

# Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan

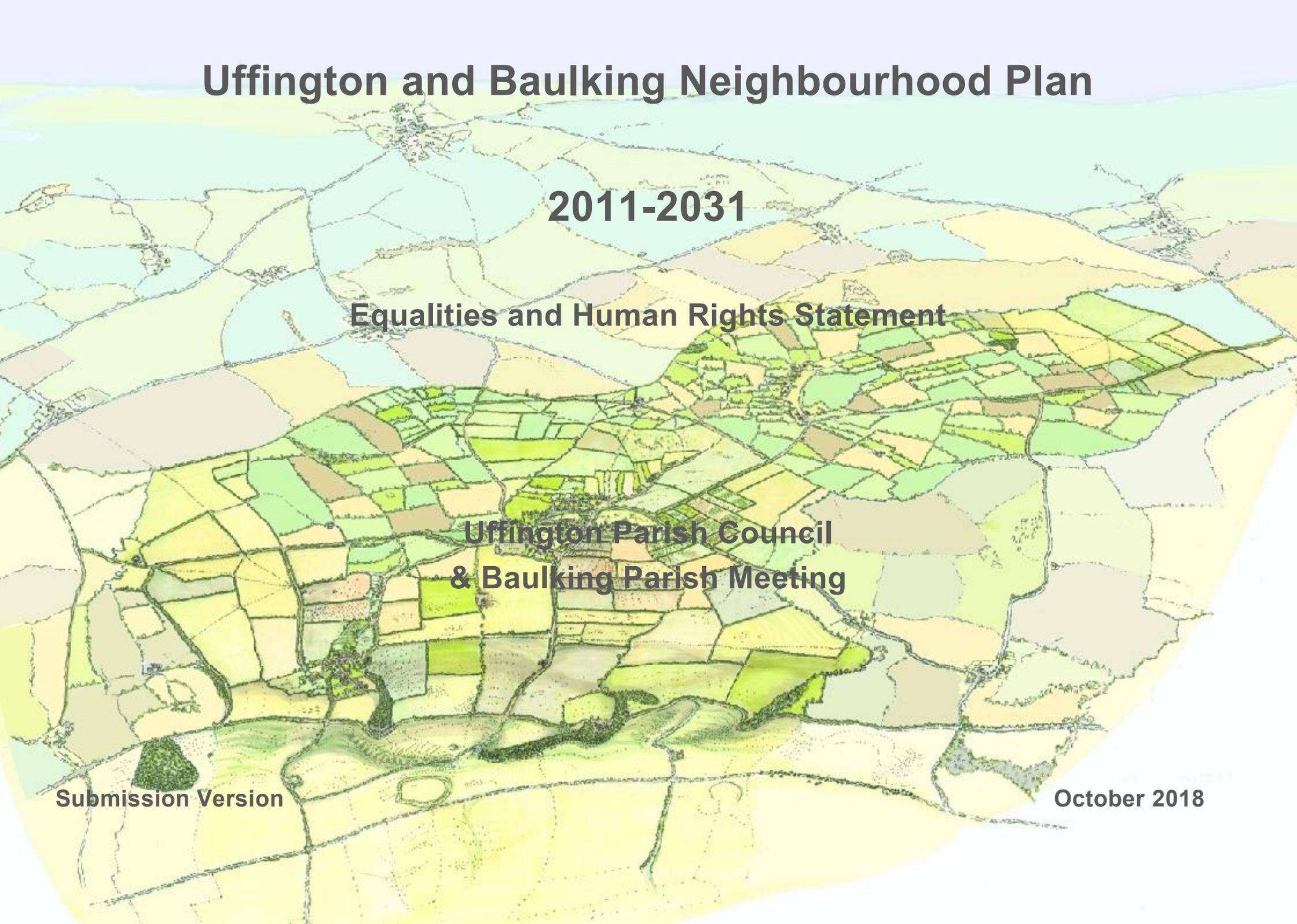
**2011-2031**

**Equalities and Human Rights Statement**

**Uffington Parish Council  
& Baulking Parish Meeting**

**Submission Version**

**October 2018**



## Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan

### EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT CHECK

**Outline of the draft policy / strategy being checked:** Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan ('UB NP').

**Why do we need to do this Equality Impact Check?** The UB NP sets out policies for the future development of the Plan Area. When developing these policies, we need to check that they will not create barriers which could prevent access to housing in either parish, or which would be contrary to the Equality and Human Rights policy of Uffington Parish Council, which is applicable to the UB NP Steering Group ('UB NPSG'), as a sub-committee of Uffington Parish Council.

People in Uffington and Baulking may face barriers on account of disability, gender (including transgender, pregnancy and maternity), age, sexual orientation, rural isolation, income, religion/belief, ethnicity and such like.

As well as thinking about how our services will meet the needs of these groups of people, we also need to consider how our draft NP will help us to:

- promote positive relations within our communities
- give everyone a voice
- respect and value everyone
- protect people's human rights

This Equality Impact Check provides the UB NPSG with a framework to help it work through these considerations in relation to the draft NP, ensuring that it is meeting its legal duties with regards to equality and diversity. There is a statutory duty to carry out this assessment and it will contribute towards our intention to optimise access to housing.

**What are the aims and objectives of this Neighbourhood Plan?** Uffington and Baulking Neighbourhood Plan ('UB NP'), when adopted, will set down policies for development in the parishes of Uffington and Baulking in the period to 2031. The UB NP will be consistent with VWHDC Local Plan 2031.

**1. Who is the proposed NP designed to support / help / serve?** The proposed NP is designed to serve the existing and future development needs of the local community, which includes residents in Uffington and Baulking. Therefore, the proposed NP is designed to support current and future residents of both parishes.

**2. If the draft NP relates to an existing policy of Uffington Parish Council has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) already been completed on it?**

No

**3. Does the draft NP have the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against certain groups in the community?**

Equality group	Yes	No	If 'No,' What existing evidence (presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? E.g. Will the NP advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic? This means will it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics?</li> <li>Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people?</li> </ul> <p>If 'yes', please explain how the NP could cause a negative impact or discriminate. If you cannot justify this you will need to take mitigating action, complete the action plan at the end of this assessment. (Not applicable).</p>
People from ethnic minority groups		No	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against people from ethnic minority groups. It provides a development plan intended for all, and the impact will therefore be neutral.
Men or women ( <i>including pregnant women, women on maternity and transgender people</i> )		No	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against men or women. The consultation process was open to all residents, including parents of young children, who have therefore had the opportunity to comment.
Gay, lesbian or bisexual people		No	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact or

			discriminate against gay, lesbian or bisexual people. A person's sexuality does not affect the siting or design of a building. Owners/occupiers of the buildings (e.g., landlords) would have to comply with the Equality Act in terms of the use of buildings.
People living in rural areas		<b>No</b>	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against people living in rural areas, as it is designed / drafted for the two rural parishes of the Plan Area. We believe that we are providing supporting / encouraging policies to meeting the housing needs of the local rural population.
People with disabilities ( <i>including carers</i> )		<b>No</b>	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact or discriminate against people with disabilities. The NP provides for a development framework rather than a plan allocating future development sites. The NP requires that development follow the design approach set out in the Vale's Design Guide (March, 2015). The Design Guide includes a number of policies that support access for people with disabilities, such as:  <b>DG38: Inclusive Design for streets and public spaces:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable everyone to participate equally, confidently and independently in everyday activities irrespective of a person's mobility, age, gender or ethnicity;</li> <li>• Meet the needs of wheelchair users, mobility impaired people and people with pushchairs;</li> <li>• Provide sensory richness;</li> <li>• Are convenient, safe and easy to use for all people without having to experience undue effort, or barriers to access or separation;</li> <li>• Ensure that street furniture, signage, lighting and visual and textural contrast in the paving materials are carefully designed and reflect the needs of all potential users; provide sufficient levels of accessibility for all potential users in terms of accessible parking, pavement space and access to public transport; and</li> <li>• The principles of inclusive design should be incorporated from the outset, rather than at the end of the design process as an afterthought. Inclusive design principles will need to be clearly set out in applicants' Design and Access Statements.</li> </ul> <b>DG43 Public realm materials.</b> This includes that all surfacing and crossing facilities should take into account partially-sighted people and/or those with impaired mobility.

			<p><b>DG65: Inclusive communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New residential developments should address the needs of people with disabilities by complying with Building Regulations</li> <li>• Design buildings to maximise the potential for lifetime use</li> <li>• Wheelchair accessible homes should be designed in accordance with recognised guidance such as Wheelchair Housing Design Guide (Habinteg, 2006).</li> </ul> <p>The UB NP will emphasise that the above requirements should be included when a planning application is considered, in accordance with the Vale's Design Guide (March 2015).</p>
People from different religions/beliefs <i>(including people without a religion/belief)</i>		<b>No</b>	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact against people from differing religions/beliefs. The development of policies for the siting of new dwellings in the two parishes in the Plan Area does not need to take account of religions or beliefs.
Older or younger people		<b>No</b>	We do not believe the draft NP has the potential to cause a negative impact for older or younger people. The SG's Housing Needs Assessment recommends that the 19 additional dwellings required during the plan period should comprise 1-2 bed and 3-4 bed semi-detached and bungalow homes for young couples, families and elderly. The draft NP will require that developers of any site larger than 5 dwellings should comply with this need.
Local Voluntary, Community and Faith sector organisations		<b>No</b>	<i>If your draft NP does not relate to the VCF sector, please state that here.</i> The impact on the faith sector has been considered above. As far as we are aware, there are no further Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) facilities in the Plan Area, and no feedback received through the public consultation has indicated otherwise.

**4. Have reasonable adjustments been made for people with disabilities to ensure they can use the draft strategy or policy? (This might mean treating disabled people better than non-disabled people in order to meet their needs).**

**Yes** - please provide detail:

See information included in the table above which demonstrates how the NP will meet the needs of people with disabilities due to the principles in the Vale Design Guide under-pinning it.

**5. Have there been any equality related recommendations in the area that your draft policy/strategy is covering which have arisen from, for example, internal/external audits or scrutiny reports?**

Recommendation made	Is this being addressed in your draft NP? If not, please explain why.
No	N/A

**6. Will the draft NP help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it? E.g. will the changes help to tackle prejudice and promote understanding between the different groups?**

No *(If you feel there is scope to improve how you foster good relations, amend your decision accordingly)*

**Yes** – please explain how

As referred to earlier, feedback from consultation on this draft NP has not raised any concerns about relationships between any groups within the Plan Area.

**7. Will the draft NP protect and promote human rights?**

**Yes**

The following Human Rights are relevant to the draft NP:

- Article 8. Right to respect for a private and family life. ‘Everyone has the right to enjoy living in their home without public authorities intruding or preventing them from entering it or living in it. People also have the right to enjoy their homes peacefully’
- Uffington Parish Council / Baulking Parish Meeting will ensure that whilst any development is taking place residents of houses in that area are not prevented from accessing their property, and that every care is taken to ensure impact due to noise and dust is minimised.
- Article 14 Prohibition of discrimination - Article 14 only works to protect people from different treatment in exercising their other Convention rights. Therefore comes into effect with article 8 above.

**8. Has there been consultation with relevant community groups to help inform this draft NP?**

**Yes**

The NPSG has engaged with Uffington Parish Council, Baulking Parish Meeting and residents of the Plan Area on a number of occasions, including with stalls at the ‘What goes on in Uffington’ open day on Saturday 7 October, monthly Farmers Markets and conversations with older

people (via members of the NPSG) at the Afternoon Club. Articles have been placed in the quarterly Courier since early 2015 advising on progress and the UB NPSG website has been kept up to date throughout the period of the NPSG's consultations.

**9. Has the draft NP missed opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and positive attitudes?**

**No**

The NPSG believes that it has taken every opportunity to consult with all residents of the Plan Area in these matters.

**10. Is the draft NP providing spaces for community / voluntary groups and the associated health benefits which come from providing this for all groups?**

**Yes**

The draft NP designates 4 Local Green Spaces within the parish of Uffington and will thereby endorse and reinforce their continuation. They will have benefits for all ages and groups in providing facilities for:

- Recreation, friendship and physical exercise (the open spaces and children's playground of the Jubilee Field and the Parish Allotments)
- Enjoying views of the Uffington Conservation Area and its listed buildings, and views south to White Horse Hill and the Ridgeway, in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ('AONB'). (Puzey's Close and the Lady Walk)
- Enjoying views of an open recreational field, and south to White Horse Hill and the Ridgeway (Jubilee Field)
- Enjoying views of a traditional open, working field, usually holding grazing animals, looking up to White Horse Hill and the Ridgeway, in the AONB. (Field belonging to Mr & Mrs A Parsons).