3.3 Site history

3.3.1 A review of historical OS maps shows that the site has been mapped as agricultural fields from earliest available mapping in the 1860s. There appears to be no change on site until the late 1960s when the present-day pavilion is recorded and the site appears to be playing fields with the current site boundary. A second smaller pavilion building is recorded on the 1992 map to the south east of the existing pavilion. An old chalk pit is recorded some 450m to the south east of the proposed pitch.

3.3.2 The smaller pavilion building shown on the 1992 map to the south east does not appear on the earliest available aerial image from 2003.

3.3.3 A chalk pit is recorded approximately 600m east of the site on historical OS maps from 1867 to the 1960s. A limekiln is shown on the 1871 map approximately 600m north of the site indicating that chalk extraction is occurring in the area. A brick works including a large brick pit is located immediately west of the limekiln.

3.4 Geology

3.4.1 There are no superficial deposits mapped beneath the site, the bedrock geology is recorded as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation.

3.4.2 An area immediately north of the site is shown to be 'Worked Ground – void'. The Thanet Sand is recorded close to the site.

3.4.3 A chalk solution feature is noted approximately 600m north of the site. Further details and assessment of this is provided in Section 3.11.

3.5 Land and historic feature designations

3.5.1 According to available records online, there are no listed buildings, scheduled monuments or heritage sites within proximity of the site. The site is located within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

3.5.2 The site is within an SSSI impact risk zone, there is an SSSI located approximately 1.35km to the north west of the site. Stones Road Pond and Cuddington Meadows are located approximately 2km to the south east of the site.

3.6 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

3.6.1 The Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation is classified as a Principal Aquifer. The site is located within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ) III (total catchment) and eastern edge within a SPZ II (outer protection) for a potable water abstraction borehole from the chalk.

3.6.2 The nearest surface water features are ponds and a stream located approximately 1km north of the site.

3.7 Flood risk

3.7.1 The site is not recorded to be in an area at risk of flooding from seas, rivers or reservoirs and is within a Flood Zone 1. There is very low risk from surface water flooding across the proposed pitch and wider playing fields.

3.7.2 Car parking/hard standing adjacent to the west of the pavilion building is recorded to have a low risk from surface water flooding.

3.8 Landfills and artificial ground

3.8.1 According to the British Geological Survey, there is no artificial ground on site. There is a small area mapped as 'worked ground' on the adjacent site to the east of the playing fields. Historical and authorised landfill sites are also not mapped on site however, there is a small historic landfill site recorded within the site to the immediate north which appears to be paddocks. These are possible backfilled chalk pits.

3.8.2 There is the potential for unrecorded infilled chalk pits.

3.9 Unexploded Ordnance

3.9.1 Based on the available data, hazard risk mapping records show that the site is classified as low risk of encountering buried Unexploded Ordnance.

3.10 Coal mining risk

3.10.1 Information derived from the Coal Authority and BGS dictates that the site is not located within a Coal Mining Reporting area and therefore no further action is required.

3.11 Chalk natural and man made cavities risk

3.11.1 The site is underlain from chalk which is at risk of natural dissolution features and historic mining. Evidence of chalk extraction is shown on the historic mapping which includes a chalk pit approximately 600m east of the site. The limekiln shown on the 1871 map indicates further chalk extraction approximately 600m north of the site. A brick works including a brick pit is located immediately west of the limekiln, it is known that historically chalk is often extracted from the base of brick pits.

3.11.2 A chalk solution feature is noted approximately 600m north of the site in the area of the former brick pit. Further limekilns with the potential for chalk mining are located approximately 800m to the north east and north west of the site.

3.11.3 A possible chalk mine shaft entry is located approximately 900m west of the site, the source of the information is within geological memoirs.

3.11.4 A full chalk database search is recommended to confirm the risk of solution features and chalk mines beneath the site.