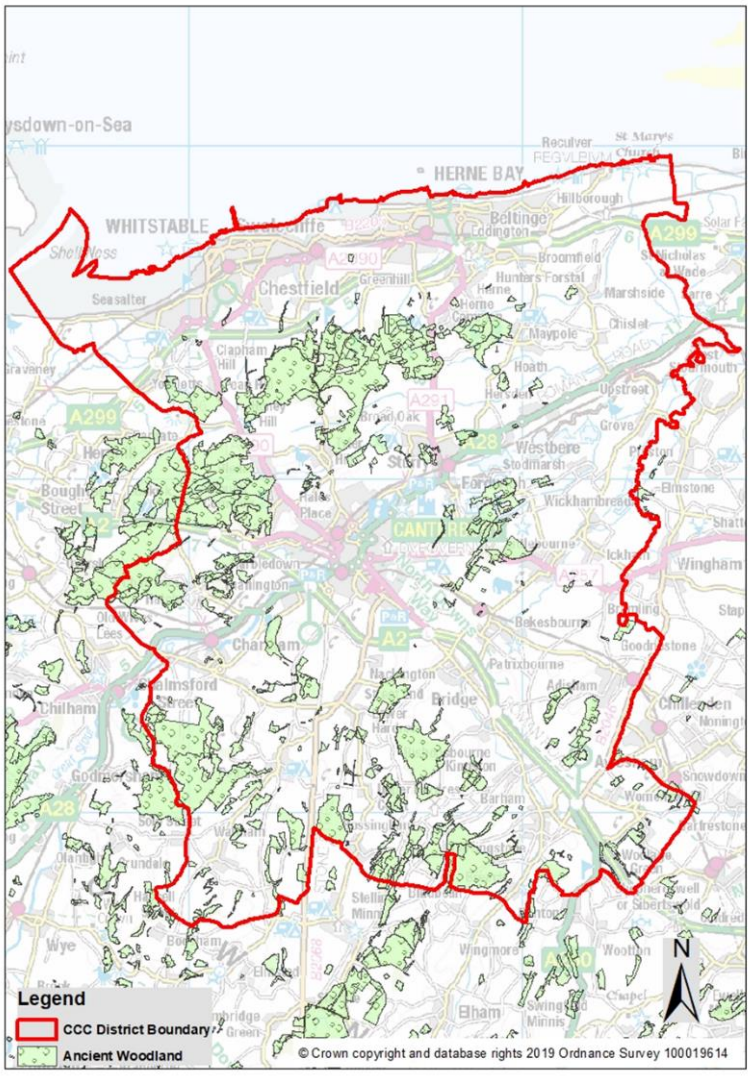
Ancient Woodland

1.5.6 Woodlands cover 15.6% of the district and most of this is ancient woodland (see **Figure D1.17**). Ancient woodland is land that has been continuously wooded since at least 1600, and, which are particularly important features of the historic landscape. Ancient woodlands are an important component of the District's biodiversity; especially The Blean woodlands and in the south-west of the district.

[25] MMO, 2018. Seascape Character Assessment for the South East Inshore marine plan area. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750229/South_East_-_Seascape_character_assessment_report.pdf

[26] Canterbury City Council (2020) Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal. Available online: Historic and natural environment - Google Drive [Accessed February 2024].

Figure D1.17 Ancient woodland within the District



Agricultural Land

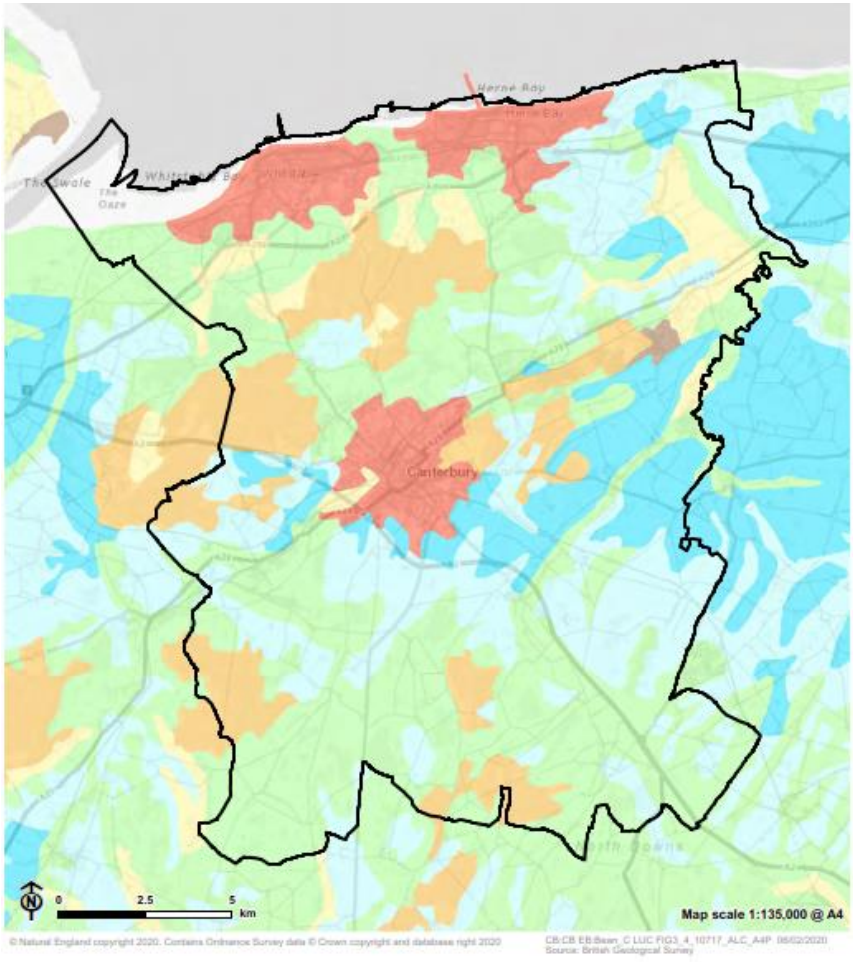
1.5.7 Agricultural land has been classified depending on its quality:

- Grade 1 – Excellent quality agricultural land
- Grade 2 – very good quality agricultural land
- Grade 3a – Good quality agricultural land
- Grade 3b – Moderate quality agricultural land
- Grade 4 – poor quality agricultural land
- Grade 5 – very poor quality agricultural land
- Non-agriculture- 'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: golf courses, private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/ airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.
- Urban- Built-up areas or ‘hard’ uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious

buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.[27]

1.5.8 The District has a reasonable mix of different quality of agricultural land. The slight majority appears to be Grade 3, but there is a reasonable amount of Grade 1: excellent quality (see **Figure D1.18**).

Figure D1.18 Agricultural Land Classification (2020)



Source: CCC[28]

Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV)

1.5.9 The District has five Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV) designations, because of their 'greater than local' importance and that their special importance requires particular policy

[27] Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1988. Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Available from: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5526580165083136

[28] Canterbury City Council (2020) Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal. Available online: Historic and natural environment - Google Drive [Accessed February 2024].

recognition[29]: These are subject to review through the Local Plan process and updated evidence has been produced as part of the ongoing preparation of the Local Plan, which recommends removal of the Canterbury AHLV, creating a new local designation as landscape context of the historic city of Canterbury[30].

- Canterbury AHLV (the Valley of the River Stour around Canterbury) has been identified to protect the historic and landscape setting of the City and the World Heritage Site.
- The North Downs AHLV is a landscape designation associated with the Kent Downs AONB. The designation includes land outside the AONB. These areas, associated with the AONB boundary, are deemed to have an important quality that is contiguous with the AONB designation.
- The Blean Woods AHLV identifies landscapes important to the character and setting of the Blean Wood Complex. It is important to preserve and enhance this landscape, with long term objectives to meet habitat network potential for woodland and heathland, particularly where it improves habitat connectivity of the Blean woodlands.
- The North Kent Marshes AHLV identifies an open and ecologically important landscape defined by open flat grazing land, with broad skies, few landscape features and a strong sense of remoteness, wildness and exposure. It forms part of an extensive complex of coastal marshes that flank the Swale Estuary along its northern and southern shores.
- The Wanstum Channel AHLV has been designated because of the strategic importance of this landscape in East Kent. The Wantsum Channel once separated the Isle of Thanet from the rest of Kent. The marshes form a dramatic open landscape of ditches and fields, reclaimed from the sea. The settlement pattern reflects the ancient coastline with most villages located on the old shoreline.

Undeveloped coast

1.5.10 The district contains attractive areas of undeveloped coast at Seasalter, Swalecliffe, Bishopstone and Reculver, which were previously designated under the adopted Local Plan to ensure only appropriate development was granted. The scenic importance of much of this coastline, and the adjoining countryside, is of countywide significance and parts have great scientific interest and recreational value. As the coastal hinterland merges into broad areas of countryside, no attempt was made to define an inland boundary.

Geology

1.5.11 The bedrock across the District is broadly split into three elements:

- Chalk (mainly to the South);
- Thanet Sand Formation (mainly central and eastern); and
- London Clay (Mainly North and West)[31].

[29] Canterbury District Adopted Local Plan https://www2.canterbury.gov.uk/media/1507001/Canterbury-District-Local-Plan-Adopted-July-2017.pdf
[30] Canterbury City Council Canterbury City AHLV Review for Local Landscape Designation Final Report prepared by LUC
[31] Canterbury City Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

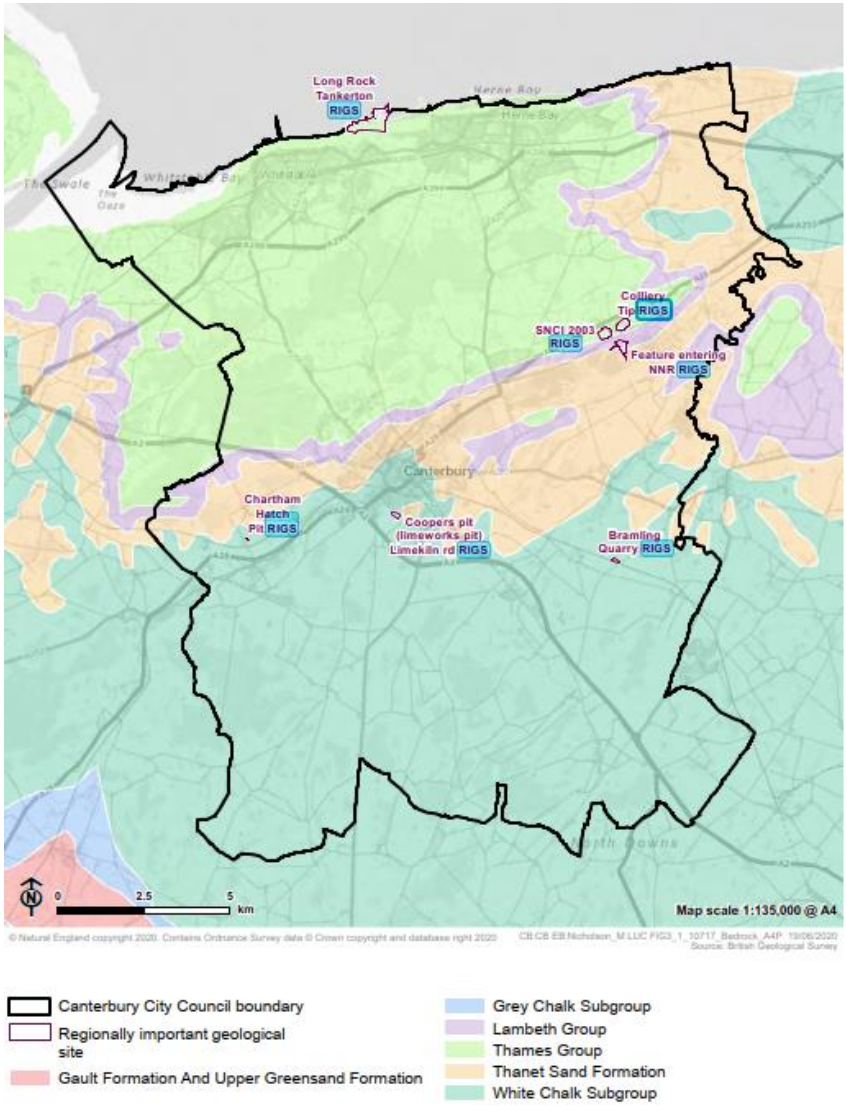
1.5.12 Kent County Council (KCC) are the minerals and waste planning authority for Kent. There are three minerals safeguarded across various areas within the District which are designated to avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources:

- Brickearth;
- River Terrace Deposits; and
- Sub-Alluvial River Terrace Deposits.

Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological sites (RIGS)

1.5.13 Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological sites (RIGS) are non-statutory Earth Science sites designated by locally based RIGS Groups. RIGS are considered to be important as an educational, research, historical or recreational resource using locally developed criteria. The RIGS notification to landowners and local authorities is one way of recognising and thereby protecting these important Earth Science and/or landscape features for the future. There are currently seven RIGS sites in the district as shown in **Figure D1.19**.

Figure D1.19 Bedrock Geology and RIGS



Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.5.14 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Although some landscape would still have protection under other designations, without strategic oversight there is a chance development will be built in inappropriate locations. For the landscape this could have various impacts from secondary effects like increased traffic causing increased pollutants which could negatively affect species of fauna or flora which make up the landscape, to the permanent loss of or irreversible damage to the landscape.
- Without strategic oversight there is a chance development will be built in inappropriate locations. For geology this could have various impacts from limiting future extraction, to causing permanent loss or damage geological resources.
- Without a strategic planning framework for the area there is a chance that the best and most versatile agricultural land may be lost to inappropriate development

Key Sustainability Issues

- To conserve and enhance landscape character and protected sites, by ensuring development is of high quality, especially where it could impact upon protected sites important for their contributions to the landscape.
- Ensuring sites which are deemed important for their geological or mineral resources are conserved and protected; including minimising developments which could prevent or hinder essential extractions.

1.6 Water: Flooding, Quality and Resources

Flooding

1.6.1 Historically in the District there have been a few significant flooding events, namely:

- 1953 North Sea Surge;
- 1978 Storm;
- 1987 Hurricane;
- 1996 Storm;
- April 2000 Floods;
- Winter 2000/2001 Floods;
- August 2007 Flash flooding in Whitstable; and
- Winter 2013/14 Floods[32].

1.6.2 The Canterbury City Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) sets out an assessment of flood risk from all sources (rivers, surface water, groundwater and coastal) and provides information to help support decision making to avoid exacerbating flood risk issues. The Environment Agency identifies areas that are technically at risk of flooding by flood zone.[33] Due to the amount of water within and surrounding the District there are large portions within a flood zone. Flood zones 2 and 3 are mainly found alongside the coast and surrounding the main watercourses. Canterbury City Centre is especially at risk of flooding as some of the land sounding the River Stour is classified as functional floodplain (Zone 3b).

1.6.3 There are a number of watercourses within the District, some of which can be categorised as main rivers:

- River Great Stour;
- Petham Bourne;
- Nailbourne/Little Stour;
- Sarre Penn;
- Oyster Coast Brooks;
- Gorrell Stream;
- Kite Farm Ditch;
- Swalecliffe Brook;
- West Brook; and

[32] Canterbury City Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2011, adopted 2017)
[33] Zone 1 – Low probability. This zone comprises land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year, less than 0.1%. Zone 2 – Medium probability. This zone comprises land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% -0.1%) or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5%-0.1%) in any year. Zone 3 – High probability. Zone 3a- land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any one year Zone 3b- Functional Floodplain- land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year, or is designated to flood in an extreme (0.1%) flood.

- Plenty Book[34].

1.6.4 The Couuncil area has 21.6 kilometres of coastline with over 10km being low-lying. Sea defences have been constructed along the entire length of the districts low-lying frontage. These are extensive formal defences, mainly comprising of concrete seawall, fronted by a large shingle beach, kept in place by groynes which are generally close together to try and ensure a sufficient volume of beach is maintained within each groyne bay. The majority of locations have a relatively stable beach but the beaches are monitored at least 3 times per year as part of the Regional Strategic Coastal Monitoring Programme.

1.6.5 There are few physical flood defence structures on the watercourses within the District, although the Great Stour does have various floodwalls and sluice gates through Canterbury's City Centre. Many of the watercourse have benefitted from flood alleviation schemes and various improvement works over the last 20 years[35].

Water Supply

1.6.6 The Districts potable water is supplied by two different water companies: South East; and Southern Water. Southern Water also provide the wastewater and sewage services for the entire District. South East Water are currently considering the option of a new reservoir at Broad Oak.

1.6.7 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) can be found within the District, mainly to the South. These are split into three zones with zone 3 covering a substantial part of the south east and south west of the District.[36] Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) are areas designated as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. There are four of these zones within the District, all to the south:

- Patrixbourne- groundwater;
- Great Stour- surface water;
- East Kent- groundwater; and
- Wingham River- surface water.

1.6.8 There is a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSZ) for groundwater covering an area around, and inclusive of, Adisham and Womenswold. The area is designated because the use of certain substances (including fertilisers, pesticides or other chemicals) must be carefully managed to prevent the pollution of water that is abstracted for use as drinking water.

1.6.9 The 2016 Kent Water for Sustainable Growth Study[37] stated that the capacity headroom was not in place at wastewater treatment works (WwTW) to meet planned development and additional capacity was required to support new development. Ensuring that the capacity of WwTW is in place to treat wastewater is key to supporting new growth.

[34] Canterbury City Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2011, adopted 2017)
[35] Canterbury City Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2011, adopted 2017)
[36] There are the SPZ: Zone 1: (Inner Protection Zone) - This zone is defined by a travel time of 50-days or less from any point within the zone at, or below, the water table. Additionally, the zone has as a minimum a 50-metre radius. It is based principally on biological decay criteria and is designed to protect against the transmission of toxic chemicals and water-borne disease.
Zone 2: (Outer Protection Zone) - This zone is defined by the 400-day travel time from a point below the water table. Additionally, this zone has a minimum radius of 250 or 500 metres, depending on the size of the abstraction. The travel time is derived from consideration of the minimum time required to provide delay, dilution and attenuation of slowly degrading pollutants.
Zone 3: (Total catchment) - This zone is defined as the total area needed to support the abstraction or discharge from the protected groundwater source.
[37] Aecom prepared for Kent County Council (2017) Kent Water for Sustainable Growth

1.6.10 The Kent Spatial Risk Assessment for Water: 2021 Update seeks to identify the impacts of changing climate, land use and population on water systems in Kent[38]. The study highlighted that due to high fluvial flood risk from the Stour and due to groundwater flood risk, parts of Canterbury are at risk of flooding.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.6.11 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Although there is some protection, without strategic oversight, there is a chance development could occur within areas at risk of flooding without the appropriate mitigation risking human lives.
- Although there is some protection, without the strategic oversight, there is a chance development could occur within SPZ, NVZ or DWSZ which could have an adverse effect on water quality.
- Water availability in the wider area may be affected by expected regional increases in population and by an increased occurrence of droughts due to climate change. Poorly planned development could lead to unsustainable pressure on an already water-stressed region and potentially compromise the capacity of water companies to jointly plan for future needs.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The need to minimise flood risk and maximise flood resilience through better catchment management, nature based solutions for managing flood risk and flood resilience, appropriate siting of new developments, and ensuring new development improves the flood resilience of their surroundings.
- Protect groundwater especially within Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) and Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSZ).
- The need to ensure there is a sufficient supply of water and adequate capacity at wastewater treatment works.
- The need to manage and protect water resources in response to climate change, population growth and lifestyle choices, ensuring there is a reduction in the usage of water per capita by improving domestic design to ensure water usage is minimised, with greater use of greywater collecting and use.

[38] AECOM (2021) Kent Spatial Risk Assessment for Water: 2021 Update. Available online: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/138736/Kent-SRA-for-water-Report-vol-1.pdf [Accessed February 2024].

1.7 Waste

Waste collection and disposal

1.7.1 The Council is the Waste Collection authority and is responsible for collecting household waste from residents' houses (referred to as Kerbside collections) in purpose built refuse vehicles. The general and recyclable waste is taken to contracted Disposal Outlets which are managed by Kent County Council (KCC) who are the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and established the Kent Resource Partnership.

1.7.2 KCC, as the WDA, are not only responsible for the waste from kerbside collection, but are responsible for the Household Waste Recycling Centres, of which there are two within the district located in: Canterbury; and Herne Bay.

1.7.3 **Table D1.4** identifies the residual household waste per household and percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted. The table highlights that within Canterbury the amount of waste generated by households is decreasing, whilst across the wider Kent Resource Partnership area the level of waste produced each year is slowly increasing. Recycling rates within both Canterbury and the Kent Resource Partnership have remained relatively similar since 2017/18, highlighting that there has been no significant improvement in recycling rates for a long period of time.

Table D1.4 Residual Household Waste per Household and Percentage of Household Waste that is Recycled and Composted

Residual Household Waste per Household (kg/h'hold)					
Area	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**
Canterbury City Council	470.5	443.9	427.6	467.5	424.0
Kent Resource Partnership	540.9	535.3	528.6	554.4	554.0
Percentage of Household Waste Recycled & Composted					
Area	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**
Canterbury City Council	43.5%	46.3%	45.7%	40.9%	44.9%
Kent Resource Partnership	46.7%	47.2%	46.7%	44.0%	43.5%

Source. Kent Resource Partnership[39]

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.7.4 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Other legislation should ensure waste is managed in line with the waste hierarchy, however without a local plan it would be challenging to ensure developers consider their waste and how new developments will deal with their waste (i.e. bin stores or whether refuse collectors can gain access to remove the waste).

[39] Kent Resource Partnership (2023) Kent Resource Partnership Annual Report – 2021/22. Available online: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/150648/KRP-Annual-Report-2021-to-2022.pdf [Accessed February 2024].

Key Sustainability Issues

- Ensuring the waste hierarchy continues to be implemented leading to a decreasing proportion of waste is disposed of in landfill, while recovery and reuse options (recycling, composting and electricity) continue to increase.
- The need to reduce the volume of construction, demolition and excavation wastes produced by new developments, change of uses or conversions.
- The need to support ongoing efforts to support reductions in waste generation and support waste re-use.

1.8 Population and Human Health

Population

1.7.5 **Table D1.5** outlines that the district's population grew by 15,868 (11.7%) between 2001 and 2011, which was the second largest increase (in real terms) of any district in the county. The rate of growth was also higher than both regional and national levels (7.9%). The District's population grew by 6,255 (4.1%) between 2011 and 2021, which was the third lowest increase (in real terms) of any district in the county. The rate of growth was also lower than both regional (7.45%) and national levels (6.56%). KCC's area had a population of 1,463,740 in 2011 and a population of 1,576,100 in 2021. The population of the KCC area grew by +24.3% between 2011 and 2021 which is a faster rate than both the national average and the South East average (+7.9%).

Table D1.5 Total population change between 2001 and 2021 in Kent Areas

Area	2001	2011	2021	2001/2011 Change		2011/21 Change	
				No.	%	No.	%
Ashford	102,673	117,956	132,700	15,283	14.9%	14,744	12.4%
Canterbury	**135,277**	**151,145**	**157,400**	**15,868**	**11.7%**	**6,255**	**4.1%**
Dartford	85,906	97,365	116,800	11,459	13.3%	19,435	19.9%
Dover	104,571	111,674	116,400	7,103	6.8%	4,726	4.2%
Gravesham	95,712	101,720	106,900	6,008	6.3%	5,180	5%
Maidstone	138,945	155,143	175,800	16,198	11.7%	20,657	13.3%
Sevenoaks	109,309	114,893	120,500	5,584	5.1%	5,607	4.8%
Folkestone and Hythe*	98,238	107,969	109,800	11,731	12.2%	1,831	1.6%
Swale	122,808	135,835	151,700	13,027	10.6%	15,865	11.6%
Thanet	126,700	134,186	140,600	7,486	5.9%	6,414	4.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	107,566	120,805	132,200	13,239	12.3%	11,395	9.4%
Tunbridge Wells	104,038	115,049	115,300	11,011	10.6%	251	0.2%
Kent	1,329,719	1,463,470	1,576,100	133,751	10.1%	112,630	7.7%
South East	8,000,645	8,634,750	9,278,100	634,105	7.9%	643,350	7.45%
England	49,138,831	53,012,456	56,489,800	3,873,625	7.9%	3,477,344	6.56%

Source[40,41] *Folkestone and Hythe previously named Shepway (Changed 2018).

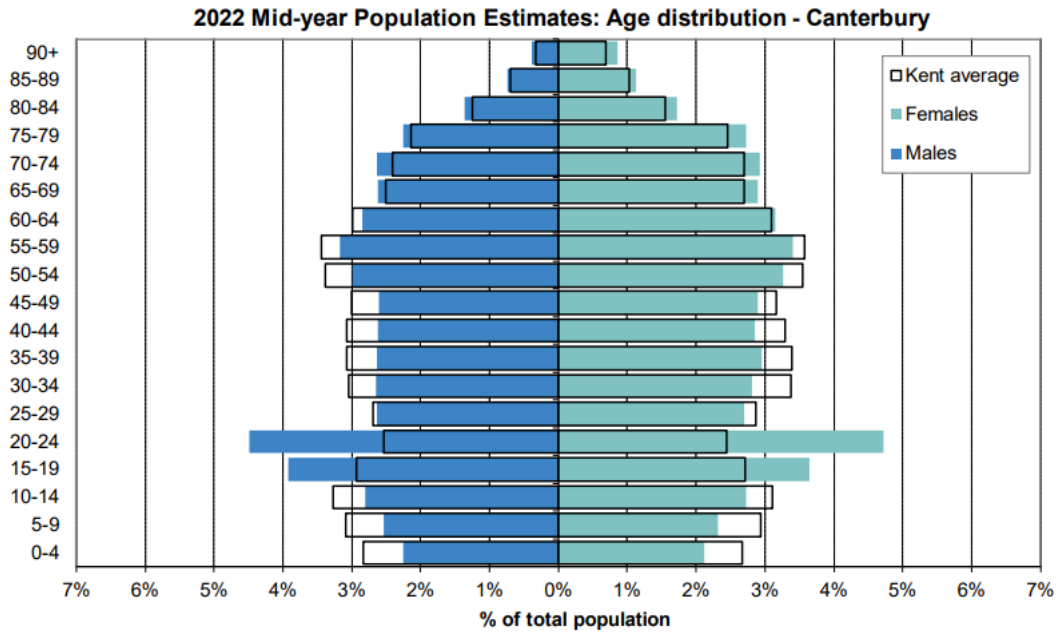
[40]Office for National Statistics (2013) 2011 Census: Population Estimates by five-year age bands, and Household Estimates, for Local Authorities in the United Kingdom. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/2011censuspopulationestimatesbyfiveyearagebandsandhouseholdestimatesforlocalauthoritiesintheunitedkingdom [Accessed February 2024]

[41] Office for National Statistics (2022) Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021 [Accessed February 2024]

1.7.6 The age distribution in 2021 outlines that the district had a high proportion of 15–24-year-olds (**Figure D1.20**) which significantly higher than the KCC area average. This reflects the large number of students attending Canterbury's multiple higher and further education institutions. Canterbury's older population (80+ years old) was also slightly higher than the KCC area average.

1.7.7 The 2021 Census confirms that Canterbury is experiencing an aging population, with there being a 20.2% increase in people aged 65 years and over between 2011 and 2021[42]. It also identifies that only a small increase in the population between 15 to 65 years (0.9% increase) and a decline of 2.1% in the proportion of children aged under 15 years.

Figure D1.20 Age distribution of the population within the district in 2022 (mid-year estimate).



Source: Kent County Council (2023) 2022 Mid-year population estimates[43]

Household Deprivation

Index of Multiple Deprivation

1.7.8 In terms of deprivation, in 2019, Canterbury was ranked 185th out of 326 English authorities. This is a slight decrease from ranking 183rd in 2015 and reflects a slight improvement in levels of deprivation using these measures.

1.7.9 The Office of National Statistics (ONS) assesses deprivation at a very localised level known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). England was divided into 32,844 LSOAs,

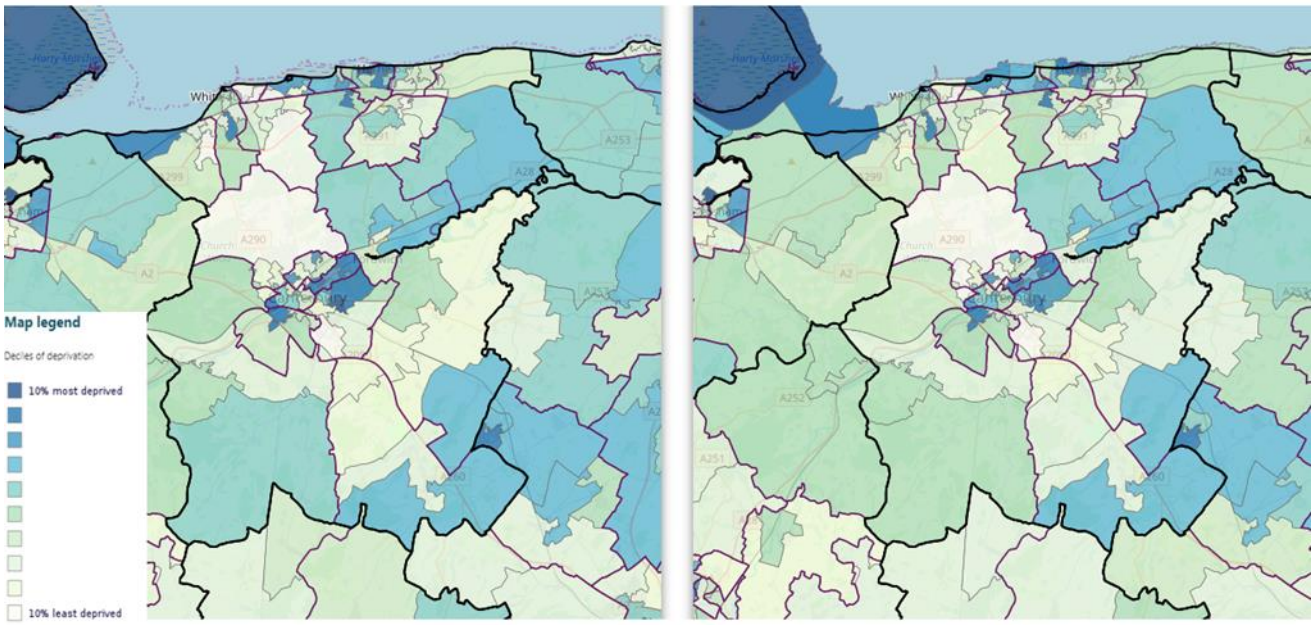
[42] Office for National Statistics (2013) 2011 Census: Population Estimates by five-year age bands, and Household Estimates, for Local Authorities in the United Kingdom. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/2011censuspopulationestimatesbyfiveyearagebandsandhouseholdestimatesforlocalauthoritiesintheunitedkingdom [Accessed February 2024]

[43] Kent County Council (2023) 2022 Mid-year population estimates: Age and sex profile. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/14725/Mid-year-population-estimates-age-and-gender.pdf [Accessed February 2024]

with 90 of them within Canterbury District. Of these 90 LSOAs within the District, two (Barton and Heron wards) are within the 10% most deprived as opposed to none in 2015. Canterbury has six of the most deprived LSOAs in Kent (Barton, Heron (2), Gorrell, Seasalter and Wincheap).[44]

1.7.10 **Figure D1.21** indicates the deprivation levels in all of the Lower Super Output Areas in Kent, where dark blue is 0-10% (representing the most deprived areas). The maps show the differences between 2015 (on the right) and 2019 (on the left). As can be seen below, overall, there is little change in deprivation across the District using these measures. However, in Kent overall, Thanet continues to rank as the most deprived authority and Tunbridge Wells the least. Canterbury performs similarly to 2015 (see **Figure D1.22**).

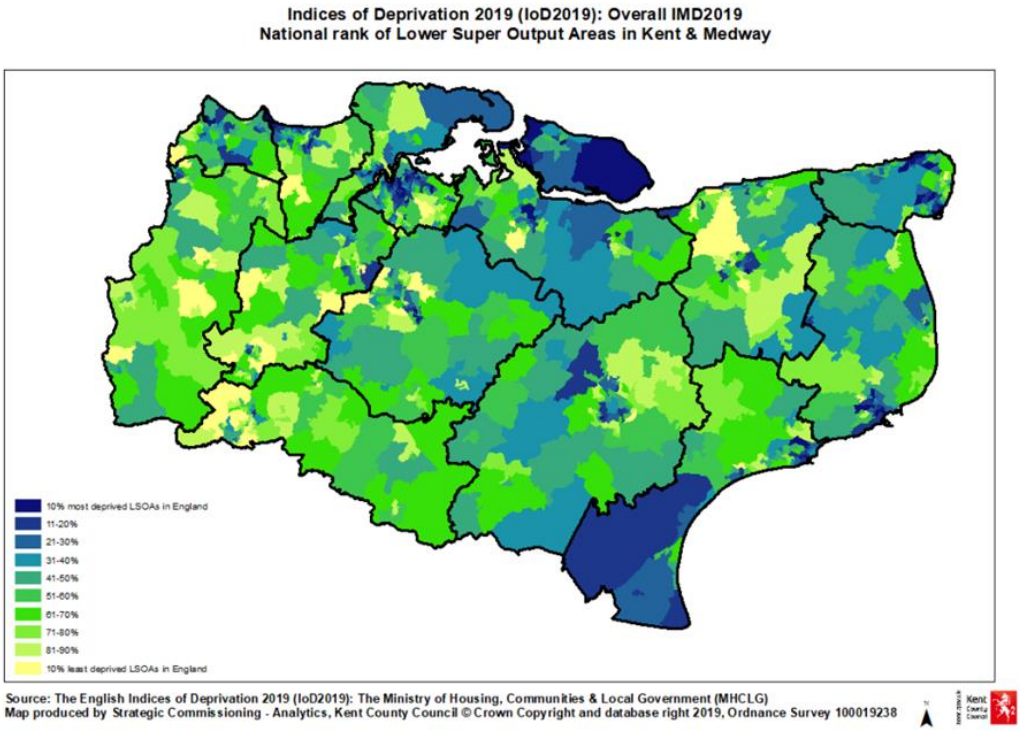
Figure D1.21 IMD comparison for lower super output areas (2019 and 2015)



Source: MHCLG – The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (2019 on the left, 2015 on the right)

[44] KCC, (2020). Strategic Commissioning Statistical Bulletin - The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019): Headline findings for Kent. Available from: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/7953/Indices-of-Deprivation-headline-findings.pdf

Figure D1.22 IMD across LSOA in Kent and Medway (2019)



Source: KCC, January 2020. Strategic Commissioning Statistical Bulletin - The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019): Headline findings for Kent

Crime

1.7.11 **Figure D1.23** outlines the recorded crime rate per 1,000 population for the Kent police force area. In the year ending June 2023, the crime rate for all crimes in Canterbury was slightly lower than average for the Kent police force area.[45]

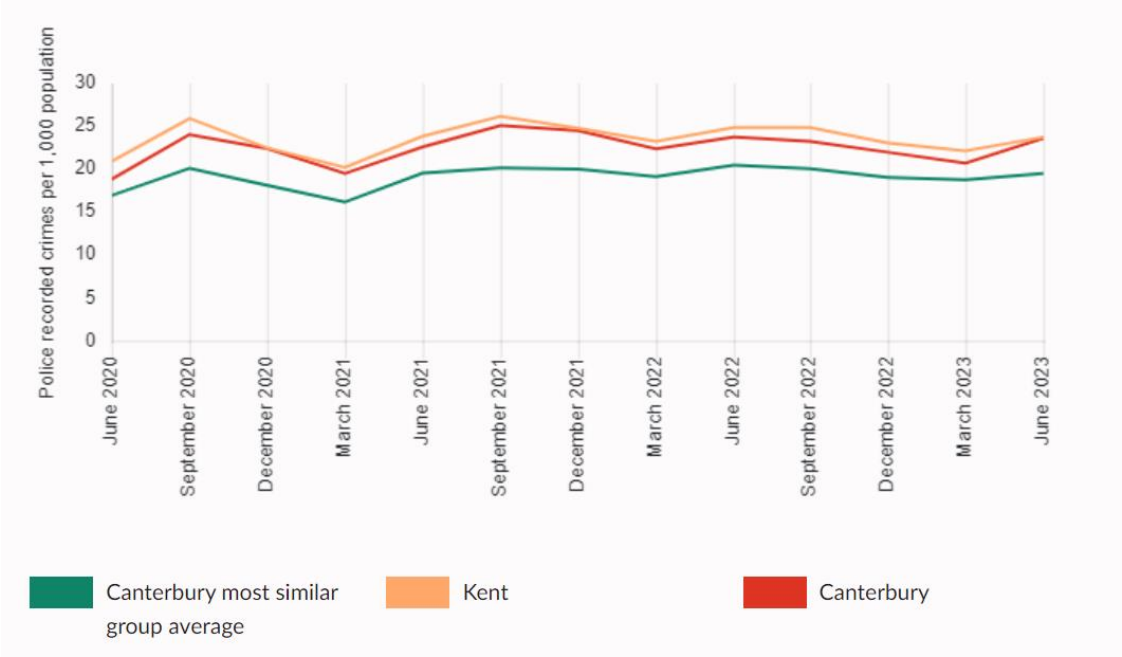
[45] Police.uk (2023) Kent Police – Compare your area. Available at: https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/kent-police/performance/compare-your-area/?tc=ZA60 [Accessed February 8 2024)

Figure D1.23 Crime in Canterbury compared with crime in other areas in the Kent force area

Source: Police.uk (2023) Kent Police – Compare your area.

1.7.12 **Figure D1.24** shows the trend in crime rates of all recorded crime between June 2020 and June 2023. There are fluctuations across the time period but generally higher rates are experienced in the summer months. As of June 2023 recorded crime rates were similar for Kent (23.74 per 1,000 population) as a whole and Canterbury (23.61 per 1,000 population).

Figure D1.24 Crime changes over time in Canterbury and in the Kent force area

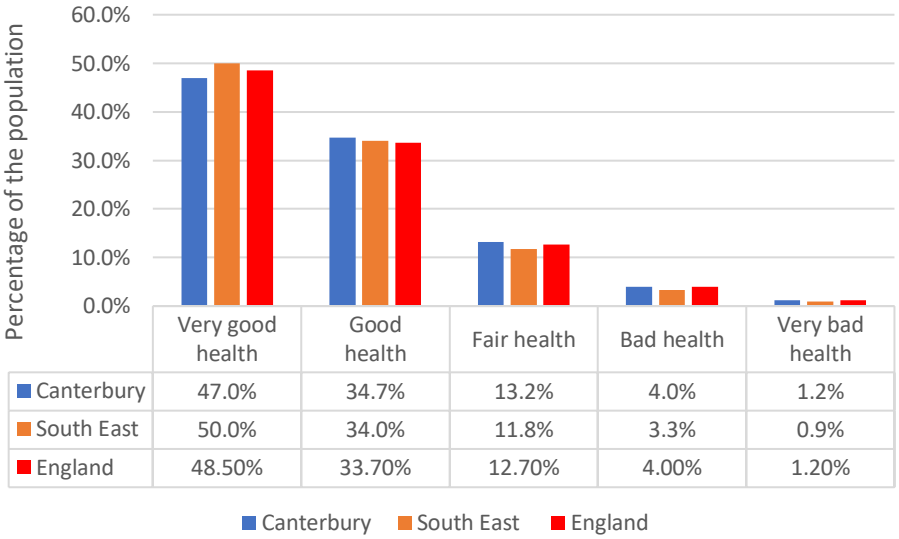


Source: Police.uk (2023) Kent Police – Compare your area.

Health

1.7.13 In 2021, the majority of the District had very good health. Only 18.4% of the population had fair to very bad health within the District, this was higher than England (see **Figure D1.25**).

Figure D1.25 General health of the population of the Canterbury City District, South East and England (2021)



	Very good health	Good health	Fair health	Bad health	Very bad health
Canterbury	47.0%	34.7%	13.2%	4.0%	1.2%
South East	50.0%	34.0%	11.8%	3.3%	0.9%
England	48.50%	33.70%	12.70%	4.00%	1.20%

Source: ONS data from Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles [46]

1.7.14 In 2021, 80% of the District's residents stated that their day-to-day activities were not limited (see **Table D1.6**). This was lower than both the South-east region and England. However, between limited a lot and limited a little, more people in the district stated their day-to-day activities were limited a little.

Table 1.6 Percentage of the population limited in day to day activities due to long term health

Area name	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities not limited
Canterbury	8	12	80
South East	6	10	84
England	7	10	83

Source: ONS data from Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles[47]

1.7.15 The Kent District profile[48] shows that life expectancy for both men (79.4) and women (83.4) is similar to the England average (79.4/83.1) but lower than the regional value

[46] ONS from the Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles [Accessed 8 February 2024)
[47] ONS from the Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles [Accessed 8 February 2024)
[48] ONS from the Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles [Accessed 8 February 2024)

(80.6/84.1). The latest available Public Health England (PHE) Local Authority Health Profile 2019[49] shows that life expectancy varies across the District and is 6.5 years lower for men and 5.1 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Canterbury than in the least deprived areas. However, for many measures of health (excess weight in Year 6 children/adults, rates of sexually transmitted diseases, hospital admissions, deaths from cardiovascular diseases) the District performs better than the national average. The Kent County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)[50] sets out the key health issues affecting the area and a range of recommendations to address the challenges. The JSNA recognises the growing ageing population presents particular challenges for health in Kent, including for hospital admissions, dementia care and multi morbidities under the life stage of *Ageing Well*.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.7.16 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Due to the high number of student aged individuals within the District, it is highly likely development related to education, in particular universities, would increase and without a strategic overview there is a potential the developments would not be appropriately located or sustainable.
- An increase in population will place an increasing demand on services, health facilities and sport and recreation facilities. To counteract the increase in demand related developments are likely and without strategic overview these could be inappropriate facilities or inappropriately located because the District's needs and changing demographics have not been considered.
- Securing contributions from developments would be difficult, if not impossible, for new facilities, or improvements to existing health or community facilities. This could have a knock-on effect on the availability of and access to services.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Ensuring the District's growing, ageing population have their needs considered and where possible provided for.
- Reducing the level of deprivation within the District, especially for the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are within the 10% and 20% most deprived areas in Kent within the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019).
- Ensuring community infrastructure and services (such as general practitioners), are available and accessible to all communities and residents, and improving those where necessary.
- Ensuring that the residents of Canterbury that experience some form of disability, especially where their day to day activities are 'limited a lot' or 'limited a little' receive support through a more welcoming built environment and have access to needed facilities and a range of transportation options.
- Ensure that formal and informal opportunities for all to take part in sport and be physically active are protected, provided and enhanced.

[49] Available from: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profiles/2019/E07000106.html?area-name=Canterbury
[50] Available from: https://www.kpho.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment

1.8 Historic Environment

Heritage Assets

1.8.1 The District has a rich history, highlighted by the following designated Heritage Assets located in the District (see **Figures D1.26 to D1.30** for locations):

- World Heritage Site;
- 97 Conservation Areas;
- 53 Scheduled monuments;
- 2 Registered Parks and Gardens;
- 1,880 Listed Buildings;
- 447 Locally Listed buildings;
- 1 Protected Wreck and 1 pending; and
- 1 Area of Archaeological Importance, of which there are only 5 sites nationally.

1.8.1 In addition, the District also includes a number of undesignated heritage sites including an excess of 9,000 archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and other assets.

Figure D1.26 World Heritage Site and Area of Archaeological Importance

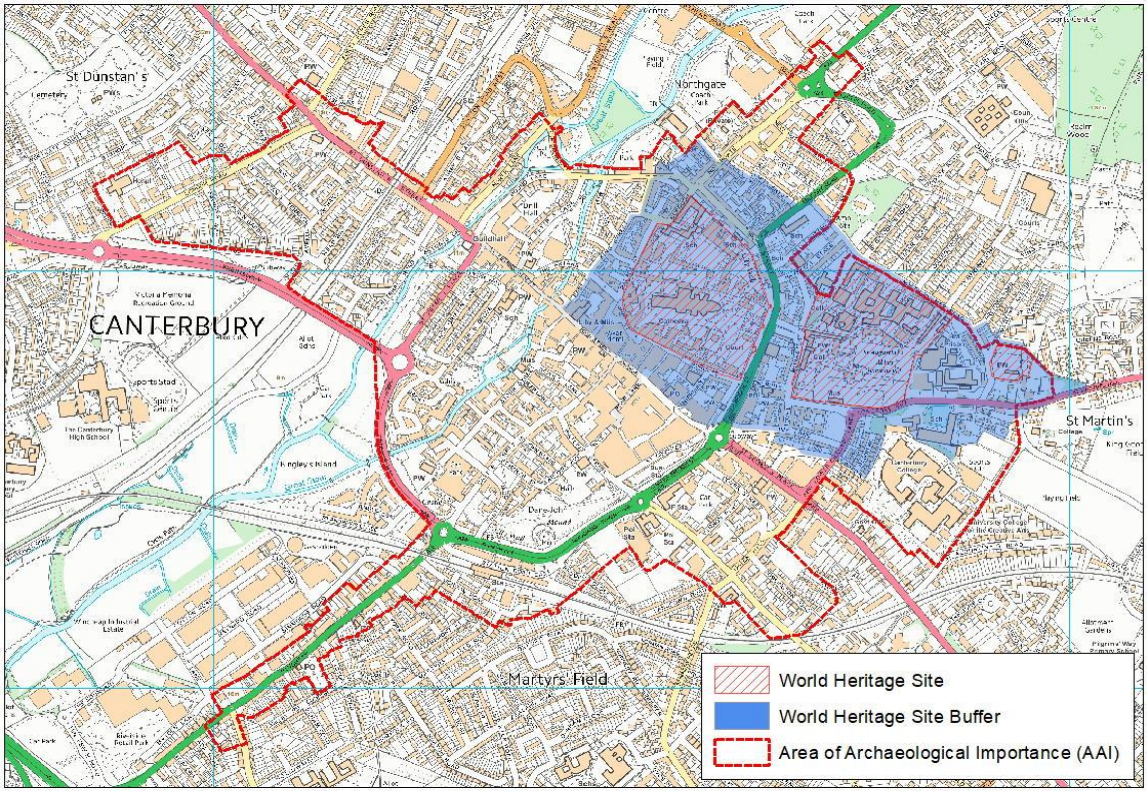


Figure D1.27 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the District

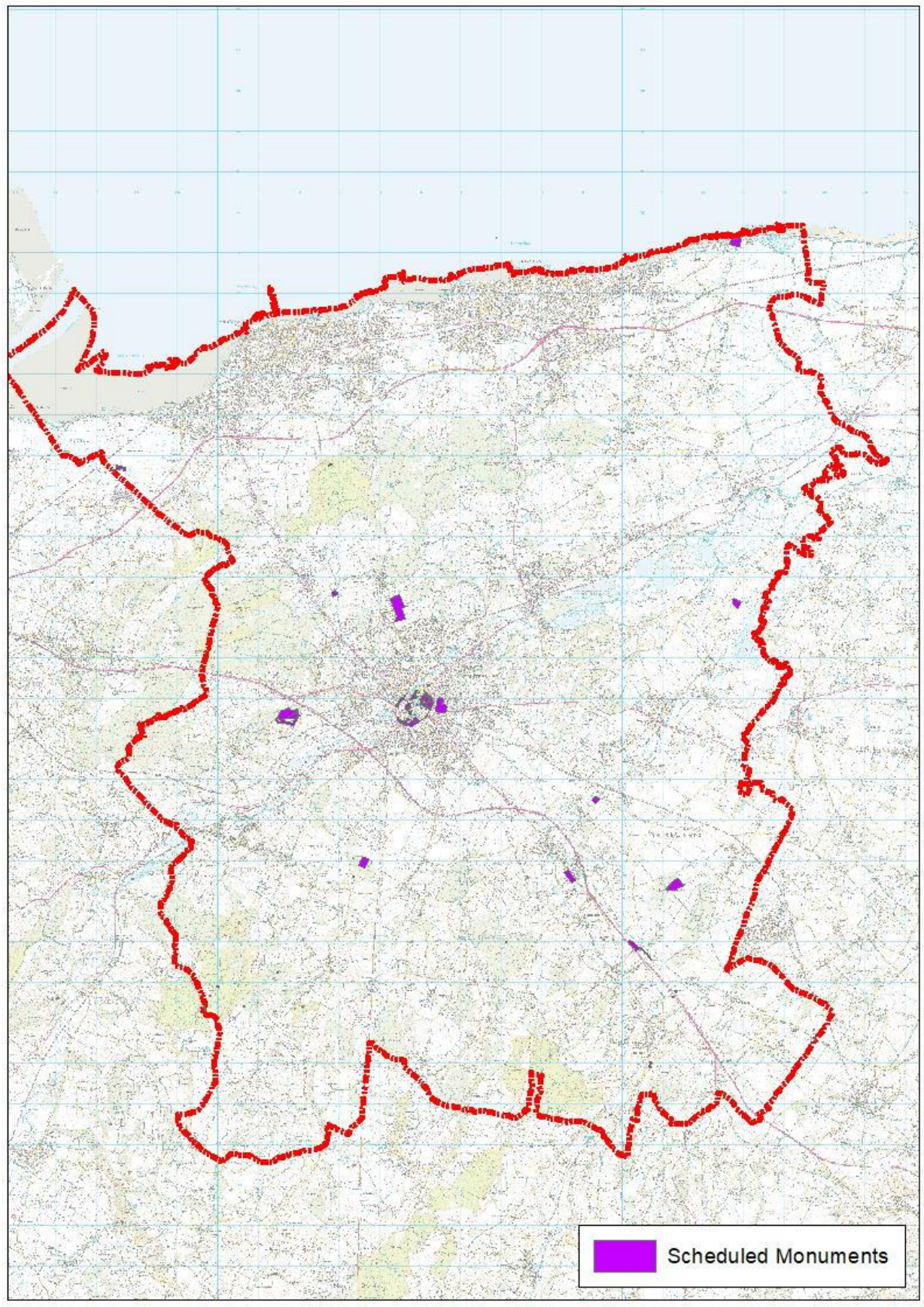


Figure D1.28 Listed buildings within the District by grade

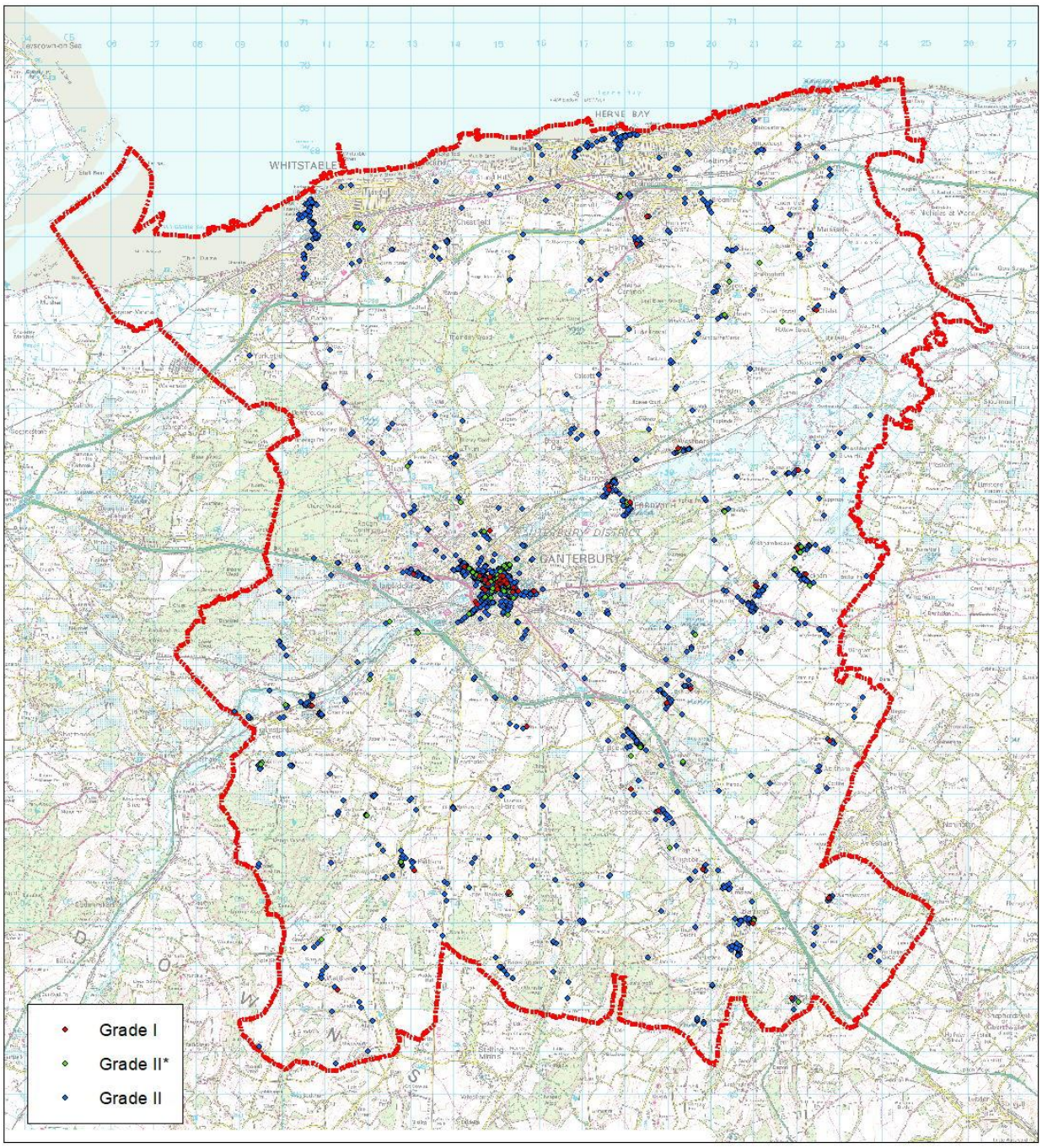


Figure D1.29 Registered Parks and Gardens – Broome Park

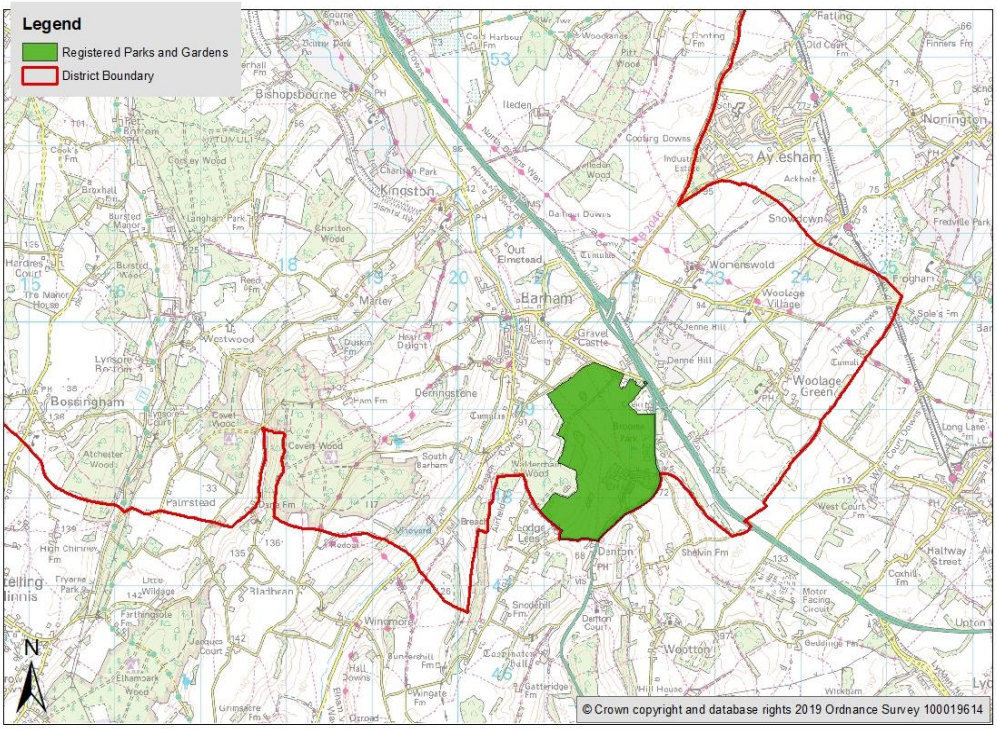
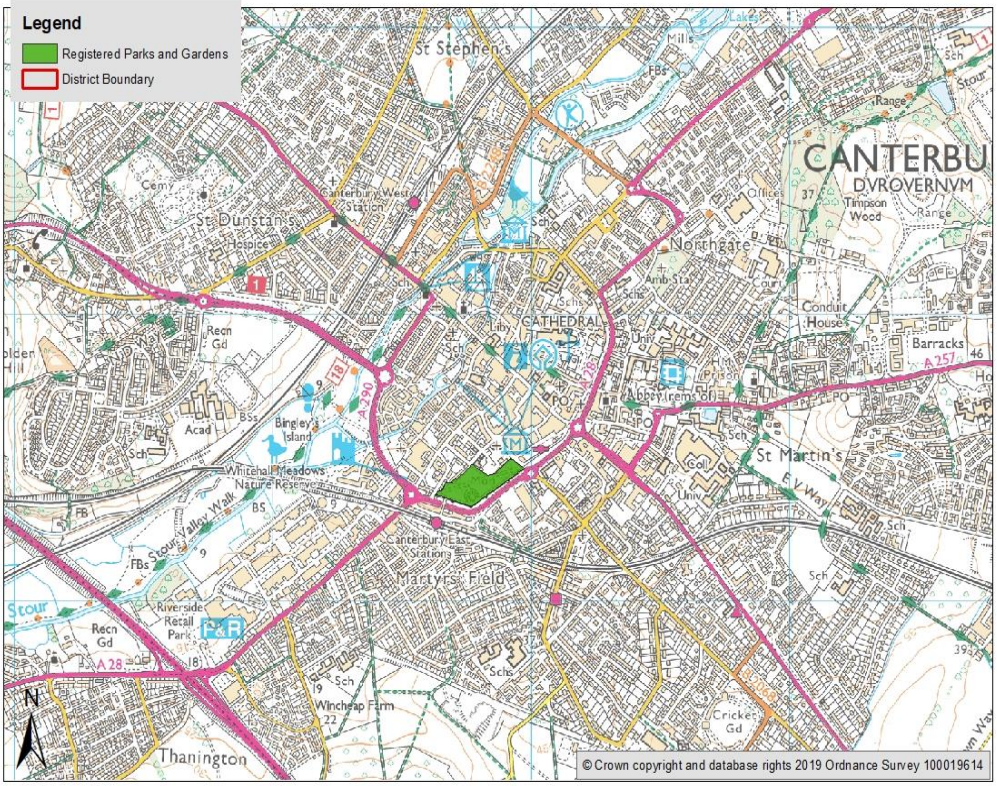


Figure D1.30 Registered Parks and Gardens – Dane John Gardens



Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register

1.8.2 The HAR register was launched by Historic England in 1998 and refers to a heritage asset (listed buildings, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, etc.) that has been identified as being at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. The national register is updated and managed by Historic England annually comprising Scheduled Monuments, and Grade I and II* listed buildings and is publicly available[51]. The national register identifies 19 heritage assets at risk comprising 4 grade I listed buildings, 3 grade II listed buildings, 2 grade II* listed buildings and 10 scheduled monuments.

1.8.3 The Council maintains a Local HAR Register, which includes those national assets identified by Historic England, and also those assets identified by the Council at a local level including grade II listed buildings and endangered buildings in conservation areas. The Local Register is based on a detailed working knowledge of the District. The Local HAR Register provides an additional repository of information on local historic assets, which helps improve the protection, conservation and management of heritage in Canterbury District. The Local HAR Register currently has 7 entries comprising 5 grade II listed buildings; 1 curtilage listed building; and 1 locally listed terrace.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.8.4 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- Across the District there are heritage assets with statutory designations to protect them, as well as a recently adopted Heritage Strategy which provides some strategic direction. Therefore, without a local plan the chance of substantial issues is limited, however there would not be any policies to reinforce the Heritage Strategy or ensure that developments are appropriately located. Inappropriately located development could have a range of negative effects from not fitting in with the character of a conservation area, to the irreversible loss or damage historic features.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Ensure the heritage of the District is protected, promoted and allowed to prosper.
- The need to minimise adverse impacts on all heritage assets caused by development. This includes conservation areas, as the quality of the historic environment is coming under increasing pressure from competing land uses.

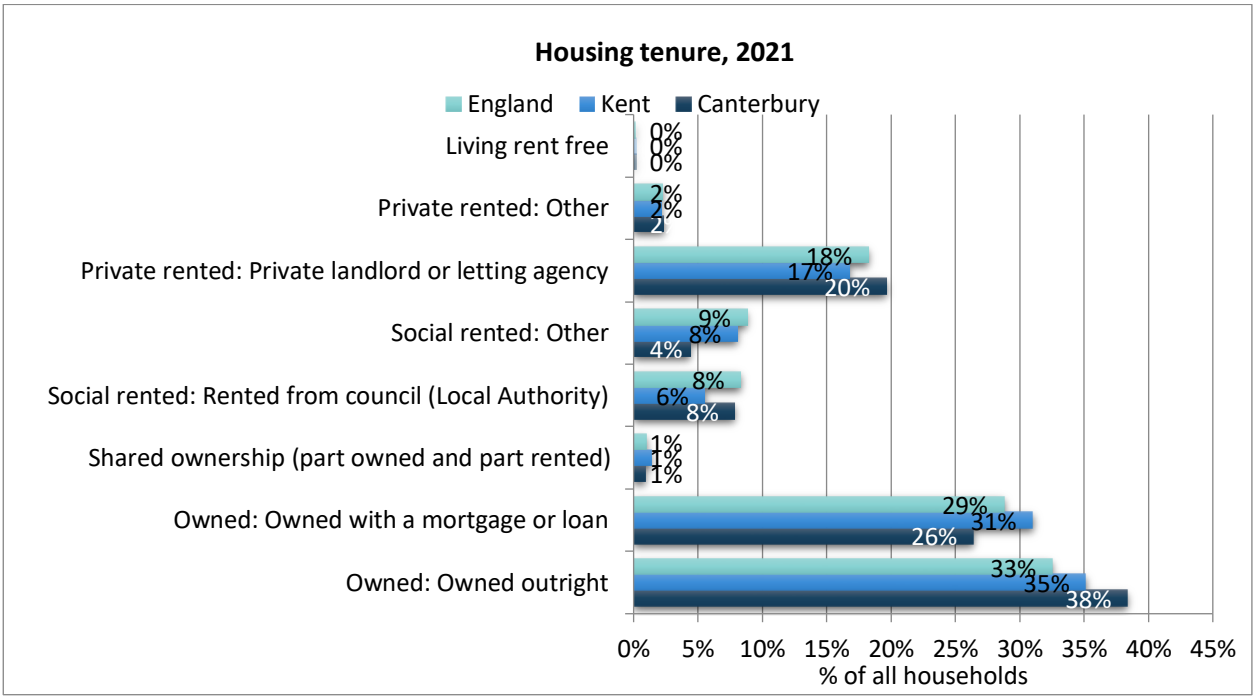
[51] Historic England's Heritage at Risk register can be found here: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/

1.9 Housing

Housing Tenure and Type

1.9.1 The District has more people in private rented housing, and fewer in social rented housing, than the south-east region or England (see **Figure D1.31**). The highest proportion of the District's households own their home outright (38%) which is higher than for Kent (35%) and England (33%).

Figure D1.31 Percentage housing tenure for the District, Kent and England (2021)



Source: 2021 Census data, ONS from the Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles [52]

1.9.2 In 2021, of all Kent districts, Canterbury had the highest number (9,234) and proportion (5.9%) of residents living in communal establishments. With four higher and further education institutions within the District, it is understandable that Canterbury's communal establishment figures were significantly higher than the other Kent authorities (see **Table D1.7**).

Table D1.7 Resident Type in Kent Local Authority Areas (2021)

	Total Resident Population	Household Residents	Communal Establishment Residents	% Household Residents	% Communal Establishment Residents
Ashford	132,747	131,781	966	99.3	0.7
Canterbury	157,432	148,198	9,234	94.1	5.9
Dartford	116,753	116,023	730	99.4	0.6
Dover	116,410	114,383	2,027	98.3	1.7

[52] 2021 Census, ONS from the Kent County Council (2023) Area Profiles – District Profiles. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles [Accessed February 2024)

Folkestone and Hythe*	109,758	107,862	1,896	98.3	1.7
Gravesham	106,900	106,387	513	99.5	0.5
Maidstone	175,782	173,457	2,325	98.7	1.3
Sevenoaks	120,514	119,401	1,113	99.1	0.9
Swale	151,676	138,859	1,728	98.8	1.2
Thanet	140,587	131,084	1,117	99.2	0.8
Tonbridge & Malling	132,201	113,380	1,931	98.3	1.7
Tunbridge Wells	115,311	131,781	966	99.3	0.7
Kent County Council Area	**1,576,069**	**1,549,488**	**26,581**	**98.3**	**1.7**
South East	**9,278,065**	**9,088,552**	**188,250**	**189,513**	**2.0**
England	**56,490,048**	**55,504,302**	**985,746**	**98.3**	**1.7**

Source: Nomis[53]

Empty homes and second homes

1.9.3 The most recent data as at October 2023[54] shows that within the district there 1,358 homes classed as empty and 1,474 dwellings classed as second homes.

Housing Completions

Completions

1.9.4 The highest levels of total dwelling completions in the previous 12 monitoring years took place in 2022/23. C2 student accommodation dropped in this year while C2 care homes has risen. The completion of both C2 uses has fluctuated since 2011 (see **Table D1.8**).

Table D1.8 Housing completions within the District

Monitoring Year	Dwelling Completions	C2 Student	C2 Care homes	Total
2011/12	624	15	16	655
2012/13	524	105	-32	597
2013/14	475	156	10	641
2014/15	285	237	32	555
2015/16	296	275	23	594
2016/17	417	40	-35	422
2017/18	446	679	-6	1119
2018/19	405	7	32	444
2019/20	528	22	47	597
2020/21	330	117	27	474

[53] ONS, Nomis (2021) TS001 – Number of usual residents in households and communal establishments. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp= [Accessed 9 February 2024]
[54] UK Government (2023) Council Taxbase 2023 in England. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/council-taxbase-2023-in-england [Accessed 9 February 2024]

2021/22	547	248	-10	785
2022/23	644	0	49	693
Total	**5521**	**1901**	**153**	**7576**

Source: CCC Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)[55]

Previously developed land

1.9.5 2017/18 and 2018/19 both saw low amounts of completions on brownfield sites which follows the decreasing trend from previous years (see **Table D1.9**). One reason is because of the number of greenfield sites which have been allocated through the previous Local Plan. The proportion of new residential addresses by brownfield land between 2019-20 to 2021-22 for Canterbury was 54%.[56]

Table D1.9 Percentage of dwelling completions on brownfield land

Monitoring Year	Completions on Brownfield (%)
2011/12	79.01%
2012/13	75.95%
2013/14	70.11%
2014/15	62.11%
2015/16	83.70%
2016/17	79.46%
2017/18	61.07%
2018/19	61.48%
2019/20 to 2021/2022	54%

Source: Authority Monitoring Report 2018-19 and Kent analytics DLUHC land use change statistics[57, 58]

Affordable Housing

1.9.6 There can be a delay between dwellings being counted as complete for the housing land supply, and that same dwelling being recorded as affordable housing. This is because a dwelling only gets counted as an affordable completion once it has been transferred to a Registered Provider, and this can occur several weeks after the building has actually been constructed. **Table D1.10** shows dwellings that have been transferred to a Registered Provider (affordable housing completions), which increased last year after four lower years previously.

[55] Canterbury City Council (2023) Authority Monitoring Report April 2022 to March 2023. Available at: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies/adopted-local-plan [Accessed February 2024]
[56] Kent Analytics (2022) New residential addresses by previous land use: 2019-2022. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/84617/New-residential-addresses-by-land-use.pdf [Accessed February 2024]
[57] Kent Analytics (2022) New residential addresses by previous land use: 2019-2022. Available at: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/84617/New-residential-addresses-by-land-use.pdf [Accessed February 2024]
[58] Only analyses dwellings. Does not include student accommodation and care homes (C2 uses).

Table D1.10 Affordable housing completions[59]

Year	Affordable rent housing completions	Affordable home ownership completions	Social rent housing completions	Total
2011/12	18	33	93	144
2012/13	10	53	58	121
2013/14	10	10	50	70
2014/15	40	0	0	40
2015/16	20	30	0	50
2016/17	38	10	0	48
2017/18	9	36	0	45
2018/19	19	37	0	56
2019/20	40	55	44	139
2020/21	35	22	0	57
2021/22	77	23	43	143
2022/23	57	70	31	158
Total	373	379	319	1,071

Registers

Housing Need Register

1.9.7 The Housing Need Register (HNR) is an important indicator of demand for affordable (including social) rented housing. Applications to the Council's HNR will only be accepted from households with a qualifying housing need and a local connection (except in exceptional circumstances). Affordable rented homes in the District, that are managed by either East Kent Housing or a Housing Association, are let using a choice based lettings system where people registered on the HNR can bid for appropriate properties. Council homes can also be offered to homeless households to whom the council has a duty to accommodate.

1.9.8 In the year 2021/22, 602 homeless applications were made to the Council, the majority of these cases were assisted without an offer of council housing (for example, their homelessness was prevented, they were assisted into private housing or referred on to a supported housing provider).

1.9.9 Although the number of households on the HNR register has risen in 2023 as there is still a portion of residents within the district who are in need of an accommodation (see **Table D1.11**).

[59] Canterbury Council (2023) Authority Monitoring Report April 2022 to March 2023. Available at: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies/adopted-local-plan [Accessed 9 February 2024]

Table D1.11 Number of households on the Housing Need Register

Year (1st April)	Number of households on the HNR
2011	3,519
2012	4,588
2013	4,708
2014	1,734
2015	2,269
2016	2,595
2017	2,709
2018	2,310
2019	1,983
2020	2,268
2021	2,547
2022	2,809
2023	2,809

Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024)[60]

Self- and Custom- Build Register

1.9.10 In accordance with legislation (The Self-Build and Custom Building Act 2015), the council holds a register of those interested in self-build and custom build projects. As of March 2023, there were nine entries on Part 1 of the register and one entry on Part 2 the register and the council is working to ensure that enough plots are provided in order to meet the requirements. To gather more accurate information about the demand for this type of housing, a report went to Planning and Resources Committee to allow the inclusion of a local connection requirement[61]. Therefore, the number of households on the register is expected to change in the near future as the Council brings in the agreed changes.

Brownfield Register

1.9.11 In accordance with legislation, the council prepares, maintains and publishes a register of brownfield land that meets all the criteria specified in The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017. In March 2023 there were 34 parcels of land on the register.

[60] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024) Statistical data set on live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district, England, from 1997 to 2023. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies#full-publication-update-history [Accessed 9 February 2024]

[61] Planning and Resources committee unanimously agreed to the officers recommendations. The full committee report and associated minutes can be found on the councils websites: https://democracy.canterbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=615&MId=12136

Gypsies and Travellers

1.9.12 The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment May 2018 found evidence of Gypsy and Traveller pitch need over the next five years (2017/18 to 2021/22) equating to 17 pitches under the cultural definition, or 11 pitches under the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) 2015 definition of Gypsy and Traveller.

1.9.13 Extending the period (2017/18 to 2036/37), a cultural need for 29 pitches, or 12 pitches under the PPTS definition was identified, however it did not evidence any need for Travelling Showperson plot provision. Transit pitches were not recommended due to the evidence of unauthorised encampment activity.

1.9.14 The Council has published a new Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2023/24, which provides up-to-date projections on the demand for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. This assessment identified a need for zero new Travelling Showpeople pitches, but that there is a need for 54 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the Local Plan period (2023/24 to 2040/41).

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.9.15 The potential future baseline, without the Local Plan:

- There would be little regulation and strategic overview of housing developments leading development to be led by market forces.
- Housing would be unlikely to meet the needs of everyone in the District. Previous completion data would suggest the elderly would miss out, in particular, because not many care homes have been built. The same applies to affordable housing which recently saw an increase in completions but from previous data it would be difficult to conclude that those figures would stay high.
- Housing developments would likely come forward in less appropriate locations (e.g. on greenfield land).
- Contributions could not be secured from developments meaning communities miss out on some of the benefits, such as new or improvements to existing open space, affordable housing, schools and transport infrastructure.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Encourage development towards previously developed land and minimise the impact of development on the District's sensitive environmental receptors, whilst maximising opportunities for biodiversity net gain.
- The need to ensure there is a supply of appropriate, well designed, located and affordable housing (in all tenures) to meet the needs of the District.
- The need to provide sufficient housing on the most appropriate land, which supports the needs of all of the District and meets housing targets (for example care homes; student; affordable; residential; self and custom build; and gypsies and travellers).
- The need to ensure developments are built at appropriate densities, maximising the land available without over developing, and with a high design quality.

1.10 Economy

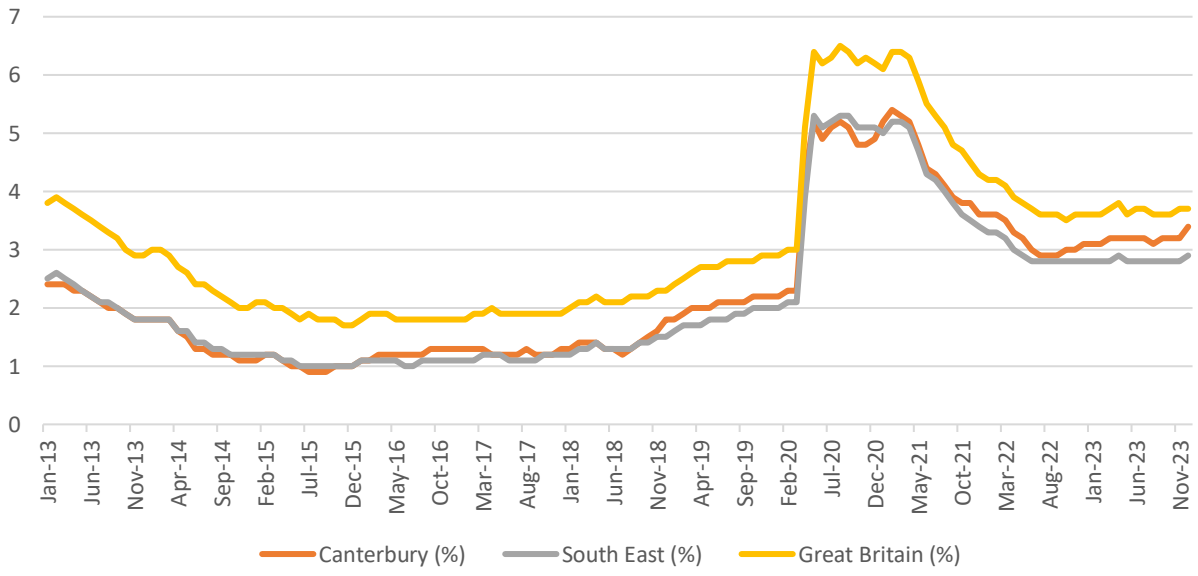
Employment and Education

Unemployment

1.10.1 Between October 2022 and September 2023, 4.1% of the district's population were unemployed. The District's unemployment is higher than Great Britain (3.7%) and it is also higher than the South East region (3.3%).

1.10.2 In December 2023, 3.4% of the district's population (aged 16-64) were recorded as being a claimant, meaning they were receiving out of work benefits (see **Figure D1.32**). This is higher than at the regional level, but lower than the national level. The percentage of claimants rose substantially in all geographies in 2020, linked to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. There had previously been little fluctuation in levels since 2015.

Figure D1.32 Claimant Count (%) for the District, South-east and Great Britain (2013-23)



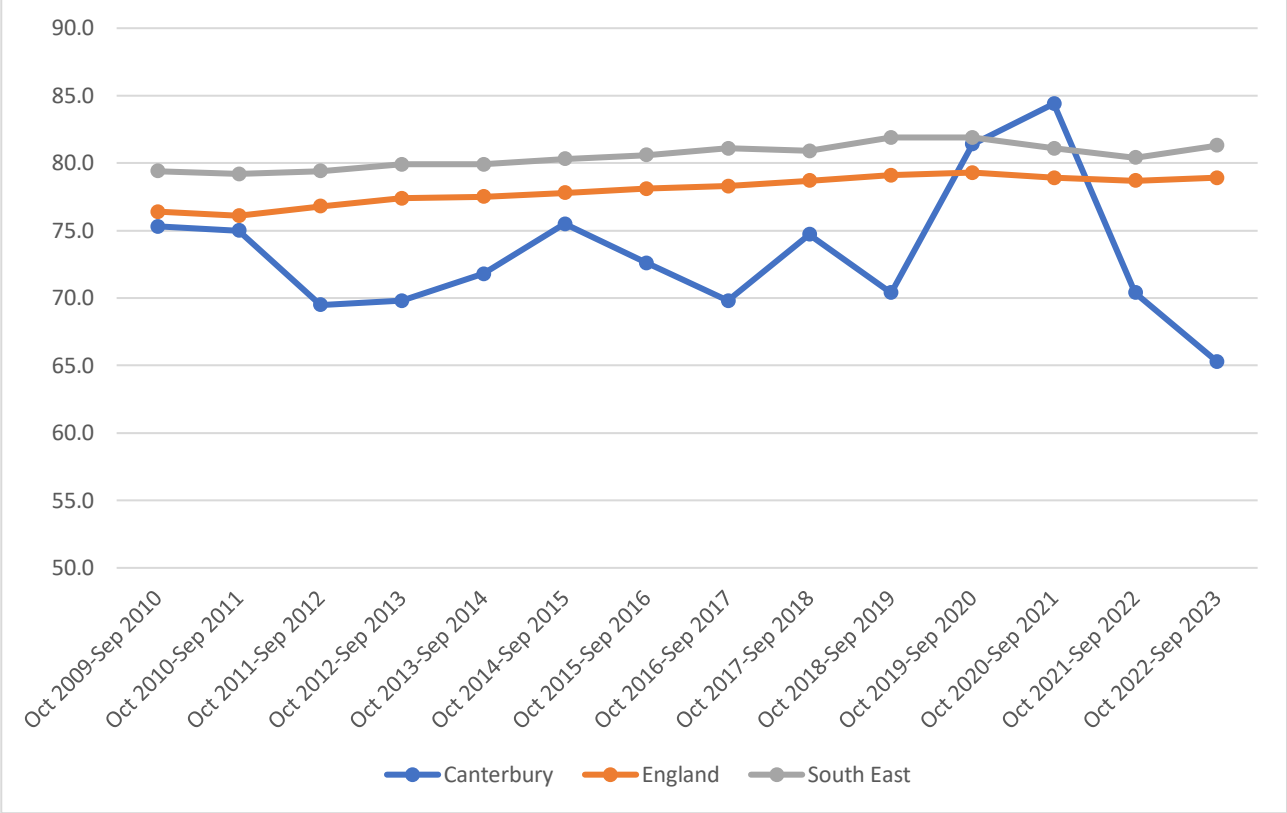
Source: Nomis[62]

Economic Activity

1.10.3 The majority of the district's population is economically active, although this has been seen to fluctuate, but since 2009 the percentage of individuals who are economically active in the District has largely been lower than both regional and national levels (see **Figure D1.33**). However, in the period October 2020 to September 2021 Canterbury had a higher percentage of there population than both the South East and England.

[62] Nomis sourced from ONS, (2023) Claimant Count By Age - Time Series. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/subreports/cca_time_series/report.aspx? [Accessed 9 February 2024]

Figure D1.33 The percentage of the population which is economically active for the District, South-east and Great Britain (2009-23)



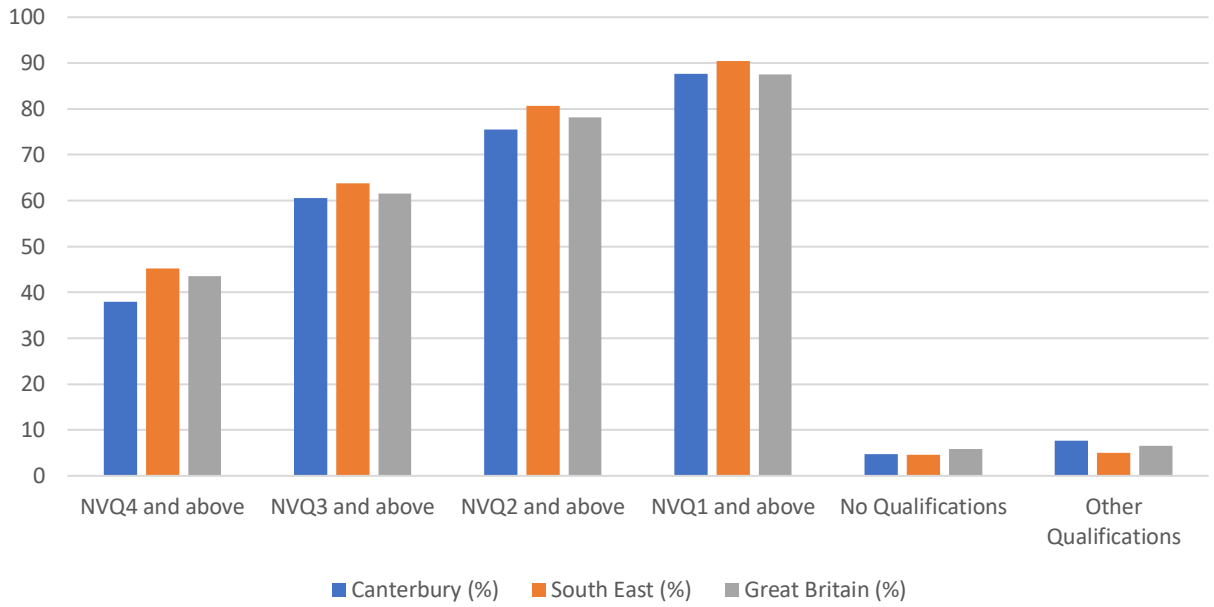
Source: Nomis[63]

Qualifications

1.10.4 There are 8 qualification levels in England[64]. In 2021, the district had a marginally higher percentage of people with no qualifications than within the South East region as a whole but a lower percentage than for England as a whole. However, the district has more individuals with other qualifications than both the South East and Great Britain levels (see **Figure D1.34**). The proportion of the population with a NVQ3 or above has traditionally been above the regional and national above but for 2021 was lower.

[63] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) Economically Active - Time Series. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx? [Accessed February 2024]
[64] Excluding 'entry level' qualifications such as English for speakers of other languages: Level 1 includes GCSE grades 3 to 1 or D to G; Level 2 includes GCSE grades 9 to 4 or grades A* to C; Level 3 includes AS levels and A levels; Levels 4 and 5 include Level 4 and Level 5 NVQs respectively; Level 6 includes bachelor degrees; Level 7 includes masters degrees; Level 8 includes doctorate degrees.

Figure D1.34 The highest qualifications the population of the District, South East and England have as a percentage (2021)



Source: Nomis [65]

Students

1.10.5 During the 2021 census the percentage of the population of people who were schoolchildren or full-time students who were over 16 years old was recorded. Although the district had the same percentage as both the South East and England for those aged 16 to 17, the district had more in the 18+ age bracket (see **Table D1.12**).

Table D1.12 Percentage of people within the District, South East and England who are schoolchildren and full-time students aged 16+ (2021)

	Canterbury	South East	England
Age 16 to 17 (%)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Age 18 and over (%)	11.8	3.7	4.3

Source: Nomis[66]

1.10.6 Based on the 2019-mid year estimates over 29,145 people within the District are within the 16-24 age range. The proportion of the District which is of student age (16-24) is significantly higher than the country average (see **Table D1.13**).

[65] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) Qualifications - Time Series. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/subreports/quals_time_series/report.aspx? [Accessed February 2024]
[66] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) RM206 - Full-time students by age. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?menuopt=200&subcomp= [Accessed February 2024]

Table D1.13 Percentage of the population within the student age range of 16-24

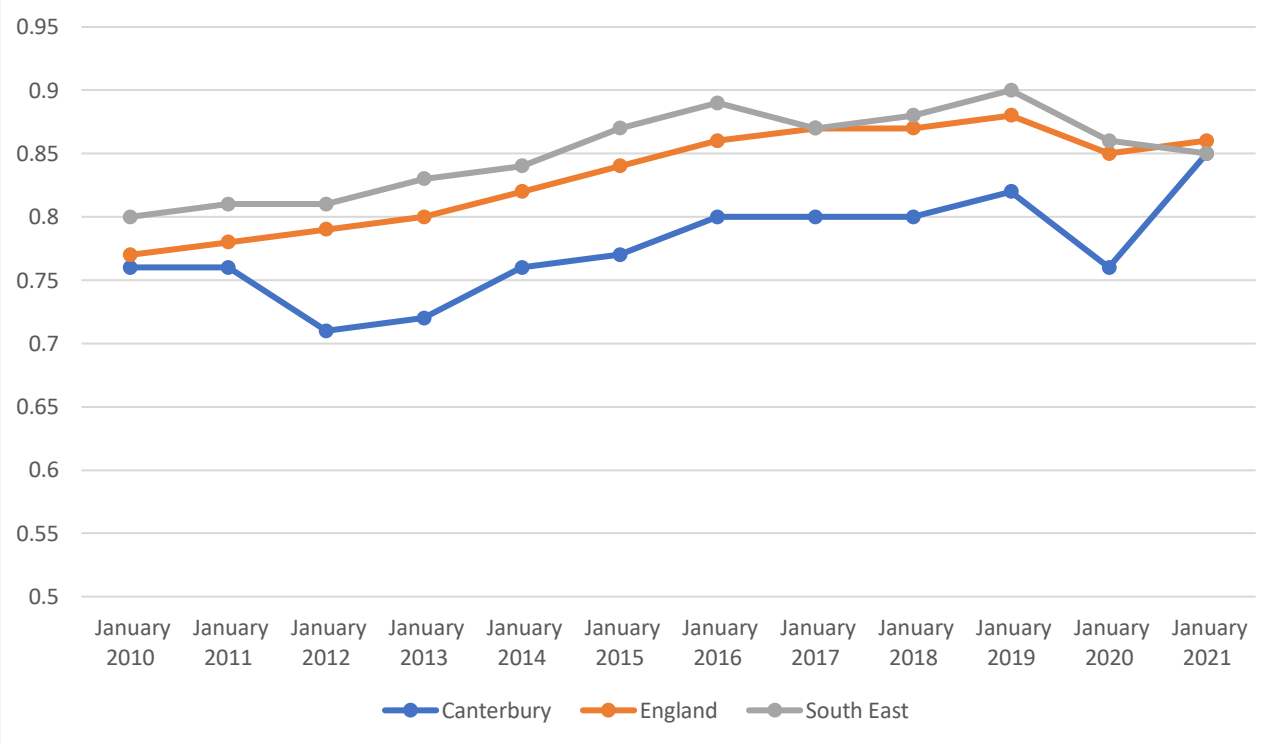
	Canterbury	England and Wales
16-24 year olds (%) Mid 2019 estimate[67]	17.63	10.58
16-24 year olds (%) 2021	16.8	10.6

Source: ONS[68]

Job Density

1.10.7 Canterbury has a low job density compared to the South East and Great Britain as a whole, however it has been increasing since 2012 (see **Figure D1.35**).

Figure D1.35 Time series of job density for Canterbury, South East and Great Britain (2010-2021)



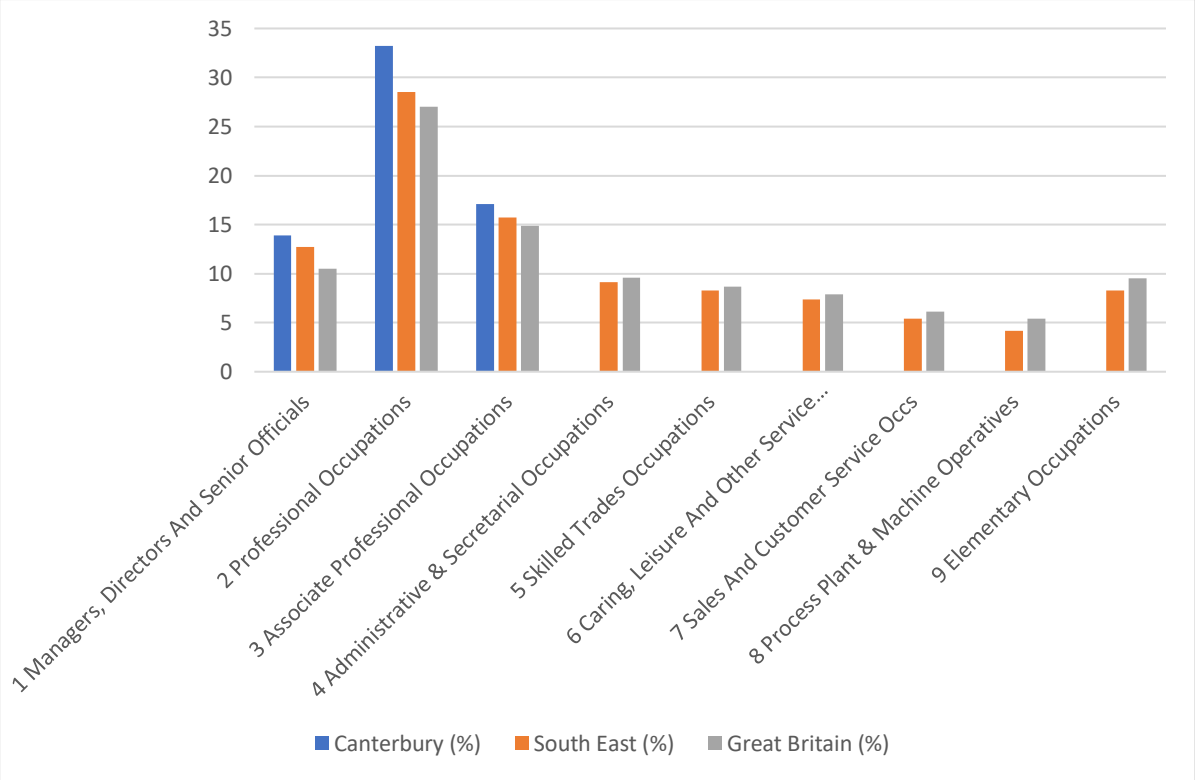
Source: Nomis[69]

[67] Office for National Statistics (2020). Mid-year estimates of the population: Mid-2019: 2020 LA boundaries © Crown copyright 2019
[68] Office for National Statistics (2022) Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021, unrounded data. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021unroundeddata [Accessed 9 February 2024]
[69] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) Job Density - Time Series. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/subreports/quals_time_series/report.aspx? [Accessed February 2024]

Occupations

1.10.8 Of those in employment between Oct 2022-Sep 2023, the district had a reasonably even distribution across the various occupational roles. The District had a higher proportion of people in groups 1-3 (encapsulating managers, directors. professional occupations) than at the regional and national level (see **Figure D1.36**).

Figure D1.36 Percentage of people employed in occupational roles for the District, South-east and England (2022/23)

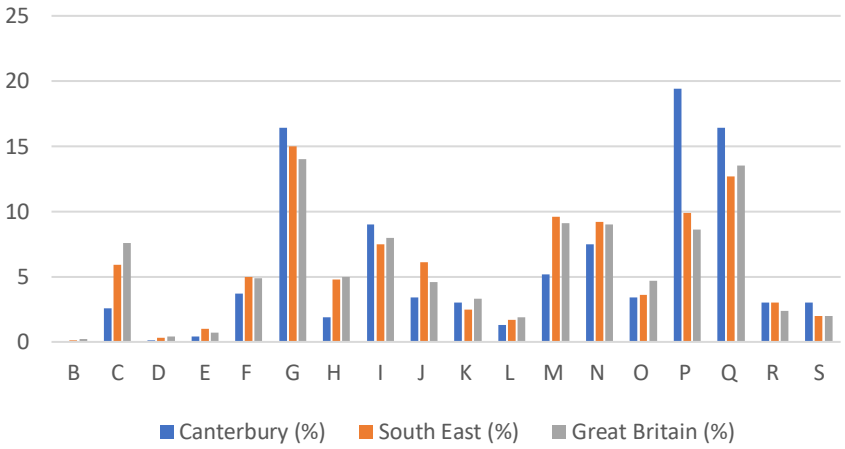


Source: Nomis[70,71]

1.10.9 Nomis notes that some of the sample sizes from these occupation groups are too small to provide updated information. However, up to date information on employee jobs by industry type is provided in **Figure D1.37** below[72]. In 2022, a large proportion of those employed within the district worked within the employment sector of Education (19.4%); Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles (16.4%); and Human Health and Social Work Activities (16.4%).

[70] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) Employment by occupation. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/report.aspx?town=canterbury#tabempocc [Accessed February 2024]
[71] The data for groups 4 Administrative & Secretarial Occupations, 5 Skilled Trades Occupations 9. Elementary occupations could not be provided as the sample size was to small for a reliable estimate and the data for 6. Caring, leisure and other service occupations, 7. Sales and customer service occupation, 8. Process, plant and machine operators is not available for the district level since sample size is disclosive
[72] Reference letters for job types: B : Mining And Quarrying; C : Manufacturing; D : Electricity, Gas, Steam And Air Conditioning Supply; E : Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management And Remediation Activities; F : Construction; G : Wholesale And Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles; H : Transportation And Storage; I : Accommodation And Food Service Activities; J : Information And Communication; K : Financial And Insurance Activities; L : Real Estate Activities; M : Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities; N : Administrative And Support Service Activities; O : Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security; P : Education; Q : Human Health And Social Work Activities; R : Arts, Entertainment And Recreation; S : Other Service Activities

Figure D1.37 Employee jobs by industry for Canterbury, South East and Great Britain in 2022

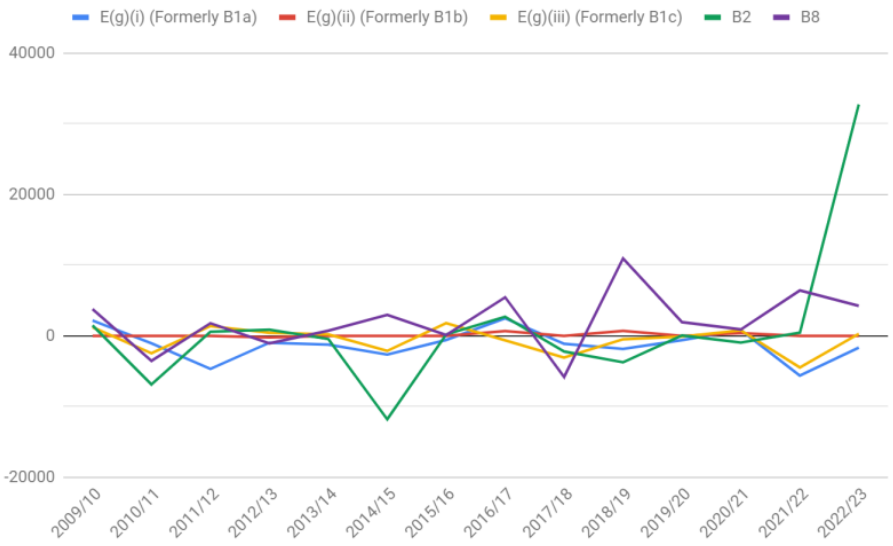


Source: Nomis[73]

Employment and Retail floorspace

1.10.10 **Figure D1.38** shows net change in employment floorspace in the district from 2009 to 2023. There has been a reasonable amount of fluctuation in net gain across all of the use classes in this time period. Within recent years there have large net gains in B2 general industrial uses.

Figure D1.38 Net Change in Employment floorspace (2009-2023)[74]



Source: CCC (2023) Authority Monitoring Report 2022/23

[73] Nomis sourced from ONS (2023) Employee Jobs By Industry. Available from: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157312/report.aspx?town=canterbury#tabempocc [Accessed February 2024]
[74] Canterbury Council (2023) Authority Monitoring Report April 2022 to March 2023. Available at: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies/adopted-local-plan [Accessed February 2024]

1.10.11 **Table D1.14** shows net changes in retail and commercial uses change[75].

Table D1.14 Use class net change from 2010/11 to 2022/23[76]

Year	Total amount of floorspace	E(a) (Formerly A1)	E(c) (Formerly A2)	E(b) (Formerly A3)	Sui Generis (Formerly A4)	Sui Generis (Formerly A5)	E(g)(i) (Formerly B1a)	Formerly D1	Formerly D2
2010/11	Gains	1,679	23	NA	NA	NA	2,278	NA	591
	Net	-1,449	-4,373	NA	NA	NA	-1,054	NA	-337
2011/12	Gains	6,517	534	NA	NA	NA	3,597	NA	2,239
	Net	3,119	477	NA	NA	NA	1,661	NA	-761
2012/13	Gains	3,770	334	NA	NA	NA	138	NA	1,078
	Net	-774	176	NA	NA	NA	-766	NA	1,078
2013/14	Gains	4,474	70	1,489	174	301	1,463	2,700	601
	Net	2,305	-46	1,168	-3,279	245	-1,227	1,411	-360
2014/15	Gains	1,054	0	735	1,289	252	719	4,650	1,770
	Net	238	-574	673	1,289	252	-2,640	3,840	1,255
2015/16	Gains	656	405	1,019	271	200	317	6,450	3,662
	Net	-1,023	405	1,019	204	200	-573	4,042	3,662
2016/17	Gains	12,194	109	1,999	388	145	4,131	3,053	1,772
	Net	10,069	-774	1,923	-412	145	2,494	-178	-12,766
2017/18	Gains	5,421	266	2,652	319	116	1,304	15,417	5,644
	Net	-1,010	-326	2,199	-887	116	-1,112	6,570	-8,620
2018/19	Gains	1582.3296	432	648.2	43	103.6	804	13156.85	799.5
	Net	540.8696	274.4	437.2	-731.5	31.9	-1830.15	12901.85	570.5
2019/20	Gains	1664.8	0	256.8	322.65	0	220.1	5448.07	4185.1
	Net	-1322.46	-120.6	130.8	-40.35	-60	-603.2	-9588.93	4007.1
2020/21	Gains	722.2	0	937.1	108.8	0	1015.6	4376.3	2009
	Net	-1060.7	-100	875.7	-245.4	0	822.1	3036.3	835
2021/22	Gains	6,277.9	85	2,754.8	905.3	165.8	859.2	25,114.8	1,119.6
	Net	4,933.9	-63.2	2,674	905.3	165.8	-5,608.9	23,978.8	803.6
2022/23	Gains	3153	249	3303	76	79	225	42	2339
	Net	1288	-78	3113	-326	79	-1660	-230	1385

Source: CCC (2023) Authority Monitoring Report 2022/23

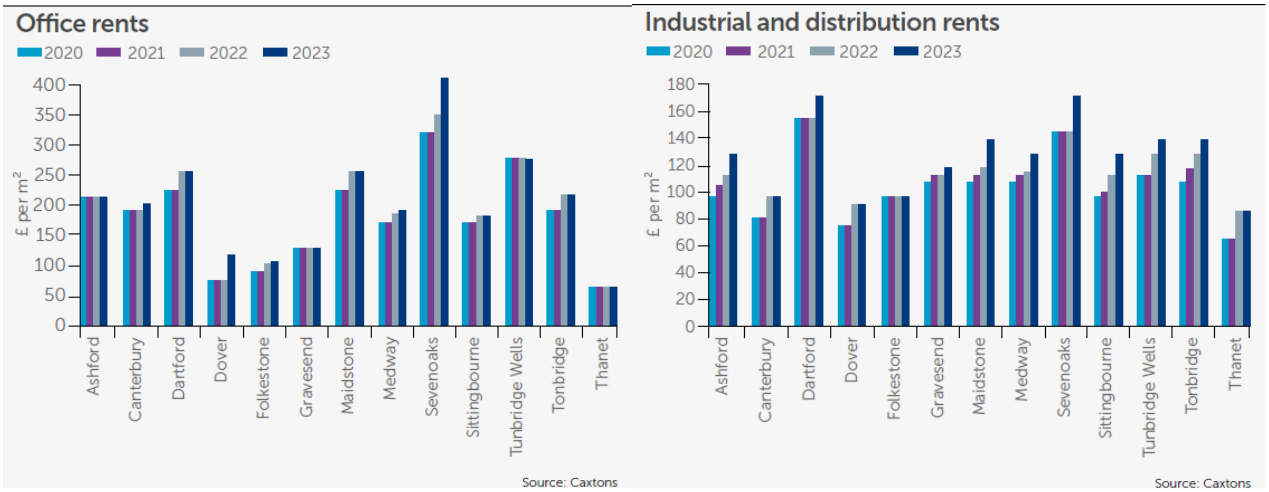
Office rents

1.10.12 For the fourth consecutive year rental values for industrial property in the district increased in 2023, while the district's office market rental values have largely stayed level. Dartford

[75] From September 2020 changes to the Use Class Order have removed Class A1, A2, A3, B1 have been replaced by Class E. D1, D2 and replaced with Use Class F1/F2/sui generis. A4 and A5 replaced by Sui generis. To link with latest monitoring reported in the Authority Monitoring Report (2018-19) the previous use classes have presented here.
[76] Canterbury Council (2023) Authority Monitoring Report April 2022 to March 2023. Available at: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policies/adopted-local-plan [Accessed 9 February 2024]

and Sevenoaks have the highest industrial and distribution rents whilst Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells have the highest office rents (see **Figure D1.39**).

Figure D1.39 Office rents; and Industrial and Distribution rents, for Canterbury District (2020-2023)



Source: Caxtons and Kent County Council (2023) Kent Property Market Report[77]

Sustainable Tourism

1.10.13 The Kent Tourism Economic Impact Study 2020[78], published in 2022, shows how the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the visitor economy in 2020. In Canterbury, when compared to 2019 (pre-pandemic data) day trips fell from around 7.1 million to 3.8 million, while overnight stays fell from 650,000 to 305,000. This resulted in a reduction economic value of nearly £329m. However, Canterbury was the most visited area in Kent. The tourism economy within the district contributed around £194m to the economy in 2020 and around 10% of all employment in the district is related to tourism.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.10.14 It is challenging to predict how the market would be affected by the absence of a local plan, especially with the uncertainties around the economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and the impacts of the UK's departure from the European Union. However, it is likely to fluctuate due to limited control and strategic overview. Some potential impacts are:

- Certain uses of floorspace will continue to decrease (such as B1a, D2 and B2) as they are likely to follow the current trends.
- Without some strategic direction regarding the location and quantity of office and industrial units, rents could start to increase as there might be a lack of supply leading to an increase in demand and inflation of rental values.
- Unsustainable development can lead to a lack of facilities and job uncertainties.

[77] Caxtons and Kent County Council (2023) Kent Property Market Report. Available at: https://www.kentpropertymarket.com/#Content [Accessed 9 February 2024]
[78] Designation research on behalf of Visit Kent, (2022) Economic Impact of Tourism: Canterbury 2020 Results. Available from: https://visitkentbusiness.co.uk/media/70602/economic-impact-of-tourism-canterbury-2020-final-report.pdf [Accessed February 2024]

- Without the encouragement of the local plan to provide developments supporting jobs, which local people need, there may not be enough jobs and those jobs provided for may not be appropriate for local people.
- Tourism could increase due to inappropriate or unsustainable developments or use changes, however without the local plan these may not be located in the most sustainable locations.

Key Sustainability Issues

- Ensure appropriate levels of employment land and seek to avoid loss of too much employment floorspace, such as B1a, D2 and B2.
- Ensuring rent is appropriately set.
- Encouraging a reduction in the number of individuals unemployed or economically inactive.
- Ensure jobs which are provided are in the right places to meet the identified employment needs.
- Ensure the District continues to be highly educated.
- Ensure tourism rates continue to grow in a sustainable manner.
- Supporting broader economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.11 Transport

Transport Network

1.11.1 The district provides multiple transport methods and routes, as seen in **Figure D1.40**. The district does not have an airport or seaport, but Whitstable Harbour remains a working harbour, importing aggregate and producing asphalt for the construction industry.

Figure D1.40 Canterbury District Road and Rail Network

Source: Canterbury City Council Transport Strategy 2017 (2014-2031) [79]

Cycling

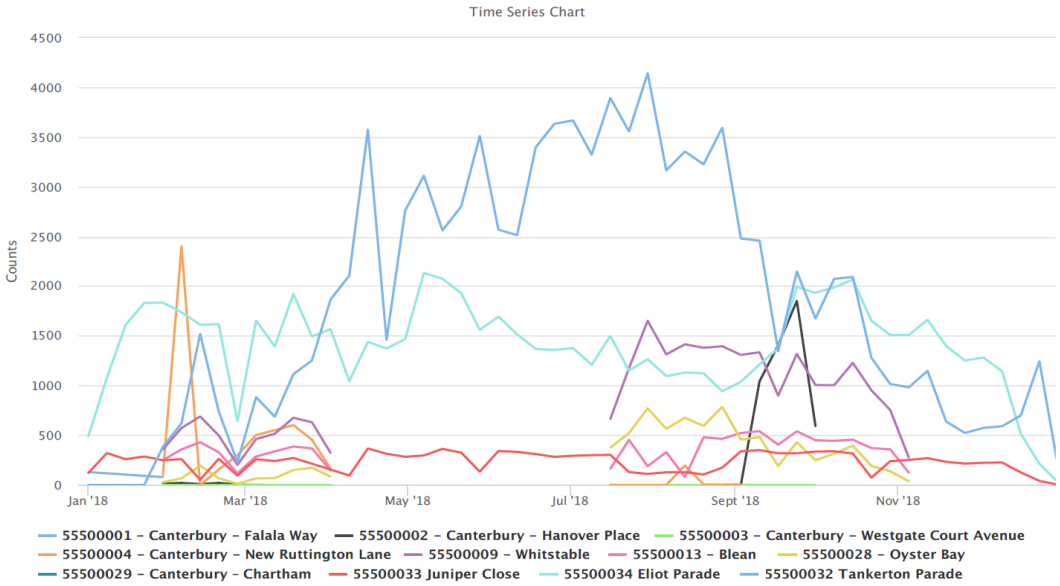
1.11.2 The city has an extensive pedestrianised area and a well-established cycle network which links into off road routes like the Crab and Winkle and National Cycle Route 1. There are sign posted long-distance cycle routes along country lanes: Regional Cycle Route 16 towards Dover; Regional Cycle Route 17 towards Folkestone and the Channel Tunnel; and Regional Route 15 on the new Oyster Bay Trail from Whitstable to Reculver and beyond into Thanet. In the city, there are approximately 300 cycle parking places at 40 locations. In addition to this a 28-space cycle compound has been provided at Wincheap Park and Ride which allows motorists to complete their journey using a park & pedal scheme. The success of this has led to the provision of a second compound at Sturry Road park & ride site which opened in Autumn 2019.

[79] Canterbury City Council Transport Strategy 2017 (2014-2031). Available from: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/download/20/transport_strategy

1.11.3 **Figure D1.41** below shows the daily usage, for 2018, of the various cycle routes where counters have been installed. The maximum was 4,143 cycles on the Oyster Bay trail at Tankerton promenade on 30th July 2018. This is slightly lower than the maximum count in May 2017 of 4,651 at the same location. KCC decommissioned the cycle counters across Canterbury in 2020, therefore Canterbury is no longer able to provide up to date information on cycle route usage. In 2020, Canterbury extended the following two off road cycle routes:

- one at the Canterbury riverside has been extended to reach Asda car park as phase one of a longer project to extend to Vauxhall Road.
- the other is an extension to the Crab and Winkle cycle route at Whitstable which is phase one of a longer project to extend to the harbour[80].

Figure D1.41 Counts on Cycle Routes in 2018

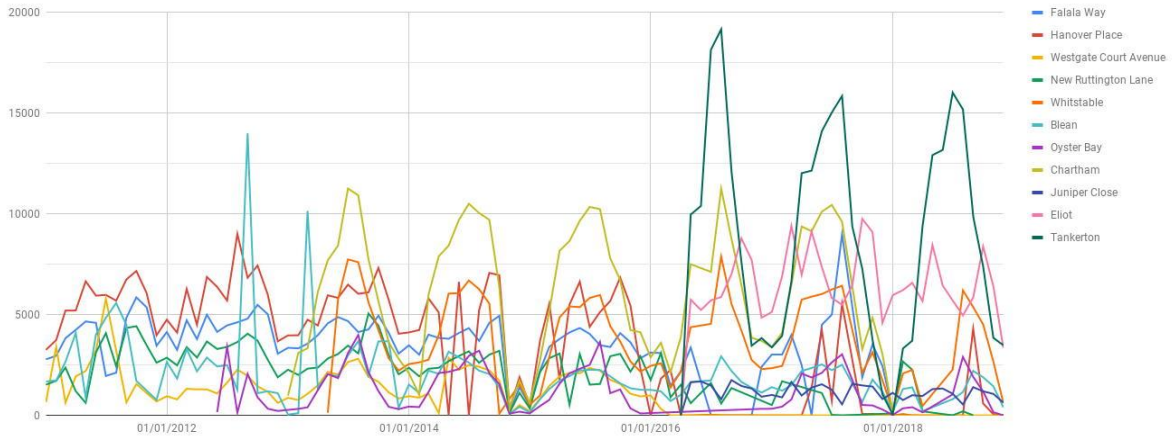


Source: Authority's Monitoring Report (2019-20)

1.11.4 The number of people using cycle routes since 2011 has fluctuated, however there appears to have been some increase since 2016. This could be due to the introduction of new cycle routes (or counters on new routes). See **Figure D1.42**.

[80] Canterbury City Council (2021) Canterbury Authority Monitoring Report 2020 to 2021. Available online: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u9ookhqRV11zw9QzNNXwUQf4qpmJK7m1 [Accessed February 2024].

Figure D1.42 Counts on cycle routes from January 2011 to December 2018



Source: Authority's Monitoring Report (2019-20)

Public Transport

Rail

1.11.5 Passenger rail services in the District are currently provided by Southeastern, under the Integrated Kent Franchise, which covers the majority of the County's rail services (including High Speed services). The District also has a good connection to Ashford International station where daily Eurostar services operate from St Pancras International to Lille, Paris and Brussels.[81]

1.11.6 There are nine stations within the District on the following lines:

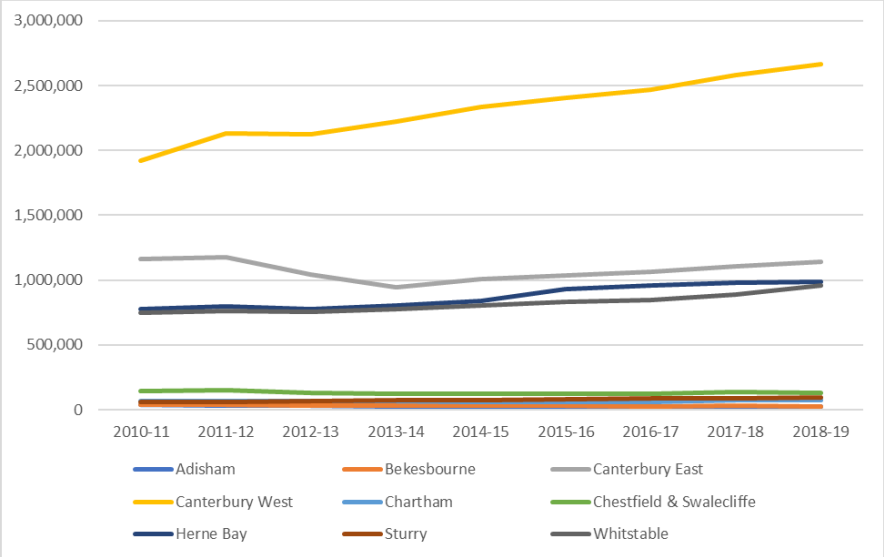
- Ashford to Ramsgate (via Canterbury West) line- Canterbury West, Chartham and Sturry
- North Kent Line- Whitstable, Chestfield & Swalecliffe and Herne Bay
- Chatham Main Line (Dover Branch)- Canterbury East, Bekesbourne and Adisham

1.11.7 Both Canterbury East and Canterbury West are busy stations primarily because of commuters and tourism. Canterbury West, which has the High-Speed service to London, is the busier of the two stations with over 2.5 million entries and exits in 2018/19 (**Figure D1.43**). Herne Bay and Whitstable are the next highest for this time period.

1.11.8 Adisham, Bekesbourne, Chartham, Chestfield & Swalecliffe and Sturry stations, have reasonably low use which previously had not varied much over time. Whereas, Canterbury West, Herne Bay and Whitstable have all been steadily increasing over time. Although Canterbury East dropped in 2013/14, in recent years it has started increasing, probably due to the High Speed service.

[81] Canterbury City Council Transport Strategy 2017 (2014-2031)

Figure D1.43 Train passenger entries and exits from 2010 to 2019



Source: Office of Rail and Road[82]

1.11.9 **Table D1.15** highlights the train passenger entries and exits from 2019 to 2023. The table highlights the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which highly impacted upon rail usage in 2020 and 2021. It can also be seen that the usage of most of the identified train stations remains lower than the usage identified before the Covid-19 pandemic. Canterbury West remains an extremely busy train station, with Canterbury East and Herne Bay also both being highly used train stations.

Table D1.15 Train passenger entries and exits from 2019 to 2023

Station name	April 2019 to March 2020	April 2020 to March 2021	April 2021 to March 2022	April 2022 to March 2023
Adisham	27,624	7,368	19,464	23,470
Bekesbourne	24,474	11,924	19,584	22,870
Canterbury East	1,096,734	280,318	770,802	935,628
Canterbury West	2,552,170	652,324	1,793,700	2,177,268
Chartham	79,206	21,736	64,192	79,814
Chestfield and Swalecliffe	128,714	29,322	71,064	80,432
Herne Bay	941,976	279,180	634,886	701,824
Sturry	98,754	30,658	72,344	85,020
Whitstable	941,992	251,424	634,860	721,030

Source: Office of Rail and Road[83]

[82] Office of Rail and Road, 2020. Estimates of station usage (Revised June 2020). Available from: http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/published-stats/station-usage-estimates

[83] Office of Rail and Road (2023) Historical Data Tables. Available online: https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/usage/estimates-of-station-usage [Accessed February 2024].

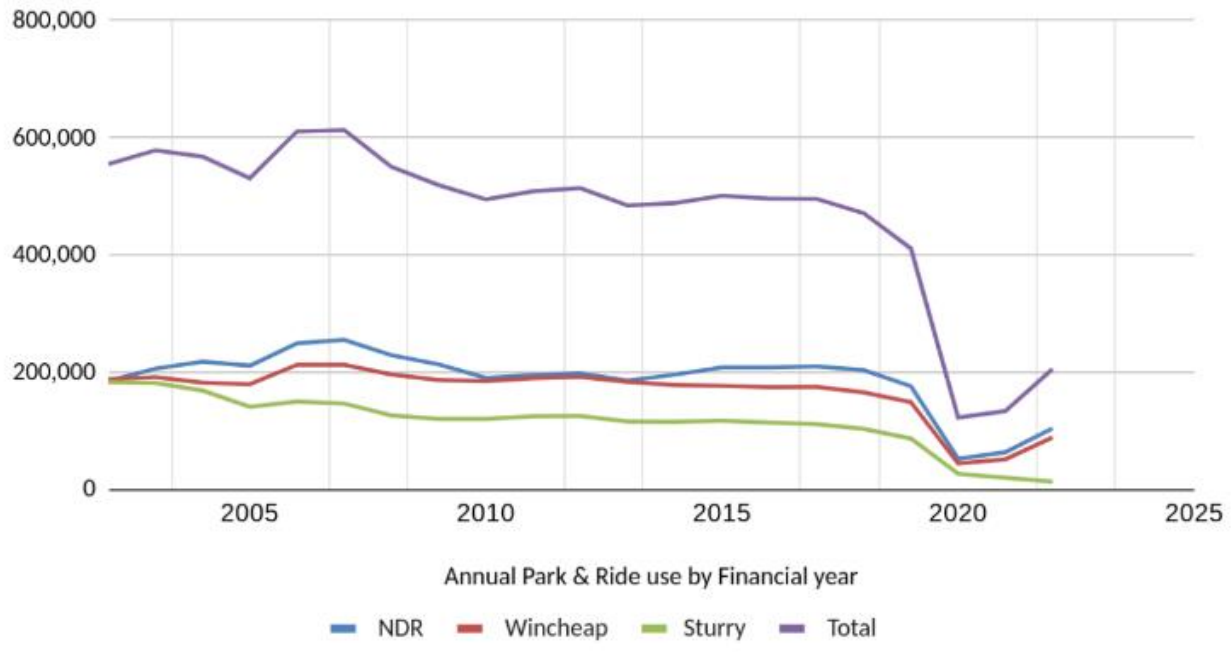
Bus

1.11.10 Most of the bus services in the District are operated by Stagecoach, with a mix of wholly commercial services and some 'socially necessary' services such as school and rural services and off-peak services, which are subsidised by KCC. Canterbury has seen the successful development of branded bus routes such as the Canterbury Triangle and the Thanet Breeze. Stagecoach make approximately 250,000 bus journeys per year and carry approximately 9,600,000 passengers per year. Additionally, a number of express coach services operate in Canterbury, including daily scheduled services to London from Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

Park and Ride

1.11.11 The Council operates two Park and Ride sites, located on the edge of the city on New Dover Road and Wincheap with Sturry Road temporarily closed. These Park and Ride facilities have resulted in the avoidance of 14 million car trips from Canterbury City centre since the first Park and Ride opened (Sturry Road in 1990). This results in the combined journey saving of 42 million miles. As can be seen by **Figure D1.44**, Park and Ride facility usage has been significantly harmed by the Covid-19 pandemic, with the usage of these facilities slow to recover. Canterbury City Council has had to make the decision to close the Sturry Park and Ride facility temporarily to reduce costs, with an aim to reopen this facility once the usage of the other Park and Rides increases. It is anticipated that the Sturry Park and Ride will reopen 1st August 2024 due to considerable efforts by local communities to get it re-opened[84].

Figure D1.44 Number of people using the Park and Rides 2002 to 2022



Source: Authority's Monitoring Report (2022-23)[85]

[84] Kent Online (2023) Canterbury City Council approves reopening of mothballed Sturry Road Park and Ride site. Available online: https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/green-light-to-reopen-mothballed-park-and-ride-site-291125/ [Accessed February 2024].
[85] Canterbury City Council (2023) Canterbury Authority Monitoring Report 2022 to 2023. Available online: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u9ookhqRV11zw9QzNNXwUQf4qpmJK7m1 [Accessed February 2024].

Car and Van Ownership

1.11.12 The 2021 Census identified that 20.8% of households within Canterbury did not have access to a car or van, with 42.7% of households having access to 1 car or van, 26.5% of households having access to two cars or vans and 10% having access to 3 or more cars or vans[86]

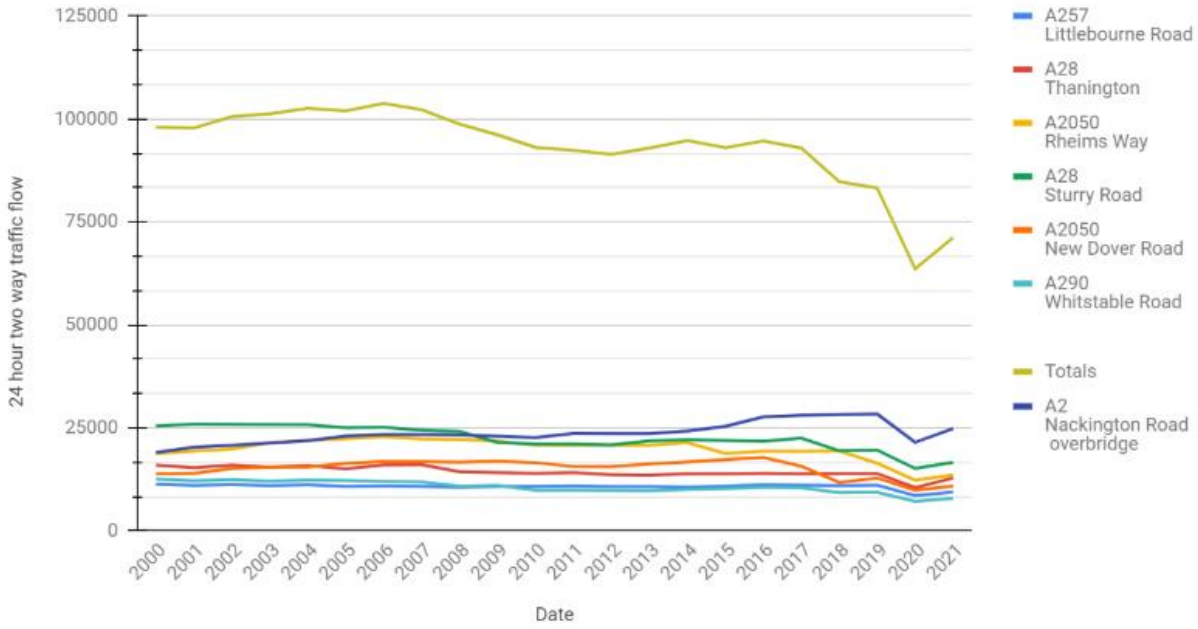
Roads

1.11.13 The A2 trunk road, which provides access to the port of Dover, runs through the heart of the District, giving good access from Canterbury to the rest of the UK. The primary route network consists of the A28, which connects the city with Ashford to the south and Thanet to the north-east and the A299 Thanet Way serves the seaside towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable. Further A and B roads connect the main urban areas, complemented by a network of minor roads and streets. There are no motorways within the District.

1.11.14 Some Section 106 contributions have already been secured through the planning process, inline with the current Local Plan, for a new all movement junction onto A2 at south Canterbury; an A2 slip road and relief road at Wincheap; Herne relief road; and Sturry relief road. A28/A257 Barracks link road has been secured through a planning permission at the Land at Howe Barracks strategic site.

1.11.15 Traffic flows on 6 key radial routes in the city of Canterbury remain broadly static, as they have done since 2000. This is in marked contrast to national traffic counts which have shown an 18% increase in all motor vehicles on major routes in the same period (see **Figure D1.45**). The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a reduction in the usage of these roads, though usage of these roads is trending back toward pre-pandemic levels.

Figure D1.45 Traffic flow on the 6 key routes into the city



Source: Authority's Monitoring Report (2022-23)[87]using Department for Transport data

[86] ONS (2023) Census 2021 – Number of cars or vans. Available online: https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/number-of-cars-or-vans/number-of-cars-3a/no-cars-or-vans-in-household [Accessed February 2024].
[87] Canterbury City Council (2023) Canterbury Authority Monitoring Report 2022 to 2023. Available online: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u9ookhqRV11zw9QzNNXwUQf4qpmJK7m1 [Accessed February 2024].

Travel to work

1.11.16 Analysing the change in individuals' modes of transport to work between 2001 and 2011, the largest percentage change has been in bus travel. The 61% increase is significantly above the South-East and England average of around 9%; seven districts in Kent actually saw decreases in bus travel to work. Although travel to work by car or van also increased by 12%, when compared to the large increases in public transport, its modal share actually decreased from 56.5% to 55% in overall terms. The biggest percentage decrease has been as a passenger in a car or van and this statistic is reflected regionally and nationally (see **Table D1.16**).

Table D1.16 Percentage change in method of travel to work between 2001 and 2011 in the District

Mode of travel	Increase (%)
Bus or coach	+61.1
Train	+47.4
Work mainly from home	+33.3
On foot	+16.2
Driving a car or van	+12.0
Passenger in a car or van	-14.9
Bicycle	+0.3

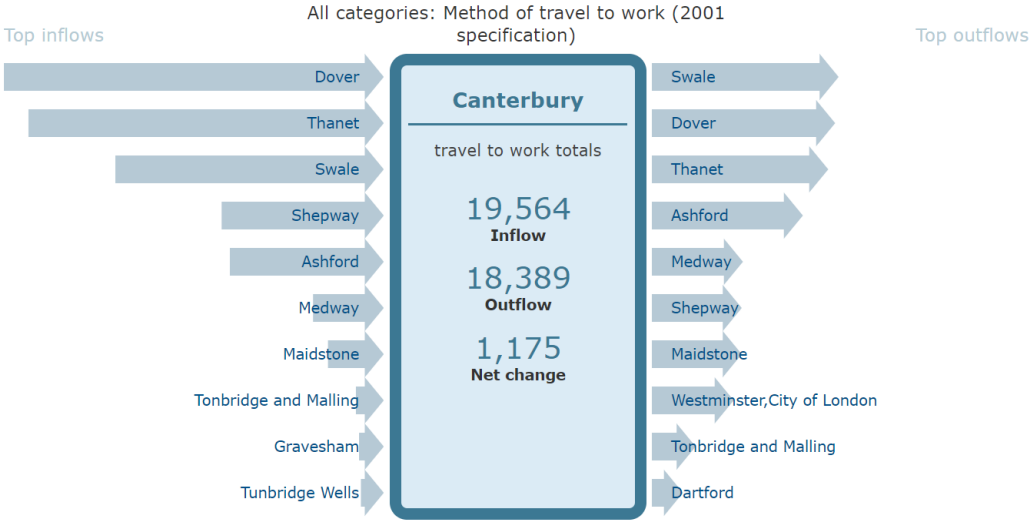
Source: Canterbury City Council Transport Strategy (2014-2031)[88]

1.11.17 As of the 2021 Census, there has been a significant rise in the number of people who mainly work from home (30.4% of all residents) and this sudden increase is likely because of the Covid-19 pandemic and how it has changed working patterns[89]. Private car remains the most popular form of transportation to work with 46.2%% of people using it to access their place of employment and 3.8% being a passenger in a private car being transported to work. 13.4% of the workers within Canterbury travel less than 2km to work, with 8.7% travelling between 2km-5km[90]. A large portion of Canterbury's workers are considered to work mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place or outside the UK (15.4%).

1.11.18 Overall, Canterbury had a net inflow of commuters in the most recent data at the time of the 2011 Census (see **Figure D1.46**) with 1,175 more commuting into the district than leaving. There are close links to neighbouring authorities of Dover, Thanet and Swale which provide the top three authorities in both the number entering the district (inflow) and the number leaving (outflow). The Covid-19 pandemic has led to more working from home which will have an impact on commuting although this is not fully known at this stage.

[88] Canterbury City Council Transport Strategy 2017 (2014-2031). Available from: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/download/20/transport_strategy
[89] ONS (2023) Travel to Work Data. Available online: https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/traveltoworkenglandandwales/census2021 [Accessed February 2024].
[90] ONS (2023) Distance Travelled to Work Data. Available online: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS058/editions/2021/versions/1 [Accessed February 2024].

Figure D1.46 Workplace Destinations (2011)



Source: NOMIS (2014) Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work[91]

Parking

1.11.19 There are 14 public car parks serving the city centre, with a capacity of 2,444 spaces; and 3 Park and Ride sites on the outskirts of the city providing a further 1,892 spaces (though Sturry Park and Ride is temporary closed and is expected to re-open in August 2024). The total capacity of parking spaces in Canterbury is 4,336 spaces. A multi storey car park is currently being built at Canterbury West: upon opening, the current temporary Station Road West car park will close with a net increase of 267 spaces, bringing the total across the city to 4,603. There are ten public car parks in Whitstable and eight in Herne Bay.

1.11.20 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) was put into operation in 15 car parks across the district. Within its first year of operation over 25,000 people registered on the system for automatic payments reducing daily cash collection journeys to over 200 machines by one third.

1.11.21 For on-street parking, Canterbury is divided into 12 zones, with an additional zone in Whitstable and Herne Bay where on-street parking controls apply. Measures vary depending on the location and include residents' permit schemes, pay and display with various time limits, business user permits and daily vouchers for those visiting resident permit holders.

1.11.22 In 2019, 12 dual EV charging points were introduced across the district: 4 on-street in Canterbury; 3 on-street in Whitstable; 1 on street in Herne Bay; 3 in car parks in Canterbury; and 1 in Gladstone Road car park in Whitstable. The car parks of Castle Street Multi Storey, New Dover Road Park and Ride, Station Road West Multi Storey and Wincheap Park and Ride all also have EV charging points[92].

Public Rights of Way

1.11.23 Kent County Council's Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan[93] identifies that there are around 6,900 km of public rights of way in Kent. The Report identifies that the percentage of higher status paths including Byways, Restricted Byways and Bridleways is lower than the

[91] Available via: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/WU03UK/chart/1132462234
[92] Canterbury City Council (no date) Find car parks with electric vehicle charging. Available online: https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/parking-and-roads/electric-vehicles/find-car-parks-electric-vehicle-charging [Accessed February 2024].
[93] Available via: https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/90491/Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan-2018-2028.pdf

national average, with only 16.65% of the network available to equestrians and cyclists and less still, 5.5 %, available to carriage drivers and 3.35% to motor vehicles. The Report outlines the benefits of providing a range of high-quality PRoW.

Likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Plan

1.11.24 The potential future baseline, without the LP:

- Car dependency would continue to be high, especially as new developments would not necessarily have to consider the sustainable transport hierarchy.
- The amount of congestion would be expected to rise with the growing population and increase in visitors, though this has been slowed somewhat due to the after effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel.
- Certain improvements and key infrastructure would not be able to be built because funding through S106 agreements would be difficult and often impossible to secure.

Key Sustainability Issues

- The need to change how people use their private car to minimise the number of single occupancy trips and encourage carpooling.
- Reduce the number of cars on the road in general to reduce congestion.
- The need to encourage sustainable transport in the order of the hierarchy: 1. Walking, 2. Cycling, 3. Public transport (buses and trains), 4. Park and ride; and 5. Private car.
- Ensure that the provision of sustainable transport is appropriate in location, quantity and standard, to encourage mode shift.
- Encourage investment in transport infrastructure, to increase transport choice and reduce congestion.
- Encourage the co-location of community facilities in walkable, well-connected neighbourhoods, wherever possible.
- The need to reduce out-commuting.

1.12 Canterbury Key Sustainability Issues

1.12.1 Each topic area of the baseline identified a number of key sustainability issues that are quantified together within **Table D1.17** below:

Table D1.17 Key Sustainability Issues

Topic Area	Key Sustainability Issue
Air Quality	• The main source of air pollution in the district is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the A2, A28 and A299. • Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) operate in relation to nitrogen dioxide (NO2) where a national air quality objective is not likely to be achieved.
Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation	• The urgent need to address climate change to reduce the current and future threat to Canterbury District's population, wildlife, natural resources, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets (including flood risk). • The need to maintain the general trend in the decrease of emission of greenhouse gases (particularly CO2) within the district, especially by trying to reduce the amount of CO2 from transport in particular on A roads. • The need to promote sustainable forms of energy and encourage renewable energy projects in the appropriate location. • To become as energy efficient as possible, while reducing the overall energy consumption.
Biodiversity	• Ensure development does not negatively impact biodiversity, and conserve and enhance biodiversity and protected sites and species. • The need to minimise or mitigate any adverse impacts of: coastal squeeze; increased levels of public access/disturbance; increased development; and any associated impacts on the District's rich biodiversity. • The need to achieve biodiversity net gain (BNG) within new development and improve the environment including through the long-term enhancement and creation of well-connected, functional habitats.
Landscape, Land Use and Geology	• To conserve and enhance landscape character and protected sites, by ensuring development is of high quality, especially where it could impact upon protected sites important for their contributions to the landscape. • Ensuring sites which are deemed important for their geological or mineral resources are conserved and protected; including minimising developments which could prevent or hinder essential extractions.
Water: Flooding, Quality and Resources	• The need to minimise flood risk and maximise flood resilience through better catchment management, nature based solutions for managing flood risk and flood resilience, appropriate siting of new developments, and ensuring new development improves the flood resilience of their surroundings. • Protect groundwater especially within Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) and Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (DWSZ). • The need to ensure there is a sufficient supply of water and adequate capacity at wastewater treatment works. • The need to manage and protect water resources in response to climate change, population growth and lifestyle choices, ensuring there is a reduction in the usage of water per capita by improving domestic design

	to ensure water usage is minimised, with greater use of greywater collecting and use.
Waste	• Ensuring the waste hierarchy continues to be implemented leading to a decreasing proportion of waste is disposed of in landfill, while recovery and reuse options (recycling, composting and electricity) continue to increase. • The need to reduce the volume of construction, demolition and excavation wastes produced by new developments, change of uses or conversions. • The need to support ongoing efforts to support reductions in waste generation and support waste re-use.
Population and Human Health	• Ensuring the District's growing, ageing population have their needs considered and where possible provided for. • Reducing the level of deprivation within the District, especially for the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are within the 10% and 20% most deprived areas in Kent within the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019). • Ensuring community infrastructure and services (such as general practitioners), are available and accessible to all communities and residents, and improving those where necessary. • Ensuring that the residents of Canterbury that experience some form of disability, especially where their day to day activities are 'limited a lot' or 'limited a little' receive support through a more welcoming built environment and have access to needed facilities and a range of transportation options. • Ensure that formal and informal opportunities for all to take part in sport and be physically active are protected, provided and enhanced.
Historic Environment	• Ensure the heritage of the District is protected, promoted and allowed to prosper. • The need to minimise adverse impacts on all heritage assets caused by development. This includes conservation areas, as the quality of the historic environment is coming under increasing pressure from competing land uses.
Housing	• Encourage development towards previously developed land and minimise the impact of development on the District's sensitive environmental receptors, whilst maximising opportunities for biodiversity net gain. • The need to ensure there is a supply of appropriate, well designed, located and affordable housing (in all tenures) to meet the needs of the District. • The need to provide sufficient housing on the most appropriate land, which supports the needs of all of the District and meets housing targets (for example care homes; student; affordable; residential; self and custom build; and gypsies and travellers). • The need to ensure developments are built at appropriate densities, maximising the land available without over developing, and with a high design quality.
Economy	• Ensure appropriate levels of employment land and seek to avoid loss of too much employment floorspace, such as B1a, D2 and B2. • Ensuring rent is appropriately set. • Encouraging a reduction in the number of individuals unemployed or economically inactive.

	• Ensure jobs which are provided are in the right places to meet the identified employment needs. • Ensure the District continues to be highly educated. • Ensure tourism rates continue to grow in a sustainable manner. • Supporting broader economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.
Transport	• The need to change how people use their private car to minimise the number of single occupancy trips and encourage carpooling. • Reduce the number of cars on the road in general to reduce congestion. • The need to encourage sustainable transport in the order of the hierarchy: 1. Walking, 2. Cycling, 3. Public transport (buses and trains), 4. Park and ride; and 5. Private car. • Ensure that the provision of sustainable transport is appropriate in location, quantity and standard, to encourage mode shift. • Encourage investment in transport infrastructure, to increase transport choice and reduce congestion. • Encourage the co-location of community facilities in walkable, well-connected neighbourhoods, wherever possible. • The need to reduce out-commuting.