
Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan

TOPIC: Green Infrastructure and Landscape

Synopsis:	<p>The Green Infrastructure and Landscape Topic Papers will provide evidence to support the policy approach being taken in the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan with regard to the natural environment. This document ‘wnspg_green_infra_summary’ is one of 4 documents that make up the Green Infrastructure and Landscape Topic Papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wnspg_green_infra_evidence: Winkfield NP Green Infrastructure and Landscape Main evidence document which contains many maps and photos• wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space: Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish• wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals: Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish• wnspg_green_infra_summary: This is the Summary Document
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Document Version:	Draft v17
Date:	6 th April 2017

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2. Definition of Green Infrastructure & Landscape

The evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#) provides evidence to support the policy approach being taken in the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan with regard to the natural environment.

The natural environment, open spaces and habitats all come together under the umbrella of **Green Infrastructure** which is fundamental to well-planned and healthy communities. Green infrastructure can be provided in a variety of ways:

- It can be green or open spaces that can link together to create an informal but planned network across a wide geographical area.
- It can be parks, gardens, woodland, green corridors, wildlife habitats/sites, open spaces, watercourses, street trees, gardens and the open countryside.
- It can also be areas that perform functions such as nature conservation, food production (farmland), footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes, areas for flood risk management.

Natural England's Definition of Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multi-functional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.

Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.

3.BFC Parks and Open Space Strategy

Bracknell Forest Council's Parks and Open Space Strategy (Parks and Countryside Strategy) is about the management and development of recreational green space, particularly within the context of contribution to quality of life.

This relates to and supports a number of policy documents. Of most significance are the Bracknell Forest Sustainable Community Strategy and the Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework. Also of direct relevance are the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Cultural Strategy, and Play Strategy.

Green space provision within Bracknell Forest has previously been assessed as part of the Bracknell Forest Borough Study of open space, sports, recreational and leisure facilities (Planning Policy Guidance Note 17) October 2006. The resulting vision as set out in this study is:

"A high quality, accessible network of clean, safe and attractive green spaces and facilities which allow people to improve their health and well-being through recreation and sport now and in the future."

And closely reflects the vision for the Sustainable Community Strategy:

"Bracknell Forest will have a reputation for its distinguished green landscape and contemporary, vibrant town centre. Contributing to this unique identity will be many neighbourhoods offering accessible facilities to meet individuals' needs. Local communities will be strengthened with people feeling safe and getting on well together. Ensuring everyone has similar opportunities and is included in public life will enhance confidence in public services. Preserving our green heritage will be key to the future development of the area, integrating environmental concerns into all activities. The Borough will have a prosperous and diverse economy, offering local jobs, personalised public services and a range of ways to spend leisure time.

Key objectives of the strategy are:

- **Provision:** Protect and establish public open space for recreation, play, sport, health, biodiversity, heritage and climate change mitigation and adaption that is appropriate to need; strategically located; and adaptable to future requirements
- **Maintenance:** Provide safe and welcoming public open space; attain and improve quality standards
- **Use and Enjoyment:** Make sure public open space supports well-being; encourages participation; and facilitates social inclusion.

4. Trees

4.1. Trees and the Planning System

Trees are important elements of green infrastructure, contributing to urban cooling through evapotranspiration and providing micro-climatic effects that can reduce energy demands in buildings. They therefore represent a key resource that can significantly contribute to climate change adaptation.

Trees can offer many benefits, including:

- Providing visual amenity, softening or complementing the effect of the built environment, and adding maturity to new developments;
- Displaying seasonal change and providing opportunities for wildlife in built-up areas;
- Making places more comfortable in tangible ways by contributing screening and shade, reducing wind speed and turbulence, intercepting snow and rainfall, and reducing glare.
- Flood protection measures.

Where tree retention or planting is proposed in conjunction with nearby construction, the objective should be to achieve a harmonious relationship between trees and structures that can be sustained **in the long term**. In Bracknell Forest we often see planting conditions/requirements initially complied with only to be ripped up by the new residents e.g. buildings too close to large trees which create shade. With limited enforcement abilities this is detracting from our woodland heritage. The good practice recommended by British Standards is intended to assist in achieving this objective. BS 5837:2012 is applicable whether or not planning permission is required. It follows a logical sequence of events that has tree care at the heart of the process. The full sequence of events might not be applicable in all instances; for example, a planning application for a conservatory might not require the level of detail that needs to accompany a planning application for the development of a site with one or more dwellings.

The evidence document (wnspg_green_infra_evidence) section 4.1 describes the statutory duty of Local Planning Authorities to consider the protection and planting of trees when granting planning permission for proposed development.

Planning conditions are frequently used by Local Planning Authorities as a means of securing the retention of trees, hedgerows and other soft landscaping on sites during development and for a period following completion of the development. If it is proposed to retain trees for the long term then a TPO is often used rather than a planning condition. If valid planning conditions are in place then anyone wishing to undertake work to trees shown as part of the planning condition must ensure they liaise with the LPA and obtain any necessary consent or variation.

The nature and level of detail of information required to enable a Local Planning Authority (to properly consider the implications and effects of development proposals) is described in the evidence document (wnspg_green_infra_evidence) Section 4.1.

Winkfield Parish originally formed part of Windsor Forest (see William Faden's "Plan of his Majesty's Forest of Windsor" dated 1788-1791) and contains a number of veteran

trees including significant oaks some of which are specimens of one hundred years plus with some notable trees closer to two centuries old.

Natural England and the Forestry Commission's standing advice for planning authorities is that Veteran Trees and Ancient Woodland should be taken into account by planning authorities where relevant when determining planning applications.

Trees and woodland classed as 'ancient' or 'veteran' are irreplaceable. Ancient woodland takes hundreds of years to establish and is considered important for its wildlife, soils, recreation, cultural value, history and contribution to landscapes.

'Ancient woodland' is any wooded area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes:

- 'ancient semi-natural woodland' mainly made up of trees and shrubs native to the site, usually arising from natural regeneration
- 'plantations on ancient woodland sites' areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted trees, usually of species not native to the site

Ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites have equal protection under the National Planning Policy Framework.

'Wooded continuously' doesn't mean there has been a continuous tree cover across the entirety of the whole site. Open space, both temporary and permanent, is an important component of woodlands.

Ancient wood pastures and historic parkland can be a distinct form of ancient woodland. Many have not been included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory because their low tree density meant that they didn't register as woodland on historical maps. Where ancient wood pastures are identified they should receive the same consideration as other forms of ancient woodland.

'Veteran trees' are trees which, because of their age, size or condition are of cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value. They can be found as individuals or groups within ancient wood pastures, historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, parks or other areas.

Planning authorities should refuse planning permission for developments that would lead to loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Read more in the National Planning Policy Framework.

A survey of Veteran Trees within Winkfield Parish was undertaken by Paul Craven, Head of Grounds Maintenance and Facilities, Winkfield Parish Council in 2008 and 2009, with a further area covered in 2014. However this only includes trees located within Winkfield Parish Designated Green Spaces and Lambrook School.

4.2. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

TPO Maps are provided in Section 11.6 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`.

TPOs are administered by Local Planning Authorities (LPA) (e.g. a borough, district or unitary council or a national park authority) and are made to protect trees that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat. All types of tree can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all trees within a defined area or woodland. Any species can be protected, but no species is automatically protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

A TPO is a written order which, in general, makes it a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order, or to cause or permit such actions, without the authority's permission. Anyone found guilty of such an offence is liable. In serious cases the case may be dealt with in the Crown Court where an unlimited fine can be imposed.

Trees (above a certain size) that fall under a Conservation Area such as Winkfield Row and Winkfield Village are automatically protected. If any stem on the tree is larger than 7.5 centimetres diameter when measured at 1.5 metres above ground level it is automatically protected. However there are a number of historic or iconic trees and woodlands within the Parish that should be protected for biodiversity value as well as amenity value.

In the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*, section 4.2 contains photos of mature trees.

The evidence document details a suggestion that any significant trees within the grounds of any listed building or within the grounds of a property registered under the Historic.

4.3. Ancient Trees and Ancient Woodlands

In the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*, section 4.3.1 contains a map of Ancient Woodlands in Winkfield Parish North that include:

- Land by Bishops Lane Farm, on the western border of Winkfield Parish.
- Land by Nobbscrook Farm, south of Drift Road
- Land by Winkfield Plan Farm, north of Winkfield Lane, near Drift Road
- High Standinghill Woods between Badgers Bridge and Legoland
- Windsor Gt Park both sides of Sheet Street Road A332, by Peanut Roundabout
- Woodend, east Windsor Road A332, south of Lovel Lane B3034
- Windsor Forest north east of Sunninghill Road B383
- Buckhurst Park, near the western tip of Virginia Water Lake
- Land surrounding the northern half of Great Pond, west of Sunninghill Park

There is also a small area of Ancient Woodland north west of Bagshot Park extending across the Surrey border into Winkfield Parish.

5. Open Space, Green Belt, Gaps

This section covers existing open space, Green Belt, Gaps and opportunities to fund the improvement of our environment.

5.1. Existing Open Space

The BFC Core Strategy sets out a planning framework for guiding the location and level of development in BFC up to 2026. The current BFC Local Plan consists of the Core Strategy (2008), the Site Allocations Local Plan (2012) and the saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002. A link to 'Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002' is provided in the table of Reference Documentation in Section 11.1 of the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#).

These documents will be replaced by the new BFC Local Plan which is at an early stage, with a first Issues and Options consultation being held in Summer 2016. The Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan provides the local community with an opportunity to influence decisions about Local Green Spaces, Local Gaps and Strategic Gaps in the new BFC Local Plan.

Existing Open Space includes Local Gaps and Strategic Gaps identified in the map 'BFC Core Strategy 2008' (Section 11.1 of the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#)). A previously (2006) proposed Local Gap (CS9ii Winkfield Row to Martin's Heron) has already shrunk.

In 'Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish' ([wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space](#)), Section 3 lists existing and Candidates Sites for Local Green Spaces. This Local Green Space status would protect Existing Open Space from inappropriate building development. Bog Lane is an example of a Green Space at risk.

Existing Open Space in Winkfield Neighbourhood also includes farmland, Crown Estate and other areas not managed by councils. It is in the interest of these managers to respect the local community wishes, expressed via the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan, to help sustain our Green Infrastructure which is fundamental to well-planned and healthy communities. For example, 'Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish' ([wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals](#)) proposes a Green Cycleway through Swinley Park to New Forest Ride.

5.2. London Green Belt

In the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`, section 5.2 contains a map of Green Belt land showing

- green dotted areas indicate London Green Belt land
- orange indicates Bracknell Forest
- pink indicates Winkfield Neighbourhood within Bracknell Forest

The junction of Smewins Rd and Drift Rd mark the northwest corner of Bracknell Forest on Green Belt Land which extends south to Carters Hill, Church Lane, Ryehurst Lane, Bottle Lane, Maidenhead Rd and Westhatch Lane. Further east, the junction of Bracknell Rd and Winkfield Row is on Green Belt land on the western boundary of Winkfield Parish.

Green Belt Maps are provided in Section 11.3 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`. Most of Winkfield Neighbourhood North is in Green Belt. Locks Ride and Priory Road have Green Belt to the East and non-GreenBelt (pink) to the West. The eastern side of Winkfield Neighbourhood South is in Green Belt. Swinley Road has Green Belt land to the East (Swinley East) and non-GreenBelt to the West (Swinley Park). Swinley Park and Swinley East are Crown Estate. Existing Open Space also includes Green Belt.

Most of Winkfield Neighbourhood is on London Green Belt land, but this needs protection from inappropriate use of "Special Circumstance" caveats which have already been used to permit building on Green Belt land. SPAE (Society for Protection of Ascot and Environs) helps to minimise the erosion of Green Belt by working with LGBC (London Green Belt Council) which campaigns nationally. Fifty Thousand Homes have been built on Green Belt land in the last ten years.

5.2.1.Green Belt Under Threat In Ascot

In the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`, section 5.2.1 describes important factors influencing Site Allocations in Winkfield Neighbourhood. Ascot is just one of many examples of how London's Green Belt land is gradually being eroded. An article in the Financial Times describes the threat facing Ascot from release of Green Belt land. RBWM is considering de-designating Ascot High Street and a swath of other Ascot Green Belt areas to accommodate 1,600 homes that RBWM says must be built over the next two decades.

5.3. Funding by S106 and CIL

This section shows how statutory mechanisms offer opportunities to fund the improvements to our environment.

5.3.1.S106

Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as S106 agreements, make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms. They are focused on site-specific mitigation of the impact of development. S106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions' along with highway contributions and CIL.

5.3.2.Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Community Infrastructure Levy is a new system of funding infrastructure through planning charges that BFC can ask developers to pay for most new building projects. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure needed to support new development with the district, not necessarily in the location where the money is raised. Where the authority has indicated that it intends to fund an item of infrastructure through CIL, it cannot then also seek money through S106 for the same thing. In February 2015 BFC published a list of infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure that it intends to fund wholly or partly through CIL revenue.

In the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`, section 5.3.2 highlights that BFC have identified 26 CIL-funded footpath/cycleway projects in Bracknell Forest, but only 2 of these are in Winkfield Parish (the largest of all the parishes)

It is proposed that CIL-funded projects in Bracknell Forest should include:

- proposed cycleway routes identified in Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish (`wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals`)
- improved pedestrian/cycle access to Kingswood described in Section 8.8
- additional allotments described in Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish (`wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space`)
- drainage for Asher Recreation Ground described in Section 4.4 of Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish

5.4. Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

In the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#), section 5.4 contains a map of Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and buffer zones in Winkfield Parish. This section shows how SANGS and SAMM offer opportunities to improve our environment, when housing developments occur within the TBH SPA 5km buffer zone.

The UK participates in an EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds which provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with wild birds in Europe (Section 8.9.2 below). This Directive protects the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA) located across the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. The SPA supports important breeding populations of Nightjar and Woodlark, both of which nest on the ground, and Dartford Warbler which often nests in gorse. The south of Winkfield Neighbourhood is in TBH SPA.

Building proposals with more than 50 dwellings (e.g. WINK 6 and WINK 31 in Section 8.7.2 below) in the 7km Buffer Zone require that landowners and developers consult Natural England to agree on suitable mitigation measures. The middle of Winkfield Neighbourhood is dominated by the 5km buffer zone, thereby presenting opportunities to get contributions (from developers) to SANG and SAMM described below.

Natural England has warned about domestic pets foraging in the TBH SPA and has developed an agreement with Borough Councils to mitigate the threat to these endangered ground-nesting birds. BFC has a duty to ensure that all the activities they regulate will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA. Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations requires BFC to assess the possible effects of the various proposals, including planning applications, on the SPA. The mitigation measures Natural England believes are able to mitigate against this impact are contributions (from developers) to SANG and SAMM described below.

5.4.1. SANGS

The provision of suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANGS) makes available an alternative site (e.g. Englemere Pond) for residents to use for recreational purposes, instead of the SPA. This mitigation framework applies to all settlements within 5km of TBH SPA e.g. Winkfield Row and North Ascot. These Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces mean theoretically that cats and dogs are less likely to venture into the TBH SPA. However, we need to make this impact realistic. Dog-walkers near "The Rough" (North Ascot) have said that Englemere Pond is too far to walk and that they are unlikely to start walking to Englemere Pond just because of improved boardwalks around the Pond. We need more local, easily accessible bespoke SANGS sites. Section 5.4.3 describes the threshold for bespoke SANGS.

5.4.2. SAMM

Contribution towards Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) ensures that access management implemented in one area of the SPA does not simply displace visitors onto another part of the SPA.

We suggest that SAMM should be used to ensure that new residents in new housing developments can access a nearby SANG without using their car. In recent years small housing estates have been built in Ascot as cul-de-sacs with only one point of entry and

exit. Footpaths should enable pedestrians to enter an estate on one side and exit the estate on another side.

We suggest that SAMM contributes towards new Cycleway/Walkway routes connecting new housing developments to a nearby SANG, so that dog-walkers will be encouraged to walk to a local SANG, instead of driving to The Look Out and letting their dogs forage in Swinley Forest, where Nightjar and Woodlark both nest on the ground.

5.4.3. Contributions to SANG and SAMM

Full details of contributions and actions are provided in Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Briefing Note for Applicants (link in Section 11.1 of the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#)).

To illustrate a small housing estate levy, if a small housing estate was built on Ascot Heath School Playing Fields, developers would be required to pay into the SAMM fund and into a SANGS fund which is currently being used to improve (boardwalks etc) Englemere Pond SANGS Site. For each 3 bedroom house, the developer would be required to pay £2,400 into SANG and £711 into SAMM; totalling £3,111.

To illustrate a large housing estate levy, if a housing estate with net increase of 109 dwellings or more were built in Winkfield Row within the TBH SPA 5km Buffer Zone, then developers would be required to fund the provision of a bespoke SANGS. Per dwelling, similar (to the small housing estate) levies would apply but the costs of bespoke SANGS with 'per bedroom' SAMM contributions would depend on the mix of housing.

5.5. Local Gap CS9ii between Winkfield Row & Martin's Heron

In the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#), section 5.5 contains a map showing a local gap between Bracknell and Ascot. Gaps retain identity of settlements by preventing coalescence with nearby settlements. The local gap between Bracknell and Ascot was included in the Core Strategy submission version (2006) to protect Ascot from Bracknell urban sprawl. However, the local gap was removed by the planning inspector and therefore did not feature in the adopted Core Strategy (2008). The 2006 map and 2008 map are both provided in Section 11.4 in the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#). The 2008 map shows 'Major Locations for Growth' between Binfield and Warfield. Although Binfield has experienced some coalescence, the 2008 map shows Binfield protected by a strategic gap in the west and protected by a local gap in the east. There are no gaps (local or strategic) currently protecting Winkfield Neighbourhood.

The proposed Local Gap is illustrated in the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#):

- Section 5.5 Figure 5 Local Gap CS9ii
- Section 11.4.1 Figure 52 LDF Core Strategy Spatial Framework 2006
- Section 11.4.2 Figure 53 Local Gap CS9ii - Winkfield Row to Martin's Heron

Paragraphs 126 & 127 on page 21 of the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007 (link in Section 11.1 of the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#)) explains why this Local Gap was removed by the planning inspector who stated "North Ascot is separated from Bracknell by the Green Belt, albeit by a relatively narrow strip of Green Belt.

Therefore, there can be no real threat of coalescence". In neighbouring parishes "Special Circumstances" have already been used to permit building on green belt land. CPRE (The Campaign to Protect Rural England) estimated that Fifty Thousand Homes have been built on green belt land in the last ten years. According to CPRE, Councils across England have approved plans for 275,000 homes on Green Belt land, including 117,000 on the London Green Belt (Section 5.2.1 in evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#)). Contrary to the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007, we suggest that there is a real threat of coalescence across the narrow strip of Green Belt land west of North Ascot. We propose that Local Gap CS9ii (Winkfield Row to Martin's Heron) is re-instated to add protection against the very real threat of Ascot being overrun by Bracknell urban sprawl.

5.5.1. The Brackens, London Road

SHELAA Site WINK 21 is The Brackens described in Section 8.7 of the evidence document [wnspg_green_infra_evidence](#)'. Berkeley Homes submitted planning applications for the site at The Brackens. They presented their proposals at The Brackens, London Road, Ascot, SL5 8BE on Wednesday 11th January 2017. 59 dwellings are proposed in the middle of Local Gap CS9ii (Winkfield Row to Martin's Heron). Although The Brackens is not on Green Belt Land, this proposal (WINK 21) directly challenges the assurances in the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007.

6. Wildlife

This section covers Wildlife distribution, Wildlife corridors and connectivity to networks in adjacent Parishes. To improve the wellbeing of people, plants and animals, Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan needs to ensure that wildlife corridors and habitats continue to play a role in the local landscape. We should continue to seek opportunities to enhance and develop these corridors and habitats. Wildlife Corridors mostly follow water courses even when they go underground.

6.1. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

In the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`, section 6.1 contains a map of SSSI's in and around Winkfield Neighbourhood. Natural England provided the map. A Site of Special Scientific Interest is a conservation area denoting a protected area in the UK. SSSI's are the basic building blocks of site-based nature conservation legislation. The NPPF protects SSSI's (Section 8.9.2 below). SSSI's include parts of Swinley East (Brickpits east of A322), parts of Swinley Park, Windsor Forest east of B383, Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (Swinley Forest south of the A322 explained in Section 5.4) and Englemere Pond which is also a SANG (Section 5.4.1). Ascot Wildlife have objected to an SSSI being used as a SANG.

6.2. Wildlife in Ascot

Wildlife in Ascot (link in Section 11.1 of evidence document) has developed a map of green corridors to support the migration of plants and animals. That map is shown in Section 6.2 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`.

The Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by RBWM in March 2014. This put in place these green corridors through the parishes of Sunninghill and Ascot and Sunningdale.

Section 6.2 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence` also includes the following extracts from Wildlife in Ascot maps which help substantiate the need for these green corridors.

- Figure 8 Extract from WiA Map of Hedgehogs seen in 2014
- Figure 9 Extract from WiA Map of Toads seen in 2015
- Figure 10 Extract from WiA map of Owls heard in 2015

6.3. Wildlife in Winkfield Neighbourhood

Section 6.3 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence` includes a map of wildlife corridors in Winkfield Neighbourhood.

Wildlife corridors allow wildlife to migrate, feed and breed. Wildlife in Ascot (ascot.wildlife@gmail.com) worked with a professional ecologist to identify wildlife corridors by highlighting water courses through Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. Wildlife in Ascot and Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Officer have assisted Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in identifying water courses through Winkfield Neighbourhood. More survey results and detailed maps are provided in Section 11.6 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`.

6.4. TVERC

TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre) exchanges wildlife sighting data with various organizations, including Ascot Wildlife, BBOWT, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and Natural England. Wildlife (protected species, rare, scarce or declining species) distribution data is plotted onto GIS (Geographical Information System) layers and sold to the public. Section 6.4 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes a map of Wildlife Sightings in Winkfield Parish.

6.5. Amphibians

Section 6.5 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes a map of Newts, Frogs and Toads in Winkfield Parish. The map identifies locations of 164 sightings (years 1991 to 2016) of amphibians (Great Crested Newt, Smooth Newt, Palmate Newt, Common Frog, Common Toad) in Winkfield Parish with each sighting ranging from 1 specimen up to a single sighting of 500 juvenile toads.

6.6. Reptiles

Section 6.6 of the evidence document includes a map of Sightings of Reptiles in Winkfield Parish. The map identifies locations of 138 sightings (years 1991 to 2016) of reptiles (Slow-worm, Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Adder) in Winkfield Parish with each sighting ranging from 1 specimen up to a single sighting of 3 Adders and a single sighting of 4 Grass Snakes.

6.7. Badgers and Hedgehogs

Section 6.7 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes a map of Badgers and Hedgehogs in Winkfield Parish. The map identifies locations of 68 sightings (years 1991 to 2016) of Badgers and Hedgehogs in Winkfield Parish with each sighting ranging from 1 specimen to 3 specimens.

6.8. Birds

Section 6.8 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes a map of Birds in Winkfield Parish. The map identifies locations of 325 sightings (years 1991 to 2016) of protected, rare, scarce or declining species of birds in Winkfield Parish with each sighting ranging from 1 specimen (e.g. Pied Flycatcher) up to a single sighting of 200 specimens (Redwings). Other species include Lapwing, Teal, Gadwall, Curlew, Woodcock, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Nightjar, Bullfinch, Dartford Warbler, Red Kite, Kestrel, Hobby, Owl, Nightjar, Swift, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, House Martin, Tree Pipit, Wagtail, Dunnock, Nightingale, Redstart, Fieldfare, Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush.

6.9. NERC Act Section 41 Habitats of Principle Importance

The Natural Environment and Natural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) established a new independent body – Natural England – responsible for England's natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. TVERC have provided the following digital map of Habitats of Principle Importance in Winkfield Parish as listed in NERC Act Section 41.

Section 6.9 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes a map which shows Habitats of Principle Importance in Winkfield Parish Wildlife Sites and Proposed Wildlife Sites.

6.10. Wildlife Sites and Proposed Wildlife Sites

Section 6.10 of the evidence document wnspeg_green_infra_evidence includes maps showing yellow Wildlife Sites and one blue Proposed Wildlife Site in Winkfield Parish.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published in 1994, and was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Proposed Wildlife Sites are where information has been received that they may support important areas of UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats of important populations of protected species, rare, scarce or declining species. Local Wildlife Sites are sites which have already been approved by the selection panel. TVERC have provided these digital maps of Wildlife Sites.

6.11. Paddock Adjacent to The Cut - Species Summary

Section 6.11 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence` includes a maps of Paddock Adjacent to The Cut (SU87V28). A local landowner engaged the services of TVERC to survey the species on a proposed Local Wildlife Site - Paddock Adjacent to The Cut (SU87V28), on the north border of Lambrook School Playing Fields. This paddock gets severely flooded and is within the floodzone described in section 8.2 below. Owners of adjacent land are submitting SHLAA proposals to build on their land. The survey was conducted in July 2016 by Katherine Holmes, Berkshire Biodiversity Officer at TVERC.

6.12. Historic Hedgerows, green frontages, highway verges

There is an ancient hedgerow Gap in Winkfield Street from the Vicarage to the next Detached house with absentee owner. The hedgerow has been subject to a cutting order by BFBC but yet to be cut.

6.13. Greener Greenways and Sustrans

Sustrans has begun a large-scale project to survey, protect and enhance biodiversity along some of the traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network. Properly managed Cycle Greenways shelter wildlife, transpire oxygen, sequester carbon and pollutants, and add grace and tranquillity to the landscape. We suggest that this is an opportunity for the Crown Estates, RBWM and BFC to comply with NPPF Paragraph 35 (Section 8.9.4 below), by supporting Sustrans, protecting wildlife in Thames Basin Heaths and promoting Cycle Greenways.

7. Rights of Way, Walkways, Cycleways

This section covers routes in the villages and the wider parish and connectivity to networks in adjacent Parishes.

7.1. Rights of Way

A map 'Rights of Way in Winkfield Neighbourhood' is provided in Section 7.1 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`.

In the south west corner there is a Public Right of Way through Allsmoor Lane by the Winkfield Parish border. All other Rights of Way in Winkfield Neighbourhood are north of London Road A329. Parts of Sunninghill Park (Crown Estate) contain Public Rights of Way from Woodside to Cheapside but cycling is prohibited.

7.2. Combined Cycleway/Walkways and Greenways

Combined Cycleways/Walkways provide safe off-road pedestrian paths and cycle routes for young and old. On-road cycling is too dangerous for many people. Additional safe off-road cycle routes would encourage people to use this healthier means of transport, thereby ameliorating the gridlock traffic congestion already harming our health twice daily in Forest Road, Winkfield Road, Windsor Road and London Road. We live in a car-dominated culture which must change for the sake of our children's health. BFC has done an excellent job making it safe for people to cycle off-road in areas surrounding Bracknell Town, but there is a shortage of

- safe cycle routes from Ascot to Bracknell
- safe cycle routes from Ascot to Windsor

7.3. Sustrans and National Cycle Routes

A map 'NCR's around Winkfield Neighbourhood' is provided in Section 2.2 of 'Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish' (`wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals`). Sustrans has developed the National Cycle Network. To comply with NPPF Paragraph 35 (Section 8.9.4 below), Winkfield Neighbourhood needs a Safe Cycle Route to connect to National Cycle Route 4 from Woodside Village.

7.4. Windsor ABC

A map 'One of the Windsor ABC proposed routes' is provided in Section 2.6 of 'Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish' (`wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals`). Windsor ABC (Section 2.2 of Supplement B) promotes Safe Cycle Routes and Cycle Greenways from Windsor to Ascot, Bracknell and Crowthorne.

The Windsor ABC route (Section 2.6 of Supplement B) is just one example, but it includes Swinley East and Swinley West (Swinley Park) where cycling is currently prohibited. At the SPAE AGM (May 2016) RBWM's new mayor confirmed that there will never be a safe commutable cycle route through Windsor Great Park. Alternative routes are therefore included in this document.

7.5. Existing Cycle Routes between Bracknell and Windsor

A map 'Winkfield's isolation from NCR4' is provided in Section 2.4 of Supplement B. NPPF Paragraph 35 (Section 8.9.4 below) requires that BFC

- Give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements
- Create safe & secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists

Bicycle accidents have happened near the Woodside Peanut Roundabout which is unsafe for most cyclists, thereby isolating Ascot from Windsor. Windsor ABC has ascertained that there is no safe commutable cycle route from Ascot to Windsor.

In 'Supplement B, Section 2.5 includes 'Cycleways East of Bracknell' which shows that there are plenty of combined Cycleways/Walkways west of Martin's Heron and Chavey Down. The BFC Definitive Map shows that Warfield Park and Forest Park are well served by combined Cycleways/Walkways connecting to Bracknell Town. There are no combined Cycleways/Walkways east of Martin's Heron to the South or North of the A329.

7.6. Proposed Safe Cycle Routes

So that BFC can comply with NPPF Paragraph 35 (Section 8.9.4 below), we suggest a range of safe cycle routes are developed to safely link Bracknell to Windsor via Ascot. The following proposed routes are detailed with maps in Supplement B. Each Proposed Cycle Route has a reference (e.g. WNP.PCR.01) used in the Policies Section of the main evidence document (wnspg_green_infra_evidence).

- WNP.PCR.01: Met Office R/A, Forest Rd, Woodside
- WNP.PCR.02: Woodside to Cheapside
- WNP.PCR.03: Woodside to Legoland, Windsor
- WNP.PCR.04: North Ascot to Coral Reef
- WNP.PCR.05: A329, Racecourse, Rangers Gate to Windsor
- WNP.PCR.06: A329, Racecourse, Sunninghill Rd to Windsor

8. Opportunities and Site Allocations

This section addresses the need to find places to build new homes in Winkfield Neighbourhood. However, even the NPPF's (8.9 below) presumption in favour of sustainable development competes with designations that should protect most land in Winkfield Parish according to the NPPF. When landowners and agents propose a new site for consideration (Section 8.5 below), they should be aware of

- existing building density
- flood risk areas
- the need to promote sustainable transport as required under paragraph 35 of the NPPF
- designations that theoretically protect most land in Winkfield Parish according to the NPPF.

8.1. Existing Building Density in Winkfield Parish

2 maps are provided in Section 8.1 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence` to show dense areas of building developments in Winkfield Parish.

- 'Building density in Winkfield Parish North'
- 'Building density in Winkfield Parish South'

8.2. Flood Zones in Winkfield Parish

A map 'Flood zones in Winkfield Parish' is provided in Section 8.2 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`. The map was constructed from

- Environment Agency Floodzones Map
- Mastermap
- Open Street Map

Numerous houses are in a flood risk area west of New Forest Ride B3430, south of the railway track. This floodzone courses south through housing estates along Savernake Way and Allsmoor Lane, ending at New Forest Ride B3430. Another floodzone heads east from Sunninghill Park, then circumvents the north side of Cheapside Village, crossing Buckhurst Road and straddling the RBWM border until it crosses the border and joins Virginia Water Lake.

Flood Zone 3 straddles the brook ('The Cut') on the northern border of SHELAA sites WINK 14 and WINK 9. This is also a wildlife corridor. Serious flooding occurs when 'The Cut' swells to a river. The WNPSG have been advised by the Environment Agency. Floodzone 3 means 1 in a 100 chance of flooding, Floodzone 2 is 1 in a 1000. Owners of adjacent land are submitting SHLAA proposals (WINK 14 and WINK 9) to build houses on their land. Even if the houses were built on stilts, the sewers (which do overflow) and infrastructure would be entirely unsuitable. The Environment Agency confirmed it is absolutely not possible to have a pumping station to fix the flooding issues because Floodzone 3 is a fluvial flood area. Pumping station is only suitable for surface water. More details are provided in Section 8.7.4 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`. This floodzone continues east to Braziers Lane at Cooper's Bridge, then south eastwards to Forest Road B3034 where it heads south along New Road. This floodzone spreads westward into The Rough and continues southwards, straddling the RBWM border, crossing Kennel Ride into Nursery Lane. This floodzone courses through many housing estates, tapers off along the RBWM border and ends at London Road A329.

8.3. Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and SADPD

A graph 'Bracknell Forest SALP Housing Trajectory' is provided in Section 8.3 of the evidence document `wnspg_green_infra_evidence`.

The graph is from the BFC Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) adopted in 2013 (Section 11.1 below), which is one of the planning documents (along with the BFC Core Strategy, adopted in 2008) that guide the scale, type and location of new development in the Borough. The SALP is defined in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD). The SALP is an essential part of implementing the adopted Core Strategy. In particular, the SALP:

- identifies sites for future housing development in the Borough;
- ensures that appropriate infrastructure is identified and delivered alongside new development; and,
- revises the boundaries of certain designations shown on the Policies Map e.g. defined employment areas.

Once adopted, the planning policies in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (SADPD) will be used to determine planning applications along with policies in the Core Strategy, saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) and saved policy NRM6 in the South East Plan (2009) (relating to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (Section 5.4). Bracknell Forest Council have a target to build new houses in Bracknell Forest between 2013 and 2026 as indicated in the above graph. This assessment has already been increased since the publication of the SALP. Increased demand will influence the assessment of new SHLAA sites explained in Section 8.5 below.

8.4. Comprehensive Local Plan

The BFC SALP is being replaced by the Comprehensive Local Plan. The first consultation ran from 13th July to 25th July 2016. Consultation on the draft plan will be in Summer 2017 and adoption in February 2019.

8.5. SHLAA

The BFC website invites land owners and agents to submit a form to propose a new site for consideration. The website warns that any site details submitted cannot be treated as confidential. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) identifies and assesses sites that may have future potential for housing. The assessment includes looking at whether the site can actually be developed. The SHLAA does not actually allocate sites for housing; that is being done through the SADPD (Section 8.3 above).

The council has prepared a SHLAA, which forms part of the evidence base for the SADPD. The original SHLAA uses a base date of 31 March 2009. It is updated annually. Although there are no major changes, the authors of this Green Infrastructure and Landscape Topic Paper have been advised by BFC to await the delivery of a new SHLAA sites map and a new map to replace **Error! Reference source not found..** These maps (due out within the next few months) will show additional submissions.

The SHLAA helps the council assess whether there is a five-year supply of deliverable sites for housing in the borough, as required by government. Bracknell Forest Council is using the housing requirement of 10,780 dwellings for the period 2006-2026 (based on Core Strategy policy CS15).

8.6. SHLAA Sites in Adopted SALP 2013

New maps (SALP and SHLAA) were published in November 2016. There were only 3 sites in Winkfield Parish in the BFC SALP adopted in 2013. In November 2016 there are more sites which will be in the draft SALP/Comprehensive Local Plan to be consulted in Summer 2017.

The 3 SHLAA sites (overview map provided in Section 11.5.4 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*) in Winkfield Parish in the BFC SALP adopted in 2013 were as follows:

- 152 New Road
- Sandbanks/Palm Hills Estate, London Road
- Land at Bog Lane

8.7. SHELAA Sites Published November 2016

SHLAA has been replaced by the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). In the new SHELAA maps published in November 2016, there are 31 Winkfield Parish sites. However there is no assumption that any of these new sites will be included in the draft SALP/Comprehensive Local Plan to be consulted in Summer 2017. There are numerous restrictions that limit the suitability of the new SHELAA sites (published in November 2016). Contrary to assertions about sacrosanct designations (e.g. Sajid Javid and Green Belt in Section 5.2.1 above) there is also no guarantee that designations can be upheld when housing land appears to be in short supply. Similar to international oil supply, land supply is also controlled by landowners and developers. The following 31 sites have been recommended by the 2016 SHELAA Report, with provision for approximately 3000 dwellings in Winkfield Parish.

A table of SHELAA sites is provided in Section 8.7 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*. An overview map 'SHELAA sites in Winkfield Parish' is also provided in Section 8.7 of the evidence document. The map shows that each of the SHELAA proposals has at least one of the following features

- in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 5km Buffer Zone
- located on the Flood Zone and wildlife corridor
- located on Green Belt Land
- borders onto Nature Reserves and SSSI Units
- been the subject of planning applications, rejections, appeals and consultations
- been the subjects of letters to and from MPs
- been the subjects of campaigns
- been the subjects of petitions collecting thousands of residents' signatures
- have had wildlife sightings recorded by TVERC
- contradict assurances (Local Gap CS9ii) in the Core Strategy Inspector's Report
- contradict sustainable transport requirements under paragraph 35 of the NPPF

The 31 SHELAA sites are shown in maps in the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence* as detailed below.

8.7.1.WINK 1 and 2

A map 'WINK 1 and WINK 2' is provided in Section 8.7.1 of the evidence document wns_pg_green_infra_evidence. WINK 1 is on the Junction of Bracknell Road (B3022) and Cocks Lane (A330). North of Stirrups Country Hotel. 27 dwellings proposed.

- WINK 2 is east of WINK 1. Land at Elmea, Baileys Garage and the Haven, Maidens Green. 14 dwellings proposed

Both sites are on Green Belt Land. They are in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 7km Buffer Zone, but small sites would not be an issue for Natural England. Not a SSSI. Not a Flood Zone. Not Ancient Woodland. Significant Wildlife sites are in close proximity (Section 0 above) to the north and south of these sites.

8.7.2.WINK 3, 4, 5, 6 and 31

A map 'WINK 3, 4, 5, 6 and 31' and details are provided in Section 8.7.2 of the evidence document wns_pg_green_infra_evidence. All these sites are on Green Belt Land. The larger sites are in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 7km Buffer Zone. Proposals with more than 50 dwellings (WINK 6 and WINK 31) in the 7km Buffer Zone require that landowners and developers consult Natural England. Not a SSSI. Not a Flood Zone. Not Ancient Woodland. TVERC do have records of wildlife sightings in these areas.

8.7.3.WINK 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15

A map 'WINK 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15' and details are provided in Section 8.7.3 of the evidence document wns_pg_green_infra_evidence. None of these sites are on Green Belt Land, but they are all Greenfield sites. Part of WINK 14 is in a (blue) Flood Zone (Section 8.2) which is also a wildlife corridor (Section 6.3). West of WINK 15 borders onto a Local Wildlife Site (red) identified by TVERC (Section 6.4 above). WINK 14 surrounds WINK 11, WINK 8 and WINK 9. Most of these sites are in the TBH SPA (pink) 5km Buffer Zone. The remaining areas are in the 7km zone, so landowners and developers must consult Natural England. WINK 9 and 10 exceed the ceiling described in Section 5.4.1 above, so these proposals should offer opportunities to develop multiple bespoke SANGS (Section 5.4.1 above).

Some of these sites have been the subjects of hearings and petitions that have collected hundreds of residents' signatures. A campaign gained enormous local support. TVERC do have records of wildlife sightings in these areas (Section 6.11 above).

8.7.4.WINK 9 and 14

A map 'WINK 9 and 14' and details are provided in Section 8.7.4 of the evidence document wns_pg_green_infra_evidence. The map shows

- WINK 9 (Orange): Somerton Farm, Forest Road, Winkfield Row. 300 dwellings proposed.
- WINK 14 (Red): Land west of Braziers Lane/Locks Ride & north & south of Forest Rd. (Winkfield Row). 1120 dwellings proposed.

Flood Zone 3 geographical data was downloaded from The Environment Agency. Flood Zone 3 straddles the brook ('The Cut') on the northern border of WINK 14 and WINK 9, which is also a wildlife corridor. Serious flooding occurs when 'The Cut' swells to a river. The WNSPG have been advised by the Environment Agency. Floodzone 3 means 1 in a 100 chance of flooding, Floodzone 2 is 1 in a 1000. The Environment Agency confirmed it is absolutely not possible to have a pumping station to fix the flooding

issues because Floodzone 3 is a fluvial flood area. Pumping station is only suitable for surface water. BFC's NPPF section on flooding defines Floodzone 3, i.e. floodzone 3b is a functional floodplain and floods regularly. There is a kink in the sewer. During heavy periods of rain, human effluent and contaminated sewage water discharges from at least half of the ten manholes located a few feet from 'The Cut', a public footpath Willowbrook and Badgers Drift, plus manholes on the B3017 and B3022. This seeps into Lambrook School playing fields and smells bad. Section 8.7.4 of the evidence document includes photos of the drains bubbling over with sewerage in the Paddock Adjacent to 'The Cut' near WINK 14

8.7.5.WINK 16, 17 and 18

A map 'WINK 16, 17 and 18' and details are provided in Section 8.7.5 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*. These sites are not on Green Belt Land. They are in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 5km Buffer Zone, but not quite large enough to require a bespoke SANGS. Not a SSSI. Not a Flood Zone. Not Ancient Woodland. A significant Wildlife Site borders this area (Section 0 above).

These sites are within the Local Gap CS9ii proposed by BFC in 2006 to keep Ascot separated by green space from Bracknell. Paragraphs 126 & 127 on page 21 of the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007 explains why Local Gap CS9ii (between Winkfield Row and Martin's Heron) disappeared from BFC maps between 2006 and 2008. The Inspector's Report states "North Ascot is separated from Bracknell by the Green Belt, albeit by a relatively narrow strip of Green Belt. Therefore, there can be no real threat of coalescence". Although WINK 16, 17 and 18 are not on Green Belt Land, these proposals directly challenge the assurances in the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007.

8.7.6.WINK 19, 20, 21 and 22

A map 'WINK 19, 20, 21 and 22' and details are provided in Section 8.7.6 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*. Apart from WINK 20, these sites are not on Green Belt Land. They are in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 5km Buffer Zone. Not a SSSI. Not a Flood Zone. Not Ancient Woodland. A significant SSSI borders this area (Section 6.1 above).

These sites are within the Local Gap CS9ii proposed by BFC in 2006 to prevent coalescence between Ascot and Bracknell. Although WINK 19, 21 and 22 are not on Green Belt Land, these proposals directly challenge the assurances in the Core Strategy Inspector's Report 2007, as explained in the previous section.

8.7.7.WINK 23 and 24

A map 'WINK 23 and 24' and details are provided in Section 8.7.7 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*. Both sites are on Green Belt Land and are in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area 5km Buffer Zone.

WINK 23 exceeds the ceiling described in Section 5.4.1 above, so it should demand a separate bespoke SANG, but this entitlement could be defeated by close proximity to Englemere Pond SANG which should not be a SANG as this contradicts its original designation as a SSSI (Section 6.1 above).

WINK 24 does not promote sustainable transport as required under paragraph 35 of the NPPF (Section 8.9.4 below). A substantial housing development of terraced and semi-detached dwellings is proposed (planning application 16/00732) without any serious consideration for footpaths or cycleways from this isolated location into Ascot Town Centre.

8.7.8.WINK 25

A map 'WINK 25' and details are provided in Section 8.7.8 of the evidence document *wnspg_green_infra_evidence*. 30 dwellings proposed.

8.7.9. WINK 26 and 27

A map 'WINK 26 and 27' and details provided in Section 8.7.8 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence'. Both sites are on Green Belt Land.

8.7.10. WINK 28, 29 and 30

A map 'WINK 28, 29 and 30' and details are provided in Section 8.7.9 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence'. WINK 29 and 30 both straddle the TBH SPA 5km Buffer Zone and are within Green Belt Land. These sites have been the subjects of letters to and from MPs. A campaign gained enormous local support. A petition collected hundreds of residents' signatures. TVERC have records of wildlife sightings in these areas.

8.8. Sustainable Transport and Kingswood

The details of planning application 16/00732 Kingswood can be found on the BFC website. SHELAA site WINK 24 (Section 8.7.7 above) is the same site. Kingswood was an office complex off Kings Ride, almost opposite Prince Consort Drive. A substantial housing development of terraced and semi-detached dwellings is proposed without any serious consideration for footpaths or cycleways from this isolated location into Ascot Town Centre. We suggest that this planning application is undesirable unless proper pedestrian/cycle access is provided to the site. Currently the proposal does not promote sustainable transport as required under paragraph 35 of the NPPF (Section 8.9.4 below). There was a proposal to put a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the heavily trafficked A332, which is entirely inadequate. What is required to meet the NPPF requirements is a fully considered safe pedestrian/cycle route to link in with the existing routes from Heatherwood hospital. Without this no parent is going to allow their children to walk/cycle to their schools or the school bus stop at Heatherwood. It is too dangerous. Additionally this development is 1.5 miles from the nearest shops and almost 2 miles from a rail station. Without this proper access route, it is unsustainable within NPPF definitions.

8.9. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60772/116950.pdf

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. The NPPF is the major policy framework that influences the BFC Core Strategy (Section 8.3 above) and influences whether a SHLAA/SHELA site can actually be developed. Greg Clark MP (Minister for Planning) included the following statement in his introduction to the NPPF.

"Development that is sustainable should go ahead, without delay – a presumption in favour of sustainable development that is the basis for every plan, and every decision. This framework sets out clearly what could make a proposed plan or development unsustainable."

Exceptions to the above-described presumption are provided in the following NPPF Section paragraphs, which are very relevant to the designations of land in Winkfield Parish.

8.9.1. Protecting Green Belt land: NPPF Para. 87

NPPF Paragraph 87: *"As with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances."* Green Belt status impacts large parts of Winkfield Parish illustrated in Section 5.2 above and in Section 11.3 below.

8.9.2.Conserving/enhancing natural environment: Para. 118

NPPF Paragraph 118: *"When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:*

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- proposed development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made"*

Section 6.1 above illustrate large parts of Winfield Parish protected by NPPF Paragraph 118.

8.9.3.Conserving/enhancing natural environment: Para. 119

NPPF Paragraph 119: *"The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered, planned or determined."*

An example of a Birds Directive is the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds which impacts large parts of Winkfield Parish in the TBH SPA 5km buffer zone illustrated in Section 5.4 above.

8.9.4.Sustainable Transport: Para. 35

NPPF Paragraph 35: *"Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore developments should be located and designed where practical to*

- Accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies*
- Give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have high quality public transport facilities*
- Create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones*
- Incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles*
- Consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport"*

Section 8.8 above describes a recent attempt to disregard Paragraph 35.

Section 7.6 above provides opportunities to bring BFC back in line with Paragraph 35.

9. Sites for Local Green Spaces

Paragraph 76 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

"Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period."

Paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework states the criteria to be applied in designating Local Green Space:

The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and*
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

The Natural Environment White Paper "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature 2011)" highlights the importance of green spaces to health and happiness of local communities.

Green spaces, particularly natural green spaces, located close to local people provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits, including:

- Improved mental and physical health
- Increased social and physical activity
- Reduced crime
- Improvements to children's learning
- Increased voluntary action
- Improved community cohesion and sense of belonging
- Potential for local food growing
- More attractive places to live, work, play, visit and invest
- Enhanced opportunities for wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors
- Climate change adaption for example by flood alleviation.

There are a number of important green/open spaces identified within Winkfield Parish. The community of Winkfield should endeavour to identify and designate areas of particular importance for them as "Local Green Space" to enable to provide special protection from new development.

Some of the following sites have already been designated by Bracknell Forest Council/Winkfield Parish Council as Local Green Space. Some sites are proposed Local

Green Spaces, subject to community approval and ratification by Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan offers an opportunity to increase or alter the designations of Local Green Spaces.

Maps of Green Spaces are provided in Section 4 of 'Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish' (wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space). Most maps have been provided in July 2016 by the Bracknell Forest Council Bio-Diversity Officer.

Some Local Green Spaces are in London Green Belt (e.g. Ascot Jubilee Recreation Ground) and some are not in Green Belt (e.g. Allsmoor Field, Martin's Heron).

9.1. Designated Green Spaces

In 'Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish' (wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space), Section 3.1 contains a table of Designated Green Spaces.

9.2. Designation Proposals

In 'Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish', Section 3.2 contains

- a figure that guides the way to determine the suitability of green space proposals
- a table of Designation Proposals.

9.3. Allotments

Allotment gardening makes an important contribution to the quality of people's lives through creating and maintaining healthy neighbourhoods and sustainable communities. It can provide health benefits, improving both physical and mental health. It provides a source of recreation and contributes to green and open space provision.

In 'Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish', Section 3.3 explains NPFF requirements and contains the following sections

- 3.3.1 Area and Quantity of Allotments by Parish
- 3.3.2 Demand for Allotments by Parish
- 3.3.3 Conclusion: There is an uneven distribution and general shortage of allotment plots across the Borough. Overall, allotment provision in the Borough is markedly less than the recommended national standard, and demand is evidently not being met, with all existing plots being occupied with lengthy waiting lists, which in itself often falls short of actual demand. Based on figures from 2006, a deficit of 8.51 hectares of allotments (able to provide 324 plots) has been identified according to national standards. *It is therefore recommended that opportunities should be sought to increase provision in the Borough with consideration given to new development, rising population and popularity of "growing your own" and the social and environmental benefits that result.*

10. Policies

Section 10 of the evidence document (wnspg_green_infra_evidence) contains a table providing a unique reference for each proposal or suggestion in the evidence document, Supplement A and Supplement B.

A survey was conducted during November 2016. By the survey close date 1,413 valid questionnaire responses had been received from Winkfield Parish residents: 541 online and 872 on paper. In December a consulting company analysed the survey results and prepared a document 'Summary Report on the 2016 Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey for Winkfield Parish Council'. The analysis was done in accordance with the MRS Code of Conduct on respondent anonymity, and under the rules of the Data Protection Act. The survey respondent base is broadly representative of the Parish overall according to available census data, except that younger people may be slightly under-represented, which is typical of consultation surveys.

In January 2017 policies (Section 10 of the evidence document) were updated with relevant survey results.

11. Appendices

11.1. Reference Documentation

A table of Reference Documentation is provided in Section 11.1 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence.

11.2. Boundary Maps

Boundary Maps are provided in Section 11.2 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence.

11.3. Green Belt Maps

Green Belt Maps are provided in Section 11.3 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence.

11.4. Green Space Maps

Green Space Maps are provided in Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish (wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space).

11.5. Cycle Maps

Cycle Maps are provided in Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish (wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals) to support Section 7.2 above.

11.6. Strategic Gaps, Local Gaps & Allocated Housing Sites

Maps of Gaps are provided in Section 11.6 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence. Local Gap CS9ii (Winkfield Row to Martin's Heron) was proposed in LDF Core Strategy 2006. Section 11.6 also contains map 'SHLAA Sites in the SALP 2013'

11.7. Maps of Wildlife Corridors

Maps of Wildlife Corridors are provided in Section 11.7 of the evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence.

11.8. Document Version History

Section 11.7 of the main evidence document wnspg_green_infra_evidence provides a full Document Version History.

Version 14 was sent to

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Version 17 was sent to just 2 addresses.

DOCUMENT VERSION	PURPOSE	DATE
v17	<p>Bruce Singleton created 4 documents that make up the Green Infrastructure and Landscape Topic Papers V17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wnspg_green_infra_evidence: Winkfield NP Green Infrastructure and Landscape Main evidence document which contains many maps and photos wnspg_green_infra_assessment_local_green_space: Supplement A: Assessment of Local Green Space in Winkfield Parish wnspg_green_infra_cycle_route_proposals: Supplement B: Proposed Cycle Routes through Winkfield Parish wnspg_green_infra_summary: This is the Summary Document <p>Sent version 17 of all 4 documents via WeTransfer to the following email addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a.edwards@winkfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk l.challis@winkfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk 	06/04/2017