



Sustainability Appraisal for the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

January 2018

Quality information

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of Winkfield's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

It is currently anticipated that the WNP will be submitted to Bracknell Forest Council for review in 2018.

Key information relating to the WNP is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Bracknell Forest Council
Title of Plan	Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The WNP is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the 2008 Core Strategy and the emerging Comprehensive Local Plan.</p> <p>The emerging WNP will be used to guide and shape development within the Winkfield Neighbourhood area.</p>
Timescale	2036
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Winkfield
Summary of content	The WNP will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	<p>Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group</p> <p>Email address: info@winkfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk</p> <p>Phone: 01344 885 110</p>

1.2 Relationship of the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan with the Bracknell Forest Council's Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is the overarching development plan document within the Local Development Framework for the Bracknell Forest Borough, setting out the Council's long term planning framework and vision for the borough up to 2026. A summary of the key vision statements contained within the Core Strategy is provided below¹:

- The Borough will continue to grow sustainably in a planned manner, with new development being directed to sustainable locations and having good access to a range of local facilities, services, housing and employment. New development will be located so as to maximise the opportunity to travel by all modes and to improve relative accessibility for all. New development will be mindful of the character of the area in which it sits and will be designed and located such that it will enhance the quality of life in the Borough;
- There will be a continuation of development both within settlements, where appropriate, and outside settlements through planned longer term expansion;
- New housing will be targeted to meet the needs of local people and will include a mix of tenures, size and types of unit. New communities will be planned to provide the necessary physical infrastructure (e.g. roads, water) as well as the social infrastructure (e.g. schools, libraries, leisure facilities, and health facilities) to support the community;
- The smaller town, village and neighbourhood centres will be maintained and enhanced to play a valuable role in providing local services and reducing the need for local people to travel for their day to day requirements. A 'design-led' approach to new development will provide a safe and attractive living environment; and
- The quality of the environment will continue to improve with the existing high levels of open space and 'greenery' within the settlements maintained and improved. The Green Belt boundary will remain unchanged and areas of important natural and historic interest will be protected, conserved and enhanced. Special attention will be placed on the importance of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area to ensure that its integrity is maintained whilst allowing sustainable development which meets the needs of the Borough to take place.

Bracknell Forest Council is currently preparing the 'Comprehensive Local Plan'² to replace the Core Strategy. Covering the period to 2036, the Comprehensive Local Plan will include a strategy for the level and distribution of development, and will set the long-term spatial vision for the borough. Once adopted, it will replace all of the saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) and the current Core Strategy (2008). The Comprehensive Local Plan Issues and Options consultation ran during summer 2016. Following this consultation, a Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment was published in late 2016 including a high level assessment of the development potential of sites for housing and other uses. Until the time that the Comprehensive Local Plan is adopted, the existing Core Strategy (2008) will remain in place as the overarching development plan document for the Bracknell Forest borough, and is supported by the Site Allocations Local Plan (2013)³.

Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the borough alongside, but not as a replacement for the Core Strategy and eventually, the Comprehensive Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the

¹ Bracknell Forest Council (2008): 'Core Strategy Development Plan Document', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/development-plan/core-strategy>> last accessed [09/07/17]

² Bracknell Forest Council (2017): 'Comprehensive Local Plan: Background', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/comprehensive-local-plan/background%E2%80%8B>> last accessed [09/07/17]

³ Bracknell Forest Council (2013): 'Site Allocations Local Plan', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/development-plan/site-allocations-local-plan>> last accessed [02/01/17]

Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in the Bracknell Forest borough, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process. It is expected that the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan will seek to allocate sites for development.

1.3 Vision for the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan

Winkfield Parish Council has chosen to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan in order to guide and shape development in the parish over the forthcoming years. The key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows⁴:

- To identify the functional relationship between the more urbanised area to the south of the Parish with the countryside and green belt areas of the 'northern villages';
- To define the essential character of each settlement and the important local gaps between them to maintain separation;
- To conserve the character of each green belt village and protect from development that would harm its essential open character;
- To identify opportunities for small scale housing development to secure a wider range of types and tenures of new homes to serve local needs (young and downsizers);
- To establish key design principles so development assimilates well with the existing character and road and services infrastructure;
- To define a green infrastructure network throughout the Parish and the role of development in improving the network (e.g. habitats, footpaths, public spaces, allotments);
- To improve the availability and viability of local shops and services;
- To plan for the realities of car ownership but minimise the stress on local roads and public service infrastructure; and
- To identify pressures on local infrastructure and identify where development may place additional pressures which could be mitigated.

1.4 SA explained

The WNP has been screened in by Bracknell Forest Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a process - prescribed by legislation⁵ - that involves considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts.

For the WNP, the decision has been made to progress an SA, rather than an SEA. Procedurally SA and SEA are one and the same. SA and SEA differ only in terms of substantive focus. SA has an equal focus on all three 'pillars' of sustainable development (environment, social and economic), whilst SEA involves a degree of focus on the environmental pillar. SA can therefore be said to 'incorporate' SEA.

Two key procedural requirements are that:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be a focus of SA there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities; and
2. A report (the 'SA Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e. the draft WNP) that presents outcomes from SA work completed.

⁴ Winkfield Parish Council (2016): 'Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan: Framework and Visioning Workshop Note', [online] available to download via: <<http://winkfieldnp.org/>> last accessed [09/07/17]

⁵ Any given SEA process must be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

This scoping report

This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with item 1 above, and presents a suggested scope for the SA so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

The Scoping Report was submitted for consultation in October 2017, and has subsequently been updated to reflect the comments from the designated authorities. This document is therefore the final updated report following the consultation.

1.5 SA 'scoping' explained

Developing the draft scope for the SA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:

1. Defining the broader context for the WNP and associated SA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and policy landscape;
2. Establishing the baseline for the SA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the WNP, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects;
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SA; and
4. Developing an SA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan and alternatives.

1.6 Consultation on this report

At the scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies - the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. As such, the statutory consultation bodies were invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in October 2017.

Subsequently the report was updated to reflect the comments received.

1.7 Structure of this report

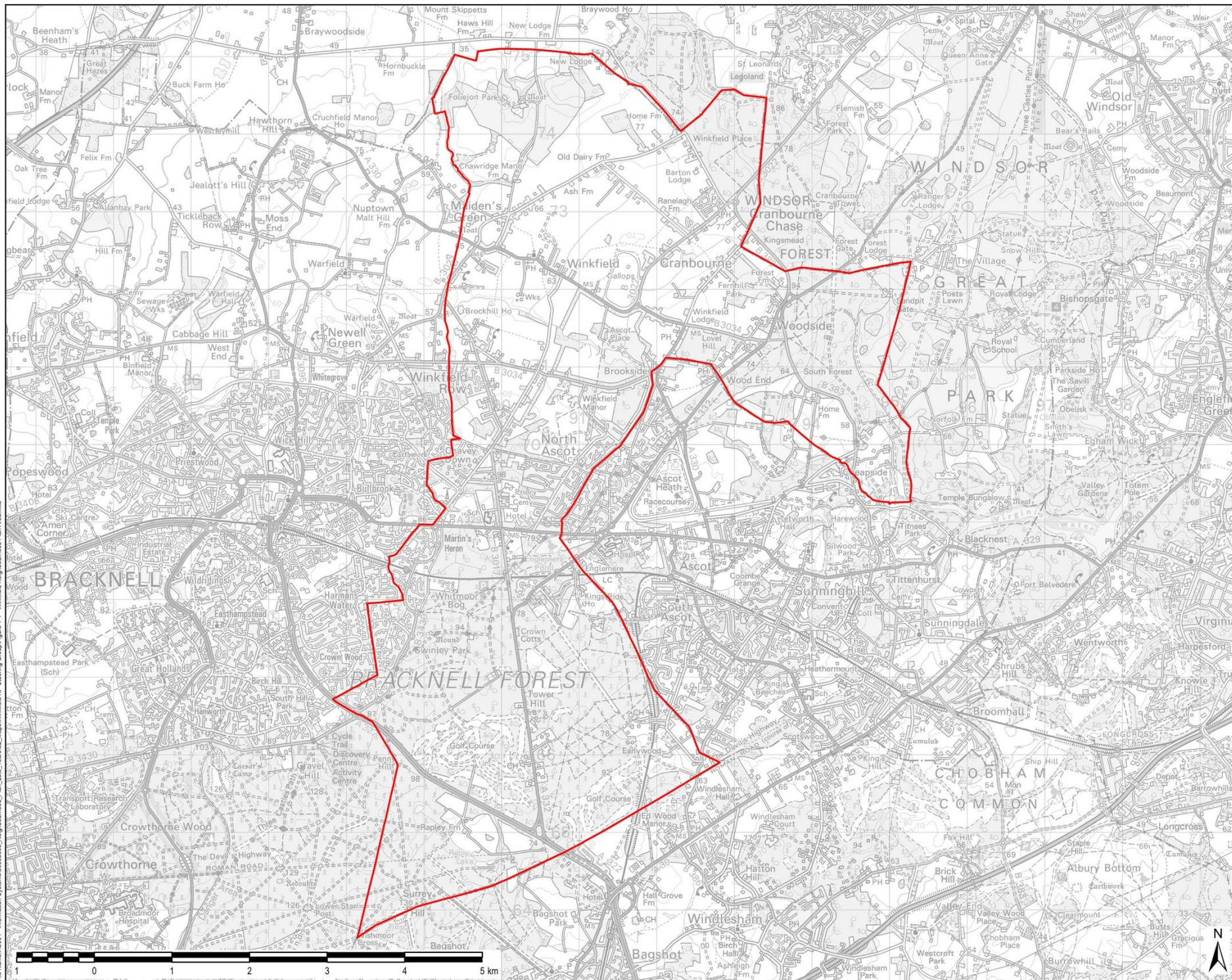
The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1–4 above have been presented under a series of key sustainability themes, as follows:

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Climatic Factors (including flood risk)
- Employment
- Landscape and Historic Environment
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Community
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transportation

The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive⁶. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. The suggested scope presented under eight themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the SA, i.e. appraisal of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives.

⁶ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus 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' [our emphasis]



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LEGEND

Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue
FINAL

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE WINKFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
WINKFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Date
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2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme:

- Air pollution sources
- Air quality hotspots
- Air quality management

2.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Although there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the 'Area 1 – Bagshot Road A322 Horse and Groom Roundabout Downshire Way AQMA' is located directly adjacent to the western boundary, designated for monitored breaches in the annual-mean NO₂ National Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m³.
- Future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along key routes, particularly the A322/329 corridor into Bracknell, which is located within the AQMA.
- Based on the 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report for Bracknell Forest, all diffusion tubes within the Area 1 AQMA recorded a decrease in the annual mean NO₂ concentrations in 2015, compared with 2014. Nevertheless, four diffusion tube sites within the AQMA continue to exceed the annual air quality objective.
- Successful implementation of the borough-wide sustainable transport policies within the 2014 Air Quality Action Plan and the current Local Transport Plan have the potential to continually improve air quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

2.2 Policy Context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

In terms of the local context, Bracknell Forest Council is required to monitor air quality across the county under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in these areas.

2.3 Baseline Summary

2.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Borough-wide Bracknell Forest Council is required to monitor air quality across the authority area under Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in these areas. As of July 2017, there are no

AQMAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area. There is one AQMA located directly adjacent to the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, covering a section of the A 322 road:

- Name: 'Area 1 – The Bagshot Road A 322 Horse and Groom Roundabout Downshire Way' AQMA; Designated in February 2011 for exceedances of NO₂

The most recent AQAP for Bracknell Forest was implemented in 2014, and primarily focuses on reducing NO₂ concentrations in the two declared AQMAs within the borough. However, it recognises that borough wide improvements can also have a positive effect upon air quality within these AQMAs. As the AQAP is largely focussed on transport, the majority of the delivery plan has been integrated with the existing Local Transport Plan. This has led to a set of transport policies of which set a statement of intent in terms of achieving better air quality in the future (further discussed in Chapter 9 of this Scoping Report).

The 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report⁷ for Bracknell Forest states that all diffusion tubes within the Area 1 AQMA recorded a decrease in the annual mean NO₂ concentrations in 2015, compared with 2014. Nevertheless, four diffusion tube sites within the AQMA continue to exceed the annual air quality objective.

2.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist within the Neighbourhood Plan area, new employment and or housing provision within the Neighbourhood Plan has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as NO₂, particularly along the main routes through the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Implementation of the objectives contained within the AQAP for the AQMAs in the wider borough, along with the policies in the Local Transport Plan (discussed in Chapter 9), present opportunities to continue to improve air quality within both the Neighbourhood Plan area and Bracknell Forest.

2.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the air quality SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment questions
Prevent, reduce and/or mitigate against all sources of environmental pollution in order to continually improve air quality in the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a reduction of the emissions from transport? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? and • Implement measures (such as appropriate planting and provision of green infrastructure) which will help support air quality in the Neighbourhood Plan area?

⁷ Bracknell Forest Council (2016): 'Air Quality Annual Status Report', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/business-information/environmental-health/pollution/air-quality>> last accessed [06/07/17]

3. Biodiversity

Focus of Theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

3.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- There are two European designated sites located partly within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located wholly or partly within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI, Chawridge Bourne SSSI, Englemere Pond SSSI, Swinley Park and Brick Pits SSSI and Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI.
- The whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area is within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for one or more of the SSSIs located within the boundary.
- A variety of species and habitats located in the annexes of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) are recognised as the qualifying features for the European and nationally designated sites which are partly located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- In addition to their national designation as a SSSI, Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths, along with Chawridge Bourne are both recognised as Local Wildlife Sites. Additionally, Englemere Pond is also recognised as a Local Nature Reserve.
- There is a diverse network of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary, many of which are located within the European and nationally designated sites.

3.2 Policy Context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁸ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS)⁹. Although the IPENS project closed in 2015, a number of policies contained within them might extend until 2020. There are two SIPs in place for the designated Natura 2000 sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Thames Basin SIP¹⁰ was implemented in March 2014 and outlines a variety of actions to help combat the eleven pressures and/or threats identified as having a negative impact on the features in the Thames

⁸ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/EP_resolution_april2012.pdf> last accessed [30/06/17]

⁹ Natural England & Environment Agency (2012): Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS) [online] available at: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improvement-programme-for-englands-natura-2000-sites-ipens>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹⁰ Natural England (2014): 'Site Improvement Plan: Thames Basin', [online] available to download via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6249258780983296?category=6149691318206464>> last accessed [04/07/17]

Basin Heath SPA. The Windsor Forest and Great Park SIP¹¹ was implemented in November 2014 and outlines a variety of actions to help combat the five pressures and/or threats identified as having a negative impact on the features in the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)¹² sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

- Halt biodiversity loss, support functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks by 2020;
- Establish a new voluntary approach to biodiversity offsetting to be tested in pilot areas;
- Enable partnerships of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations to establish new Nature Improvement Areas; and
- Address barriers to using green infrastructure to promote sustainable growth.

Reflecting the commitments within the Natural Environment White Paper and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' aims to *'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'*¹³.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Biodiversity' SA theme:

- Policy CS1: Sustainable Development Principles;

¹¹ Natural England (2014): 'Site Improvement Plan: Windsor Forest and Great Park', [online] available at: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6221375450644480?category=6149691318206464>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹² Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>> last accessed [30/06/17]

¹³ DEFRA (2011): 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', [online] Available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>> last accessed [03/07/17]

- Policy CS7: Design; and
- Policy CS14: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

3.3 Baseline Summary

3.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

European Designated Sites

Thames Basin Heaths SPA

Special Protection Areas (SPA)¹⁴ are protected sites designated under the European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), due to the presence of rare and vulnerable birds (as listed in the Annexes of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species. Approximately 15% of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA is located within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, occupying the south western corner (to the south of the A322). Designated in March 2005, the site shares an overlapping boundary with the nationally designated Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI (described later in this report), and covers approximately 8,275 ha. The following Annex I listed breeding birds are recognised as the qualifying features for its designation, with the 'Thames Basin Heaths SPA Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice'¹⁵ document detailing how to best maintain and/or restore the functions and supporting processes associated with these species and their supporting habitats:

- Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*);
- Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*); and
- Dartford warbler (*Sylvia undata*).

Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)¹⁶ are protected sites designated under the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and represent the most important high-quality conservation sites making a significant contribution to conserving and protecting the habitat types and species listed in the Annexes of the Directive. The Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC was designated in April 2005, with the following habitats and species recognised as the qualifying features for its designation¹⁷:

Annex I Habitats:

- Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrub layer (*Quercion robur-petraeae* or *Illici-Fagenion*). (Beech forests on acid soils); and
- Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains. (Dry oak-dominated woodland).

Annex I Species:

- Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*)

Located towards the eastern boundary, near to Cranbourne, approximately 20% of the SAC is within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The following European Site Conservation Objectives are in place for the Windsor Forest and Great Park SPA, seeking to maintain and/or restore¹⁸:

¹⁴ JNCC (2017): 'Special Protection Areas' [online] available at: <<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹⁵ Natural England (2016): 'Thames Basin Heaths SPA Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice', [online] available via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4952859267301376?category=6528471664689152>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹⁶ JNCC (2017): 'Special Areas of Conservation', [online] available at: <<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-23>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹⁷ JNCC (no date): 'Windsor Forest and Great Park', [online] available at: <<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?euocode=UK0012586>> last accessed [04/07/17]

¹⁸ Natural England (2014): 'European Site Conservation Objectives for Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC', [online] available at: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5175000009015296?category=6528471664689152>> last accessed [04/07/17]

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Nationally Designated Sites

Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI

Approximately 15% of the Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI is located within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, occupying the south western corner. As mentioned above, the site shares an overlapping boundary with the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, and is also designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The SSSI is approximately 1696 ha and was notified in October 2010. The citation for the SSSI states the following¹⁹:

"The site has an extensive mosaic of broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, dry and wet heathland, valley mire, a series of base-poor ponds and a scarce breeding invertebrate assemblage. In particular, the heathland and coniferous plantation supports international important populations of woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler, and have a nationally important dragonfly and damselfly population. The site includes the valley bogs of Broadmoor Bottom and Wishmoor Bottom which form the most important remaining examples of this type of habitat in the area"

Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken between 2009 and 2017, 65.61% of the SSSI is classified as 'favourable', with the remaining 34.39% classified as 'unfavourable-recovering'. As of January 2nd 2018, 70.22% is classified as 'favourable', 29.23% is classified as 'unfavourable – recovering' and 0.55% is classified as 'unfavourable – no change'²⁰. This indicates that the overall condition of the SSSI is improving.

Chawridge Bourne SSSI

Located at the north western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the Chawridge Bourne SSSI was notified by Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in April 1984 and covers approximately 9.3 ha. The citation statement for the SSSI states the following²¹:

"An area of unimproved grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland containing species of plants local or rare in east Berkshire".

Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2012, 64.86% of the SSSI is classified as 'favourable', with the remaining 35.14% classified as 'unfavourable-recovering'.

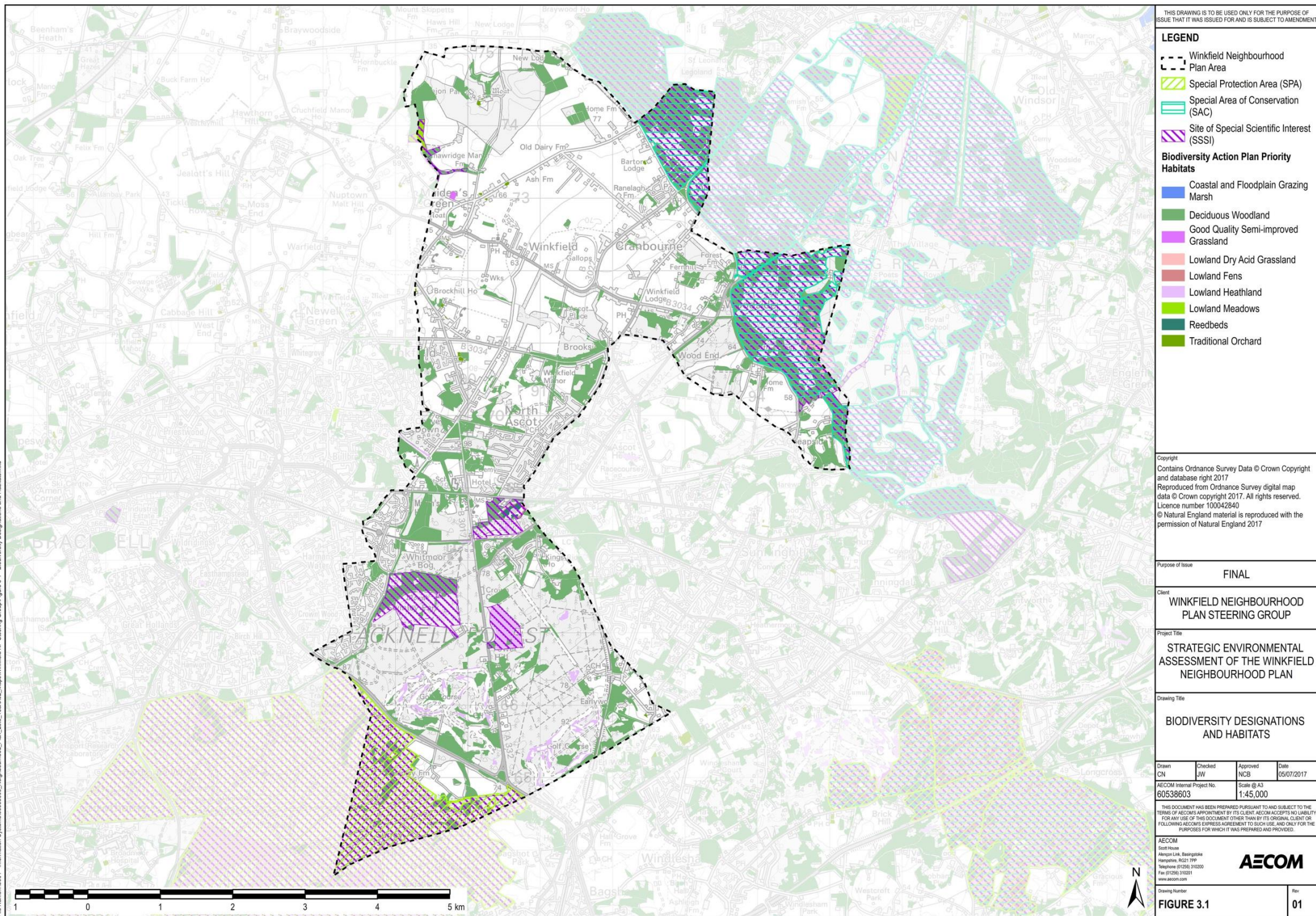
Chawridge Bourne SSSI is also designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS)²², with their objective to creating a better connected landscape of wildlife buffers, corridors and stepping stones so that the countryside is more resilient to the pressures of modern living and climate change. The sites are seen as integral in meeting both local and national targets for biodiversity conservation.

¹⁹ Natural England (no date): 'Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI', [online] available via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004223> last accessed [04/07/17]

²⁰ Natural England (2018): 'Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI' [online] available access via: [https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportConditionSummary.aspx?SiteCode=S1004223&ReportTitle=Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI](https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportConditionSummary.aspx?SiteCode=S1004223&ReportTitle=Broadmoor%20to%20Bagshot%20Woods%20and%20Heaths%20SSSI) last accessed [02/01/18]

²¹ Natural England (no date): 'Chawridge Bourne SSSI', [online] available via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003891> last accessed [04/07/17]

²² The Wildlife Trusts (no date): 'Local Wildlife Sites', [online] available via: <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/localwildlifesites> last accessed [04/07/17]



Englemere Pond SSSI

Located directly south of North Ascot and at the northern boundary of Bracknell Forest, Englemere Pond SSSI was notified in November 1983 and covers approximately 26.1 ha. The SSS is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which recognises Englemere Pond²³ as a habitat of local importance. 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.

The citation for the SSSI states the following²⁴:

"A large pond surrounded by a wide fringe of reedswamp dominated by common reed. Away from the open water the reedswamp goes into an interesting plant community typical of base-poor conditions. The transition from open water through base-poor wetland to dry ground is an exceptionally good example of this type of habitat which is relatively scarce in the lowlands"

Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2012, 100% of the SSSI is classified as 'unfavourable-recovering'.

Swinley Park and Brick Pits SSSI

Located within the boundary of Bracknell Forest, the Swinley Park and Brick Pits SSSI was notified in November 1983 and covers approximately 89 ha. The citation for the SSSI states the following²⁵:

"Part of the Crown Estate forest, including, in Swinley Park, the most important concentration of ancient broadleaved trees remaining in the southern sector of Windsor Forest. Most of the area consists of conifer plantation with patches of broadleaves, but scattered throughout are a number of ancient oaks, beech and sweet chestnut, notable along the edges of the forest. Some of the oaks are pollards of great age, and although partially shaded by conifers, the decaying hulks of these ultra-mature trees proved habitats now rare in woodland"

"The site also includes Swinley Brick Pits, an area of old clay pits now much overgrown by birch, pine and rhododendron and including a number of small ponds providing ideal habitat for several species of dragonflies, and secluded cover for waterfowl, as well as breeding sites for newts"

Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2011 and 2017, 100% of the SSSI is classified as 'favourable'.

Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI

Approximately 20% of the Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI is within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, located at the eastern boundary near to Cranbourne. The SSSI is approximately 1779 ha, and was notified in August 2000. The citation for the SSSI states the following²⁶:

"Windsor Forest and Great Park forms part of the largest continuous tract of woodland and parkland in Berkshire. The site provides habitat for a range of rare species of invertebrate which include the internationally important violet click beetle and stag beetle. A range of habitats are represented, from coniferous and mixed plantations through to mature and over-mature broadleaved woodland, wood pasture and parkland"

Based on the most recent condition assessments undertaken in 2012 and 2013, 51.84% of the SSSI is classified as 'favourable', with the remaining 48.16% classified as 'unfavourable-recovering'.

²³ Natural England (2013): 'Local Nature Reserve: Englemere Pond', [online] available via:

<http://www.lnr.naturalengland.org.uk/special/lnr/lnr_details.asp?themeid=1008886> last accessed [04/04/17]

²⁴ Natural England (no date): 'Englemere Pond SSSI', [online] available at:

<<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003051>> last accessed [04/07/17]

²⁵ Natural England (no date): 'Swinley Park and Brick Pits SSSI', [online] available via:

<<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004040>> last accessed [04/07/17]

²⁶ Natural England (no date): 'Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI', [online] available via:

<<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004110>> last accessed [04/07/17]

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ)

SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location, including residential, rural-residential and rural non-residential. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within an IRZ, and therefore the Local Planning Authority may need to consult Natural England regarding any planning proposals likely to cause risks to any notified features.

Biodiversity Action Plan habitats

There are a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)²⁷ habitats located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the majority of these encompassed in the boundaries of the SAC, SPA and SSSIs, previously discussed. These include:

- Deciduous woodland;
- Good quality semi-improved grassland;
- Lowland dry acid grassland;
- Lowland meadows;
- Lowland heathland;
- Lowland fens; and
- Reedbeds;

Additionally, there are patches of ancient and semi-natural woodland located within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including Bagshot Wood in the southern section, Round Copse, Weycroft Copse and Nobbscrook Copse in the northern section, and part of Windsor Forest located in the north eastern section. The ancient and semi-natural woodland is likely to contain veteran trees which potentially provide a suitable habitat for protected species.

The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan²⁸ (2012-2017) continually aims to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the area through comprehensive monitoring, implementing proactive policies, positive management and effective communication to help encourage partnerships and inform decisions.

Figure 3.1 (overleaf) shows the designated biodiversity sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

3.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressures from housing and infrastructure development in the Neighbourhood Plan area, including nationally and locally designated sites. This includes a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.

The European protected sites are particularly sensitive to air quality issues and recreational pressures. In regards to air quality, exceeding critical values for air pollutants may result in changes to the chemical status of habitat substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering vegetation structure and composition and thereby affecting the quality and availability of nesting, feeding or roosting habitats. Additionally, the nature, scale, timing and duration of some human activities can

²⁷ MAGIC (2017): 'Interactive Map – Habitats and Species' [online database] available to access via: <<http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>> last accessed [04/04/17]

²⁸ Bracknell Forest Council (2017): 'Wildlife: Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan 2012 to 2017', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/wildlife/biodiversity-action-plan>> last accessed [05/07/17]

result in the disturbance of birds (i.e. – the notifying features of the European protected sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area) at a level that may substantially affect their behaviour, and consequently affect the long-term viability of their populations.

Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within decision making, including a number of policies within the 2008 Core Strategy, the development of 'Suitable Accessible Natural Green Spaces' (SANGS) within the Thames Basin Heaths Planning Zone, and through the management objectives listed in the Site Improvement Plans for the European protected sites.

3.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Biodiversity SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the European designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC)? • Support the status of the nationally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including the Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths SSSI, Chawridge Bourne SSSI, Englemere Pond SSSI, Swinley Park and Brick Pits SSSI and Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI? • Support the status of the locally designated sites of significance within and/or adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, including the Broadmoor to Bagshot Woods and Heaths LWS, Chawridge Bourne LWS and Englemere Pond LNR? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

4. Climate Change

Focus of Theme:

- Contribution to climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Climate change adaptation
- Flood risk

4.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The main risks from fluvial flooding and surface water drainage flooding are within the north-western and south-western parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, on land adjacent to 'The Cut' river and one of its tributaries 'Blackmoor Stream'.
- Based on the most recent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and also highlighted within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), Bracknell Forest borough is assessed as being at low risk from flooding events. Where flooding has been experienced in the past, it has been of short duration in relation to intense rainfall.
- Surface Water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with sections of medium-high risk in the north western and south western sections.
- Bracknell Forest has recorded consistently lower greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions total per capita in comparison to the regional and national averages.

4.2 Policy Context

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report to achieve the following:

- *'Based on the latest understanding of current, and future, climate risks and opportunities, vulnerability and adaptation, what should the priorities be for the next UK National Adaptation Programme?'²⁹*

The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action in the next five years, see below:

1. Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
2. Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
3. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
4. Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
5. Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
6. New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals

²⁹ GOV UK: 'UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report January 2017', [online] available to download from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017> last accessed [05/07/17]

The UK Climate Change Act³⁰ was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also highlighted the role it would take in contributing to collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and more recently as part of the UN-led Paris Agreement.

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- 2050 Target. The Act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.
- Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The carbon budgets are designed to reflect the cost-effective path to achieving the UK's long-term objectives. The first five carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run to 2032.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- The National Adaptation Programme requires the Government to assess the risks to the UK from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage key organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the UK adaptation policy page³¹.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008³². Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
 - Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
 - Encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in GHG emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act³³ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);

³⁰ GOV.UK (2008): 'Climate Change Act 2008', [online] accessible via <<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>> last accessed [05/07/17]

³¹ Committee on Climate Change (2017): 'UK Adaptation Policy' [online] accessible via <<https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>> last accessed [05/07/17]

³² The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

³³ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)³⁴

Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDS'.³⁵ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

At the local level, Bracknell Forest Council's most recent 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)³⁶ 2017-2020' seeks to clarify how organisations will work together and establish objectives for areas of the borough at risk from localised flooding, in addition to raising awareness of local flood risk issues. A pragmatic approach has been formulated to reduce the current flood risk, with the following three options and overarching principles considered for flood risk management:

- Maintain: Ensure existing water networks are maintained to minimise flood risk. Maintain so as not to worsen the situation;
- Improve: Assess and improve the existing flood risk situation within the Borough. Seek to better understand the flood risk and drainage characteristics of the Borough; and
- Prevent: Work towards preventing and mitigating future flood risk within the Borough. Ensure that there is no net increase in flood risk by considering the impact of new development, land use changes and climate changes.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Climate Change' SA theme:

- Policy CS1: Sustainable Development Principles;
- Policy CS10: Renewable Energy Generation;
- Policy CS11: Renewable Energy;
- Policy CS12: Sustainable Resources; and
- Policy CS13: Sustainable Waste Management

4.3 Baseline Summary

4.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Contribution to Climate Change

In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change suggests that the borough of Bracknell Forest has had consistently lower per capita emissions total than that of both the South East of England and England as a whole since 2005 (see Table 4.1). The Bracknell Forest District has also seen a 20.9% reduction in the percentage of total emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012, higher than the reductions for the South East (15.9%) and England (16.7%).

³⁴ N.B. The provision of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

³⁵ CIRIA (2010) 'Planning for SuDS – making it happen' [online] available to access via <http://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Planning_for_SuDS_ma.aspx> last accessed [05/07/17]

³⁶ Bracknell Forest Council (2017): 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/crime-and-emergencies/flooding/flood-risk-management>> last accessed [09/07/17]

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012³⁷

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Bracknell Forest:				
2005	2.8	2.4	1.5	6.7
2006	2.8	2.4	1.4	6.7
2007	2.8	2.3	1.4	6.5
2008	2.7	2.3	1.3	6.3
2009	2.2	2.1	1.3	5.6
2010	2.2	2.2	1.3	5.6
2011	1.9	1.9	1.2	5.1
2012	2.0	2.1	1.2	5.3
South East				
2005	2.5	2.6	1.8	6.9
2006	2.5	2.6	1.8	6.9
2007	2.4	2.5	1.8	6.7
2008	2.4	2.4	1.7	6.5
2009	2.1	2.2	1.6	5.9
2010	2.2	2.3	1.6	6.1
2011	2.0	2.0	1.5	5.6
2012	2.1	2.2	1.5	5.8
England				
2005	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2006	3.0	2.5	1.7	7.2
2007	2.8	2.4	1.7	6.9
2008	2.7	2.4	1.6	6.7
2009	2.4	2.2	1.5	6.1
2010	2.5	2.3	1.5	6.3
2011	2.3	2.0	1.5	5.7
2012	2.4	2.2	1.4	6.0

³⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions, UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: subset dataset (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> 2005 to 2012 accessed on [05/07/17]

Potential effects of climate change

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team³⁸. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East of England by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario³⁹ are likely to be as follows:

- The central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8°C; and
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 16% and summer mean precipitation is –19%.

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area. These include:

- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

³⁸ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [04/02/17]

³⁹ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>> last accessed [28/03/17]

Flood Risk



Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area⁴⁰

As shown in Figure 4.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan area, there are three distinct areas of land located within Flood Zone 2, classified as having a 0.1-1% chance (1 in 1000 to 1 in 100 chance) of being affected by fluvial flooding in any given year. This includes:

- Land to the south of Martins Heron Railway Station, at the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including a section of the eastern boundary of Bracknell, directly next to the 'New Forest Ride' road and Savernake Pond;
- Land within the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, surrounding 'The Cut' river which flows east-west; and
- Land within the north-eastern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, surrounding 'Blackmoor Stream', a tributary of 'The Cut' river.

⁴⁰ GOV UK (2017): 'Long term flood risk assessment for locations in England', [online] available to access from: <<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/>> last accessed [06/07/17]

Undertaken in August 2010, the Bracknell Forest Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)⁴¹ concluded that Bracknell Forest has a relatively low level of fluvial flood risk. This conclusion reflects that the main river 'The Cut', in the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area has a reasonably narrow floodplain and the river itself predominantly avoids built-up areas.

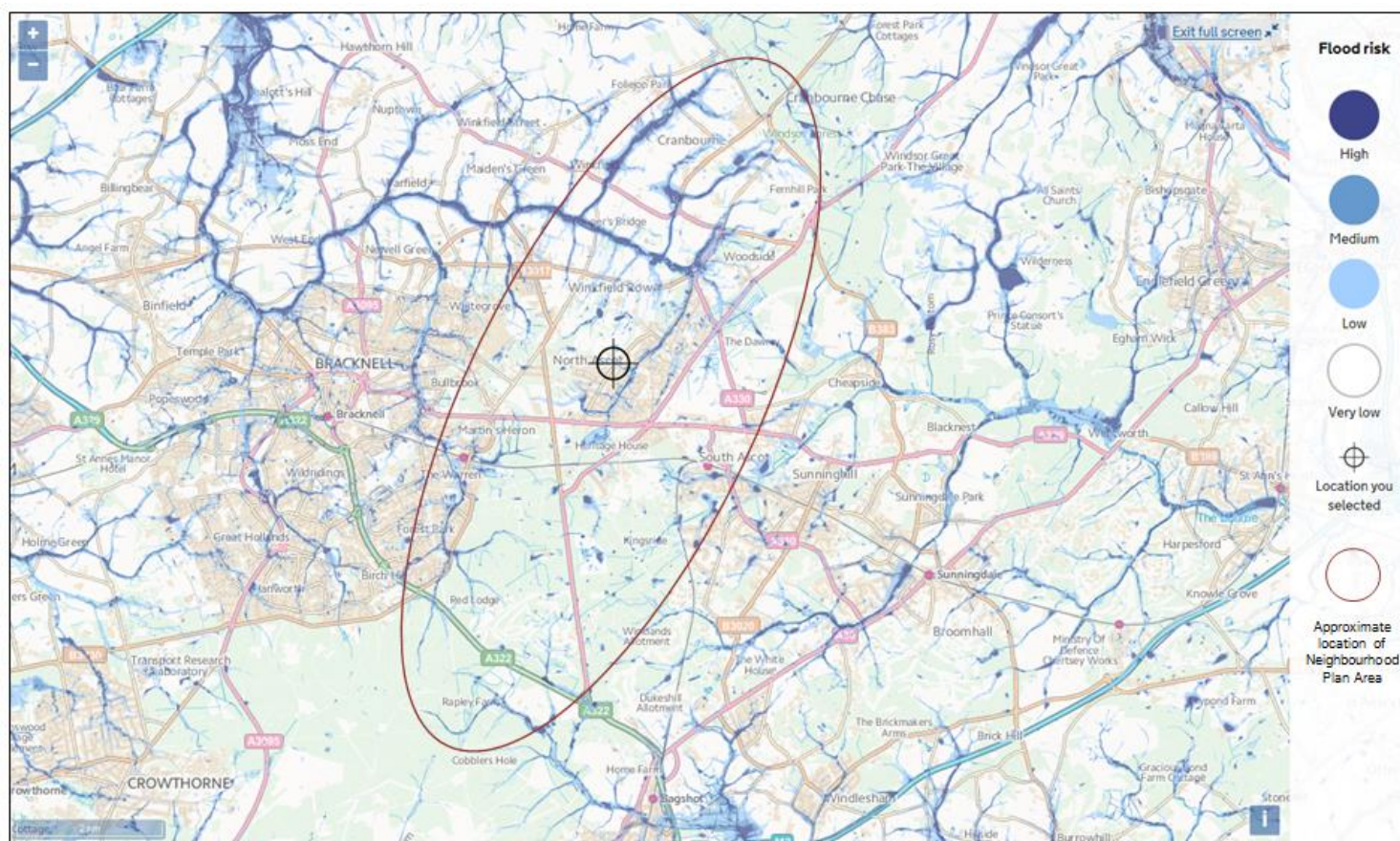


Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area

Surface Water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with sections of medium-high risk in the north western and south western sections. The areas at risk from surface water drainage and sewer flooding are predominantly the same as the areas at risk from fluvial flooding, previously discussed. The SFRA states that only a few historical flooding incidents have occurred within the Neighbourhood Plan area, on land surrounding 'The Cut' river. As this land is away from built-up areas, the SFRA considers the Neighbourhood Plan area to have a low risk of surface water drainage and sewer flooding.

4.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is likely to increase risks associated with climate change (including fluvial, coastal and drainage related flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation. Additional future development has the potential to exacerbate flood risks.

In terms of climate change mitigation, GhG emissions generated in the Neighbourhood Plan area may decrease with wider adoption of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies. However, an increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to contribute to increases in absolute levels of GhG emissions.

⁴¹ Bracknell Forest Council (2010): 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment' [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/crime-and-emergencies/flooding/flood-risk-management>> last accessed [09/07/17]

Based on the most recent SFRA and also highlighted within the LFRMS, Bracknell Forest borough is assessed as being at low risk from flooding events. Where flooding has been experienced, it has been of short duration in relation to intense rainfall. An updated SFRA is scheduled for completion in summer 2017, and Bracknell Forest Council may wish to designate Critical Drainage Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area (in the absence of any designations from the Environment Agency)⁴² highlighting the locations at particular risk of flooding during severe weather events for reasons such as surface water capacity issues.

4.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan area	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel via privately owned vehicle? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan area to the potential effects of climate change, including all types of flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that no inappropriate development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change to all sources of flooding? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Plan area? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change, including enhancements to ecological networks?

⁴² GOV.UK (2017): 'Flood Risk Assessment in Flood Zone 1 and Critical Drainage Areas', [online] available to view via: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-in-flood-zone-1-and-critical-drainage-areas> last accessed [06/07/17]

5. Employment

Focus of Theme:

- Supporting existing employment sites
- Allocating new land for employment uses

5.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Bracknell will continue to be a major employment centre, with relatively limited demand for employment land in Winkfield Parish, including on the basis of relatively poor connectivity to the trunk road network.
- However, there may be demand for small scale employment premises, and there are other strategic reasons for supporting increased small scale employment uses locally.
- The evidence of employment land requirements provided by the Central Berkshire Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) is likely to be of limited relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan; however, the demand/requirement for new industrial land in Bracknell Forest is noted.

5.2 Policy Context

The NPPF (paragraph 7), identifies that the planning system plays an economic role in contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy. A core land-use planning principle is that planning should 'proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs'.

The NPPF is clear that Local Planning Authorities should have a good understanding of business needs in their area, and should use their evidence base to assess the needs for employment land and floorspace and assess the existing supply of land (paragraph 161). The NPPF (paragraph 21) encourages consideration of both existing and emerging business sectors, including support for clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries.

Policy CS19 (Location of Employment Development) of the adopted Bracknell Forest Core Strategy (2008) seeks to support development of land for employment uses in appropriate locations. Of particular note for the Neighbourhood Plan is the policy support for small businesses. The supporting text to the policy explains that: *"Small business units... and non-office floorspace such as industry and warehousing perform a vital role in providing a range of types of jobs and accommodation for a variety of users. Sites for these smaller businesses are under pressure for redevelopment for higher-value office and residential uses."*

5.3 Baseline Summary

5.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

The following three occupation categories support the most residents:

- Professional occupations (21.3%);
- Associate, professional and technical occupations (17.1%); and
- Managers, directors and senior officials (15.1%)

Overall, 53.5% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are employed in one of the above three occupation categories, compared with 47.0% in Bracknell Forest, 44.8% in the South East and 41.2% in England. This suggests that the Neighbourhood Plan area has a highly skilled workforce, which is also supported by the higher number of residents with a Level 4 qualification.

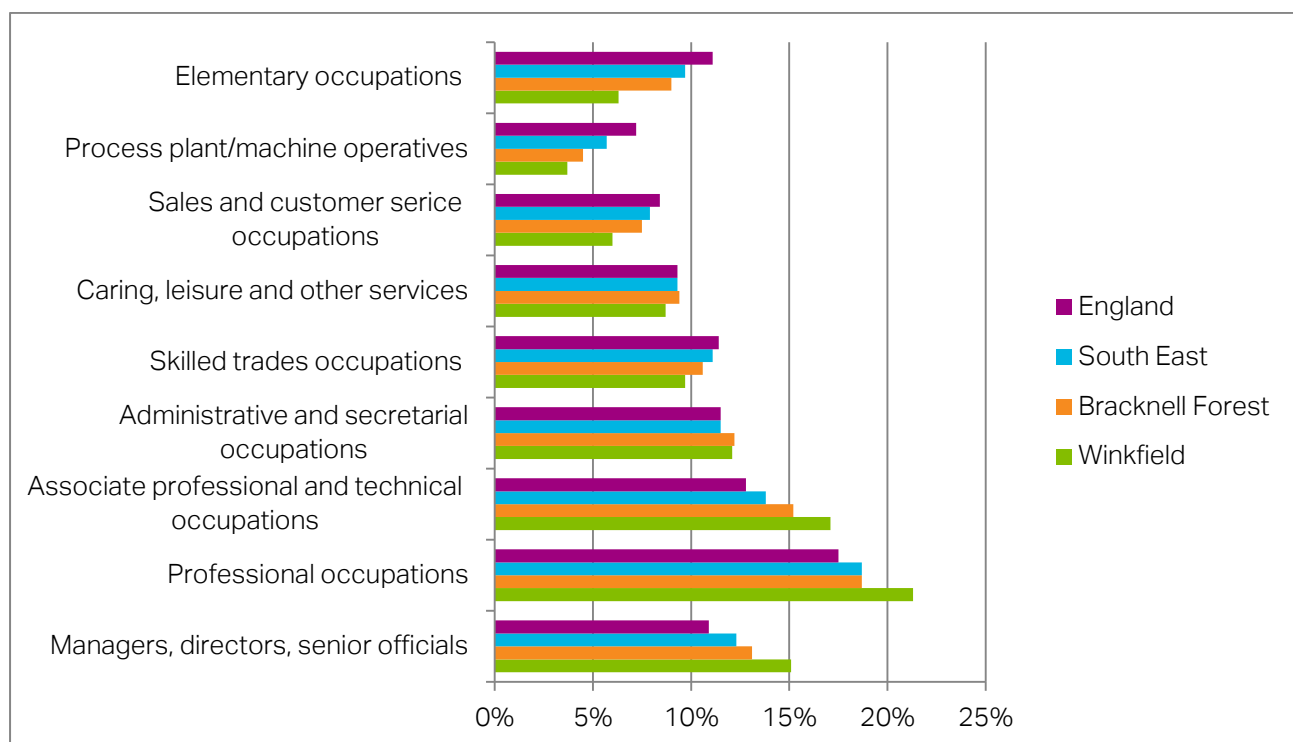


Figure 5.1: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment'⁴³

With regards to demand for/ supply of employment land, important evidence is provided by the Berkshire Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA; 2016), albeit the report does not include an explicit focus on small businesses premises.

The purpose of the EDNA is to provide an understanding of the future business needs and requirements for employment land and floorspace within the defined Central Berkshire Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA), which covers Bracknell Forest and neighbouring authorities. The report considers needs and requirements for -

- B1 Business (offices (B1a), research & development (B1b), light industry (B1c));
- B2 General Industrial; and
- B8 Storage or Distribution (wholesale warehouses, distribution centres).

The report includes two maps showing the current distribution of employment land across the area - see Figures 5.2 and 5.3. Work recently completed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group has found there to be 35 commercial premises within Winkfield Parish.

⁴³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

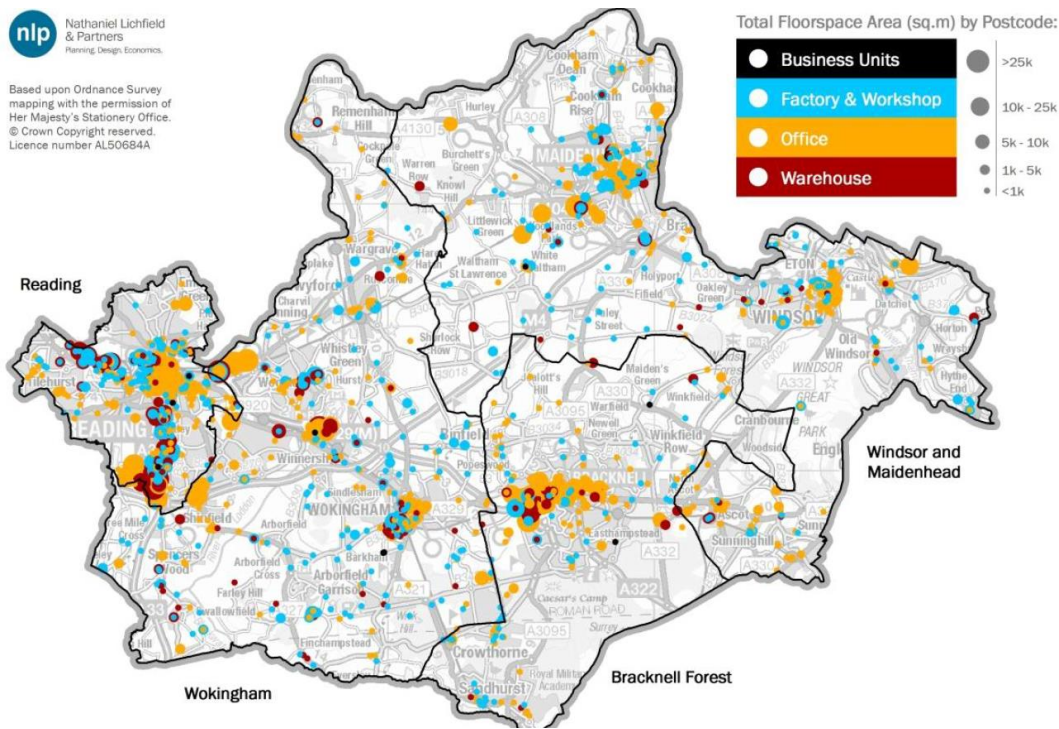


Figure 5.2: Spatial Distribution of B Class Employment Floorspace in the Central Berkshire FEMA, 2010

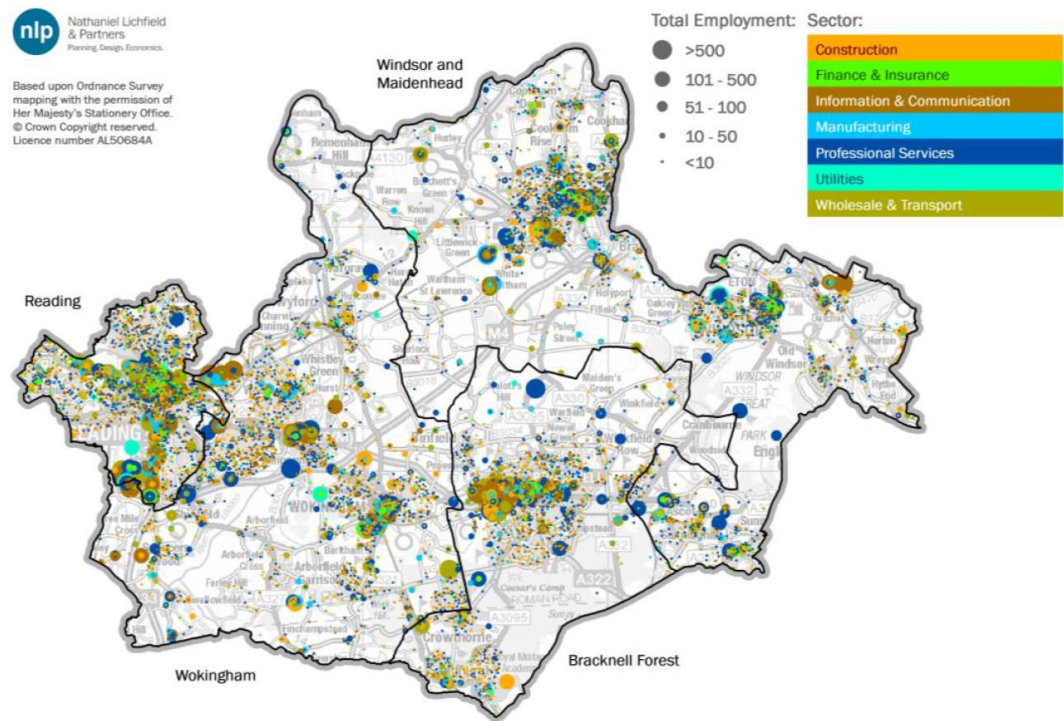


Figure 5.3: Spatial Distribution of B Class Employment in the Central Berkshire FEMA, 2014

From the two figures above it is apparent that Bracknell is a major focus of business activity. The recent Bracknell Forest Comprehensive Local Plan SA Scoping Report states the following key sustainability issue:

"Bracknell Forest has particularly high percentages of firms in the two largest sized-firm bands relative to both England and the South East. This can make the area more vulnerable to individual establishments leaving. Professional, scientific and technical activities are another important sector for Bracknell and these have very high employment relative to other Berkshire Unitary authorities. There are high levels of employment in information and communication relative to the South East and England but relatively low levels of employment in manufacturing, education and construction. It is important that a variety of sectors and activities continue to be well-represented for a number of reasons, such as providing a range of local jobs. Further studies will be required to establish the floorspace requirements for the different employment uses so that the Local Plan can address any shortfalls."

The Neighbourhood Plan could potentially assist with the objective to ensure "a variety of sectors and activities" by allocating one or more small sites for employment use (or mixed use, to include employment).

A final point to note from the EDNA is analysis of scenarios of future employment space requirements - see Figure 5.4 - a clear finding of which is the requirement for industrial land. The EDNA explains that: *"In employment land terms the majority of this spatial requirement relates to industrial (B1c/B2/B8) uses under all three scenarios."* Furthermore, the EDNA explains that the quantitative growth forecasts *"are considered alongside... qualitative feedback and local market signals on business needs... identified through consultation with key property market agents active across the sub-region."*

Bracknell is described as an attractive location for industrial land on the basis of "excellent strategic road access and a large critical mass of industrial occupiers and sites", however, it is recognised that the majority of Winkfield Parish is less well linked.

	Uses	1. Baseline Labour Demand	2. Past Completion Rates	3. Labour Supply
CENTRAL BERKSHIRE FEMA	Offices (B1a/B1b)	105.5	-18.5	107.4
	Industrial (B1c/B2/B8)	218.5	51.1	212.6
	Total B Class Land (ha)	324.0	32.6	320.0
BRACKNELL FOREST	Offices (B1a/B1b)	36.4	-25.5	32.5
	Industrial (B1c/B2/B8)	85.7	6.3	70.3
	Total B Class Land (ha)	122.1	-19.2	102.8
READING	Offices (B1a/B1b)	20.7	-21.3	24.4
	Industrial (B1c/B2/B8)	52.6	24.9	57.9
	Total B Class Land (ha)	73.3	3.6	82.3
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD	Offices (B1a/B1b)	19.3	6.3	19.6
	Industrial (B1c/B2/B8)	52.2	1.5	51.4
	Total B Class Land (ha)	71.5	7.8	71.0
WOKINGHAM	Offices (B1a/B1b)	29.1	22.0	30.9
	Industrial (B1c/B2/B8)	28.0	18.4	33.0
	Total B Class Land (ha)	57.1	40.4	63.9

Source: NLP analysis

Figure 5.4: Employment land requirements (ha) for the Central Berks FEMA (2013-36)

5.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

The future baseline will be one whereby there is a high incidence of commuting to Bracknell and other local employment centres; however, the demand for home-working is likely to increase, and there could also be an increase demand for small scale employment premises, including so that people are able to live and work in the same area, without commuting. There will also be a desire to support local businesses in order to maintain the vitality of villages, address the issue of 'dormitory villages'.

5.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Employment SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Create opportunities for local residents to find or grow employment locally	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver new employment land for businesses suited to a village or countryside location? • Reduce the need for travel and increase self-containment?

6. Landscape and Historic Environment

Focus of Theme:

- Landscape and townscape character and quality
- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Setting of heritage assets
- Archaeological assets

6.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The south of the WNP area mainly comprises a Forested Sands LCT, whilst the majority of the north mainly comprises a notably different Clay Farmland LCT. The centre of the WNP area comprises a Settled Wooded Sands LTC, with part recommended for protection on landscape grounds, as it comprises a 'strategic landscape gap'.
- Approximately 70% of the Neighbourhood Plan area is covered by the Green Belt, contributing to the character of the landscape by preventing urban sprawl and keeping land open.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, including eighty-seven nationally designated listed buildings, three scheduled monuments, three historic parks and gardens located wholly or partly within the boundary, and two conservation areas. All of these heritage assets are sensitive to change.
- Although none of the heritage assets contained in the 2016 Heritage at Risk Register for the South East of England are at risk, it is important to note that the register does not include information about the grade II listed buildings outside of London.

6.2 Policy Context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment. Develop 'robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics'.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

Additionally, the National Planning Policy Guidance states that Neighbourhood Plans should include enough information, where relevant, *"about local heritage to guide decisions and put broader strategic heritage policies from the local plan into action at a neighbourhood scale"* and *"about local non-designated heritage assets including sites of archaeological interest to guide decisions"*.

The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England⁴⁴ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Landscape and Historic Environment' SA theme:

- Policy CS1: Sustainable Development Principles;
- Policy CS7: Design; and
- Policy CS9: Development on Land Outside Settlements.

6.3 Baseline Summary

6.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Landscape

The Bracknell Forest Borough Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2015) shows the WNP area to intersect five landscape character types (LCTs) and six landscape character areas (LCAs). The majority of the south comprises a Forested Sands LCT, whilst the majority of the north comprises a Clay Farmland LCT. The centre of the WNP area comprises a Settled Wooded Sands LTC, whilst the north-eastern extremities comprise Wooded Estates / Parklands.

⁴⁴ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx last accessed [30/06/17]

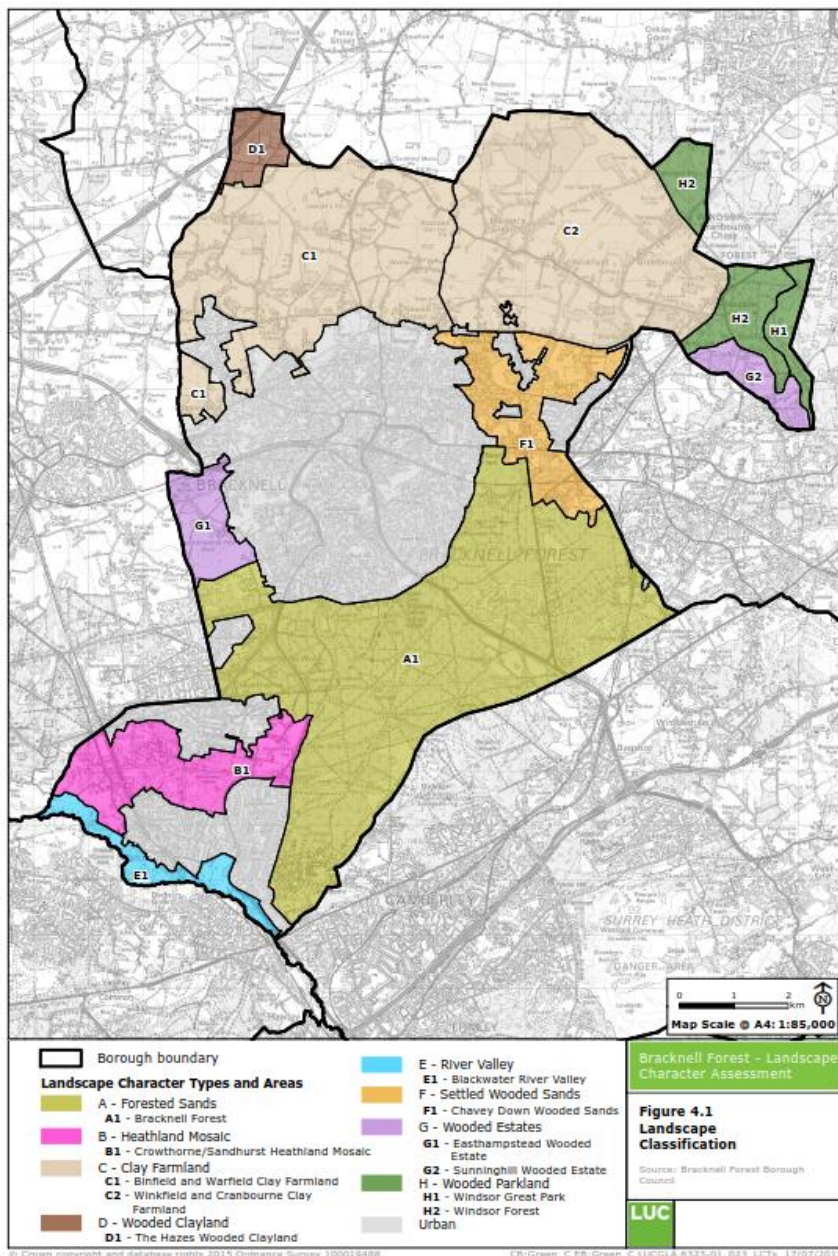


Figure 5.1: Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types in Bracknell Forest District

The Landscape Character Assessment presents an 'Evaluation' of each LCA, which includes conclusions on quality and condition, valued features and characteristics, forces for change.

A second report - "Bracknell Forest Landscape Evidence Base: Recommendations in relation to landscape designations, gaps and green belt villages" (LUC, 2015) - then focused on the identification of strategic gaps, i.e. areas that should remain undeveloped. Importantly, it recommended a strategic gap between Bracknell and North Ascot, taking in Chavey Down - see Figure 5.2.

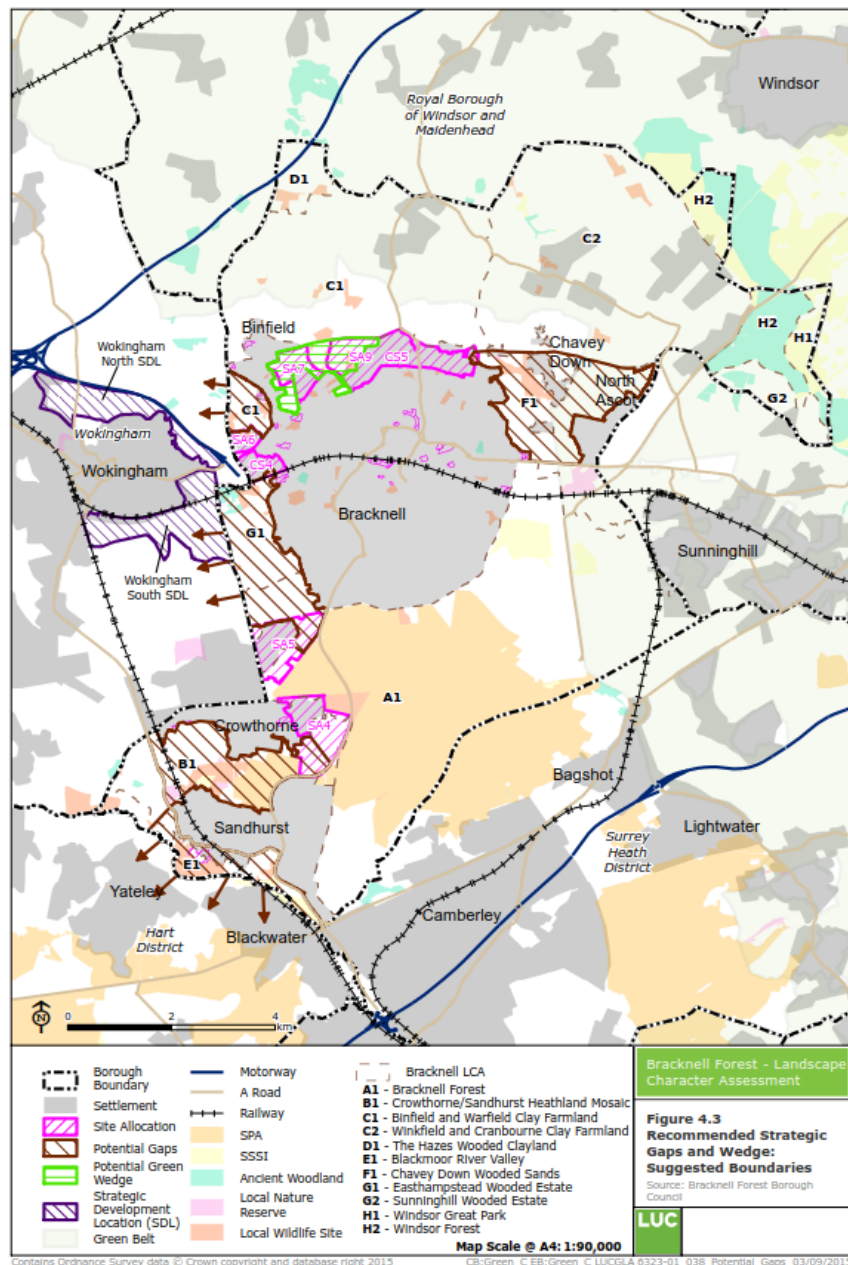
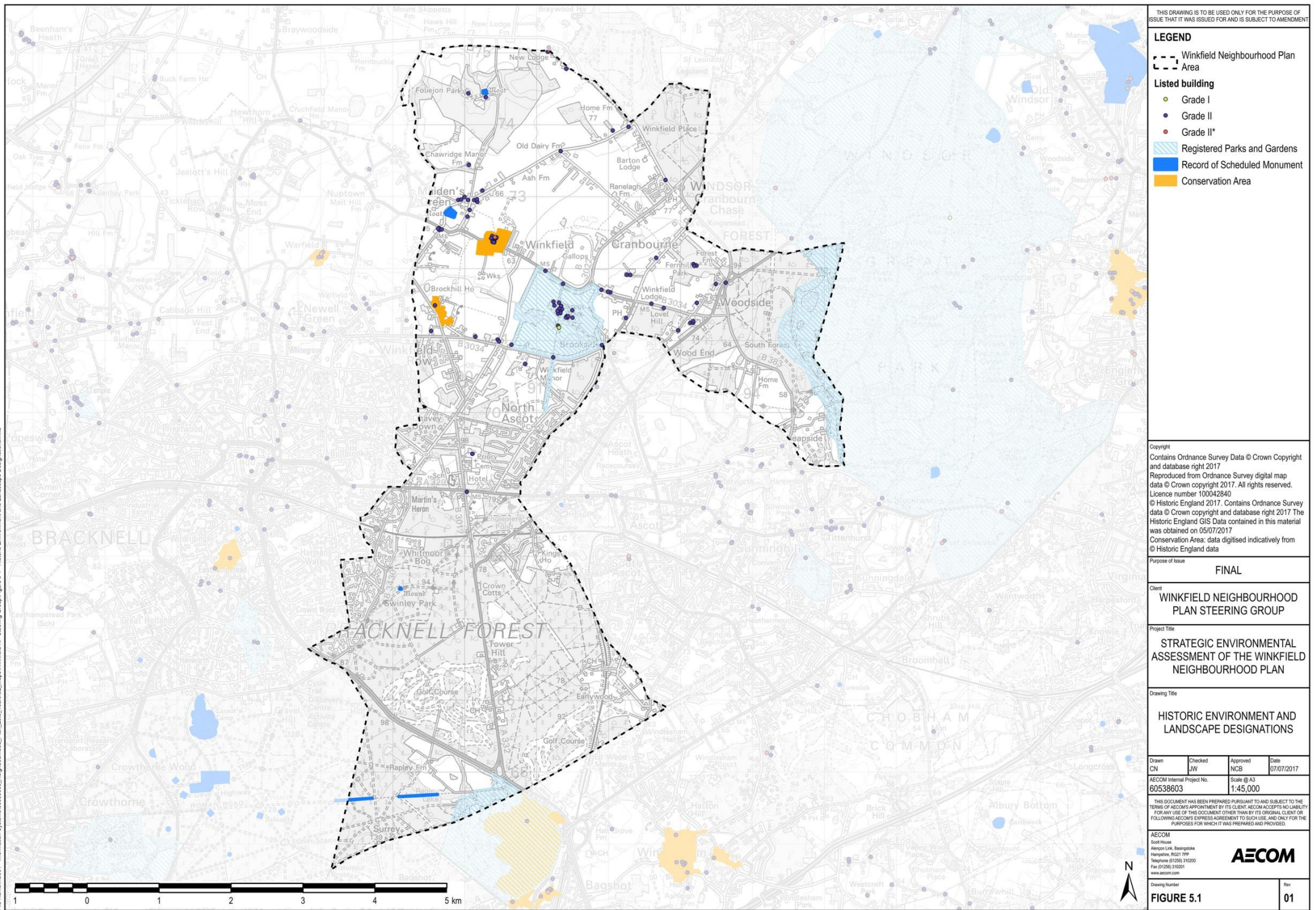


Figure 5.2: Recommended strategic gaps in Bracknell Forest District

Additionally, the eastern 70% of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the Green Belt⁴⁵. Whilst the Green Belt is not designated for landscape character, and is instead designated to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, it has provided a strong contribution to landscape character within the Neighbourhood Plan area since designation.

⁴⁵ DCLG (2012): 'National Planning Policy Framework: Protecting Green Belt Land', [online] available to view via: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/9-protecting-green-belt-land> last accessed [10/07/17]



Historic Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, recognised through the diversity of designated features including statutory listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens. Additionally, Winkfield Road Conservation Area and Winkfield Village Conservation Area are also located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, designated for their special architectural and historic interest. Further details on all of these historic features are presented below.

Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. The Neighbourhood Plan area contains one Grade I, two Grade II* and eighty-four Grade II listed buildings, which are also protected through the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990.

The Grade I listed building is as follows:

- Grotto in the grounds of Ascot Place, to the south of house and west end of lake

The Grade II* listed buildings are as follows:

- Church of St Mary; and
- New Lodge

Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England⁴⁶, there are three scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan area, listed below

- Bowl Barrow in Swinley Park 390 m south-east of Bracknell Forest;
- Moated site at Foliejon Park; and
- Moated site at Winkfield Lane

Historic parks and gardens are noted as a fragile and finite resource by Historic England⁴⁷, as they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever. There are three historic parks and gardens located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area, described below:

- Registered in September 1987, the Grade II* listed 'Ascot Place' is a late 18th century house surrounded by contemporary landscape park and pleasure grounds, and a late 19th/early 20th century garden with an outstanding mid-to-late 18th century grotto overlooking the house⁴⁸.
- Registered in September 1987, 'The Royal Estate, Windsor: Windsor Great Park' is a Grade I listed royal park of medieval origin containing many ancient trees. The park was later landscaped, and contains gardens attached to four principal residences within the park. Approximately 10% of Windsor Great Park is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, at the eastern boundary.
- Registered in February 1998, Bagshot Park is a Grade II listed historic park and garden, containing mid-Victorian gardens and pleasure grounds belonging to the Duke of Connaught. Approximately 15% of Bagshot Park is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, at the southern boundary.

Conservation Areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest⁴⁹. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by

⁴⁶ Historic England: National Heritage List for England: <<http://list.historicengland.org.uk>> last accessed [05/07/2017.]

⁴⁷ Historic England (2017): 'Registered Parks and Gardens' [online] available at: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/>> last accessed [06/07/17]

⁴⁸ MAGIC (2017): 'Interactive Mapping: Designations – Registered Parks and Gardens', [online] available to view at: <<http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>> last accessed [05/07/17]

⁴⁹ Historic England (2017): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/>> last accessed [06/07/17]

Historic England⁵⁰. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the Conservation Area, and can be developed into a management plan.

Designated in December 2005, the Winkfield Row Conservation Area⁵¹ is located near to the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, directly south of the B 3034 road. The dominant Victorian architectural style is present throughout the area, shown in the use of brickwork in its many forms. The rows of terraced houses and the Methodist Chapel date from this period. An appraisal was completed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council in August 2006 which outlines a number of action points for consideration, including (but not limited to) street management, improving the public realm and general enhancements to the Winkfield Row Conservation Area.

Designated in December 1977, the Winkfield Village Conservation Area⁵² is located in the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the A 330 (Church Road) navigating through its centre. There are eleven listed buildings within the conservation area boundary, including the Grade II* listed Church of St Mary, which is set on the highest ground in the village. The predominant use of the local orange-red brick is a distinctive architectural style of the village. After the introduction of this material during the Elizabethan period it became the dominant form of the church tower, which sets the precedence for the village. The Winkfield Village Conservation Area Appraisal was completed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council in August 2006 which outlines a number of action points for consideration, including (but not limited to) increasing street lighting provision and adding signage at the entrances to the Winkfield Village Conservation Area.

Since 2008, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I, Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, wreck sites and conservation areas deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2016 Heritage at Risk Register for South East England⁵³ highlights that that none of the historically designated features are deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are seen as important by local communities. The Heritage Gateway provides access to the Historic Environmental Record for Berkshire⁵⁴, and includes data for all historical buildings, sites and object types located and/or found within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Figure 5.1 (overleaf) shows the designated landscapes and historical sites located within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

6.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New development areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets; for example through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Additionally the conservation area appraisals for both the Winkfield Row Conservation Area and Winkfield Village Conservation Area offers additional protection in terms of outlining suggested priorities for management.

⁵⁰ Historic England (2016): 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management Advice Note 1', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-designation-appraisal-management-advice-note-1/>> last accessed [05/07/17]

⁵¹ Bracknell Forest Council (no date): 'Winkfield Row Conservation Area: Map and Appraisal', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/conservation-areas/winkfield-row-conservation-area>> last accessed [05/07/17]

⁵² Bracknell Forest Council (no date): 'Winkfield Village Conservation Area: Map and Appraisal' [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/conservation-areas/winkfield-village-conservation-area>> last accessed [05/05/17]

⁵³ Historic England (2016): 'Heritage at Risk 2016 Register – South East', [online] available to download via: <<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/>> last accessed [06/07/17]

⁵⁴ Heritage Gateway (2012): 'Berkshire Archaeology: Historical Environmental Record Online Database', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/herdetail.aspx?crit=&ctid=97&id=4769>> last accessed [06/07/17]

New development has the potential to lead to small, but incremental changes in landscape and village-scape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area; for instance through the loss of landscape features and visible impact. However, new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset, and in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area there is opportunity for new development to enhance the historic setting of the key features and areas and better reveal assets' cultural heritage significance.

6.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape and Historic Environment SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource, including the historic environment and archaeological assets located within and within the setting of the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the 'Ascot Place', 'Bagshot Park' and 'The Royal Estate, Windsor' historic parks and gardens? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of the Winkfield Row Conservation Area and the Winkfield Village Conservation Area and their settings? • Support the integrity of the historic setting of key buildings of cultural heritage interest? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and character? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, including historic landscapes?
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the distinctive character areas, in accordance with the BF Landscape Character Assessment (2015)? • Protect sensitive landscapes, in accordance with the BF Landscape Character Assessment 'Recommendations' report (2015)? • Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?

7. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme:

- Soils resource
- Waste management
- Watercourses
- Water availability
- Water quality

7.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area does not have a history of heavy industrial land use, however there has been one significant pollution incident recorded by the Environment Agency in 2002;
- A detailed Agricultural Land Classification assessment has been undertaken within the Neighbourhood Plan area, highlighting areas of Grade 3a and 3b agricultural land in three locations: near to Winkfield Row; directly to the west of Chavey Down Pond and surrounding Foliejon Park.
- The northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the 'Total Catchment (Zone 3' Groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ). Additionally, the entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within a Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).
- The main watercourse flowing through the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is 'The Cut' river, with one of its tributaries, 'Blackmoor Stream' located along the eastern boundary and passing through North Ascot. There is also a number of smaller waterbodies present.

7.2 Policy Context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁵⁵ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is establishing 'Significant Water Management Issues' and recently presented second River Basin Management Plans to ministers. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.

⁵⁵ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [07/07/17]

- Prevent new or existing development from being 'adversely affected' by the presence of 'unacceptable levels' of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate 'despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate'.
- Encourage the effective use of land' through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, 'provided that this is not of high environmental value'. Whilst there is no longer a national requirement to build at a minimum density, the NPPF requires local planning authorities to 'set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances'.
- Produce strategic policies to deliver the provision of a variety of infrastructure, including that necessary for water supply.
- With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.

Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England⁵⁶, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁵⁷, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁵⁸ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SA theme:

- Policy CS10: Sustainable Resources; and
- Policy CS13: Sustainable Waste Management.

7.3 Baseline Summary

7.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Land Quality

The Neighbourhood Plan area does not have a history of heavy industrial land use. There has been one significant pollution incident recorded by the Environment Agency under the EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPCC)⁵⁹, located directly north of Cranborne:

- Date: 16th August 2002; Pollutant: Oils and Fuel; Minor impacts to air, and major impacts to land

A further three significant pollution incidents have been recorded directly to the west of the Neighbourhood Plan area, near to Winkfield Row and Newell Green. An additional three significant pollution incidents have been recorded directly to the north-east of the Neighbourhood Plan area, near to land at Pickins Farm.

Quality of Agricultural Land

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades

⁵⁶ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available to download from:

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-our-soils-a-strategy-for-england>> last accessed [07/07/17]

⁵⁷ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>> last accessed [07/07/17]

⁵⁸ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at:

<<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>> last accessed [07/07/17]

⁵⁹ Environment Agency Interactive Map: 'Pollution Incidents' [online] accessible via: <<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiby/default.aspx>> last accessed [07/07/17]

3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land, a detailed classification has been undertaken within certain sections of the Neighbourhood Plan area:

- Grade 3a and 3b agricultural land within a triangular area bordered by the B 3034, Chavey Down Road and Locks Ride, near to Winkfield Row;
- Grade 3a and 3b agricultural land directly to the west of Chavey Down Pond, located at the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area; and
- Grade 3b agricultural land at the northern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, surrounding Foliejon Park.

There is a need to avoid loss of higher quality ('best and most versatile') agricultural land. In this respect, all undeveloped land in Winkfield is either 'Grade 3 (good to moderate quality)', 'Grade 4 (poor quality)' or classified as 'other land primarily in non-agricultural use' in the Agricultural Land Classification, according to the nationally available 'Provisional Agricultural Land Quality' national dataset⁶⁰. It is important to note however, that the national dataset is of very low resolution, and it is not an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Watercourses

The main watercourse flowing through the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is 'The Cut' river, with one of its tributaries, 'Blackmoor Stream' located along the eastern boundary and passing through North Ascot. Additionally, smaller waterbodies located within Neighbourhood Plan area include Englemere Pond at the eastern boundary (approximately 5.4 ha), Rapley Lake at the southern boundary (approximately 2.4 ha) and Savernake Pond at the western boundary (approximately 0.6 ha).

The Neighbourhood Plan area is located within the 'Thames Lower' catchment area. In regards to water quality, in 2016 the overall waterbody status of 'The Cut (Ascot to Bull Brook confluence at Warfield)', was 'moderate'⁶¹. It is predicted to achieve 'good' status by 2027.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. As of July 2017 there is one SPZ within the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, described below⁶²:

- Total Catchment (Zone 3): Defined as the area around a source within which all groundwater recharge is presumed to be discharged at the source.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater has nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or is thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), and as such, they are recognised as being at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution. Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. NVZs for 2017-2020 started on January 1st 2017⁶³, including new areas of NVZs and excluding areas that have been de-designated. Excluding the far north-western section covered by Windsor Forest (approximately 5%), the remaining 95% of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within a Surface Water NVZ, defined as follows:

'Areas of land that drain into a freshwater water body which has or could have is action is not taken, a nitrate concentration greater than 50mg/l'

⁶⁰ Natural England (2010): 'Agricultural Land Classification map London and the South East', [online] available to download via: <<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=5954148537204736>> last accessed [02/01/18]

⁶¹ Environment Agency (2017): 'Cut (Ascot to Bull Brook confluence at Warfield)', [online] available to access via: <<http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB106039023440>> last accessed [02/01/18]

⁶² Environment Agency (2017): 'What's In Your Backyard?' [online] mapping available to view via: <<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>> last accessed [06/07/17]

⁶³ GOV.UK (2017): 'Nutrient Management: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones' [online] available to access via: <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nutrient-management-nitrate-vulnerable-zones>> last accessed [05/07/17]

7.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates. This is reflected within policies CS10 and CS13 within the 2008 Core Strategy for Bracknell Forest.

In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. The majority of waterbodies in the Bracknell borough require improvement to meet 'good' ecological and chemical classifications by 2027.

Water quality has the potential to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and future physical modifications to waterbodies.

7.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the parish may comprise Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Support the minimisation, reuse and recycling of waste? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources

8. Population and Community

Focus of Theme:

- Population size
- Population density
- Age structure
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability
- Homelessness
- Education and skills

8.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Overall, fewer residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the older age categories (45-59 and 60+) in comparison to the regional and national trends; however, the northern part of the area has a distinctly older age profile than the central/southern part.
- There are eleven Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area, all of which are located in the top 50% least deprived deciles for the 'Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)' domain.
- Based on the 2015 IMD data, the Neighbourhood Plan area has significant barriers to housing and services.
- The WNP falls primarily within the North Bracknell School Planning Area, where there is forecast to be an acute shortfall in primary school places.

8.2 Policy Context

Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.
- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.

- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a 'sufficient choice of school places' is of 'great importance' and there is a need to take a 'proactive, positive and collaborative approach' to bringing forward 'development that will widen choice in education'.

The 'Ready for Ageing?' report, published by the Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change⁶⁴ warns that society is underprepared for an ageing population. The report states that *'longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises'*. The report recognises that the supply of specialist housing for the older generation is insufficient for the demand. There is a need for central and local Government, housing associations, and house builders to ensure that these housing needs are better addressed, giving as much priority to promoting an adequate market of social housing for the older generation as is given to the younger generation.

The most recently completed Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for Bracknell Forest ran from 2006-2016. The ROWIP is currently under review, as per the requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000. Following the review, an updated version of the plan was submitted to Bracknell Forest Council for approval in 2017. ROWIPs assess the way in which local rights of way can meet the present and future needs of the public and explore the opportunities provided for exercise and other forms of outdoor recreation and enjoyment⁶⁵.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Population and Community' SA theme:

- Policy CS1: Sustainable Development Principles;
- Policy CS2: Locational Principles;
- Policy CS15: Overall Housing Provision;
- Policy CS16: Housing Needs of the Community;
- Policy CS17: Affordable Housing;
- Policy CS18: Gypsies and Travellers; and
- Policy CS19: Location of Employment Development;

⁶⁴ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>> last accessed [04/07/17]

⁶⁵ Bracknell Forest Council (2017): 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan', [online] available to access via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/public-rights-way/rights-way-improvement-plan>> last accessed [03/01/17]

8.3 Baseline Summary

8.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Population

Table 7.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁶⁶

Date	Winkfield	Bracknell Forest	South East	England
2001	15,271	109,617	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	14,998	113,205	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	-1.8%	+3.3%	+7.9%	+7.9%

As shown in Table 7.1, the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area reduced by 1.8% between 2001 and 2011, a notable contrast to the increases observed for Bracknell Forest, the South East of England, and England. Approximately 13.2% of the population of Bracknell Forest Borough lives within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area (Winkfield Parish).

Age Structure

Table 7.2: Age Structure (2011)⁶⁷

	Winkfield	Bracknell Forest	South East	England
0-15	20.3%	20.7%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	9.5%	10.5%	11.2%	11.9%
25-44	29.6%	30.3%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	22.8%	20.7%	19.9%	19.4%
60+	17.8%	17.7%	23.3%	22.3%
Total Population	14,998	113,205	8,634,750	53,012,456

Generally, there is a lower proportion of residents within the 60+ age category in the Neighbourhood Plan area (17.8%) in comparison to the totals for the South East (23.3%) and England (22.3%), as shown in Table 7.2. However, the values for the Neighbourhood Plan area broadly align with the value for Bracknell Forest (17.7%). Contrastingly, a larger proportion of residents are within the working age categories (25-44 and 45-59) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (52.4%) in comparison to the averages for the South East (46.4%) and England (46.9%). The values for the Neighbourhood Plan area though broadly align with the value for Bracknell Forest (51.0%). There are similar proportions of younger residents (0-15 and 16-24) in the Neighbourhood Plan area (29.8%) compared with the totals for Bracknell Forest (31.2%), the South East (30.2%) and England (30.8%).

However, there are notable differences in age structure between the north of the WNP area (Winkfield and Cranbourne Ward) and the south of the area (Ascot Ward). As can be seen from the two figures below, the northern villages are associated with an older population, with low numbers of children and young working age adults.

⁶⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV002)

⁶⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

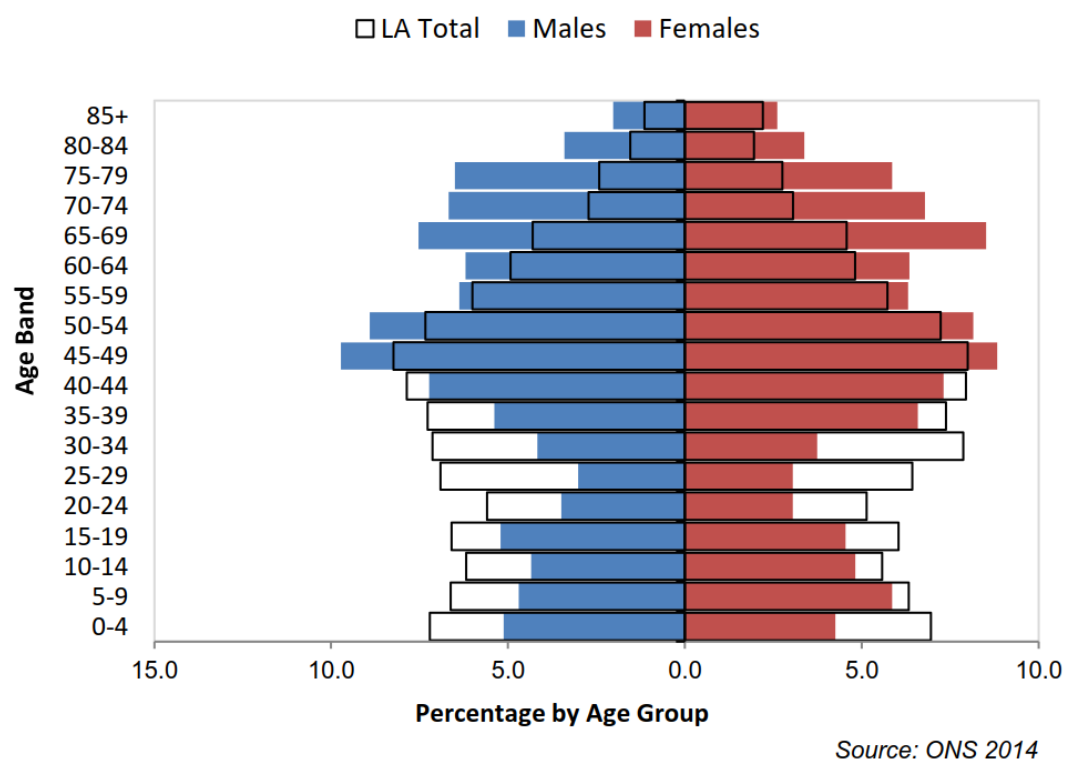


Figure 7.1: Age profile of Winkfield and Cranbourne Ward

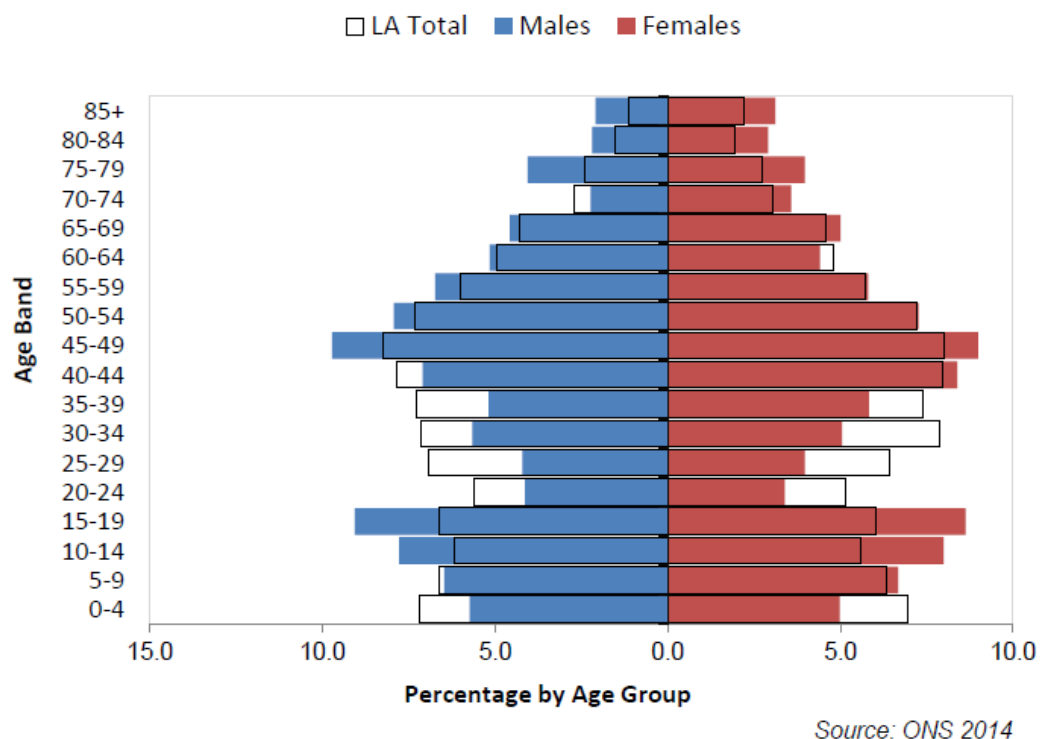


Figure 7.2: Age profile of Ascot Ward

Primary schools⁶⁸

Primary school capacity is a key issue for the WNP, recognising that decisions on other types of community infrastructure (notably secondary schools and health facilities) are made at a higher level.

The graph below shows the historical trends in primary numbers on roll (NOR) for statutory age pupils (i.e. excluding nursery classes) from 2010 - 2016 and forecasts for 2017 - 2021.

In common with many other local authorities, over the last few years Bracknell Forest has seen a steady increase in pupil numbers, resulting in pressure on the intake year and the requirement for additional capacity throughout the Borough.

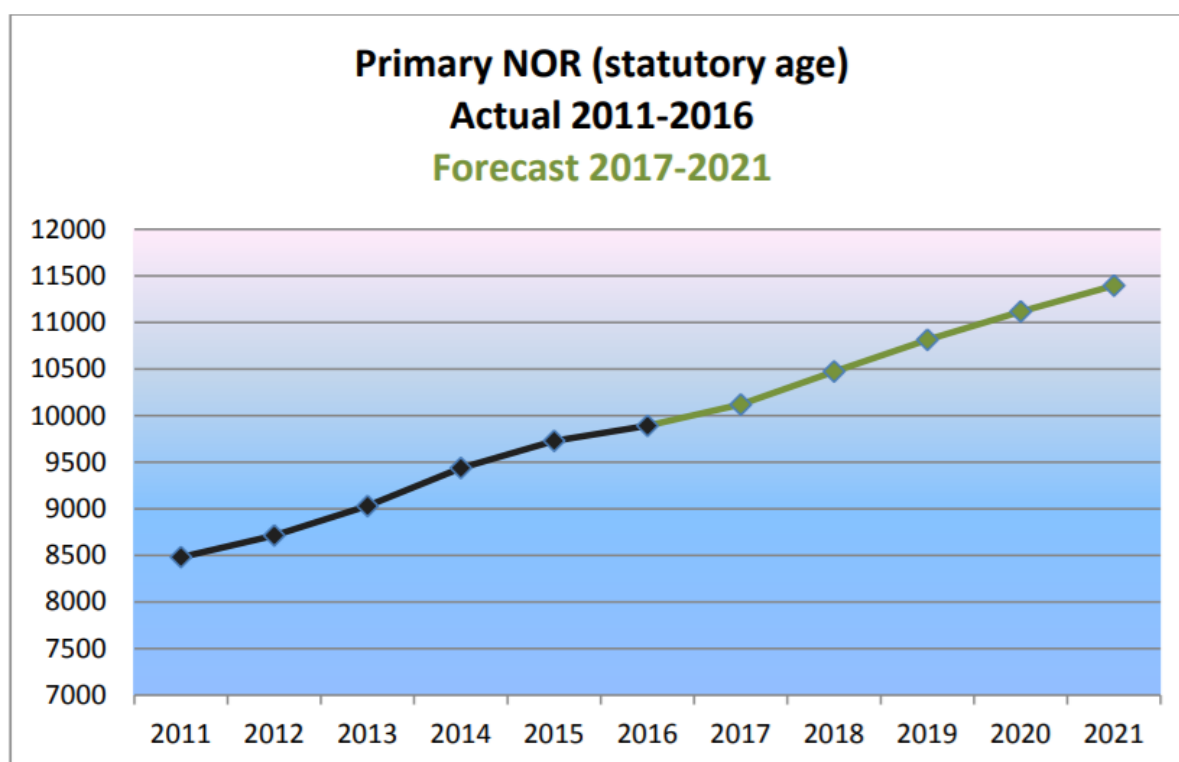


Figure 7.3: 'Numbers on Roll' at primary schools in Bracknell Forest District

Primary schools within the WNP area fall within the 'North Bracknell' school planning area. There are 12 primary/infant/junior schools in this planning area with a total of 4,092 places (excludes places built but still to be opened). By 2020/21 the Council anticipates an increase in pupil numbers of 701 (17.7%) to 4,666 in this planning area resulting in a shortfall of 574 places (-14.0%).

The Council concludes: *"Pressure from new housing developments is particularly acute in this area. A deficit in the intake year is forecast in every year from September 2017 without further new places."* There are also demographic factors with a bearing on the trend, including *"the arrival in recent years of an increasing number of families from outside the UK. The proportion of pupils in schools from a minority ethnic background has increased steadily from 6.1% in 2001 to 20.6% in 2016."*

⁶⁸ Bracknell Forest School Places Plan. See <https://files.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/bracknell/documents/school-places-plan-2016-to-2021.pdf?CCcZ0B3yFQ0FMTq8DRVkQ2dJ.UYuoRtn>

Household Deprivation

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation, summarized below:

- **Employment:** Any person in the household (not a full-time student) that is either unemployed or long-term sick.
- **Education:** No person in the household has at least a level 2 qualification and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.
- **Health and Disability:** Any person in the household that has generally 'bad' or 'very bad' health, or has a long term health problem.
- **Housing:** The household accommodation is either overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less), in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

Table 7.3: Relative household deprivation dimensions⁶⁹

	Winkfield	Bracknell Forest	South East	England
Household not deprived	59.1%	53.0%	47.7%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	28.3%	30.3%	32.2%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	11.0%	13.6%	16.0%	19.1%
Deprived in 3 dimensions	1.5%	2.7%	3.7%	5.1%
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%

Based on the information presented in Table 7.3, fewer households are deprived within the Neighbourhood Plan area (40.9%), in comparison to Bracknell Forest (47%), the South East (52.3%) and England (57.5%). Out of the 40.9% of households which are deprived in the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority are deprived in either one or two dimensions, similar to the regional and national trends.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.

⁶⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011 (Table QS119EW)

- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
 1. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
 2. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
 3. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 4. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.

Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:

- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2015, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales (see **Table 7.4**).

There are eleven LSOAs that are either fully or partially in the Neighbourhood Plan area: Analysis of the data presented in Table 7.4 below reveals the following inferences:

General Trends

E01016252: Bracknell Forest 001C covers approximately 25% of the entire Neighbourhood Plan area and is located in the north-eastern section. There are notable contrasts between the IMD categories. The LSOA is within the top 20% least deprived deciles for a variety of domains including income, employment and crime, but is also within the top 20% most deprived deciles for the barriers to housing and services domain, geographical barriers sub-domain, and outdoors sub-domain.

E01016253: Bracknell Forest 001D covers approximately 5% of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and is located in the northern section. The LSOA is one of the top 10% least deprived in the England, located within the top 20% least deprived deciles for all IMD categories other than the barriers to housing and services domain, geographical barriers sub-domain and outdoors sub-domain.

E01032727: Bracknell Forest 001E covers approximately 20% of the entire Neighbourhood Plan area, and is located in the north-western section. The LSOA is also one of the top 10% least deprived in the England, located within the top 20% least deprived deciles for all IMD categories other than the barriers to housing and services domain, geographical barriers sub-domain, wider barriers sub-domain, indoors sub-domain and outdoors sub-domain.

E01016180: Bracknell Forest 005A covers approximately 5% of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and is located along the eastern boundary. There are notable contrasts between the IMD categories. The LSOA is within the top 10% least deprived deciles for a variety of domains including crime and living environment. Comparatively, the LSOA is within the top 40% most deprived deciles for the barriers to housing and services domain, geographical barriers sub-domain and wider barriers sub-domain.

E01016181: Bracknell Forest 005B covers approximately 30% of the entire Neighbourhood Plan area, and is located in the southern section. The LSOA is one of the top 20% least deprived in England, however it is located within the top 10% most deprived decile for the barriers to housing and services domain and the geographical barriers sub-domain.

E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C covers approximately 5% of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and is located along the eastern boundary. The LSOA is one of the top 10% least deprived in England, with thirteen out of the fifteen IMD categories located within the top 20% least deprived deciles.

E01016183: Bracknell Forest 005D covers approximately 2% of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is located along the eastern boundary. The LSOA is also one of the top 10% least deprived in England, with all IMD categories falling within the top 40% least deprived deciles other than the geographical barriers sub-domain, which is located within the top 30% most deprived decile.

E01016222: Bracknell Forest 005E covers approximately 2% of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is located along the western boundary. The LSOA is one of the top 10% least deprived in England, with thirteen out of the fifteen IMD categories falling within the top 20% least deprived deciles. Comparatively, the LSOA is located in the top 20% most deprived deciles for the barriers to housing and services domain, along with the geographical barriers sub-domain.

E01016200: Bracknell Forest 008A covers approximately 2% of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is located along the western boundary. The LSOA is also one of the top 10% least deprived in England, with health deprivation and disability domain, living environment domain, indoors sub-domain and outdoors sub-domain located within the top 10% least deprived deciles.

E01016201: Bracknell Forest 008B covers approximately 2% of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is located along the western boundary. This LSOA is located within the top 50% least deprived deciles for all IMD categories other than the children and young people sub-domain (top 40% most deprived decile) and the geographical barriers sub-domain (top 30% most deprived decile).

E01016202: Bracknell Forest 008C covers approximately 2% of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is located along the eastern boundary. There are notable contrasts between the IMD categories. The LSOA is located in the top 20% least deprived deciles for the income domain, employment domain, and outdoors sub-domain. Comparatively, the LSOA is located in the top 30% most deprived deciles in the barriers to housing and services domain, and the geographical barriers sub-domain.

Table 7.4: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015⁷⁰

LSOA	Overall IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	Children and Young People Sub-domain	Adult Skills Sub- domain	Geographical Barriers Sub- domain	Wider Barriers Sub- domain	Indoors Sub- domain	Outdoors Sub- domain
E01016252: Bracknell Forest 001C																
<i>Rank</i>	23,071	27,182	27,039	23,515	30,585	26,370	1,203	22,081	28,363	26,568	27,309	18,774	990	16,815	19,277	21,130
<i>Decile</i>	(8)	(9)	(9)	(8)	(10)	(9)	(1)	(7)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(6)	(1)	(6)	(6)	(2)
E01016253: Bracknell Forest 001D																
<i>Rank</i>	29,896	30,222	30,342	29,966	31,715	29,278	4,902	32,728	26,874	29,162	28,407	29,511	1,860	26,670	32,385	30,167
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(2)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(1)	(9)	(10)	(3)
E01032727: Bracknell Forest 001E																
<i>Rank</i>	30,027	30,205	31,467	28,831	32,189	30,067	5,762	27,572	31,488	26,773	28,531	27,055	3,227	18,895	21,848	31,324
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(10)	(10)	(2)	(9)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(1)	(6)	(7)	(4)

⁷⁰ DCLG (2015): 'English Indices of Deprivation', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>> last accessed [28/03/17]

LSOA	Overall IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	Children and Young People Sub-domain	Adult Skills Sub- domain	Geographical Barriers Sub- domain	Wider Barriers Sub- domain	Indoors Sub- domain	Outdoors Sub- domain
E01016180: Bracknell Forest 005A																
<i>Rank</i>	27,260	24,803	28,392	19,969	28,185	29,590	7,432	31,018	29,638	16,327	13,757	26,918	6,230	12,750	27,044	31,248
<i>Decile</i>	(9)	(8)	(9)	(7)	(9)	(10)	(3)	(10)	(10)	(5)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(4)	(9)	(10)
E01016181: Bracknell Forest 005B																
<i>Rank</i>	28,317	31,853	32,543	28,986	31,410	23,948	2,595	29,704	32,645	27,675	27,568	28,331	1,553	19,229	26,150	28,199
<i>Decile</i>	(9)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(10)	(8)	(1)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(1)	(6)	(8)	(9)
E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C																
<i>Rank</i>	32,623	29,844	31,255	27,874	31,881	28,574	28,404	32,212	27,860	27,656	27,111	26,585	19,293	22,350	29,566	31,630
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(6)	(7)	(10)	(10)

LSOA	Overall IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	Children and Young People Sub-domain	Adult Skills Sub- domain	Geographical Barriers Sub- domain	Wider Barriers Sub- domain	Indoors Sub- domain	Outdoors Sub- domain
E01016183: Bracknell Forest 005D																
<i>Rank</i>	32,253	30,410	31,491	26,208	30,712	30,530	20,064	31,833	30,193	26,692	26,653	23,837	9,086	25,232	29,220	30,328
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(10)	(10)	(8)	(10)	(10)	(7)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(9)	(8)	(3)	(8)	(9)	(10)
E01016222: Bracknell Forest 005E																
<i>Rank</i>	30,851	32,314	31,834	31,480	31,907	27,501	5,784	32,763	32,195	29,978	30,910	30,461	2,145	27,138	32,739	30,041
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(9)	(2)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(1)	(9)	(10)	(10)
E01016200: Bracknell Forest 008A																
<i>Rank</i>	30,204	25,904	28,836	20,250	29,848	21,239	25,598	32,802	22,919	25,563	16,717	22,809	16,238	21,239	32,482	31,227
<i>Decile</i>	(10)	(8)	(9)	(7)	(10)	(7)	(8)	(10)	(7)	(8)	(6)	(7)	(5)	(7)	(10)	(10)

LSOA	Overall IMD	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	Children and Young People Sub-domain	Adult Skills Sub- domain	Geographical Barriers Sub- domain	Wider Barriers Sub- domain	Indoors Sub- domain	Outdoors Sub- domain
E01016201: Bracknell Forest 008B																
<i>Rank</i>	28,858	26,406	26,196	17,205	28,576	29,888	17,089	32,578	23,805	23,212	12,868	21,538	9,442	19,637	30,908	31,538
<i>Decile</i>	(9)	(9)	(8)	(6)	(9)	(10)	(6)	(10)	(8)	(8)	(4)	(7)	(3)	(6)	(10)	(10)
E01016202: Bracknell Forest 008C																
<i>Rank</i>	27,658	29,321	30,368	19,884	24,884	23,647	9,213	25,113	25,089	22,041	14,317	25,684	5,769	16,723	18,995	31,307
<i>Decile</i>	(9)	(9)	(10)	(7)	(4)	(8)	(3)	(8)	(8)	(7)	(5)	(8)	(2)	(6)	(6)	(10)

Similarities between the LSOAs

Poor performance (top 30% most deprived deciles)

- Four LSOAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area are located within the top 30% most deprived deciles for the barriers to housing and services domain and the geographical barriers sub-domain, including: E01016180: Bracknell Forest 005A, E01016181: Bracknell Forest 005B, E01016222: Bracknell Forest 005E and E01016202: Bracknell Forest 008C;
- Other than E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C, the remaining ten LSOAs located within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the top 50% most deprived deciles for the geographical barriers sub-domain.

Good performance (top 30% least deprived deciles)

- Other than E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C, the remaining ten LSOAs located within the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the top 20% least deprived deciles for the 'Overall IMD' category;
- Five LSOAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area are located within the top 10% least deprived decile for the income, employment, living environment, and the health deprivation and disability domains, including: E01016253: Bracknell Forest 001D, E01016181: Bracknell Forest 005B, E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C, E01016183: Bracknell Forest 005D and E01016222: Bracknell Forest 005E.

Contrasts between the LSOAs

- E01016182: Bracknell Forest 005C, E01016183: Bracknell Forest 005D, E01016200: Bracknell Forest 008A and E01016201: Bracknell Forest 008B are located within the top 50% least deprived deciles for the barriers to housing and services domain. Comparatively, the remaining LSOAs in the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the top 30% most deprived deciles for this IMD category.
- E01016180: Bracknell Forest 005A; E01016201: Bracknell Forest 008B and E01016202: Bracknell Forest 008C are located within the top 50% most deprived deciles for the children and young people sub-domain. Other than E01016200: Bracknell Forest 008A, the remaining LSOAs in the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the top 20% least deprived deciles for this IMD category.
- E01016252: Bracknell Forest 001C, E01016253: Bracknell Forest 001D and E01032727: Bracknell Forest 001E are located in the top 40% most deprived deciles for the outdoors sub-domain. Comparatively, the remaining LSOAs in the Neighbourhood Plan area are within the top 20% least deprived deciles for this IMD category.

Housing Tenure

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 75.6% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area either own their home outright or with a mortgage, compared to 68.5% for Bracknell Forest, 67.6% for the South East and 63.3% for England. Notably, there are fewer residents within socially rented accommodation in the Neighbourhood Plan area (6.0%) in comparison to the regional and national totals shown in Figure 7.4. The total number of residents within privately rented accommodation in Neighbourhood Plan area (16.2%) is similar to the values for the South East (16.3%) and England (16.8%), but higher than the total for Bracknell Forest (12.5%).

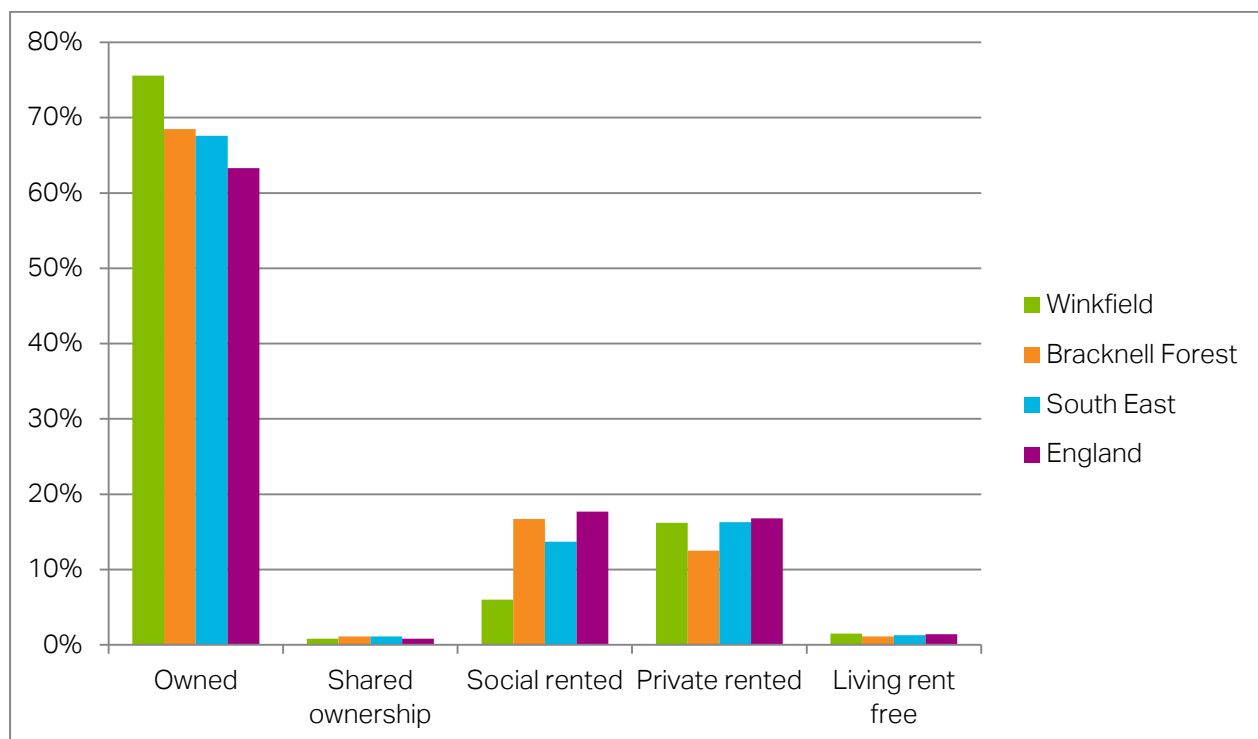


Figure 7.4: 'Tenure by Household' ⁷¹

Education

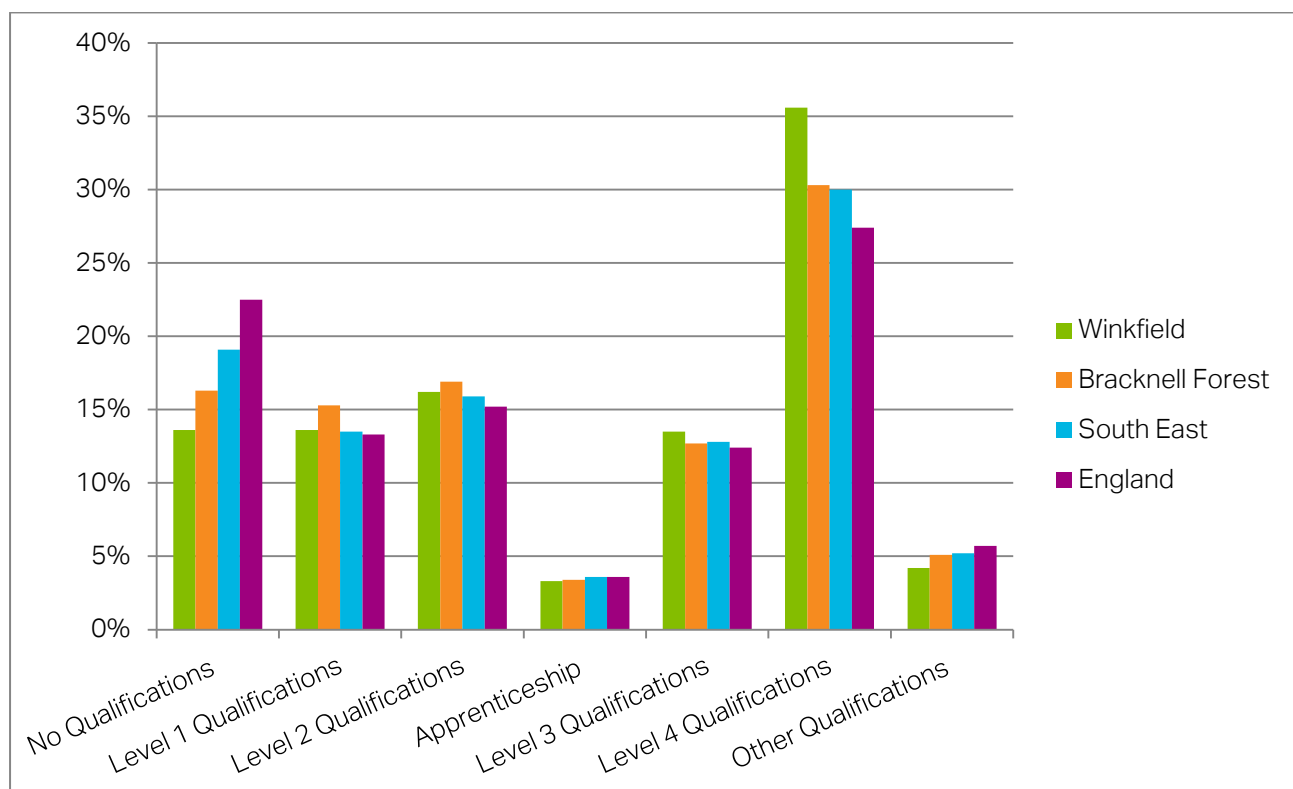


Figure 7.5: 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁷²

⁷¹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

⁷² ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

Based on the 2011 census data, there are 13.6% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area with no qualifications, fewer than the totals for Bracknell Forest (16.3%), the South East (19.1%) and England (22.5%). Contrastingly, there are a greater number of residents with Level 4 qualifications within the Neighbourhood Plan area (35.6%), compared with the totals for Bracknell Forest (30.3%), the South East (30.0%) and England (27.4%). Generally, the number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area with either an apprenticeship or Levels 1, 2, 3 or other qualification, broadly aligns with the regional and national trends.

8.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

The population of Bracknell Forest increased at a reduced rate between the years 2001-2011 in comparison to the regional and national counterparts. Although there are fewer residents within the older age categories (60+) within the Neighbourhood Plan area than regionally and nationally, it is recognised that the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area is likely to age, potentially placing pressures on local health services and community facilities.

Levels of deprivation in the Neighbourhood Plan area are likely to remain low, particularly due to the high levels of income, quality of living environment and employment. The two areas for concern are the 'geographical barriers' and 'barriers to housing and services'. The suitability of housing for local requirements depends in part on the successful implementation of policies outlined in the Comprehensive Local Plan.

8.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Minimise fuel poverty?
Reduce deprivation and promote a more inclusive and self-contained community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? Support enhancements to the current housing stock? Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?

9. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme:

- Health indicators and deprivation
- Influences on health and well-being

9.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The majority of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves to have 'very good health' or 'good health', broadly aligning to the totals for Bracknell Forest, but greater than totals observed for the South East of England, and England.
- Residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to a number of open spaces, including Windsor Great Park and Foliejon Park in the northern part of the parish and Swinley Park in the southern part of the parish.
- The five key priority issues identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) are as follows: falls prevention, smoking, mental health in the community, immunisation and screening, and self-care.
- Future increases in the built-up parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along key routes, including the A322/A329 corridor, and to the south of Martins Heron along 'New Forest Ride'. This has the potential to impact both air quality and the health and wellbeing of residents.

9.2 Policy Context

Key messages from the NPPF include:

- The social role of the planning system involves 'supporting vibrant and healthy communities'.
- A core planning principle is to 'take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all'.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities'
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
- Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives⁷³ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

⁷³ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16404325/d215-the-marmot-review-implications-for-planning.pdf> last accessed [07/07/17]

At the local level, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)⁷⁴ for Bracknell Forest contains sections on over eighty topics related to health and wellbeing within the borough. The key priority issues within the borough include: falls prevention, smoking, mental health in the community, immunisation and screening, and self-care. Additionally, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Health and Wellbeing' SA theme:

- Policy CS6: Limiting the Impact of Development; and
- Policy CS8: Recreation and Culture.

9.3 Baseline Summary

9.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Health Indicators and Deprivation

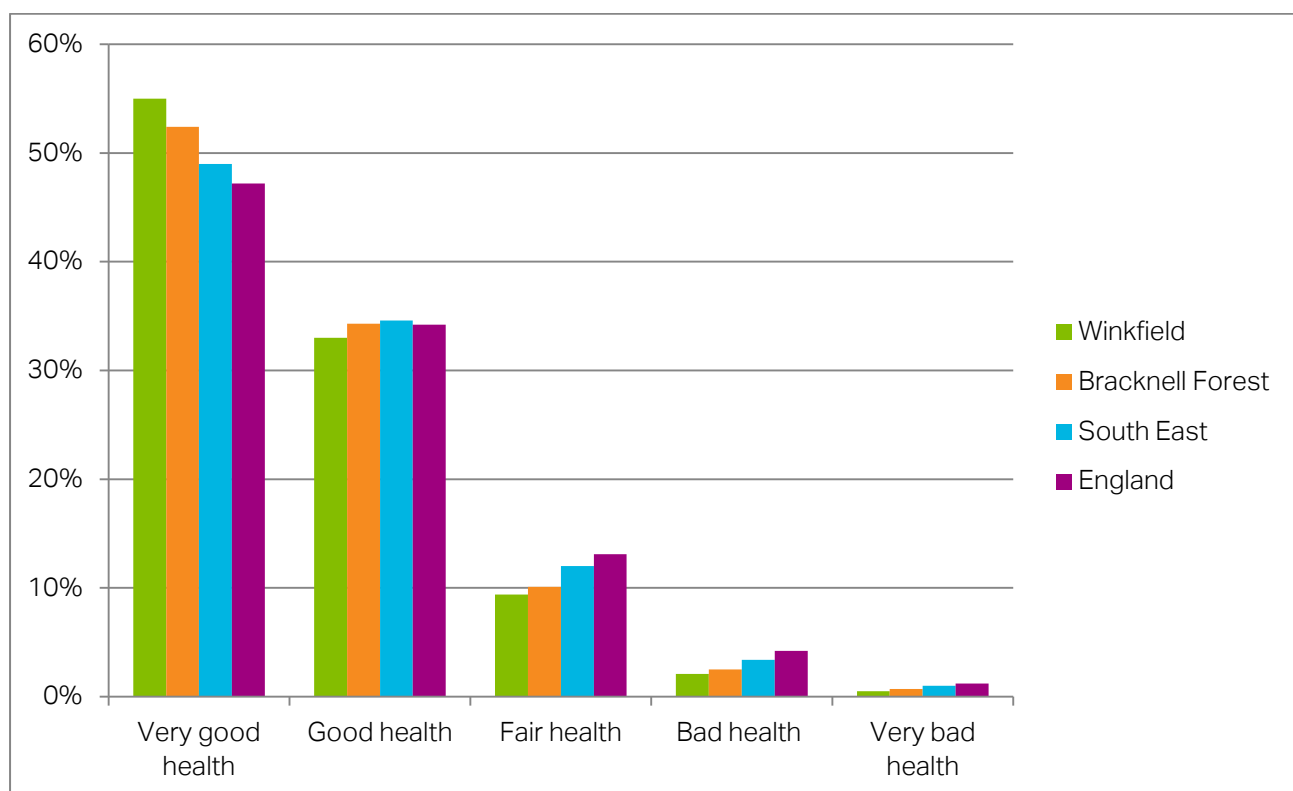


Figure 8.1: 'General Health'⁷⁵

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to poor housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in **Chapter 7**. As highlighted in Figure 8.1, 88.0% of residents the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', broadly aligning with the total for Bracknell Forest (86.7%), but greater than the totals for the South East (83.6%) and England (81.4%). Contrastingly, the number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area considering themselves to have 'bad health' or 'very bad health' is only 2.6%, compared with 3.2% in Bracknell Forest, 4.4% in the South East, and 5.4% in England.

⁷⁴ Bracknell Forest Council (2017): Current Key Issues from the JSNA', [online] available to access via: <<http://jsna.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/jsna-summary>> last accessed [10/07/17]

⁷⁵ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

Table 8.1: Disability⁷⁶

	Winkfield	Bracknell Forest	South East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	4.5%	5.2%	6.9%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	6.1%	7.1%	8.8%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	89.4%	87.7%	84.3%	82.4%

The high percentage totals of 'very good health' and 'good health' within the Neighbourhood Plan area observed in Figure 8.1 aligns with the disability data presented in Table 8.1. 89.4% of residents in Winkfield report that their daily activities are 'not limited', broadly aligning with the trends for Bracknell Forest (87.7%), the South East (84.3%), and England (82.4%).

9.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Health and well-being levels within the Neighbourhood Plan area are excellent, with a high percentage of residents reporting as having 'good' or 'very good' health, and a low percentage of residents whose activities are limited in some way.

However, a growing and ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area might place future pressures on health services in the area. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the long term.

In addition to the five priority areas identified within the JSNA, obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

9.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Improve the health and wellbeing residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? Align to the five key priority areas outlined in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment? Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards? Reduce noise pollution? Promote the use of healthier modes of travel? Improve access to the countryside for recreational use? Avoiding any negative impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets, such as formal or informal footpaths?

⁷⁶ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

10. Transportation

Focus of Theme:

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility
- Car ownership
- Travel to work

10.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is served by the Martins Heron railway station, with regular services to Reading and London Waterloo. However, there are currently no public bus routes connecting residents to the station, with accessibility only achievable via a personal vehicle.
- As of July 2017, the principal bus routes through the Neighbourhood Plan area are the 162 and 162A, connecting residents to Bracknell Town Centre. Services are relatively infrequent, with roughly one per hour.
- There is a network of 'A' and 'B' roads passing through the Neighbourhood Plan area, connecting residents to neighbouring towns and villages.
- The main congestion points within the Neighbourhood Plan area are along the A329/A322 corridor and 'New Forest Ride'
- Residents have access to the 'Three Castles Path', a 96.5 km route from Windsor to Winchester. The route navigates in a north-easterly direction through the Neighbourhood Plan area, passing through Swinley Park and on to Ascot.
- Over 90% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to a car or van, due in part due to the affluence area, and also due to car reliance linked to the poor public transport links currently in place – with limited bus services and no current service taking residents to Martins Heron train station.

10.2 Policy Context

European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth.

At the local level, each Local Transport Authority in England and Wales has a statutory duty to produce and adopt a Local Transport Plan through the Local Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. Berkshire County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) sets out the borough's transport strategy between 2011 and 2026, with a vision to '*develop a sustainable transport system that supports the local economy, provides choice and improves quality of life in a safe and healthy environment*'. The following key challenges have been identified within the borough, with a series of twenty transport policies aiming to address them⁷⁷:

- To reduce delays associated with traffic congestion and improve reliability of journey times;
- To maintain and improve, where feasible, the local transport network;

⁷⁷ Bracknell Forest Council (2011): Transport Policy: LTP3 Core Strategy and Implementation Plan, [online] available to download via: <<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/transport-policy>> last accessed [07/07/17]

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport;
- To encourage and promote accessibility by sustainable modes of transport;
- To protect and enhance the quality of natural resources including water, air quality and the natural environment;
- To reduce casualties and improve safety on the local transport network; and
- To secure necessary transport infrastructure and services to support development.

At the local level, the following policies within the 2008 Core Strategy for the borough of Bracknell Forest directly relate to the 'Transportation' SA theme:

- Policy CS23: Transport; and
- Policy CS24: Transport and New Development.

10.3 Baseline Summary

10.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Rail Network

The only railway station within the Neighbourhood Plan area is 'Martins Heron', located on the eastern outskirts of Bracknell. The station has storage facilities for twenty-three bicycles and a car park with space for thirty-seven cars. Access to the station is possible from the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area via the B 3302 and B3017, the southern section via the B 3430 and the eastern and western sections via the A329. Martins Heron is one of the stops on the branch line service between Reading and London Waterloo national railway stations. There are regular direct services, highlighted below:⁷⁸

- London Waterloo: Half-hourly service (05 and 35 past the hour) with a journey time of approximately one hour; and
- Reading: Half-hourly service (17 and 47 past the hour) with a journey time of approximately twenty-five minutes.

The services also connect residents of the Neighbourhood Plan area to a number of local towns including Egham (journey time of approximately fifteen minutes) and Staines-upon-Thames (journey time of approximately twenty minutes) to the east, along with Bracknell (journey time of approximately five minutes) and Wokingham (journey time of approximately ten minutes) to the west.

Bus Network

In regards to the bus network, as of July 2017 the majority of local services are operated by 'Courtney Buses'⁷⁹, with route numbers 162 and 162A connecting residents located in the villages of Ascot and Winkfield into Bracknell. Based on the most recently updated route map for the Bracknell area, there are currently no services connecting residents of the Neighbourhood Plan area to 'Martins Heron' railway station. As such, residents who are solely reliant on public transport and who wish to travel via train will need to use bus routes 162 and 162A, alighting at Bracknell Bus Station (adjacent to Bracknell railway station).

⁷⁸ National Rail (2017): 'Martins Heron', [online] available at: <<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/mao/details.html>> last accessed [05/07/17]

⁷⁹ Courtney Buses (2017): 'Bracknell Area Map', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.courtneybuses.com/times-fares---maps.html>> last accessed [05/07/17]

Road Network and Congestion

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a network of 'A' Roads. In the southern section, the A 322 navigates north-west through the Neighbourhood Plan area towards Bracknell. Extending northwards from the A 322, the A 332 navigates to the north-east of the Neighbourhood Plan area, serving as the division between North and South Ascot and then on to Windsor. The A 330 passes through the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area and through Winkfield. Additionally, the A 329 extends east-west through the central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a turning on to the B 3430 (New Forest Ride) allowing residents to access Martins Heron railway station. Further 'B' roads include the B 3017 (extending north-south), B 3034 (extending east-west) and the B 3022 (extending south-east to north-west).

In terms of congestion, the A329/A322 corridor comprises some of the borough's busiest routes, linking the Neighbourhood Plan area to Bracknell, and also used for travelling between the M3 and M4 motorways. Additionally, the New Forest Ride runs through the length of Martins Heron, The Warren and Forest Park from the A329 and connects to the A322 and effectively serves as a link road between the M3 and M4 motorways. The road acts as the "rat run" that feeds onto Long Hill Road onwards to the northern villages of the Neighbourhood Plan area. New Forest Ride continues to get busier and together with most of the roads in the Parish often comes to a standstill during the morning rush hour period.

Cycle and Footpath Network

As of July 2017, there are no National Cycle Network routes passing through the Neighbourhood Plan area⁸⁰. In regards to footpaths, the 'Three Castles Path'⁸¹ is a 96.5 km route from Windsor to Winchester, inspired by the well documented 13th century journeys of King John at the time of the Magna Carta. Within the Neighbourhood Plan area the route extends in a north-easterly direction, passing through Swinley Park and on to Ascot.

Availability of Cars and Vans

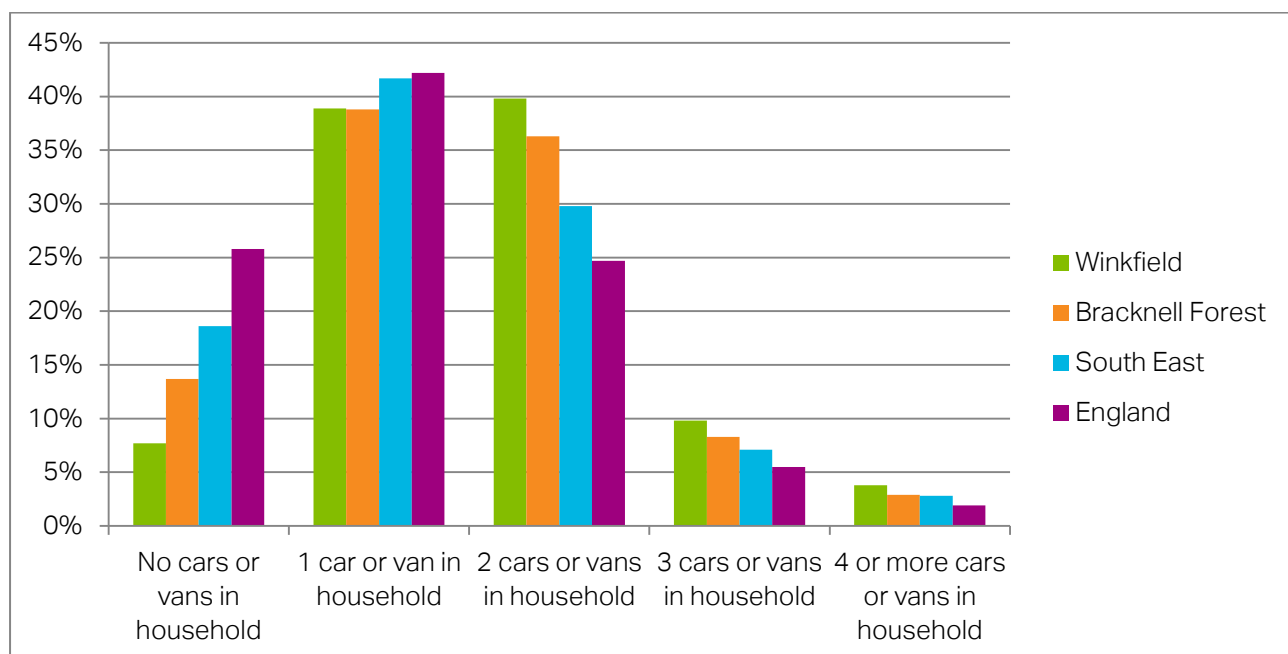


Figure 9.1: 'Car and van ownership'⁸²

⁸⁰ Sustrans (2017): 'National Cycle Network Map', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>> last accessed [05/07/17]

⁸¹ Three Castles Path (2017): 'Location and Route Summary', [online] available via: <<http://threecastlespath.uk/location.html>> last accessed [06/07/17]

⁸² ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

Based on the 2011 census data, 92.3% of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to at least one car or van, significantly higher than the totals for Bracknell Forest (86.3%), the South East (81.4%) and England (74.2%).

Travel to Work

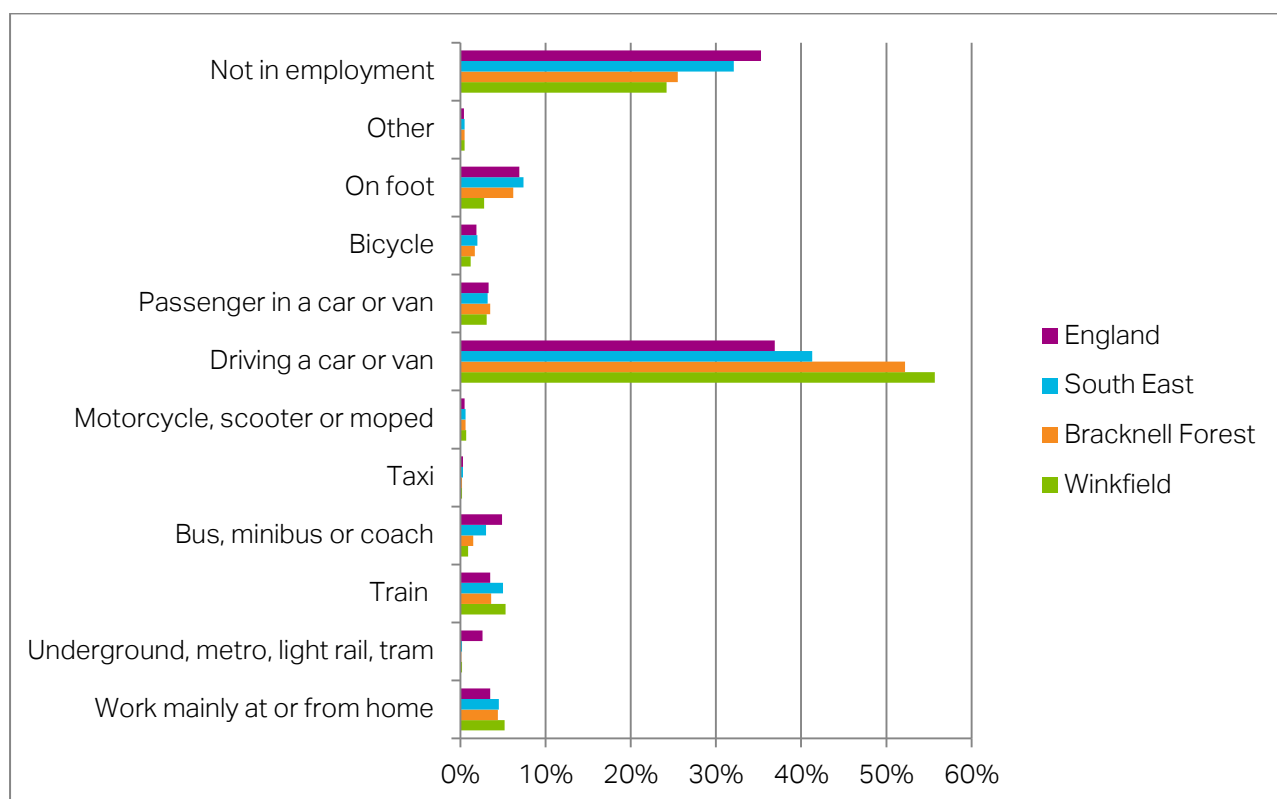


Figure 9.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁸³

As shown in Figure 9.2, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (55.7%), broadly aligning with the total for Bracknell Forest (52.2%), but notably greater than the totals for the South East (41.3%) and England (36.9%). Only 3.7% of the working population in the Neighbourhood Plan area choose to walk or catch a bus, coach or minibus to work. This is significantly lower than the totals for Bracknell Forest (7.7%), the South East (10.4%) and England (11.8%).

10.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Policy TP1 'Accessibility' within the LTP3 states that Bracknell Forest Council are committed to improving accessibility through developing a series of corridor route strategies to ensure a co-ordinated and forward thinking approach to network improvements. Similarly, TP13 'Congestion Management' states that the council will improve the capacity and functionality of junctions and route corridors, with proposed plans for the A322/329 corridor put forward.

Additionally, public transport use has the potential to remain low compared with private car use; likely to be due to the infrequent nature of the services provided within the area. Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by the Comprehensive Local Plan and the LTP3, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

⁸³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

10.4 What are the SA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SA theme?

SA objective	Assessment Questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?• Facilitate working from home and remote working?• Improve road safety?• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?

11. Next Steps

11.1 Subsequent stages for the SA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SA process⁸⁴

1. Screening;
2. Scoping;
3. Assess reasonable alternatives (i.e. alternative approaches to achieving the plan objectives), with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
4. Assess the draft plan and prepare the SA Report, with a view to informing consultation and plan finalisation;
5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making / SA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')

⁸⁴ In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

