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Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Radley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

24th March 2017

Quality information

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Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Annual Status Report
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CPRE	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
EU	European Union
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GhG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LPP1	Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1
LPP2	Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 2
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
NCA	National Character Area
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NEWP	Natural Environment White Paper
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
RNP	Radley Neighbourhood Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPZ	Groundwater Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable drainage systems
UKCP	UK Climate Projections
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment in support of Radley's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Radley Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Radley Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan. It is currently anticipated that the Radley Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to the Value of White Horse District Council in 2017.

Key information relating to the Radley Neighbourhood Plan is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Radley Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Radley Parish Council
Title of Plan	Radley Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	<p>The Radley Neighbourhood Plan 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 Vale of White Horse Local Plan.</p> <p>The emerging Radley Neighbourhood Plan will be used to guide and shape development within Radley parish.</p>
Timescale	To 2031
Area covered by the plan	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the majority of Radley Parish within the Vale of White Horse District, excluding the area covered by the 'North Abingdon-on-Thames' strategic site allocated within the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1.</p> <p>(Refer to Figure 1.1)</p>
Summary of content	The Radley Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Plan contact point	<p>Priscilla Dudding Chair, Radley Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee priscilla.dudding@gmail.com</p> <p>Email address: Priscilla.dudding@gmail.com</p>

1.2 Relationship of the Radley Neighbourhood Plan with the Vale of White Horse Local Plan

The Radley Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031. Neighbourhood plans will form part of the development plan for the district, alongside, but not as a replacement for the 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 Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in the Vale of White Horse, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 1 (LPP1)¹ was adopted at full council in December 2016, replacing the existing 'Local Plan 2011'. LPP1 sets out the Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies for the district to deliver sustainable development. It identifies new homes and new jobs to be provided in the area for the plan period up to 2031. It allocates large-scale (referred to as strategic) development sites, and also includes district-wide policies to ensure that development contributes to meeting the strategic objectives of the plan, such as policies relating to conservation of the built, historic and natural environment.

The strategic allocations in the LPP1 account for 900 dwellings overall within Radley Parish, with allocations for 510 dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan area at the following strategic sites:

- South Kennington (270 dwellings); and
- North West Radley (240 dwellings)

The Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 2 (LPP2)² will set out policies and locations for housing for the district's proportion of housing needs unable to be met within the boundaries of the city of Oxford. This document will also contain Development Management Policies to complement the strategic policies of LPP1, replacing the relevant saved policies of the Local Plan 2011.

Additionally, the LPP2 will potentially allocate additional development sites for housing and other uses in accordance with the broad spatial strategy and objectives established in LPP1. Currently, the consultation on the draft LPP2 is underway, with all comments from stakeholders to be submitted by Thursday 4th May 2017.

Overall, the Local Plan 2031 (inclusive of LPP1 and LPP2) will be used to inform decisions on planning applications across the Vale of White Horse, in conjunction with any Development Planning Documents (DPDs) relating to minerals and waste prepared by Oxfordshire County Council, and any Neighbourhood Plans prepared by local communities.

1.3 Vision for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan

The vision for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed during earlier stages of plan development by Radley Parish Council, is as follows³:

"A future for Radley where new housing development has brought fresh vitality and new opportunities to the community but has done so without destroying its current strengths and where the mixed-use potential for the Radley Lakes area in the south of the parish has been fully realised"

In order to achieve this vision, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Development that respects the character of existing settlement and does not undermine its rural setting and sense of community;
- A mix of new housing that meets needs within our community and beyond;

¹ Vale of White Horse District Council (2017): 'The New Local Plan 2031', [online] documents available to download via: <<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031-part-1-strategic-sites>> last accessed [16/03/17]

² Vale of White Horse District Council (2017): 'The Local Plan 2031 Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites – Preferred Options Consultation', [online] available via: <<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2031-part-2>> last accessed [16/03/17]

³ Radley Parish Council (2016): 'Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Draft Plan - December 2016', [online] available to download via: <<http://www.radleyvillage.org.uk/radleys-future/neighbourhoodplan-consultation-december-2016/>> last accessed [16/03/17]

- Improved community facilities to meet the needs of both current residents and incomers, and a resolution of a long-standing debate within the community as to where the village hall and playing fields should be sited;
- Other local infrastructure improvements adequate to meet the needs both of current residents and of incomers, in particular improvements to local roads and cycle routes, sewerage, station access and parking, and expansion of the primary school;
- Good connectivity between the new developments and existing settlements so that all parts of the parish are readily accessible by foot and bicycle, and new residents feel part of the village and can access community facilities without needing to drive; and
- A solution to the access problem which is currently inhibiting the development of the Radley Lakes area to deliver maximum community benefit.

1.4 SEA explained

The Radley Neighbourhood Plan has been screened in by the Vale of White Horse District Council as requiring a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts. Through this approach, the SEA for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.

SEA is undertaken to meet specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:

1. When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the Environmental Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
2. A report (the 'Environmental Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan (i.e the Regulation 14 version of the Radley Neighbourhood Plan) that presents outcomes from the environmental assessment (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

This scoping report

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

1.5 SEA 'scoping' explained

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

1. Defining the broader context for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan and associated SEA (i.e. EU, UK Government and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative landscape;
2. Establishing the baseline for the SEA, (i.e. the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the Radley Neighbourhood Plan, 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 SEA; and
4. Developing a SEA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

1.6 Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

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

- Air Quality
- Biodiversity
- Climatic Factors (including flood risk)
- 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 Directive⁴. 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. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to consultation on this Scoping Report), the suggested scope presented under eight themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the environmental assessment of the draft plan and reasonable alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information each theme is presented in Sections 2 to 9.

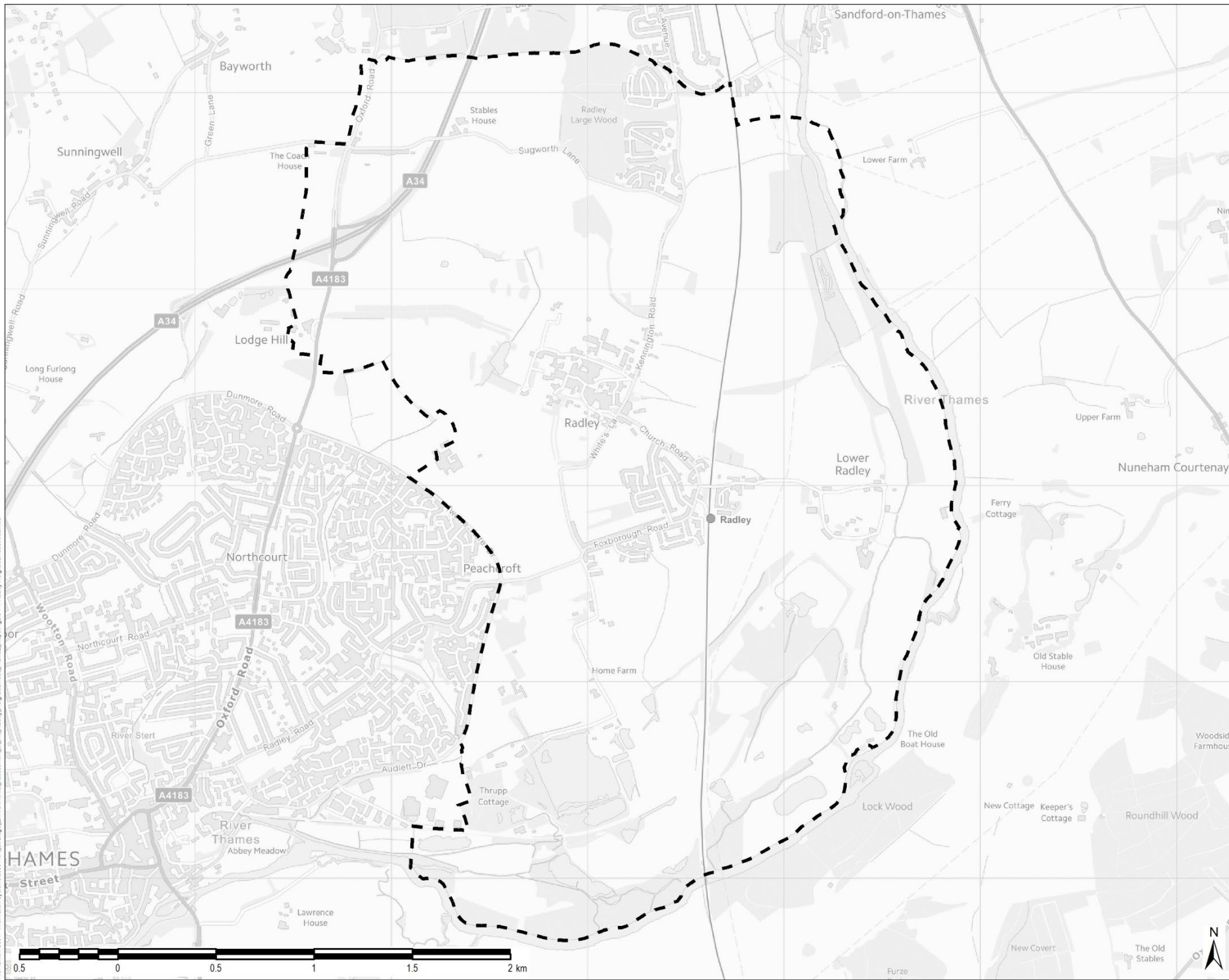
SEA Framework to assess policy proposals

The SEA Framework provides a way in which environmental effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal within the emerging Radley Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using the framework.

The SEA objectives and appraisal questions proposed for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan SEA are presented under each of the themes in Sections 2 to 9 below.

⁴ 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]

File Name: 15004 - Information Systems\6050464 - Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Radley Neighbourhood Plan\02_Maps\Figure 1.1 Radley Neighbourhood Area and



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Radley Neighbourhood
Plan Area

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Purpose of Issue

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Client

RADLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN STEERING GROUP

Project Title

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT OF THE RADLEY
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title

RADLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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2. Air Quality

Focus of Theme:

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

2.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The nearest AQMA is located in the centre of Abingdon, approximately 1 km to the south west, with a total of three AQMA within the Vale of White Horse declared for exceedances in annual mean concentrations of NO₂.
- Future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along the main routes into Radley, placing pressure on the existing highways network.
- District-wide renewable energy actions within the 2015 Air Quality Action Plan for the Vale of White Horse, along with goals relating to sustainable transport within the current Local Transport Plan 'Connecting Oxfordshire' could maintain and improve air quality.

Due to the absence of significant air quality issues within the Neighbourhood Plan area, **air quality has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

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.

Adopted in December 2016, the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 1 (LPP1) sets out the Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies for the district to deliver sustainable development. In relation to LPP1, Core Policy 43 'Natural Resources' states that the development should take account of and be consistent with the Air Quality Action Plan for the Vale (listed below). Furthermore, Development Policy 25: 'Air Quality' within the draft LPP2 is directly relevant to the Air Quality SEA theme.

Released in 2015, The Air Quality Action Plan⁵ for the Vale details district-wide actions in addition to specific actions for each of the three AQMA within the Vale. As there are no AQMA within the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary, the following district-wide actions are relevant to this SEA theme:

- Creation of a 'low emission strategy' and 'low emission zone' feasibility study;
- Air quality planning guidance; and
- Community involvement projects.

In terms of the local context, the Vale of White Horse District 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, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality

⁵ Vale of White Horse District Council (2015): 'Air Quality Action Plan', [online] available to download via: <<https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/local-air-quality-management/vale-of-white-horse>> last accessed [16/03/17]

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Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area.

2.3 Baseline Summary

2.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, the Vale of White Horse District Council released the most recent Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)⁶ in June 2016, with the report considering all results and relevant data recorded during 2015. There are currently no AQMA within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with air quality in the Vale of White Horse generally considered as very good.

Three AQMA have been declared within the district due to exceedances in annual mean concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), with the nearest AQMA to the Neighbourhood Plan area located in the centre of the neighbouring town of Abingdon (approximately 1 km to the south west). Declared in 2006, Oxfordshire County Council have introduced measures to ease congestion in the AQMA by changing traffic flows, upgrading traffic management systems at traffic lights and relocating bus stops to improve the traffic flow.

2.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to increase traffic along the main routes into Radley, placing pressure on the existing highways network.

There is an emphasis on incentivising renewable energy within the 2015 Air Quality Management Plan for the Vale of White Horse, which might lead to a greater improvement in pollution levels.

Additionally, the goals of improving district-wide sustainable transport options in the most recent Local Travel Plan 'Connecting Oxfordshire', might also lead to improvements, and is further discussed in Chapter 9 of this report.

⁶ Vale of White Horse District Council (2016): 'Air Quality Annual Status Report', [online] available to download via: <https://oxfordshire.air-quality.info/local-air-quality-management/vale-of-white-horse> last accessed [16/03/17]

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3. Biodiversity

Focus of Theme:

- Nature conservation designations
- Habitats
- Species
- Geodiversity

3.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Sugworth SSSI is a nationally designated site located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, classified as 'favourable' based on the most recent condition assessment undertaken in 2010.
- The north western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within a SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the Sugworth SSSI.
- Although there are no Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within the Neighbourhood Plan area, Abbey Fishponds LNR is located directly next to the western boundary, containing species listed in the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).
- There are three Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the Neighbourhood Plan area: Radley Little Wood, Radley Large Wood and Radley Gravel Pits (inclusive of the Radley Lakes).
- A variety of European and nationally protected species have been recorded at and around Thrupp Lake (one of the Radley Lakes), including species of bats, birds and mammals.
- The majority of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats are located in or around the three LWS and Radley Park.

3.2 Policy Context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁷ 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*'.

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)⁸ 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

⁷ 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 [17/03/17]

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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'*⁹.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse District Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 46 'Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity' seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity across the district. In relation to the draft LPP2, the following Development Management Policies directly relate to the Biodiversity SEA theme:

- Development Policy 20: External Lighting;
- Development Policy 24: Noise Pollution; and
- Development Policy 29: Watercourses.

At the local level, the Thrupp Lake Management Plan 2013-2018 was prepared by the Earth Trust and has an overarching vision for an engaging, innovative and attractive green space for both people and wildlife. To achieve this vision, the plan lists the following aims¹⁰:

- To maximise the biodiversity of the priority habitats throughout the site, in particular to encourage both locally important and target species (e.g. UK BAP);
- To provide a welcoming, safe and clean site for the enjoyment of all;
- To provide an enjoyable, high quality experience, that increases understanding and interest in the countryside, wildlife and wetlands;
- To ensure the Thrupp Lake and its management are responsive to both community needs and visitor pressure without compromising the site's inherent wildlife value and interest; and
- To monitor and review management activities, species and visitors to constantly aim to improve the existing standards.

⁸ 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 [16/03/17]

⁹ 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 [16/03/17]

¹⁰ Earth Trust (2013): 'Thrupp Lake Management Plan 2013-2018', [online] available to download via: <<http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/Places/ThruppLake.aspx>> last accessed [15/03/17]

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3.3 Baseline Summary

3.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

SSSIs and IRZs

Notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 1986, the Sugworth SSSI is 0.6 ha in size and is located within the north western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Sugworth SSSI is also designated as a Geological Conservation Review site. The citation for the SSSI states¹¹:

'Sections here have revealed an early Middle Pleistocene interglacial section of very great importance. A Pleistocene fluvial channel cut into the much older Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay contains sediments in which vertebrates; ostracods, molluscs, beetles, plant remains and pollen have all been preserved. Sugworth is at present the only presumed Cromerian Interglacial site associated with Thames deposits, and it is therefore a locality of major significance'

Based on the most recent condition assessment undertaken in 2010, 100% of the SSSI has been classified as 'favourable'. All trees within the SSSI boundary on the A34 embankment have been felled and treated to prevent re-growth. The SSSI is therefore, accessible to study, with any vegetation growth regularly maintained.

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. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. The north western section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is located within SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for the Sugworth SSSI. These IRZs do not cross the boundaries of the strategic site allocation locations for the Neighbourhood Plan area, as outlined in LPP1. Additionally, the IRZs are outside of the existing built-up area of Radley.

Locally Important Sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) may be established by Local Authorities in consultation with English Nature under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and are habitats of local importance. Although there are no LNRs directly located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, Abbey Fishponds LNR¹² is located directly next to the western boundary. The LNR is approximately 7 ha in size and over 450 species are featured on the most recent list (2012), some of which are located within the annexes of the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and European Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

Radley Little Wood (approximately 3 ha), Radley Large Wood (approximately 23.1 ha) and Radley Gravel Pits (inclusive of the Radley Lakes) are all Local Wildlife Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area featured in the 2016 list for the Vale of White Horse published by the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC)¹³. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) seek to create 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 change¹⁴. They are seen as integral in meeting both local and national targets for biodiversity conservation.

Thrupp Lake is one of a series of former gravel pits (11.7 ha), some of which have been filled or partially filled to create a series of shallow lakes which are collectively known as the Radley Lakes. The predominant habitats are reedbed, seasonally inundated areas, grassland, scrubland and wet woodland. According to the most recent management plan (2013-2018), the following European protected mammals and birds were recorded at Thrupp Lake on occasions during 2009-2012 (some of which are also UK BAP species), and are thought to be still using the site:

¹¹ Natural England (no date): 'Sugworth SSSI', [online] available via: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001516&SiteName=sugworth&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&lastAccessed=16/03/17>

¹² Earth Trust (ca 2012): 'Abbey Fishponds', [online] available to view via: <http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/Places/Communitymeadows/AbbeyFishponds.aspx> last accessed [15/03/17]

¹³ TVERC (2016): 'Local Wildlife Sites in Vale of White Horse', [online] available to download via: <http://www.tverc.org/cms/LWSLivingLists> last accessed [15/03/17]

¹⁴ TVERC (2016): 'Oxfordshire Local Wildlife Sites Project', [online] available to view via: <http://www.tverc.org/cms/content/local-wildlife-sites> last accessed [15/03/17]

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- Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*);
- Common Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*);
- Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*);
- Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*);
- Nathusius' Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*);
- Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*);
- Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*);
- Pochard (*Aythya farina*);
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*); and
- Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*).

BAP Priority Habitats

In regards to BAP Priority Habitats, there are multiple areas of Deciduous Woodland located throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area, inclusive of a network surrounding the Radley Lakes to the south, and the Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland in the north. The following BAP Priority Habitats are also present:

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area);
- Lowland meadows (adjacent to Radley College Boat House at the eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area); and
- Wood pasture and parkland within Radley Park.

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 the 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.

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

SEA 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 and nationally protected species within the Neighbourhood Plan area?

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- Support the status of the Sugworth SSSI located within the Neighbourhood Plan area?
 - Protect and enhance the local sites of wildlife importance within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the Radley Lakes, Little Radley Wood and Large Radley Wood LWS?
 - 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

- Fluvial flooding and surface water drainage flooding are an issue for the Neighbourhood Plan area. This has the potential to increase as a result of land use change and climate change.
- The most recent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Vale of White Horse identified no Critical Drainage Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- The Vale of White Horse has recorded consistently higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 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?’¹⁵*

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

The UK Climate Change Act¹⁶ 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

¹⁵ 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 [15/03/17]

¹⁶ GOV.UK (2008): ‘Climate Change Act 2008’, [online] accessible via <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> last accessed [20/03/17]

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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 up 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 page¹⁷.

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 2008¹⁸. 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 Act¹⁹ 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);
- 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)²⁰

Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDs'.²¹ 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'.

¹⁷ 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 [16/03/17]

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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 [14/03/17]

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) explain the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs, in addition to setting out how risk management authorities will work with communities to manage flood and coastal risk, usually over 6-year cycles. At the regional level, the most recent FRMP for the Thames River Basin²² covers the period 2015-2021, with the Thames River Basin Management Plan²³ (TRBMP) (2016) developed alongside the FRMP to form an important part of a collaborative and integrated approach to catchment planning for water. The following social, economic and environmental objectives from the TRBMP are relevant:

- Reduce the risk of flooding to communities where possible;
- Enhance recreation and general amenity across the river basin;
- Ensure development and redevelopment in areas at risk of flooding is appropriate, does not increase flood risk and reduces risk wherever possible;
- Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems in development to help reduce pressure on existing drainage networks;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity through flood risk management schemes;
- Restore naturally functioning river systems where possible; and
- Promote sustainable land use management to land owners across the catchment to achieve reductions in flood risk.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 40 'Sustainable Design and Construction' and Core Policy 41 'Renewable Energy' directly relates to the Climate Change SEA theme. Additionally, policies within the 'Protecting the Environment and Responding to Climate Change' Development Management Policies category in the draft LPP2 also link to this SEA theme.

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 indicates that the Vale of White Horse has had consistently higher per capita emissions total than that of both the South East and England as a whole since 2005. Furthermore, the Vale of White Horse has observed a smaller percentage decrease in total CO₂ emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (10.3%) in comparison to the South East of England (15.9%) and England (16.6%). See Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012²⁴

	Industrial and Commercial CO ₂	(t	Domestic CO ₂)	(t	Transport CO ₂)	(t	Total (t CO ₂)
Vale of White Horse							
2005	3.2		2.6		3.9		9.7
2006	3.3		2.7		3.8		9.8

²² Environment Agency (2015): 'Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan', [online] available to download via:

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-river-basin-district-flood-risk-management-plan>> last accessed [17/03/17]

²³ DEFRA & Environment Agency (2016): 'Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan', [online] available to download via:

<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan>> last accessed [17/03/17]

²⁴ 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 [15/03/17]

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	Industrial and Commercial CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	(t Transport CO ₂)	(t Total (t CO ₂)
2007	3.0	2.6	3.8	9.4
2008	3.2	2.6	3.6	9.3
2009	2.9	2.3	3.4	8.7
2010	3.0	2.5	3.4	8.8
2011	2.4	2.1	3.3	7.8
2012	3.0	2.4	3.2	8.7
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

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) team²⁵. 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.

²⁵ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/>> last accessed [14/03/17]

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As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East of England by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario²⁶ 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.

Flood Risk

²⁶ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium> last accessed [15/03/17]

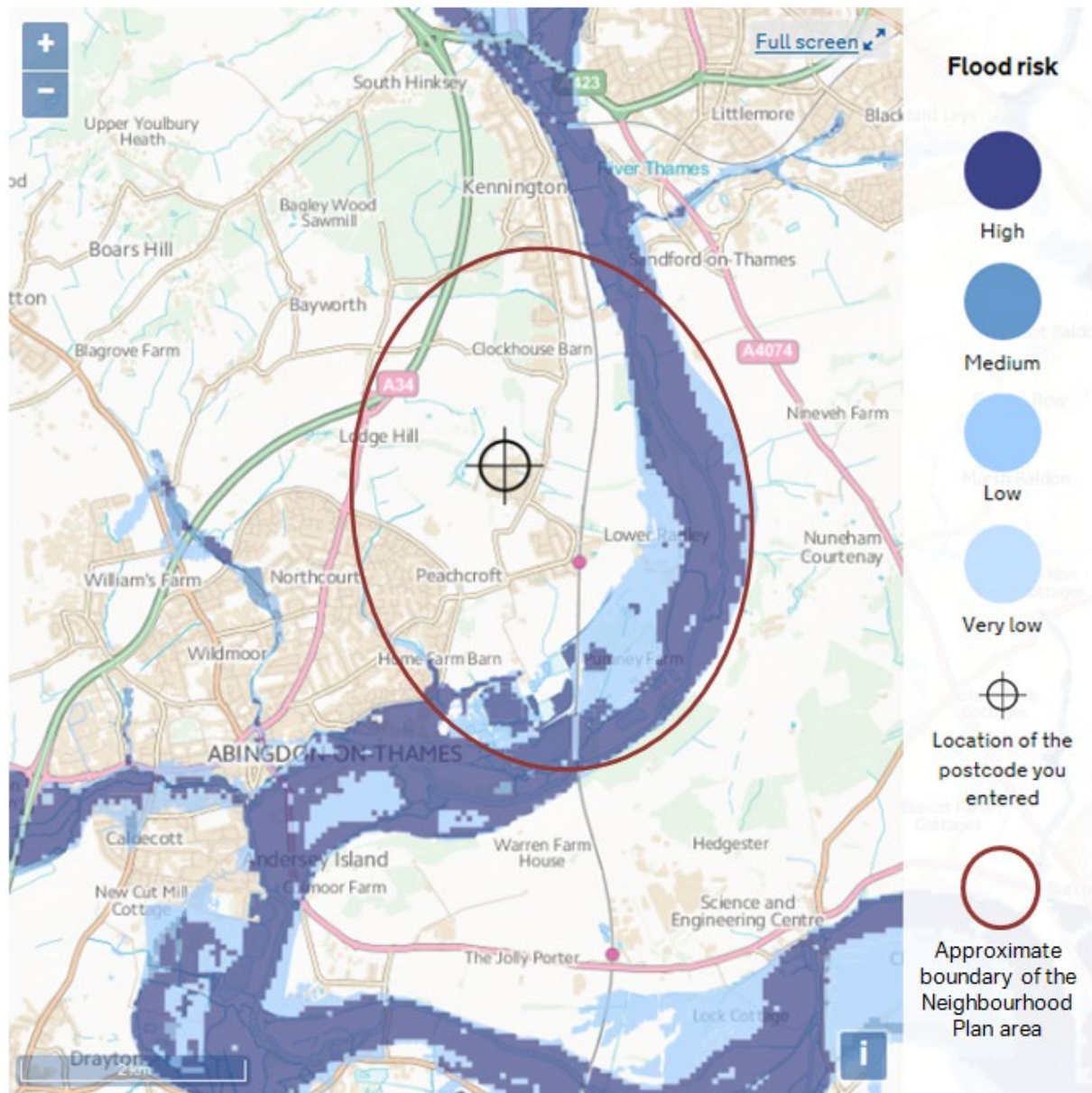


Figure 4.1: Fluvial flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area²⁷

As shown in Figure 4.1, land adjacent to the River Thames along in the north eastern, eastern and southern sections of the Neighbourhood Plan area are within Flood Zone 3 (medium-high risk of fluvial flooding) meaning that they are classified as having a 1% or greater chance (1 in 100 chance) of being affected by river flooding in any given year.

Additionally, Lower Radley, along with the greenfield land directly to the south west is located in Flood Zone 2 (low-medium risk) meaning that they are classified as having a 0.1-1% chance (1 in 1000 to 1 in 100 chance) of being affected by river flooding in any given year.

²⁷ 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 [20/03/17]

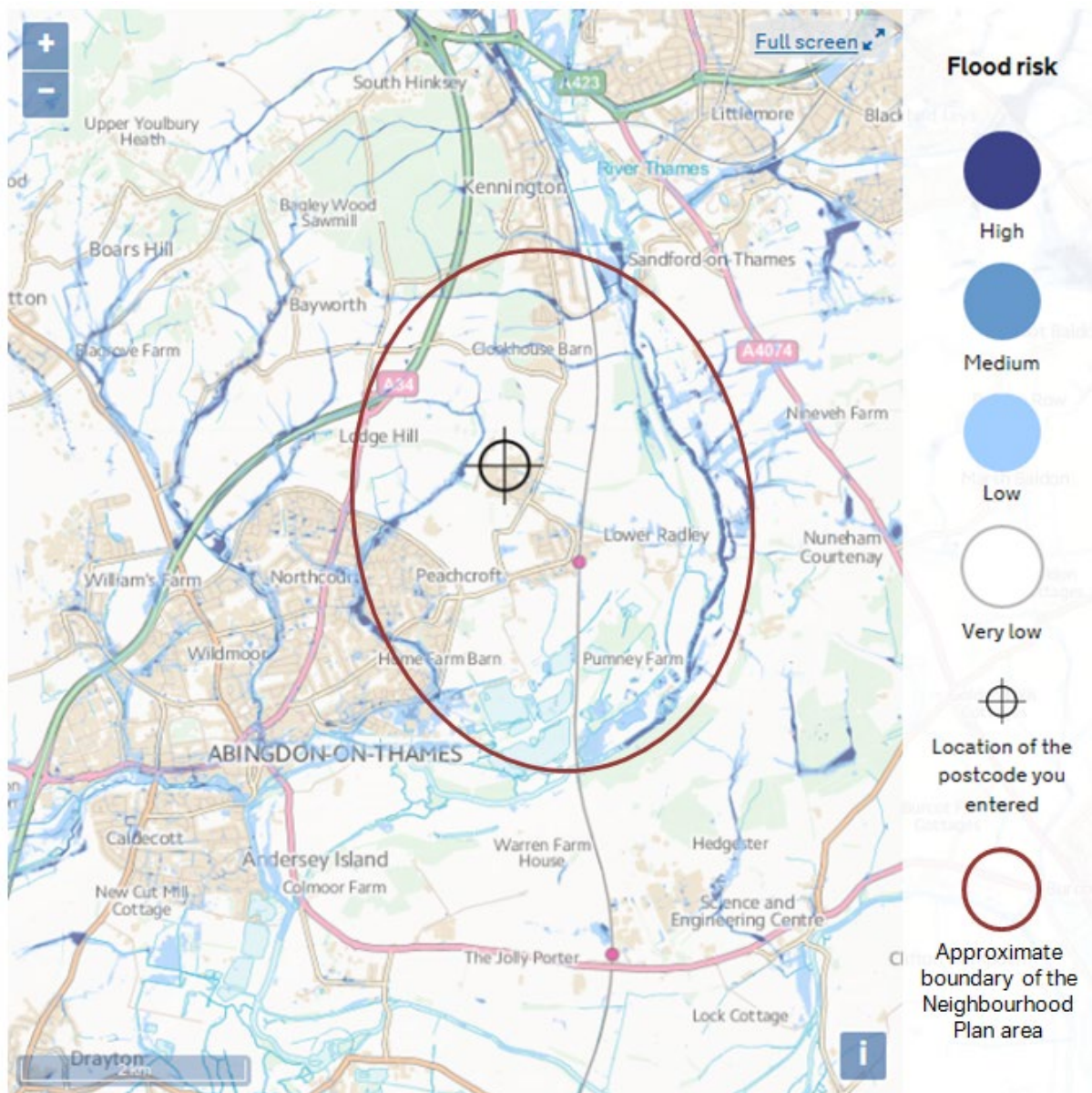


Figure 4.2: Surface water flood risk within the Neighbourhood Plan area

Surface water drainage and sewer flooding is also a risk for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Highlighted in Figure 4.2, land directly adjacent to the River Thames (eastern boundary), along with the stream extending south through Radley Park (north western section) is at medium-high risk.

Based on the most recent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁸ for the Vale of White Horse, published in 2013, no Critical Drainage Areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area, and hence there are no surface water management plans currently in place.

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, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter

²⁸ Vale of White Horse District Council & South Oxfordshire County Council (2013): 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – July 2015', [online] available to download via: <<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2029/evidence-base/strategi>> last accessed [17/03/17]

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and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including fluvial flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, future development will comprise a large increase in the built footprint of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which may lead to a future increase in overall emissions.

A variety of policies within LPP1, the draft LPP2 and the current Local Transport Plan 'Connecting Oxfordshire' (further discussed in Chapter 9), seek to increase the uptake of renewable energy and improve the provision of public and sustainable transport. The effective implementation of such policies has the potential to reduce future emissions within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

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

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Reduce the level of 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"> 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 flooding	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that inappropriate development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? 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?

5. Landscape and Historic Environment

Focus of Theme:

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

5.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is located at the boundary of two National Character Areas: the Upper Thames Clay Vales NCA and the Midvale Ridge NCA.
- There are four Landscape Character Types located within the Neighbourhood Plan area, defined in the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study in 2004 and including: Alluvial Lowlands; River Meadowlands; Terrace Farmland and Wooded Estatelands.
- The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment, including four Grade II* listed buildings twenty six Grade II listed buildings and two scheduled monuments nationally designated for their cultural heritage resource.

5.2 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.
- 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.

The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England²⁹ 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.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 39 ‘The Historic Environment’ and Core Policy 44 ‘Landscape’ directly relate to this SEA theme. Additionally, the following Development Management Policies within the draft LPP2 are relevant:

- Development Policy 35: Heritage Assets;
- Development Policy 36: Conservation Areas;

²⁹ 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 [15/03/17]

- Development Policy 37: Listed Buildings; and
- Development Policy 38: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments.

5.3 Baseline Summary

5.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Landscape

National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. The Neighbourhood Plan area is located at the boundary of two National Character Areas, with the Upper Thames Clay Vales NCA completing encircling the Midvale Ridge NCA. The following characteristics from the NCA profiles are particularly relevant:

NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales³⁰

- The Vale of White Horse is made distinct by large arable fields;
- Brick and tile from local clays, timber and thatch are traditional building materials across the area.
- The large river system of the River Thames drains the Vales;
- Wetland habitat attracts regionally important numbers of birds including snipe, redshank, curlew and lapwing and wintering wildfowl such as pochard. The area also supports typical farmland wildlife such as brown hare, bats, barn owl, tree sparrow and skylark; and
- There are a high number of nationally important geological sites;

NCA 109: Midvale Ridge³¹

- Low, irregular wooded limestone ridge giving way to a series of isolated steep-sided tabular hills in the east which rise from the surrounding clay vales;
- Contrast between the moderately elevated limestone hills and ridges and the surrounding low-lying clay vales;
- Well wooded – a third of the woodland is designated ancient woodland;
- Mixed pastoral and arable landscape with large, geometric fields divided by hedges and regularly spaced hedgerow trees punctuated by blocks of woodland;
- Drained mostly by small springs and streams which run into the Thames, Thame and Ock;
- Settlement pattern of nucleated villages on the hill tops and along the springline with low density of dispersed settlement; and
- Recreational opportunities include the Thames Path National Trail.

At the regional level, Oxfordshire County Council completed a landscape character assessment in 2004, known as the 'Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study' (OWLS)³². The OWLS culminated in the development of twenty four landscape character types (LCTs), with their names reflecting their characteristic land cover. The following LCTs are located within the Neighbourhood Plan area³³:

³⁰ Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5865554770395136?category=587130> last accessed [15/03/17]

³¹ Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile 109: Midvale Ridge', [online] available to download via: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5431100?category=587130> last accessed [15/03/17]

³² Oxfordshire County Council (2004): 'Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study', [online] accessible via: <http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/> last accessed [15/03/17]

³³ Oxfordshire County Council (2004): 'Radley Landscape Character Types', [online] available to view via: <http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/Oxfordshire+Districts/Oxfordshire+Districts+-+Parishes/Vale+of+White+Horse+Parishes/Radley/> last accessed [15/03/17]

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- Alluvial Lowlands LCT borders the River Meadowlands LCT in the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including Lower Radley and the majority of Thrupp Lake. Restricted to lowland areas, this LCT includes flat landscapes of river valleys associated with alluvial soils, and is characterised by a regular pattern of medium-sized hedged fields with permanent pasture and arable cropping.
- River Meadowlands LCT borders the River Thames along the eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and is a linear riverine landscape with a flat, well defined alluvial floodplain. It has a pastoral character with meadows, wet and semi-improved pasture.
- Terrace Farmland LCT is located within the central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area and is a flat, open, intensively farmed landscape overlying river gravel terraces.
- Wooded Estatelands LCT is located in the northern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including Radley Large Wood which is semi-natural and ancient woodland. The small villages contained within this LCT have a strong vernacular character, and are interspersed with large blocks of ancient woodland and mixed plantations of variable sizes.

Historic Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan area has a rich historic environment. Numerous features are recognised through historic environment designations, including the statutory listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated. At the local level, there are currently no conservation area designations within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

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 no Grade I listed buildings, four Grade II* and twenty six Grade II listed buildings.

The Grade II* listed buildings are as follows:

- Chapel;
- Church of St. James;
- Radley Hall; and
- Wick Hall and attached walls

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 England³⁴, there are two scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan area, listed below:

- Settlement sites N of Wick Hall; and
- Settlement site E of Goose Acre Farm

There are no registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however, the eastern boundary of the area directly borders the Grade I listed Nuneham Courtenay Historic Park and Garden, which is a country house surrounded by an c18 landscape park and pleasure grounds and was registered in June 1984. Historic parks and gardens are noted as a fragile and finite resource by Historic England³⁵, as they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever.

There are no conservation areas located within the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, Nuneham Courtenay Conservation Area³⁶ is located adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area, reflecting its special architectural and historic interest³⁷. 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

³⁴ Historic England: National Heritage List for England: <<http://list.historicengland.org.uk>> last accessed [17/03/2017.]

³⁵ 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 [17/03/17]

³⁶ South Oxfordshire District Council (2017): 'Conservation Area List, Character Appraisals, Management Plans and Maps', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/conservation-and-design/conservation-areas/list-areas-and->> last accessed [27/03/17]

³⁷ Historic England (2017): 'Conservation Areas', [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/>> last accessed [27/03/17]

of its character. Ideally, appraisals should be regularly reviewed as part of the management of the Conservation Area, and can be developed into a management plan. As of March 2017, there is no conservation area appraisal available for Nuneham Courtenay.

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, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The latest Heritage at Risk Register³⁸ (2016) includes none of the listed buildings and scheduled monuments located within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary.

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. For example, archaeological excavations carried out at Barrow Hills in the 1980s, and more extensively over the past 25 years at Thrupp, revealed evidence of human habitation dating back to the stone-age (Palaeolithic era).

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

5.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New development has the potential to lead to small, but incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Neighbourhood Plan area; for instance, through the loss of landscape features and visual 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.

Additionally, 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, the provisions of the NPPF, the Development Management Policies within LPP1 and the emerging LPP2 offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.

5.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Landscape and Historic Environment SEA theme?

SEA objective	Assessment Questions
Protect, maintain and enhance the cultural heritage resource within the Neighbourhood Plan area, including the historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? • 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

³⁸ Historic England (2016): 'Heritage at Risk Register: South East' [online] available to access via: <<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/har-2016-registers/>> last accessed [17/03/17]

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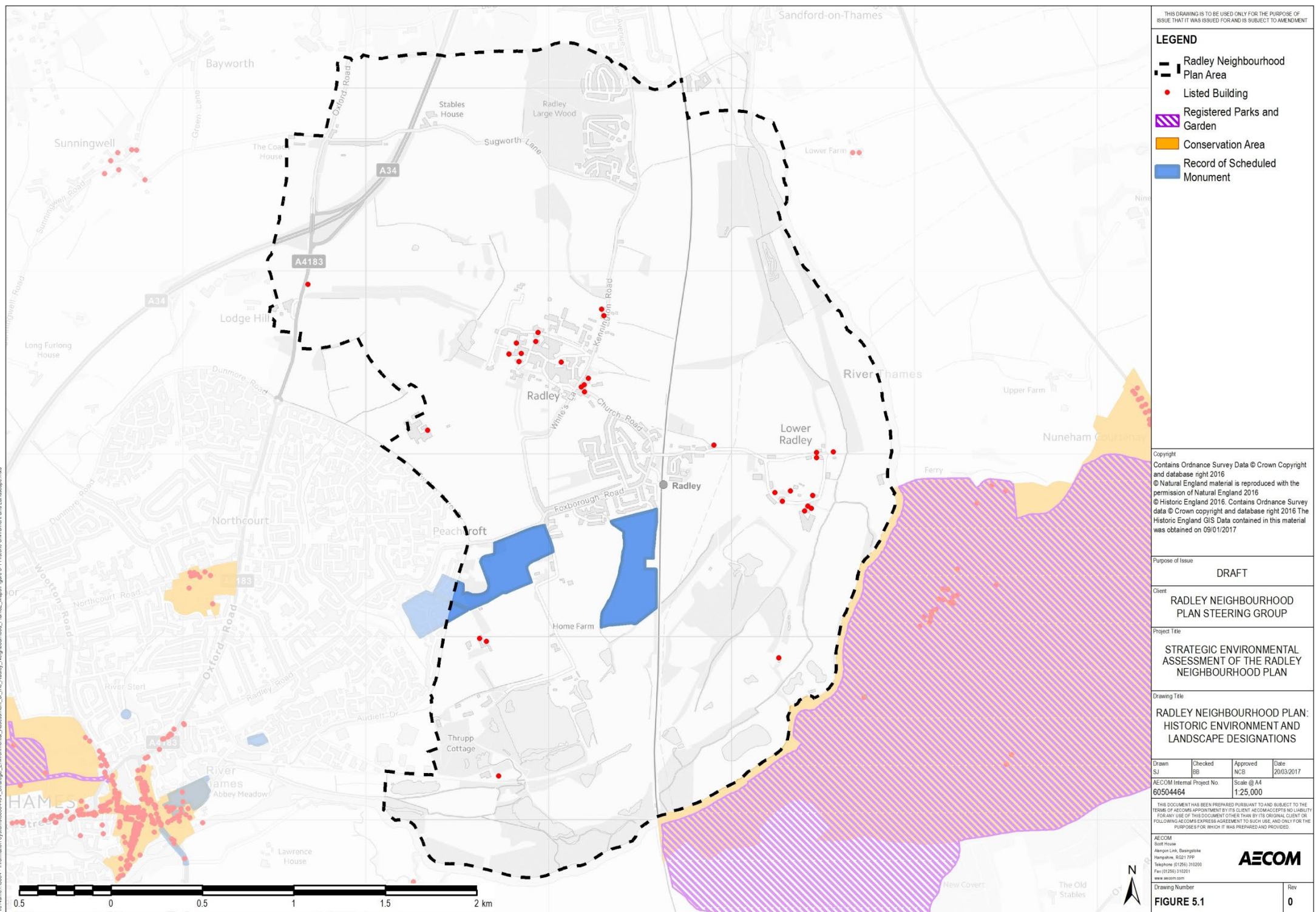
environment?

Protect and enhance the
character and quality of
landscapes and townscapes.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Support the character and integrity of the LCTs located within the Neighbourhood Plan area?
 - Conserve and enhance landscape and townscape features?
-

File Name: I2004 - Information System\60504464 - Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Radley Neighbourhood Plan\02_Maps\Figure 5.1 Historic environment and landscape.mxd



6. Land, Soil and Water Resources

Focus of Theme:

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

6.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Land within the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area has a history of heavy industrial land use; however, as of March 2017 there have been no recorded minor or major pollution incidents.
- A detailed agricultural land classification assessment has been undertaken in certain sections of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a 3 ha (approximate) patch of Grade 2 agricultural land to the east of Thrupp Lake, bordering the railway line.
- The entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan area is designated as a Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).
- The River Thames flows adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with the 2016-2021 Thames River Basin Management Plan developed alongside the 2015 Flood Risk Management Plan to form an important part of a collaborative and integrated approach to catchment planning for water.

6.2 Policy Context

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy³⁹ 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.
- 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'.

³⁹ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm> last accessed [17/03/17]

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- 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 England⁴⁰, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper⁴¹, 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 England⁴² recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 29: Change of Use of Existing Employment Land and Premises, Core Policy 42: Flood Risk; and Core Policy 43: Natural Resources directly relates to the SEA theme. Additionally, the following Development Management Policies within the draft LPP2 are relevant:

- Development Policy 26: Land Affected by Contamination;
- Development Policy 27: Waste Collection and Recycling; and
- Development Policy 29: Watercourses.

6.3 Baseline Summary

6.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Land Quality

Land within the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area has a history of heavy industrial land use, which may have resulted in soil and groundwater pollution. The Environment Agency records the level of environmental pollutants released by industrial sites under the EC Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPCC)⁴³. Operators must measure or make an estimate of the amount of emissions of each controlled substance each year, in addition to specifying 'notifiable releases'. Notifiable releases are where there has been an emergency, mis-management, accident or plant failure which has caused pollutants to be released. Land within the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area has a history of heavy industrial land use, which may have resulted in soil and groundwater pollution:

- Company: Oxford Glycosciences UK Ltd; Years in operation: 2001-2004; Industry: Radioactive substance sites; Number of notifiable releases: none;
- Company: RWE npower PLC; Years in operation: 2002-2006; Industry: Waste Processes / Landfilling; Number of notifiable releases: none; and
- Company: Syntaxin Ltd; Years in operation: 2008-2012; Industry: Radioactive Substance Sites; Number of notifiable releases: none.

⁴⁰ 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 [16/03/17]

⁴¹ 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 [16/03/17]

⁴² 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 [16/03/17]

⁴³ Environment Agency Interactive Map: 'Pollution Incidents' [online] accessible via: <<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>> last accessed [20/03/17]

As of March 2017, there have been no minor or major pollution incidents recorded within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Quality of Agricultural Land

The Agricultural Land Classification 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 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 carried out on land to the east of Thrupp Lake, bordering the railway line⁴⁴, and includes a 3 ha (approx.) patch of Grade 2 Agricultural Land.

Watercourses

The main watercourse flowing through the Neighbourhood Plan area is the River Thames, directly adjacent to the eastern boundary. Additionally, there is a network of small streams / drainage channels which flow into the Thames, notably around Radley fishing lake (north eastern section) and the Radley Lakes (southern section) within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Water supply and provision in the area is provided by Thames Water,

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. As of March 2017, there are no SPZs within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

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) within which 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 2017⁴⁵, with the entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan area designated as a Surface Water NVZ area, defined as an area of land that drains into a freshwater body which has, or could have if action is not taken, a nitrate concentration greater than 50mg/l.

6.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improving recycling and composting rates.

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. 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 water bodies.

6.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources SEA theme?

SEA objective

Assessment Questions

Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.

Will the option/proposal help to:

- Promote the use of previously developed land?
-

⁴⁴ MAGIC Interactive Map (2017): 'Landscape; Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification (England)' [online] layer available to view using the following mapping tool: <<http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>> last accessed [20/03/17]

⁴⁵ 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 [17/03/17]

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the risks to soils and groundwater? • Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, which in the Neighbourhood Plan area 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?

7. Population and Community

Focus of Theme:

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

7.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- Based on the most recent census data available, the population increase within the Neighbourhood Plan area is lower than the trends for the Vale of White Horse, South East England and England. However, allocations within the Local Plan will markedly increase the population of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 39.8% of individuals within the Neighbourhood Plan area are between 0-24 years of age, significantly higher than the values for the Vale of White Horse (28.7%), the South East (30.2%) and England (30.8%).
- There is an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area, with a higher proportion of residents within the 60+ age group in comparison to the regional and national trends. Nevertheless, the percentage aligns to the proportion in the Vale of White Horse, suggesting that this is a district-wide trend.
- There are two Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) located wholly or partly within the Neighbourhood Plan area, both of which are within the top 30% least deprived category for LSOAs in England.

7.2 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

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- 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 Change⁴⁶ 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.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policies 22-32 directly relate to the SEA theme. Additionally, there are a number of policies within the draft LPP2 which are also relevant, particularly within the 'Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities' and 'Supporting Economic Prosperity' Development Management Policy categories.

7.3 Baseline Summary

7.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Population

Table 7.1: Population growth 2001-2011⁴⁷

Date	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
2001	2,774	115,627	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	2,835	120,988	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	+2.2%	+4.6%	+7.9%	+7.9%

Between 2001 and 2011 the population of Radley increased by 2.2%, lower than the 4.6% average for the district and over 5% lower than the regional and national counterparts of 7.9% shown in Table 7.1. Approximately 2% of the population living within the Vale of White Horse District are located in Radley, with the average district-wide population increase lower than the values for the South East and England.

Age Structure

Table 7.2: Age Structure (2011)⁴⁸

Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
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⁴⁶ 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 [14/03/17]

⁴⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Population Density 2011 (Table QS102EW); Population Density 2001 (Table UV02)

⁴⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Age Structure 2011 (Table KS102EW)

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	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
0-15	22.2%	19.0%	19.0%	18.9%
16-24	17.6%	9.7%	11.2%	11.9%
25-44	16.4%	25.8%	26.5%	27.5%
45-59	18.8%	20.9%	19.9%	19.4%
60+	25.1%	24.6%	23.3%	22.3%
Total Population	2,835	120,988	8,634,750	53,012,456

As shown in Table 7.2, 39.8% of individuals within Radley are between 0-24 years of age, significantly higher than the values for the Vale of White Horse (28.7%), the South East (30.2%) and England (30.8%). Additionally, there are a higher proportion of individuals in Radley aged 60+ in comparison to the regional and national trends. The working population of Radley (aged 25-59) is 35.2%, significantly lower than the values for the Vale of White Horse (46.7%), the South East (46.4%) and England (46.9%).

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 dimensions⁴⁹

	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
Household not deprived	49.5%	54.1%	47.7%	42.5%
Deprived in 1 dimension	32.2%	30.6%	32.2%	32.7%
Deprived in 2 dimensions	16.0%	12.7%	16.0%	19.1%
Deprived in 3	2.2%	2.4%	3.7%	5.1%

⁴⁹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Households by Deprivation Dimensions 2011' (Table QS119EW)

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	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
dimensions				
Deprived in 4 dimensions	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%

Based on the information shown in Table 7.3, 50.5% of households within Radley are deprived in at least one dimension. This value is higher than the trend for the Vale of White Horse (45.9%), similar to the trend for the South East (52.3%) and notably lower than the trend for England (57.5%). Therefore, as a whole, the South East contains fewer households which are deprived in comparison to the national average.

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.
- **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.
 1. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
 2. '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 two LSOAs that are either fully or partially in the Neighbourhood Plan area:

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E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C is located in the north eastern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area, including Little Radley Wood and Large Radley Wood, in addition to the majority of the built-up area of Radley village. This LSOA covers approximately 30% of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D encompasses the remaining 70% of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and includes the Radley Lakes, Sugworth SSSI and the two A Roads in the north western section.

Analysis of the data presented in Table 7.4 below reveals the following inferences:

General Trends

E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C is one of the top 30% least deprived LSOAs in England, with excellent levels of income and employment, in addition to being one of the safest places to live based on the low crime levels. Furthermore, the LSOA falls within the top 20% least deprived domain for health deprivation and disability. A few of the IMD categories fall within the top 50% most deprived domains, including education, skills and training, the living environment, children and young people sub-domain and the indoors sub-domain. Additionally, there are significant barriers to housing and services and geographical barriers, with the LSOA falling within the top 20% and top 10% most deprived domain respectively.

E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D is also one of the top 30% least deprived LSOAs in England, with excellent levels of income and employment and low crime rates. The LSOA also falls within the top 10% least deprived domain for the health deprivation and disability category. Categories falling within the top 50% most deprived domains include the living environment, indoors sub-domain, outdoors sub-domain and income deprivation affecting children index. Similar to E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C, this LSOA has significant barriers to housing and services and geographical barriers, falling within the top 20% and top 10% most deprived domain respectively.

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Table 7.4: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015⁵⁰

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
E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C																
Rank	24,349	30,238	29,573	14,799	26,905	32,342	3,879	16,035	32,513	21,157	10,511	19,782	3,167	13,813	12,138	21,530
Decile	(8)	(10)	(10)	(5)	(9)	(10)	(2)	(5)	(10)	(7)	(4)	(7)	(1)	(5)	(4)	(7)
E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D																
Rank	23,542	27,242	24,493	20,841	30,144	26,770	3,654	15,818	24,623	30,327	19,350	20,918	1,697	22,758	16,010	11,921
Decile	(8)	(9)	(8)	(7)	(10)	(9)	(2)	(5)	(5)	(10)	(6)	(7)	(1)	(7)	(5)	(4)

⁵⁰ DCLG (2015): 'English Indices of Deprivation', [online] available to download from: <<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>> last accessed [14/03/17]

Similarities between the LSOAs

Poor performance (top 30% most deprived deciles)

- Both LSOAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area have significant barriers to housing and services and geographical barriers, falling within the top 20% and top 10% IMD domains respectively.

Good performance (top 30% least deprived deciles)

- The LSOAs within the Neighbourhood Plan area have excellent levels of income and employment, low crime levels and low health deprivation and disability, falling within the top 30% least deprived domains within these IMD categories.
- Overall, both E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C and E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D are within the top 30% least deprived LSOAs in England.

Contrasts between the LSOAs

- E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C falls within the top 10% least deprived domain for the income deprivation affecting children index. Comparatively, E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D falls within the top 50% most deprived domain for this category.
- E01028743: Vale of White Horse 003C falls within the top 40% least deprived domain within the outdoors sub-domain. Notably, E01028744: Vale of White Horse 003D falls within the top 40% most deprived domain for the same category.

Housing Tenure

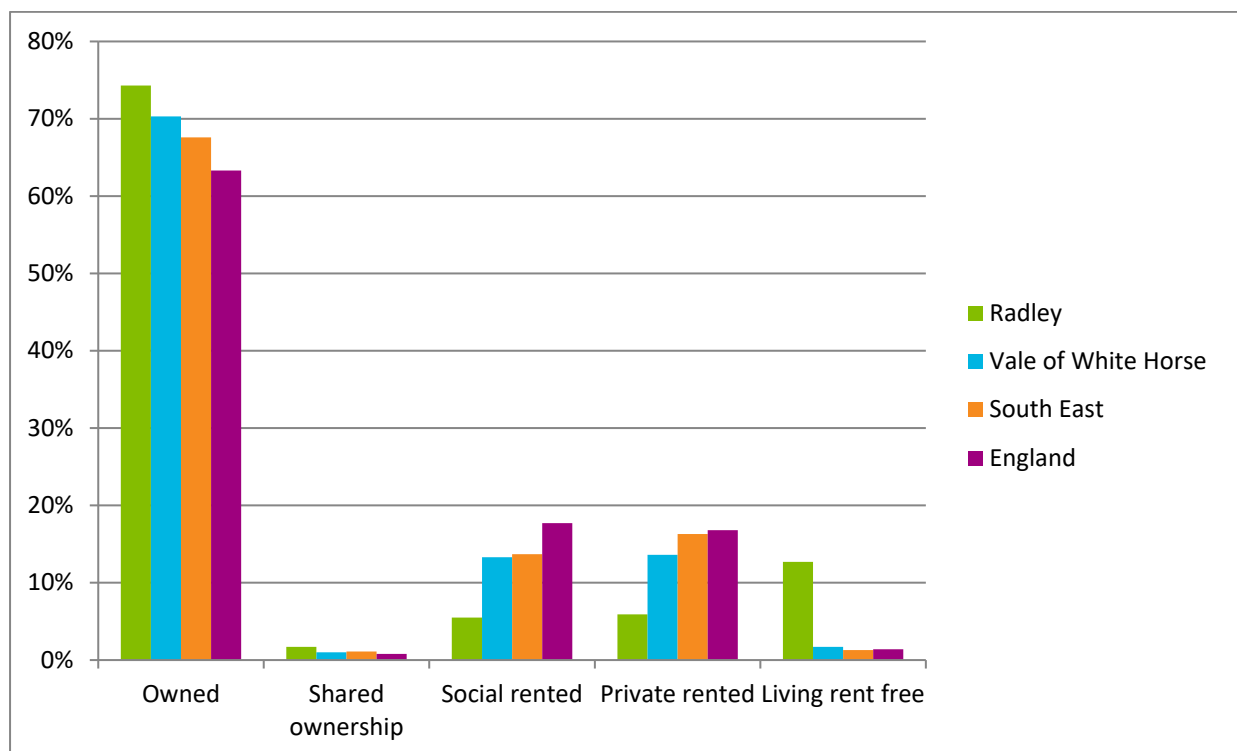


Figure 7.1: 'Tenure by Household' ⁵¹

Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, 74.3% of residents either own their home outright or with a mortgage, higher than the vales for the Vale of White Horse (70.3%), the South East (67.6%) and England (63.3%). Notably, there are fewer residents living in socially or privately rented properties when compared to regional and national averages. Furthermore, 12.7% residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area are living rent free, which is over 10% higher than the regional and national trends. This may reflect the previously discussed population dynamics for Radley, with 39.8% under the age of 24.

⁵¹ ONS (no date): Census 2011: Tenure-Households 2011 (Table QS405EW)

Education

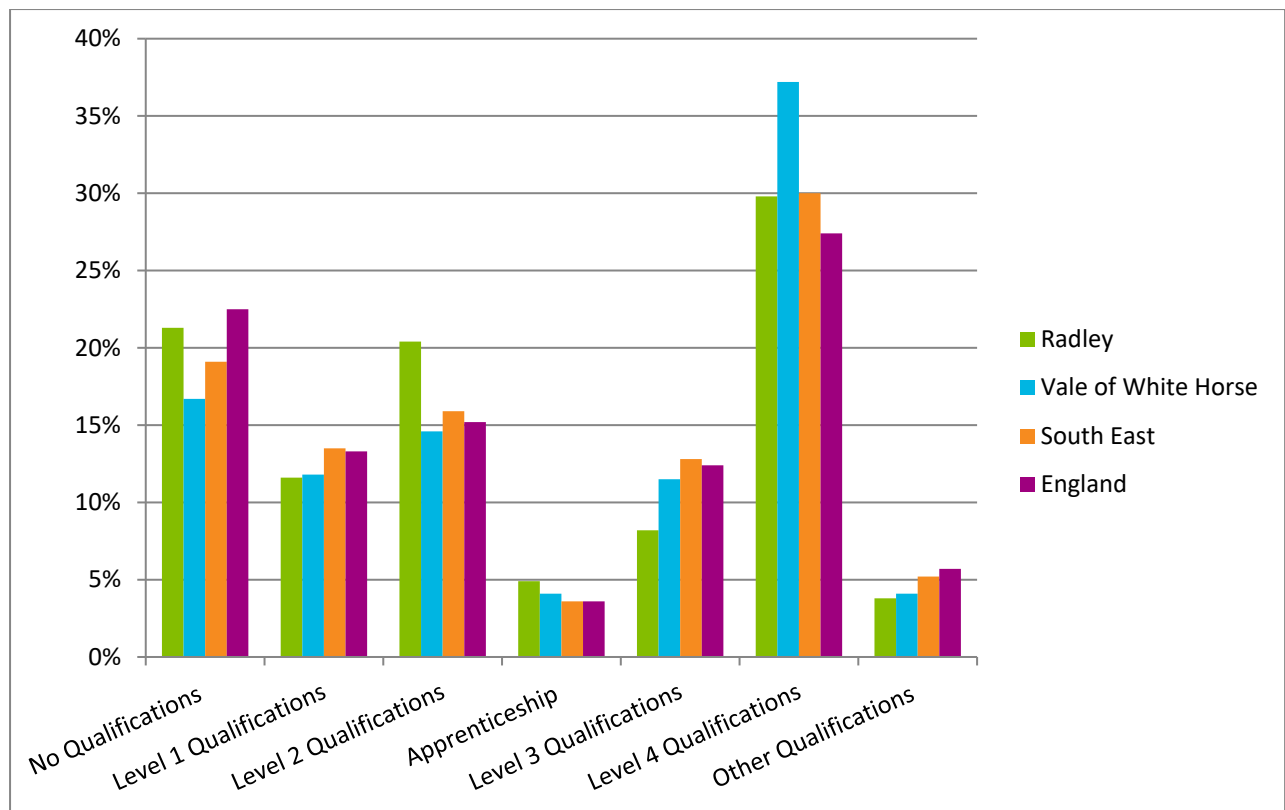


Figure 7.2; 'Highest level of Qualification' ⁵²

The number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area with a Level 4 qualification broadly aligns within the regional and national trends, but is 7.4% less than the value for the Vale of White Horse. Additionally, 21.3% of the population within the Neighbourhood Plan area have no qualifications, broadly aligning with the national average (22.5%), but higher than the average for the South East (19.1%) and Vale of White Horse (16.7%). Fewer residents within Radley have Level 1 or Level 3 qualifications in comparison to the regional and national averages. Comparatively, a larger number of residents within Radley have Level 2 qualifications or apprenticeships than the values for the Vale of White Horse, South East and England, show in Figure 7.2.

Employment

In regards to employment within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the majority of residents of residents (27.9%) are employed within professional occupations. This is higher than the values for the Vale of White Horse (23.2%), the South East (18.7%) and England (17.5%). The number of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area employed in elementary occupations (10.4%) broadly aligns with the averages for the South East (9.7%) and England (11.1%), but is 1.9% higher than the average for the Vale of White Horse (8.5%). Notably, the remaining six occupation categories observed in Figure 7.3 employ a fewer percentage of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area compared to the regional and national counterparts.

⁵² ONS (no date): Census 2011: Highest Level of Qualification 2011 (Table QS501EW)

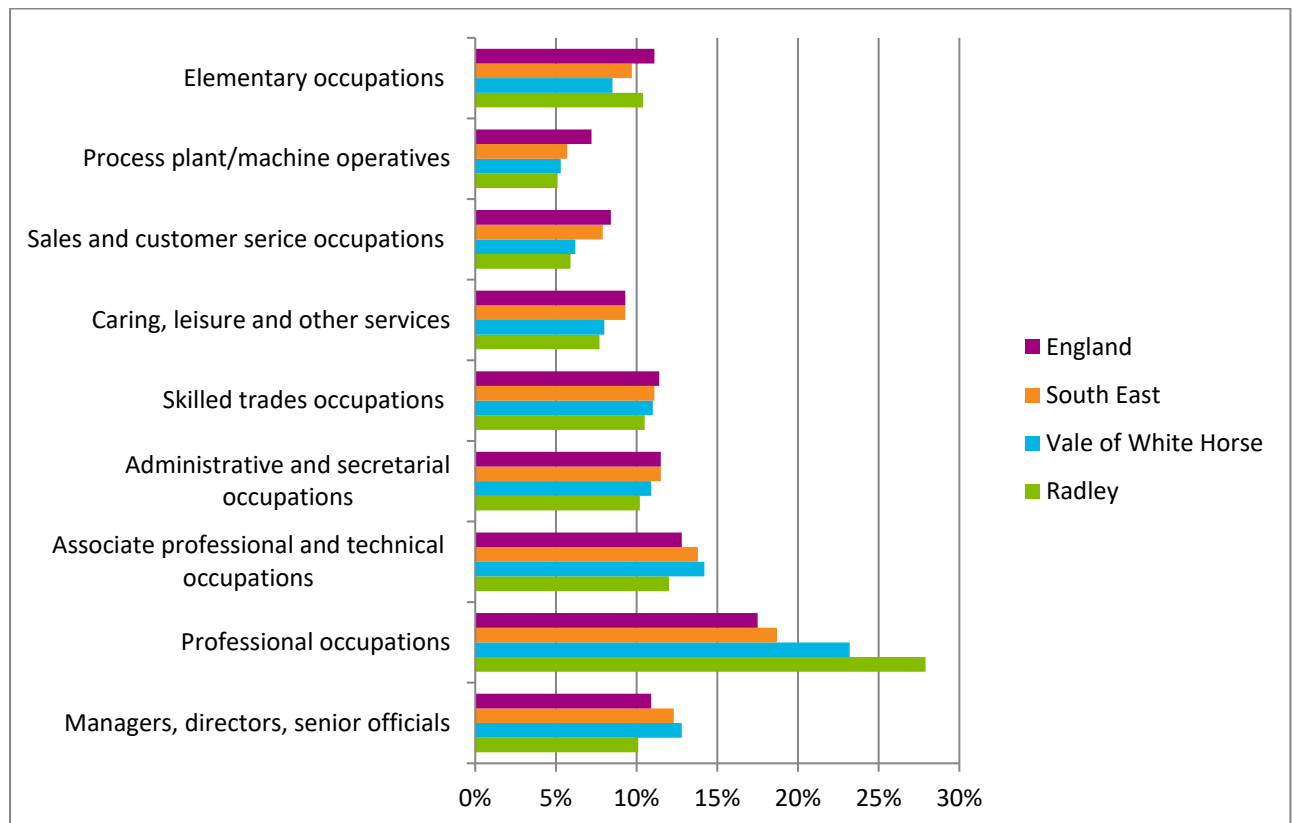


Figure 7.3: 'Occupation of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment'⁵³

7.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

The population of the Neighbourhood Plan area increased between the years 2001-2011 at a lower rate in comparison to the regional and national trends. However, the allocation of 510 dwellings in two strategic sites within the parish through the Local Plan will stimulate future population growth.

Over 25% of residents are aged 60+, indicating the presence of an ageing population within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The suitability of housing for local requirements depends in part on the successful implementation of policies outlined in LPP1 and LPP2.

⁵³ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Occupation 2011' (Table KS608EW)

7.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community SEA theme?

SEA 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? Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?
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?

8. Health and Wellbeing

Focus of Theme:

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

8.1 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 total for the Vale of White Horse and higher than the averages or the South East and England.
- 12.9% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having ‘bad health’ or ‘very bad health’, which is lower than the regional and national trends.
- An ageing population has the potential to increase pressures on healthcare services in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

8.2 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 Lives⁵⁴ (‘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.

Published in 2016, the updated Joint Strategic Needs Assessment⁵⁵ (JSNA) provides information about Oxfordshire’s population and the factors affecting health, wellbeing and social care needs. It brings together information from different sources and partners to create a shared evidence base, which supports service

⁵⁴ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available to download from: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=106106> last accessed [15/03/17]

⁵⁵ Oxfordshire County Council (2016): ‘Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Report 2016’, [online] available to download via: <http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-report-2016> last accessed [17/03/17]

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planning, decision-making and delivery. The 2016 report was submitted to Oxfordshire City Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, and focuses on the headline facts uncovered by the most recent analysis of the data covering the following topics: population, population groups, wider determinants of health, morbidity and mortality, lifestyles and service demand. The specific use of the JSNA is to provide the evidence base for Oxfordshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015-2019), with the vision for this strategy as follows:

By 2019 in Oxfordshire⁵⁶:

- More children and young people will lead healthy, safe lives and will be given the opportunity to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential;
- More adults will have the support they need to live their lives as healthily, successfully, independently and safely as possible, with good timely access to health and social care services;
- Everyone will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions and experiences to ensure that services meet their individual needs; and
- The best possible services will be provided within the resource we have, giving excellent value for the public.

Reflecting this vision, Oxfordshire City Council's Health and Wellbeing Board sets out eleven priorities within the 2015-2019 strategy, listed below:

- Priority 1: All children have a healthy start in life and stay healthy into adulthood;
- Priority 2: Narrowing the gap for our most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- Priority 3: Keeping all children and young people safe;
- Priority 4: Raising achievement for all children and young people;
- Priority 5: Working together to improve quality and value for money in the Health and Social Care System;
- Priority 6: Living and working well: Adults with long term conditions, physical or learning disability or mental health problems living independently and achieving their full potential;
- Priority 7: Support older people to live independently with dignity whilst reducing the need for care and support;
- Priority 8: Preventing early death and improving quality of life in later years;
- Priority 9: Preventing chronic disease through tackling obesity;
- Priority 10: Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing and preventing homelessness; and
- Priority 11: Preventing infectious disease through immunisation.

In relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 35 'Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking' directly relates to this SEA theme. Additionally, the following Development Management Policies are relevant:

- Development Policy 30: Protection of Public Rights of Way, National Trails and Open Access Areas;
- Development Policy 32: Open Space; and
- Development Policy 33: Leisure and Sports Facilities.

⁵⁶ Oxfordshire County Council (2015): 'Oxfordshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019', [online] available to download via: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/aboutyourcouncil/plansperformancepolicy/oxfordshirejoint_hwbstrategy.pdf last accessed [27/03/17]

8.3 Baseline Summary

8.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Health Indicators and Deprivation

Deprivation is a significant contributor to poor health and can have adverse effects on wellbeing, with elements related to housing quality, living environment, income and employment previously discussed in detail in Chapter 7. As visualised in Figure 8.1, 86.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area consider themselves as having 'very good health' or 'good health', broadly aligning to the total for the Vale of White Horse (85.9%), but higher than the totals for the South East (83.6%) and England (81.4%). Comparatively, only 2.8% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area report either 'bad health' or 'very bad health' lower than the totals for the Vale of White Horse (3.3%), the South East (4.4%) and England (5.4%).

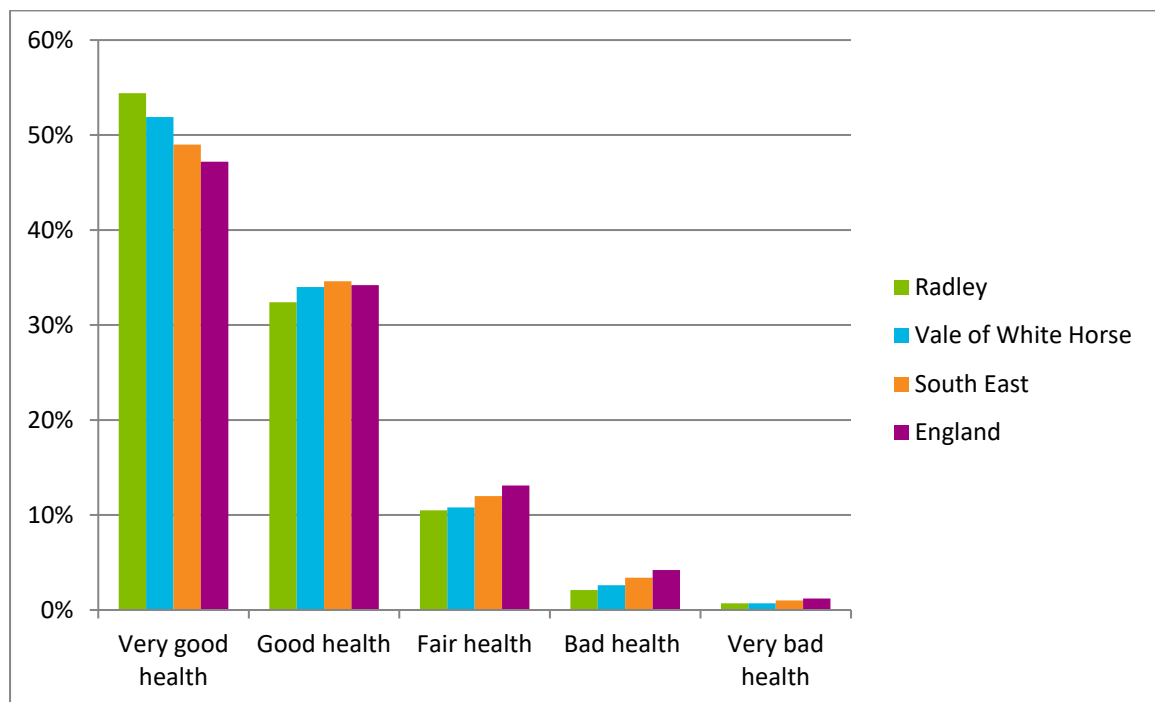


Figure 8.1: 'General Health'⁵⁷

The higher levels of 'very good health' and 'good health' within the Neighbourhood Plan area observed in Figure 8.1 align with the disability data presented in Table 8.1. Within Radley, 12.9% of residents report that their daily activities are limited in some way, which is lower than the average for the Vale of White Horse (14.2%), the South East (15.7%) and England (17.6%).

Table 8.1: Disability⁵⁸

	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
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⁵⁷ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'General Health 2011' (Table QS302EW)

⁵⁸ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Long-term Health Problem or Disability 2011' (Table QS303EW)

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	Radley	Vale of White Horse	South East	England
Activities limited 'a lot'	4.6%	5.8%	6.9%	8.3%
Activities limited 'a little'	8.3%	8.4%	8.8%	9.3%
Activities 'not limited'	87.1%	85.8%	84.3%	82.4%

Summary of Future Baseline

Broadly speaking, health and well-being within the Neighbourhood Plan area is very good in comparison with the regional and national averages. Nevertheless, an ageing population has the potential to increase pressures on community and healthcare services and is therefore a significant influence on the future health and well-being.

8.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing SEA theme?

SEA 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 vision and priorities outlined in Oxfordshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019. 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?

9. Transportation

Focus of Theme:

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

9.1 Headline Sustainability Issues

- The Neighbourhood Plan area is served by Radley railway station with regular services to Oxford, Didcot Parkway and Reading, with connecting services to a variety of regional and national destinations.
- As of March 2017, the number 35 is the only main bus service in the Neighbourhood Plan area, connecting residents to Abingdon and Oxford via Kennington.
- The north western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is accessible via the A4183. Kennington Road is the main artery into the northern part, with Thrupp Lane extending into the southern part of the parish.
- Thrupp Lane is recognised as a main congestion point within Radley.
- Residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to the Oxford Greenbelt Way, a footpath which connects to the Thames Path National Trail.
- National Cycle Route 5 passes through the Neighbourhood Plan area, utilising the existing highways network.

9.2 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.

Developed in 2015, 'Connecting Oxfordshire' is the fourth Local Transport Plan⁵⁹ (LTP4) for the county, covering the period up until the year 2031 and seeking to ensure that the transport systems are fit to support population and economic growth. The LTP4 was updated in 2016 in order to strengthen the emphasis on improving air quality and making better provision for walking and cycling. There are three overarching goals within the LTP4 containing a variety of transport objectives for Oxfordshire, listed below:

Goal 1: To support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality; by

- Maintaining and improving transport connections to support economic growth and vitality across the county;
- Making most effective use of all available transport capacity through innovative management of the network;
- Increasing journey time reliability and minimise end-to-end public transport journey times on main routes; and
- Developing a high-quality, innovative and resilient integrated transport system that is attractive to customers and generates inward investment.

Goal 2: To reduce emissions, enhance air quality and support the transition to a low carbon economy; by

⁵⁹ Oxfordshire County Council (2015): 'Connecting Oxfordshire LTP4: Policy and Overall Strategy', [online] available to view via: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/connecting-oxfordshire> last accessed [17/03/17]

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- Reducing the proportion of journeys made by private car by making the use of public transport, walking and cycling more attractive;
- Influencing the location and layout of development to maximise the use and value of existing and planned sustainable development investment; and
- Reducing per capita carbon emissions from transport in Oxfordshire in line with UK Government targets.

Goal 3: To protect and enhance the environment and improve quality of life (including public health, safety and individual wellbeing); by

- Mitigating and wherever possible, enhancing the impacts of transport on the local built, historic and natural environment; and
- Improving public health and wellbeing by reducing transport emissions.

In relation to the 2015 Air Quality Action Plan for the Vale of White Horse (described in Chapter 2), the following district-wide policies relate to the Transport SEA theme, all of which list a target completion date, cost, justification for implementation and the overall measurable impact:

- Installation of electric vehicle recharging points;
- Parking permit and pricing incentives for green vehicles;
- Taxi licensing incentives for green vehicles;
- Improved use and enforcement of traffic regulation orders;
- Review of the council and contractors fleet; and
- Eco-driver training.

Within the Vale of White Horse Local Plan: Part 1 (LPP1), Core Policy 33 'Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility', Core Policy 34 'A34 Strategy' and Core Policy 35 'Promoting Public Transport, Cycling and Walking' are directly related to the Transport SEA theme. Additionally, in the draft LPP2, Development Policies 15-18 in the 'Supporting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility' Development Management Policy category are also relevant.

9.3 Baseline Summary

9.3.1 Summary of Current Baseline

Rail Network

The central section of the Neighbourhood Plan area is served by Radley Station. This station has twelve bicycle stands and thirty five car parking spaces, with CCTV monitoring in place. However, the station is unstaffed, and there are currently no toilet facilities or a waiting room.

There are regular direct services to Oxford (to the north) and Didcot Parkway (to the south), with both destinations approximately a 10 minute journey from Radley Station. Services are roughly one per hour during off peak hours, increasing in frequency at peak times of the day. At Oxford railway station, residents of the Neighbourhood Plan area can utilise services to a variety of national destinations including Manchester and Newcastle. At Didcot Parkway, there are connecting services to Cheltenham, Bristol and Cardiff. Furthermore, there are services connecting the Neighbourhood Plan area to southerly and south westerly destinations from Reading Station (approximately a 45 minute journey from Radley).

There are roughly two services per hour (one direct and one indirect), connecting Radley to London Paddington. The direct service journey time is approximately 90-120 minutes, alighting passengers at a number of villages and towns on route. The indirect service journey time is shorter (approximately 60 minutes), although a change is required at Didcot Parkway.

Bus Network

In regards to the bus network, as of March 2017 the main service through Radley is the 35, operated by the Oxford Bus Company⁶⁰. The route navigates between Abingdon and Oxford via Kennington, stopping at Foxborough Road, Radley Station, Church Road, Radley Church, Radley College, Sugworth Crescent and Pebble Hill within the Neighbourhood Plan area. There are approximately three services per hour between Monday-Saturday, and two services per hour on Sundays⁶¹.

Road Network and Congestion

The north western part of the Neighbourhood Plan area is accessible via the A4183, extending north from Abingdon and joining the A34. Kennington Road is the main artery into the northern part of the Neighbourhood Plan area, with Thrupp Lane extending into the southern part. Foxborough Road forms a central ring around the built up area of Radley, and is accessible via Kennington Road and Thrupp Lane, with the latter road recognised as a main location for traffic and congestion problems within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Cycle and Footpath Network

The Oxford Greenbelt Way is an 80 km circular walk using existing public rights of way. The walk was created in 2007 to mark the 75th birthday of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). At the eastern boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, the Oxford Greenbelt Way joins the Thames Path National Trail which navigates 300 km along the riverside. This particular section of the trail stretches for 14 km between Abingdon and Oxford, with views over Sandford-on-Thames, Iffley Lock and Osney Bridge.

National Cycle Route 5 passes through the Neighbourhood Plan area utilising the existing road network, via Kennington Road and Church Road in the northern section and Foxborough Road and Thrupp Lane in the southern section of the Neighbourhood Plan area⁶².

Availability of Cars and Vans

Figure 9.1 below highlights the availability of cars and vans within the Neighbourhood Plan area. The proportion of households with no access to a car or van is 15.1%, broadly aligning with the average for the Vale of White Horse, but significantly less than the regional and national counterparts. 75.5% of households within the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to either one or two cars or vans, a trend which is similar to the Vale of White Horse (75.1%), but 4% higher than the total for the South East and 8.6% higher than the England average.

⁶⁰ Radley Village (2017): 'Radley Bus Services' [online] viewed at: <<http://www.radleyvillage.org.uk/practical/bus/>> last accessed [15/03/17]

⁶¹ Oxford Bus Company (2017): 'City35 Timetable, as of December 2016', [online] available to download via: <<https://city.oxfordbus.co.uk/routes/city35#timetable>> last accessed [15/03/17]

⁶² Sustrans (no date): 'National Cycle Network Route Map', [online] available to view via: <<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map>> last accessed [15/03/17]

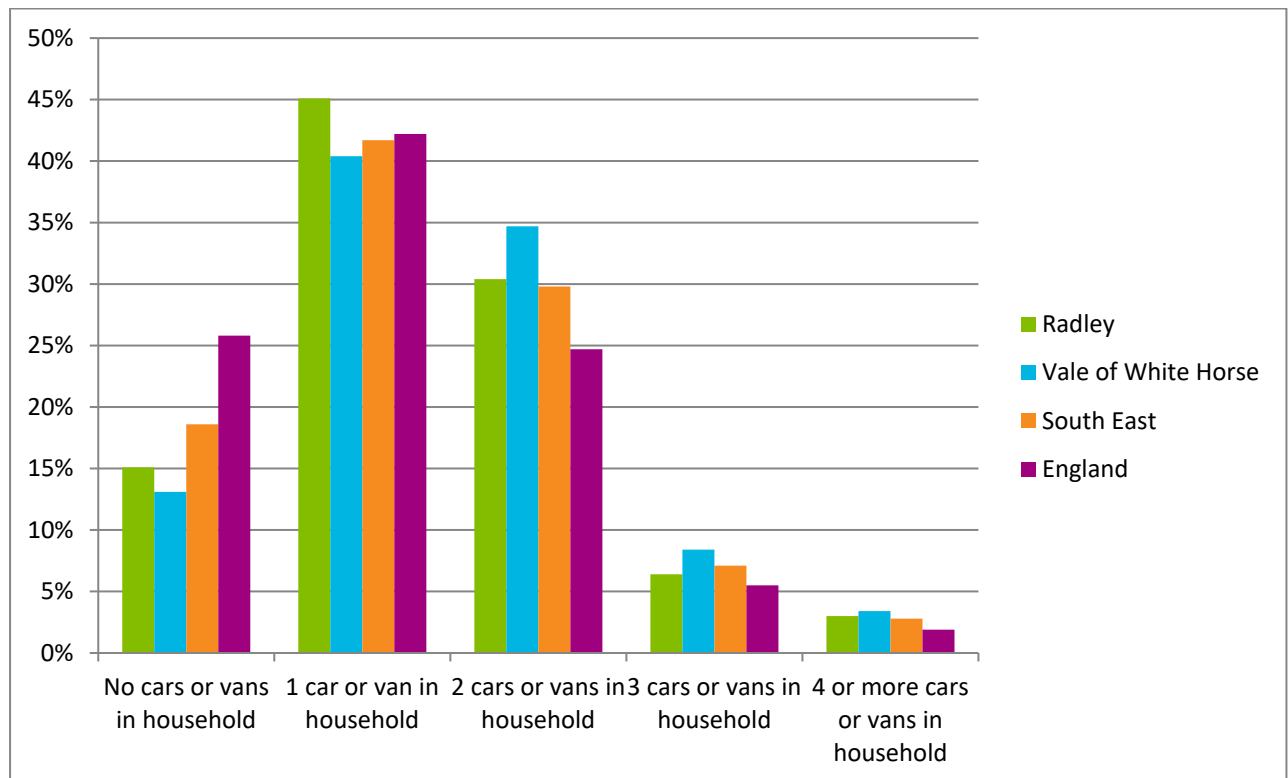


Figure 9.1: 'Car and van ownership'⁶³

Travel to Work

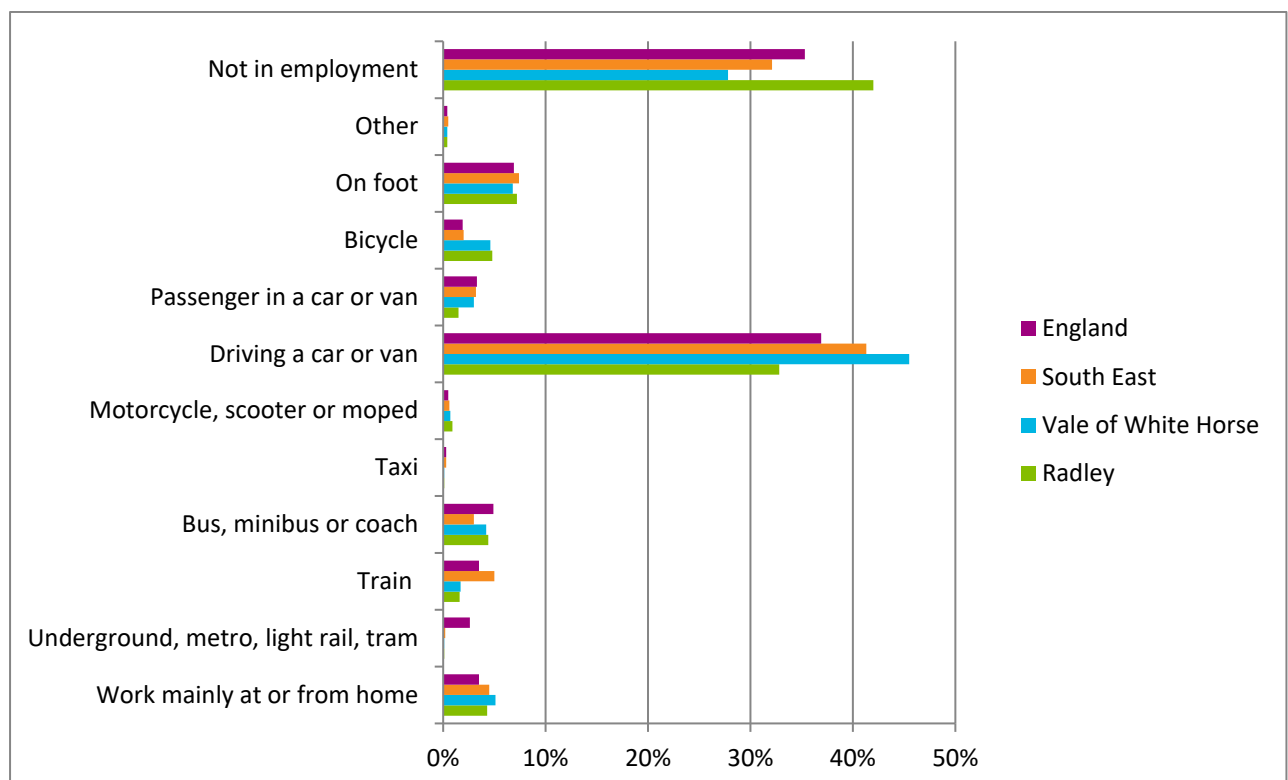


Figure 9.2: 'Method of Travel to Work'⁶⁴

⁶³ ONS (no date): 'Car or Van Availability 2011', (Table QS416EW)

⁶⁴ ONS (no date): Census 2011: 'Method of Travel to Work 2011' (Table QS701EW)

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Based on the most recent census data, the most popular method of travelling to work in the Neighbourhood Plan area is via driving a car or van (32.8%), shown in Figure 9.2. However, this value is lower than the average for the Vale of White Horse (45.5%), the South East (41.3%) and England (36.9%). The second most popular method of travelling to work within the Neighbourhood Plan area is on foot (7.2%), with this value aligning with the regional and national trends. Notably, 42% of residents in the Neighbourhood Plan area are not in employment, which is 14.2% greater than the average for the Vale of White Horse, 9.9% greater than the average for the South West and 6.7% greater than the national average.

9.3.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Over 75% of residents within the Neighbourhood Plan area have access to either one or two cars or vans, with these modes of transport the most popular choice for travelling to work. A number of goals within the current Local Transport Plan 'Connecting Oxfordshire' aim to increase the use of public transport, with a view to reducing traffic on the existing highways network and helping to manage any increases in capacity due to future development.

9.4 What are the SEA objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation SEA theme?

SEA 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">• Support the goals outlined in the most recent Local Travel Plan 'Connecting Oxfordshire'?• Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?• 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?

10. Next Steps

10.1 Subsequent stages for the SEA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process⁶⁵

1. Screening;
2. Scoping;
3. Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan;
4. Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental 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 / SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring')

The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Radley Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the Neighbourhood Plan, including spatial strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to Radley Parish Council (the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group) so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.

Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.

Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report, the Radley Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council for subsequent Independent Examination.

10.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SEA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.

The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA Framework.

10.3 Download and viewing details

The Scoping Report can be downloaded at:

www.radleyvillage.org.uk

This consultation period runs from 30th March 2017 until 4th May 2017. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:

Priscilla Dudding, Chair, Radley Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee

priscilla.dudding@gmail.com

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

⁶⁵ In accordance with the stages set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance

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