

Southbourne Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2029 Submission Modified Plan (January 2023)

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 - Regulation 16

Southbourne Parish Council has prepared a modified Neighbourhood Plan. The modified plan sets out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications locally.

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All comments must be received by 5:00 pm on 14 April 2023.

There are a number of ways to make your comments:

- Complete this form on your computer and email it to: neighbourhoodplanning@chichester.gov.uk
- Print this form and post it to us at: Neighbourhood Planning East Pallant House 1 East
 Pallant Chichester PO19 1TY

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How to use this form

Please complete Part A in full in order for your representation to be taken into account at the Neighbourhood Plan examination.

PART A	Your Details
Full Name	Fay Goodson
Address	Reside Developments Ltd, The Dutch House, 132-134 High Street, Dorking

Postcode	RH4 1BG	
Telephone		
Email	fgoodson@residedevelopments.co.uk	
Organisation (if applicable)	Reside Developments	
Position (if applicable)	Senior Planner	
Date	13 th April 2023	

To which part of the document does your representation relate?

Paragraph Number		Policy Reference:	SB1: Development Within and Outside the Settlement Boundaries.
Do you support, oppose, o	or wish to comment o	on this paragraph?	(Please tick one answer)
Support	t with modifications	Oppose \boxtimes	Have Comments
Please give details of you here:	ır reasons for suppor	rt/opposition, or ma	ake other comments
Reside oppose this policy NP2 and the pre submission fundamental flaws in relation. The policy duplicates Loc	on NP3. But Reside cor on to this policy. al Plan Policy 45 and	nsider as per their re	epresentations that there is eeded and is contrary to
paragraph 16(f) of the NPF policies that apply to a part	•	lans should avoid "ι	unnecessary duplication of
In addition to this, the NPI strategic policies and neigh provides definitions for stratevelopment outside of the "overall strategy for the patents."	phbourhood plans shou stegic and non strategic ne settlement boundar	uld contain non stra policies and it is cle ies is a strategic m	ategic policies. The NPPF ear that the acceptability of natter, as it relates to the
The policy as drafted along housing development that settlement boundary or that	can come forward in	Southbourne in the	e plan period is within the

1. Paragraph 11(a) of the NPPF requires that plans should "be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change". In Woodcock Holdings v SSCLG [2015] EWHC 1173 (Admin), Holgate J quashed a decision of the Secretary of State refusing planning permission, on the basis that (inter alia) he had failed to appreciate that the emerging Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common 2031 Neighbourhood Plan (with which it was said the development was in conflict) would not pass examination. That was because it proposed a "cap" on development in the plan area of 30-40 dwellings. As he put it at paragraph 126:

... the Secretary of State should have appreciated from the BDW case (as well as from the Claimant's post-inquiry representations) that policy H4 would not satisfy the requirement in the "basic condition" to have regard to the NPPF, and in particular the need for "flexibility" and "to plan positively for growth", unless it was amended so as to remove the cap limiting new housing in the village to 30 — 40 dwellings...

- 2. In light of this, Holgate J held that it was incumbent on the Examiner to consider whether the ENP, which limits the amount of development to be delivered in an area, complied with the core requirements of the NPPF to (i) meet the housing needs of an area (ii) to do so with "flexibility" and (iii) to "plan positively for growth": see Woodcock Holdings at para. 126. Further, in Woodcock Holdings, Holgate J held that the need for flexibility in Neighbourhood Plan housing supply policies "has all the more force" in a situation where (as here) a neighbourhood plan is proceeding in advance of an up to date NPPF compliant plan (at para. 127).
- 3. Similarly, in <u>BDW Trading v Cheshire West and Chester</u> [2014] EWHC 1470 (Admin), one of the reasons that the examiner's decision to approve the Tattenhall Neighbourhood Plan survived challenge was because he found that the draft plan did not intend to limit the overall level of growth in the area; and he required an amendment to be made to the plan to ensure that it did not do so: see <u>BDW</u> at para. 36.

If the wording of Paragraph B of Policy SB1 is not changed, this would prohibit sustainable development outside of the settlement boundaries in Southbourne. Chichester District Council have an Interim Position Statement for Housing ("IPS") to help guide development in the Local Plan area until the Local Plan Review is adopted.

The IPS can be used in such circumstances where the Council does not have a 5YHLS and it does not consider that development outside of settlement boundaries is necessarily inconsistent with sustainable development. The approach taken by NP3 is therefore inconsistent with the Council's approach to what amounts to sustainable development at present and the strategic policies within the Local Plan.

Therefore, if the wording of Policy SB1 is not removed or changed, we consider the NP3 fails to comply with basic conditions (a) and (d).

It is also important to note that the Examiner of NP1 also raised issue with similar wording in Policy 1 of the Submission Draft of NP1 and deleted the policy wording, giving their explanation at paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of the Examiners Report.

"5.8 I am however concerned that this policy appears overly strategic in nature and as such should not be included, in the form that it is drafted within a neighbourhood plan. The title of the policy in particular suggests that it is strategic and is therefore unacceptable. To reduce perception that there might be a strategic intent within Policy I, this should be renamed as I have recommended below.

5.9 To the extent that over the life of the Plan proposals might come forward for development outside the settlement boundaries, it would not be appropriate for the Plan to require such proposals to conform to development plan policy in the countryside. That responsibility should be for Chichester District Council to determine through its development plan policies. For this reason I have indicated that if this policy is to be retained, the final sentence of the draft policy should be removed, as indicated below. In the explanatory text, the policy should therefore encourage, rather than direct development, within the established settlements within the parish. The recommended revision to the policy is shown in Appendix 1."

(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

What improvements or modifications would you suggest?
Remove part B of the proposed policy.
(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)



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Neighbourhood Plan.

To which part of the document does your representation relate?

Paragraph Number		Policy Reference:	SB13: Green and Blue Infrastructure
Do you support, oppose, o	or wish to comment o	on this paragraph? (F	Please tick one answer)
Support Support	with modifications	Oppose 🛚	Have Comments 🛛
Please give details of you here:	r reasons for suppor	rt/opposition, or mak	e other comments
The proposed Ham Brook (and annotated as SB13, do emerging Chichester Local March 2023.	oes not align with the p	oroposed Strategic Wi	Idlife Corridor within the
Furthermore, the area in the therefore represents the co		•	rith Natural England and
The NPPF is clear that the neighbourhood plans shoul strategic and non strategic a strategic policy;	ld contain non strateg	ic policies. The NPPF	provides definitions for
"conservation and enlincluding landscapes and mitigation and adaption".		•	•
Therefore, we do not cons Neighbourhood Plan can boundary of their proposed	only designate with	in its Parish Bound	
In addition to this, the size is considered strategic in si		Idlife Corridor within t	he Submission Plan,
The supporting text for SB1 representations have been paragraph 5.72 relies on incompared.	made under policy S	SB14, and our repres	entations are clear that
There is therefore no justific	cation for the Ham Bro	ok Chalk Stream Wildl	ife Corridor shown in the

(C	Continue on separate sheet if necessary)
What improvements or modifications would you sug	nest?
Trial improvements of mounications would you sug	year:
The Policies Map Inset 1 is amended to remove the prop Corridor and reference to this corridor is removed from the	
(0	Continue on separate sheet if necessary)
	a Life and a second plant and a
If you have additional representations feel free to include:	additional pages. Please make sure any



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Organisation (if applicable)	Reside Developments
Position (if applicable)	Senior Planner
Date	13 th April 2023

To which part of the document does your representation relate?

What improvements or modifications would you suggest?

Paragraph Number	5.72	Policy Reference:	SB14: Biodiversity
Do you support, oppose,	or wish to comment o	on this paragraph? (F	Please tick one answer)
Support	rt with modifications	Oppose 🖂	Have Comments 🛛
Please give details of yo here:	ur reasons for suppo	rt/opposition, or mal	e other comments
We oppose the supporting in relation to Chalk Stream		ot the policy itself. At p	aragraph 5.72 NP3 states
"It will be expected that si will remain undisturbed an	-		
This then links to footnote number 4, which is an advice note from the Sussex Wildlife Trust titled 'Chalk Rivers and Streams'. This advice note states under 'How can I manage my chalk stream in a more wildlife-friendly way?';			
"Establishing buffer strips			
By allowing a vegetated (grassy or woody) margin of 5-20 metres between your garden/arable field/livestock and your stream, you are helping to stop soil and pollution running off into streams, as well as providing valuable wildlife corridors for a number of rare species."			
This advice note is appended to these representations.			
Therefore the advice note does not recommend a 50-metre buffer as set out in paragraph 5.72, and we do not believe the 50-metre figure is justified by any evidence within the plan or evidence base.			
It is important to note this has now been raised multiple times through representations to both NP2 and NP3 and no valid justification for the 50-metre figure has been given.			
		(Continue on se	parate sheet if necessary)

Remove incorrect reference to 50-metre buffer.	
	(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Chalk Rivers & Streams



Why are chalk rivers and streams important?



One of our rarest native mammals the water vole, is often found living on chalk rivers. Stable water levels and lush, green plant growth provides ideal conditions for them © P Stevens

England has most of the chalk rivers in Europe. There are only 35 chalk rivers between 20 and 90 km long in the UK. They are mostly found in south and east England from Dorset to Humberside. Chalk geology is rare worldwide. The Sussex chalk rivers and streams are therefore of global importance.

All chalk rivers are fed from natural underground aquifers meaning they have clean, clear water and stable water temperatures. These unique conditions, along with their alkaline chalk geology, support a rich diversity of wildlife including important fish populations such as brown trout, native crayfish and many other specialist species. Their rarity means that many chalk rivers in the UK have been designated as Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

What is a chalk river?

A chalk river or stream is a watercourse which flows across chalk bedrock, and/or is influenced by local chalk geology. Chalk rivers are usually fed by underground or seasonal springs flowing from chalk and often have 'winterbourne' stretches in their headwaters which run dry, or partially dry in late summer to the spring.

What is the difference between a chalk river and a chalk stream?

Chalk rivers and streams are recognised as a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), and general descriptions of what constitutes such habitat are given in 'The State of England's Chalk Rivers' (EA & EN; 2004) and 'Chalk Rivers – Nature Conservation and Management' (EA & EN; 1999). Sites are generally considered to be 'streams' rather than 'rivers' when they are no further than 5km from their source or greater than 5m wide (unless they have been artificially widened).

Chalk rivers

The larger chalk rivers are often more exposed to light and therefore have characteristic plants such as river water crowfoot and watercress in them. Some examples such as the Mole in Hampshire have low banks and shallow, clear flowing water which supports a range of waterloving plants. Sometimes you may be able to see the chalk bedrock on the bottom of the river or beds of gravels along the stream bottom. Many chalk rivers have however been artificially widened, straightened and deepened.

Sussex chalk streams

South Downs chalk streams are different from classic chalk rivers such as Hampshire's river Itchen. Each chalk stream has its source much higher in the hills, and the gradient of the streams are very steep. The South Downs chalk streams have therefore been classified as a distinct type.

Sussex chalk streams often occur in small gulleys which are more wooded than other chalk rivers and streams. This results in unusual features including:

- mini chalk waterfalls which form when chalk water upwellings 'calcify' in the air
- dense shade which means that there is naturally less vegetation cover
- typical chalk river plants like Water Crowfoot are often absent – which is more natural
- stream channels are diverse because of natural flow restrictions such as tree roots
- woody debris is common in the channel and it influences the stream flow
- the substrate (stream bed) is less frequently made up of flints and mobile gravels

How do I know if I have a chalk stream on my land?

If you live within the South Downs National Park and your stream runs across the chalk, then it is highly possible you have a chalk watercourse. Take a look at the pictures in this leaflet which may help show you what a chalk stream looks like. Alternatively contact www.sxbrc.org.uk or info@sxbrc.org.uk who can supply you with maps of protected or rare species and habitats on your land.

Sussex chalk streams have a unique character, with steeply sloping, fast flowing streams associated with ancient woodland and woody debris reminiscent of northern UK streams. One of the most natural examples of a chalk spring head in the UK is also found in Sussex. We also have 'Knuckerholes' which are thought to be holes which go directly into the aquifer.



A chalk 'waterfall' or Tufa deposit © N Holmes



A very rare and pristine wooded chalk spring head in East Sussex © F Southgate



A typical Sussex chalk stream with meanders and woody shade © F Southgate

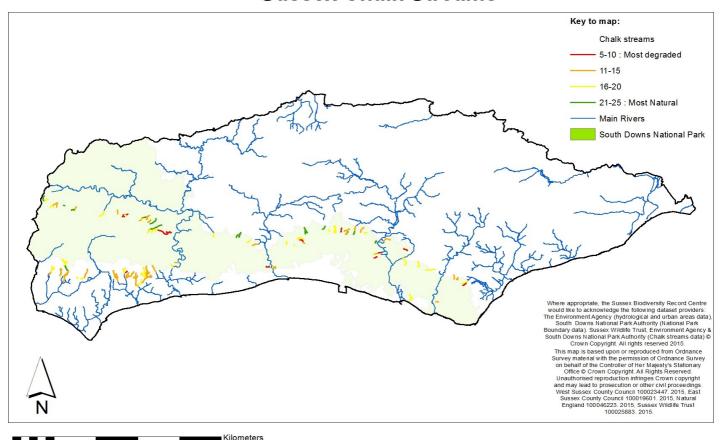


A West Sussex Chalk Stream © N Holmes

Where are the chalk streams and rivers in Sussex?

In Sussex we have three designated chalk rivers – The Ems and Lavant in West Sussex and the Lewes Winterbourne in East Sussex. We also have over 140 km of chalk streams spread throughout the South Downs National Park, many of which are more natural than the legally designated larger chalk rivers. The map below shows the location of all the confirmed Sussex chalk streams in 2011.

Sussex Chalk Streams



What other interesting features might I find on my chalk stream?

Mills and mill ponds

On the flowing (perennial) chalk streams in Sussex, mills were often built. Many of these mills are now derelict. Associated mill ponds have often developed into swampy habitats into which chalk water flows. These chalk habitats are of high nature conservation interest and their restoration to a ponded habitat could be considered environmental degradation. It may be desirable to retain mill structures as historic features, where they do not impede fish migration.



A derelict watercress bed in West Sussex © Fran Southgate

Watercress beds

The pure flows of perennial chalk streams made them ideal locations for watercress farms. In Sussex there are a few locations where historic and modern cress farms can be found on chalk streams.

What wildlife is characteristic of Sussex chalk streams?

Some of the characteristic plants you would expect to find in chalk Winterbournes are:

Water-cress (Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum), Fool's water-cress (Apium nodiflorum), Water speedwell (Veronica anagallisaquatica/catenata) & Sweet-grass (Glyceria sp(p.)

Some plants you might expect to find in Perennial chalk streams are:

Blunt-fruited water-starwort (Callitriche obtusangula), Lesser water-parsnip (Berula erecta), Brook water crowfoot (Ranunculus penicillatus subsp. pseudofluitans). Catabrosa aquatica (whorl-grass) is associated with shallow, trampled, silty edges of perennial chalk streams. Hildenbrandia rivularis, a red encrusting alga, the moss Cratoneuron filicinum, and the liverwort Pellia endiviifolia are also a sign of strong springs.

Opposite-leaved pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) and Mare's-tail (*Hippurus vulgaris*) are typical of chalk streams, but much less widespread than other plants.

A number of unusual liverworts and mosses are associated with chalk streams. These include the moss *Hygroamblystegium fluviatile / tenax* and the liverworts *Leptodictium riparium*, *Fissidens spp.* & *Platyhypnidium riparioides*.

Most chalk streams and springs have a unique community of aquatic insects and invertebrates, associated with the chalky water and the unusual gravels, woody debris and tufa features. Where chalk streams are not obstructed by weirs and sluices, their clear flowing water creates extremely good habitat for fish such as brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).



Chalk stream with mosses and fool's water cress © N Holmes



Chalk stream with gravels and submerged plants © N Holmes



Brown trout – one of the species which benefits from the presence of healthy natural chalk streams

Ditched and re-inforced chalk stream © N Holmes



Defunct weir © N Holmes



Urbanised chalk stream © N Holmes



Parrotsfeather smothering a chalk pond © F Southgate

Problems with Sussex chalk streams

Ditching & Removal of Natural Features

One of the main factors which has caused the loss of a number of our rare chalk streams is that they have been straightened and ditched for drainage purposes, or they have been 'tidied up' and their natural features such as the woody debris dams have been removed.

Weirs and man-made obstructions

Many chalk streams have had weirs and other artificial structures installed in the channel. These structures stop the natural flow of the stream from creating stream features, they slow water flow, encourage siltation of gravels and prevent migratory fish from passing upstream. Many weirs and structures served a historical purpose but are now defunct. Consult with a local Environment Agency Fisheries and Biodiversity team to see if you can remove / bypass your weir.

Urbanisation

Where streams pass through urban areas they have often had natural features removed and have been turned into urban drains with man-made stream banks. Some streams are 'gardenised' and planted with non native plants, with their banks mown or used as compost heaps. Chalk streams can be a huge asset to urban areas. They rarely experience flood flows but they are often 'forgotten gems' which receive pollution and run off from urban drainage.

Non Native Invasive Species

Until recently, garden centres were allowed to sell invasive wetland plants which are not native to the UK. Unfortunately, a large number of these plants such as Crassula and Parrots feather have found their way into rivers and wetlands. They often outcompete native plants, and once present are extremely difficult to remove.

Abstraction

Unfortunately, the over-abstraction of water from underground reservoirs for drinking water and for irrigation of crops and gardens can result in the natural springs running dry in seasons when they should still be flowing.

Pollution

Because their water sources are so pure any agricultural or urban pollution can severely disrupt the ecology of the stream.

How can I manage my chalk stream in a more wildlife-friendly way?

Unless you have invasive species present or man made modifications, one of the best things you can do with a Sussex chalk stream is nothing. By not managing the stream you are allowing it to slowly recover its natural character and features. There may however be a few things you can do to help 'kick start' natural recovery or to prevent and reverse damage to your chalk stream. These include:-

Removing obstructions and artificial banks.

If you notice any concrete or artificial structures which are no longer useful seek advice from the Environment Agency or the contacts below to get help to remove or bypass them

• Establishing buffer strips

By allowing a vegetated (grassy or woody) margin of 5 – 20 metres between your garden/arable field/livestock and your stream, you are helping to stop soil and pollution running off into streams, as well as providing valuable wildlife corridors for a number of rare species.

Having a wildlife survey

Contact the Biodiversity Records Centre below to see if they have any information about your stream. If not, ask them who can do a survey to look at the wildlife interest in the stream.

Retain natural features

Leave fallen trees or wood in the stream. These provide valuable wildlife features and will help the stream re-naturalise itself. If banks slump, let them, and if islands or gravel bars form, leave them.

Don't de-silt

If you think your stream is too silty, then it is usually better to 'narrow' the stream with willow and hazel spilling and woody flow deflectors which help the river speed up and naturally cleanse itself of silt, as well as helping to create more natural bankside features.

· Seasonal fencing.

If you have livestock which graze to the edge of your chalk stream, or poach down the edges, consider putting in seasonal fencing to limit the removal of wetland plants and bank erosion. In open grassland however, some seasonal low level grazing and poaching can be beneficial.

• Restore your chalk stream to its natural glory

Seek advice from local experts such as Sussex Wildlife Trust or the Wild Trout Trust who may be able to help you restore and re-naturalise the old course of your chalk stream

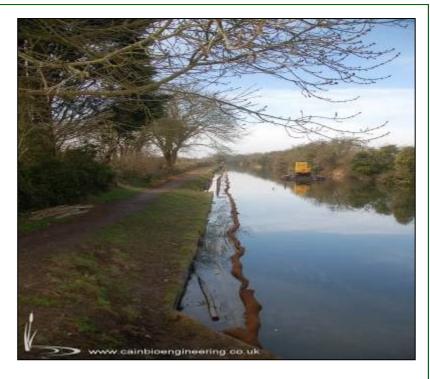
- Remove non native plants. Be careful though, as they can spread very easily.
- **Tell us about new chalk streams.** There may be a few we've missed!



Chalk stream with winter flows © N Holmes

Other things that can be done to help chalk streams:-

- Re-create riffles
- Faggoting of river banks to restore normal flows
- Encourage a two stage channel with wet margins
- Strategically place flow deflectors such as logs to help restore channel meanders
- Restore Ranunculus beds
- Restore native and natural fish populations and fish breeding habitat
- Install temporary and permanent fencing to help prevent stock poaching
- Reduce bankside mowing and inchannel weed cutting



Coir fibre rolls and hazel faggots can be used to help re-narrow streams to increase water flows and restore bankside habitat

Helping chalk streams from the home or farm

If you live in or near the South Downs, or know of a chalk stream on your land or in your local area there are a few things you can do which might help.

- Reduce water use at home. The less water you use, the less water needs to be abstracted from the chalk aquifers the source of water for chalk streams. (see also, 'How to help wetland wildlife from home' advice sheet)
- Reduce water use on the farm. If you have a farm abstraction licence, try to use water more wisely by watering crops at the end of the day, installing a farm reservoir (often you can get grant support for this), and only using as much water as you need.
- **Get advice.** Your local Wildlife Trust, South Downs National Park or Natural England representative can put you in touch with someone who can advise you on what you can do to restore and enhance your chalk stream. Try calling Wildcall on 01273 494777.
- Don't pour chemicals down the drain. By helping to keep the water draining from your house and farm clean, you are helping to prevent damaging chemicals enter into watercourses

PLEASE NOTE: All river work within 8m of a main river channel needs consent from the Environment Agency (EA). If your chalk river has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest then you may need consent from Natural England to carry out restoration work on your chalk stream. For more information see contacts and further reading overleaf.

Contacts

Sussex Wildlife Trust (Wetlands Project)

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk 01273 497555

Natural England

0845 600 3078

enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

01273 497521

www.sxbrc.org.uk

Wild Trout Trust www.wildtrout.org

Environment Agency

Ask for Fisheries & Biodiversity or Land Drainage consent teams 03708 506506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

South Downs National Park Authority

www.southdowns.gov.uk 0300 303 1053

Wildcall Wildlife Advice Line 01273 494777

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/wildlifeadvice

References & Further Reading

- **DEFRA:** The State of England Chalk Rivers adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content
- English Nature (1999): Chalk Rivers; Nature Conservation and Management
- Natural England: Water Cress growing and it's environmental impacts-publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/76003
- Habitat Action Plan: Chalk Rivers http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706
- N Holmes: An Investigation of the Watercourses in Sussex arising from the Chalk Aquifer of the South Downs. Report 1 January 2009 and Report 2 December 2010
- South downs National Parks Authority: River Valleys- www.southdowns.gov.uk/looking-after/landscape/river-valleys

Sussex wetlands project promotes the sustainable management of rivers and the restoration of wetland habitats for people and wildlife

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Position (if applicable)	Senior Planner		
Date	13 th April 2023		

To which part of the document does your representation relate?

Paragraph Number		Policy Reference:	SB20: Water Infrastructure and Flood Risk			
Do you support, oppose, or wish to comment on this paragraph? (Please tick one answer)						
Support Support	t with modifications	Oppose	Have Comments 🛛			
Please give details of your reasons for support/opposition, or make other comments here:						
At part B of the policy it is stated that within or adjacent to the Lumley and Ham Brook development must demonstrate measures that will be taken to ensure that polluted runoff (included suspended sediment) does not leave the site and enter the surrounding waterbodies during either construction or operation. Reside believe the policy should also support the removal of existing polluting neighbours to the Lumley and Ham Brook, that would provide a betterment.						
		(Continue on sep	parate sheet if necessary)			
What improvements or m	odifications would ye	ou suggest?				
Amend the policy to include support for the removal of existing polluting neighbours to the Lumley and Ham Brook.						
		(Continue on sep	parate sheet if necessary)			