

**Application to Vale of White Horse District council for the designation of
Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council as the Neighbourhood Area for the
purposes of producing the Ardington & Lockinge Neighbourhood Plan
pursuant to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, s5' 1'**

1. Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council resolved at its Parish Council Meeting on 30/10/2023 to proceed with the production of a Neighbourhood plan and this Application is the preliminary stage in that process. It is submitted that the whole of the two parishes of Ardington and Lockinge is the appropriate area to be designated as the Ardington & Lockinge Neighbourhood Area.
2. Ardington and Lockinge are two adjacent rural parishes with communities formed around two classic “planned” Estate villages built in a uniform style from the second half of the nineteenth century. In 2000, the two parishes were officially grouped into Ardington and Lockinge Parish Council and so it is logical that a single Neighbourhood Plan includes both parishes.
3. The 2,594 hectare area includes the villages of Ardington, East Lockinge, West Lockinge and the two hamlets West Ginge and Ardington Wick, with a total population of around 480 residents and 210 households.
4. About 83% of the land is farmed but the two parishes include important heritage and environmental assets. Three quarters of the area is part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the Ridgeway National Trails crosses both parishes in the south. Most of the villages of Ardington and Lockinge are covered by a Conservation Area.
5. There are 32 Grade II listed buildings and places, and 4 Scheduled Monuments. These are 3 sections of Grim’s Ditch and Yew Down round barrow. Furthermore, the Icknield Way runs across the parishes and Arn Hill is the site of an Anglo-Saxon burial. The Gallops in Lockinge is the site of the annual Lockinge Point-to-Point.
6. Environmental assets include 3 chalk streams, which are an internationally important habitat (85% of the world’s chalk streams are in England), 23 hectares of Ancient Woodland, 368 hectares of other woodland, 2 allotments and a Community garden, a play area and a sports field.
7. Geologically, the parishes span the Chalk downs in the south to the Greensand and Kimmeridge Clay in the Vale in the north. Half the land is Agricultural Land Classification Grade 2 land, which is amongst the best food producing land in the country.
8. Below is a map of the Ardington & Lockinge Neighbourhood area outlined in red.
9. Ardington & Lockinge Parish Council is a relevant (qualifying) body for the submission of this Application pursuant to section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for the Ardington & Lockinge Neighbourhood Area Designation.

