



**Vale
of White Horse**

District Council



Help us Shape the Future

Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Your Vale - Your Future

September 2012

Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

September 2012

Please contact

Development Policy
Vale of White Horse District Council
Abbey House
Abingdon
OX14 3JE
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Telephone 01235 540499
Email: planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Context for the Sustainability Appraisal

1. The Vale of White Horse District Council is currently preparing its Local Plan, also known as the Local Development Framework or LDF, which once adopted, will replace the Local Plan 2011. The Local Plan - Core Strategy is the main document within the LDF which sets out a long term vision and key objectives for the District up to 2029.
2. The Local Plan - Core Strategy is informed by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA process seeks to identify the economic, social and environmental impacts of a plan, and suggest ways in which negative impacts can be avoided or mitigated and ways in which positive impacts can be enhanced or maximised. By assessing the impacts of new plans and policies, the SA process helps to ensure that these plans and policies contribute towards a sustainable form of development.
3. The SA is informed by a scoping report, which sets out a sustainability framework based on a review of relevant plans and programmes, baseline information about the Vale, and an identification of issues and problems within the district.
4. In March 2007, the council produced a Local Plan - Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report¹ which was sent to the statutory environmental consultees, including the Environment Agency, English Heritage, and Natural England.
5. In May 2012, the Coalition Government introduced a number of reforms to the planning system. These included the proposed revocation of Regional Strategies, which had previously set housing targets for local authorities. As a result of these changes in government legislation and council restructuring, publication of the Vale's Local Plan - Core Strategy was delayed awaiting greater clarity on how to progress without the context provided by the South East Plan.
6. This revised scoping report takes into account comments made during the consultation described above and comprehensively updates the scoping report in light of significant changes in planning policy since March 2007.

The requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

7. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (2012) state that a sustainability appraisal report must be completed for development plan documents (DPDs) in accordance with section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004².

¹ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-3>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

8. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)³ was published in March 2012 and replaces all previous Planning Policy Statements and Guidance (PPS's and PPG's). It reiterates that an SA is an integral part of the plan making process and should accompany all local plan documents.
9. In addition, local authorities must also carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of their DPDs, which is the identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a plan or programme. Under the European Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) this is a statutory requirement.
10. Government guidance states that the requirements of the SEA Directive can be incorporated into a wider SA process that considers economic and social impacts as well as environmental effects. The Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) will follow this guidance and produce one sustainability appraisal to cover both requirements. The guidance referred to includes the following publications:
 - A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment, DCLG, September 2005⁴
 - Planning Advisory Service Sustainability Appraisal Advice Note, PAS, June 2010⁵
 - The European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992⁶
11. A table showing how the sustainability appraisal complies with the SEA Directive is at Appendix 1.

Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal

12. Government guidance published in November 2005⁷ sets out a five stage approach to carrying out a sustainability appraisal. Although this guidance has since been archived and replaced by the CLG Plan Making Manual⁸, it still provides a useful tool to outline the key stages in producing a sustainability appraisal (Table 1).
13. This scoping report covers stage A of the sustainability appraisal process. The first step – Stage A1 - is to carry out an examination of other relevant policies, plans and programmes. This will ensure that relevant sustainability objectives are contained within the sustainability appraisal framework which will be used to assess the policies and sites proposed in the Local Plan - Core Strategy.
14. Stage A2 of the scoping report is the collection of baseline information about the Vale, which sets out the current position on a number of topics such as population, housing, the economy, travel patterns, and the environment. This

³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/>

⁴ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/practicalguidesea.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/aio/627078>

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

⁷ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, ODPM, November 2005

⁸ CLG Plan Making Manual, September 2009 <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelId=109798>

information provides the baseline against which any impacts of a policy or proposal are assessed. The baseline assessment contains comparisons to other areas so that issues or problems particular to the Vale can be identified. It also includes predictions of how the various factors will progress into the future based on currently expected development.

Table 1: Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2: Collecting baseline information.
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
A4: Developing the SA framework.
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework.
B2: Developing the DPD options.
B3: Predicting the effects the DPD.
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD.
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs.
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
C1: Preparing the SA Report.
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report.
D2(i): Appraising significant changes.
D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.
D3: Making decisions and providing information.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2: Responding to adverse effects.

15. Stage A3 of the scoping report is the identification of sustainability issues and problems which affect the Vale. Many of these are already known from work on the adopted local plan. Others can be identified from the baseline information and from relevant plans and programmes. These can then be taken into account when preparing the sustainability objectives for the sustainability appraisal framework.

16. Stage A4 of the scoping report is the development of the sustainability appraisal framework. The foundations of this framework are the sustainability objectives

which are developed from the information contained in the first three parts of the scoping report. These objectives can then be used to score the various policy and proposal options in the Local Plan - Core Strategy so that the most sustainable option can be chosen.

17. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁹ require local authorities to consult with Natural England, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, and social and economic stakeholders on the 'scope and level of detail' of the Sustainability Appraisal, giving them a minimum of five weeks to comment. This is stage A5 of the scoping report. All comments received will be summarised and documented in an appendix to the scoping report, and will inform the subsequent SA process.

The Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan - Core Strategy

18. The council has been preparing the Local Plan - Core Strategy during a period of great change in planning policy. Local Development Frameworks were introduced in 2004 and work began on the Vale's Local Plan - Core Strategy in 2007.
19. In November 2007, the council published its Issues and Options Report¹⁰, accompanied by a Sustainability Statement¹¹. This identified the main issues and challenges facing the district and suggested ways in which these could be addressed.
20. Following consultation and further research, the Preferred Options Report¹² was published in January 2009, which included the vision and objectives for the future, and the council's preferred locations for housing, employment and retail development. A thorough assessment of alternatives was carried out which is set out in the Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal, published in February 2009¹³.
21. In January 2010, the council carried out additional consultation¹⁴ on housing at Harwell Campus, redevelopment of the Abbey Shopping Centre in Abingdon, locations for a supermarket in Faringdon, and other policies that had changed since the publication of the Preferred Options Report. This was accompanied by a Sustainability Statement, published in December 2009¹⁵.

⁹ http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/sea_sos_eng_1705376.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-5>

¹¹ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-3>

¹² <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strategy/preferred-options>

¹³ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strategy/preferred-options>

¹⁴ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-2>

¹⁵ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-2>

22. As described above, publication of the council's Local Plan - Core Strategy was delayed awaiting greater clarity on how to progress without the context provided by the South East Plan, following the government's intention to revoke Regional Strategies.
23. In May 2011 there was a change in political leadership of the VWHDC and the new administration undertook an internal review of the Local Plan - Core Strategy decisions made to date. Following this review, the council will produce a document outlining any revisions to its Preferred Options and carry out further consultation in early 2013. The council will finalise the submission document for publication in the latter part of 2013 and expects to adopt the Local Plan - Core Strategy in late 2014.

SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY

24. This scoping report was produced by planning policy officers at the Vale of White Horse District Council, with support from the consultants Levett-Therivel. It is an update of the Local Plan - Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report¹⁶ published in March 2007, and was prepared in 2011 - 2012.
25. Problems encountered during the preparation of this revised scoping report were predominantly centred on the loss of experienced staff which, although remedied through additional training, did lead to some delays in its production.
26. The SA methodology involves assessing each draft policy and proposal set out in the emerging Local Plan - Core Strategy against each of the sustainability objectives, using the sustainability framework set out in stage A4 of this scoping report.
27. Each of the policies and proposals will be given a score indicating the impact it may have on each sustainability objective. The scoring system is set out below.

++	Major positive impact on objective
+	Minor positive impact on objective
0	Neutral impact on objective (positive and negative impacts balance each other out)
-	Minor negative impact on objective
--	Major negative impact on objective
?	Uncertain impact on objective
x	No clear link with the objective

28. Carrying out assessments for all of the draft policies and proposals ensures the final version of the Local Plan - Core Strategy represents the most sustainable options being taken forward.
29. It is important to note that the SA process informs decisions at all stages of the Local Plan - Core Strategy preparation. Details of all the assessments will be set out within the SA Report to be published alongside the Draft Local Plan - Core Strategy (early 2013)

¹⁶ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-3>

Section 3: Stage A1 - A Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

30. Stage A1 of the scoping report involves establishing the context in which the LDF is being prepared, i.e. the other policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives that influence the content of the LDF.

31. Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the Local Plan - Core Strategy and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. A review of the following relevant plans and programmes can be found in appendix 2. This will ensure that relevant sustainability objectives are included within the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

32. International Plans and Programmes:

- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992
- European Sustainable Development Strategy, May 2001
- European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992
- European Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (The Air Quality Framework Directive) 1996, and subsequent Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008
- European Water Framework Directive, 2000
- Kyoto Climate Change Protocol, 1997
- European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, 2006

33. National Plans and Programmes:

- The Localism Act 2011
- The Ministerial Statement Planning for Growth, March 2011
- Sustainable Communities: Homes for Real, ODPM 2005
- Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England, November 2011
- The UK Climate Change Programme, Defra 2006
- Climate Change Act, November 2008
- Water Resources for the Future - A Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2001.
- National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012
- The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as amended (most notably by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000))
- Flood and Water Management Act, 2010
- Waste Strategy for England, 2007
- Soil Strategy for England, 2009
- Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005

34. Regional Plans and Programmes:

- The South East Plan, 2009
- The South East Regional Sustainability Framework, 2008
- Water Resources for the Future - A Strategy for the Thames Region, Environment Agency 2004
- Sustainable Communities in the South East, 2002
- Action for Biodiversity in SE England, 2001

- River Basin Management Plan for the Thames Region, December 2009

35. County Wide Plans and Programmes:

- Draft Oxfordshire Preferred Minerals & Waste Strategy, May 2012
- Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2030, April 2011
- Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, 1998
- Preliminary Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, June 2011

36. Local Plans and Programmes:

- Thames Water 25 Year Plan 2010 - 2035, 2012
- Vale of White Horse Sustainable Community Strategy, October 2008
- Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone Statement, June 2011
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, June 2009
- Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan 2012 - 2016

37. Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Future Provision, July 2008
- Sustainable Design and Construction, December 2009
- Residential Design Guide, December 2009
- Abbey Shopping Centre and the Charter, Abingdon, December 2011

38. All relevant environmental protection objectives need to be identified part of the review. These include those set at international / European Union or Member State level and cover environmental topics only. Details are at Appendix 3.

SECTION 4: STAGE A2 BASELINE INFORMATION

39. Stage A2 of the sustainability appraisal process involves the collection of information about the Vale so as to provide essential background to the appraisal. Information has to cover the broad range of environmental, social and economic matters which are involved in assessing sustainability. In particular, information is needed to monitor the effect of development on aspects of the environment. This potentially involves an enormous amount of information. The aim has been to present sufficient information to provide an overall understanding of the general situation in the Vale. We aim to provide sufficient detail to identify sustainability issues without creating an overwhelming volume of information that might reduce clarity.

40. The baseline information has been collected according to a number of topics. The table below shows how these topics fit in with the requirements set out in the SEA Directive.

Table 2: Comparison of how topic areas within the scoping report comply with those required by the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirement	Where the baseline is described in the SA scoping report
Biodiversity, fauna, flora	Natural environment
Population	Population/ demography
Human health	Living environment
Soil	Housing Natural environment
Water	Natural environment Use of resources
Air	Natural environment
Climatic factors	Use of resources
Material assets	Housing
	Economy
	Travel
	Living environment
Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	Historic environment
Landscape	Natural environment
Interactions between the above factors	Living environment
	Use of resources

41. The baseline data has been collected for each of the topics using indicators. Whilst some of the indicators are of direct relevance to the work carried out as part of the LDF, others are contextual and will instead be used to help provide a general picture of the Vale's performance. These will be used to show how things have changed over time and illustrate any current trends. These can be used to assess the likely future trends of this indicator especially with regards to the implementation of the proposals and policies in the LDF. Table 3 below describes what information is collected within each topic.

Table 3: Summary of baseline information collected for each topic area

Baseline indicator
Population
Total population
Working Age population
Number of the Vale's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) within the lower 20% of Index of Multiple Deprivation
Housing
Number of housing completions
Average house price to income ratio
Number of affordable homes completed
Average household size
Economy
Economic activity rate
Jobs density - the numbers of jobs per residents aged 16-64
Percentage of working age residents in employment
Percentage of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
The percentage of working age population with NVQ4+
Gross weekly pay (full time)
UK competitiveness Index (UKCI)
Travel
Traffic volumes in millions vehicle miles
Proportion of Vale jobs that are filled by Vale residents (workplace self-containment)
Proportion of Vale residents that have jobs in the Vale (residence self-containment)
Historic Environment
Number of Conservation Area Appraisals carried out
Number of listed buildings contained in the Buildings at Risk register
Natural Environment
Percentage of the Vale's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition
Total area of UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat
Total number of UKBAP priority species
Distribution and status of farmland birds
Percentage water bodies at good ecological status or potential
Number of homes located in flood zone 2 or 3
Number of Air Quality Management Areas across the Vale
Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land
Living Environment
Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households
The number of recorded criminal offences
Gap between the areas with the highest and lowest life expectancy (Male/Female)
Number of Disability Living Allowance claimants
Percentage of households meeting none of the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards
Use of resources
Water use per person per day
Annual CO2 emissions per person (tonnes of CO2 per capita)
Average domestic gas consumption (kWh)
Average domestic electricity consumption (kWh)
% of energy consumption from renewable sources
Percentage recycling rate

42. The regulations also require that the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the plan are discussed. Where possible this will be shown in the context of major development that is being proposed as part of the Local Plan - Core Strategy. Maps showing the potential housing sites are at Appendix 4.

Key messages from the baseline review

43. In terms of performance, each indicator was classified as:

- performing well against targets and comparators (green)
- performing near to targets and other comparators (orange)
- performing poorly against targets and other comparators (red)

44. Table 4 summarises those indicators that are performing near to targets and could therefore be improved and those which are currently performing poorly and require action.

Table 4: Summary of baseline indicators either under or poorly performing

Indicator status - underperforming
Number of the Vale's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) within the lower 20% of Index of Multiple Deprivation
Economic activity rate
Traffic volumes in millions vehicle miles
Proportion of Vale residents that have jobs in the Vale (residence self-containment)
Number of Conservation Area Appraisals carried out
Number of listed buildings contained in the Buildings at Risk register
Percentage water bodies at good ecological status or potential
Gap between the areas with the highest and lowest life expectancy (Male/Female)
Number of Disability Living Allowance claimants
Water use per person per day
Annual CO2 emissions per person (tonnes of CO2 per capita)
Average domestic gas consumption (kWh)
Average domestic electricity consumption (kWh)
Indicator – poor performance
Number of housing completions
Average house price to income ratio
Number of affordable homes completed
Number of Air Quality Management Areas across the Vale
Percentage of households meeting none of the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards

Future trends under the 'business as usual' option

45. The SEA Directive requires plan or programme proponents to identify "the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme". The baseline data in Appendix 5 identifies the current state of the area and where possible picks out

emerging trends. This can be used to predict their likely future in the absence of the new LDF and the policies and proposals it will include.

46. Although by no means certain it appears that the following trends are likely to continue:

- an ageing population
- rising unaffordability of home ownership
- a shortage of affordable housing
- increased unemployment
- increased commuting.

SECTION 5: STAGE A3: SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

47. Stage A3 in the SA process involves the identification of any significant sustainability issues or problems that relate to the Vale. Some issues and problems have already been identified during the preparation of the Local Plan 2011. Other issues can be identified through the review of other plans and strategies (A1) and by examining the baseline data (A2). This initial list may expand as further sustainability issues and problems could arise as a result of the consultations to be undertaken on this document and at later stages in the sustainability appraisal process. The issues and problems identified will then be used to inform the sustainability objectives (A4) that will be the foundation of the sustainability appraisal framework. The following sustainability issues and problems have been identified so far in relation to the Vale:

1. shortage of housing, including affordable, market and supported living accommodation
2. provision of employment opportunities for residents
3. congestion on strategic and local road network
4. lack of alternatives to the private car
5. rural isolation and limited access to services
6. need to conserve water and improve river quality
7. reduction and prevention of flooding
8. need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage the development of renewables
9. protection of valued landscapes
10. need to preserve and enhance the quality of built environments
11. protection and improvement of biodiversity, particularly Special Areas of Conservation
12. need to mitigate/reduce effects of noise, air and light pollution
13. pressure for development, particularly housing
14. protection and provision of recreational facilities, including achievement of Accessible Natural Greenspace standards
15. the health of Vale residents
16. deprivation in some parts of the Vale
17. declining proportion of economically active population
18. low levels of educational achievement
19. action to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change
20. the management of waste from planned development.

SECTION 6: STAGE A4: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND FRAMEWORK

48. Stage A4 in the SA process is the development of a sustainability framework which will be used to assess the sustainability of policies and proposals at all stages in the production of the Local Plan - Core Strategy for the Vale. The foundation of this assessment is the development of sustainability objectives against which to compare and evaluate the policies and proposals. These can be developed from the information collected via stages A1, A2 and A3 already undertaken in previous sections of this scoping report.

49. The council's original scoping report, published in March 2007 identified 21 sustainability objectives, which were based on the former Regional Assembly's Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) and the council's corporate objectives. The IRF was subsequently replaced by The South East Regional Sustainability Framework. However, as the council has a new corporate plan and the Localism Act signals the intention to revoke regional spatial strategies, it has reviewed and updated the sustainability objectives in the light of these changes. In doing so it combined some of the original sustainability objectives to remove overlaps between them, as shown in the table below.

Table 5: Overlap between original proposed sustainability objectives

1. Access to decent, sustainably constructed and affordable homes. 10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.
2. Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public. 10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.
3. Improved Community Safety. 4. Increased quality of life for Vale residents. 13. Improved health and wellbeing.
5. Raised educational achievement and skills levels. 10. Reduced poverty and social exclusion with disadvantaged groups achieving potential.
6. Establish a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale. 7. Establish a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy with high value low impact activities. 8. Develop a strong and sustainable tourism sector.
9. Reduced road congestion and associated pollution.
11. Creating vibrant communities. 12. Greater engagement in cultural activity. 2. Improved accessibility to high quality services and involvement in decision making for the public.

14. Improve and protect the natural environment (including biodiversity).
20. Maintain and improve river quality and water resources.
21. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.
15. Improve and protect the built environment.
16. Sustainable use of land, buildings and resources. 17. Effective action on climate change. 18. Increased generation of energy by renewables.
19. Reduced risk of flooding.

50. Set out below is a proposed set of new sustainability objectives, clearly setting out how they relate to the issues identified in stage A3 of the scoping report, and the requirements of the SEA Directive. These proposed sustainability objectives will be consulted upon and amended in light of any comments received.

Table 6: The Sustainability Appraisal framework

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.	Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enough homes • of appropriate types • in appropriate locations • at the appropriate times Provide enough affordable homes	1. Shortage of housing, Including affordable, market and supported living 10. Need to preserve and enhance the quality of built environments 13. Pressure for development, particularly housing	Population No. housing completions No. and % affordable homes No. people in temporary accommodation	Population

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas.	Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate facilities and services; • in appropriate locations; • at the appropriate times These should be well designed and inclusive and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health; • education; • recreation and sport; • community and leisure; and • other essential services. 	5. Rural isolation and limited access to services 16. Deprivation in some parts of the Vale 14. Protection and provision of recreational facilities including natural greenspace	Commercial and community services in rural parts of the Vale.	Population

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
3. Reduce the need to travel and Improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.	<p>Reduce the need to travel through more sustainable patterns of land use and development</p> <p>Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel</p> <p>Enable key transport infrastructure improvements</p>	<p>3. Congestion on strategic and local road network</p> <p>4. Lack of alternatives to the private car</p> <p>5. Rural isolation and limited access to services</p> <p>12. Need to mitigate/reduce effects of noise, air and light pollution</p>	<p>Traffic volumes</p> <p>Proportion of Vale jobs that are filled by Vale residents</p> <p>Proportion of Vale residents that have jobs in the Vale</p>	<p>Air</p> <p>Climatic factors</p> <p>Human health</p>

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents.	<p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards</p> <p>Reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social activities, and reduce fear of crime</p>	<p>15. Health of Vale residents</p> <p>16. Deprivation in some parts of the Vale</p>	<p>No. recorded criminal offences</p> <p>Gap between areas with highest and lowest life expectancy</p> <p>No. Disability Living Allowance claimants</p> <p>% households meeting no ANGSt criteria</p>	Human health

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and	Promote regeneration of deprived areas	18. Low levels of educational achievement	Number of the Vale's LSOAs within the lower 20% of IMD	Economy

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
raise educational achievement and skills levels.	<p>Improve opportunities and facilities for all types of learning</p> <p>Encourage an available and skilled workforce which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meets the needs of existing and future employers; • reduces skills inequalities; • helps address skills shortages. 		<p>Economic activity rate</p> <p>Percentage of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance</p> <p>Percentage of working age population with a NVQ4+</p>	

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.	<p>Promote economic growth and a diverse and resilient economy</p> <p>Provide opportunities for all employers to access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different types and sizes of accommodation; • flexible employment space; • high quality communications and infrastructure. <p>Build on the knowledge-based and high tech economy in the Central Oxfordshire and</p>	<p>2. Provision of employment opportunities for residents</p> <p>17. Declining proportion of economically active population</p> <p>18. Low levels of educational achievement</p>	<p>Job density</p> <p>New jobs in the SVUK area and SVUK EZ</p> <p>UK competitiveness index</p>	Economy

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
	<p>Science Vale UK area, including the Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone</p> <p>Promote and support a strong network of towns and villages and the rural economy</p>			

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality	<p>Protect and enhance natural habitats, wildlife, biodiversity and geodiversity</p> <p>Protect the integrity of European sites and other designated nature conservation sites</p> <p>Encourage the creation of new habitats and features for wildlife</p> <p>Prevent isolation/fragmentation and re-connect / de-fragment habitats</p> <p>Enhance water quality and help to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</p>	11. Protection and improvement of biodiversity, particularly Special Areas of Conservation	<p>% of the Vale's SSSIs in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition</p> <p>Total area of UK BAP priority habitat</p> <p>Total number of UKBAP priority species</p> <p>Achievement of Water Framework Directive objectives</p>	Biodiversity, flora, fauna Water Soil

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
	Protect groundwater resources Minimise and reduce the potential for exposure of people to ground pollution			

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.	Protect and enhance archaeology and heritage assets, and areas of sensitive landscape including AONB and Green Belt. Improve access to, and enjoyment, understanding and use of cultural assets where this will not cause harm	9. Protection of valued landscapes 10. Need to preserve and enhance the quality of built environments 14. Protection and provision of recreational facilities including natural greenspace	No. Conservation Area Appraisals carried out No. listed buildings in the Buildings at Risk register Maintenance of Green Belt and AONB	Air

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution	Minimise and reduce the potential for exposure of people to noise, air and light pollution.	12. Need to mitigate/reduce effects of noise, air and light pollution 8. Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage development of renewables	Annual CO2 emissions per person Average domestic gas and electricity consumption No. Air Quality Management Areas	

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources and improve resource efficiency	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Re-use existing buildings</p> <p>Promote development on previously developed land and minimise land use</p> <p>Encourage sustainable, low carbon building practices and design</p> <p>Reduce energy use</p> <p>Promote renewable energy generation</p> <p>Reduce water use</p> <p>Provide adequate infrastructure to ensure the sustainable supply of water and disposal of sewerage</p> <p>Maximise opportunities for recycling and minimising waste</p>	<p>8. Need to reduce use of fossil fuels and encourage development of renewables</p> <p>19. Action to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>% homes built on previously developed land</p> <p>Water use per person per day</p> <p>Percentage recycling rates</p> <p>Ecological footprint</p>	Water

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Appraisal Questions Does the alternative...	Related issues	Indicators	Relevant SEA Directive
11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding	<p>Minimise and reduce flood risk to people and property</p> <p>Respond to the likelihood of future warmer summers, wetter winters, and more extreme weather events</p> <p>Minimise development on high quality agricultural land</p> <p>Provide for local needs locally</p>	<p>7. Reduction and prevention of flooding</p> <p>19. Action to mitigate the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change</p>	No. homes located in flood zone 2 or 3	Air

APPENDIX 1. COMPLIANCE WITH SEA REQUIREMENTS

The following table sets out how the sustainability appraisal process meets SEA requirements.

SEA Requirement	How/Where (which section) requirement is met
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	This section: Introduction Stage A1: Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.	Stage A2: Baseline Information
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Stage A2: Baseline Information
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Stage A3: Sustainability Issues and Problems
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Stage A1: Review of Plans and Programmes
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects).	An assessment of options will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.	Mitigation measures will be included in the assessment of options in the Sustainability Appraisal.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	A methodology and a 'storyline' of how alternatives were selected will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	A Monitoring Framework will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.

A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	A Non-technical Summary of the Scoping Report is provided alongside this document and a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Report will be published alongside that document.
Consultation	
Consult authorities with environmental responsibilities, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Article 5.4)	This is the consultation draft of the Scoping Report. It will be amended in response to any comments received.
Consult authorities with environmental responsibilities and the public, to give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan (Article 6.1, 6.2)	Consultation will be carried out on the Sustainability Appraisal alongside consultation on the Local Plan - Core Strategy.
Consult other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment in these countries (Article 7).	The Vale's Local Plan - Core Strategy is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment of other countries so they will not be consulted.
When the plan is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Article 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures decided concerning monitoring (Article 9) 	A Consultation Statement will be published alongside the Sustainability Appraisal and Local Plan - Core Strategy.
Monitoring the significant environmental effects of the plan's implementation (Article 10)	The Monitoring Framework will be implemented once the Local Plan - Core Strategy is adopted.

APPENDIX 2. REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

International Plans and Programmes

1. Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. conservation of biological diversity b. sustainable use of its components c. fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. <p>Targets are:</p> <p>In 2002 the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at a global, national and regional level.</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality</p>

2. European Sustainable Development Strategy, May 2001	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Objectives and priorities focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy b. addressing threats to public health c. combating poverty and social exclusion d. dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing population e. managing natural resources more responsibly f. improving the transport system and land use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes. 2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas. 3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.

There are no specific targets contained in this strategy.	<p>4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents.</p> <p>5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p> <p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p> <p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>
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3. The European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Relevant objectives of the Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna b. to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats of outstanding significance. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this Directive.</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p> <p>The Vale has two sites of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - Hackpen Hill and Frilford Heath.</p> <p>There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Vale.</p>

4. The European Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (The Air Quality Framework Directive) 1996, and subsequent Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008

Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Relevant objectives are to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.</p> <p>The Directive also sets limits for air pollutants, to be taken into account in national objectives. Where levels of pollutants exceed certain limit values, a plan for attaining the limit value shall be prepared.</p>	<p>3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.</p> <p>4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents.</p> <p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

5. The European Water Framework Directive, 2000

Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. protection, improvement and sustainable use of water bodies b. management of water resource issues at catchment level c. prevent deterioration in water status d. restore surface waters to good ecological and chemical status by 2015 e. reduce pollution from priority substances and phasing out certain priority hazardous substances f. achieving objectives for EU protected areas g. contributing to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts h. preventing and/or limiting pollution input into groundwater i. balancing abstraction and recharge. 	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p> <p>A River Basin Management Plan for the Thames Region was published in December 2009 and is reviewed under the 'Regional Plans and Programmes' section of this table.</p>

<p>The overarching objective is ensuring sustainable water use, including both surface and ground water resources. River Basin Management Plans' summarise the actions required in order to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>The Directive sets a target for Member States to produce River Basin Management Plans by 2009 and to achieve the main environmental objectives of the plan by 2016.</p>	
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6. Kyoto Climate Change Protocol, 1997	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>International agreement to establish limits to greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Target: To reduce emissions by 5% of 1990 levels by 2008/12.</p> <p>UK Target: To reduce emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008/12.</p>	<p>3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.</p> <p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

7. European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, 2006	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The main objectives of this strategy are:</p> <p>a. preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use, • Management patterns, and 	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. <p>b. restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.</p>	
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National Plans and Programmes

8. The Localism Act 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Main aim of the Localism Act is to devolve more power to local communities to give them greater control over local decisions. The six actions identified in the Localism Bill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to lift the burden of bureaucracy b. empower communities to do things their way c. increase local control of public finance d. diversify the supply of public services e. open up Government to public scrutiny f. strengthen accountability to local people. <p>In terms of planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums.</p> <p>There are no specific targets contained in The Localism Act.</p>	<p>5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p>

9. Planning for Growth, March 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The statement promotes sustainable economic growth and jobs. The expectation is that the answer to development and growth should be 'yes' wherever possible.</p> <p>There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and local planning authorities are expected to plan positively for new development.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should press ahead without delay in preparing up-to-date development plans and be proactive in driving and supporting growth.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should place particular weight on potential economic benefits.</p>	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p> <p>2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p> <p>6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p>

10. Sustainable Communities: Homes for All, ODPM January 2005	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Objective are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure there are enough high-quality homes in all tenures b. help more people to own their home c. ensure all tenants, and 7 out of 10 vulnerable people in the private sector have a decent home d. create sustainable mixed communities with the jobs, services and infrastructure they need to thrive e. provide for special housing needs, including halving those in temporary accommodation f. provide for those who choose alternative types of accommodation, but enforce action on unauthorised 	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p> <p>5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p>

development.	
Targets: Seven out of ten vulnerable people in the private sector have a decent home, and half the number of people in temporary accommodation.	

11. Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England, November 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. get the housing market moving again b. lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future c. support choice and quality for tenants d. improve environmental standards and design quality. <p>The new strategy addresses concerns across the housing market making it easier to secure mortgages on new homes, improving fairness in social housing and ensuring homes that have been left empty for years are lived in once again.</p> <p>Targets: Deliver up to 100,000 new homes by freeing up public sector land with Build Now, Pay Later deals.</p>	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p>

12. The UK Climate Change Programme, Defra 2003	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Climate Change Programme sets measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. improve business' use of energy b. stimulate new, more efficient sources of power generation 	<p>3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. cut emissions from the transport sector d. promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector e. improve the energy efficiency requirements of building regulations f. ensure the public sector take a leading role in sustainable land use, transport, installation of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies. <p>Target: Increase the proportion of electricity provided from renewable sources to 10% by 2010 and doubling installed heat and power capacity by 2010.</p> <p>Cut the UK emissions of carbon dioxide by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.</p>	<p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>
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13. Climate Change Act, November 2008	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Climate Change Act 2008 makes the UK the first country in the world to have a legally binding long-term framework to cut carbon emissions. It creates a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>It creates a new approach to managing and responding to climate change in the UK, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. setting ambitious, legally binding targets b. taking powers to help meet those targets c. strengthening the institutional framework d. enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change e. establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK Parliament and to the devolved legislatures. 	<p>3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.</p> <p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

Target: a legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, to be achieved through action in the UK and abroad. Also a reduction of emissions of at least 34% by 2020. The targets are against a 1990 baseline.	
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14. Water Resources for the Future - A Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2001.	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The strategy looks 25 years ahead and considers the need for water for all purposes over this period, including uncertainties about future water demand and availability. Relevant objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to promote efficiency in water use b. to pay further attention to leakage control c. to promote water sensitive agricultural practices <p>Target: Enhance water supply by up to 1,100 million litres per day by improving existing water supply infrastructure and developing new resources.</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p>

15. National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>As part of the Coalition Government's reforms, a National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been drafted, which when finalised will replace PPG's and PPS's.</p> <p>The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. It states that delivering sustainable development means:</p>	All

<p>a. planning for prosperity (an economic role) – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure</p> <p>b. planning for people (a social role) – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being</p> <p>c. planning for places (an environmental role) – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>There are no specific targets contained in this framework.</p>	
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16. The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as amended (most notably by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act (2000))	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>a. transposes the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) and the EU Birds Directive (1979) into national law. Has been amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)</p> <p>b. principal instrument for the protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and endangered wildlife within the UK. Local authorities are identified as having the function of raising awareness of the</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality</p>

public, and schoolchildren in particular, to provisions for the protection of wildlife.	
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17. Flood and Water Management Act, 2010	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Part 1 of the Act requires the Environment Agency to develop a national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk. It also requires all lead flood authorities in England to develop and maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for flood risk in their area. b. Section 30 allows certain authorities to formally designate assets or features which affect flood or coastal erosion risk. c. Schedule 3 introduces standard for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of new rainwater drainage systems and introduces an approving body (generally the local authority). d. It amends Section 106 of the Water Industry Act, 1991 to make the right to connect surface water run off to public sewers conditional on the approval of the drainage system by the approving body. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality 10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources and improve resource efficiency

18. Waste Strategy for England, 2007	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
Promotes best practicable environmental option (BPEO), the waste hierarchy and the proximity principle. Sets a major target of increasing recycling rates to 25% by 2005/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality

19. Soil Strategy for England, 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
A Strategy to safeguard and protect England's irreplaceable and fundamental natural resource which provides many essential functions for life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality

<p>The strategy sets out how the government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. support farmers in managing agricultural soil, and address the threats to it b. reduce the rate of loss of carbon in soil to tackle climate change, and use soil to help adapt to the impacts of climate change c. provide a framework for action to protect peat habitats d. protect soils in urban areas during development and construction e. value soils in the planning system f. prevent pollution of soils, and deal with the historic legacy of contaminated land. <p>A key feature of the soils strategy is the emphasis it places on appropriate management and handling of soils including during development and construction.</p>	
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20. Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Strategy sets out five guiding principles to guide sustainable development across the UK, including its devolved administrations. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. living within environmental limits – respecting the limits of the planet’s environment, resources and biodiversity – to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations b. ensuring a strong, healthy and just society – meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesions and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity for all c. achieving a sustainable economy – building a strong, stable and sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities 	All

<p>for all, and in which environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them (polluter pays), and efficient resource use is incentivised</p> <p>d. promoting good governance – actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance in all levels of society – engaging people’s creativity, energy, and diversity</p> <p>e. using sound science responsibly – ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong scientific evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainty (through the precautionary principle) as well as public attitudes and values.</p>	
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Regional Plans and Programmes

In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out his commitment to abolish regional spatial strategies, including the South East Plan. The Localism Act (2011) removed the regional framework and existing regional strategies will be abolished by secondary legislation in the near future. This Act aims to shift power from central government back to communities and enable them to help shape their local areas.

However, the South East Plan has had an important influence on the preparation of the Local Plan - Core Strategy. It is, therefore, still relevant to review regional plans, policies and programmes which have set the context for policies contained within the Vale’s LDF.

21. The South East Plan, 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The SE Plan is based on the following six spatial planning principles:</p> <p>a. a co-ordinated approach to managing change within the region’s key settlements and their hinterlands</p> <p>b. focusing new development on the South East’s network of regional hubs, according to their role and function. This will include new development in five strategic development areas.</p> <p>c. pursuing a strategy of urban focus and urban renaissance</p> <p>d. spreading opportunities more evenly around the region through co-ordination of regeneration and social inclusion activity.</p>	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p> <p>5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. protection of the Green Belt f. protecting the vitality and character of the region's rural areas, whilst protecting the valuable natural and historic assets of the region. <p>Target: The SE Plan required 11,560 homes to be built in the Vale between 2006 and 2026. This included 10,240 in the Central Oxfordshire part of the district, and 1,320 in the rest of the Vale.</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p>
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22. The South East Regional Sustainability Framework (RSF), 2008	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The RSF sets out 25 regional sustainability objectives for the South East Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably-constructed and affordable home suitable to their need b. improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health c. reduce poverty and social exclusion and, by improving their performance, close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region d. raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work e. reduce crime and perceptions of disorder f. create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals g. improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment h. encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East and promote sustainable tourism 	<p>The principles of the RSF are reflected in all the sustainability objectives.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ensure high and stable levels of employment so that everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region j. sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region by focussing on the principles of smart growth: raising levels of enterprise, productivity and economic activity k. stimulate economic revival in deprived areas l. develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value lower impact activities m. develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region n. improve efficiency in land use through the appropriate re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings - including re-use of materials from buildings - and encourage urban renaissance o. reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment p. reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve q. address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases r. ensure the region is prepared for the impacts of climate change s. conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity t. protect and enhance the region's countryside and historic environment u. improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel v. reduce the global social and environmental impact of consumption of resources by using sustainably and ethically produced, local or low impact products w. reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste x. maintain and improve the water quality of the region's rivers, ground waters and coasts and to achieve sustainable water resources management 	
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<p>y. increase energy efficiency, security and diversity of supply and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the region.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>a. to stabilise the Ecological Footprint by 2016 and reduce it thereafter</p> <p>b. to stabilise and then reduce per capita consumption of water to 135 litres per day by 2016</p> <p>c. by 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from activities within the region by 60%</p> <p>d. by 2010, install 620 MW of renewable capacity, by 2016 install 895 MW of renewable energy and by 2026 install 1,750 MW of renewable energy (16% of generation capacity)</p> <p>e. to prevent all inappropriate development in the flood plain</p> <p>f. by 2010, to increase the numbers of properties adequately protected by 15,000</p> <p>g. achieve the 2010 and 2026 regional biodiversity targets set out in the draft SE Plan</p> <p>h. by 2010 to improve performance and halve the gap between the most disadvantaged communities and the average position of the region</p> <p>i. to reduce health inequalities by 10% by 2010 (baseline 1995-97) as measured by life expectancy at birth.</p>	
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23. Water Resources for the Future - A strategy for the Thames Region, Environment Agency, 2004	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
The key vision for this strategy is 'enough water for all human uses with an improved water environment.' Actions which may be necessary include:	7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. water abstraction reductions of 100-350 million litres per day to improve the water environment b. the development of new strategic water resources if actions to manage demand and reduce leakages prove to be ineffective c. public water supplies need to be increased by up to 600 million litres per day above present levels d. leakage reduction measures are crucially important e. increased efficiency in water use and water use minimisation should be an important aspect of resource management. 	<p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p>
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24. Sustainable Communities in the South East, SEERA, 2002	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>This regional programme of action sets out proposals for maintaining and creating sustainable communities in the South East. These are places in which people will want to live and which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. economically prosperous; b. have decent homes at a price people can afford; c. safeguard the countryside; d. enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment; e. effectively and fairly governed with a strong sense of community. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes. 2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas. 4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents. 6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas. 7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality. 8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape. 9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.

25. Action for Biodiversity in South East England, 2001	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>This document provides an overview of 25 regional priority habitats in the South East and sets out targets for the maintenance, restoration or re-creation of these habitats.</p> <p>The document sets out the main impacts, opportunities and policy issues for each sector of the economy/regulatory bodies.</p>	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p>

26. River Basin Management Plan for the Thames Region, December 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The plan sits within the context of the Water Framework Directive and aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, protect them and improve the ecological condition of waters aim to achieve at least good status for all water bodies by 2015. Where this is not possible and subject to the criteria set out in the Directive, aim to achieve good status by 2021 or 2027 meet the requirements of Water Framework Directive Protected Areas promote sustainable use of water as a natural resource conserve habitats and species that depend directly on water progressively reduce or phase out the release of individual pollutants or groups of pollutants that present a significant threat to the aquatic environment progressively reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent or limit the entry of pollutants contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 	<p>7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.</p> <p>9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

County Wide Plans and Programmes

27. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy: proposed submission document, May 2012

Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Minerals objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. enable Oxfordshire to meet the locally determined requirements for supply of sand and gravel, soft sand, crushed rock and secondary and recycled aggregates over the plan period to meet planned economic growth and social needs and to make an appropriate contribution to wider needs b. enable a continued supply of limestone and ironstone for building and walling stone from small scale quarries for the maintenance, repair and construction of locally distinctive buildings and structures c. provide a framework for investment and development by mineral operators and landowners through a clear and deliverable spatial strategy which is sufficiently flexible to meet future needs and which is based on existing and planned infrastructure provision d. facilitate the economically and environmentally efficient supply of minerals in Oxfordshire and encourage the maximum practical recovery of aggregate resources from secondary and recycled materials for use in place of primary aggregates e. minimise the impact of minerals development on flood risk and contribute to climate adaptation through restoration schemes which provide flood storage capacity in the floodplain f. minimise the distance minerals need to be transported by road and encourage where possible the movement of aggregates by conveyor, pipeline, rail and on Oxfordshire's waterways in order to reduce adverse impacts of mineral transportation on local communities, the environment and climate change; and minimise the impact of mineral traffic on local communities through implementation, monitoring and enforcement of routeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion. 4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents. 7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality. 10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency. 11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.

<p>agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. protect Oxfordshire's communities, important landscapes, the River Thames and ecological, geological, archaeological and heritage assets from harmful impacts of mineral development and transportation h. provide benefits to Oxfordshire's natural environment and local communities through the restoration of mineral workings by contributing to nature conservation, enhancing the quality and extent of Conservation Target Areas, contributing to landscape character, improving access to the countryside, safeguarding local amenity and providing opportunities for local recreation i. safeguard resources of sand and gravel, crushed rock and Fuller's Earth to ensure that these resources are potentially available for future use and are considered in future development decisions j. safeguard permanent facilities for producing secondary and recycled aggregate and for importing aggregates into Oxfordshire by rail. <p>Waste Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide for waste management capacity that enables Oxfordshire to be net self-sufficient in meeting its own waste needs and makes an appropriate contribution towards wider specialist waste needs b. support initiatives that help to reduce the amounts of waste produced and provide for the delivery, as soon as is practicable, of waste management facilities that will drive waste away from landfill and as far up the waste hierarchy as possible; in particular facilities that will enable increased re-use, recycling and composting of waste and the recovery of resources from remaining (residual) waste to avoid its disposal to landfill c. provide for waste to be managed as close as possible to where it arises to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise the distance waste needs to be transported by 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce adverse impacts of waste transportation on local communities and the environment • enable communities to take responsibility for their own waste. d. generally providing for a broad distribution of facilities whilst recognising that some types of waste management facility are uneconomic or not practical below a certain size and therefore will need to serve a wider area e. recognise that waste management is an integral part of community infrastructure and take opportunities to locate facilities in or close to the communities they serve, including in conjunction with planned growth, and for recovery and local use of energy (heat and power) from waste f. recognise that waste will continue to be imported into Oxfordshire from London and elsewhere for disposal by landfill and seek to limit this to residual waste (following recycling and treatment elsewhere) and for the quantity of this waste to decrease over time as additional waste management facilities are provided closer to where the waste is produced g. avoid the loss of green field land, giving priority to the use of previously developed land and ensure that new waste management facilities are sensitive to the amenities of local communities and do not cause unnecessary harm to the County's distinctive natural and built environment h. promote sustainable waste practice in construction and demolition work based on the principle of keeping waste to a minimum, managing waste on site where possible, recycling construction waste as aggregate, and creating buildings and layouts that facilitate the recovery of resources from waste and take advantage of opportunities for the use of combined heat and power i. secure the satisfactory restoration of landfill sites and other 	
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temporary waste management sites, where the facility is no longer required or acceptable in that location.	
There are no specific targets contained in this strategy.	

28. Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan: 2011- 2030, April 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. improve the condition of local roads, footways and cycleways, including resilience to climate change b. reduce congestion c. reduce casualties and the dangers associated with travel d. improve accessibility to work, education and services e. secure infrastructure and services to support development f. reduce carbon emissions from transport g. improve air quality, reduce other environmental impacts and enhance the street environment h. develop and increase the use of high quality, welcoming public transport i. develop and increase cycling and walking for local journeys, recreation and health. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas. 3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion. 9. Reduce air, noise and light pollution. 10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency. 11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.

29. Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, 1998	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
Local authorities have a duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act to conserve biodiversity and embedding the Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) approach in LDF's can help to meet this duty by:	7. Improve and protect the natural environment including biodiversity, water and soil quality.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. using development to contribute towards BAP habitat management, restoration & creation both on development sites and within the CTAs b. highlighting to developers that CTAs are opportunity areas for compensation and enhancement required to mitigate the impacts of development c. protecting and enhancing biodiversity by developing policies founded on the strong evidence-base used to identify the CTAs and Local Wildlife Sites d. assessing biodiversity deficits, and develop approaches to improve local people's access to biodiversity e. planning new green infrastructure, including biodiversity enhancements, and effectively direct planning gain. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this plan.</p>	
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30. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, June 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The objectives of the PFRA are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. bring together information on past flooding and its consequences, to understand where there have been significant harmful consequences b. bring together information on flooding that may happen in the future, to understand where there might be significant harmful consequences in the future c. use the information as evidence to determine if there are any Flood Risk Areas in Oxfordshire that meet the national thresholds set by Defra (2010) and review the indicative Flood Risk Areas provided by the Environment Agency d. develop the PFRA in such as way that it contributes to the 	<p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

<p>preparation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and can be used in future as an evidence base to inform Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) that might be necessary.</p> <p>There are no specific targets contained within this assessment.</p>	
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Local Plans and Programmes

31. Thames Water: Water Resources Management Plan 2010-2035, 2012	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The strategy outlines how Thames Water will respond to future challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. climate change b. leakage c. water efficiency d. delivery of high quality customer service. <p>The Draft Water Management Plan (2009) proposed an Upper Thames Reservoir situated between Steventon, Drayton, Marcham and the Hanneys. However, at a public enquiry in 2010, the inspector ruled that the need case was not justified at this time. The next five year plan is due to be published in 2014.</p> <p>There are no specific targets contained in this plan.</p>	<p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

32. Vale of White Horse Community Strategy 2008-2016, October 2008	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>Government guidance requires the strategy to have regard to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Vale, and identify key priorities for action which will help secure that well being</p>	<p>These priorities broadly cover the concept of sustainability and as the Community Strategy was prepared alongside the Issues and Options Report, all</p>

<p>for the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. social Progress which recognises the needs of everyone b. maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment c. effective protection of environment and wise use of natural resources. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this plan.</p>	<p>of the sustainability objectives are relevant.</p>
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33. Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone Statement, June 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Oxfordshire LEP is a voluntary body made up of representations from business, academia and the wider public sector. The Partnership's overall aim is to be the catalyst for realising Oxfordshire's economic and commercial potential.</p> <p>In June 2011, the Partnership submitted a successful bid for the Science Vale UK area to become an Enterprise Zone. This is expected to bring in 8,400 high-tech, high-value-adding jobs and generate up to £10.5m of additional business rates a year. These funds can be directly reinvested into the Oxfordshire economy.</p>	<p>5. Reduce inequality, poverty and social exclusion in the Vale, and raise educational achievement and skills levels.</p> <p>6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p>

34. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, June 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment redefines the flood risk zones within the District around the five main settlements of Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon, Grove, Wantage and the 11 largest villages. The assessment also identifies areas which are at risk from other forms of flooding such as surface and ground water.</p>	<p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

<p>The SFRA will assist the council in its selection and development of sustainable site allocations away from vulnerable flood risk areas. It will help the council make spatial planning decisions required to inform the Local Development Framework (LDF).</p> <p>There are no specific targets contained in the assessment.</p>	
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35. Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan 2012 - 2016	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The Corporate Plan sets out objectives and priorities for the next four years. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the excellent delivery of key services b. effective management of resources c. meeting housing need d. building the local economy e. provide support for communities. <p>There are no specific targets contained in this plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes. 2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas. 6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas. 10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

36. Open Space, Sport and Recreation Future Provision, July 2008	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The first section deals with assessing the impacts of proposed residential developments in terms of open space, sport and recreation provision.</p> <p>The second section explains how the council intends to use planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas. 4. Improve the health and well being of Vale residents.

<p>conditions relating to open space, sport and recreation provision.</p> <p>The third and final section sets out the circumstances in which the council will require developers to enter into a planning agreement or unilateral undertaking relating to open space, sport and recreation provision.</p> <p>There are detailed provision standards in Appendix A of the SPD.</p>	
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37. Sustainable Design and Construction, December 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The aim of this SPD is to provide guidance to planners, developers, architects and facilities managers on how to achieve the council's requirements in sustainable design and construction when preparing planning applications for commercial developments over 1,000 square meters and residential developments of ten or more dwellings.</p> <p>The SPD sets out standards to be met which are primarily for commercial developments over 1,000sq m to be BREEAM excellent and developments of more than 10 dwellings to be code level 3 by 2010, code level 4 by 2013 and code level 6 by 2016, according to the Code for Sustainable Homes. There must also be 10% of on-site renewable energy.</p>	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p> <p>11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.</p>

38. Residential Design Guide, December 2009	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>This SPD provides guidance for new residential development on how to deliver high quality, well designed buildings that are in keeping with their environment and respond to the challenge to deliver sustainable development.</p> <p>The guide establishes a series of design principles which are intended</p>	<p>1. Provide sufficient suitable homes including affordable homes.</p> <p>10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources, and improve resource efficiency.</p>

to provide the framework for high quality design. However, there are no specific targets identified.	11. Increase resilience to climate change and flooding.
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39. Abbey Shopping Centre and the Charter, Abingdon, December 2011	
Key aims, relevant objectives or targets/indicators	Related Sustainability Objectives
<p>The development brief (SPD) sets out planning and urban design guidance to guide the design of high quality proposals for the redevelopment of Abbey Shopping Centre and the Charter Area in Abingdon.</p> <p>It includes an assessment of the site in its context, movement and access and a heritage assessment. It then sets out development principles but no specific targets.</p>	<p>2. Ensure the availability of high quality services and facilities in the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p> <p>3. Reduce the need to travel and improve provisions for walking, cycling and public transport and reduce road congestion.</p> <p>6. Support a strong and sustainable economy within the Vale's towns and rural areas.</p> <p>8. Protect the cultural heritage and provide a high quality townscape and landscape.</p>

APPENDIX 3. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES

Cultural Heritage
<p>World Heritage Convention (1972):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> calls for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage sites.
<p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as “scheduled ancient monuments”, now Scheduled Monuments.
<p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.
Climate
<p>Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyoto Protocol commits the EU-15 and most EU-25 to targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2008 – 2012; the EU-15 target is for an 8% reduction in emissions compared to 1990 levels. Aiming for a global surface average temperature not to rise by more than 2°C compared to the pre-industrial level by 2010 12% of energy consumption, on average, and 21% of electricity consumption, as a common but differentiated target, should be met by renewable sources by 2010 5.75% of transport fuel should consist of biofuels, as an indicative target, (Directive 2003/30/EC); considering raising their proportion to 8% by 2015 reaching an overall saving of 9% of final energy consumption over 9 years until 2017 as indicated by the Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive.
<p>UK Sustainable Development Strategy <i>Securing the Future</i> (2005):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets out five ‘guiding principles’ of sustainable development: living within the planet’s environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.
<p>The Climate Change Act (2008) sets a legally binding target for reducing UK Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 on 1990 levels.</p>

Air
<p>Directive 96/62/EC the 'Air Quality Framework Directive':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to assess air quality and obtain relevant information • to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.
<p>Directive 1999/30/EC the first 'Daughter Directive':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain levels of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), small particles and lead below limit values and to prepare attainment programmes where limit values are unlikely to be met under a 'business as usual' scenario.
<p>Directive 2000/69/EC the second 'Daughter Directive':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to establish limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide (CO).
<p>Directive 2002/3/EC the third 'Daughter Directive':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set long term objectives for equivalent to the World Health Organisation's new guideline values • to formulate reduction plans in cases of non-compliance • to set target values for ozone (O₃).
<p>Directive 2004/107/EC the fourth 'Daughter Directive':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to set target values for arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in ambient air.
Soil
<p>The European Soil Thematic Strategy (2006) has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils • prevent threats to soils, and mitigate the affects of those threats • preserve soil functions within the context of sustainable use • restore degraded and contaminated soils to approved levels of functionality.
<p>Safeguarding our Soils. A Strategy for England (2009):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.

Water

Water Act 2003:

- amends the Water Resources Act 1991 to, amongst other areas, improve water resources management in the context of abstraction and impounding, mainly through changes in the licensing system; an increased importance is placed on water conservation, and all public bodies need to consider how to conserve the water supplied to premises within their authority boundary.

Water Framework Directive 2000:

- essential piece of water legislation that aims to promote the sustainable use of all UK water bodies, including coastal waters, estuaries and all inland water bodies
- it requires all UK river basins to reach "good status" by 2015, through demanding environmental objectives, including chemical, biological and physical targets
- three types of UK water quality standards are being developed and a formal classification instrument should be completed in late 2007 (Environment Agency, 2007a) and these are: Priority Substances (and Priority Hazardous Substances); Specific Pollutants and Physical-chemical pollutants.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010:

- The Regulations widen the existing streamlined environmental permitting and compliance system in England and Wales by integrating existing permitting regimes covering water discharge consenting (DC), groundwater authorisations (GW) and radioactive substances regulation authorisations (RSR) and the outcomes of the Waste Exemptions Order Review into the Environmental Permitting system.
- The Regulations 2010 reduce the administrative burden of regulation on industry and regulators without compromising the environmental and human health standards previously delivered by the separate regimes and create an extended permitting and compliance system that brings increased clarity and certainty for everyone on how the regulations protect the environment.

Water Industry Act (and Water Industry Act 1991) (Envirowise, 2005):

- covers the control of the supply of water and provision of sewerage services by the water and sewerage undertakers: it becomes an offence for an owner or occupier of premises to cause water contamination through not maintaining the water fitting in good condition
- defines the criteria for disposal of trade effluent: no effluent can be discharged into the sewer which causes damage to the

sewerage systems or people working in it; and wastewater may not be discharged into a sewer unless allowed by the relevant water service company, which may impose conditions regarding the volume and composition of the discharge (e.g. its chemical oxygen demand).

GP3: Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice:

Environment Agency's core groundwater policy is:

- to protect and manage groundwater resources for present and future generations in ways that are appropriate for the risks that we identify.

To achieve this they seek:

- to ensure we meet the needs of the environment and people
- to manage surface water and groundwater as an integrated whole
- to use robust measures to prevent the pollution of groundwater
- to achieve the environmental objectives of the water Framework Directive
- to make information on groundwater available and raise the general awareness of groundwater issues
- to undertake research, so that we have a better understanding of groundwater processes
- to make sure our policies for managing groundwater support our work in the wider environment.

Nitrates Directive 91/676/EC (and Protection of Water against Agricultural Nitrate Pollution (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, SI 888):

- environmental measure designed to reduce water pollution by nitrate from agricultural sources and to prevent such pollution from occurring in the future
- surface or underground waters that are or could be high in nitrate from agricultural sources must be designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ)
- within these zones farmers must observe an action programme of measures restricting the timing and application of fertilisers and manures and must keep accurate records (Environment Agency, 2007b).

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 1991:

The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. All urban waste water must undergo secondary treatment or equivalent, in particular for:

- all discharges from agglomerations of more than 15,000 population equivalent (i.e. with a 5-day BOD of 60g of oxygen per day)

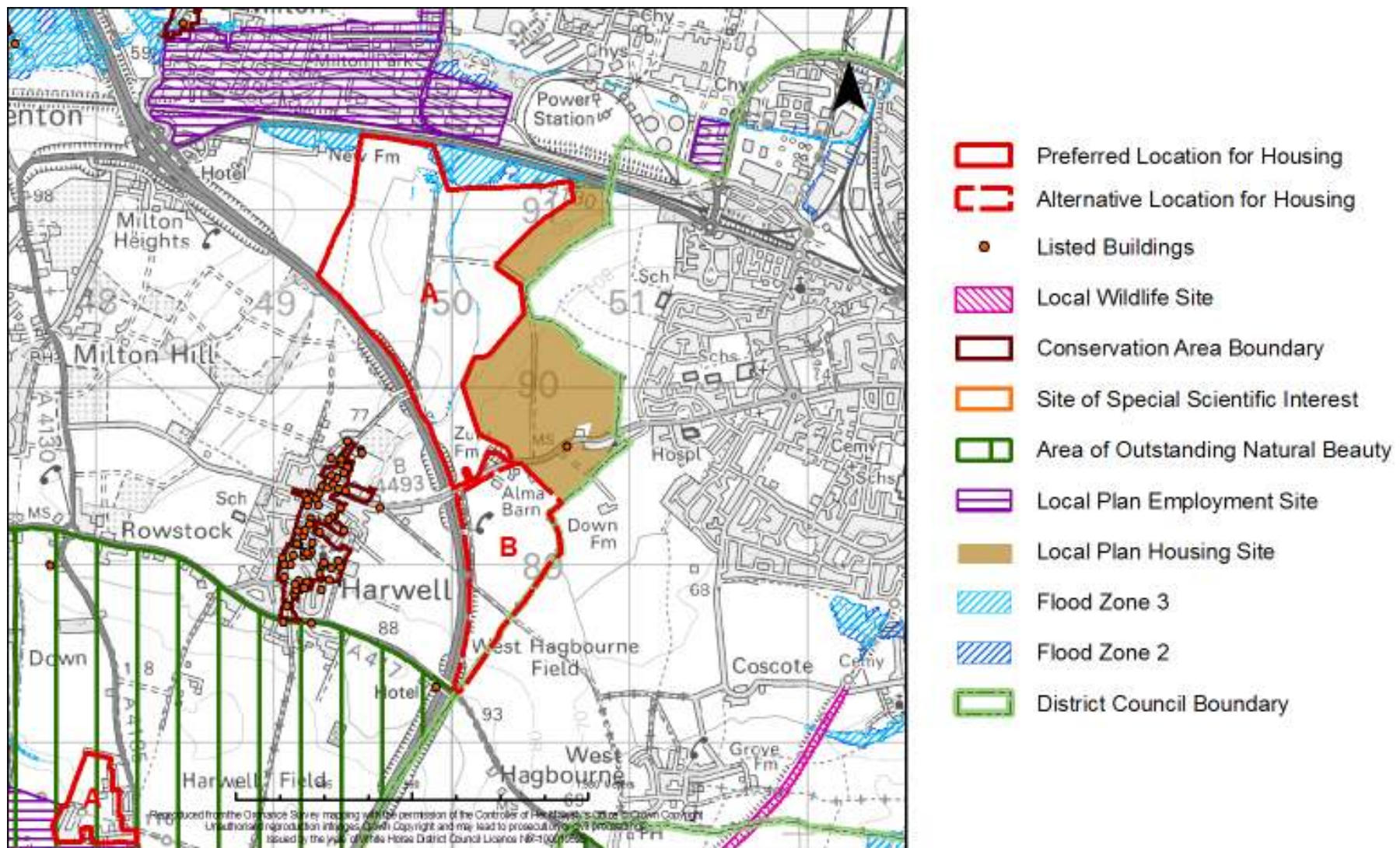
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all discharges to freshwater and estuaries from agglomerations between 2,000 and 10,000 population equivalent.
<p>The Environment Agency's GP3: Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice. Part 4 includes the policies and parts 1-3 give more background information on legislation and groundwater in general.</p>
Biodiversity
<p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitats.
<p>Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect endangered species and their habitats.
<p>(Wild) Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 1979:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species.
<p>Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of the Wild Animals, 1979:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect threatened animals that migrate across national boundaries and/or the high seas.
<p>Habitats and Species Directive 92/43/EEC, 1992:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect important natural habitat (listed in Annex I, amended in Directive 97/62/EC) and species (listed in Annex II), using measures to maintain or restore their "favourable conservation status", principally by Special Areas of Conservation, but also (through land-use and development policies) by management of the landscape features of importance to wildlife outside SACs to safeguard species leading strict protection (Annex IV). This Directive is transposed into UK law through the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations, 1994.
Landscape
<p>European Landscape Convention (2000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commits the UK to "recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity".
<p>National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides for the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates a framework for public access to the countryside

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and new arrangements for the management of AONBs.
Waste
<p>The EU Landfill Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995 by 2010; to 50% by 2013, and to 35% by 2020.
<p>The Waste Strategy 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use meet and exceed the landfill directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020 increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies.
<p>Statutory targets from the Waste Strategy 2000:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recover value from 67% of municipal waste by 2015 to recover value from 75% of municipal waste by 2020.
<p>Specific targets for recycling and composting from the Waste Strategy 2007 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste by 2015 to recycle or compost at least 50% of household waste by 2020.

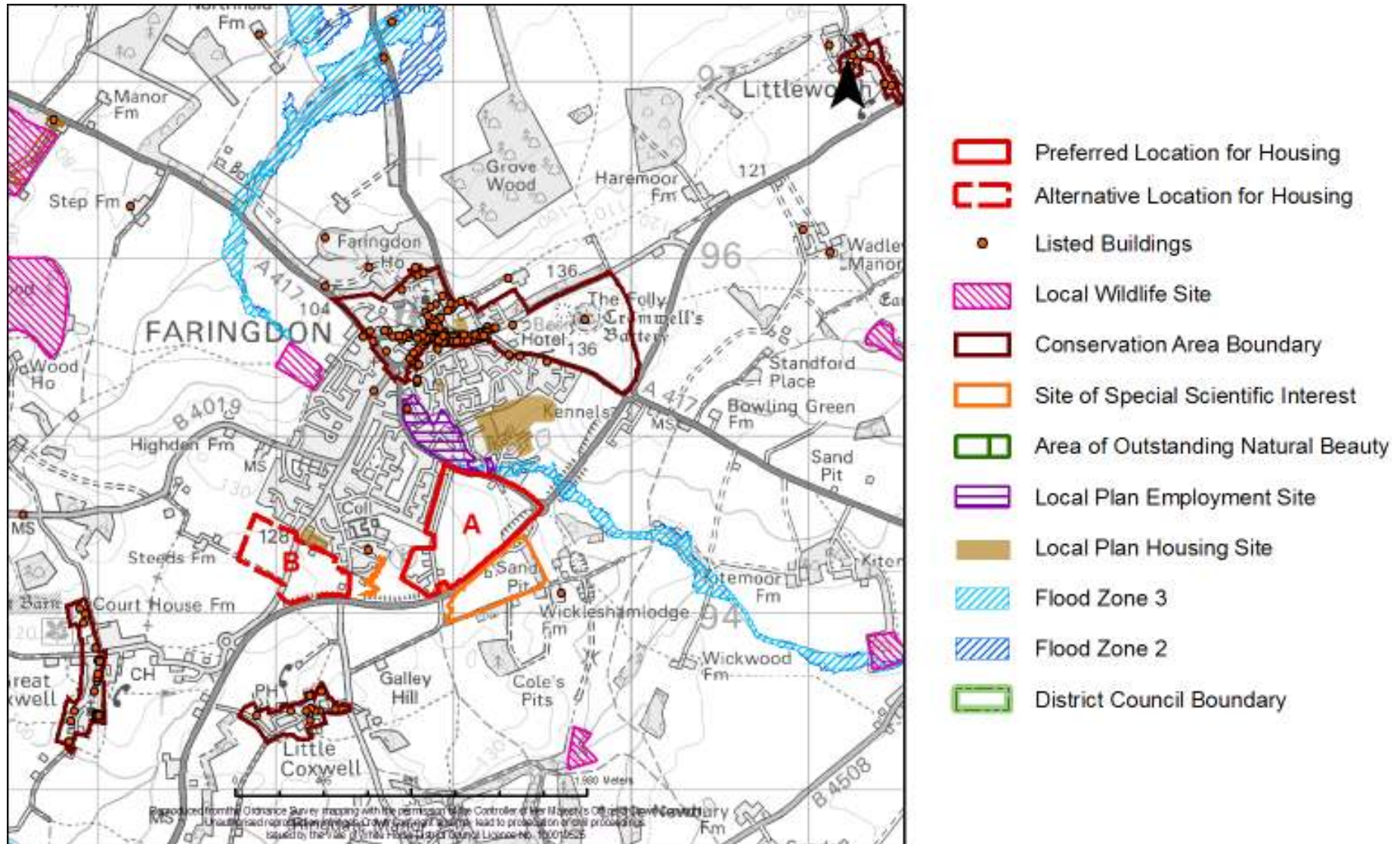
Vale of White Horse District



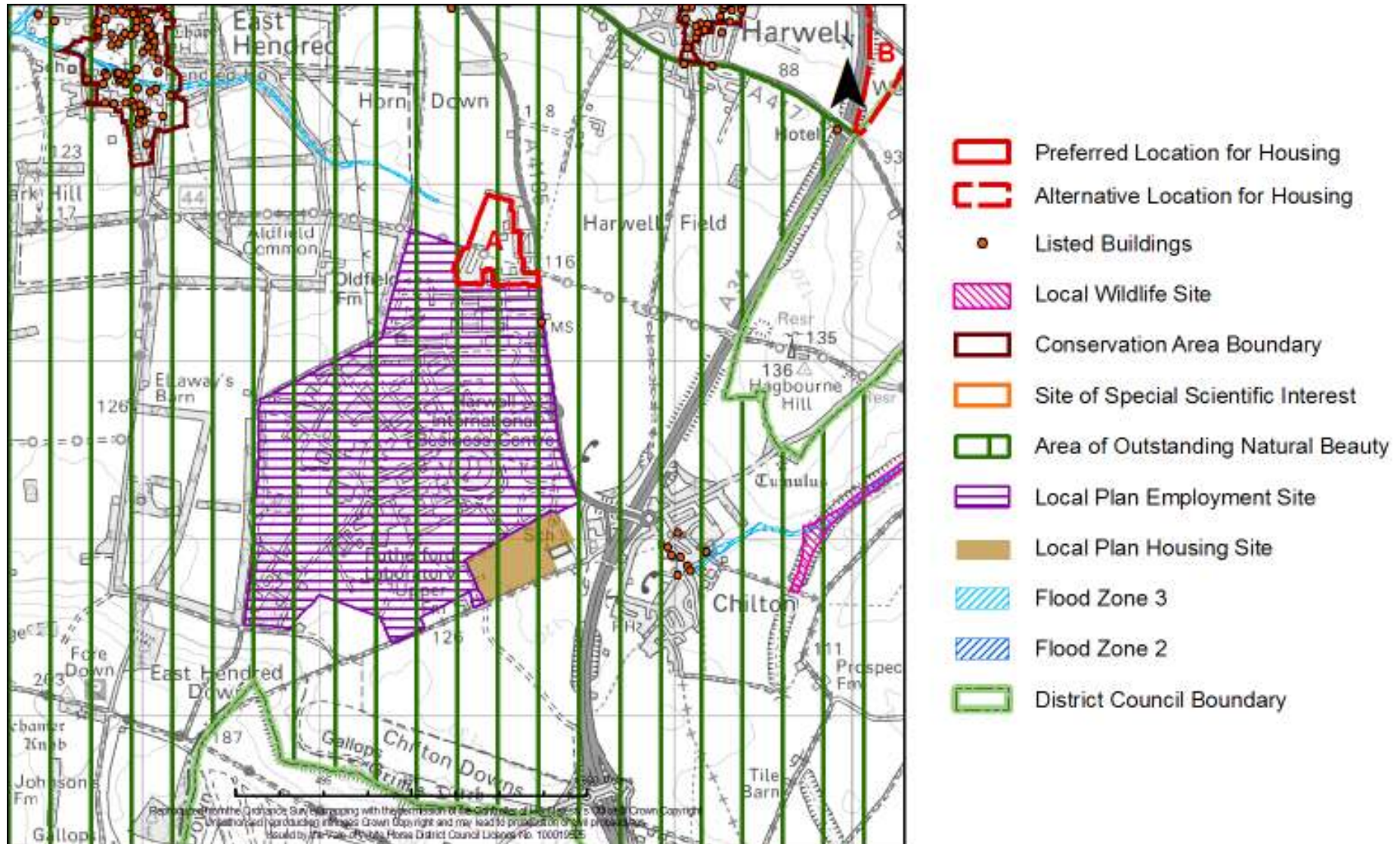
Didcot



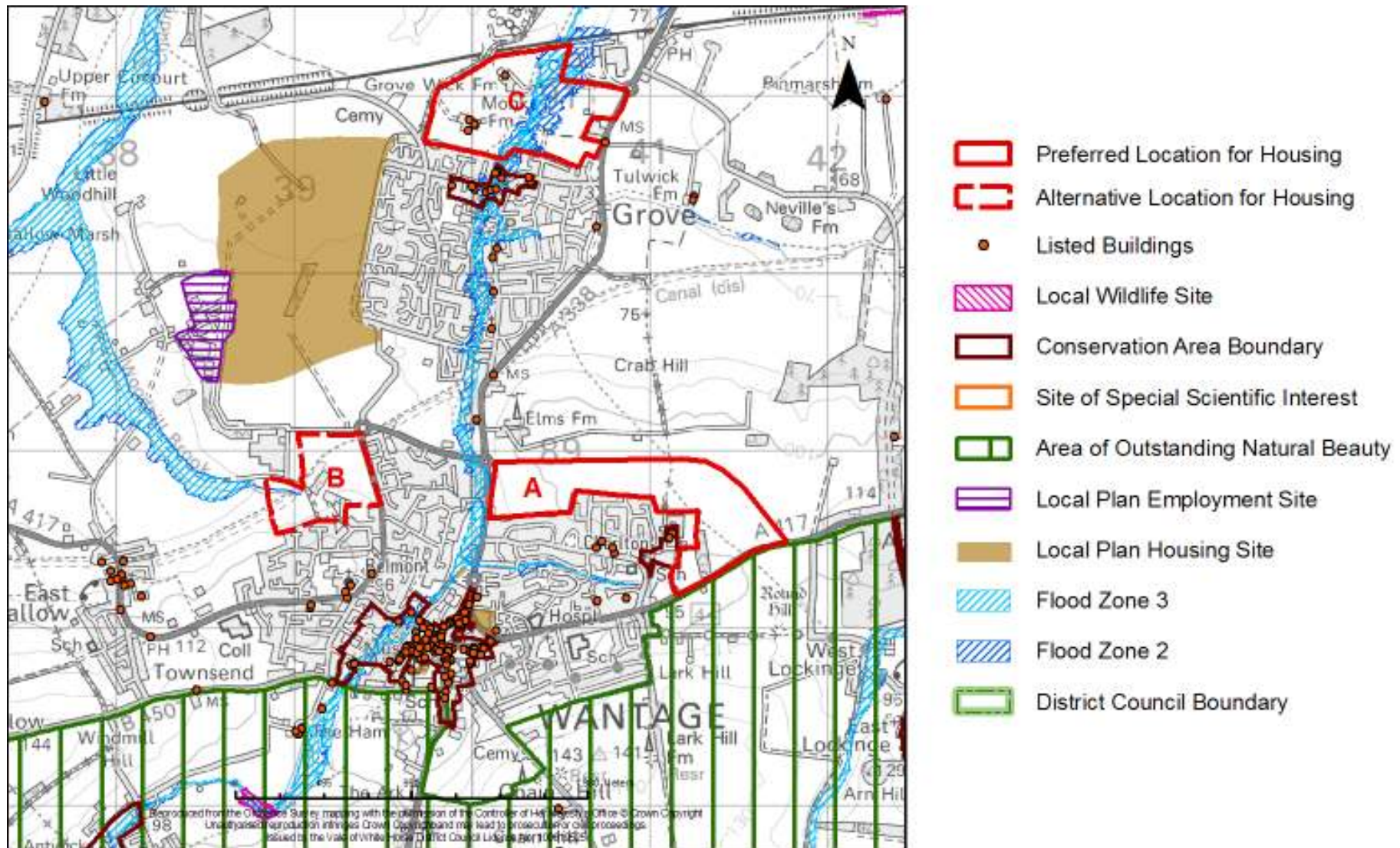
Faringdon



Harwell Oxford Campus



Wantage and Grove



APPENDIX 5. BASELINE INFORMATION

Key		
Trend	↑	Movement towards a more sustainable position
	↔	Indicator is staying roughly steady
	↓	Movement towards a less sustainable position
	↑ ↓	A combination of improvements and deterioration
	~	No data/ indicator cannot be assessed
Status	+	District is performing well against targets and comparators
	-	Indicator performing near to targets and other comparators
	!	Indicator performing poorly against targets and other comparators
	Contextual	Data represents the most up to date information available rather than an indication of performance

Population/ Demography

1. Population levels are a very significant factor in the planning of an area. If the level is rising it often means an increased demand for housing and, related to that, demand for employment and facilities such as transport infrastructure and retailing. An understanding of both the population of the Vale and of trends in its movement is essential in the planning of future development in the District. In the 2001 Census, the Vale was found to have a resident population of some 115,627. This was an increase of 3% since the 1991 Census. The 2011 census showed a further increase of 4.6% and a total district population of 121,000.
2. The total population of the Vale's more 'urban' wards, which still take in some surrounding rural settlements, was 56,306 in 2001 with the remaining more 'rural' wards in the Vale totalling 59,466. This 'rural' population therefore accounted for just over 51% of the Vale's population in 2001. The Census 2011 data is not yet available at this level however it is projected that the majority of the population are now likely to live within 'urban' areas. However, the 'urban' part of the Vale consists of two market towns, two expanded villages and the suburban area of Botley. As development is expected to continue to be focussed on the Vale's larger settlements this will lead to an increasing proportion of the Vale's population living in its larger settlements compared to the rural area.
3. There are various ways in which population projections can be calculated, using either past trends or expected rates of development. The ONS 2008-based population projections are trend-based and do not take into account any changes in policy,

environment or economic climate that may have an effect on future population numbers. These figures show that as well as the overall increase in population there will also be changes in the age structure of the population. A young population will tend to indicate a greater need for employment and education facilities. An older population will mean that education and employment facilities are not needed as much due to the greater preponderance of retired residents, but facilities and services for the elderly would be needed. In line with trends for England, the figures suggest that the Vale has an increasing aging population as shown in Figure 1 with an overall flattening of the entire age structure. It also shows that the projected number of working age population (16-64 males/59 females) is estimated to remain fairly static which, in terms of a growing population, has implications for the ability of the working population to support those who are not working. It also has implications for the labour supply if the economy grows as expected. This is likely to lead to an increase in the level of commuting.

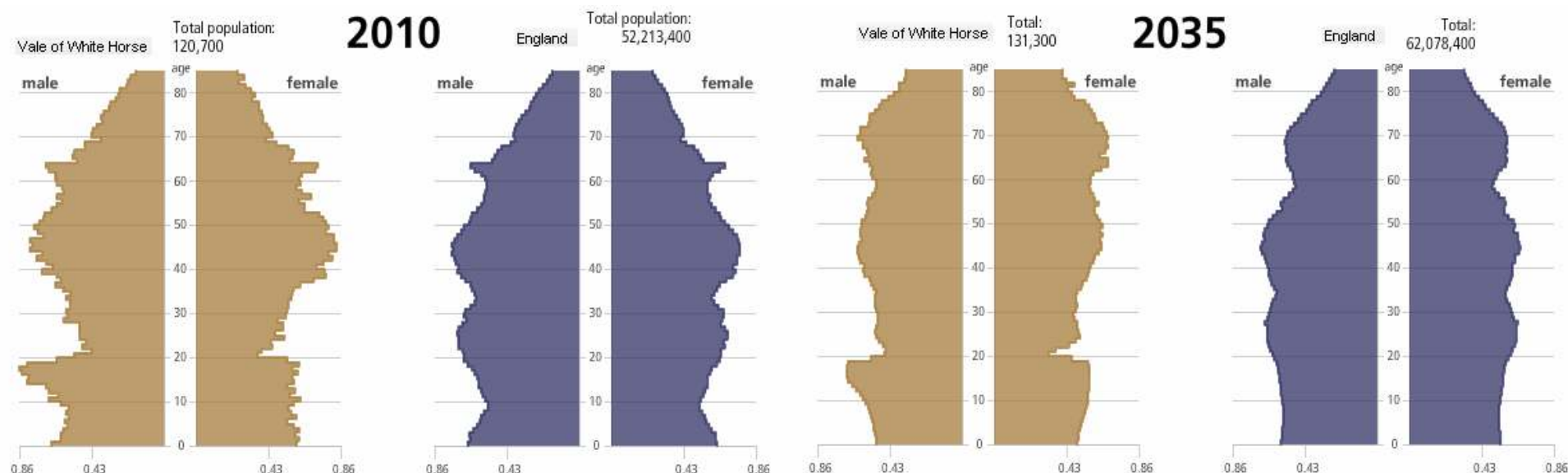


Figure 1: Graphs showing the % of total population in each age band in the Vale and across England in 2010 and 2035 (ONS 2010-based population projections¹⁷)

¹⁷ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/dvc4/subnational.html>

4. In addition to these projections, Oxfordshire County Council has commissioned its own population and household forecasts. A key difference in their methodology is the inclusion of known and expected housing developments. As a consequence the projected housing and population growth is higher than that predicted by the ONS but is also more realistic if development occurs as envisaged. The most recent figures were published in July 2010 and forecast population change at ward level to 2016 and district level to 2026. These forecasts show how the district's population would change if planned housing growth were to be realised. At that time the figures were based upon housing growth recommended by the South East Plan. Although it is intended that this document is abolished the council has retained the housing targets therein. The figures also only go up to 2026 when the plan period will now look to 2029. The results are shown below.

Year	Total Population	Economically Active Population	Communal Population*	Private Household Population**	Households	Average Household Size
2001	115,770	61,340	3,170	112,610	45,830	2.46
2006	117,530	61,180	3,290	114,240	47,830	2.39
2011	120,890	62,070	3,380	117,510	49,900	2.35
2016	127,590	65,150	3,440	124,150	53,640	2.31
2021	133,670	67,560	3,520	130,160	57,170	2.28
2026	138,150	68,860	3,600	134,550	59,880	2.25

* Includes student accommodation, nursing homes, military accommodation

** Includes individual households

5. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) of 2010¹⁸ is calculated by dividing each district into Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), each of which has a population of roughly 1,500. Each is assessed according to seven different indicators: income, employment, health, education, housing and access to services, living environment and crime. Each LSOA is then ranked according to these indicators with 1 being the most deprived and 32,482 being the least deprived. Overall the Vale scored very well and ranked 306 out of 326 with 326 meaning the least deprived. Within this however there is one LSOA that ranked within the bottom 20%, located in Abingdon. The results are shown in Figure 2 below.

¹⁸ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/publicdatasources/communitiesneighbourhoods/>

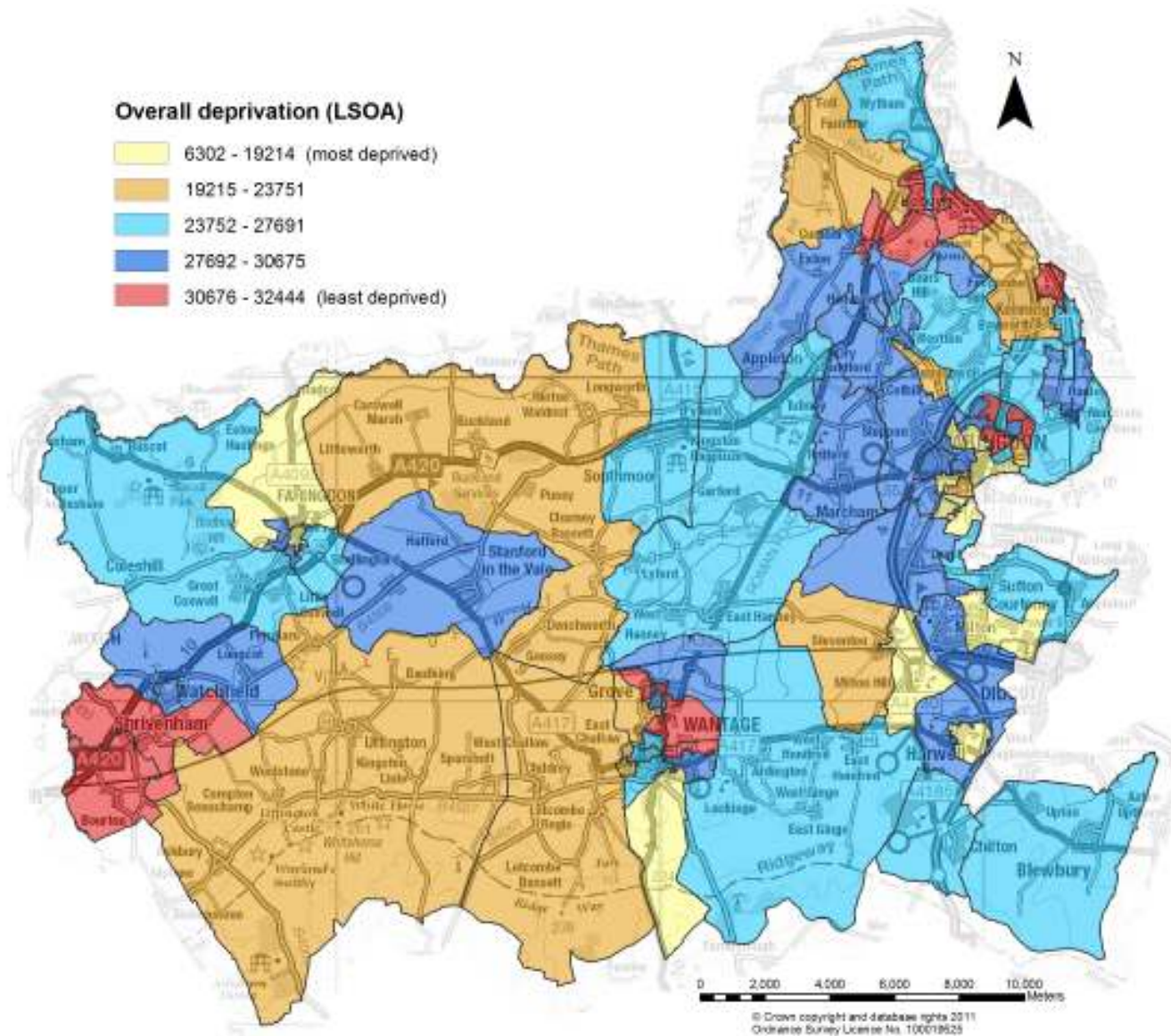


Figure 2: Index of Multiple Deprivation in the Vale (2010)

Indicator	Vale data			Comparators			Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF		Source data										
Total population	119,800 (2010)			<u>England</u> 53,000,000 <u>England and Wales</u> 56,100,000			No target	↓ 2001 Census: 115,627 Mid-2008: 118,100	Contextual indicator	ONS projections based on mid-2008 estimates show that if recent population trends continue the Vale's population will grow to 131,300by 2035		Office for National Statistics (ONS) / Census 2011										
Working Age population	Vale (2008-based):			England (2008-based):			No target	↓ Increasing aging population	Contextual indicator	<table><tr><th>AGE GROUP</th><th>2008 to 2033 change</th></tr><tr><td>Children <15</td><td>5.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Working Age (16-64M/59F)</td><td>-0.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Older people (65M/60F and over)</td><td>64.7%</td></tr><tr><td>All ages</td><td>14.0%</td></tr></table>		AGE GROUP	2008 to 2033 change	Children <15	5.1%	Working Age (16-64M/59F)	-0.1%	Older people (65M/60F and over)	64.7%	All ages	14.0%	ONS
	AGE GROUP	2008 to 2033 change																				
	Children <15	5.1%																				
	Working Age (16-64M/59F)	-0.1%																				
	Older people (65M/60F and over)	64.7%																				
	All ages	14.0%																				
	AGE GROUP	2008	%	AGE GROUP	2008	%																
Children <15	23,400	20	Children <15	9,666,300	19																	
Working Age (16-64M/59F)	70,900	60	Working Age (16-64M/59F)	31,956,200	62																	
Older people (65M/60F and over)	23,800	20	Older people (65M/60F and over)	9,842,100	19																	
All ages	118,100	100	All ages	51,464,600	100																	
Number of the Vale's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) within the lower 20% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	1 LSOA ranked in the top 20% most deprived areas.			Number of LSOA ranked in the top 20% most deprived areas:			0 LSOA in the bottom 20%	↔ 1 LSOA in 2007	-	Without the LDF the Vale's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) would continue to help support and develop initiatives that can break the cycle of deprivation. Without the proposals and policies in the LDF, the Vale's performance is likely to worsen as there would not be the housing and job growth needed. This would further impact upon other indicators such as income		Dept for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)										

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF and access to services.	Source data

Housing

6. During the 1960s there was substantial house building at Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage, and in most of the larger villages, especially Grove. Subsequent planning policies in the Structure Plans of the 70s 80s and 90s then focused on restraint of development to protect the environment and the essentially rural nature of the District, which resulted in a slowing of the rate of population growth. Since adoption of the Local Plan in 2006, a greater emphasis has been placed on concentrating development on the main urban areas with Grove proposed as a main location for development. Provision was also made for relatively proportional development in other towns and villages where there is a reasonable range of employment services and community facilities to support the development.
7. Housing delivery has remained quite low in recent years mainly due to the effects of the recession and delays to some of our Local Plan housing sites. The total number of dwellings in the District at 31st March 2010 was 50,650 of which Council Tax records indicate that some 1,263 were vacant (an increase of almost 30% on 2004 levels). House prices in the UK have risen steeply in the past decade and although there has been some much needed rebalancing over recent years, owning a home is still unaffordable to many people. As set out in the NPPF the Government wishes to see requirements for affordable housing and policy H17 in the Local Plan 2011 is intended to reflect this requirement in the Vale. It requires 40% (previously set at 25%) of new homes on qualifying sites to be affordable. The table below shows the tenure split of the total housing stock across the district¹⁹.

¹⁹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/>

Type of accommodation	Vale (%)	England (%)
Local Authority	0.2	7.9
Housing association	12.5	9.9
Other public sector	2.6	0.3
Private sector	84.7	81.9

8. The key features of the existing housing stock as reported in the council's Housing Needs Assessment²⁰ (HNA) are that:
- The property type profile is skewed towards semi -detached and detached houses and bungalows, 71.0% of the current stock which is higher than the national level of 55%.
 - Based on a calculation of occupants to bedroom numbers, under-occupation affects approximately 49.0% of all households, higher than the average found in recent HNA surveys (around 40%). Over-occupation affects just 0.7% of all existing households, well below the average UK level indicated by the Survey of English Housing 2001/2 (3%). This is in line with the high proportion of larger properties as mentioned above.
9. Another factor is the continued increase in the number of households. This reflects the national trend towards smaller and more rapidly changing households. In the 2001 Census the average household size in the Vale was 2.46 persons. This compared to 2.38 persons for the South East and 2.36 persons for England. The Census 2011 indicates that average household size has fallen to 2.39 and is expected to fall further still to 2.25 in 2026 as shown in the table above. This means that even if the Vale's population had remained static at 115,627 in 2001 there would be about 5,500 extra households in the Vale by 2026.

²⁰ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-6>

proportion of households aged under 35 whose income means they are unable to own a home. The results of this are shown in the map below. This suggests that the rural areas suffer the most in terms of access to housing and services.

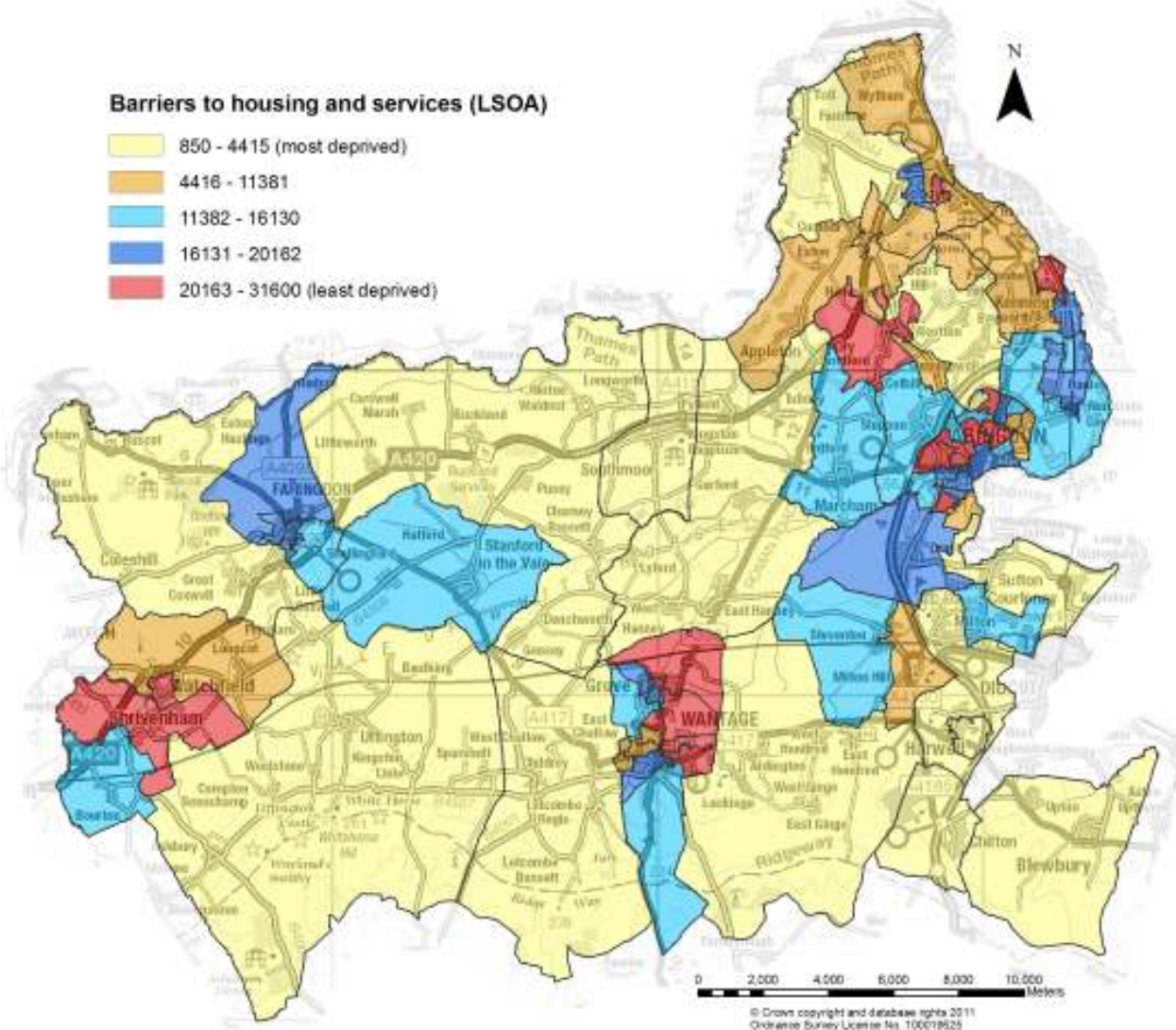


Figure 4: IMD (2010) – barriers to housing and services

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators		Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data									
Number of housing completions	2006/07: 538 2007/08: 448 2008/09: 324 2009/10: 438 2010/11: 334 2011/12: 376	Not applicable		Annual target of 578 per year	↓	!	Without a Local Plan - Core Strategy in place housing completions and the 5 year housing land supply is likely to fall further still as our stock of deliverable sites continues to fall.	Vale monitoring system									
Average house price to income ratio	2010: 8.2	<table><tr><td>Oxfordshire</td><td>8.6</td></tr><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>7.7</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>9.0</td></tr><tr><td>South Oxfordshire</td><td>10.8</td></tr><tr><td>West Oxfordshire</td><td>9.2</td></tr></table>	Oxfordshire	8.6	Cherwell	7.7	Oxford	9.0	South Oxfordshire	10.8	West Oxfordshire	9.2	No target	↓ 7.2 in 2009	!	Without the sites in the Local Plan - Core Strategy this situation would most probably continue to worsen as demand increases and supply diminishes	ONS, DCLG
Oxfordshire	8.6																
Cherwell	7.7																
Oxford	9.0																
South Oxfordshire	10.8																
West Oxfordshire	9.2																
Number of affordable homes completed	2006/07: 69 2007/08: 160 2008/09: 77 2009/10: 186 2010/11: 198 2011/12: 64	Not applicable		40% on qualifying schemes.	↓	!	The SCS would continue to support housing associations and provide support and advice to people in housing need however without the Local Plan - Core Strategy the total number of affordable completions is likely to fall in the longer term after large sites allocated in the Local Plan are built out.	Vale monitoring system									
Average household size	2011: 2.39	<table><tr><td colspan="2">2011:</td></tr><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>2.45</td></tr></table>	2011:		Cherwell	2.45	No target	↓ 2.46 in 2001	Contextual	Without a Local Plan - Core Strategy in place this would result in more households but not an equivalent number of extra homes.	ONS/ Census 2011						
2011:																	
Cherwell	2.45																

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators			Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
		Oxford	2.40						
		South Oxfordshire	2.43						
		West Oxfordshire	2.37						

Economy

11. The Vale has a very strong knowledge-based economy. The table below shows that the Vale is ahead of the national and regional figures for the percentage of the workforce in the top five socio economic groupings and below the national and regional figures for groups 6 to 9. The Vale also has a higher than regional and national figure for job density which means that there is a good balance of residents of working age population and jobs available. Although this will not necessarily eliminate commuting, it will give people a greater opportunity to live close to where they work.

Employment by occupation (Jan 2010-Dec 2010)			Source: NOMIS, 2011	
	VWHDC (numbers)	VWHDC (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	33,200	54.1	48.6	44.6
1 Managers and senior officials	11,100	18.1	18.2	15.7
2 Professional occupations	11,000	18.0	15.3	14.0
3 Associate professional & technical	11,100	18.1	15.0	14.7
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	14,700	24.0	20.8	21.1
4 Administrative & secretarial	9,000	14.7	11.2	10.8
5 Skilled trades occupations	5,700	9.4	9.5	10.2
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	9,200	15.0	16.2	16.5
6 Personal service occupations	5,500	8.9	9.2	9.0
7 Sales and customer service occupations	#	#	7.0	7.4
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	4,200	6.8	14.4	17.8
8 Process plant & machine operatives	#	#	4.6	6.6
9 Elementary occupations	#	#	9.7	11
# Sample size too small for reliable estimate				

12. The level of unemployment in an area is an important contextual indicator for the state of the local economy. Generally the lower the level the better the local economy is performing. Whether this is in well paid occupations is another matter however, so low unemployment may not necessarily mean that the local economy is thriving. Also, only those who are qualified for and are claiming the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) can be counted²¹. Actual unemployment is always higher than the JSA count, but it does provide a benchmark with which to compare areas. Figure 5 below illustrates that unemployment tends to be higher in the main towns and lower in the rural areas.
13. The recent recession has had an impact on the Vale's economy. The trend in recent years has been toward higher unemployment figures as shown by the increase level of JSA claimants and decrease in percentage of working age population in employment discussed below. Figure 5 below indicates that the rate of claimants is highest around Abingdon and Wantage. In spite of this the Vale's economy has been relatively robust throughout the "credit crunch" and is still performing considerably better than elsewhere in the country and south east. This is highlighted by the findings of the UK Competitiveness Index²² which has consistently ranked the Vale within the top 10% in the country.

²¹ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431820/report.aspx>

²² <http://www.cforic.org/downloads.php>

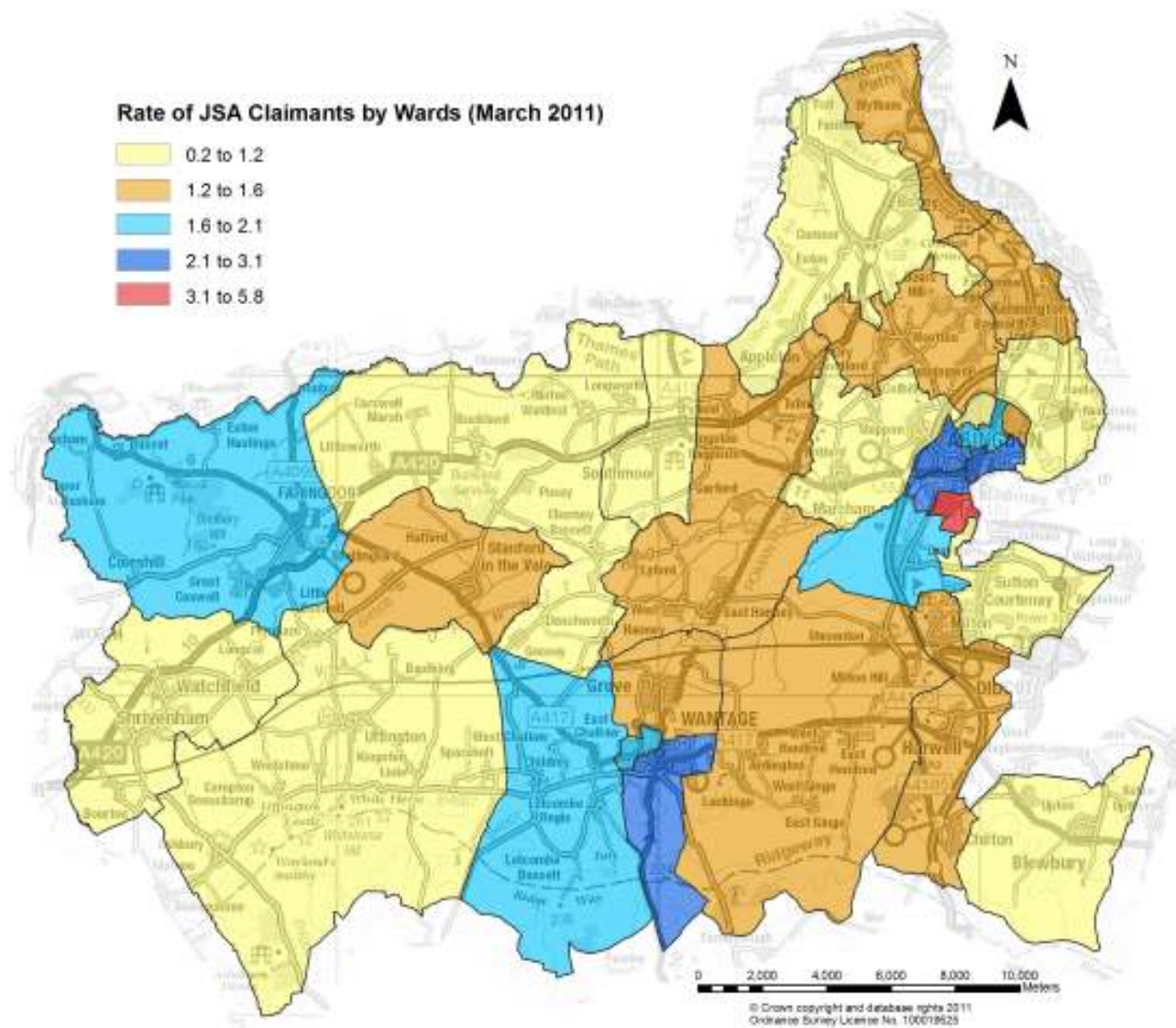


Figure 5: Rate of Job Seekers Allowance claimants (% of resident population aged 16 – 64)

14. The level of qualifications within the working population is another useful contextual indicator for the potential strength of the local economy. A working population which is well qualified will generally be able to take advantage of higher level jobs and generate greater levels of income. It can also make an area more attractive to employers. The percentage of working age population with an NVQ4 qualification or above is substantially higher than the national and regional figures²³. This seems to suggest that residents are well suited to take up the level of high-tech jobs available in the district.
15. The IMD also assesses deprivation in employment opportunities as well as education, skills and training. The figures below highlight those areas most at risk. This suggests that the areas most deprived tend to be located around the Vale's main settlements.

²³ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431820/report.aspx>

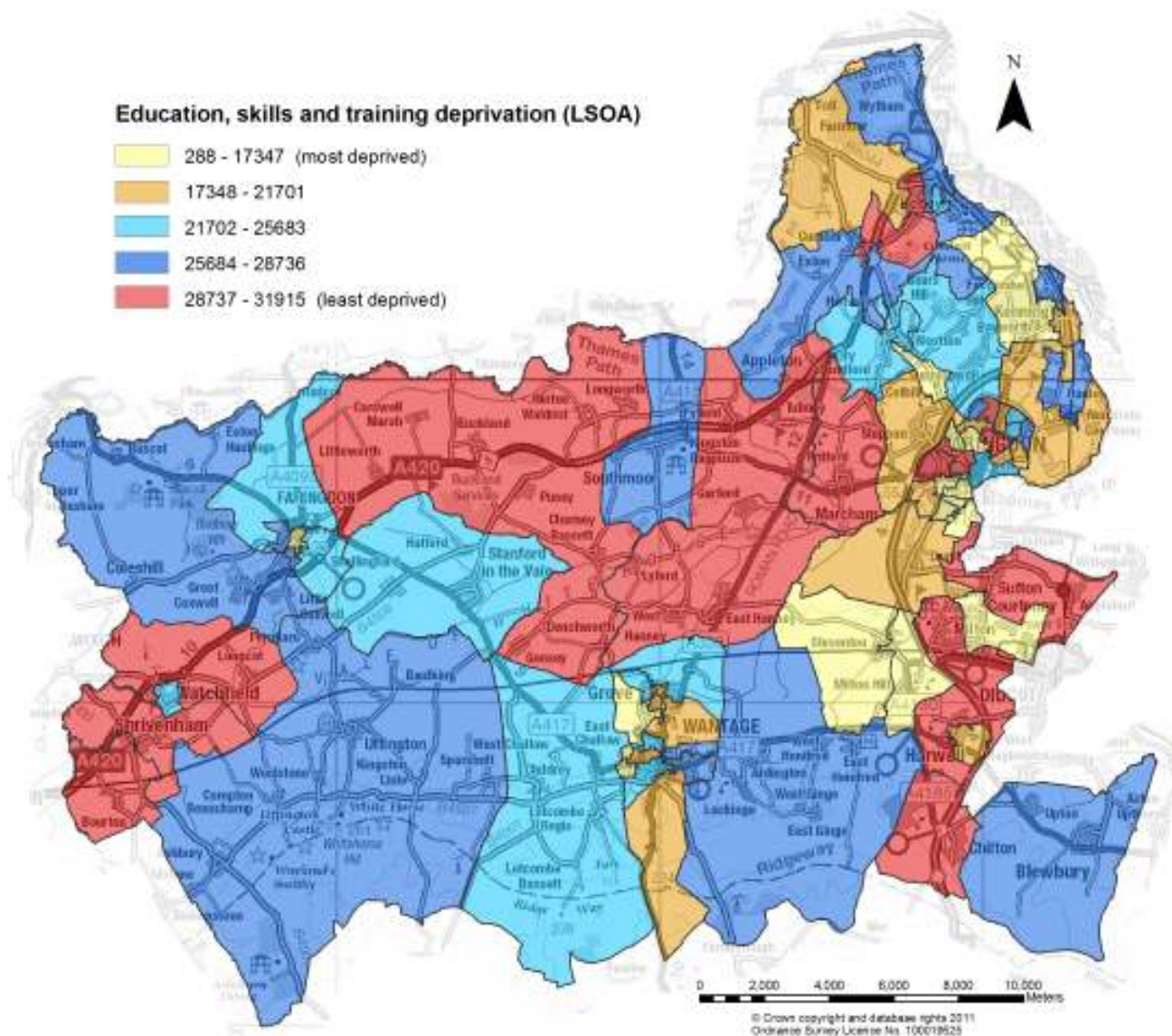


Figure 7: IMD (2010) - Education, Skills and Training deprivation

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data								
Economic activity rate	2010/11: 78%	<u>2010/11:</u> South East – 79.3% UK – 76.2%	No target	↓ Decreasing since its peak of 87% in 2005/06	-	This would decrease without the planning economic/job and housing growth.	NOMIS								
Jobs density - the numbers of jobs per residents aged 16-64	2009: 0.88	<u>2009:</u> South East - 0.8 UK - 0.78	No target	↑ 0.85 in 2006	+		NOMIS								
Percentage of working age residents in employment	2010: 79%	2010: South East – 74.5% UK – 70.3%	No target	↓ 83.9% in 2006	+	The SCS would continue to identify local skills needs and support initiatives for the disadvantaged. It would also strengthen links between education and training providers. However without the proposals and policies in the LDF these indicators are likely to worsen as there would not be the number and types of high quality jobs available that residents could take advantage of.	NOMIS								
Percentage of residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	2011: 1.6%	2011: South East – 2.5% UK – 3.8%	No target	↓ 2006: 0.7%	+		NOMIS								
The percentage of working age population with NVQ4+	2010: 44%	2010: South East – 33.9% UK – 31.3%	No target	↑ 2006: 38.6%	+		NOMIS								
Gross weekly pay (full time)	2010: £580.40	2010: South East – £523.70 UK – £500.40	No target	↑ 2006: £517.50	+		NOMIS								
UK competitiveness Index (UKCI)	2010: 115.8 (ranked 33 out of 379 local areas)	2010: <table><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>62</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>54</td></tr><tr><td>South Oxfordshire</td><td>47</td></tr><tr><td>West Oxfordshire</td><td>73</td></tr></table>	Cherwell	62	Oxford	54	South Oxfordshire	47	West Oxfordshire	73	No target	↔ 115.4 in 2009	+	Without the science-based job growth planned in the internationally renowned Science Vale UK area, this score would decrease as the district would lose its competitive edge.	UKCI 2010
Cherwell	62														
Oxford	54														
South Oxfordshire	47														
West Oxfordshire	73														

Travel

16. The VWHDC has the A34 trunk road running north/south close to its eastern edge. This gives access to the M4 to the south and the M40 to the north. The A420 and A417 roads run diagonally across the District providing links respectively to Swindon to the west and to Didcot to the east. Although the main east west railway line runs through the Vale, the only station is at Radley. The station at Didcot is also close to the District's boundary and there is a future possibility that a station could be re-opened at Grove.
17. Data from the 2001 census indicates that in terms of the transport methods which Vale residents use to get to work the majority (66%) drive, or are a passenger in, a car. This is very similar to the South East (65%) but higher than the rate for England (61%). This high level of car usage is partly balanced by the fact that a higher percentage of people travel by bus or cycle in the Vale (12%) compared to the level in the South East (7%). Also a slightly higher number of people work from home in the Vale (11%) compared to the South East (10%). Probably due to the lack of rail stations in the Vale only a small percentage of workers travel by rail (2%) compared to the South East (6%). Also travelling to work on foot is less prevalent in the Vale (8%) than in the South East (10%) which probably reflects the rural nature of the District and the dispersed settlement pattern.
18. Average traffic flow in Oxfordshire as reported by Oxfordshire County Council has fallen by 0.3% on all roads between 2009 and 2010. Oxfordshire has experienced a smaller reduction in traffic flow when compared to the national picture (a 2% reduction in traffic flow). This decline may reflect increasing fuel prices, but also suggests a resilient local economy. Trunk roads in the county experienced the greatest reduction in traffic flows (-1.2%), in contrast traffic flows on the M40 in Oxfordshire increased by 0.7%. The rate of traffic flow on Oxfordshire's roads over the last 10 years (2000 to 2010) increased by 2%. Traffic on Oxfordshire's non-strategic roads, i.e. those roads for which Oxfordshire County Council are responsible, was 3% over ten years. Over the past five years (2005 to 2010) there has been a reduction in average traffic flow of more than 3% for all roads in the county (-3.18%). For the non-strategic roads there has been a decrease of -2.1%.
19. The figure below shows how traffic volume has changed since 1993. There seems to have been a period of accelerated growth throughout the 1990's and has been relatively stable since then. This seems to be partly due to the effects of the credit crunch with a steady decline visible since 2007. Traffic growth generally across the South East has been forecast to rise by 24% between 2003 and 2015, and by 35% by 2025.

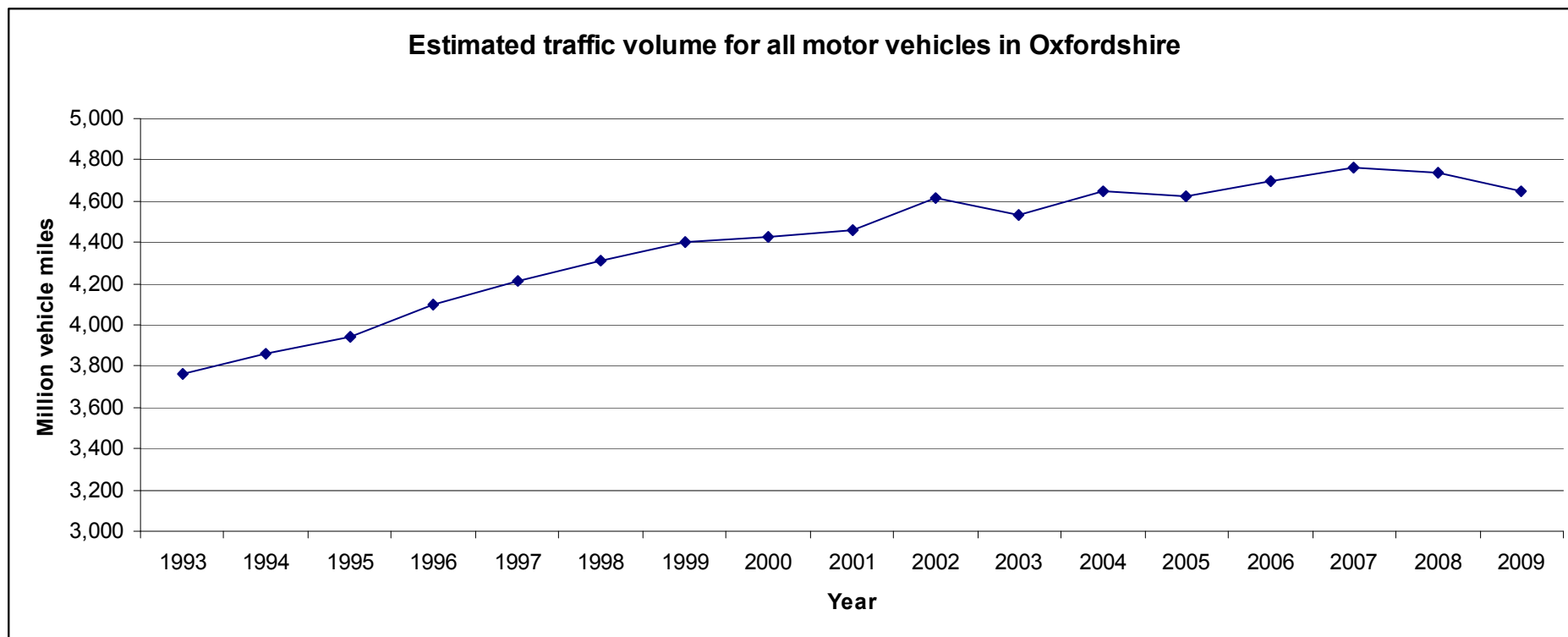


Figure 8: Graph showing the rate of change of traffic volume across Oxfordshire 1993 – 2009 (Source: Oxfordshire County Council)

20. Commuting is a major cause of traffic and road congestion. To help reduce the problem there should be a balance between the jobs available per district and the level of working age population. Although this will not necessarily lead to zero commuting, it gives people the opportunity to live and work nearby. The graphs below illustrate the level of inward and outward commuting by showing the place of residence of Vale workers and place of work for Vale residents respectively. This indicates that the level of self containment has increased slightly since 2001.

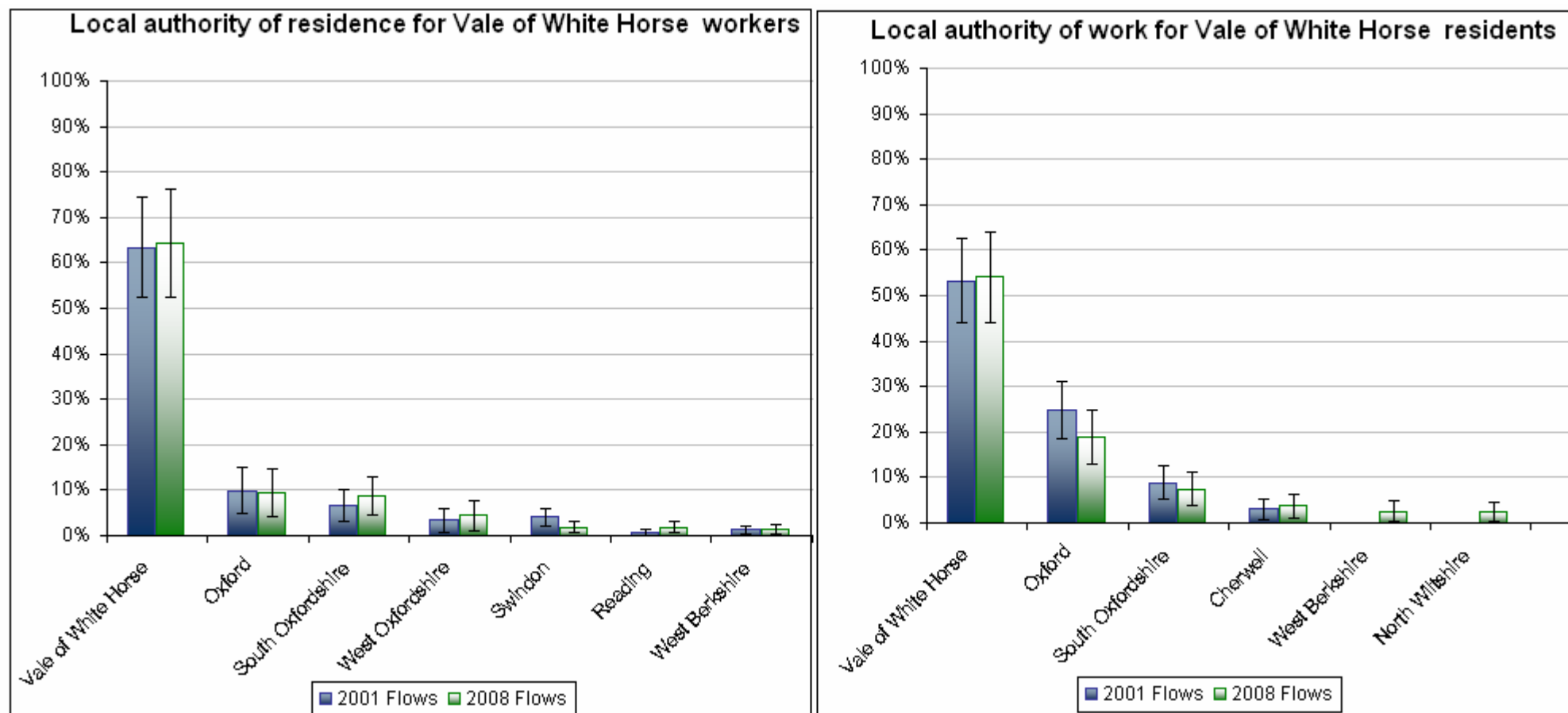


Figure 9: Graphs showing the level of inward and outward commuting across the district (Source: ONS Commute-APS)

21. In terms of projected traffic growth, estimates have been made based on information generated from the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2005. This included future projections of housing development in each district plus other economic growth factors, such as commercial developments, and the associated trip generation. The forecasts at that time were based upon growth levels set out in the South East Plan. The table below shows the projected high and low traffic growth rates for the Vale and other Oxfordshire districts.

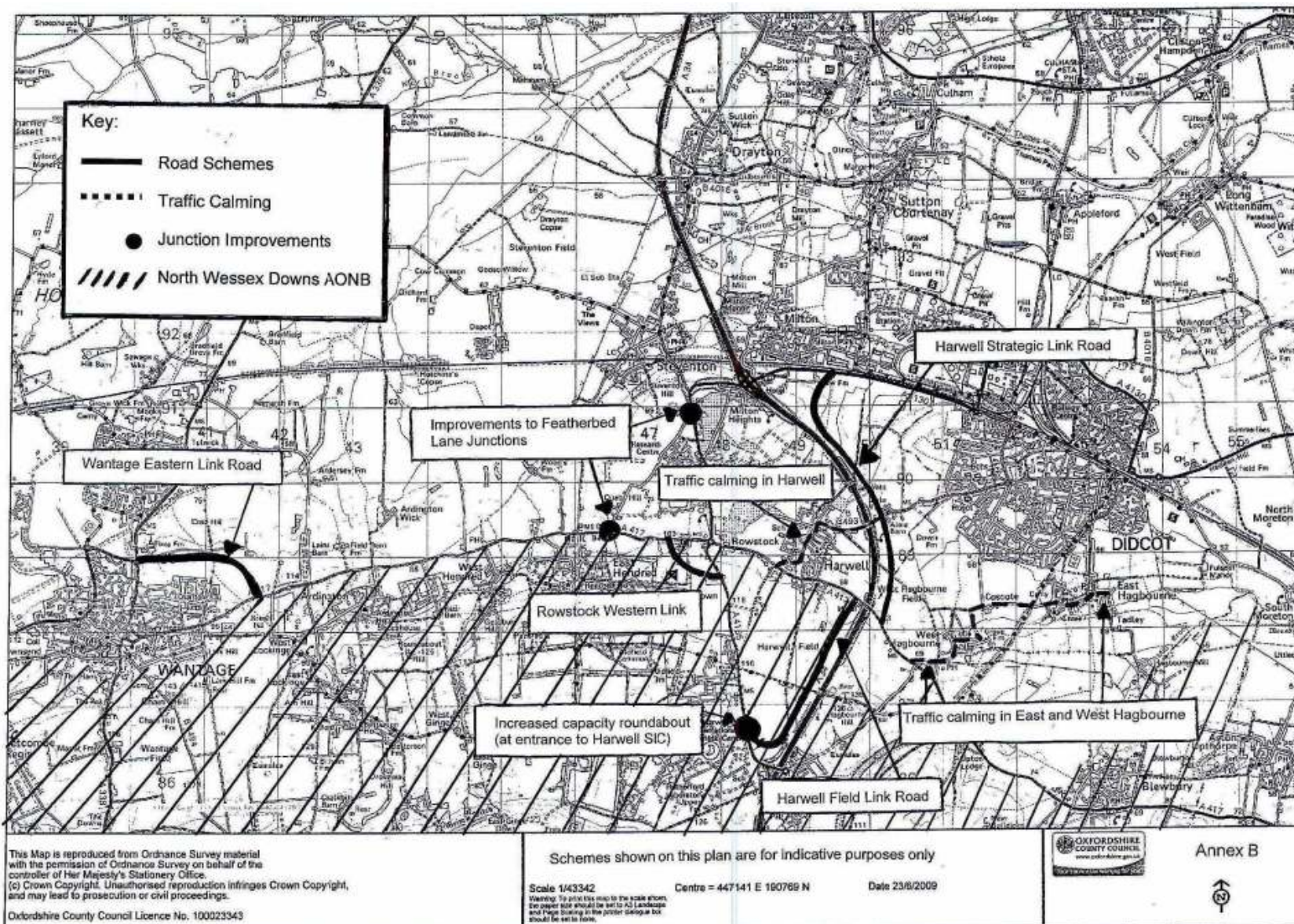
Traffic growth rates					
	Cherwell	Oxford	South Oxon	Vale	West Oxon
2009-2016 low	1.16	1.11	1.12	1.09	1.09
2009-2016 high	1.21	1.16	1.16	1.13	1.13
2009-2026 low	1.33	1.23	1.27	1.21	1.17
2009-2026 high	1.46	1.35	1.39	1.33	1.30
2011-2030 low	1.32	1.22	1.28	1.23	1.16
2011-2030 high	1.45	1.36	1.41	1.36	1.32

22. The impact of these levels of traffic growth would be a 33% increase in delay and a 3% reduction in average vehicle speeds, as shown in the table below. This is the average for the South East and it is possible that the impact could be substantially greater on routes where traffic increases bring flows up to capacity levels. As these forecast were produced before the recession hit the economy, it is likely that in reality they have not risen as high as predicted.

Traffic impact change (south east, central traffic forecasts)				
	2003	Change to 2010	Change to 2015	Change to 2025
Cars (billion vehicle km)	70	+3%	+16%	+31%
All Traffic (billion vehicle km)	84.6	+4%	+17%	+34%
Average Delay (seconds per vehicle km)	7	0%	+17%	+33%
Vehicle Speed (kph)	60.1	0%	-1%	-3%

23. A new area transport strategy has been developed for the Science Vale UK (SVUK) area as part of Oxfordshire County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which runs from 2011 to 2030²⁴. It focuses on achieving containment of trips within the SVUK area and builds on previous work, namely the adopted Southern Central Oxfordshire Transport Study (SCOTS) and Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS), which are documents that support this strategy. The key transport objectives for the SVUK area are to establish a transport network that supports economic investment and growth to position Oxfordshire as a world-class economy, enabling people to access jobs and services by sustainable modes of travel. Within the towns there will be high levels of investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure, combined with investment in behavioural change measures and, when there is an identified need, highway infrastructure schemes. The highway schemes proposed are shown in the map below.

²⁴ <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/local-transport-plan-2011-2030>



Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
Traffic volumes in millions vehicle miles	Oxfordshire 2009: 4,648	Not applicable	Reduction	↑ Down since 2006 with a return to 2004 levels.	-	<p>Not providing for the level of employment and housing growth in the Local Plan - Core Strategy would reduce pressure on the road network system in general as there would be less cars and car journeys. However the transport initiatives set out in the Local Transport Plan 2011-2030 are dependant on the level of development proposed and, without this, congestion on the existing local road networks are likely to continue to worsen as people seek alternative routes to the congested A34. Many roads are also used by traffic passing through the district.</p> <p>The resident population would also continue to grow, but decreasing average household sizes would mean that there would be increased levels of commuting.</p>	DfT statistics

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators		Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
Proportion of Vale jobs that are filled by Vale residents (workplace self-containment)	2008: 64.4%	<u>2008:</u>			↑ 63.4% in 2001	+	Both these figures would decrease because without housing and employment growth in the Local Plan - Core Strategy as there would not be either the homes or the jobs available for future residents and employees to take advantage of. The working age population would also decrease and this will have implications for commuting levels and the local economy.	ONS Commute-APS
		Cherwell	64.3%					
		Oxford	54.0%					
		South Oxfordshire	62.4%					
		West Oxfordshire	77.5%					
Proportion of Vale residents that have jobs in the Vale (residence self-containment)	2008: 54.1%	<u>2008:</u>			↑ 53.2% in 2001	-		
		Cherwell	58.5%					
		Oxford	79.1%					
		South Oxfordshire	55.5%					
		West Oxfordshire	68.3%					

Historic Environment

24. The area covered by the Vale has supported human habitation for thousands of years and it therefore has a rich and varied historic environment. Ancient remains dot the Downs to the south and the Vale's three market towns grew to prosperity in the middle ages. The Vale currently has 52 designated Conservation Areas within which there are certain limitations on development. There are also over 2,000 Listed Buildings in the Vale where changes to their structure or setting are strictly controlled. The Vale also has eight historic parks and gardens that are included in the English Heritage National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

25. With its long history of human habitation the Vale also has a significant number of important archaeological sites. At present there are 68 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the District where consent is required for any works affecting the monument from the Secretary of State. These recognised monuments include significant sites such as the Neolithic long barrow called Wayland Smithy and the Roman temple at Frilford. New archaeological sites are also constantly being found and assessed in the District and development is likely to lead to the discovery of further sites and artefacts.

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
Number of Conservation Area Appraisals carried out	5 in 2010/11	Not applicable	No target	↑ 3 in 2008/09	-	There are no plans presently to undertake any more appraisals. This is unlikely to change without the LDF.	Vale Conservation team
Number of listed buildings contained in the Buildings at Risk register	2 in 2009/10	Not applicable	0	↑ 10 buildings in 2008/09	-	The conservation team will continue to monitor this and where possible encourage remedial works. This is unlikely to change without the LDF.	Buildings at Risk Register, Vale Conservation team

Natural Environment

26. The Vale also has a rich and diverse natural environment. Among the diverse habitats are a broken band of Ancient Woodland on the North Corallian Ridge, the Chalk Downs, which are designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), fenland and heathland forming some of Oxfordshire's rarest habitats and some traditional hay meadows in the floodplains of the Thames and Ock rivers. The area of the Vale within the AONB is 23.4% or 135 sq km of its total land area. Some 908 hectares are currently designated as 23 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Of these sites 98.97% are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. This is as a result of Natural England's focus on liaising with landowners and site managers to achieve the aim of all units being in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.

27. Two SSSIs are also European Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) at Cothill Fen, which consists of calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, and Hackpen Down, which is unimproved chalk grassland. The SSSI component of Hackpen Down SAC is in favourable condition. The SSSI component of Cothill Fen is in favourable recovering condition. Details are shown in the table below.

SAC	Condition of SSSI component of the SAC	Vulnerability of SAC, based on Natura 2000 form
Cothill Fen	favourable recovering	The open fen habitats on the site have suffered from the effects of successional change as a result of cessation of traditional management (grazing and peat-cutting). Parts of the site have become dominated by reed, scrub or <i>Molinia</i> , and only relatively small areas of species-rich short fen remain. Efforts to reverse these trends are in place. English Nature has acquired land on site in order to gain management control, and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust also has control over a significant area. Management involving cutting of reed, cutting of areas of tall fen and removal of scrub has been initiated to increase the area and diversity of the short fen habitat. Management specifically aimed at improving habitat suitability for southern damselfly is also in progress.
Hackpen Hill	favourable	A grazing regime which maintains suitable conditions for early gentian is supported financially through an English Nature management agreement. Nevertheless, the site is subject to periodic damage by rapid fluctuations in rabbit numbers. Means of reducing the threat from this source are being investigated.

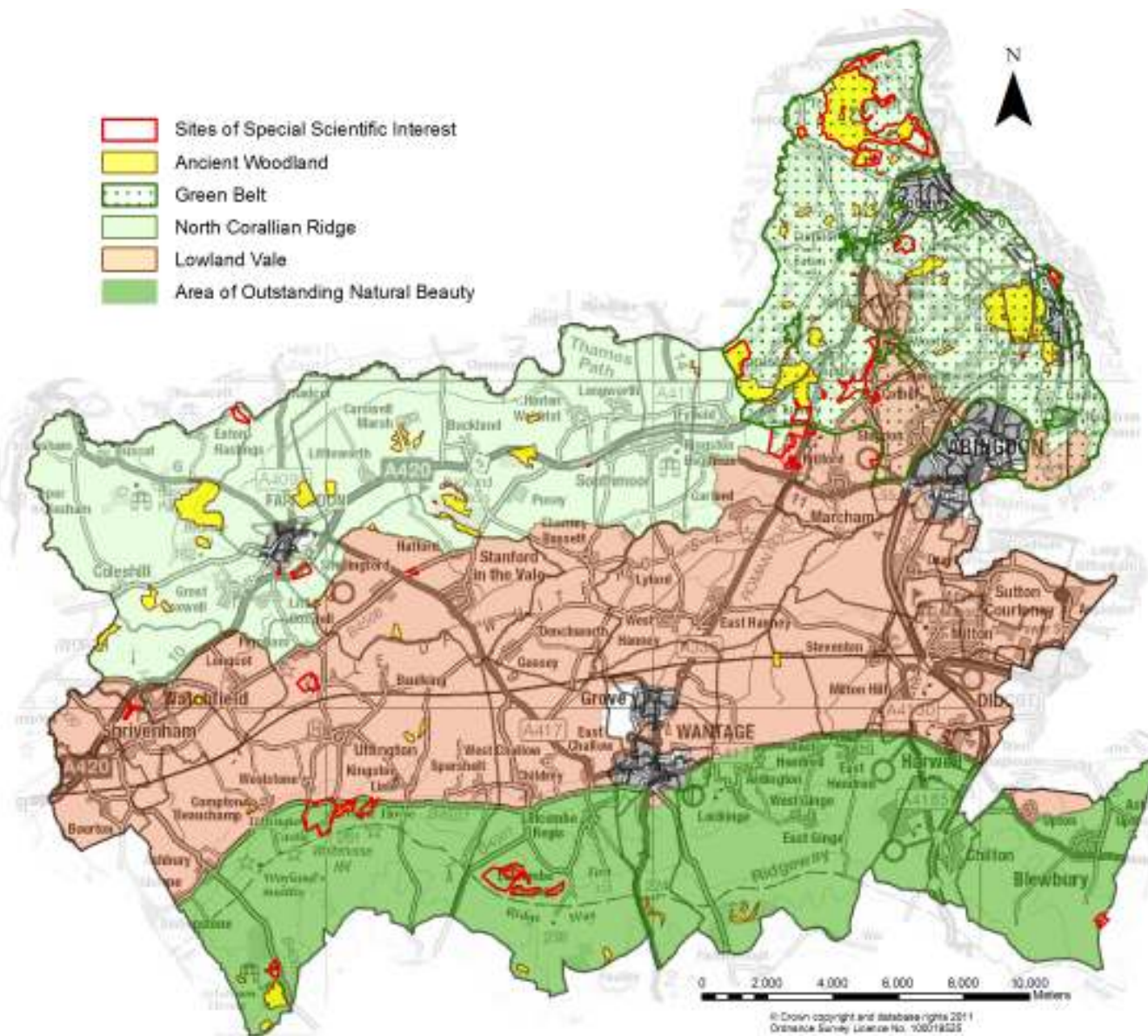


Figure 11: Map showing the key policy designations across the district

28. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)²⁵ was carried out in 2010. The objective of the assessment was to identify any areas of the Local Plan - Core Strategy that had the potential to cause an adverse effect on SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and to devise appropriate mitigation strategies where such effects were identified. The HRA concluded that any adverse impacts caused as a result of development proposed in the Local Plan - Core Strategy are unlikely.
29. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published in 1994, and is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the UK signed up to in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UK was the first country to produce a national biodiversity action plan. The UK BAP describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and devolved levels. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats have been set out to aid recovery, and reporting rounds every three- to five-years show how the UK BAP has contributed to the UK's progress towards the significant reduction of biodiversity loss called for by the CBD.
30. Although the aim of the UK BAP indicator is for the data to record actual changes in priority habitats on a year-on-year basis, there is still an overall lack of data to adequately capture the baseline situation, with recent surveys of designated sites effectively filling the gaps. The tabulated data represents a refining of the baseline position as new mapping of the survey data is undertaken. The changes between years represents what has been added through mapping or removed through a better understanding of site habitat structure, rather than the creation or loss of the priority habitat itself on the ground. The table below shows the habitat resource within the Vale for each UK BAP priority habitat type.

UK BAP priority habitat type	VWHDC area (hectares) 2010	Oxfordshire area 2010
Arable field margins	Not known	Not known
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	701.31	4750.90
Eutrophic standing water	167.58	933.20
Hedgerows	Not known	Not known
Lowland beech and yew woodland	5.28	777.36
Lowland calcareous grassland	214.84	732.71
Lowland dry acid grassland	18.61	48.75
Lowland Fens	23.30#	142.96#
Lowland heathland		2.96

²⁵ <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-6>

UK BAP priority habitat type	VWHDC area (hectares) 2010	Oxfordshire area 2010
Lowland meadows	79.99	1081.27
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	925.23	4518.41
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Not known	Not known
Ponds	Not known	3.79
Purple moor grass and rush pastures		14.09
Reedbeds	1.78	25.82
Rivers	Not known	Not known
Traditional Orchards	145.29	326.21
Wet woodland	52.84	137.94
Wood pasture and parkland		1858.82
Total area of BAP priority habitat	2606.26	15329.37

Combined figure of Fen and Reedbed resource

31. Biodiversity is linked to the landscape of the area. Natural England is promoting the identification of Local Geological Sites through the establishment of local groups. These sites will be non-statutory, locally based sites which will be designated and informally and voluntarily managed. Local Geological Sites in the Vale are located at Coxwell Pit; Faringdon (Rogers Concrete); The Manger, Hatford Sand Pit; Gimbro Copse Quarry, Pusey; Dry Sandford Quarries; Tubney Woods; Shellingford Quarry; and Wicklesham Quarry, Faringdon. Three of these sites are also identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are no further sites being proposed.
32. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) may be established by local authorities in consultation with Natural England under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. They are habitats of local importance. In the Vale there is an LNR at Tuckmill Meadows and Abbey Fishponds.
33. Beyond the statutory designations the Vale also contains a number of Local Wildlife Sites (previously known as County Wildlife Sites) designated for their local ecological importance and a number of areas of woodland that have been identified as remains of Ancient Woodland.
34. The Vale is predominantly rural with a significant part of its land under cultivation for farming. The quality of the farmland ranges from Grade 4 up to Grade 2 in a number of locations. The NPPF states that planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality. The Agricultural Census from DEFRA indicates that in 2007 there were 565 holdings covering 47,162 ha in the Vale. Of these 399 holdings or 10,477 ha is permanent grass. There are then 137

holdings covering 11,984 ha which produce wheat, 74 holdings covering 3,496 ha producing oilseed rape and 50 holdings covering 1,753 ha producing spring barley. Agriculture in the Vale is therefore very varied. In terms of employment only 1,069 residents gave their employment in the 2001 Census as being in the agriculture, hunting and forestry category which amounted to 1.8% of the resident workforce. A map showing agricultural land quality is shown below.

35. As stated earlier, a substantial part of the Vale (23.36%) lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and consists of extensive areas of chalk downland. Much of the remaining part of the Vale is also made up of attractive landscapes. The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) compiled in 2004 also identified a range of other landscape types in the rest of the Vale (see Figure 13). These include significant areas of wooded estate lands and rolling farmland to the north and south with alluvial lowland, clay Vale and lowland village farmland landscapes in the centre, all running generally east west. There are also river meadowlands in close association with the rivers which cross the District. The condition of these areas is likely to worsen without the plan as there is no national protection of these local landscape types.

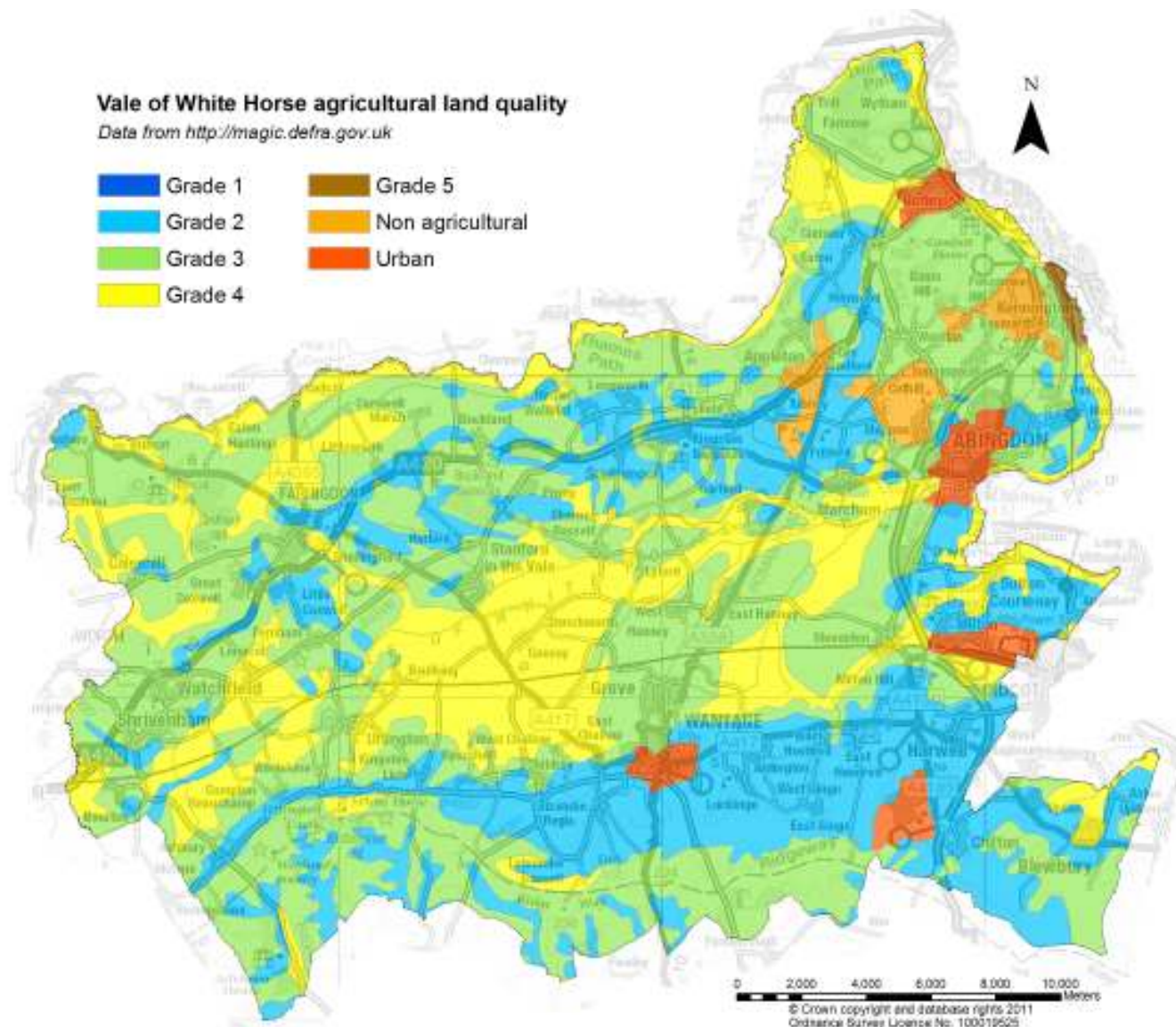


Figure 12: Map showing the agricultural land quality across the district

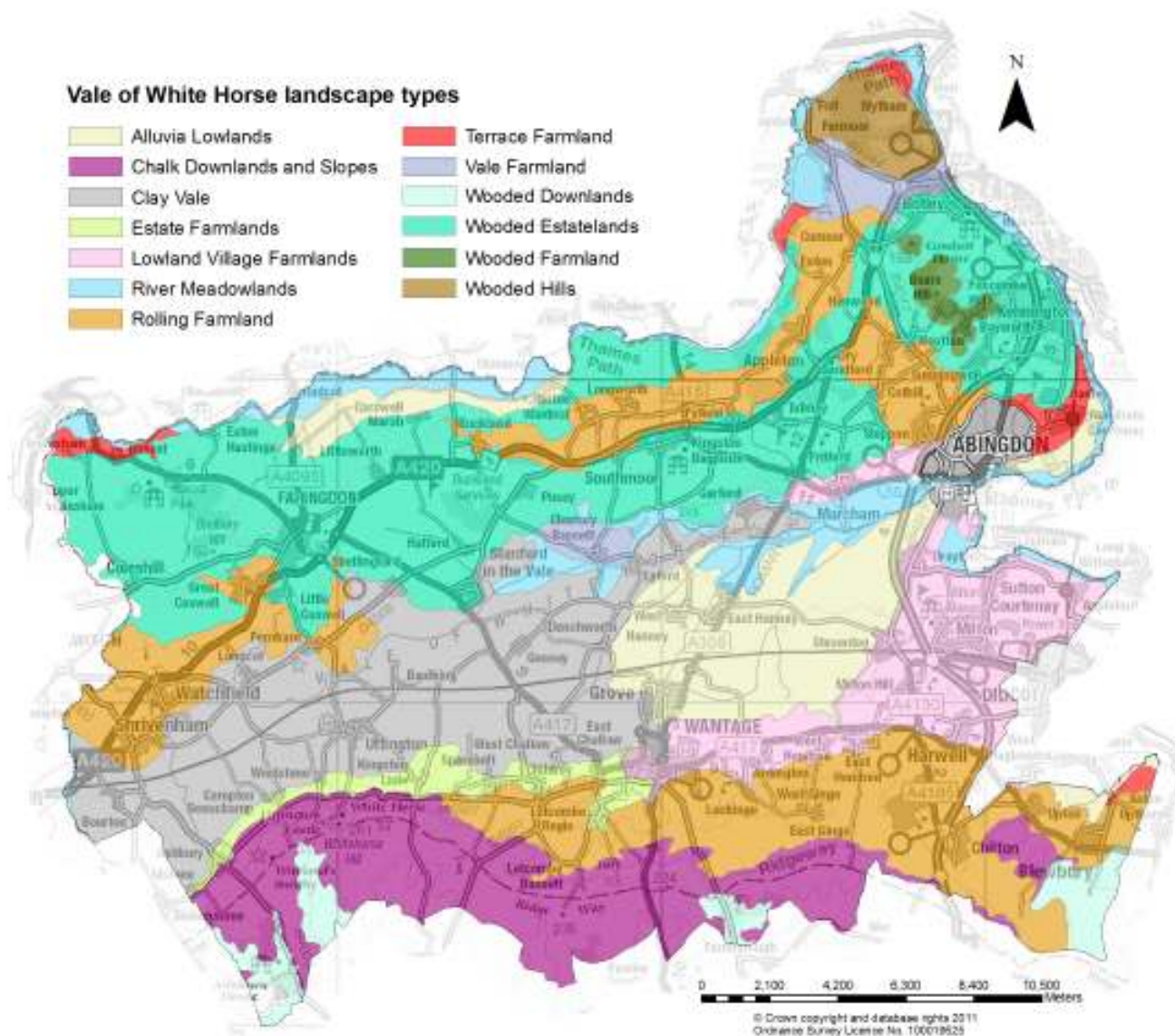


Figure 13: Map showing the OWLS designations across the district

36. Information on farmland birds is important because they are a useful indicator of the impact of rural activity on the natural environment. The figure below shows how the Vale compares with other Oxfordshire districts relative to the baseline year of 2000. The Vale index is higher than the county figure and the highest of all other districts. The number of survey squares visited in 2009 (11) was also slightly lower than in the previous three years (between 12 and 13). These small sample sizes may also be leading to statistical errors. It is hoped that this may be improved in the future through more field survey records being obtained.

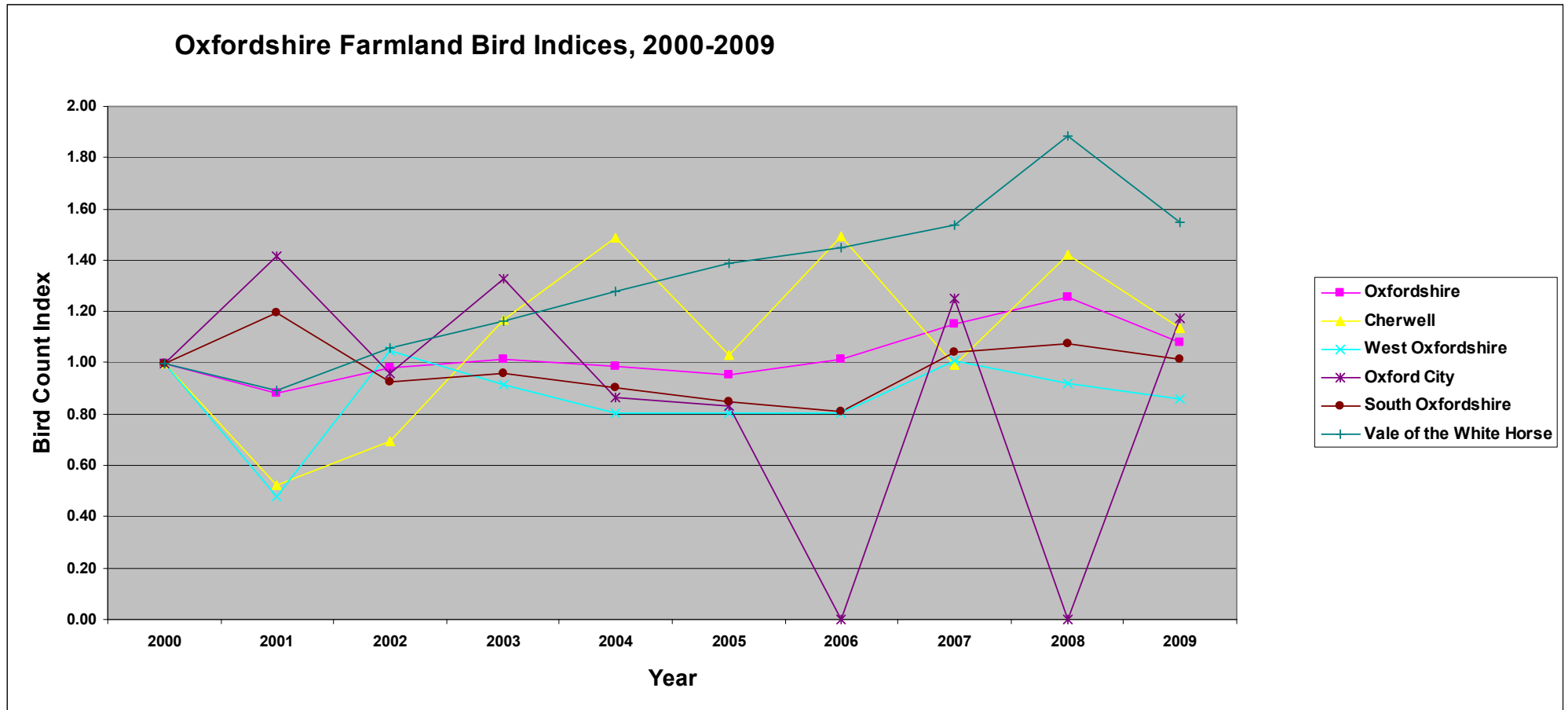


Figure 14: Graph showing the relative change in farmland bird populations since 2000

37. The Environment Agency (EA) produce a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin district, every six years. River Basin Management is a continuous process of planning (to develop River Basin Management Plans) and delivery. The Water Framework Directive introduces a formal series of 6 year cycles. The first cycle will end in 2015 when, following further planning and consultation, the River Basin Management Plan will be updated and reissued.
38. The River Basin Management Plans describe the river basin district, and the pressures that the water environment faces. It shows what this means for the current state of the water environment in the river basin district, and what actions will be taken to address the pressures. It sets out what improvements are possible by 2015 and how the actions will make a difference to the local environment - the catchments, estuaries, the coast and groundwater.
39. The Vale is included within the Thames River Basin District²⁶ and is covered by the Vale of White Horse catchment although this also includes Didcot and Swindon. The catchment includes the Rivers Ray, Cole, Ock and Ginge and Mill Brooks. There are a number of water-dependent Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the area, designated in the main for their fen and meadow communities. These areas are characterised by a variety of vegetation types that are found on groundwater-fed peaty or mineral soils. These may be permanently, seasonally or periodically waterlogged.
40. Surface water quality in the catchment is generally good, with the Rivers Ock, Key and Ginge Brook having the poorest water quality in the catchment. Phosphate concentrations due to diffuse pollution are a concern across most of the catchment, with Tributyltin compounds causing a current failure in the River Key against the objectives within the Thames River Basin Management Plan. It is expected that the other chemicals monitored under the Directive will achieve good status by 2015, with an overall good ecological status by 2027. In order to achieve these targets, the plan sets out a series of actions required by each sector. The actions needed by planning in relation to priority water bodies include ensuring that where possible new developments enhance biodiversity, deliver green infrastructure, include flood risk management measures and are built to high sustainability standards.
41. There are 33 river water bodies and one lake in the catchment. Three are artificial or heavily modified. Twenty four per cent of rivers currently achieve good or better ecological status/potential including the Cole and Dorcan brook. Forty six per cent of rivers

²⁶ <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/140092.aspx>

assessed for biology are at good or high biological status now, with 29 per cent at poor biological status, and no assessed river water bodies at bad status. The table below shows the key statistics from the Plan.

River and lake water bodies	2009	2015
% at good ecological status or potential	24	24
% assessed at good or high biological status (24 water bodies assessed)	46	50
% assessed at good chemical status (5 water bodies assessed)	100	100
% at good status overall (chemical and ecological)	24	24
% improving for one or more element in rivers		9

42. The Plan also identifies some key actions for this catchment which will enable its targets to be reached:

- target high risk farms and undertake regulatory farm visits using, pollution prevention notices and advisory letters where necessary
- further investigations to improve understanding of habitat restoration required to achieve good ecological status or potential.

43. The district has a number of areas which are at risk from flooding. This was highlighted by the extent of the damage caused by the 2007 floods. The table below provides a summary of flooding within the district from both fluvial and other sources. The council commissioned a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in 2007 which redefined the flood zones around the five main settlements and the eleven largest villages. The maps below provide an overview of Flood Zone 2 and 3a and the effects that climate change is expected to have on flood zone 3. Flood zones 2 and 3 both have restrictions in terms of the types of development that are allowed according to the NPPF.

44. The table below is an extract from the SFRA and shows a useful summary of the key sources of flooding within the study areas. The table includes a number of other sources of flooding. Flooding of land from surface water runoff is usually caused by intense rainfall that may only last a few hours, and usually occurs in lower lying areas often where the drainage system is unable to cope with the volume of water. Of course surface water flooding problems are inextricably linked to issues of poor drainage or drainage blockage by debris, and sewer flooding. Groundwater flooding can occur after prolonged periods of rainfall cause the water table to rise and intersect with the ground surface. It is most common where aquifers occur close to the ground surface under normal conditions. The risk of flooding from groundwater is subject to uncertainty as it is dependent upon the water table conditions at any location for any given time. Sewer flooding is caused by overloaded sewers. Given that only ten years of incidents have been provided, it is reasonable to assume that there are significantly more properties at risk of sewer flooding, but which have not experienced the rainfall or other conditions to cause flooding during this period.

Summary of Flooding in Vale of White Horse Key Settlements									
Key Settlement	Area (km2)			Properties			Other Sources		
	Total Area	% in FZ 3	% in FZ2	Total	In FZ 3	In FZ 2	Sewer (1)	Surface Water (2)	Groundwater(3)
Abingdon	7.44	11%	14%	14132	1412	1929	4	M	No
Botley	2.03	0%	0%	2692	0	0	1(4)	H	No
Drayton	0.59	0%	0%	854	0	0	2	L	No
Faringdon	1.49	0%	0%	2739	0	0	0	M	Yes
Grove	1.31	9%	10%	2813	204	239	0	H	No
Kennington	1.02	1%	1%	1620	9	27	9	L	No
Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor	0.75	0%	0%	806	0	0	0	M	No
Milton	0.16	0%	0%	190	0	0	2	L	No
Radley	0.54	0%	0%	545	0	0	0	M	No
Shrivenham	0.94	2%	6%	887	1	19	0	M	No
Stanford in the Vale	0.57	0%	0%	767	0	0	0	L	No
Steventon	0.84	40%	61%	637	161	267	0	M	No
Sutton Courtenay	0.85	6%	18%	937	17	82	2	M	Yes
Wantage	2.70	3%	3%	4492	43	47	2	H	No
Watchfield	1.02	0%	0%	859	0	0	0	M	No
Wootton	0.64	0%	0%	783	0	0	9	L	No

Notes:

1. Count of sewer flooding incidents 1997-2007 in postcodes containing the key settlement.
2. Summary of surface water risk to property: High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L)
3. Presence of groundwater flooding incidents in 2000/1 and/or 2002/3 in Defra report
4. A further 9 incidents took place in the Botley area at New Botley and Osney (both within Oxford City and with known sewer flooding problems). A solution has been identified by Thames Water and the scheme is currently being progressed.
5. Analysis based on September 2007 version of the Flood Zones. Areas and properties at risk have changed in some settlements due to subsequent Flood Zone updates, and further changes will occur once the revised outlines produced to support this SFRA are adopted into the Flood Zones in September 2009.

45. Oxfordshire County Council has recently completed a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment²⁷. This is a broad scale assessment of flood risk from local sources (surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses) across the county. Whilst no Flood Risk Areas (places where risk of flooding is significant) were identified for Oxfordshire there are clearly flooding issues that are considered locally significant. It is intended that the management of flood risk in these areas and across the wider county will be directed by the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that Oxfordshire County Council are required to prepare under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). The PFRA will also be used as an evidence base to inform Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) that might be necessary.

²⁷ <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-preliminary-flood-risk-assessment-pfra>

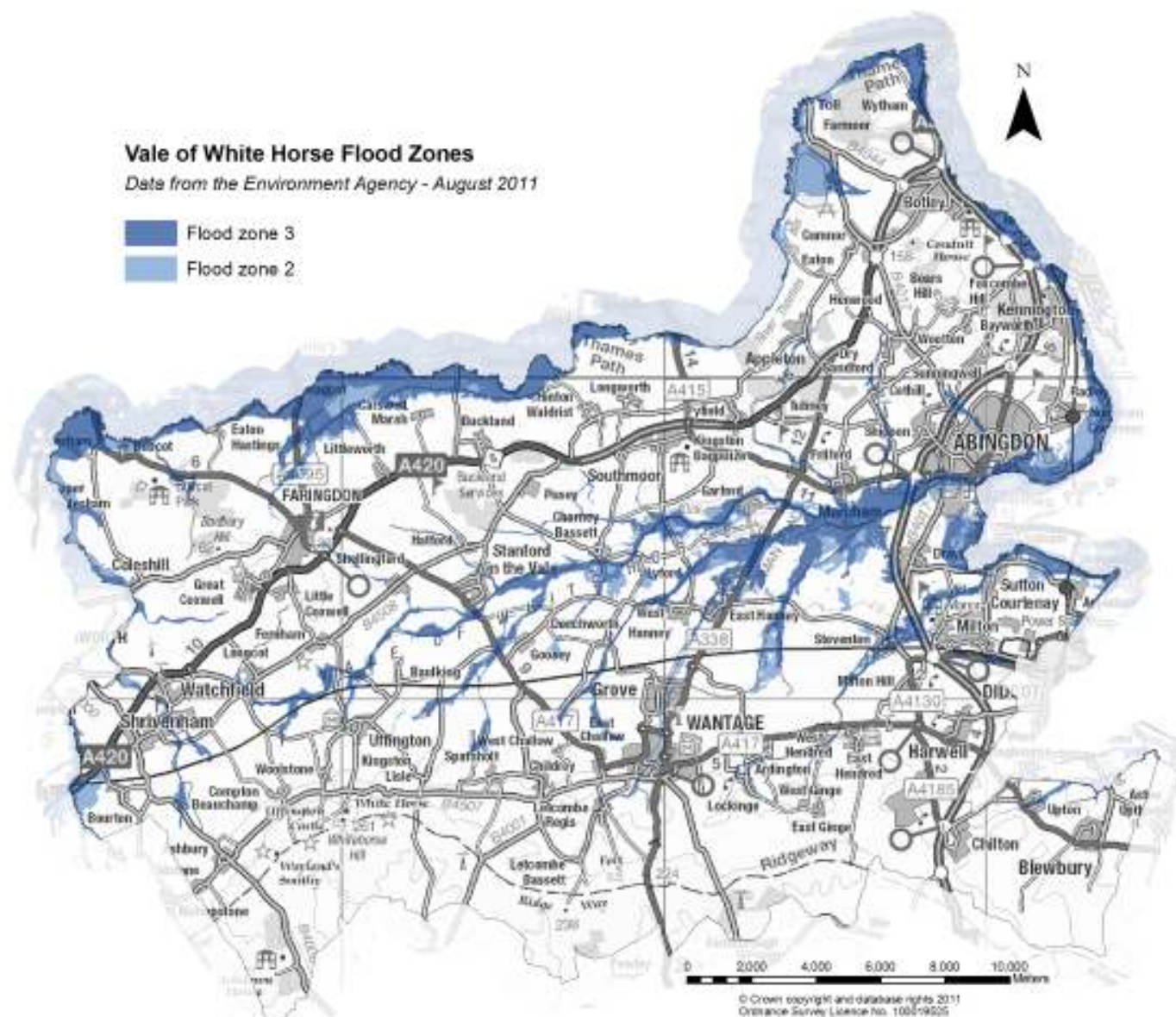


Figure 15: Map showing the areas across the district covered by flood zones 2 and 3

46. The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to periodically review and assess air quality within their area under the Government's Local Air Quality Management regime. The council monitors levels of nitrogen dioxide throughout the district using passive diffusion tubes and continuous monitoring. Monitoring is also undertaken to assess levels of sulphur dioxide, ozone, and airborne particles of less than 10 microns which are known as PM10 and benzene. Where levels of these pollutants are found to exceed the Government's Air Quality Objective level, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has to be declared. There are currently two AQMAs in the Vale, one in central Abingdon and the other along the A34 in Botley. A map illustrating the extent of each of these is shown below.

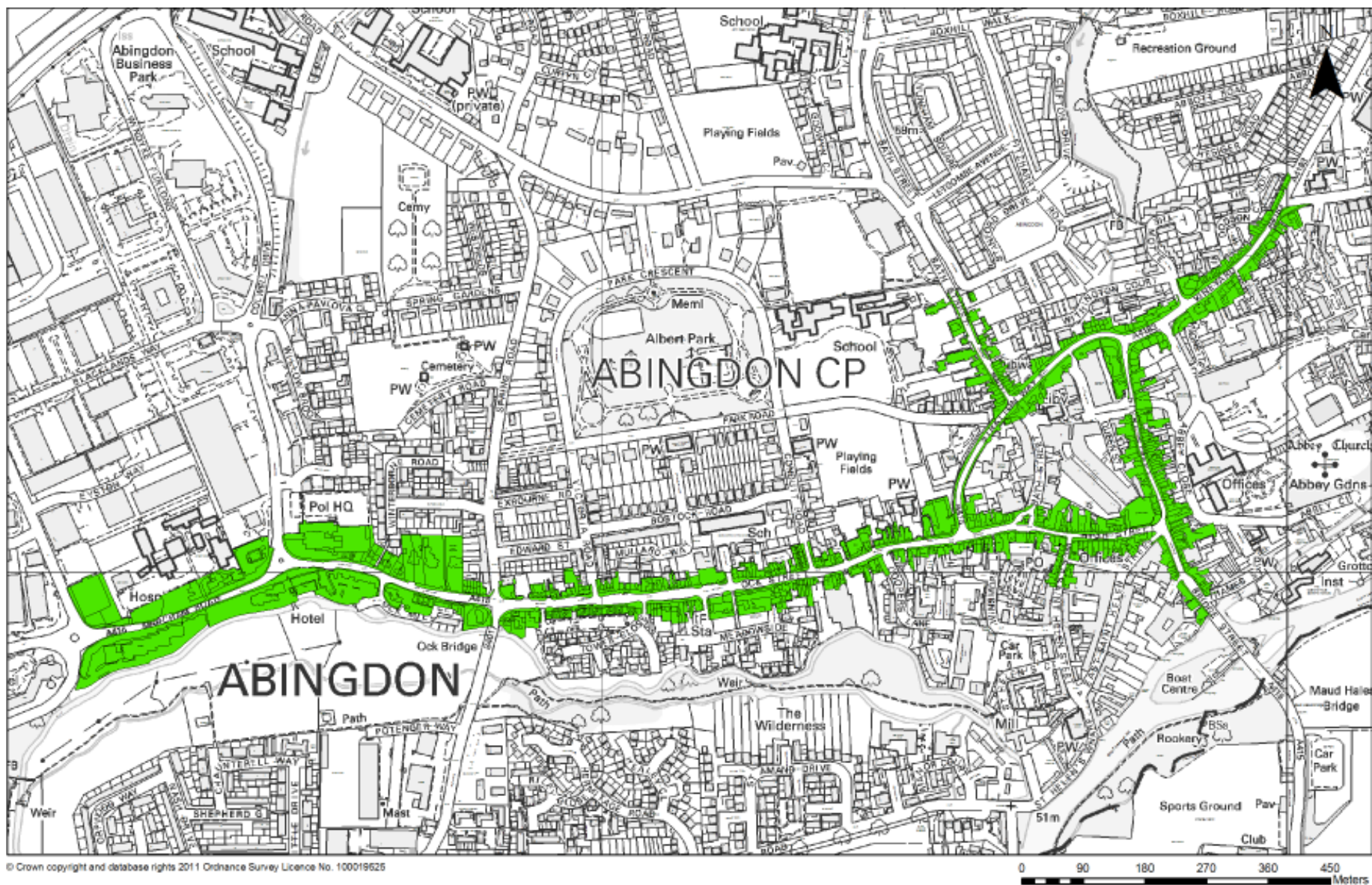


Figure 16: Map showing the parts of Abingdon affected by the AQMA

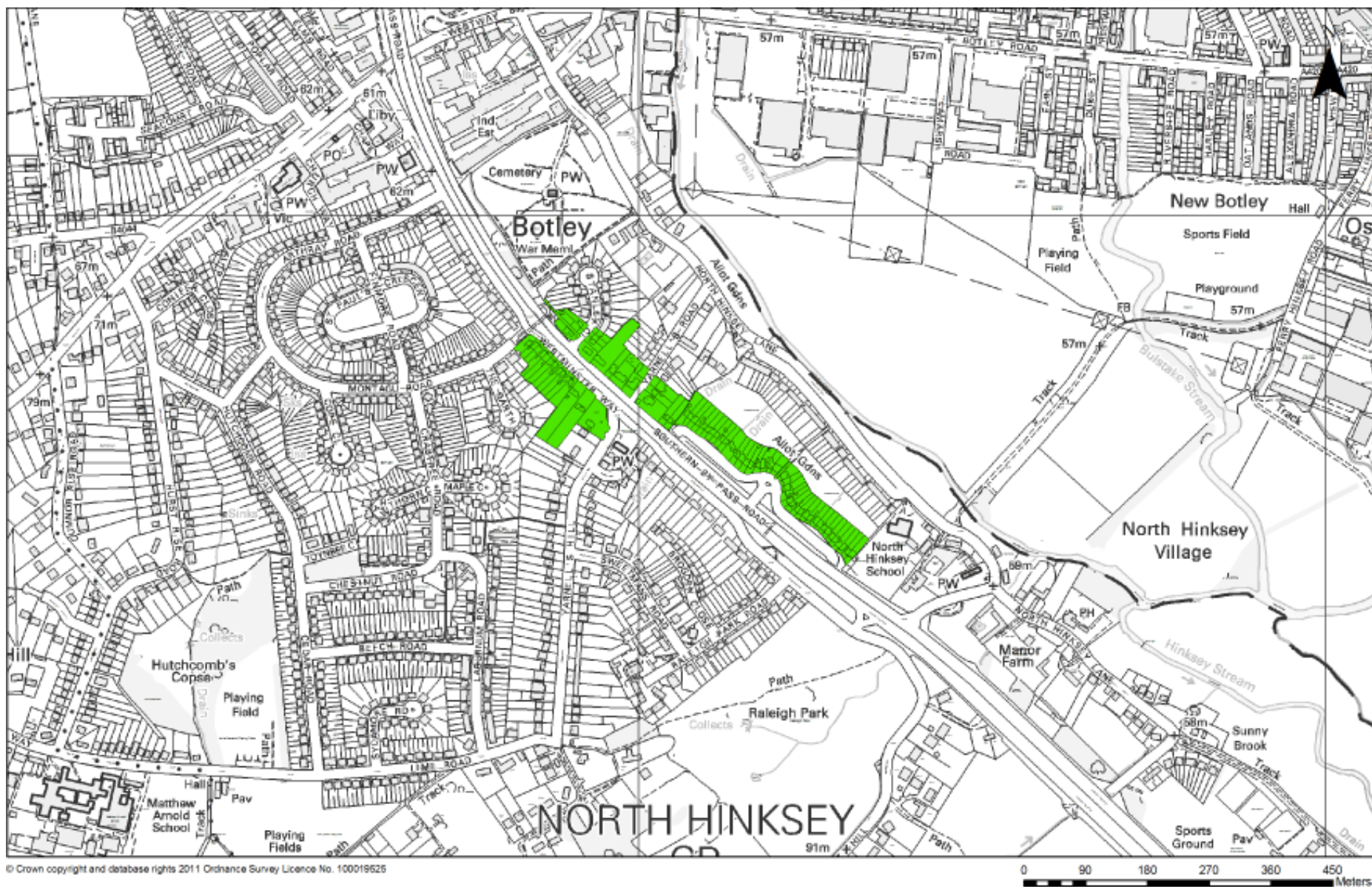


Figure 17: Map showing the parts of Botley affected by the AQMA

47. In 2007, a further assessment of air quality in Abingdon was carried out to obtain more information about air quality. This report also took into account the introduction of measures to improve traffic flow in the town centre as a result of the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy (ABITS). This assessment concluded that although there had been some reductions in nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in parts of the AQMA, national objectives were still being exceeded. The council has now devised an Air Quality Action Plan for Abingdon which contains measures that aim to reduce nitrogen dioxide in the town centre. The national air quality objective for NO₂ is 40 µg/m³ and the figure below illustrates the annual averages within Abingdon since 2003.

48. Levels of NO₂ also exceed national objectives within the Botley area (see Figure 19 below). A further assessment of air quality in the Botley area has recently been carried out and a report is currently being prepared.

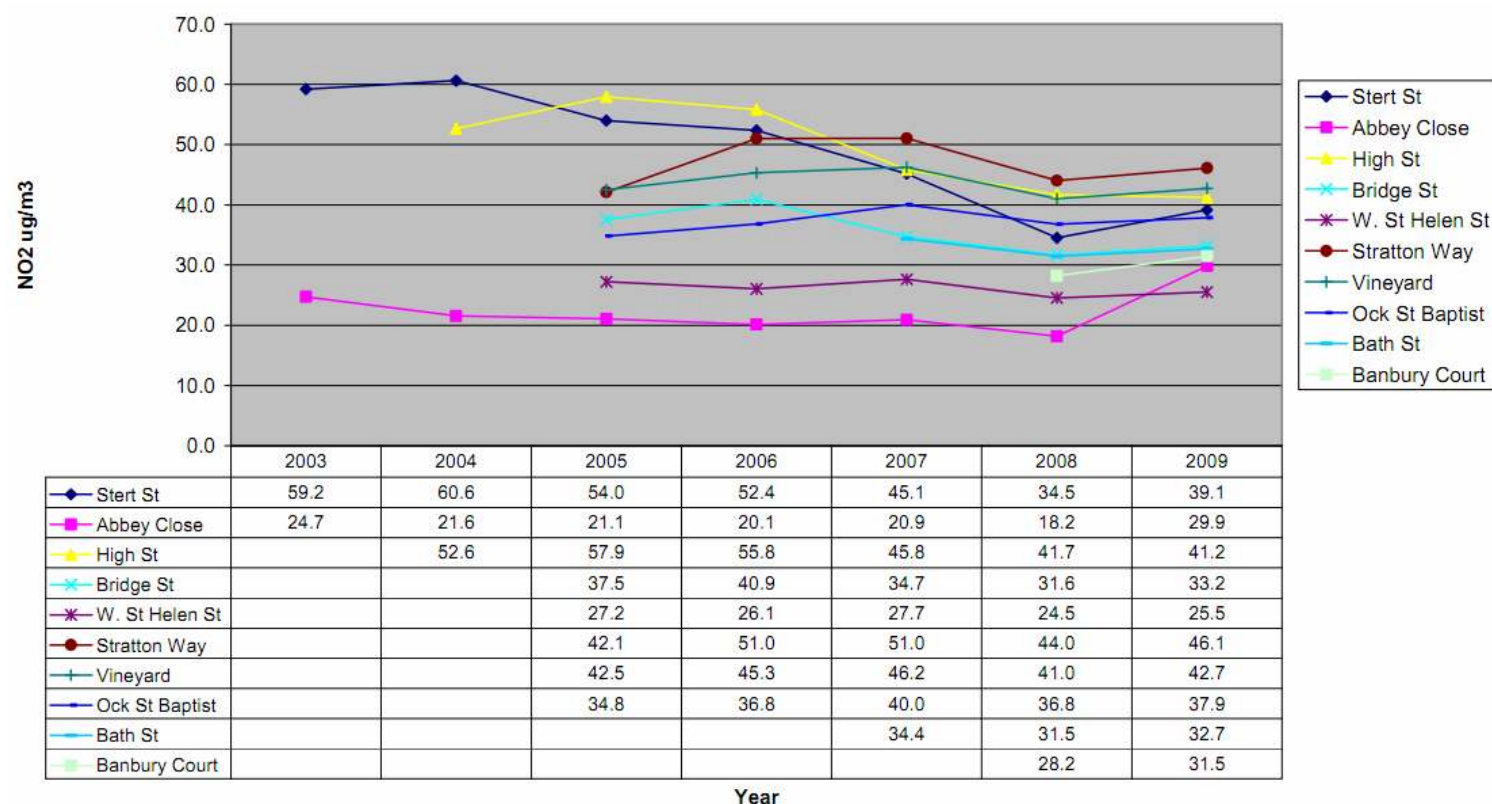


Figure 18: Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide found across the Abingdon AQMA

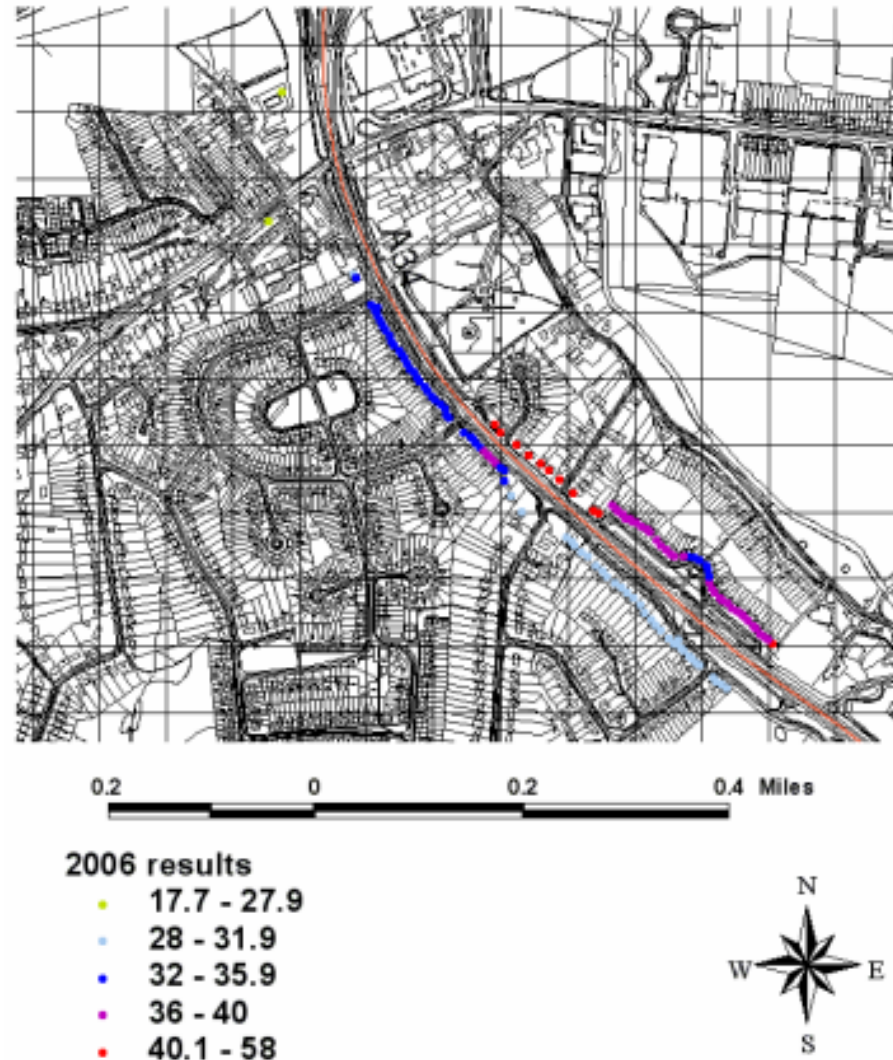


Figure 19: Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide found across the Botley AQMA

49. Government guidance contained in the NPPF states that planning authorities should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed or brownfield land. The council will wherever possible favour previously developed land however it is worth noting that some sites may be of high interest for nature conservation. It is essential that all sites proposed for development are surveyed for their biodiversity and recreational potential, so that the impacts of development can be avoided or appropriate mitigation measures incorporated to protect biodiversity resources.
50. The trend in recent years has been towards increasing levels of development on greenfield land as brownfield sites gradually get built out. This trend is due to continue as the remaining local plan allocations are built out. In addition to this, due to the predominantly rural nature of the district and, given the level of housing that is required, it is inevitable that a substantial proportion of future development will need to be located on greenfield land. Given this, it is vital that all sites that are allocated are sustainably located and cause the least amount of environmental harm. The maps below illustrate the physical and natural characteristics of each of the proposed Local Plan - Core Strategy sites.

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
Percentage of the Vale's SSSIs in a favourable or unfavourable but recovering condition	2009/10: 98.97%	Oxfordshire: 96.7%	100%	↑ 80% in 2007	+	This is unlikely to change without the LDF as these areas and species would remain protected.	Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)
Total area of UK BAP priority habitat	2010: 2606.26 ha	Oxfordshire County: 15329.37	No net loss.	Changes in this number reflect changes in mapping rather than the creation of new sites	Contextual		TVERC
Total number of UKBAP priority species	2009/10: 176	Oxfordshire: 231	No target.	↑ 170 in 2008/09 and 49 in 2006/07	+		TVERC
Distribution and status of farmland birds	2009: 1.55	Vale index is higher than the county figure and the highest of all other districts	No target.	↓ from 1.88 in 2008	+		TVERC

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
Percentage water bodies at good ecological status or potential	2009: 24%	Cotswolds: 38% Kennet and Pang: 34% Thame and South Chilterns: 8%	2015: 24%	No comparable data	-	This is unlikely to change as a result of the policies and proposals within the LDF as this issue is managed under the Water Framework Directive.	EA
Number of homes located in flood zone 2 or 3	Properties in Flood zone 2 = 3038 Properties in Flood zone 3 = 1161	Not applicable	No target.	Changes in this number reflect changes in mapping quality	Contextual	This is unlikely to change as a result of policies and proposals in the LDF as national policy ensures that no new homes are built in flood prone areas.	EA
Number of Air Quality Management Areas across the Vale	2	Not applicable	Decrease	↓ Botley AQMA was declared in 2007	!	This is unlikely to change as a result of policies and proposals in the LDF.	Environmental Protection team, Vale
Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land	2010/11: 73%	2010/11: South East – 68% England – 73%	60%	↓ 08/09: 91% 09/10: 85%	+	This is likely to improve without the LDF.	Vale monitoring system, DCLG

Living Environment

51. The Council has a duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to promote community safety, and reducing the potential for crime is a matter to be taken into account in planning decisions. It is important to gauge the level of crime in an area to determine the level of the problem and tangentially get some indication of the impact of planning policies. Planning of development is however only one facet of what has to be a multidimensional approach to the reduction of crime in an area. Data showing the rate of domestic burglaries per 1,000 households indicates that the Vale is an extremely safe place to live and is one of the safest across the county. This can largely be attributed to its rural nature. Of crime recorded the majority of cases are to do with either 'violence against a person' or 'criminal damage'. The prevalence of these types of crimes is in line with trends across the region and England.

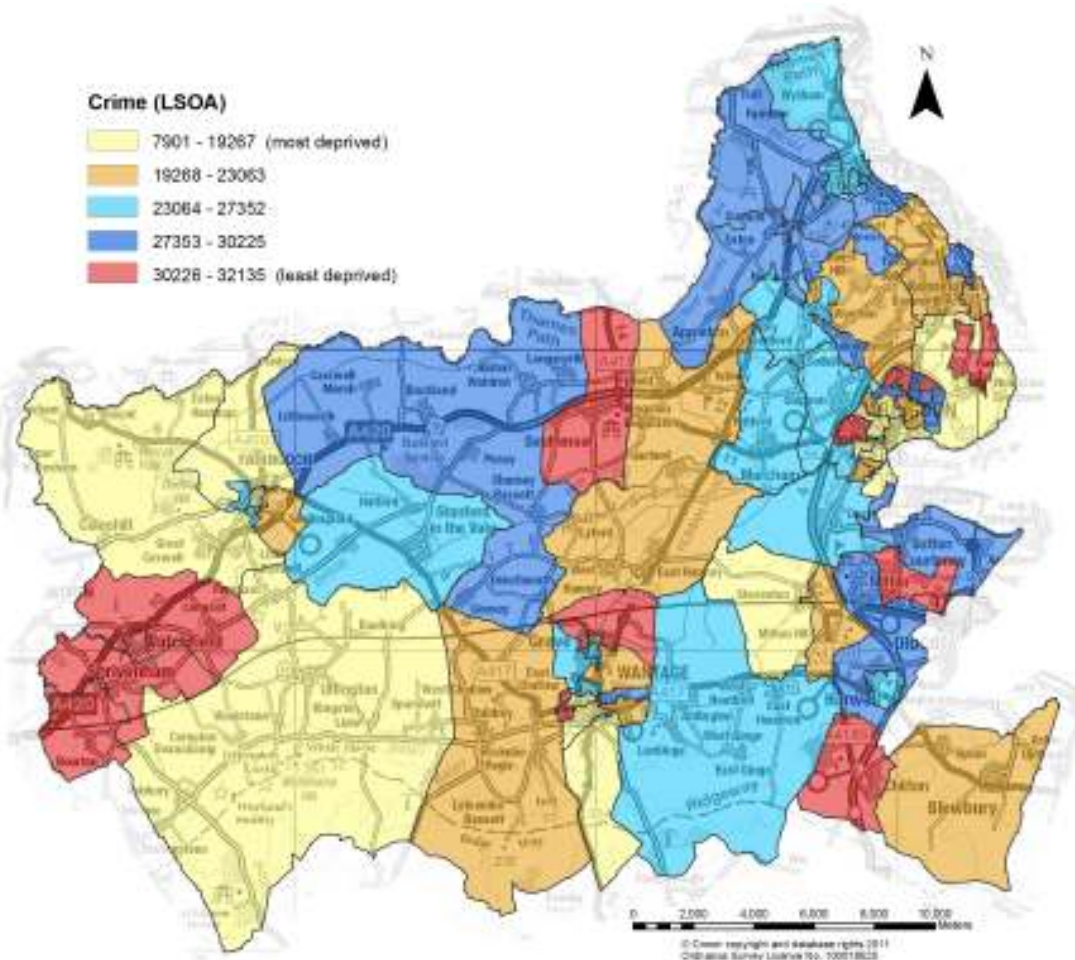


Figure 20: IMD (2010) – crime levels

52. Another important indicator is the relative health of the Vale’s population. In much the same way as deprivation was lower than the England average, the health of the Vale’s residents was found to be generally better. The figure below compares rates of death at all ages and from all causes between the Vale and England. It shows that all cause mortality rates have fallen over the last 10 years. Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have also fallen and are better than the England average.

All age, all cause mortality

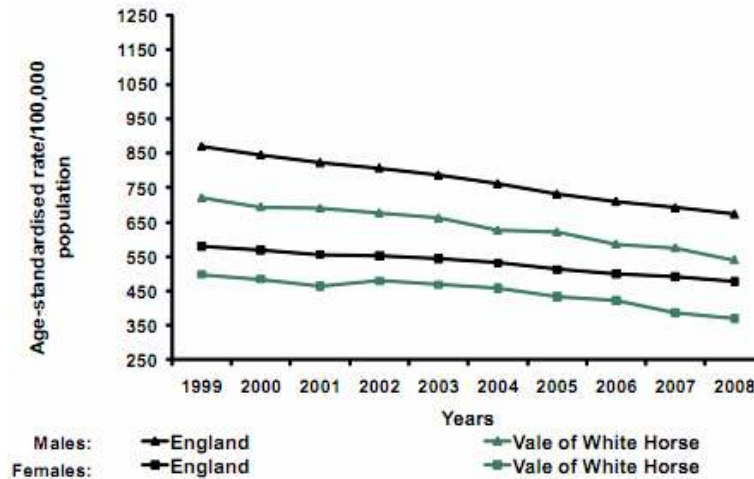


Figure 21: Graph showing trends in mortality rates since 1999

53. The Health Profile for the Vale produced by the Public Health Authorities also found that an estimated 18.5% of adults smoke and 20.9% are obese. There were 1,399 hospital stays for alcohol related harm in 2009/10 whilst 149 deaths were from smoking related causes. Another useful indicator is the Slope Index of Inequality for life expectancy by deprivation deciles and shows the level to which life expectancy differs between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Vale. Levels of health and disability deprivation across the district are shown in the map below.
54. Another contextual health indicator which can be used to assess the relative health of residents in the Vale is the number of residents seeking Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Although this trend appears to be worsening, it is probably being exacerbated by the effects of the economic downturn. Nevertheless in spite of the worsening trend the Vale has one of the lowest figures of all the Oxfordshire authorities. As part of Government reforms of the welfare system the DLA is being replaced by a personal independence payment (PIP) from April 2013. In terms of the IMD indicator showing health deprivation and disability levels, it appears the areas around the main settlements are worst affected.

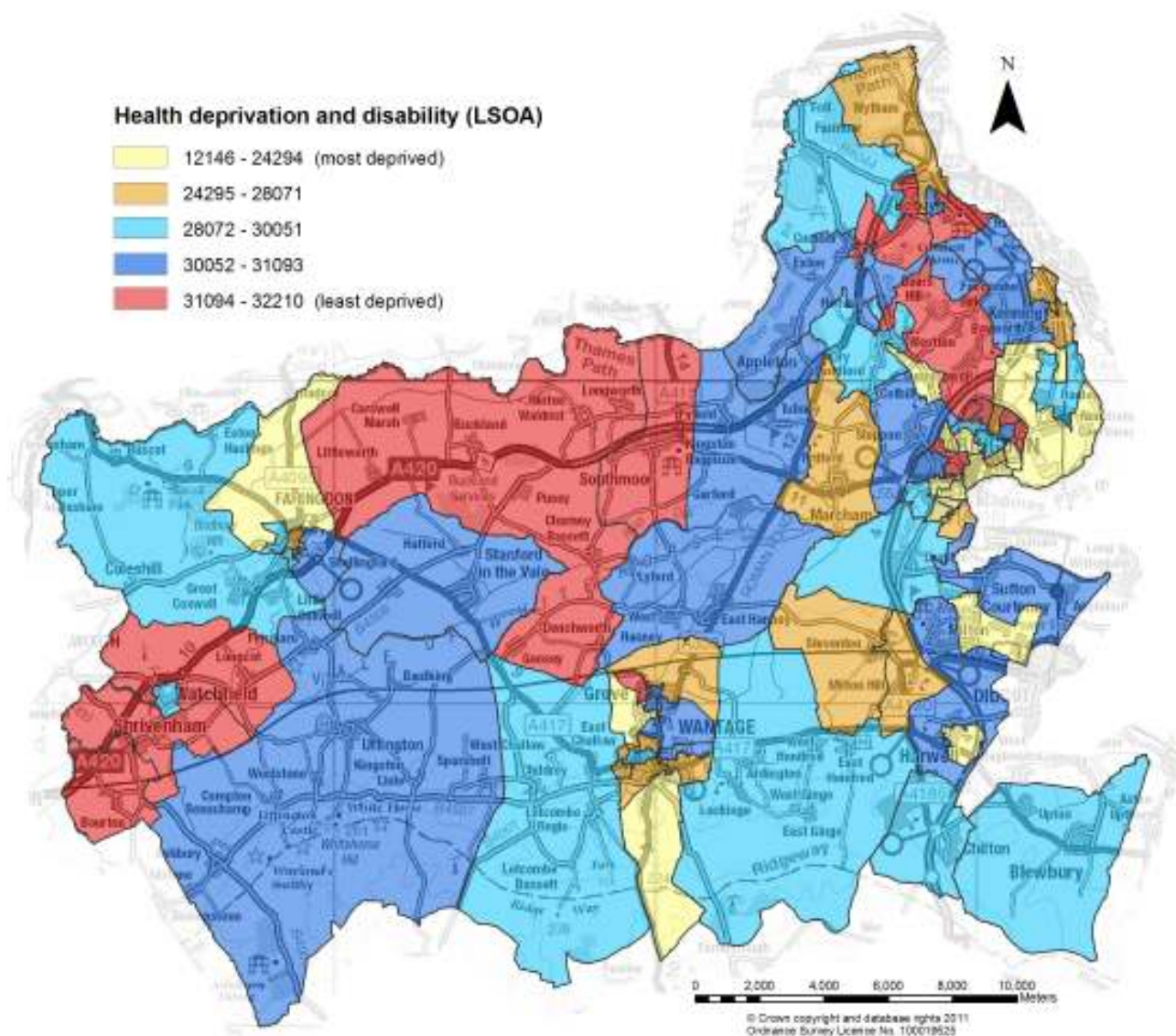


Figure 22: IMD (2010) – health deprivation and disability

55. Natural England has developed a model which sets out the standards that are needed to ensure that all people have access to a variety of different types and sizes of open space. It is called the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). This can help local authorities in drawing up their Greenspace Strategies and will show the areas which are particularly deficient. The table below shows how households in the Vale perform against the standards.

56. Another factor assessed in the IMD is that of living environment including both indoor and outdoor areas. The indicators used for this aspect were quality of housing, air quality and road accidents. The map below shows how areas across the district compare and suggests that deprivation is found across both rural and urban areas.

% of households in the Vale (at 2005)						
within 300m of a 2ha+ site	within 2km of a 20ha+ site	within 5km of a 100ha+ site	within 10km of a 500ha+ site	meeting all ANGSt requirements	meeting none of the ANGSt requirements	served only by linear greenspace
23	23	21	0	0	51	3

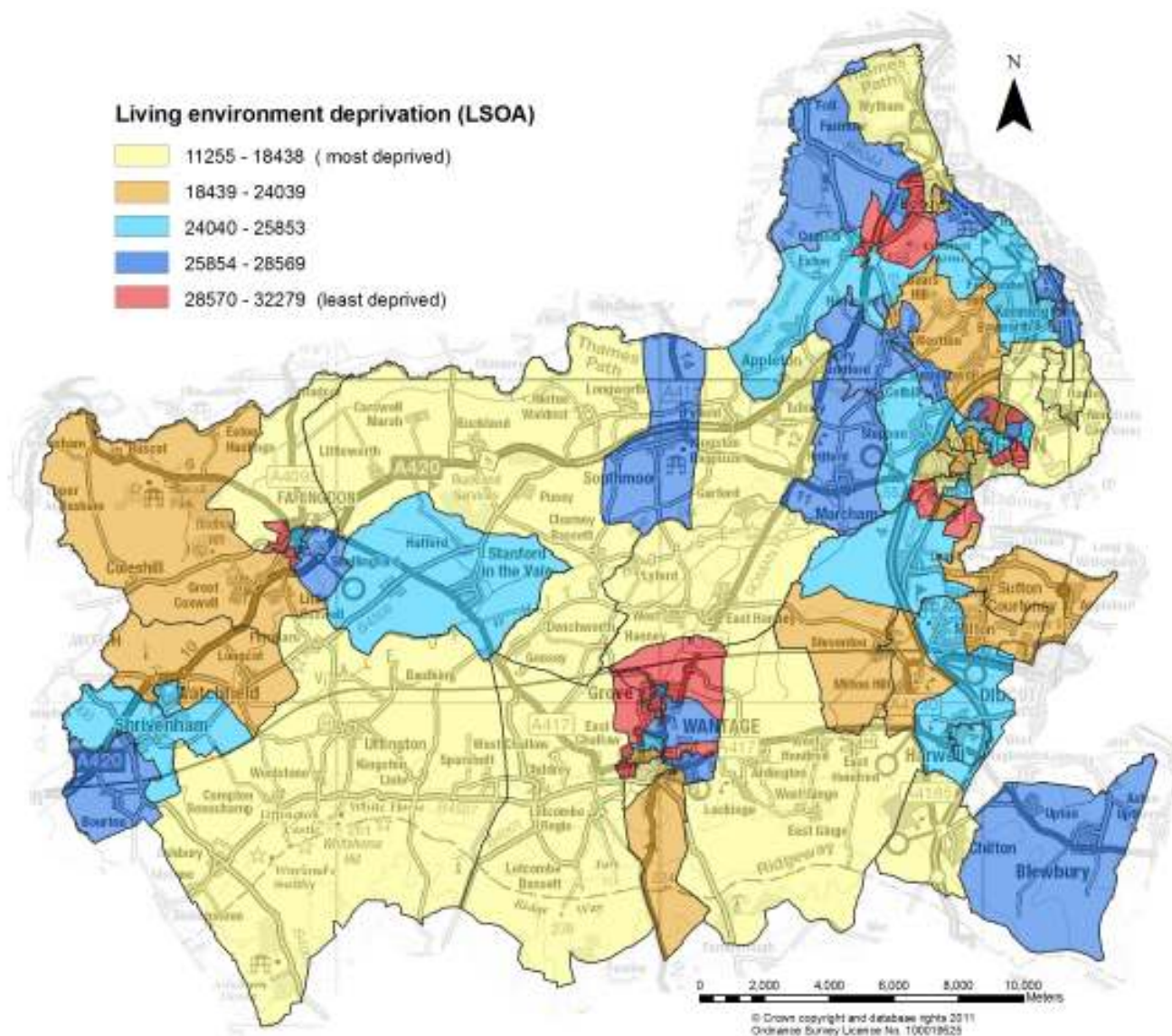


Figure 23: IMD (2010) – living environment

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators		Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data							
Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households	2010/11: 3	2010/11:		Reduction	↑ 5 in 2006/07	+	This is unlikely to change without the LDF.	Home Office							
		Cherwell	4												
		Oxford	12												
		South Oxfordshire	7												
		West Oxfordshire	4												
The number of recorded criminal offences			No target	↑	+		ONS, neighbourhood statistics								
	Offences							2009/10	2006/07						
	Violence Against the Person							1,142	1,693						
	Wounding or Other Act Endangering Life							Less than 3	7						
	Other Wounding							383	492						
	Harassment Including Penalty Notices for Disorder							347	692						
	Common Assault							347	403						
	Robbery							11	32						
	Theft from the Person							50	67						
	Criminal Damage Including Arson							1,062	1,577						
	Burglary in a Dwelling							196	215						
	Burglary Other than a Dwelling							347	349						
	Theft of a Motor Vehicle							87	173						
	Theft from a Motor Vehicle							267	396						
Gap between the areas with the highest and lowest life expectancy (male/female)	2005-09: Males: 4 years Females: 3.1 years	Oxfordshire 2005-09: Males: 5.8 years Females: 3 years		Reduce difference	↑ Males 2002-06: 5.5 years	-	The SCS will continue to form partnerships with key organisations and promote health and wellbeing. This is unlikely to change without the LDF.	Public Health Observatories.							
					↓ Females 2002/06: 2.3 years.				Number of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants	November 2010: 3,260	November 2010:		Reduce number	↓ 2,810 in 2006	-
Number of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants	November 2010: 3,260	November 2010:		Reduce number	↓ 2,810 in 2006	-		ONS							
		Cherwell	4,520												
		Oxford	4,820												

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators		Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
		South Oxfordshire	3,290					
		West Oxfordshire	2,850					
Percentage of households meeting none of the ANGSt	2005: 51%	2005:		Reduce percentage	No previous data	!	This is likely to worsen without the policies and proposals in the LDF as it identifies areas which are deficient in certain types of greenspace.	Forestry Commission
		Cherwell	72%					
		Oxford	0%					
		South Oxfordshire	47%					
		West Oxfordshire	77%					

Use of Resources

57. A significant measure of sustainability, particularly in relation to new and existing development, is the use and or re-use of resources. Of increasing importance in this respect is the amount of water we consume. Recent dry periods have illustrated how dependant we are on a supply of water for our everyday lives. Reducing consumption and wastage of this increasingly scarce resource is therefore a desirable aim. OFWAT's report Security of Supply: 2006-07 contains estimates of household consumption. Residents within the Thames Water region used on average 154 litres/head/day of water, down from 164 in 2005-06. Although consumption has decreased in the region, it is still higher than the industry average in England and Wales of 148 litres/head/day.

58. Increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane in the earth's atmosphere is one of the leading causes of climate change. As a result the UK has both international (Kyoto Protocol) and domestic (UK Climate Change Act) targets in place in an attempt to reduce these emissions. The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) produce statistics on CO2 emissions per capita and it is clear from the information below that the Vale is performing considerably worse than all other Oxfordshire districts. This discrepancy is caused predominantly by the 'road transport' component of the figure which was between 1.0 and 2.6 tonnes of CO2 per capita more than the others. Breaking this down further, it is the contribution from A-roads that is significantly higher for the Vale and this can most probably be attributed to the heavily congested stretch of A34.

59. Another useful indicator is the average domestic gas and electricity consumption across the district. The figures below suggest that the Vale is higher in both instances than the South East average. This is most probably due to its rural nature and may also

be caused in part by the higher than average proportion of higher earners in the Vale. This is likely to lead to higher household energy consumption.

60. The 2009 EU Renewables Directive includes a target that by 2020 15% of all energy consumption should be from renewable resources. Further work carried out by Thames Valley (TV) Energy shows that the Vale is performing extremely well in this indicator and is already producing some 11.5% of its energy needs through renewables. A total of 22.256 MW was produced within the Vale in 2011 of which 6.521 were from onshore wind and 14.893 MW were from landfill gas. The latter displaced some 84,544 tonnes of carbon each year.

61. The District started a new joint waste service with South Oxfordshire District Council in October 2010. As a result of this change it is not possible to meaningfully compare previous years' performance with current rates. Recycling rates are however extremely high and both councils are amongst the top performing in the country. The district also performs well in terms of the amount of waste it produces per household. In 2010/11 this figure was 355.35 kg when the year end target was 404.00 kg.

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data																									
Water use per person per day	2006/07: 154 litres/head/day of water	Industry average: 148 litres/head/day	135 litres/head/day	↑ 164 in 2005/06	-	.Water use per person is likely to reduce in the future without the LDF because of improving water efficiency and reduced leakage; but total water use is expected to rise because of the increase in the number of people.	OFWAT																									
Annual CO2 emissions per person (tCO2 per capita)	2009: <table><tr><td>Industry & commercial</td><td>3.2</td></tr><tr><td>Domestic</td><td>2.3</td></tr><tr><td>Road Transport</td><td>3.3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>8.9</td></tr></table>	Industry & commercial	3.2	Domestic	2.3	Road Transport	3.3	Total	8.9	2009: <table><tr><td></td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>South East</td><td>6.9</td></tr><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>10.1</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>6.1</td></tr><tr><td>South Oxfordshire</td><td>8.3</td></tr><tr><td>West Oxfordshire</td><td>6.9</td></tr></table>		Total	South East	6.9	Cherwell	10.1	Oxford	6.1	South Oxfordshire	8.3	West Oxfordshire	6.9	To reduce council's CO2 emissions by 20% from 2008/09 to 2012/13	↑ 7.3% reduction since 2008. <table><tr><td>2008</td></tr><tr><td>3.5</td></tr><tr><td>2.6</td></tr><tr><td>3.5</td></tr><tr><td>9.6</td></tr></table>	2008	3.5	2.6	3.5	9.6	-	This is likely to get worse without the LDF as although more development will generally lead to increased levels of consumption and emissions, as older buildings are refurbished and the new homes proposed are built to a more efficient standard the	DECC
Industry & commercial	3.2																															
Domestic	2.3																															
Road Transport	3.3																															
Total	8.9																															
	Total																															
South East	6.9																															
Cherwell	10.1																															
Oxford	6.1																															
South Oxfordshire	8.3																															
West Oxfordshire	6.9																															
2008																																
3.5																																
2.6																																
3.5																																
9.6																																

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators	Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data										
Average domestic gas consumption (kWh)	2009: 15,864 (does not include consumption by Didcot power station)	2009: <table><tr><td>South East</td><td>15,536</td></tr><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>14,572</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>15,330</td></tr><tr><td>South Oxfordshire</td><td>16,675</td></tr><tr><td>West Oxfordshire</td><td>15,875</td></tr></table>	South East	15,536	Cherwell	14,572	Oxford	15,330	South Oxfordshire	16,675	West Oxfordshire	15,875	Decrease	↑ 19,525 in 2005	-	per capita consumption is likely to fall.	DECC
South East	15,536																
Cherwell	14,572																
Oxford	15,330																
South Oxfordshire	16,675																
West Oxfordshire	15,875																
Average domestic electricity consumption (kWh)	2009: 4,698	2009: <table><tr><td>South East</td><td>4,477</td></tr><tr><td>Cherwell</td><td>4,732</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>4,014</td></tr><tr><td>South Oxfordshire</td><td>5,177</td></tr><tr><td>West Oxfordshire</td><td>4,868</td></tr></table>	South East	4,477	Cherwell	4,732	Oxford	4,014	South Oxfordshire	5,177	West Oxfordshire	4,868	Decrease	↑ 5,239 in 2005	-		DECC
South East	4,477																
Cherwell	4,732																
Oxford	4,014																
South Oxfordshire	5,177																
West Oxfordshire	4,868																
% of energy consumption from renewable sources	2011: 11.5%	2011: <table><tr><td>UK</td><td>3.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Thames Valley</td><td>4.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Oxford</td><td>0.8%</td></tr></table>	UK	3.3%	Thames Valley	4.1%	Oxford	0.8%	15% by 2020	No previous comparable data available	+	This is likely to improve ithout the LDF as new developments are required to include a proportion of onsite renewable energy	TV Energy				
UK	3.3%																
Thames Valley	4.1%																
Oxford	0.8%																

Indicator	Vale data	Comparators			Target	Trend	Indicator status	Likely future without the LDF	Source data
		South Oxfordshire	1.5%					production	
		West Oxfordshire	2.3%						
Percentage recycling rate	April – July 2011: 69.01	South April – July 2011 70.14% England (2009/10): 39.7%			69%	No previous comparable data available due to recent change in service	+	This is not affected by the LDF.	Waste team