## Cherwell | DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

URGENT BUSINESS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Executive

6 July 2020

Agenda Item Number	Page	Title	Officer Responsible	Reason Not Included with Original Agenda
10.	(Pages 3 - 194)	Cherwell Local Plan Review: Planning for Cherwell to 2040 - A Community Involvement Paper Appendix 3	Deputy Manager Planning Policy and Growth Strategy	Published as a supplemen to the main agenda due to the size of the document

If you need any further information about the meeting please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221589

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APPENDIX 3
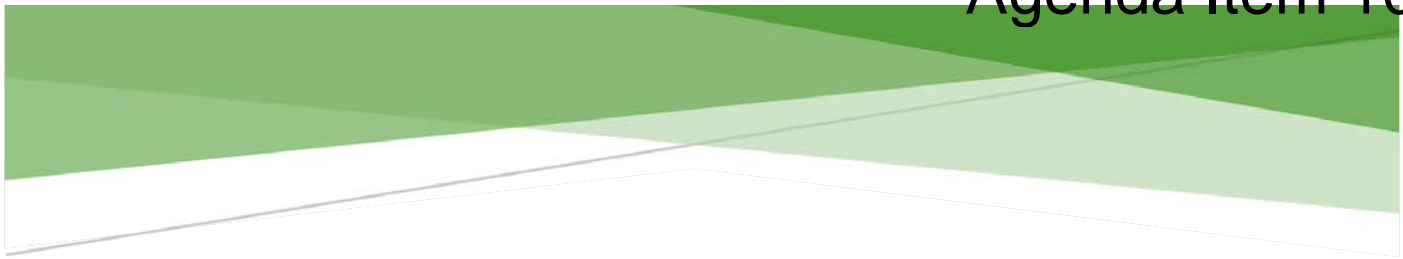
CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2040

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

July 2020

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Council is undertaking a Local Plan Review for Cherwell District and a Sustainability Appraisal is required. National Planning Practice Guidance[1] defines Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a systematic process designed to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the likely effects of an emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve environmental, economic and social objectives.

1.2   The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for and determine the scope and approach of the SA/SEA for the Council's Local Plan Review 2040.

1.3   The Scoping stage of the SA/SEA involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes, considering the existing environment in Cherwell District and identifying key environmental, social and economic issues which may be affected by the Cherwell Local Plan Review. It sets out an 'SA framework' which is used to assess the likely effects of the draft Plan and alternatives.

1.4   For the Local Plan Review 2040 the Council has published a Community Involvement Paper for public consultation alongside this Scoping Report. Following consultation, the Council will review and develop the approach to the SA and an SA report (environmental report) will be published for public consultation alongside Local Plan Review documents.

1.5   The Scoping Report has been peer reviewed by Land Use Consultants (LUC) who are SA consultants undertaking other SA work for the Council.

CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2040

1.6   A new district wide Local Plan to 2040 is being prepared to meet assessed development needs for employment, housing, leisure, community facilities and infrastructure and to provide a strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development.   There are three central overarching themes in the Consultation Paper. These themes, which are consistent with the Government's three objectives for the planning system to achieve sustainable development are:

1.   Maintaining and developing a **Sustainable Local Economy**;
2.   Meeting the challenge of **climate change**; and
3.   **Healthy place shaping**.

1.7   There is a need to meet local, as well as national objectives, retain and protect what is important to Cherwell's distinctiveness, and to its environmental, social and economic

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainabilty-appraisal

health whilst also ensuring that provision is made for development needs.   The Local Plan Review 2040 provides the opportunity to develop newer planning policies.

1.8   The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 was adopted on 20 July 2015.   It contains strategic development sites and a range of planning policies which replaced many of the saved policies of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 1996. Appendix 7 of the adopted Local Plan provides a list of the 1996 saved policies which continue to be used.

1.9   When the existing Local Plan (2015) was adopted the Council set out a commitment to the partial review of the Local Plan in the event that there was need to provide additional housing for Oxford.   This commitment is provided at paragraph B.95 of the Local Plan.

1.10   The Partial Review was undertaken and submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for formal examination on 5 March 2018.   A Preliminary Hearing took place on 28 September 2018 followed by Main Hearings in February 2019. In response to an Advice Note produced by the Inspector in July 2019, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed Main Modification to the Partial Review for public consultation. The Main Modifications with all the supporting documents relevant to their preparation were submitted to the Inspector on 25 February 2020. At the time of writing his final report is awaited.

CHERWELL DISTRICT

1.11   Cherwell District is situated in north Oxfordshire. It lies between London and Birmingham, immediately north of Oxford and south of Warwick / Leamington Spa. It covers an area of approximately 228 square miles, and shares boundaries with Buckinghamshire Council, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire, South Northamptonshire and Stratford upon Avon districts.

Figure 1.1: Location of Cherwell District within Oxfordshire and surroundings

Location of Cherwell District within Oxfordshire and Surroundings
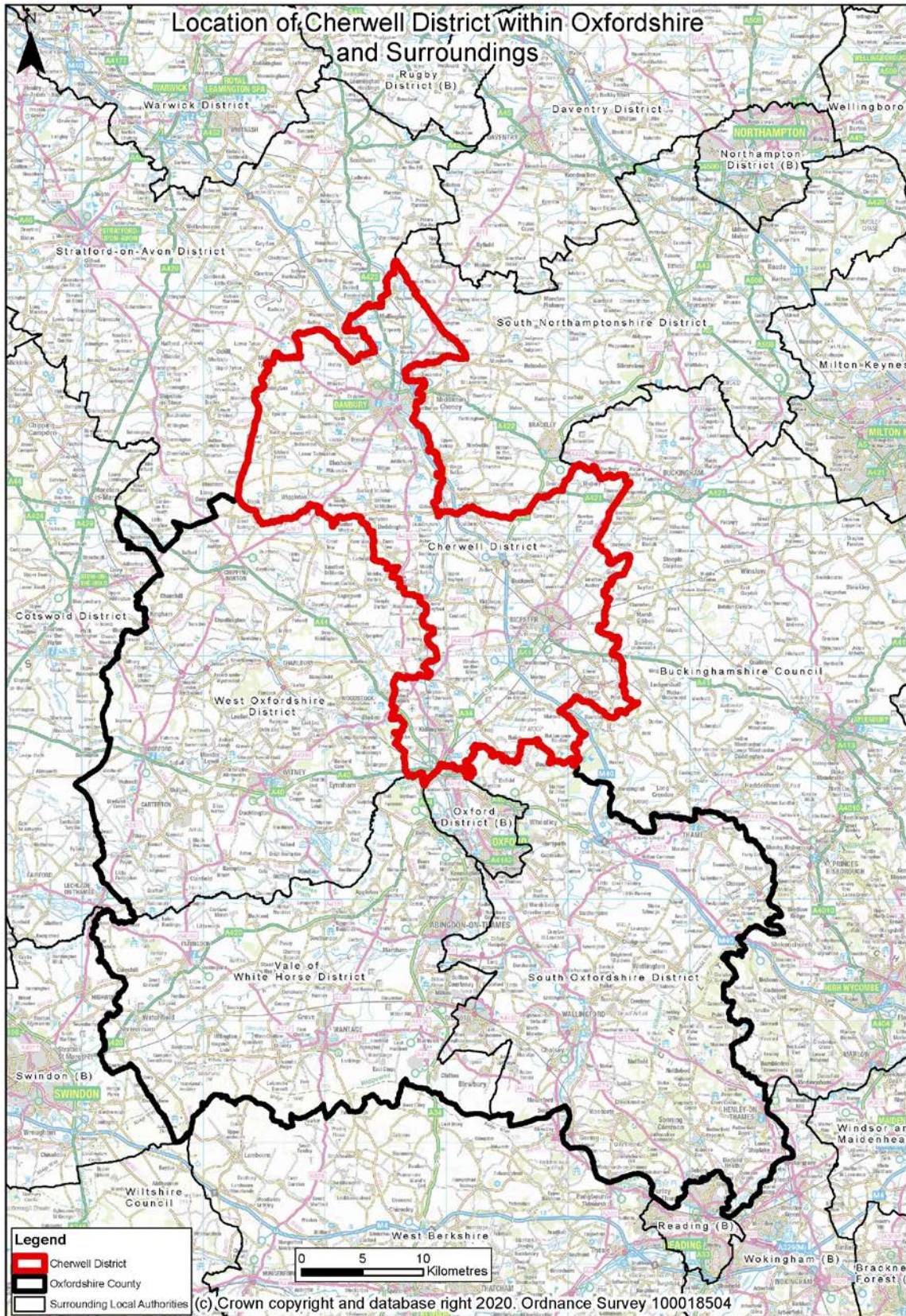
1.12   The District has excellent transport links. The M40 motorway passes through Cherwell close to Banbury and Bicester, and there are direct rail links from Banbury and Bicester to London, Birmingham and Oxford. The rail link from Oxford to Bicester has recently been upgraded as part of wider east-west rail objectives, and a new station at Water Eaton (Oxford Parkway) linking Oxford and London Marylebone via Bicester opened in 2015. Future East-West Rail phases will improve east west connections to Bletchley, Milton Keynes and Cambridge.

1.13   The District's main towns are Banbury and Bicester, containing most of the services and facilities, retail and employment areas. The third largest settlement is Kidlington which is both an urban centre and a village. The District has over 90 smaller villages and hamlets. Within the rural areas of the District lies the 500ha former RAF Upper Heyford site vacated by the US Air Force in 1994. Now known as Heyford Park, the adopted Cherwell Local Plan (2015) provides for a new settlement in this location with just over 2,300 homes, new employment, educational, community and recreational uses.

1.14   Cherwell District is largely rural in character with much of the District characterised by soft rolling hills. The north-western part of the district abuts the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with a small part of the AONB Ironstone Hills and Valleys character area falling within the district boundaries. The southern part of the District is within the Oxford Green Belt.

1.15   The River Cherwell runs the length of the district north to south joining the River Thames at Oxford. The Oxford Canal runs along the River Cherwell for much of its course.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** sets out the Council's proposed approach to the SA.
- **Section 3:** identifies key relevant plans, programmes and policies influencing the Local Plan Review and SA
- **Section 4:** presents the baseline information for Cherwell District.
- **Section 5:** identifies the key social, environmental and economic issues in Cherwell of relevance to the Local Plan Review and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
- **Section 6:** presents the SA Framework that will be used for the appraisal of the Local Plan Review and the proposed method for carrying out the SA.
- **Section 7:** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan Review.

2.   APPROACH TO THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

2.1   Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. It is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC), as set out by the SEA Regulations[2]. It is therefore a legal requirement for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

2.2   The SEA Regulations state that SEA must assess the likely significant effects of the plan or programme on the following:

- Biodiversity
- Population
- Human health
- Fauna
- Flora
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- Landscape; and
- The inter-relationship between the above

2.3   The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although both can be satisfied using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance[3]). This is the approach that will be adopted for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040. The term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations' moving forward.

THE PURPOSE OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

2.4   The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of documents. SA and SEA are tools used at the plan-making stage to assess the extent to which the emerging

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[2] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No 1633)
[3] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal

plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.

2.5   The term 'sustainable development' originates from the Brundtland Commission Report of the World Council on Environment and Development in 1987, which defined sustainable development as:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."[4]

2.6   Definitions that are more recent have included social inclusion/progress and economic growth/performance within the definition of sustainability. In 2005 the UK Government published Securing the Future – UK Government sustainable development strategy[5], which identifies sustainable development as having five key principles. These are:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable Economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

2.7   The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) in Paragraph 8 identifies that there are three dimensions to sustainable development; economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- an **economic** role – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- a **social** role – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an **environmental role** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
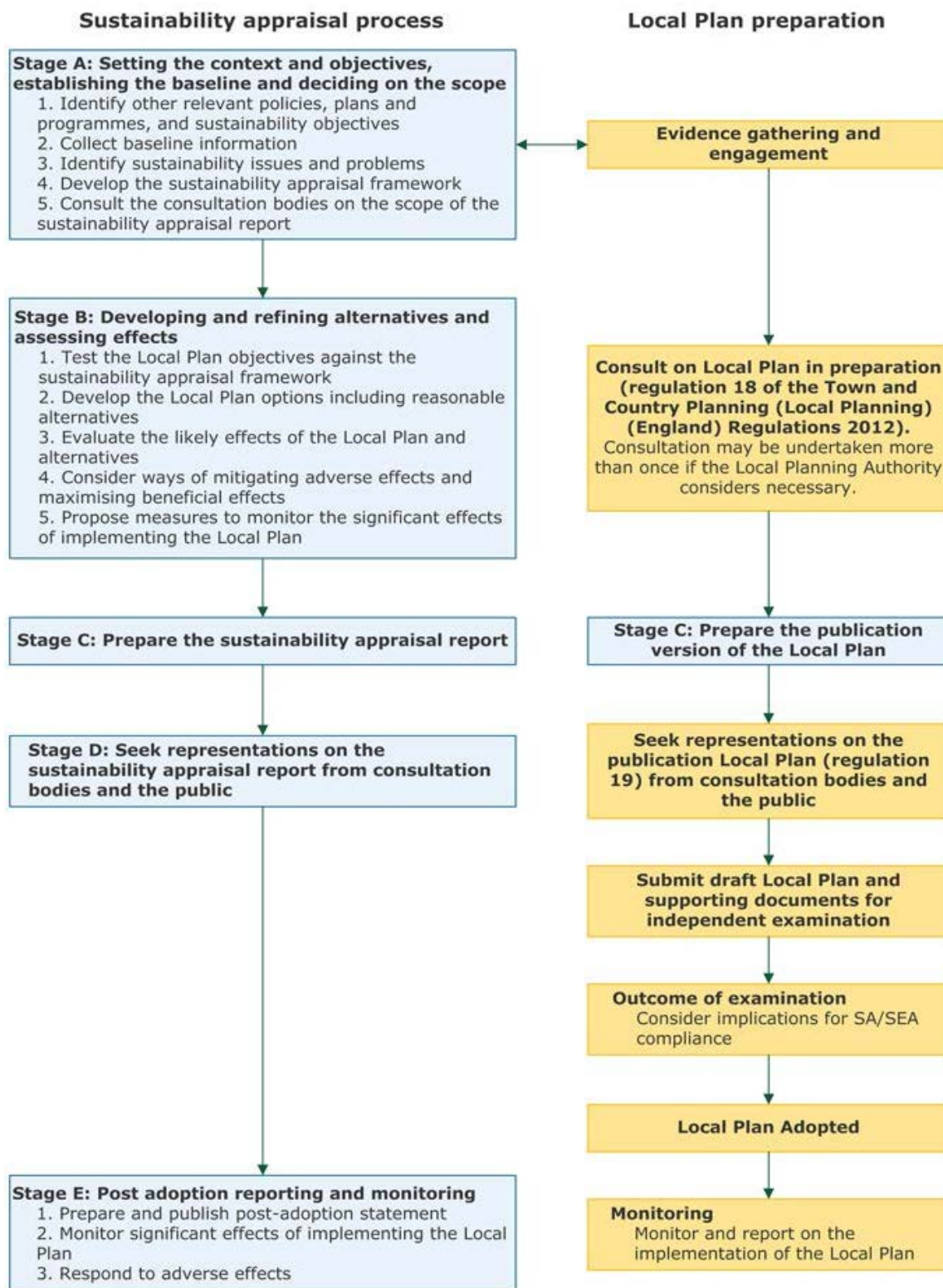
THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

2.8   The SA process will consist of a number of stages which are presented in **Figure 2.1**. This Scoping Report completes Stage A.

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[4] World Commission on Environment and Development (1967) The Brundtland Commission Report
[5] DEFRA (2005) UK Sustainable Development Strategy

Figure 2.1: Sustainability Appraisal and Local Plan preparation process[6]

Sustainability appraisal process **Local Plan preparation**

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

Evidence gathering and engagement

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Consult on Local Plan in preparation (regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012). Consultation may be undertaken more than once if the Local Planning Authority considers necessary.

Stage C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report

Stage C: Prepare the publication version of the Local Plan

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

Seek representations on the publication Local Plan (regulation 19) from consultation bodies and the public

Submit draft Local Plan and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan Adopted

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

Monitoring Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan

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[6] National Planning Practice Guidance (July 2019) Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 11-013-20140306)

APPROACH TO SCOPING

2.9 Government guidance on SA explains the Scoping stage. The scoping stage (Stage A) sets out the context and objectives, establishes the baseline and identities the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA report. A formal scoping report is not a legal requirement but is a useful way of presenting information at the scoping stage. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the sustainability appraisal process is proportionate and relevant to the plan being assessed.

2.10 A statutory five-week period of consultation on the scope of the SA is required to be undertaken with the three consultation bodies defined in Regulation 4 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. In England the consultation bodies are Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

2.11 There are five steps in the scoping stage as set out in **Table 2.1** below.

Table 2.1: Stages in SA scoping

Stage A1	Identify other Plans, Policies and Programmes and Sustainability Objectives.
Stage A2	Setting out the baseline information for the SA of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040, including the current and likely future environmental, social and economic characteristics conditions in Cherwell District.
Stage A3	Drawing on A1 and A2, identify the particular sustainability problems ('issues') that the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 and SA should address.
Stage A4	Drawing on A1, A2 and A3, developing the SA Framework containing SA objectives.
Stage A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA.

LINKS BETWEEN THE SA AND THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

2.12 Part of the Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies within Cherwell District.

2.13 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for

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England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010[7] and again in 2012[8], 2017[9] 2018[10] and 2019[11]. The regulations translate Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) and 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) into UK law. The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

2.14 The HRA will be undertaken separately but the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).

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[7] The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. HMSO Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 1843. From 1 April2010, these were consolidated and replaced by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490). Note that no substantive changes to existing policies or procedures have been made in the new version.

[8] The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012. Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1927.

[9] *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments.

[10] The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018, Statutory Instrument 2018 No.1307

[11] The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, Statutory Instrument 2019 No. 579

3.   REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

3.1   Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:

(a) "an outline of the…relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and

(e) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

3.2   Given the SEA Directive requirements the Scoping Report considers the relationship between the Local Plan Review and other plans or programmes that are of relevance to the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040. It is necessary to develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international, national and local plans and strategies.

3.3   The following section takes a pragmatic and proportionate approach to the identification of key policies, plans and programmes by presenting an overview of the policies, plans and programmes that are of most relevance to the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040. **Appendix 2** provides further detail on the plans and programmes that have been reviewed and the implications of each document for the preparation of the SA and potentially for the Local Plan Review if newer policies are required.

KEY INTERNATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

3.4   At the international level, the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') mean that SEA and HRA will need to be undertaken in relation to the Local Plan Review. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.

3.5   There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy. At the end of January 2020, the UK left the EU with a transition period in place until 31 December 2020. EU rules and regulations will continue to apply to the UK during this period. The Explanatory Memorandum[12] accompanying the Brexit amendments sets out that the purpose of the Brexit amendments to the SEA Regulations is to ensure that the law functions correctly after the UK has left the EU. No

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[12] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5bd071d9ed915d78a7506280/181016_---_FINAL_---_Combined_EIA_SEA___Misc_Planning_Exit_EM.pdf

substantive changes are being made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime operates.

KEY NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

3.6   The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[13] sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. It is supported by an online National Planning Policy Guide (PPG).

3.7   At paragraph 16, the NPPF states that Local Plans must "be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development." The NPPF at paragraph 16 also requires Local Plans to "be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable."

3.8   In relation to SA, the NPPF states at paragraph 32 that: "local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)." (A footnote to the NPPF paragraph 32 identifies that the reference to relevant legal requirements refers to Strategic Environmental Assessment).

3.9   The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- The homes and jobs needed in the area;
- The provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- The provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, floor risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
- The provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscape and green infrastructure.

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[13] NPPF February 2019
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

COUNTY PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

3.10   In February 2018, all of the local authorities in Oxfordshire signed a Housing and Growth Deal[14], whereby the authorities would receive up to £215 million of central government funding in return for delivering 100,000 new homes between 2011 and 2031.

3.11   As part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal agreement with central government, the six Oxfordshire authorities – Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council – have committed to producing a Joint Strategic Spatial Plan (JSSP) for Oxfordshire to be known as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050[15].

3.12   The Oxfordshire Plan will provide an integrated planning framework and evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050. This will include the planned delivery of new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.

3.13   It is anticipated that the Plan will set out the overall development requirement and identify broad areas for growth. It will then be for the respective district local planning authorities to establish detailed planning policies and site allocations at a district level.

3.14   The Oxfordshire Plan Scoping Document indicates that it will include:

- County-wide housing requirements, including the requirement for affordable homes and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation.
- County-wide employment growth figures.
- Broad proposed growth areas.
- Green Belt strategies.
- Strategy for biodiversity, Green Infrastructure and strategic environmental allocations.
- Strategy for transport.
- Strategy for infrastructure.
- Retail hierarchy.
- Strategy for place-making and the built environment.

3.15   An initial public consultation (Regulation 18 – Part 1) for the Oxfordshire Plan took place during February / March 2019 and a 'Call for Ideas' consultation also took place in March / April 2019, which generated suggestions for additional strategic development locations in Oxfordshire. The current published programme anticipates that the Oxfordshire Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent

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[14] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/oxfordshire-housing-deal
[15] https://oxfordshireplan.org/

examination by January 2022 and adopted by October 2022, subject to the examination process.

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) Strategic Economic Plan

3.16 The OxLEP Strategic Economic Plan[16] helps identify potential opportunities and prospects for Oxfordshire and manages the county's economic growth to ensure sustainability and inclusivity. The Plan is structured around a number of priorities which define four programmes: People, Place, Enterprise and Connectivity. Under these four programmes, the Plan sets out a number of actions. These range from the Westgate Community Employment Plan which aims to provide local residents with sustainable jobs to providing rural broadband in more remote, cut-off areas and the development of science parks across the county (e.g. Science Vale in south Oxfordshire).

Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy 2019

3.17 The Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy[17] sets out an ambitious plan to build on Oxfordshire's strong foundations and world-leading assets, to deliver transformative economic growth which is clean and sustainable and delivers prosperity for all communities across the county. It highlights how Oxfordshire has a well-balanced, resilient economy which has been instrumental to its track record of continued growth. Output growth has continued to be strong since the financial crisis (3.9 per cent per annum since 2007), well above national averages and even during the last recession Oxfordshire continued to grow.

3.18 Oxfordshire's LIS Vision Statement is: '*To position Oxfordshire as one of the top three global innovation ecosystems by 2040, building on the region's world leading science and technology clusters to be a pioneer for the UK in emerging transformative technologies and sectors.*'

Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) 2015-2031

3.19 The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan of 2015 (LTP4), '*Connecting Oxfordshire*'[18], sets out Oxfordshire County Council's policy and strategy for developing the transport system in Oxfordshire to 2031. The LTP4 aims to:

• support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality;
• reduce transport emissions and meet our obligations from Government;
• protect, and where possible enhance Oxfordshire's environment and improve quality of life; and
• improve public health, air quality, safety and individual well-being.

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[16] OxLEP (2016) Creating the Environment for Growth: Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire
[17] https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/lis
[18]
https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s33704/Background%20CA_JUN2816R07%20Connecting%20Oxfordshire%20vol%201%20-%20Policy%20and%20Overall%20Strategy.pdf

3.20 A high level visionary Science Transit Strategy seeks to provide better-integrated, high quality mobility systems that both serve the Oxfordshire Knowledge Spine and connect it with the rest of the county. The potential network would link Cherwell's three main towns to Oxford.

3.21 A number of road improvements are also identified in the LTP4 which are outlined in their respective Area Strategies. In Bicester there are plans for a new road linking the eastern perimeter route with the A41 and a new highway bridge to allow the Eastern Perimeter Road to cross the new East West Rail line, replacing the current Charbridge Lane level crossing. Additionally, a new link road between Banbury and a large employment site could be developed east of M40 junction 11. A spine road to be built as part of development at Salt Way south of the town will link the A4260 Oxford Road and A361 Chipping Norton Road.

3.22 The strategy includes the recently opened rail link between Oxford Station Parkway and London Marylebone.

3.23 The LTP4 also recognises that the London Oxford Airport has existing capacity for more short-haul flights to cities and hub airports in north-western Europe and the county council will work with the airport to avoid increasing pressure on the road network and to improve public transport access, including links to Oxford Parkway station and key linkage to emerging Rapid Transit Routes 1 and 3.

3.24 It also includes an area strategy for Oxford as well as other strategies, including a bus strategy which sets out how improvements will be made to the county-wide bus network as well as developing rapid transit services along the busiest routes.

LTP4 Review: emerging Oxfordshire Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

3.25 Oxfordshire County Council are currently reviewing their Local Transport Plan 4 (Connecting Oxfordshire) to replace it with a new and more transformational plan addressing transport connectivity as well as future technology and digital connectivity. The Plan[19] is at its first stages of preparation. Stage 1 consultation was undertaken in autumn 2019 and further stakeholder engagement will be carried out during the rest of 2020; with the next public consultation expected to take place in winter 2020/21.

Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy

3.26 The Oxfordshire Growth Board published the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy[20] in November 2017. This sets out ambitions for new and improved infrastructure to 2031 and beyond. Regionally and county-wide, the strategy supports an East-West rail link between Oxford, Bicester, Milton Keynes and Bedford; rail improvements between Oxford and Didcot; redevelopment of Oxford Station, and upgrades to the A34. In the long term, it also supports an Oxford-Cambridge expressway, which will provide a new high-quality road link between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. Once completed, the new road is expected to take up to 40 minutes off journeys between the M4 and

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[19] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/connecting-oxford
[20] https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/oxis_stage2.pdf

the M1, bringing Oxford and Cambridge to within a 45-minute drive of Milton Keynes. Work has begun on an update to the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy.

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy

3.27 The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy[21] sets out the planning strategies and policies for the development that will be needed for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to the end of 2031. With significant growth in population, new housing, economic development and infrastructure improvements, there are implications for the demand for and supply of minerals and also for the production of waste and how it is dealt with. This will need to be achieved whilst protecting and enhancing the urban and rural environments as well as considering social and economic needs.

3.28 Through policy M3, the Minerals and Waste Plan has identified principal locations for working aggregate material. The Core Strategy also identifies 21 existing and permitted waste management sites safeguarded under Policy W11.

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 2 – Site Allocations Plan

3.29 The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Part 2 – Site Allocations Plan[22] follows on from the adoption of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy in 2017 and is currently under preparation. It will make provision and identify sites for minerals and waste management development in Oxfordshire for the period to the end of 2031, in accordance with the spatial strategy and criteria-based policies in the Core Strategy; and provide the detailed policy framework for minerals and / or waste management development management decisions. It will allocate the sites required to provide the additional capacity for minerals supply and waste management as set out in the Core Strategy.

3.30 The identification of Preferred Options of the mineral and waste sites needed to deliver the Core Strategy has been undertaken and the Draft Plan was subject to public consultation between January – March 2020. It is expected that the Submission Draft will be subject to public consultation in September 2020.

Oxfordshire's Resources and Waste Strategy 2018-2023

3.31 Oxfordshire's Resources and Waste Strategy[23] has been developed on behalf of all Oxfordshire local authorities through the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership. It runs from 2018-2023 and focusses on Local Authority Collected Waste.

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[21]
https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/planning/mineralsandwaste/September2017/AdoptedMineralsWasteCoreStrategySept2017.pdf
[22] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste-policy/new-minerals-and-waste-plan
[23] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/waste-and-recycling/OxfordshiresResourcesandWasteStrategy.pdf

3.32 The Strategy aims to:

- Keep household waste growth to zero (per person per year);
- Increase the amount of household waste we recycle to 70% by 2030; and
- Send less than 3% of our household waste to landfill by 2020.

Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan 2020

3.33 The Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan[24] was approved by Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet members on 17 March 2020 and is underpinned by a formal Digital Infrastructure Partnership with Oxford City Council, OxLEP and all district councils. The Strategy sets out a framework for delivering full fibre broadband to homes and businesses in Oxfordshire, along with improving mobile coverage. The Digital Infrastructure Programme has interim targets of achieving 99% superfast coverage and 16% full fibre coverage by 2021.

Oxfordshire Energy Strategy 2018

3.34 The Oxfordshire Energy Strategy[25] is led by OxLEP in association with its partners and is aligned to the Government's Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Strategy. It feeds into the Local Industrial Strategy and helps inform Oxfordshire's growth ambitions up to 2031, as outlined in the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

3.35 The Strategy has three main objectives:

- Deliver an energy strategy for clean growth;
- Increase local generation, reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency; and
- Enhance energy networking and partnership working to focus on low carbon energy challenges and funding opportunities arising from the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy.

LOCAL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Neighbourhood Development Plans

3.36 Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), once adopted, form part of the development plan for a local authority area. These Plans, prepared by the community, provide the opportunity for local concerns on social, environmental and economic issues to be addressed through spatial planning policies. Currently there are 'made' neighbourhood plans for Bloxham, Adderbury, Hook Norton and Mid Cherwell (covering the parishes of Ardley with Fewcott, Duns Tew, Fritwell, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middle Aston, Middleton Stoney, North Aston, Somerton, Steeple Aston and Upper

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[24]

http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/sites/betterbroadband/files/folders/documents/Digital%20Infrastructure%20Strategy%20v11.pdf

[25] https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/energystrategy

Heyford). Weston-on-the-Green Neighbourhood Plan is well advanced, with a report going to the Council's Executive on 6 July recommending the Plan proceed to referendum. Plans are also progressing for Deddington and Shipton on Cherwell and Thrupp.

Neighbouring Local Plans

3.37 In preparing the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040, and throughout the SA process, consideration will be given to the Local Plans being prepared by the neighbouring local authorities. These are referenced below. The development proposed in these authorities could give rise to effects on Cherwell including in-combination effects with the effects of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040.

3.38 There are seven authorities bordering Cherwell District: South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire, Oxford, (all within Oxfordshire) and Stratford-on-Avon, South Northamptonshire and Aylesbury Vale.

Oxford Local Plan 2016-2036

3.39 Oxford is located to the south of Cherwell. The Oxford Local Plan 2036[26] was adopted by Oxford City Council on 8 June 2020. The Plan proposes 10,884 homes up to 2036 and the release of eight Green Belt sites for housing. The Plan focusses growth and development on the city and district centres and encourages and prioritises walking, cycling and public transport.

Northern Gateway Area Action Plan (AAP)

3.40 The AAP[27] was adopted by Oxford City Council in July 2015 and provides a policy framework guiding future employment and other development in the 'Northern Gateway' of Oxford with an envisaged completion date of 2026 – in line with Oxford City Council's Core Strategy. The Northern Gateway is located to the north west of Oxford where the northern and western boundaries of this 44ha site lie on the boundary of Cherwell District and Oxford.

3.41 The site will provide the largest single area of employment land within Oxford to accommodate the city's economic growth in its key sectors (education, health, research and development, and knowledge-based businesses linked to the two university and hospitals) as well as accommodating new homes, a hotel and shops.

3.42 The site is adjacent to three strategic roads (A34, A40 and A44) and the area already experiences congestion. Development will therefore include a number of measures to alleviate the existing congestion issues as well as mitigate any future impacts the site may bring. These measures include the provision of sustainable modes of transport and improvements to the road network, with specific reference to improvements that could be achieved in the wider area through the provision of a strategic link road to the west

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[26] https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/download/1176/oxford_local_plan_2016-2036
[27] https://www.oxford.gov.uk/northerngateway

of the A34, creating a link between an enlarged Loop Farm roundabout and a new roundabout on the A40. Such a scheme could further ease congestion on the A40 approach and the Wolvercote Roundabout. However, this proposal is beyond the scope of the AAP as it lies within Cherwell District, and the AAP notes that it is not required to deliver the development at Northern Gateway.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

3.43 South Oxfordshire is located to the south of Cherwell. The District Council submitted their emerging Local Plan 2034[28] to the Secretary of State for examination in March 2019. Progress on the Local Plan had been held up following a temporary direction issued by the Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick MP, in October 2019, which prevented the council from taking action in relation to the adoption of the plan. Following discussions between council representatives and officials from the MHCLG, the Secretary of State sent a letter to the Leader of the Council on 3 March 2020, stating he is using government powers in section 27 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 directing the council to progress the plan through examination to be adopted by December 2020. Virtual examination hearing sessions are scheduled to commence July 2020.

3.44 Therefore, the latest development strategy for the District remains as set out in the adopted Core Strategy 2012. The Core Strategy sets out the overarching development strategy for the District up to 2027. The Core Strategy provides for the development of 10,600 new homes for the period 2011- 2027 and around 20ha of employment land, with around 13.5ha in various centres across the District and a further 6.5ha at Didcot in the Vale of White Horse District. The spatial strategy for the District is to provide the majority of housing growth in Didcot.

Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031

3.45 Vale of White Horse is located to the south west of Cherwell. The Vale of White Horse Local Plan is divided into two parts. Local Plan 2031 Part 1[29] was adopted in December 2016 and sets out the spatial strategy and strategic policies for the district. It identifies the number of new homes and jobs to be provided for up to 2031. It makes provision for retail, leisure and commercial development and for the infrastructure needed to support them. Local Plan 2031 Part 2[30] complements the Part 1 plan and sets out policies and locations for housing for Vale's proportion of Oxford's unmet housing need up to 2031. It contains policies for the part of Didcot Garden Town that lies within the Vale of White Horse District, and detailed development management policies to complement the Part 1 plan. It also allocates additional development sites for housing.

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[28] http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2034
[29] http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2031
[30] http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2031/local-plan-2031-part-2

West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

3.46 The West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031[31] was formally adopted on 27 September 2018 and provides an overall framework for growth in the period up to 2031. The Plan contains 18 core principles which are set out under five key headings:

- Strong market towns and villages;
- Meeting the specific housing needs of our communities;
- Sustainable economic growth;
- Sustainable communities with access to services and facilities; and
- Protecting and enhancing our environment and reducing the impact from climate change.

3.47 The plan aims to meet its own objectively assessed need by delivering at least 10,500 homes between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2031 (525 per year). The majority of the housing is to be delivered in the Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton sub-areas with a particular focus on Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton. To meet employment needs in the district, 20ha of employment land is identified to the west of Witney, 5ha of employment land by Carterton, at least 4.5ha and up to 6.3ha of employment land to the east of Chipping Norton and at least 5ha of employment land is identified within existing commitments at rural areas and other villages with 2ha at Lakeside Standlake.

3.48 At the present time there is no programme to review the West Oxfordshire Local Plan but this position will be kept under review having regard to relevant considerations including housing need and supply.

3.49 A key element of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 is the allocation of land to the north of the A40 near Eynsham for development in the form of a new garden village of about 2,200 new homes together with around 40ha of business space and other supporting uses and facilities.

3.50 In January 2017, the Government announced that it would contribute funding towards the new Oxfordshire Cotswold Garden Village[32] and the Council is currently preparing an Area Action Plan (AAP) to establish an overall policy framework guiding the development.

3.51 The Council published an issues paper in summer 2018 seeking initial thoughts on how the site should be taken forward and since then the Council has commissioned a range of technical evidence and undertaken further community engagement. A preferred options paper was subject to an eight-week period of public consultation from August – October 2019 and it is anticipated that the final draft AAP will be published for consultation in summer 2020.

Stratford on Avon Core Strategy

3.52 Stratford on Avon district adjoins the north western boundary of Cherwell. The Stratford on Avon Core Strategy covers the period to 2031 and was adopted in 2016. It

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[31] https://westoxon.gov.uk/media/feyjmpen/local-plan.pdf
[32] https://westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/oxfordshire-cotswolds-garden-village/

sets out the development strategy and strategic policies for the district, and contains area strategies, including for a new settlement of 2,300 homes and expansion of employment land at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath, 11 miles north of Banbury. A review of the Core Strategy to cover the period to 2050 is about to commence with an Issues and Options Paper likely to be published in January/February 2021.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2014

3.53 This sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of the area covered by Daventry District, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire Councils for the plan period up to 2029, including strategic policies for steering and shaping development. It identifies specific locations for strategic new housing and employment, including at Brackley, and changes to transport infrastructure. A review of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan is currently being undertaken by the three councils across West Northamptonshire: South Northamptonshire, Daventry and Northampton and will cover the period to 2050.

South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan

3.54 This builds on the policies in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2014 and covers the whole of South Northamptonshire. The draft plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 22 January 2019. It is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted summer 2020.

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

3.55 Aylesbury Vale district lies to the south east of Cherwell and the A41 links Bicester to Aylesbury, located 17 miles away. The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan covers the period to 2033 and is due to be adopted during 2020. The plan seeks to deliver 20,600 new homes and 27 hectares of employment land, with the majority of the growth focussed at Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow, Wendover and Haddenham and adjacent to Milton Keynes. More than half the new homes planned will be at Aylesbury, with development located north and south of the A41.

3.56 **Appendix 2** lists in full the plans and programmes that have been reviewed to inform the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal. The key aims and objectives of each plan and programme have been identified along with the implications for the Sustainability Appraisal and the Local Plan Review if newer policies are required. A summary of the key sustainable development objectives identified in the review of plans and programmes which will inform the preparation of the SA is presented in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.1: Summary of policy context analysis

Topic	Key sustainable development objectives contained in relevant international and national plans and programmes
Climate Change	• Reduce greenhouse gas and carbon emissions. • Promote mitigation and adaptation to climate change. • Reduce energy consumption, promote energy efficiency and support renewable energy.
Flooding	• Reduce the risk of flooring caused by new development and protect existing development from flooding. • Protect flood plains.
Water	• Address water pollution, including sources of pollution. • Protect and enhance water quality and the condition of water resources. • Improve water efficiency. • Ensure timely provision of adequate water resource and wastewater treatment infrastructure to support new development.
Air	• Reduce emissions to air and reduce the risk of exposure to air pollution. • Protect and enhance air quality, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas. • Consider the health implications of air pollution generated by new development; and the implications of existing air pollution on residents of new development.
Material Assets (including soil and waste)	• Encourage the use of previously developed land. • Promote higher density, mixed use development. • Conserve and enhance soil quality and mineral resources. • Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land. • Reduce the amount of waste generated. • Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and achieve the sustainable management of waste.
Biodiversity	• Protect and enhance designated biodiversity assets. • Reduce fragmentation and improve connectivity and resilience of ecological networks. • Protect and enhance ecosystem services. • Achieve net gains in biodiversity. • Recognise the value of the natural environment and green and blue infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	• Conserve and enhance the built environment. • Protect designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. • Incorporate good quality design.
Landscape	• Protect and enhance landscape character and promote the conservation and enhancement of designated landscapes.

Topic	Key sustainable development objectives contained in relevant international and national plans and programmes
	• Promote high quality design that respects and enhances local character. • Protect and provide access to appropriate levels of open space.
Population	• Address deprivation. • Reduce inequalities. • Reduce social exclusion
Housing	• Provide enough housing to meet local needs. • Deliver a range of types and tenures of housing. • Make appropriate provision for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Show people and Boat Dwellers. • Tackle homelessness. • Achieve well-designed places.
Health and Wellbeing	• Promote healthy lifestyles. • Tackle health inequalities. • Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime. • Ensure that there are appropriate facilities for the disabled and elderly.
Education and Skills	• Improve educational attainment. • Enhance skills in the workforce to reduce unemployment and deprivation. • Ensure the appropriate supply of high quality educational and childcare facilities.
Economy	• Provide enough employment land to support economic growth of the district. • Encourage a strong and diverse economy. • Ensure the vitality of town centres. • Attract inward investment. • Create local employment opportunities. • Improve access to employment and training opportunities. • Attract visitors to the district and support tourism.
Transport and Connectivity	• Promote sustainable modes of transport, particularly walking and cycling. • Reduce the need to travel. • Reduce traffic and congestion. • Improve public transport provision including better integration of modes. • Enhance accessibility to key community facilities, services and employment destinations. • Ensure timely provision of adequate transport infrastructure to support new development.
Digital Infrastructure	• Ensure that digital infrastructure is used to promote social inclusion and reduce isolation (particularly in rural areas). • Attract inward investment.

Topic	Key sustainable development objectives contained in relevant international and national plans and programmes
	• Create local employment opportunities. • Enhance digital skills in the workforce to reduce unemployment and deprivation. • Capitalise on the ability of digital infrastructure to deliver services.

4.   BASELINE INFORMATION

4.1   Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues.

4.2   Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:

   (a)   the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;
   (b)   the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
   (c)   any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] *and 92/43/EEC* [the 'Habitats Directive'].

4.3   This Chapter meets these requirements and provides and reviews the baseline information for Cherwell, referring to relevant policies and objectives and considers the SEA Directive topics set out above at paragraph 2.2.

4.4   The information has been structured into three sections to reflect the three threads of the Sustainability Appraisal approach: Environmental, Social and Economic referred to in the SA guidance. Data has been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

COVID-19 IMPACT

4.5   The Council has prepared the Community Involvement Paper during the COVID 19 lockdown period. The full impact of the pandemic on the international, national and local economy has yet to be seen. Uncertainty about how long and how severe the effect on our economy will be makes it a greater challenge. At least in the short- term the UK economy is forecast to shrink, with unemployment forecast to rise. Recovery, for the economy and for our communities, will need the Council's support. It is impossible, at the present time to predict the post Covid 19 economic landscape. As further information emerges this will be contained with the SA Report. A new Local Plan will be a key policy document to help support economic and social recovery in the context of COVID-19. The Community Involvement paper provides further commentary on Covid 19 and asks what planning policies might be needed.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

CLIMATE CHANGE

4.6   Climate change is perhaps the greatest long-term challenge facing society; a challenge recognised by Cherwell District Council when it declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019[33].

4.7   Human activity and the release of greenhouse gases is the leading cause of changes to the climate: through the burning of fossil fuels (such as oil, gas and coal), changes in land use, deforestation, agriculture, and the production of cement. Climate Change is already evident in the form of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, longer droughts and heatwaves, and retreating polar ice and glaciers. The UK's ten hottest years on record have all been since 2002, and six of the ten wettest years since 1998[34]. The UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18)[35] forecast that summer temperatures in the South East could be up to 8.1 degrees hotter by 2080 and the chance of a summer as hot as 2018 is around 50% by 2050. It is also forecast that average summer rainfall could decrease by up to 47% by 2070, while there could be up to 35% more precipitation in winter. UKCP18 also forecasts future increases in the intensity of heavy summer rainfall events. The rainfall associated with an event that occurs typically once every two years increases by 25% by 2070. Winter precipitation also increases in both frequency of wet days and intensity on wet days.

4.8   A Local Climate Impacts Profile was undertaken in 2009 to better understand the impact of extreme weather in Cherwell and the findings are set out in paragraph B.179 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1[36]. Over a five year period (2003-2008) it found that flooding was by far the most significant event and it was noted that if a heatwave was to recur at a scale of that recorded in 2003 "this would have significant impacts on health, biodiversity and infrastructure (including damage to buildings by tree and drought related subsidence, roads, drainage systems and business closures)."

4.9   A more recent study by Oxfordshire County Council in 2014[37] substantiates the findings of the earlier Local Climate Impacts Profile. It says that over the period to 2070, there is likely to be more heavy rainfall, milder and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers. More frequent heavy rainfall can cause damage to buildings and infrastructure, disrupt transport, affect health, destroy wildlife habitats, disturb trees, plants and crops, and pollute rivers and habitats. Milder winters could interfere with crop growth causing food insecurity, and mean a longer season for allergies, asthma and hay fever. But milder winters may also lead to less energy needed for heating, and fewer cold related

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[33] http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/documents/g3238/Decisions%20Monday%2022-Jul-2019%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=2
[34] https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2019/state-of-the-uk-climate-2018
[35] https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index
[36] Cherwell District Council (2015) Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1
[37] Oxfordshire County Council (2014) Oxfordshire in a Changing Climate: Summary of UKCP09 findings relevant to Oxfordshire

deaths. Hotter summers could increase demand for air conditioning leading to increasing energy usage, food insecurity, greater risk of forest mortality and risk of fires, and an increased risk of deaths of elderly and vulnerable people. Furthermore, The Thames Water Water Resources Management Plan 2019 advises that the Swindon and Oxfordshire Water Resource Zone has a supply / demand deficit starting from 2022/2023 and growing throughout the planning period which is driven by a combination of population growth and the impact of climate change on available water for use[38].

Carbon emissions

4.10   The latest Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy figures are set out in **Table 4.1** and show generally gradually decreasing trends for CO_2 emissions (tonnes) per capita in Cherwell from 2005-2017. In comparison to the other Oxfordshire Districts, however, per capita CO_2 emissions in Cherwell remain high. In 2017, Oxford City recorded the lowest per capita CO_2 emissions (4.4 tonnes) in Oxfordshire followed by West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse with per capita CO_2 emissions of 5.2 tonnes, 6.2 tonnes and 6.5 tonnes respectively[39].

Table 4.1: Per capita CO_2 Emissions in Cherwell (2005-2017)[40]

Year	Total t CO_2 per person)
2005	12.1
2006	12.1
2007	11.6
2008	11.0
2009	10.2
2010	10.7
2011	9.8
2012	10.1
2013	9.8
2014	8.5
2015	9.0
2016	8.7
2017	8.5

4.11   About 2,100 cars are registered per year in Cherwell and the number of registered diesel cars is decreasing[41]. Registration of ultra-low emission vehicles are very low in comparison, but numbers are increasing (from 53 in 2013 to 1,043 in 2019). The number of registrations of ultra-low emission vehicles in Cherwell between 2013 and 2019 are presented in **Figure 4.1**.
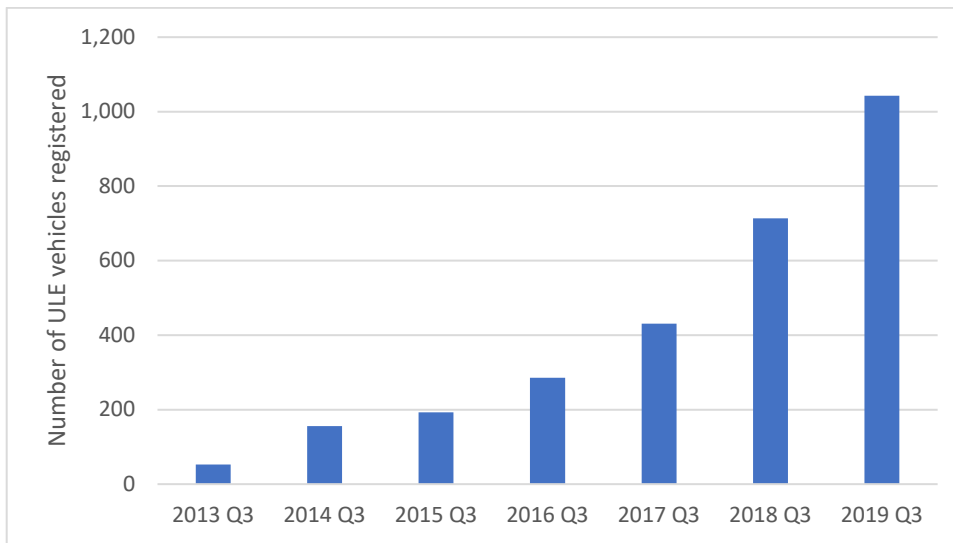
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[38] Thames Water (2020) Water Resources Management Plan 2019 – Executive Summary
[39] DBEIS (2019) 2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO2 emissions
[40] DBEIS (2019) 2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO2 emissions
[41] DfT (2019) Licensed vehicles by body type and local authority: UK (Table VEH0105)

Figure 4.1: Ultra low emission vehicles registered in Cherwell, 2013 to 2019[42]


Energy consumption

4.12   **Figure 4.2** presents energy consumption in Cherwell by consuming sector between 2005 and 2017. Cherwell energy consumption saw a gradual fall from 5888.1GWh for all fuels in 2005 to 5185 GWh for all fuels in 2017. During 2017, the most significant contributor to the overall consumption of fuel in the district was petrol used for road travel (2330 GWh). England saw a sizeable decrease in consumption of fuel over the same 12-year period. In 2005 consumption of all fuels was recorded at 1.439 million GWh and this fell to 1.191 million GWh in 2017[43].

Figure 4.2: Energy consumption in Cherwell by consuming sector (GWh) 2005-2017[44]

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[42] DfT (2019) Licensed ultra-low emission vehicles by local authority: UK (Table VEH0132)
[43] DBEIS (2019) Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics: 2005-2017
[44] DBEIS (2019) Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics: 2005-2017
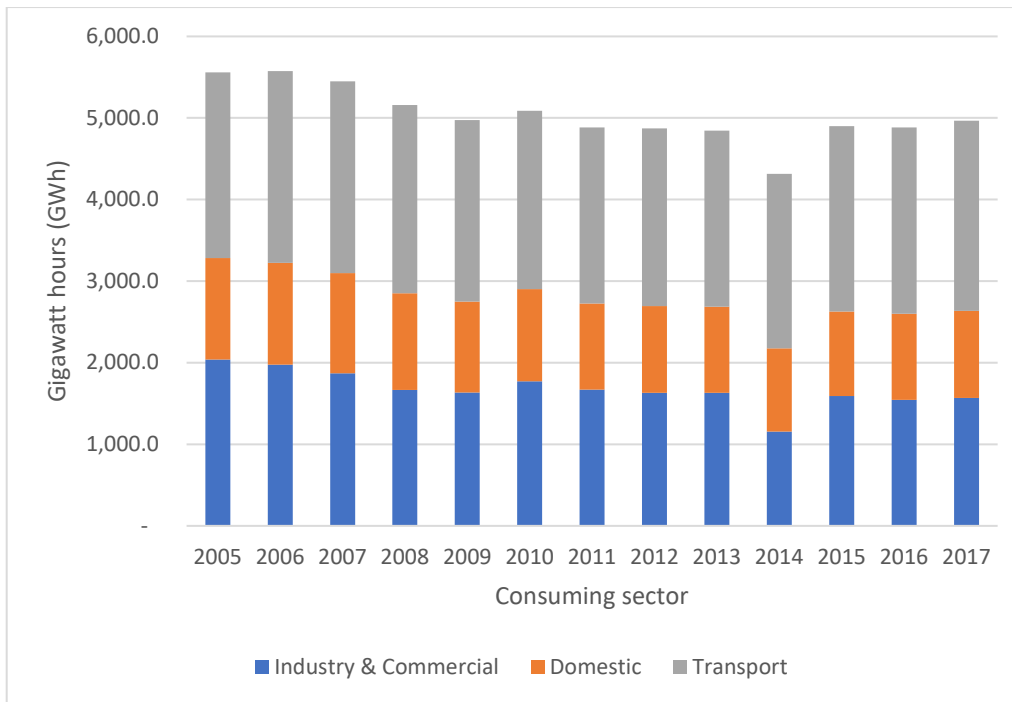
4.13 The average domestic consumption of electricity per household in Cherwell for 2018 was 4,503kWh. This is higher than the national average for England (3,794kWh) and has reduced from 4,895kWh in 2011[45].

4.14 The average domestic gas consumption in Cherwell was an average of 12,605GWh in 2018, while the non-domestic sector consumed an average of 968,030GWh during the same period. This has reduced from 2011, when average domestic consumption was 13,623GWh and the non-domestic sector consumed an average of 1,144,460GWh[46].

Renewable energy

4.15 Renewable energy, as defined in the NPPF includes "energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity. Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat." The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)[47] recognises that a focus on renewable energy will play a key role in tackling the challenge of climate change. Turning to renewables will help the UK recover some of its energy self-sufficiency, while assuring that more of our imported energy comes from reliable sources. Carbon Brief analysis[48] reveals that in 2010, 288TWh generated from fossil fuels accounted for around three-quarters of the UK total and 26TWh came from renewables. Since then, electricity generation from renewable sources has more than quadrupled and demand has fallen. in the third quarter of 2019, approximately 39% of UK electricity generation was from

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[45] DECC (2019) Subnational electricity consumption statistics: 2005-2018
[46] DECC (2019) Subnational gas consumption statistics: 2005-2018
[47]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf
[48] https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-uk-renewables-generate-more-electricity-than-fossil-fuels-for-first-time?utm_content=buffer92635&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

coal, oil and gas. Another 40% came from renewables, including 20% from wind, 12% from biomass and 6% from solar. Nuclear contributed most of the remainder, generating 19% of the total. Renewables generated an estimated total of 29.5 terawatt hours (TWh), compared with 29.1TWh from fossil fuels in the quarter.

4.16   Monitoring the amount of renewable energy take-up in Cherwell is difficult as much of this type of development is deemed permitted development, and therefore no records exist at Local Authority level. Information does exist for larger schemes and this is monitored and recorded through the Annual Monitoring Report.

4.17   Statistics on renewable energy generation for the local authority level are compiled by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. **Table 4.2** presents data on the amount of renewable energy generated from biological sources and wastes (gigawatt hours (GWh)) in Cherwell between 2005 and 2017.

Table 4.2: Renewable energy generated from biological sources and wastes in Cherwell 2005-2017[49]

Year	Bioenergy and wastes (GWh)
2005	38.0
2006	39.7
2007	40.3
2008	341.6
2009	306.6
2010	267.6
2011	216.0
2012	281.6
2013	336.8
2014	255.2
2015	234.1
2016	227.4
2017	218.9

FLOODING

4.18   The predominant risk of flooding within Cherwell is due to flooding from rivers and watercourses. Much of the River Cherwell through Banbury is designated Flood Zone 3b. Most of this includes areas of natural floodplain to the north and south of the town. Within Banbury town centre the river is confined by manmade development restricting the extent of the floodplain.

4.19   The fields surrounding the River Cherwell to the northeast of Kidlington are designated Flood Zone 3b, whereas the village itself is largely Flood Zone 1. To the south of

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[49] DBEIS (2019) Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics: 2005-2017

Kidlington there are large areas of Flood Zone 3b associated with Thrupp Ditch, again this is largely undeveloped natural floodplain.

4.20 The gradient of the River Ray is among the lowest in the UK, which makes the Ray catchment particularly vulnerable to flooding. In the south of the district there are large areas of Flood Zone 3 associated with the River Ray.

4.21 Overland flow and surface water (pluvial) flooding typically arise following periods of intense rainfall, often of short duration, that is unable to soak into the ground or enter drainage systems. It can run quickly off land and result in localised flooding. The Cherwell Level 1 SFRA Update (2017)[50] identifies the following areas to be at particular risk of surface water flooding:

- Kidlington – several locations along the A4260, Mill Street, Mill End, Queens Avenue, High Street, Langford Lane and Thrupp Village;
- Launton – Launton Road in Bicester and Station Road 1 mile out of Launton;
- Wendlebury – The Red Lion Public House;
- Cropredy – Williamscot Road
- Banbury – Bloxham Road, A4260, Bretch Hill;
- Tadmarton – Tadmarton Road; and
- Bloxham – A361 Bloxham Road and Banbury Road.

4.22 The Council's Level 1 SFRA Update goes on to say that one of the key issues with pluvial flooding is that even in areas with no history of surface water flooding, relatively small increases in usage of impermeable hard surfacing and surface gradients can cause flooding.

4.23 Groundwater flooding usually occurs in areas underlain by permeable rock and aquifers that allow groundwater to rise to the surface through the permeable subsoil following long periods of wet weather. Settlements most at risk of groundwater flooding are those in the lower lying flatter areas in the south, such as South West Bicester, Merton and Charlton on Otmoor[51]. Land designated Flood Zone 2 and 3 is illustrated in **Figure 4.3: Hydrology**.

4.24 Flood risk statistics published by the Environment Agency estimate that 550 people, 20 services and 350 non-residential properties are at high risk of flooding from rivers in the Cherwell and Ray catchment. A further 750 people, 10 services and 350 non-residential properties are at medium risk of flooding from rivers. Flooding from reservoirs in the catchment also poses a risk to 1,200 people, 10 services and 450 non-residential properties[52]. In addition to risk to people and economic activity, flooding from rivers and reservoirs in the catchment also poses a risk to the natural and historic environment.

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[50] https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/366/cherwell-level-1-strategic-flood-risk-assessment-update-may-2017
[51] Cherwell Level 1 SFRA Update May 2017
[52] Environment Agency (2016) Thames River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-2021: Part B – sub areas in the Thames river basin district

WATER

Water resources

4.25 There are a number of water courses in Cherwell as shown in **Figure 4.3: Hydrology** and Cherwell District falls within three major river catchments being: The River Thames, The River Great Ouse and The Warwickshire Avon Catchment. The River Cherwell forms part of the larger Thames catchment, which comprises about 80% of the District's total area. The Great Ouse catchment covers approximately 15% of the District and the Warwickshire Avon catchment approximately 5%. The district's major urban and rural development areas are within the Upper Thames catchment[53].

4.26 The Cherwell and Ray catchment consist of the River Cherwell and its tributaries, of which the River Ray is the largest. The River Cherwell's source is at Charwelton in Northamptonshire. The river's course generally flows from north to south through the centre of the district passing through Banbury, Upper Heyford, and Kidlington before flowing to Oxford where the River Cherwell meets the River Thames. The Oxford Canal runs adjacent to the River Cherwell for much of this route. The River Ray has its headwaters near Quinton, from which it flows slowly south-west past Bicester to its confluence with the River Cherwell at Islip. Land use across the catchment is predominately rural (less than 2% of the catchment is classified as 'urban') and includes the three main urban centres of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

4.27 The Environment Agency has developed a methodology for identifying and classifying relative levels of water stress in England. Cherwell is within an area of serious water stress. The South East of England is considered to be an area of serious water stress. This includes the Anglian Water and Thames Water areas in which Cherwell lies[54].

Water quality

4.28 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives are to prevent deterioration of waterbodies and to improve them such that they meet the required status for that given waterbody (rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and groundwaters).

4.29 There are 33 river water bodies and one lake within the Cherwell and Ray catchment. Three are artificial or heavily modified. The most recent survey (2016 cycle 2) found that one water body achieved good ecological status / potential whilst 15 achieved moderate ecological status / potential. Over half (52%) of assessed water bodies have poor or bad ecological status / potential. In 2015 (cycle 2), one water body achieved good ecological status / potential whilst 47% of water bodies had moderate ecological status / potential and a further 47% had poor or bad ecological status / potential[55]. The ecological status / potential of water bodies in the Cherwell and Ray Catchment has

[53] AECOM (2017) Cherwell Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update
[54] Environment Agency (2013) Water stressed areas – final classification
[55] Environment Agency (2016) Catchment data explorer – Cherwell summary
https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3079/Summary Date accessed: 01/05/2020; Environment Agency (2016) Catchment data explorer – Oxon Ray summary
https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3350/Summary Date accessed: 01/05/2020

therefore decreased over time. The main issues in the Cherwell and Oxon Ray catchment, affecting both surface water and groundwater, are diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off, pollution from waste-water (including from sewage treatment works) and heavily modified channels[56].

4.30 Much of Cherwell is covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ). These are areas of land that drain into nitrate polluted waters or waters which have the potential to become polluted by nitrates. Farmers with land in NVZs must follow mandatory rules to tackle nitrate loss from agriculture. The Environment Agency has mapped all NVZs in England[57]. Cherwell is covered by the following NVZs:

- Great Ouse surface water NVZ (S391);
- Cherwell (Ray to Thames) and Woodeaton Brook surface water NVZ (S472);
- Thames (Leach to Evenlode) surface water NVZ (S482);
- Anglian Great Oolite groundwater NVZ (G73);
- Bicester North groundwater NVZ (G162); and
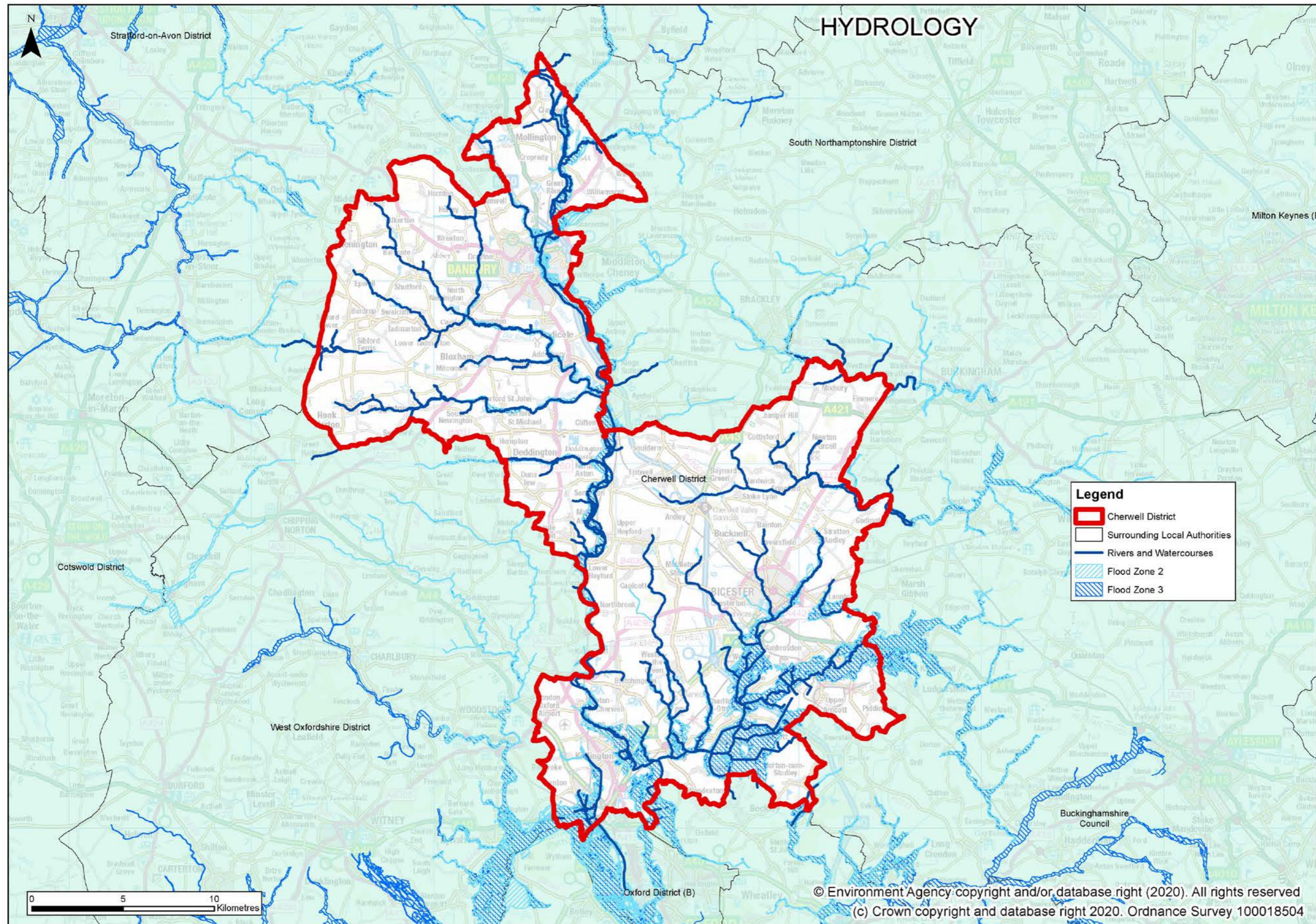- Baiscote groundwater NVZ (G164).

4.31 Environment Agency mapping confirms that much of Cherwell is also covered by Drinking Water Safeguard Zones. These are designated areas in which the use of certain substances (including fertilisers, pesticides or other chemicals) must be carefully managed to prevent the pollution of water that is abstracted for use as drinking water.

4.32 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply. Source Protection Zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area, which is important since groundwater provides a third of the drinking water on average in England and Wales and maintains the flow in many rivers. There are no Groundwater Source Protection Zones in Cherwell.

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[56] Environment Agency (2015) Thames River Basin Management Plan
[57] Environment Agency Nitrate Vulnerable Zones map and data https://environment.data.gov.uk/farmers/
Date accessed: 01/05/2020

HYDROLOGY

Legend

(red outline)	Cherwell District
(white)	Surrounding Local Authorities
(blue line)	Rivers and Watercourses
(hatch)	Flood Zone 2
(hatch)	Flood Zone 3

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36

4.33 Air pollution can have damaging impacts on human health, productivity, quality of life and the health of the natural environment. Air pollution comes from many sources including domestic and industrial combustion, energy generation, industrial processes and solvent use, and from road and other transport[58].

4.34 Primary particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) is particularly harmful since the small particles can easily get deep into the lungs where they can cause damage to the tissue. Exposure has been linked to a range of health outcomes including asthma, respiratory disease, coronary heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer, with emerging evidence showing impacts on diabetes and low birth weight. Inhaling nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) affects our health by diffusing into the cells which line the respiratory tract. This can cause effects such as tightening of the airways in the lungs, inflammation, and a reduced immune response. NO_2 has been associated with causing asthma, and lung cancer, with emerging evidence showing impacts on type 2 diabetes, low birth weight and dementia. NO_2 can also exacerbate existing conditions, especially asthma[59].

4.35 Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas. The annual healthcare cost to society due to $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2 combined in 2017 was estimated to be £42.88 million, increasing to £157 million when diseases are included where there is currently less robust or emerging evidence for an association[60].

4.36 The Environment Act 1995 (Part IV) requires that all local authorities carry out period reviews of the current and likely future air quality in their area. These reviews follow Government guidance that set health-based air quality objectives for a number of key pollutants and target dates for their achievement. Where an exceedance is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

4.37 The Government's revised Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets health-based air quality standards and objectives for seven key pollutants:

1. Benzene
2. 1,3-Butadiene
3. Carbon Monoxide

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[58] DEFRA (2019) Clean Air Strategy
[59] Public Health England (2018) Estimation of costs to the NHS and social care due to the health impacts of air pollution: summary report
[60] Public Health England (2018) Estimation of costs to the NHS and social care due to the health impacts of air pollution: summary report

4. Lead
5. Nitrogen Dioxide
6. Particulate Matter (PM_{10})
7. Sulphur Dioxide

4.38 Of the seven key pollutants, only NO_2 is monitored by Cherwell District Council.

4.39 Four areas in the district have been identified where air quality does not meet national air quality objectives for NO_2. There are two AQMAs in Banbury, one in Bicester and one in Kidlington. These concentrations are largely related to road traffic emissions. The locations of the four AQMAs in the district are illustrated in **Figure 4.26: Transport Links**. Cherwell developed an AQAP in March 2017[61]. The Cherwell 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) June 2019[62] confirms that there is a general trend of NO_2 reductions across the district over time, but the 2018 monitoring results supports the retention of the AQMAs.

4.40 In September 2010 Oxford City Council made an Air Quality Management Order[63] declaring the whole of the city as an AQMA. Given that Oxford lies at the southern boundary of the District, traffic flows to / from Cherwell with Oxford will influence air quality at this location.

4.41 **Figure 4.4** illustrates the level of NO_2 emissions ($\mu g/m^3$) at the roadside of the AQMA monitoring sites in Cherwell over a period of five years. These measurements were carried out using a combination of diffusion tubes and automatic monitoring stations. The current NO_2 annual mean limit value is 40 $\mu g/m^3$.

Figure 4.4: Five year NO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$) annual mean average at roadside sites in Cherwell[64]

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[61] Cherwell District Council (2017) Air Quality Action Plan
https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/7702/air-quality-action-plan-2017
[62] Cherwell District Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report, June 2019
[63] https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/543/air_quality_management_order_2010
[64] Cherwell District Council (2019) Air Quality Annual Status Report, June 2019
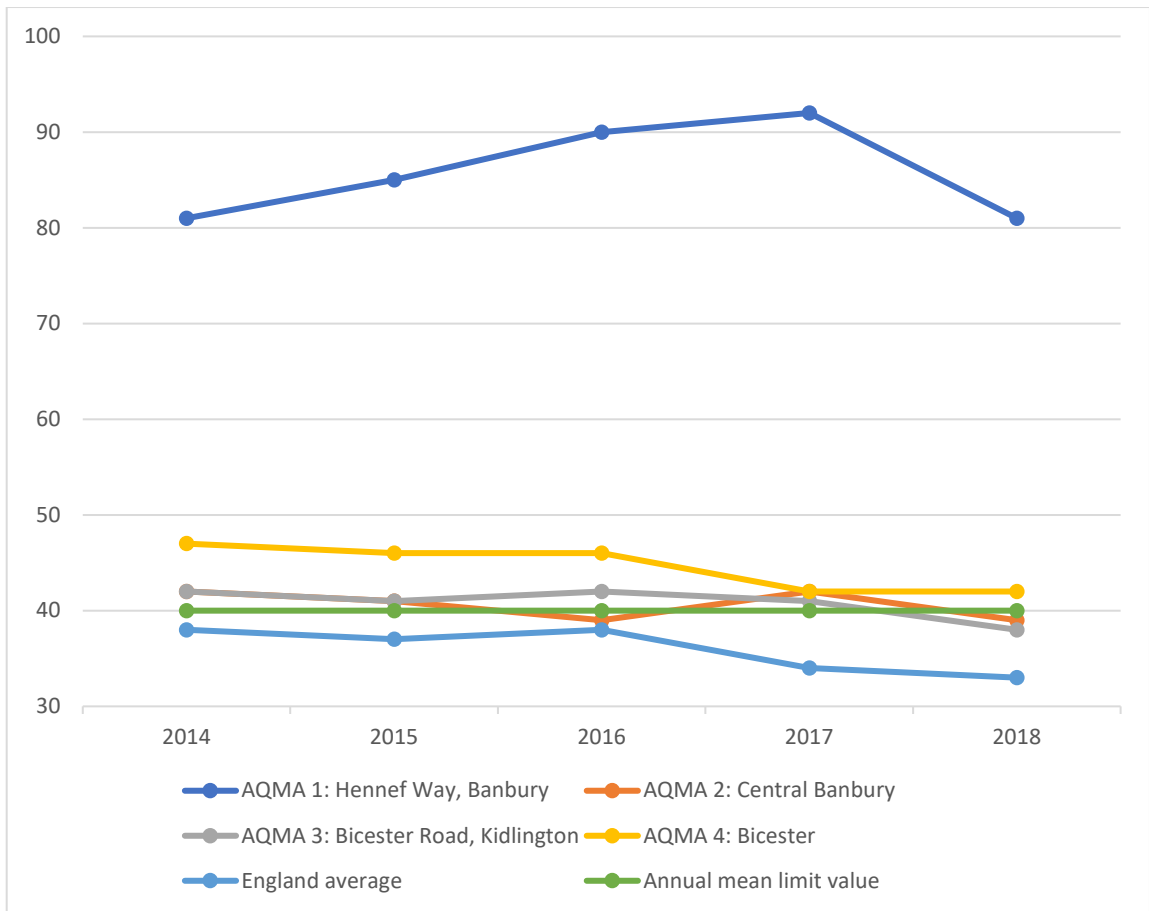
MATERIAL ASSETS

Soil and minerals

4.42   The natural environment in Cherwell plays a role in minerals supply. Sand and gravel are the most common mineral resource across Oxfordshire and typically found in river valley deposits, particularly along the River Cherwell which runs north-south through the District and its tributaries. Limestone and ironstone are found mainly in the north and west of the county; they are used primarily as crushed rock aggregate but also for building and walling stone.

4.43   The Policies Map accompanying the adopted Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (2017) identifies Minerals Safeguarding Areas where mineral resources are safeguarded for possible future use. Minerals Safeguarding Areas within Cherwell include crushed rock North West of Bicester, soft sand in the Duns Tew area and sharp sand and gravel in the Yarnton area.

4.44   Cherwell District Council maintains a public Contaminated Land Register in accordance with the legal requirements. There are currently no entries on the Contaminated Land Register.

Agricultural land

4.45 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) [65] system provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are climate, site and soil. These factors together with the interactions between them form the basis for classifying land into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside of these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'land predominantly in urban use'.

4.46 The majority of land within Cherwell is grade 3 (good to moderate) and in the north of the district grade 2 (very good) as shown in **Figure 4.5: Agricultural Land Classification**. The two urban centres of Banbury and Bicester are classified as non-agricultural land as they are in urban use. Additionally, there are four pockets of non-agricultural use that is classified as 'other land primarily in non-agricultural use'. The remaining areas of land within the district are classified as grade 4 (poor quality). There are no areas of grade 1 (excellent) or grade 5 (very poor) within Cherwell.

4.47 A local survey of agricultural land has been undertaken where six grades have been identified (the same as before, but grade 3 is split into grade 3a and grade 3b), however, only limited areas have been surveyed in Cherwell as shown in **Figure 4.6: Local Agricultural Land Classification**. Surveyed areas in Bicester's periphery and Banbury's south west periphery are mainly grade 3a. The surveyed areas surrounding the town of Banbury are a mix of grade 3a, grade 3b and grade 2.

4.48 **Figure 4.7: Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land** is based on predicting the likelihood of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land (Agricultural Classification Grades 1, 2 and 3a) when surveyed at the local level. The predictions use soil assumptions which are the mapping unit of the published 1:250 000 scale national soil map as the main basis of the assessment. Three categories (high, moderate, low) illustrate the likely occurrence of BMV agricultural land.

Previously developed land

4.49 Government Land Use Change Statistics in England 2017-18[66] identify that 53% of new residential addresses in England were created on previously developed land. **Table 4.3** displays the gross percentage of housing completions on previously developed land (PDL) in Cherwell district and **Figure 4.8** shows the proportion of housing completions on greenfield and PDL. Whilst the percentage of new and converted dwellings on PDL has reduced, the overall rate of housing delivery across the district has dramatically increased over this time period as a result of the Adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 strategic sites being built out.

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[65] MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales
[66] MHCLG (2019) Land Use Change Statistics in England: 2017-18

Table 4.3: Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (2011/12-2018/19)[67]

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
46%	50%	35%	44%	38%	27%	20%	30%

Figure 4.8: Housing completions (net) on greenfield and previously developed land (2011/12-2018/19)[68]

Waste

4.50 In 2018/19, the district produced 60,508 tonnes of household waste[69]. **Table 4.4** sets out the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting in Cherwell during 2012/13 – 2018/19.

Table 4.4: Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (annual) in Cherwell District during 2012/13 – 2018/19[70]

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
54.8%	53.9%	54.8%	55.1	56.5	55.6	54.2

4.51 In 2018/19, 54.2% of household waste was sent by Cherwell District Council for reuse, recycling and composting. This compares to an average of 42.1% for all local authorities in England. The latest district recycling rates rank Cherwell District 44 out of 326 local authorities in England.

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[67] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report
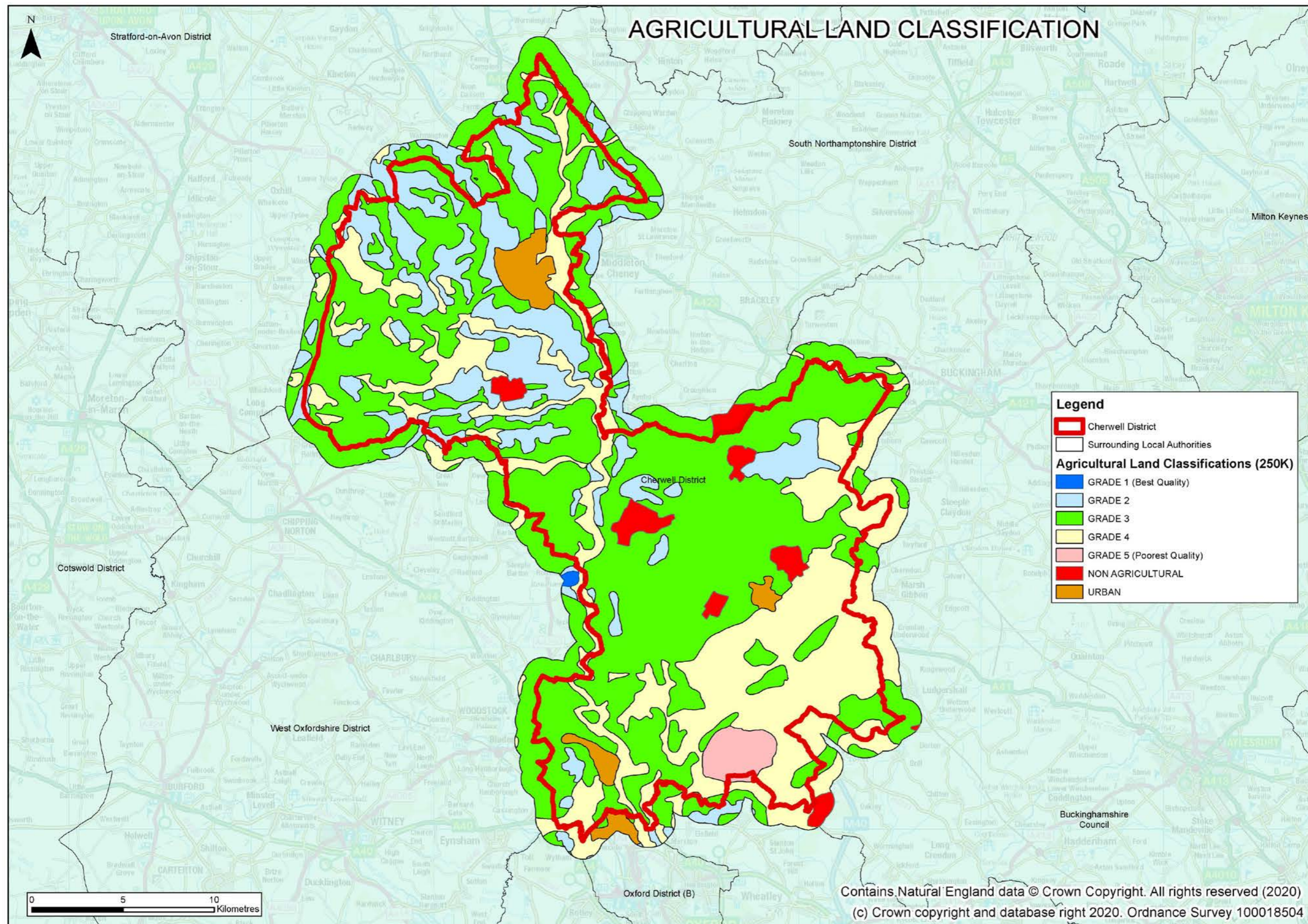[68] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report
[69] LG Inform https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=110&mod-area=E07000177&mod-group=AllLaInCountry_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup
[70] LG Inform https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=46&mod-period=10&mod-area=E07000177&mod-group=E92000001&mod-type=area

4.52 Ardley Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) is located in Cherwell, near to Bicester. The facility began operation in 2014, treating about 326,300 tonnes of non-recyclable waste each year. It diverts at least 95% of Oxfordshire's residual municipal waste away from landfill and generates electricity. As well as treating household waste on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, the facility also receives residual waste from businesses and other local authorities[71].

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[71] https://www.viridor.co.uk/energy/energy-recovery-facilities/ardley-erf/

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Legend
Cherwell District
Surrounding Local Authorities
Agricultural Land Classifications (250K)
GRADE 1 (Best Quality)
GRADE 2
GRADE 3
GRADE 4
GRADE 5 (Poorest Quality)
NON AGRICULTURAL
URBAN

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LOCAL AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities

Local Agricultural Land Classifications
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3a
- Grade 3b
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Not Surveyed
- Other

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LIKELIHOOD OF BEST AND MOST VERSATILE (BMV) AGRICULTURAL LAND

Stratford-on-Avon District

South Northamptonshire District

Milton Keynes (

Cherwell District

Cotswold District

West Oxfordshire District

Buckinghamshire Council

Oxford District (B)

Legend

Cherwell District

Surrounding Local Authorities

Best And Most Versatile Land

> 60% likelihood bmv

20.1 - 60% likelihood bmv

<= 20% likelihood bmv

non agricultural use

urban/industrial

0   5   10
Kilometres

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LIGHT POLLUTION

4.53 Light in the wrong place has become one of the major unaddressed pollution problems in Britain today. Light pollution arises from a combination of extensive urban expansion and highway development, along with the provision of more and brighter road lighting and is exacerbated in town and city centres by the proliferation of glass buildings from which light easily spills.

4.54 Light pollution can have a negative effect on the natural environment by interrupting natural rhythms including migration, reproduction and feeding patterns of species. Research suggests that artificial light at night can negatively affect health human, increasing risks for obesity, depression and sleep disorders. It has also been suggested that artificially extended day length suppresses melatonin production which might in turn lead to an enhanced risk of various forms of cancer[72].

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity designations

4.55 Cherwell District contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance, as outlined below and shown in **Figure 4.9: Biodiversity Designations**. While the district is predominantly rural, its urban centres, parks and open spaces are just as much part of the local environment and provide important habitats for wildlife.

4.56 Cherwell contains one site of European importance; part of Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) located in the south west corner of the District, (the rest of the SAC lies within Oxford's boundary, approximately 1.5km to the north west of Oxford). The SAC receives statutory protection under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/42/EEC), transposed into UK national legislation in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations) due to its lowland hay meadow habitats, potentially unique vegetation communities and existence of creeping marshwort[73].

4.57 Sites of national importance comprise Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves. Cherwell District has 18 SSSIs but does not contain any National Nature Reserves. The 18 SSSIs in Cherwell cover 665ha which represents approximately 0.01% of the land area. SSSIs and NNRs are designated by Natural England. The latest summary data for SSSI condition is provided in **Table 4.5**, based on condition assessments carried out by Natural England[74].

Table 4.5: SSSI condition

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[72] The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (2009) Artificial light in the environment
[73] Atkins (2014) Habitats Regulations Assessment: Stage 1 – Screening
[74] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report

Condition	Number of SSSI units	Area (ha)	Percentage of total SSSI area
Destroyed	2	9	1.5%
Favourable	30	457	74.1%
Unfavourable declining	1	3	0.5%
Unfavourable no change	1	6	1.0%
Unfavourable recovering	12	142	23.0%

4.58 Sites of regional/local importance comprise Local Geological Sites (LGSs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), non-statutory nature reserves, Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs – previously known as County Wildlife Sites), District Wildlife Sites (DWSs), ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats (habitats of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity under Section 41 of the NERC Act).

4.59 Cherwell contains 90 Local Wildlife Sites which cover a total area of 1,584ha, which represents 2.69% of the land area. There are 12 LGSs (shown in **Figure 4.10: Geological Designations**) which cover a total area of 146ha. This represents approximately 0.25% of the land area of the district. Within Cherwell District there is a secondary type of non-statutory designation for wildlife sites: Cherwell District Wildlife Sites (DWS). Whilst the wildlife value of individual DWS are not considered sufficient to be of county importance, they are deemed significant at the District level. In some cases, with appropriate management, a DWS may attain LWS quality in the future. In 2013 the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) carried out a project for Cherwell District Council, resulting in the identification of 63 sites of potential district importance for wildlife. At a site selection meeting in 2018, 15 of these were formally adopted as DWS and two were rejected leaving 46 still proposed. In planning terms, proposed DWSs are considered in the same way as adopted DWSs until final decisions are made about whether they meet all the required criteria. Sites of regional/local importance also include the habitats of those species of principal importance for biodiversity (as identified in Section 41 of the NERC Act). There is currently 3,925ha of UK priority habitat resource which has been identified within Cherwell. The largest UK priority habitats found in Cherwell include coastal and floodplain grazing marsh; lowland mixed deciduous woodland; and lowland meadows. Wild Oxfordshire[75] identify these priority habitats as having rich ground flora and being important for invertebrates, butterflies, bats, and ground nesting, woodland and wading birds. These habitats are, however, particularly sensitive to changes in hydrology and nutrient status.

4.60 Conservation Target Areas (CTAs) identify some of the most important areas for biodiversity, where targeted conservation action will have the greatest benefit. There are 11 CTAs either wholly or partly within Cherwell. The total area of UK priority habitat resource in CTAs in Cherwell has risen to 2,218ha. Work is currently being undertaken at County level to identify a Nature Recovery Network (NRN). Draft NRN boundaries have been produced and are illustrated in **Figure 4.11: Nature Recovery Network**.

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[75] https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/habitats-and-species/

4.61 The NPPF defines ancient woodland as "an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites". Just 2.4% of the UK is ancient woodland. Ancient woods are rich and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms and other specialist species of insects, birds and mammals rely on them. Ancient woods also retain important archaeological features, often from past industry and management, and can protect large features like earthworks from damage. Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat; the complex biodiversity has accumulated over hundreds of years and many species that thrive in ancient woodland are slow to colonise new areas[76]. Ancient woodland has been identified by Natural England within Cherwell and is illustrated in **Figure 4.12: Ancient Woodland**.

Table 4.6: Changes in areas of biodiversity importance[77]

| | Designated site | | | | |
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Special Areas of Conservation	Local Wildlife Sites	Local Nature Reserves	Local Geological Sites
2011/12 (ha)	606	83	969	16	136
2012/13 (ha)	606	83	976	16	136
2013/14 (ha)	606	83	906	16	136
2014/15 (ha)	607	83	923		139
2015/16 (ha)	607	83	1035		139
2016/17 (ha)	607	83	1053		139
2017/18 (ha)	665	83	1542		146
2018/19 (ha)	665	83	1571		146

Habitats and species

4.62 Paragraph B.236 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 recognises that it is not just designated sites that are of importance to Cherwell's biodiversity resource. Areas adjacent to designated sites can be of value as they can form part of the overall ecological unit and may provide important linkages. Landscape features such as hedgerows, woods, trees, rivers and riverbanks, ponds and floodplains can be of importance both in urban and rural areas, and often form wildlife corridors and stepping stones. Similarly, it is not just greenfield sites that can be of value, previously developed land can also make an important contribution to biodiversity.

4.63 The latest findings of the State of Nature 2019[78] report demonstrate that the abundance and distribution of the UK's species has, on average, declined since 1970. Notably, the report found that since 1970 there has been a 13% decline in average abundance across wildlife studied and that the declines continue unabated. The report also shows that 41% of UK species studied have declined, 26% have increased and 33% shown little change have declined since 1970, while 15% of species are threatened with

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[76] https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/
[77] Cherwell District Council (2012-2019) Annual Monitoring Reports
[78] State of Nature Partnership (2019) www.nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019

extinction and 133 of 8,431 assessed species have already become extinct from Great Britain. The report highlights agriculture management, climate change, hydrological change, urbanisation, pollution, woodland management and invasive non-native species among the most significant pressures acting upon terrestrial and freshwater wildlife.

4.64 Oxfordshire's diverse landscape supports a variety of habitats, including semi-natural grasslands, freshwater and wetlands, woodlands and trees and agricultural land. Many rare and threatened plants and animals are also found in Oxfordshire.

4.65 The key trends in Oxfordshire highlighted by the State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017[79] report reinforce the findings of the national State of Nature 2019 report:

- Species rich semi-natural grasslands suffered huge losses in the mid-20th century and the marsh fritillary butterfly and wall butterfly, both grassland specialists, are now considered extinct in the county. Apart from at the RSPB's Otmoor reserve, curlew numbers decreased by 51%, lapwing by 21%, snipe by 88% and redshank by 50% in Oxfordshire between 2005 and 2015.
- Water quality and river habitat have been severely impacted by historic modifications to water courses and pressures from human activity.
- Accessible green spaces and habitats have decreased due to increases in the extent of urban areas and housing density.
- Woodland biodiversity, including birds and plants, has suffered major declines. Willow tits are the most rapidly declining woodland bird locally and in 2016, only 4 nightingales and no breeding pairs were reported.
- Farmland biodiversity, including birds and plants, has suffered major declines. Since 1994, turtle dove numbers have decreased by 93% - the largest decline of any farmland bird.
- Between the 1980s and 2000s, there was a 27% reduction in hedgerow length within a 1,200 sq. km study area centred around Banbury. 47 species of conservation concern use hedgerows as their main habitat.
- Between 1995 and 2014, urban butterfly abundance fell by 69% compared to a 45% decline in rural areas.
- 15 invasive non-native species of most concern to the Environment Agency are found in Oxfordshire, including the demon shrimp.
- Reedbeds were once a common habitat in the low-lying areas of Oxfordshire, but today, no large remnants remain.
- Oxfordshire has lost 80% of its orchards since 1911.
- There is continued fragmentation and loss of connectivity across the county's landscapes, affecting the future viability of habitats and species.
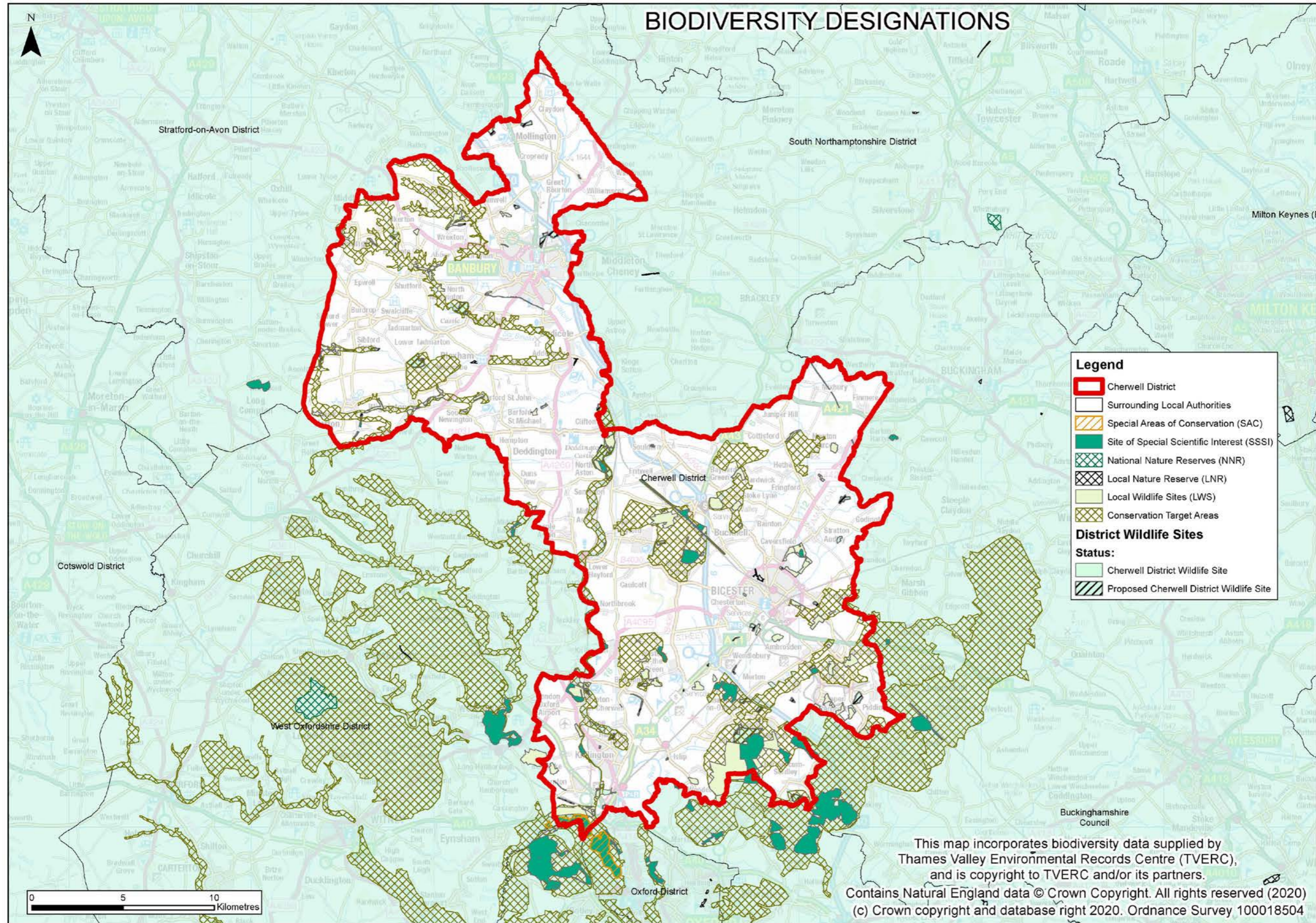
4.66 The number of priority species listed in Cherwell has decreased over time. This is consistent with analysis in the State of Nature 2019[80] report which reported a 22% decline in the abundance of priority species between 2011 and 2016 and in 2016, the

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[79] Wild Oxfordshire (2017) https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/State-of-Nature-in-Oxfordshire-2017_Full-Report_FINAL_MIN2_COVERS.pdf
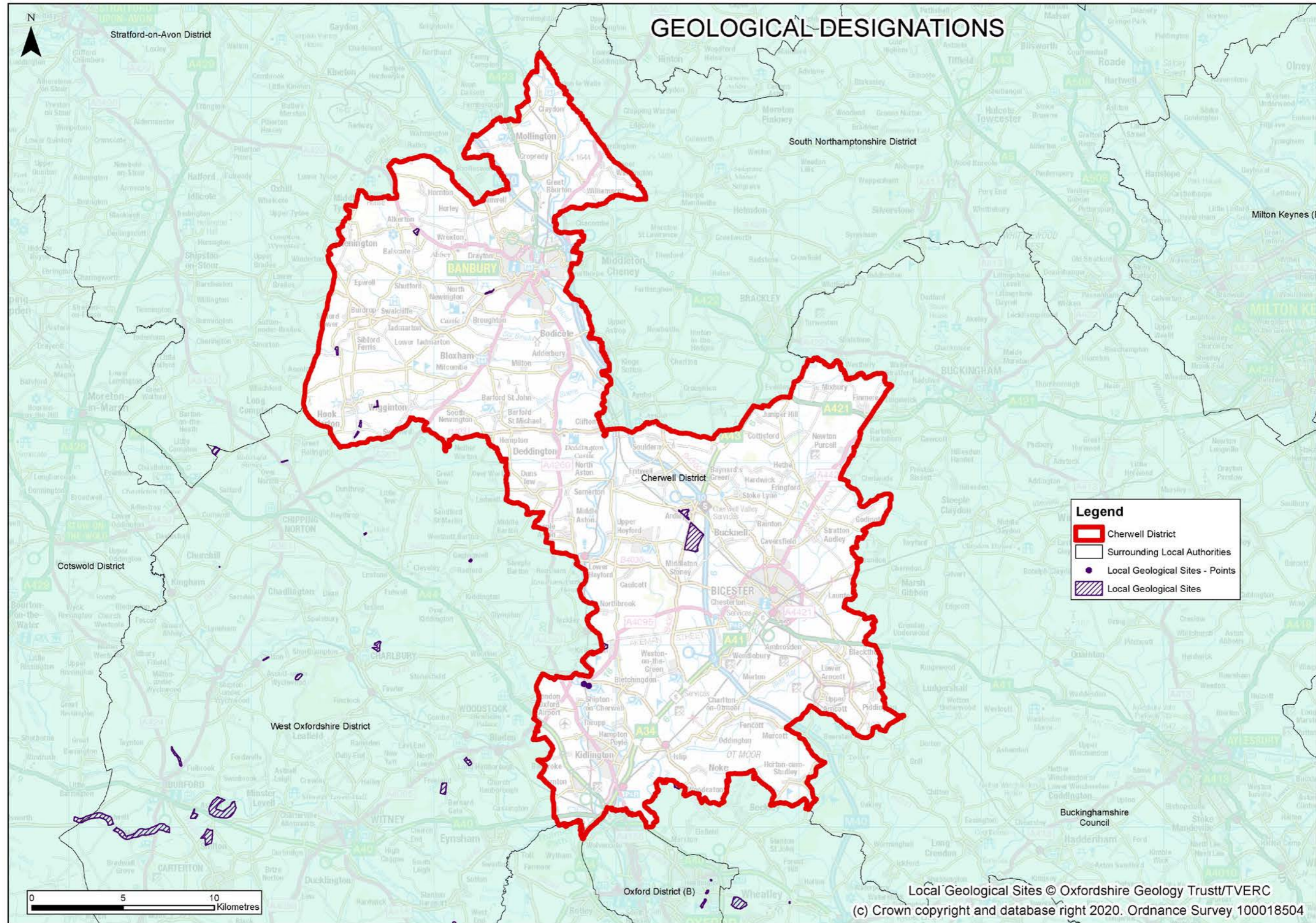[80] State of Nature Partnership (2019) www.nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019

index of distribution of priority species in the UK was 3% lower than in 2011. The number of priority species listed in Cherwell is 125[81].
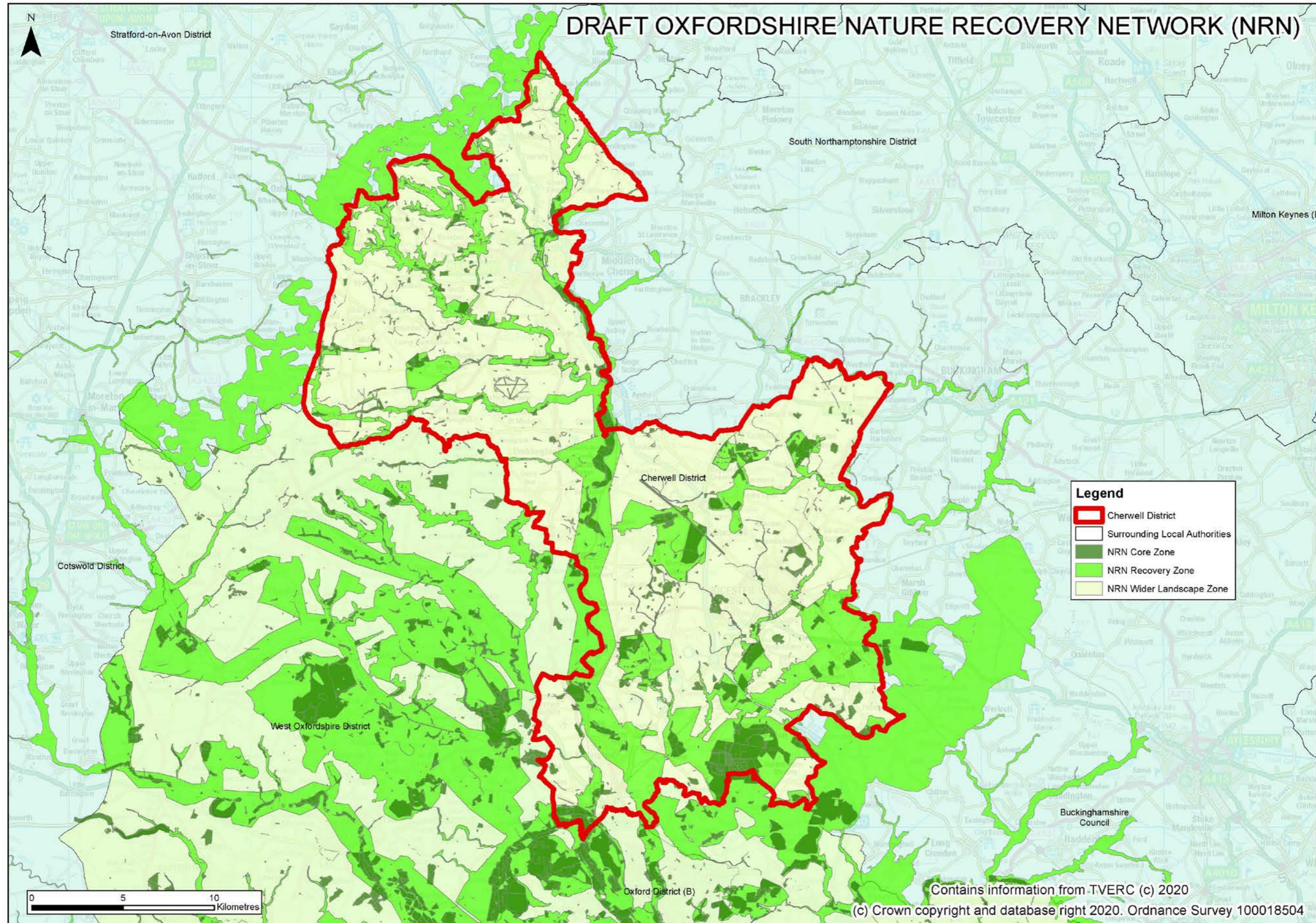
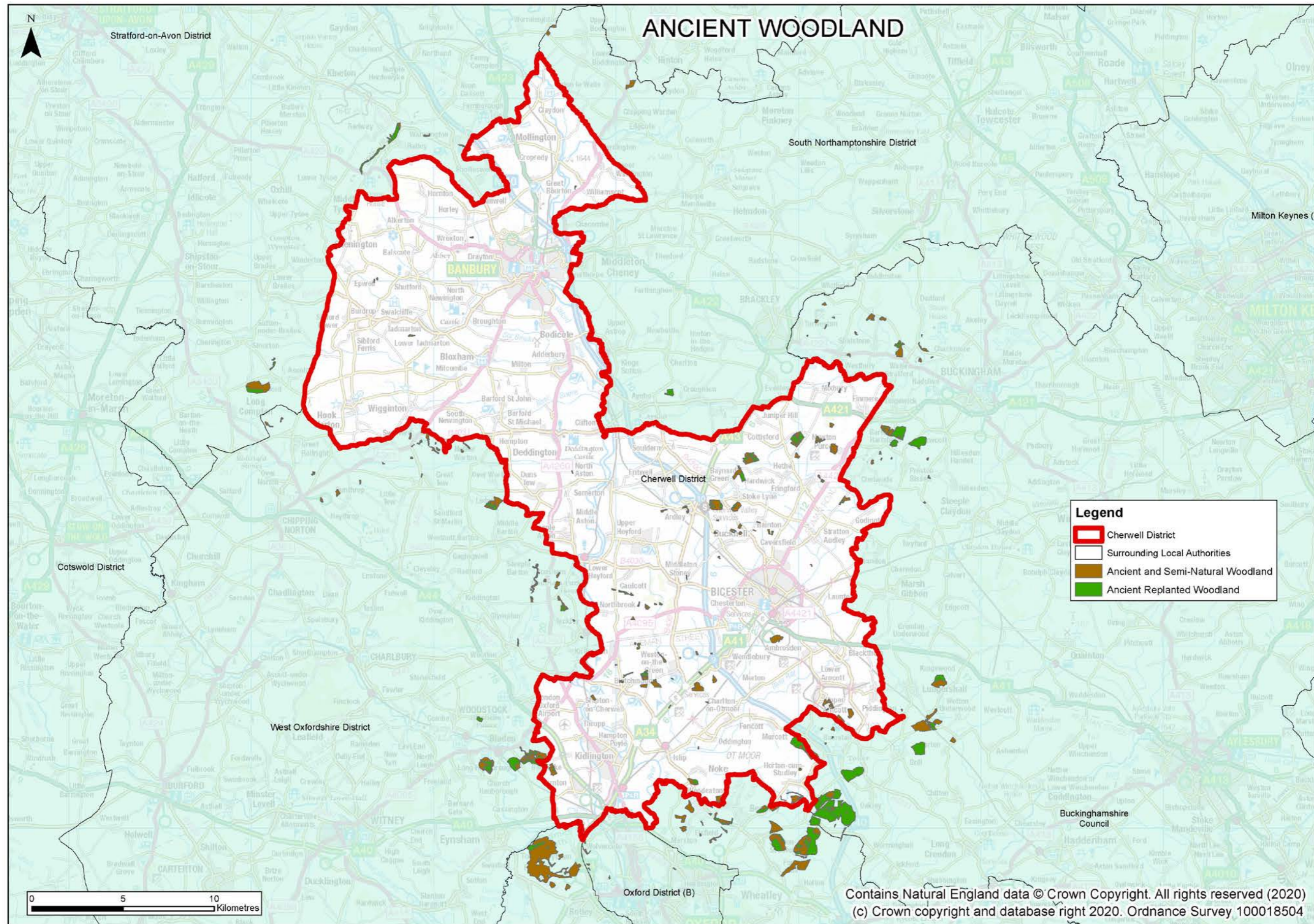---

[81] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report

BIODIVERSITY DESIGNATIONS

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- Conservation Target Areas

District Wildlife Sites
Status:
- Cherwell District Wildlife Site
- Proposed Cherwell District Wildlife Site

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GEOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- Local Geological Sites - Points
- Local Geological Sites

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DRAFT OXFORDSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK (NRN)

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- NRN Core Zone
- NRN Recovery Zone
- NRN Wider Landscape Zone

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ANCIENT WOODLAND

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Historic environment

4.67 There are many heritage designations within the district as shown in **Figure 4.13**: **Heritage Designations**. These historic assets include Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and a range of listed buildings (Grades I, II and II*).

4.68 The District has 2,336 Listed Buildings (two of which are on the Heritage at Risk Register) and 38 Scheduled Monuments (five of which are on the Heritage at Risk Register). There are also 11 sites which are included in the 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England'. These parks and gardens are designated heritage assets, and as such are to be protected appropriately. Cherwell contains one Historic Battlefield which is the Battle of Cropredy Bridge 1644[82].

4.69 A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, with character or appearance that is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 60 conservation areas in Cherwell, reflecting the high-quality environment of the district. Conservation areas are designated for many of the villages as well as for the market towns of Banbury and Bicester. Conservation area designation has also been afforded to the Oxford Canal as it runs through the district and two former military airbases RAF Upper Heyford and RAF Bicester. All 60 conservation areas have a post-2005 appraisal and management plan. Two of the Conservation Areas (Banbury Grimsbury, North Oxfordshire and RAF Upper Heyford, Ardley) have been identified as being on the Heritage at Risk List by Historic England.

4.70 There are many undesignated sites of archaeological interest varying in significance from nationally to locally important remains. More information on these can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Record[83].

4.71 Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation[84] maps current and past land use across the county. It uses maps to examine the historic and archaeological processes which have influenced the modern landscape. The special characteristics of an area can be identified to understand what makes that place special or distinct thus helping to make sure it is managed appropriately.

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[82] Historic England National Heritage List for England (date accessed: 22/06/2020)
[83] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/archaeology/historic-environment-record
[84] https://oxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=373201dd651c410bacef130ffb3d8d11

HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS

Legend

- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- World Heritage Site - Blenheim Palace
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building Points
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Historical Battlefields
- Conservation Areas

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LANDSCAPE

Landscape designations

4.72 Cherwell's natural environment is varied. There are no National Parks within the district, however the Cotswolds AONB lies within the north-west of Cherwell.

4.73 National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in an area. Cherwell lies within five of the National Character Areas that occur mostly in horizontal east west strips across the district: Northamptonshire Uplands (95) to the north, both the Cotswolds (107) and Upper Thames Valley Clay Vales (108) form the central strips, Midvale Ridge (109) to the south-east and Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (88) to the north-east[85]. There are also 19 landscape types within Cherwell as shown in **Figure 4.14: Landscape Designations**, the four predominant types are: Wooded Estatelands and Farmland Plateau to the north of Bicester; the Clay Vale to the south; and three areas of Upstanding Village Farmlands to the south of Banbury with four further small pockets to the north-east of the district.

4.74 OWLS: Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study[86] investigated the landscape character and biodiversity resource of Oxfordshire. All the data collected has been incorporated into a large database accompanied by a final report.

4.75 A Review of Environmental Sensitivity in Oxfordshire[87] was prepared in 2016 to understand and plan to minimise the impact to land across the county. The study sought to establish the pattern of environmental assets and their sensitivity to change in Oxfordshire. Mapped data within a range of environmental themes were drawn together and classified against a standardised framework as to whether it was of higher, moderate or lower sensitivity to change. Once the classification was created for each theme the data was re-mapped using one of three colours for the higher (red), moderate (blue) and lower (yellow) sensitivity. Finally, the data for all the themes were combined into one single map showing the highest category of sensitivity at any particular point. In relation to Cherwell, the study found the most sensitive areas to be in the south-east of the district and following the water courses. Large areas are also classed as moderate sensitivity in the north of the district, particularly north of Deddington and other large areas of moderate sensitivity exist in the Fritwell and Newton Purcell areas.

4.76 A number of documents have considered development in the district's rural landscape and urban fringes and these informed Cherwell's Adopted Local Plan Part 1 or Partial Review, including:

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[85] HM Government (2014) National Character Areas
[86] http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/
[87] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/countryside/OxfordshireCountySensitivityReportAugust2016.pdf

- The 2010 Halcrow Report undertook a Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study[88] assessed the sensitivity to and capacity of specified sites at Banbury, Bicester to accept development, specifically: residential; employment (commercial and industrial); recreation; and woodland. In general, most sites have a high capacity to accept woodland of an appropriate character and a moderate to high capacity to accept informal recreation. The capacity to accept residential and employment or playing field developments was more variable.
- The Bicester and Banbury Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessments[89] provided an assessment of the landscape sensitivity and capacity of ten sites on the periphery and within the towns. The reports reviewed the sites' boundaries and where necessary, provided opinion and rationale on areas to either be excluded as they were not appropriate to be considered for development or additional areas to be included.
- The Environmental Baseline Reports for Banbury[90] and Bicester[91] explored the interaction of these towns with their rural setting and the environmental baseline of their urban fringes. Through understanding the town's environmental assets, this document provided a foundation that guided development away from sensitive areas in the urban fringes.
- The Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment[92], prepared as an evidence document for the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review provided an assessment of the landscape sensitivity and capacity of 41 sites located in the south of the district.

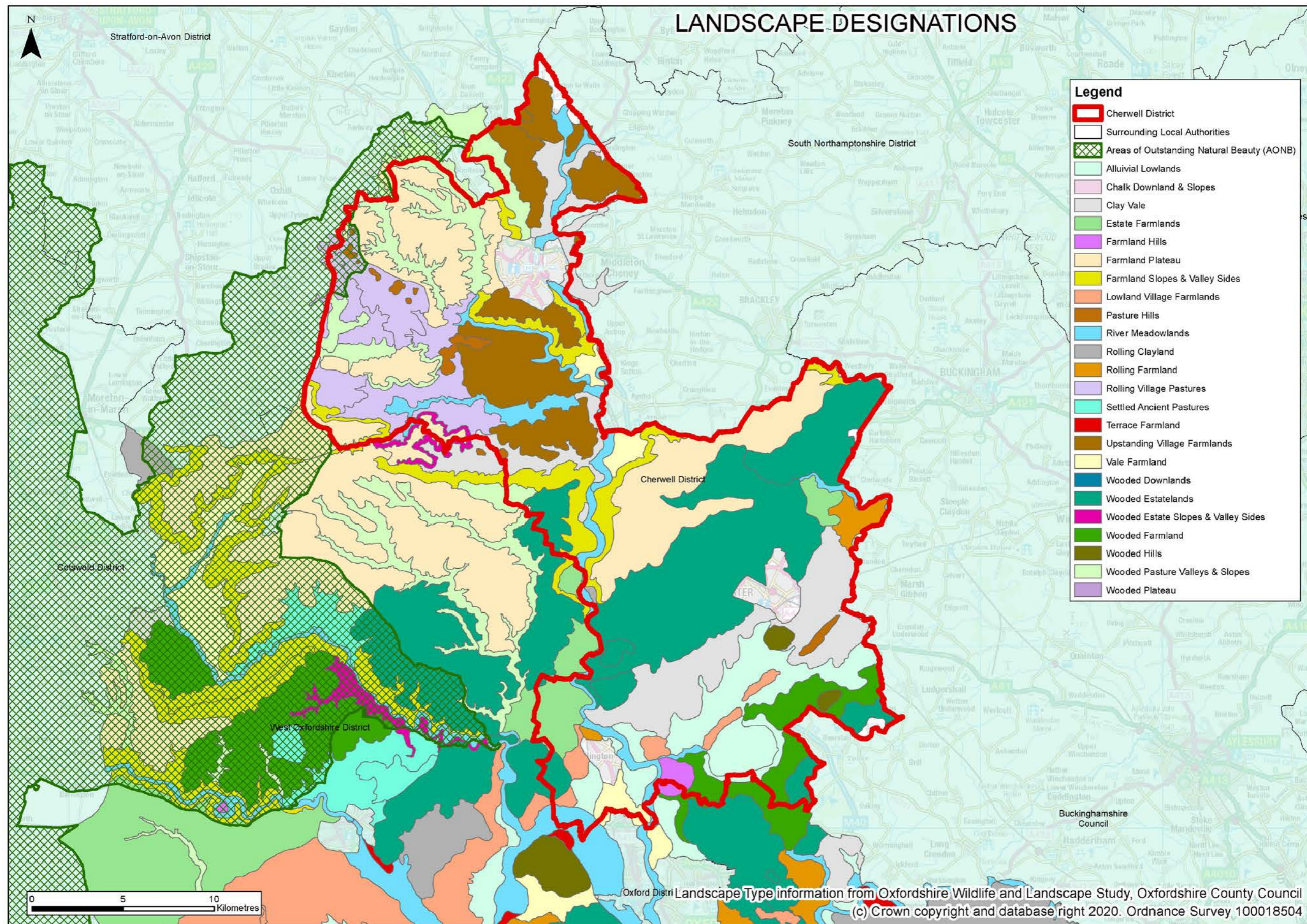[88] Halcrow Group Limited (2010) Cherwell Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment
[89] WYG Group (2013) Banbury Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment; WYG (2014) Bicester Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment
[90] LDA Group (2013) Banbury Environmental Baseline Report
[91] LDA Group (2013) Bicester Environmental Baseline Report
[92] WYG (2017) Cherwell Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

Legend
- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Alluvial Lowlands
- Chalk Downland & Slopes
- Clay Vale
- Estate Farmlands
- Farmland Hills
- Farmland Plateau
- Farmland Slopes & Valley Sides
- Lowland Village Farmlands
- Pasture Hills
- River Meadowlands
- Rolling Clayland
- Rolling Farmland
- Rolling Village Pastures
- Settled Ancient Pastures
- Terrace Farmland
- Upstanding Village Farmlands
- Vale Farmland
- Wooded Downlands
- Wooded Estatelands
- Wooded Estate Slopes & Valley Sides
- Wooded Farmland
- Wooded Hills
- Wooded Pasture Valleys & Slopes
- Wooded Plateau

Landscape Type information from Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study, Oxfordshire County Council
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4.82 Green infrastructure comprises the network of green spaces and features in both urban and rural settings including the following: parks and gardens (including historic parks and gardens), natural and semi-natural green space, green corridors (including cycleways and rights of way), outdoor sports facilities, amenity green space, children's play space, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, accessible countryside in urban fringe areas, river and canal corridors, woodlands, nature reserves, green roofs and walls.

4.83 Paragraph B.275 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 recognises that Green Infrastructure networks can deliver both environmental and social benefits including conserving and enhancing biodiversity, recreation, landscape, water management, social and cultural benefits to underpin individual health and well-being, contributing to local distinctiveness and helping communities to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

4.84 Within Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington the key components of green infrastructure are areas of open space, sport and recreation, sometimes linked by public rights of way. Elsewhere in the District the dominant strategic features include the River Cherwell and Oxford Canal corridors, statutory designated sites, and other areas such as RSPB Otmoor reserve and BBOWT reserves.

Public open space, leisure and recreation

4.85 Green spaces and green infrastructure are an integral and essential part of everyday life and contribute to the health and wellbeing of people living and working within Cherwell. It is also a key feature of the biodiversity and ecology of the District. The open space audit undertaken as part of the emerging Cherwell Open Space and Play Areas Strategy found a total of 1290.74ha of open space within the district. The area by open space typology is illustrated in **Table 4.7**. Of this total 1290.74ha, 332.87ha of parks and gardens and 390.17ha natural and semi natural green space have restricted access (**Table 4.8**). **Figure 4.16: Green and Open Space** illustrates green and open spaces data from the emerging Cherwell Open Space and Play Areas Strategy. **Figure 4.16** is based on GIS layers prepared in 2017 and does not include smaller areas of open space provision. The emerging open spaces work will provide updated mapping of open space provision in the district which will be reflected as the Plan is progressed.

Table 4.7: Emerging Cherwell Open Space and Play Areas Strategy audit of current levels of open space by typology

Typology	Total area (ha) rounded
Parks and gardens	359.22
Natural and semi natural green space	646.54
Amenity green space	238.76
Churchyards and cemeteries	42.84
Allotments	52.28
Children's play	12.46
Teenagers	2.48

Table 4.8: Emerging Cherwell Open Space and Play Areas Strategy audit of sites with restricted access

Parks and gardens	Natural and semi natural green space
Broughton Park: 30.96ha	Hook Norton Nature Reserve: 7.86ha
Wroxton College: 10.05ha	Asham Meads Nature Reserve: 22.53ha
Kirtlington Park: 291.86ha	Oxey Mead: 7.76ha
	Ardley Woods and SSSI: 34.43ha
	Otmoor RSPB Reserve: 261.00ha
	Whitecross Green Wood: 52.63ha
	Woodside Meadow: 3.86ha
	Upper Ray Meadows: 13.49ha

4.86   The Cherwell Playing Pitch Strategy[93] and Sports Facilities Strategy[94] were published in 2018. The strategies forecast the future needs for sport and recreation in the district up to 2031, taking into account housing requirements of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 and the requirements of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Partial Review – Oxford's Unmet Housing Needs (Submission Plan as proposed to be modified). The baseline sports and recreation facilities position are presented.

4.87   **Figure 4.17: Sports and Recreation Facilities** illustrates the various sports and leisure facilities in the district. Within Cherwell there are currently 12 artificial grass pitches of various types and sizes which are open for community use. In addition to this, there is a sand filled artificial grass pitch and a 3G pitch which are not available for community use. There is one full size FA Register pitch, the Whitelands Farm Sports Ground pitch at Bicester, which is also a rugby specification pitch. There are also currently 12 senior rugby pitches and 8 junior rugby pitches for community use and 3 unsecure rugby pitches within the district. Across the authority there are 21 cricket pitches available for community use. There are two full size plus one undersized hockey pitch in the district which are currently used for community hockey, and three pitches not used by the community. The district has three football stadium pitches: Banbury United Football Club, Easington Sports Football Club Banbury, and at Oxford Road, Bicester.

4.88   Cherwell has four public leisure centre facilities, Spiceball and Woodgreen Leisure Centres in Banbury, Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre. There are 48 badminton courts and seven pool sites available for community use in Cherwell. There is one 8-lane athletics track, and another club that uses the sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre in the winter and uses a grass field at Bicester Academy a local park in the summer. There are 8 sites which cater for squash in Cherwell with 15

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[93] Nortoft (2018) Cherwell District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies. Part 3 https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1337/pr99-playing-pitch-strategy-october-2018
[94] Nortoft (2018) Cherwell District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies. Part 2: Sports Facilities Strategy https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1350/pr103a-and-pr103b-sports-facilities-strategy

courts in total. All the sites are pay and play, except for one club site, Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club which is available to members only.

4.89   There are three Gymnastics clubs within the district. Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, Ricochet Trampoline Club and Kidlington Gymnastics Club. There is one specialist indoor bowls site in Cherwell, at Woodgreen Leisure Centre which has 6 rinks. There are 10 outdoor bowling green sites within the district and each site has a single green, but with the number of rinks varying from 4 to 6. There is one derelict site at Shipton on Cherwell.

4.90   There is no indoor tennis court provision in Cherwell at the present time. Most of the outdoor tennis provision in Cherwell is on tennis club sites, but there are also a small number of community sites. There are currently 8 golf sites in Cherwell which all offer 18-hole courses, some with driving ranges.

4.91   In relation to long-distance cycle routes crossing Cherwell, there is one largely north-south route and one east/west route, plus a short route running across Banbury, as illustrated in **Figure 4.18: PROW and Cycle Routes**.

4.92   There are no specialist cycling facilities in the district, for example large BMX sites, cycle speedway or closed road tracks.

GREEN AND OPEN SPACE

Note: This map is based on GIS layers prepared in 2017 and does not include smaller areas of open space provision. The emerging open spaces work will provide updated mapping of open space provision in the district which will be reflected as the Plan is progressed.

Legend

- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- Country Parks
- Allotments
- Amenity Green Space
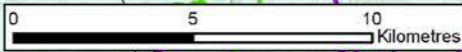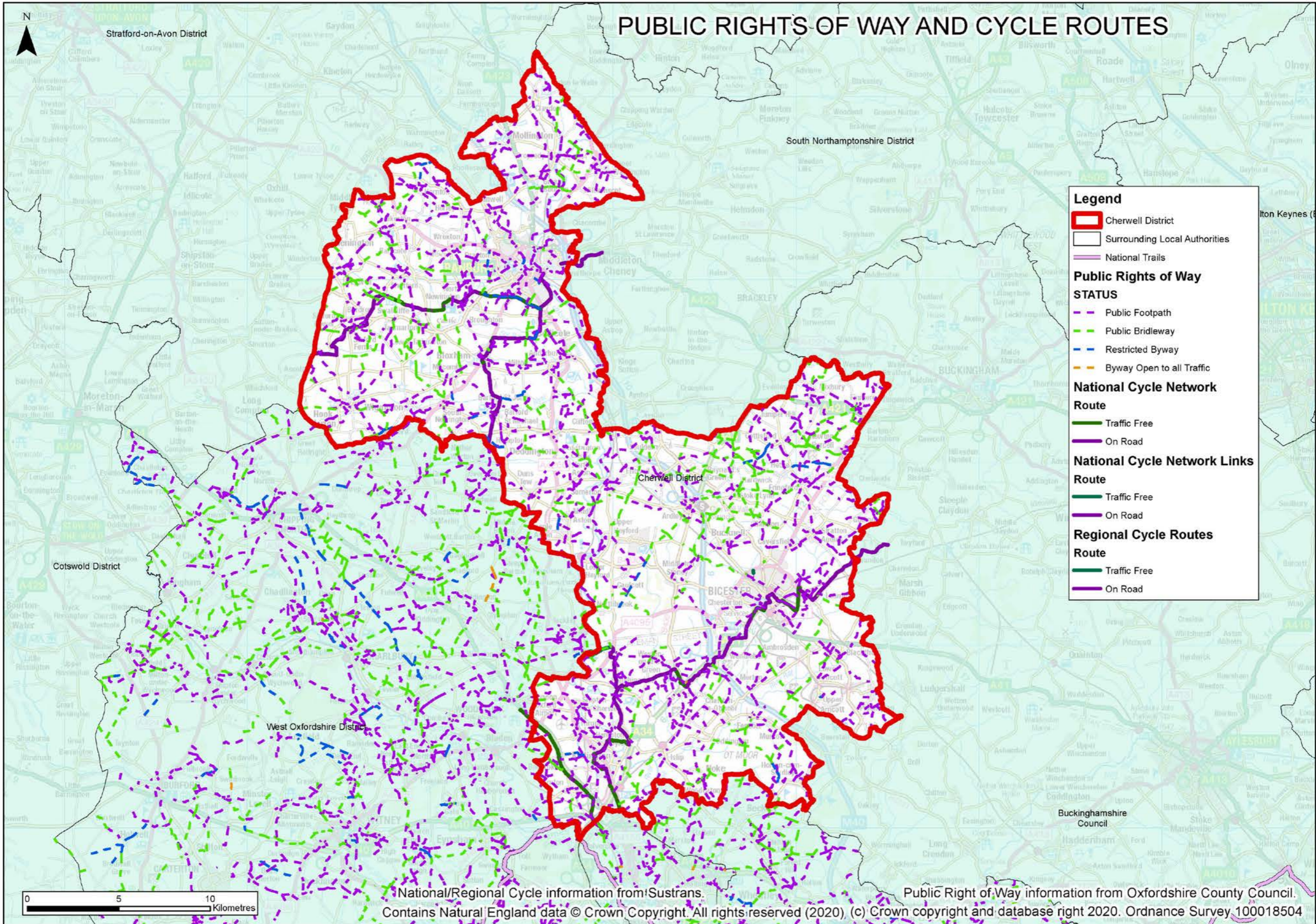- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace
- Parks and Gardens
- Play Areas
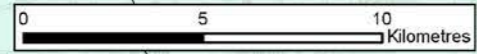
Contains Natural England data © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved (2020)
(c) Crown copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100018504
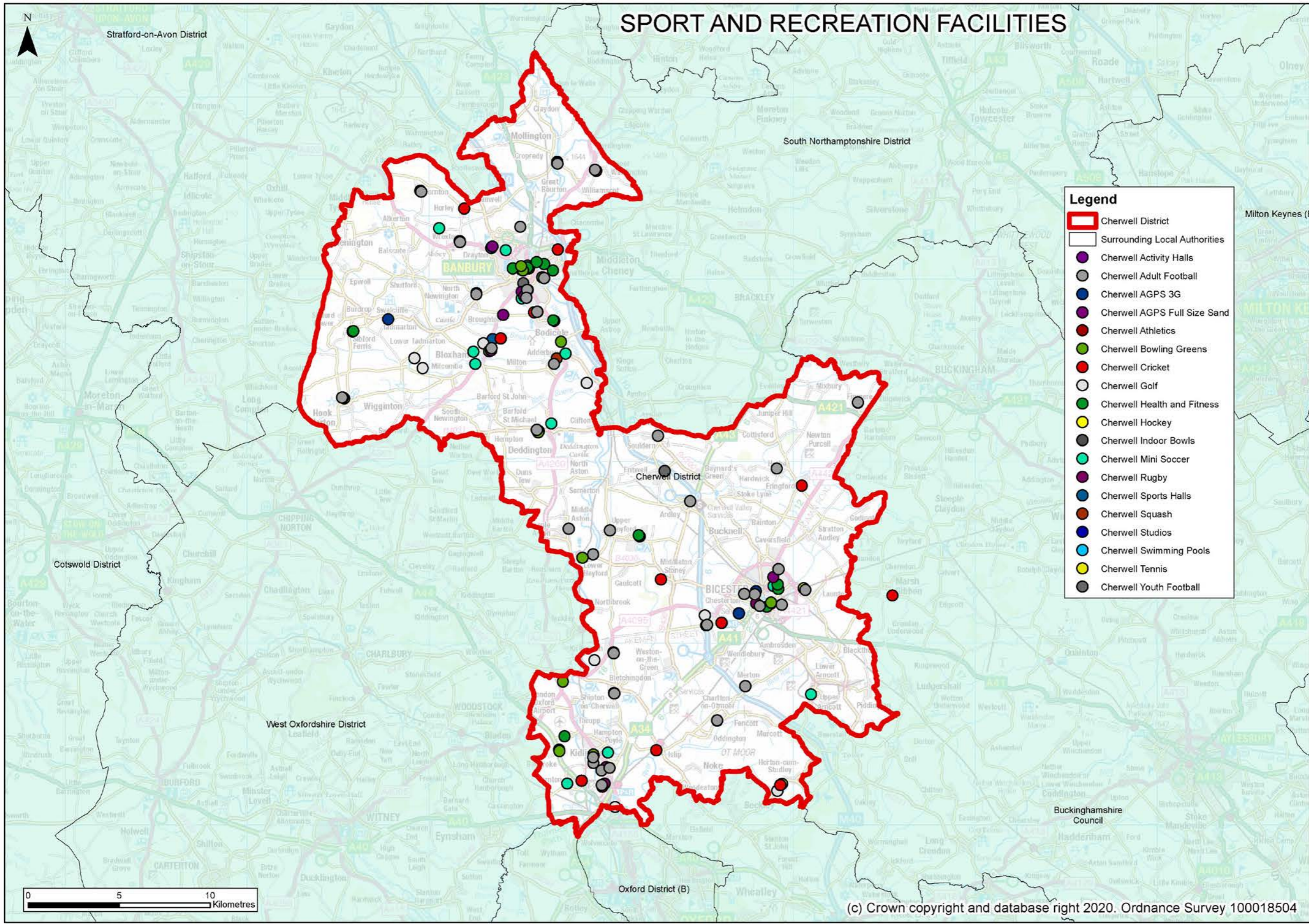
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND CYCLE ROUTES

Stratford-on-Avon District

South Northamptonshire District

Cotswold District

West Oxfordshire District

Cherwell District

BICESTER

Buckinghamshire Council

Legend

	Cherwell District
	Surrounding Local Authorities
	National Trails

Public Rights of Way
STATUS

	Public Footpath
	Public Bridleway
	Restricted Byway
	Byway Open to all Traffic

National Cycle Network
Route

	Traffic Free
	On Road

National Cycle Network Links
Route

	Traffic Free
	On Road

Regional Cycle Routes
Route

	Traffic Free
	On Road

0   5   10
Kilometres

National/Regional Cycle information from Sustrans.
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SOCIAL BASELINE

POPULATION

Population characteristics

4.93 In mid-2018, the population of Cherwell was estimated at 149,200 and was almost evenly split between females (50.4%) and males (49.6%).

4.94 Cherwell's population is mainly concentrated in the three urban centres of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

Table 4.9: Mid-2018 population by location[95]

	Mid-2018 population	**Percentage**
Banbury	47,600	31.9%
Bicester	35,500	23.8%
Kidlington	19,200	12.9%
Rest of Cherwell	46,900	31.4%
Total	149,200	100%

4.95 Cherwell has a relatively young age profile with more children aged 0-15 than people aged 65 and over. Approximately 20% of the population are under 16, 62% are working age 16-64 and 18% are 65+. The median age of people living in Cherwell in 2018 was 41.1 years old, this compares to the England median of 39.9 years[96]. The profile of Cherwell's population by broad age band is shown in **Table 4.10**.

Table 4.10: Cherwell mid-2018 population estimates by broad age groups and sex[97]

	All ages	**0-15**	**16-29**	**30-44**	**45-64**	**65+**
Males	73,945	15,261	10,974	15,348	19,889	12,473
Females	75,216	14,530	10,417	15,653	20,130	14,486
All	149,161	29,791	21,391	31,001	40,019	26,959

Population trends

4.96 Between 1998 and 2018 the mid-year estimates data suggests that the population of Cherwell has grown by 20,800 people or 16.2%.

4.97 **Table 4.11** shows population change in Cherwell by broad age group between mid-1998 and mid-2018. This shows a small increase in the number of children living in Cherwell

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[95] ONS (2020) ward-level population estimates (experimental statistics) Mid-2018: table SAPE21DT8a
[96] ONS (2019) mid-year population estimates: median age of population for local authorities in the UK: table MYE6
[97] ONS (2019) mid-year population estimates: persons by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK

(increasing by about 6.8%) along with an increase in the working age population (10.5%). The key driver of population growth has therefore been in the 65 and over age group, which between 1998 and 2018 saw a population increase of about 10,100 people: this age group increasing in size by 59.8% over the 20-year period.

Table 4.11: Population change in Cherwell by broad age group (1998-18)[98]

	Population (1998)	Population (2018)	Change	% change
Under 16	27,900	29,800	1,900	6.8%
16-64	83,600	92,400	8,800	10.5%
65+	16,900	27,000	10,100	59.8%
All ages	128,400	149,200	20,800	16.2%

4.98 Between 1998 and 2018 Cherwell has seen a significant increase in the older 65+ population and relatively little change in the number of young people aged 0-15. **Figure 4.19** illustrates the changes in count of older and younger residents in Cherwell over the 20-year period.

Figure 4.19: Change in count of older and younger residents in Cherwell 1998-2018
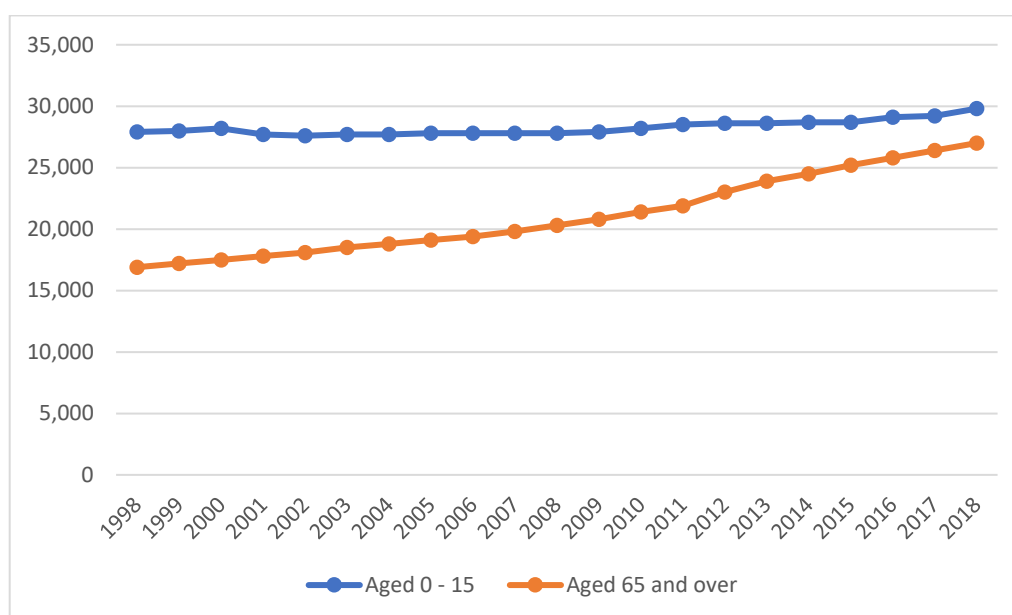
4.99 Over the 7-year period 2011-2018, the population density of Cherwell has increased from 242 people per sq. km in 2011 to 253 people per sq. km in 2018 – an increase of 4.5%. The population density of Cherwell is much lower than the England average (430 persons per sq. km)[99], reflecting the largely rural nature of the district.

Components of population change

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[98] ONS (2019) mid-year population estimates: persons by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK
[99] ONS (2019) mid-year population estimates: population density for local authorities in the UK: table MYE5

4.100 **Table 4.12** indicates that population growth in Cherwell has largely been driven by natural change (births minus deaths). International migration is positive for all years studied and can be quite variable over time. In contrast, internal (domestic) migration has generally been negative, in other words more people move from Cherwell to other parts of the country than move to Cherwell. It is however notable that the last two years for which data exists (2016-17 and 2017-18) are the only years to show a positive net domestic migration.

Table 4.12: Components of population change in Cherwell 2011/12 to 2017/18[100]

Year	Natural change	Net internal migration	Net international migration	Other changes	Total change
2011/12	829	-263	122	-4	684
2012/13	702	-145	202	127	886
2013/14	511	-5	414	-222	698
2014/15	583	-245	427	269	1,034
2015/16	690	-292	563	120	1,081
2016/17	512	284	936	118	1850
2017/18	560	766	273	-40	1,559

Population projections

4.101 As illustrated in **Figure 4.20**, the population of Cherwell is expected to increase to approximately 170,000 by 2043[101]. This represents an increase of 14% from 2018 figures. It is forecast that the number of children aged 0-15 will decrease by 35 and the working age population (age 16-64) will increase by 512 between 2018 and 2043. It is forecast that the 65+ population will increase by 16,053 people over the same period.

4.102 ONS population projections for England estimate that between 2018 and 2043, population growth will be dominated by an increase in the older population. In terms of population growth, the working age population accounts for 23.8% and the 65+ population accounts for 78.9% of the growth to 2043. The number of children aged 0-15 will decrease over this period. In the South East of England, the reduction in the size of the 0-15 population and the increase in the 65+ are more intense. In terms of population growth in the South East, the 65+ population accounts for 102% of this growth as an overall reduction in the younger population and a small increase in the working age populations is projected. Like the South East, the increase in the size of the 65+ population in Cherwell between 2018 and 2043 is significantly higher than the increase forecast in England. In Cherwell, the increase in the 65+ population is projected to represent 97.1% of the total population growth to 2043.

Figure 4.20: 2018-based population projections to 2043

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[100] ONS (2019) components of population change for local authorities in the UK, mid-2012 to mid-2018: table MYE3
[101] ONS (2020) 2018-based population projections for local authorities: table 2
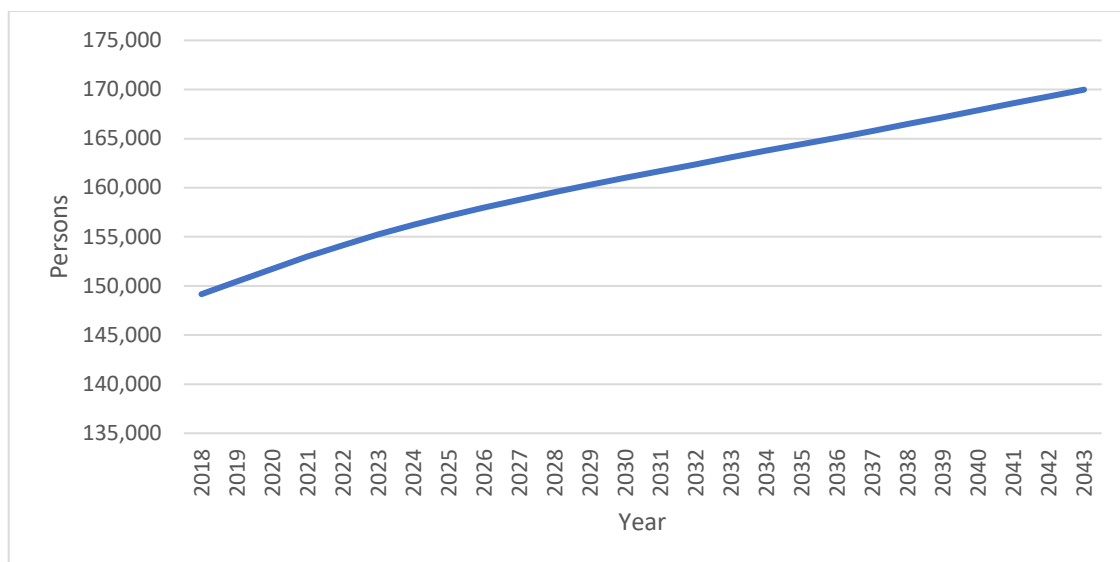
Social inclusion and deprivation

4.103   The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IMD2019)[102] is a measure of relative deprivation for small areas (2011 Lower Layer Super Output Areas) in England. The indices of Deprivation rank every small area in England from 1 (most deprived area) to 32,844 (least deprived area). Seven domains of deprivation are measured: Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Education, Skills and Training Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Crime; Barriers to Housing and Services; and Living Environment Deprivation. Each domain contains a number of indicators. The seven domains are combined to give a multiple deprivation score. There are 93 LSOAs in Cherwell[103].

4.104   For Local Authority areas, Cherwell is ranked 217th[104] for the multiple deprivation score (rank of average score) out of the 317 local authority areas in England (where 1 is most deprived and 317 is least deprived. This means that compared with the rest of the country, Cherwell ranks within the 32% least deprived areas. The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 ranked Cherwell 251st for the multiple deprivation score (rank of average score) out of the 326 local authority areas in England[105]. In 2015, compared with the rest of the country, Cherwell was in the 25% least deprived areas and has therefore gotten worse in this regard.

4.105   There is however evidence of disparity between different parts of Cherwell when looking at the assessment at small area level. A total of six LSOAs in Banbury across the three wards of Ruscote, Neithrop and Grimsbury and Castle rank amongst the 20% most deprived in England.

Access to services

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[102] DCLG (2019) The English Indices of Deprivation
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835115/IoD2019_Statistical_Release.pdf
[103] DCLG (2019) The English Indices of Deprivation: file 1: index of multiple deprivation
[104] DCLG (2019) The English Indices of Deprivation: file 10: local authority district summaries
[105] DCLG (2015) The English Indices of Deprivation: file 10: local authority district summaries

4.106 Cherwell is a predominantly rural district with three urban centres at Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. The urban centres and larger villages contain a variety of shops, facilities and services to serve the population.

4.107 Paragraph C.241 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 recognises that the number of permanent local services in the villages and rural areas is generally declining. Public transport provision is variable across the rural areas and in smaller and more isolated villages, it can be infrequent or non-existent.

4.108 Furthermore, 22 out of 93 lower super output areas in Cherwell are ranked within the most deprived 10% nationally on the geographical access to services sub-domain (road distance to post office, primary school, GP and supermarket) of the IMD2019. Mapping published by Oxfordshire County Council in the draft Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020[106] illustrates that within Cherwell, the towns of Bicester and Banbury and the larger settlements of Deddington, Bloxham and Hook Norton are amongst the least deprived in terms of geographical access to services based on the IMD2019.

Ethnicity

4.109 At the 2011 Census, 11% of Cherwell residents were born outside the UK. Between 2001 and 2011 the total number of Cherwell residents born outside the UK increased from 9,300 to 16,100[107]. This is an increase of 73%. At the 2011 Census, 92.2% of Cherwell's population identified themselves in a white ethnic group, 4.3% identified themselves in an Asian ethnic group, 1.8% in a mixed / multiple ethnic group, 1.3% in a black ethnic group and 0.4% identified themselves in an 'other' ethnic group. The ethnic group experiencing the largest population percentage change in Cherwell between 2001 and 2011 was the Asian ethnic group. The Asian ethnic group increased in size from representing 1.63% of the population in 2001 to 4.3% in 2011[108].

HOUSING

Housing stock

4.110 On 1 April 2018, Cherwell had around 64,990 dwellings. The latest figures estimate that around 86.9% of all homes in Cherwell are privately owned, 0.5% are other private sector, 12.3% are socially rented through a private registered provider and 0.3% are socially rented through the local authority. This compares to national averages of 82.7% being privately owned, 0.2% being other private sector, 10.5% being socially rented through a private registered provider and 6.6% being rented through the local authority[109]. Cherwell therefore has more privately owned dwellings than the national average but more dwellings being socially rented through a private registered provider.

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[106] https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/system/files/documents/2020_JSNA_DRAFT.pdf
[107] ONS Census 2001 table UV08; Census 2011 table QS203
[108] https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/732/ethnicity-overview
[109] ONS (2019) Dwelling stock: number of dwellings by tenure and district: England 2018 table 100

The district also has less socially rented dwellings owned by the local authority compared to the national average.

4.111 Of the homes included in the 2011 census for Cherwell, 30% were detached, 35% were semi-detached, 23% were terraced, 11% were flats and 0.3% were caravans or other mobile or temporary structure[110].

4.112 The number of vacant dwellings in Cherwell has remained relatively steady since 2004. The most recent data (October 2019) confirms that 1,447 dwellings within the district are currently vacant[111].

Housing completions

4.113 **Figure 4.21** illustrates the total housing completions (net) within the District and per sub area (Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and rural areas). During 2015/16, there were a total of 1,425 (net) housing completions within the District and the rural areas accounted for 49% of the total housing completions, compared with 26% at Bicester and 25% at Banbury. Some of the larger completions in the rural areas included Upper Heyford (166 dwellings), Kidlington (111 dwellings), Adderbury (105 dwellings) and Hook Norton (70 dwellings). There was also good progress being made at Bicester and Banbury where a number of large sites were under construction. During 2018/19, 1,489 (net) housing completions were recorded. This is higher than the previous highest recorded completion figure during 2015/16. In 2018/19, 44% of completions were at Banbury, 29% at Bicester and 27% elsewhere.

Figure 4.21: Net housing completions (2011/12-2018/19)[112]
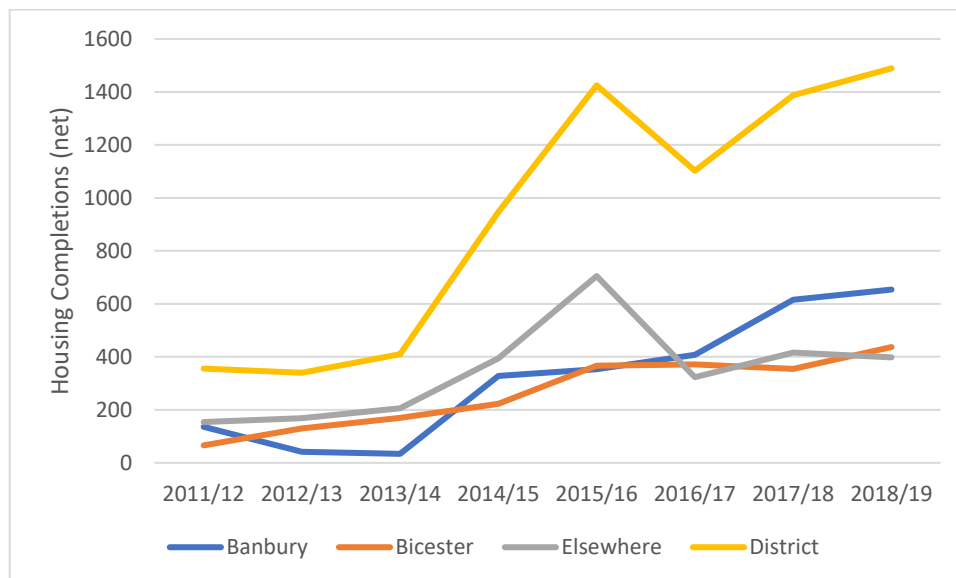
4.114 **Table 4.13** shows the housing completions in the District and the affordable housing completions as a proportion of overall completions for 2011/12-2018/19. The Council has recently published housing completions and permissions for March 2020 which

[110] ONS Census 2011 table KS401EW
[111] ONS (2020) Live tables on dwelling stock (including vacants)
[112] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report

show that there were 1159 completions in 2019-2020. There were 507 affordable housing completions during 2018/19 which is the highest recorded delivery for affordable housing. This excludes 14 acquisitions (transfers from market housing stock). The number of affordable housing completions has continued to increase which reflects the higher overall rate of housing delivery across the district.

Table 4.13: Net affordable housing completions (2011/12-2018/19)[113]

Year	Affordable housing completions (net)	% affordable completions
2011/12	204	57%
2012/13	113	33%
2013/14	140	34%
2014/15	191	20%
2015/16	322	23%
2016/17	278	25%
2017/18	426	31%
2018/19	507	34%

Homelessness

4.115 In 2017/18, the statutory homelessness rate – eligible homeless people not in priority need in Cherwell was 0.33. This compares to the regional average of 0.66 and a national average of 0.79[114].

4.116 The latest data available shows that within Cherwell there were 26 households – 16 with children – in temporary accommodation at the end of quarter (July-September 2019)[115].

Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople

4.117 At 31 March 2019, there are 52 Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Cherwell and a total of 13 new pitches were given permission during 2019/20.

4.118 There are 4 permanent travelling showpeople sites in Cherwell consisting of 14 plots[116].

4.119 Policy BSC 6 of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 states that "Cherwell District will provide 19 (net) additional pitches to meet the needs of Gypsies and

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[113] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report
[114] Public Health England (2019) Local Authority Health Profile – Cherwell
[115] ONS (2020) Live tables on homelessness – detailed local authority level tables: July to September 2019
[116] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report

Travellers from 2012 to 2031. It will also provide 24 (net) additional plots for Travelling Showpeople from 2012 to 2031."

Housing price to income ratio

4.120 Affordability ratios are calculated by dividing house prices by gross annual workplace-based earnings. Lower ratios tend to suggest greater affordability with higher ratios indicating lower affordability.

4.121 **Table 4.14** presents mean affordability ratios between 2001 and 2019 in Cherwell, England and the South East. Mean affordability ratios are now 10.43 times workplace-based earnings in Cherwell, compared with 10.12 in South East England and 7.83 times in England. Between 2001 and 2019, the affordability ratio in Cherwell has increased from 6.67 to 10.43 (+3.76).

Table 4.14: Mean affordability ratios 2001-2019[117]

	2001	2011	2019	Increase 2001-2019
England	4.50	6.80	7.83	+3.33
South East	5.88	8.07	10.12	+4.24
Cherwell	6.67	7.81	10.43	+3.76

Average house prices

4.122 **Figure 4.22** indicates that Cherwell recorded the highest average price per dwelling in 2019 (£315,000). Property prices in Cherwell are consistently higher than the England median. In September 2019, the median property price in Cherwell was 31% higher than across England (£240,000).

4.123 Median house prices in Cherwell have grown by £230,005 between 1999 and 2019, substantially outstripping house price growth over this period at a national level (£169,000).

Figure 4.22: Median house prices for Cherwell and England[118]

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[117] ONS (2020) House price to workplace-based earnings ratio: table 1c and table 5c
[118] ONS median house prices for administrative geographies: HPSSA dataset 9
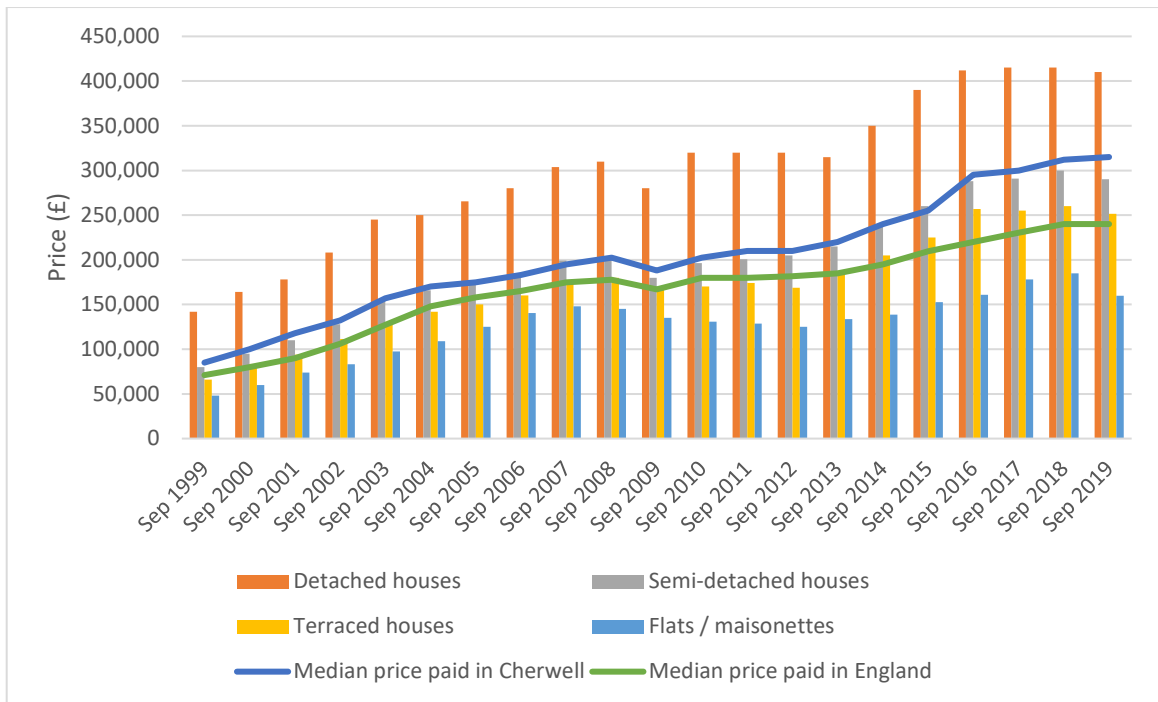
Average rents

4.124   The most recent data, for the year to September 2019, shows the overall median rent in Cherwell was £895 per calendar month[119]. This is equal to the median rent in the South East of England but £195 (28%) higher than the median rent in England (£700 per calendar month).

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

General health

4.125   The 2011 Census statistics suggest that perceived health in Cherwell is generally good with 85.0% of the population reporting themselves to be in very good or good health. Some 11.2% state they are in fair health, with only 3.0% and 0.8% in bad or very bad health respectively. The 2011 Census also found that 85.9% of the population in Cherwell state that their day-to-day activities are not limited by their health and 8.0% reported that their day-to-day activities are limited a little by their health.

4.126   The 2011 Census data found that 9,216 people in Cherwell provide 1 to 19 hours of unpaid care a week and 2,686 people provide 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week[120].

Life expectancy

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[119] ONS (2019) Private rental market summary statistics: October 2018 to September 2019
[120] ONS 2011 Census: table KS301EW

4.127   The life expectancy at birth for Cherwell men is 81 years and for women the figure is 83.5 years. This trend is consistent with the national average, 79.6 years for men and 83.2 for women. In Cherwell, life expectancy has increased from 77.4 years for men in 2001 and 81.7 years for women in 2001[121]. This represents an increase of 3.6 years (4.7%) and 1.8 years (2.2%) respectively.

4.128   Whilst life expectancy in Cherwell is above the England average, life expectancy can differ as much as seven years between the wealthier and more deprived communities. Public Health England estimate that life expectancy is 7.4 years lower for men and 6.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas in Cherwell than in the least deprived areas[122].

Obesity

4.129   It is estimated that the NHS spent an estimated £6.1 billion on overweight and obesity-related ill-health in 2014/15. More broadly, obesity has a serious impact on economic development. The overall cost of obesity to sider society is estimated at £27 billion. The NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with sider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year[123].

4.130   Excess weight in adults is a complex problem with multiple causes and significant implications. It is recognised as a major determinant of premature mortality and avoidable ill health. Adults are defined as overweight (including obese) if their body mass index (BMI) is greater than or equal to 25kg/m^2. Obesity is defined as a BMI greater than or equal to 30.

4.131   In 2017/18 an estimated 63.2% of people aged 18 or over in Cherwell were classified as overweight or obese which is higher than the average for England (62%) and the South East (60.3%)[124].

4.132   National data show that overweight and obesity prevalence tends to be higher in older age groups and is higher in males than in females. Obesity increases with deprivation, with 67.4% of people living in the most deprived areas experiencing overweight and obesity, compared to 56.4% of people living in the least deprived areas[125].

Obesity in young children

4.133   Despite being below the England average, obesity rates in primary school children more than double between Reception Year and Year 6. **Table 4.15** reveals that 17.5% of primary school leavers in Cherwell are obese. Obesity is associated with poor psychological and emotional health. Obese children are more likely to become obese adults with a higher risk of morbidity, disability and premature mortality in adulthood[126].

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[121] ONS (2019) Life expectancy at birth by local areas, UK
[122] Public Health England (2019) Local Authority Health Profile 2019 – Cherwell
[123] Public Health England (2017) Health matters: obesity and the food environment
[124] Public Health England (2018) Physical Activity Profile
[125] Oxfordshire County Council (2020) Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2020 draft
[126] Public Health England (2019) Childhood obesity: applying all our health

Table 4.15: Children who are obese and overweight in reception and in year 6 in Cherwell 2018/19 (academic)[127]

	2018/19 (academic)		
	Cherwell	**South East**	**England**
Obese in reception year	8.03%	8.53%	9.68%
Overweight and obese in reception year	20.20%	21.19%	22.59%
Obese in year 6	17.47%	16.79%	20.22%
Overweight and obese in year 6	29.35%	30.31%	34.29%

4.134 National data show that prevalence of healthy weight decreases as deprivation increases. In Reception Year, 27% of children in the most deprived decile are overweight (including obese) compared to 17% of children in the least deprived decile. In Year 6, 41% of children in the most deprived decile are overweight (including obese), compared to 27% of children in the least deprived decile.

4.135 In Year 6, obesity prevalence is significantly higher than the Oxfordshire average of 29% in Banbury Ruscote (39.7%), Banbury Cross and Neithrop (39.4%), and Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown (36.1%) wards[128].

4.136 There is evidence linking the density of fast food outlets to the level of area deprivation, and data compiled by Public Health England[129] shows higher concentrations of fast food outlets in England's most deprived communities. On 31 December 2017, Public Health England analysis identified that there were 459 fast food outlets in Oxfordshire of which 23% were in Cherwell. In Cherwell's more deprived neighbourhoods there is a higher density of fast food outlets. Banbury Cross and Neithrop was the ward with the highest number of fast food outlets (36); followed by Bicester East ward with 13 fast food outlets and Bicester South and Ambrosden which had the third highest number of fast food outlets (10)[130].

Physical activity

4.137 Chief Medical Officers' (CMO) guidelines are for adults to achieve at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week. Guidelines can also be met by doing 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week, or a combination of moderate and vigorous[131]. The latest data (2017/18) shows that 67.4% of Cherwell adults (19+) meet physical activity recommendations. This is slightly higher than the England average (66.3%) but lower than the South East average (69.8%)[132].

4.138 CMO guidelines for children aged between 5 and 18 are to achieve 60 minutes physical activity per day. This can be an average of 60 minutes per day across the week. For

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[127] NHS Digital (2019) National Child Measurement Programme: England
[128] Public Health England (2019) Child obesity and excess weight: small area level data
[129] Public Health England (2018) Fast food outlets: density by local authority in England
[130] Public Health England (2018) Fast food outlets: density by local authority in England
[131] Department of Health and Social Care (2019) UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines
[132] Public Health England (2018) Physical Activity Profile

children under 5 years the guidelines are for 180 minutes activity per day[133]. In Cherwell, 50.1% of children and young people are achieving an average of 60 minutes of physical activity per day, higher than the national average of 46.8%[134].

Long term health issues

4.139 Cherwell has an ageing population and the number of people living with long term conditions and disability is increasing which has significant implications for the economy and public service provision. Cherwell has a higher proportion of the 85+ reporting a disability than other districts (83%) and practices with the highest proportion of patients aged 85 and over are Gosford Hill Medical Centre (3.6%) and Cropredy Surgery (2.8%)[135].

4.140 An ageing population is also a key factor affecting a reduction in household size, homes will now need to be 'right-sized' to enable older people to move into smaller or supported accommodation. Increasing numbers of people living with long term conditions and disability will require improved accessibility standards in homes and the wider public realm to enable people to move around independently.

4.141 Common conditions include high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, and common mental health disorders like depression and anxiety. The proportion of patients recorded with diabetes in Cherwell is significantly higher than the Oxfordshire average. The mortality rate for females due to Dementia and Alzheimer's disease was above the national average in 2015 and 2016[136]. Although the prevalence of such conditions is generally worse in areas of deprivation, these issues affect the whole population.

Mental health

4.142 People with mental health disorders and disabilities have a higher risk of poor physical health and premature mortality than the general population. Reasons for this include the impact on physical health of deprivation and poverty, but also associated lifestyle behaviours with poor nutrition, obesity, higher levels of smoking, heavy alcohol use and lack of exercise contributing to higher rates of morbidity and lower life expectancy among people with mental health problems[137].

4.143 In 2017, the estimated prevalence of common mental disorders in people aged 16 and over in Cherwell was 14.2%. This is lower than the South East (14.2%) and England (16.9%) figures. The latest data also shows that the estimated prevalence of common mental disorders in people aged 65 and over in Cherwell (8.8%) is lower than the regional (9.2%) and national (10.2%) figures[138].

[133] Department of Health and Social Care (2019) UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines
[134] Public Health England (2018) Physical Activity Profile
[135] Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Annual Report: Summary for Cherwell District (2018)
[136] Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Annual Report: Summary for Cherwell District (2018)
[137] Friedli, L. and Dardis, C. (2002). Not all in the mind: mental health service user perspectives in mental health.
Journal of Mental Health Promotion. Vol 1(1). P36-46
[138] Public Health England (2019) Common mental health disorders – area profile – Cherwell

4.144 Isolation and loneliness have been found to be a significant health risk and a cause of increased use of health services. In 2016 Age UK published heat maps[139] showing the variation in the risk of loneliness within local authority areas. These maps highlight Banbury and Bicester Town as being in the highest risk quartile of all neighbourhoods in England.

Open space, leisure, recreation, health and wellbeing

4.145 There is significant and growing evidence on the physical and mental health benefits of green spaces. Research shows that access to green space is associated with better health outcomes and income-related inequality in health is less pronounced where people have access to green space. Key messages from the Public Health England report Local Action on Health Inequalities: Improving Access to Green Spaces (2014)[140] indicates that access to good quality green space is associated with a range of positive health outcomes including better self-rated health; lower body mass index scores, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing and increased longevity in older people. An overview of the open space, leisure, recreation assets available in the district is provided in paragraphs 4.85-4.92 of this SA Scoping Report.

Transport, health and wellbeing

4.146 A report prepared for the Department for Transport[141] has highlighted the physical health and mental wellbeing impacts of transport: "Good transport links allow people to connect and maintain relationships with others, access work opportunities, education or leisure activities outside their homes."

4.147 Active travel is cycling or walking for travel (rather than for leisure). In November 2017/18, 33.3% of Cherwell adults participated in active travel (at least twice in the last 28 days) which is below the national average (38.8%). In 2017/18, an estimated 73.7% of Cherwell adults walked or cycled at least one per week, which is above the national average (71.7%) and an increase from 69.7% in 2016/17[142].

Crime

4.148 The latest crime statistics (July 2018 – June 2019) show that the crime rate in Cherwell is 67 per 1,000 of the population, which is just below the wider Thames Valley force area of 68 per 1,000 of the population[143].

4.149 **Table 4.16** shows that between April 2011 and July 2019, there was an increase in both crime rates and in the severity of crime score in Cherwell.

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[139] Age UK (2016) Risk of loneliness in England http://data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/
[140]
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357411/Review8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf
[141] NatCen (2019) Transport, health and wellbeing: an evidence review for the Department for Transport
[142] DfT (2019) Walking and cycling statistics, England: 2018
[143] ONS (2019) Crime severity score – experimental statistics.

4.150 The crime severity score[144] uses (latest 5 years of) sentencing data – custodial sentences, community orders and fines – from the Ministry of Justice as the primary source for calculating offence weights. Applying the crime severity score up-weights violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery and down-weights theft, criminal damage and arson, fraud and other crimes against society. The crime severity score published by ONS gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones.

Table 4.16: Trend in crime rates per 1,000 population and crime severity score in Cherwell

	Crime severity score	**Offence rate per 1,000 population**
Apr 11 – Mar 12	4.5	56
Apr 12 – Mar 13	4.6	53
Apr 13 – Mar 14	4.9	51
Apr 14 – Mar 15	5.4	50
Apr 15 – Mar 16	7.4	58
Apr 16 – Mar 17	8.5	67
Jul 17 – Jun 18	9.6	71
Jul 18 – Jul 19	9.9	67

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Qualifications

4.151 The most recent statistics (2018) show that 5.6% of Cherwell residents aged 16-64 have no qualifications. This is equal to that of the South East region (5.6%) but lower than the national average (7.6%). The proportion of adults in Cherwell who have attained qualification levels equivalent to NVQ level 4 (HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) and above (40.1%) is below the regional average of 42.2% but slightly higher than the national average of 39.0% (**Table 4.17**)[145].

Table 4.17: Qualifications (Jan 2018-Dec 2018)

	Cherwell (level)	**Cherwell (%)**	**South East**	**England**
NVQ4 and above	35,800	40.1%	42.2%	39.0%
NVQ3 and above	53,800	60.3%	61.8%	57.7%
NVQ2 and above	70,800	79.4%	78.9%	75.0%
NVQ1 and above	81,200	91.0%	89.2%	85.6%
Other qualifications	*	*	5.2%	6.8%
No qualifications	5,000	5.6%	5.6%	7.6%

144

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/researchoutputsdevelopingacrimeseverityscoreforenglandandwalesusingdataoncrimesrecordedbythepolice/2016-11-29
[145] Nomis (2019) Labour Market Profile – Cherwell

*Sample size too small for reliable estimate

4.152 At GCSE, the Government has two headline measures: Attainment 8, which is pupils' average achievement across eight core subjects, and Progress 8, which shows pupils' improvement (or decline) since starting secondary school. In Cherwell the average Attainment 8 score in 2018/19 was 47.0, an increase from 45.5 the previous year. This is broadly consistent with the England average (46.9) but slightly below the South East average (47.9). In 2018/19, the average Progress 8 score per pupil in Cherwell was 0.02 which is similar (overlapping confidence intervals) to the national average (-0.03) and regional average (-0.01)[146].

ECONOMIC BASELINE

ECONOMY

4.153 Cherwell District Council belongs to the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). Local Enterprise Partnerships are business led partnerships between local authorities and local private sector businesses. They play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and job creation, improve infrastructure and raise workforce skills within the local area.

Employment and economic activity

4.154 Of the 77,000 total jobs in Cherwell in 2018, by far the highest proportion were in warehousing and retail (approximately 18,000), followed by the public sector (8,000 in health and residential care & social work and 8,500 in education, defence and public administration) and manufacturing (approximately 9,000). The break-down of occupations in Cherwell is similar to regional and national figures, except for in warehousing and retail jobs, where the proportion is notably higher (Cherwell 23.4%, South East 16.4%, England 15.4%). This reflects the economy of Banbury as a principally manufacturing town and service centre and Bicester as a former garrison town with a military logistics, storage and distribution and manufacturing base. Both towns are important economic locations for the District. Kidlington functions as a village service centre but has a varied employment base benefiting from its proximity to Oxford, its location next to the strategic road network, and the location of Oxford London Airport immediately to the north. Bicester and Kidlington lie within Oxford's hinterland. In the rural areas, the function of villages as places to live and commute from has increased as the traditional rural economy has declined.

4.155 As measured by the annual population survey, when considering the working age population: 74.5% is employed; 10.7% is self-employed; in all, 85.2% of the working

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[146] DfE (2020) Key stage 4 performance 2019 (revised)

aged are employed or self-employed[147]. This has been higher than the national average for over a decade. In September 2019, 14.1% of the working age population were economically inactive[148]. Reasons for economic inactivity being cited as – student; looking after family / home; sick; discouraged; retired or other reasons.

4.156 In Cherwell in 2011, 15% of those in employment were self-employed[149]. The latest figures (September 2019) indicate a reduction in the self-employed who now constitute 10.7% of those in employment. This is lower than the England (11.0%) and regional (12.1%) averages.

4.157 In September 2019, the Cherwell (model-based) unemployment rate was 2.4%. This is the number of people out of work, divided by the number of economically active individuals aged 16+. This was equivalent to 1,900 persons unemployed. This is lower than both the national (3.9%) and regional (3.1%) averages[150].

4.158 **Figure 4.23** and **Figure 4.24** demonstrate the differences in occupational mix between September 2011 and September 2019 for Cherwell compared to regional and national trends. The latest figures for Cherwell show that 36.4% of employees are in professional or managerial occupations. This is higher than the national (33%) and the regional average (35.8%). There are substantially less employees in elementary occupations in Cherwell compared to the national and regional averages.

4.159 Between 2011 and 2019 there has been an increase at both local and national level of the percentage of employees in technical, professional and managerial occupations. In Cherwell, 5.6% more people are now employed in technical occupations and 5.2% more in professional occupations compared to 2011. Managerial roles in Cherwell have seen a 2.4% percentage increase from 2011 to 2019. On a national scale, the percentage increase seen in these occupations has not been as pronounced, ranging from 1-1.9%.

4.160 The trend at local and national level has been of a decline in the percentage of employees in administrative and secretarial; skilled trades; caring, leisure and other service; sales and customer service; process plant and machine operatives; and elementary occupations between 2011 and 2019. Whilst the decline in these occupations in Cherwell is broadly similar to the regional and national picture, Cherwell experienced a 6.9% decline in the percentage of employees in elementary occupations compared to the declines experienced regionally and nationally (declines of 0.6% and 0.9% respectively).

Figure 4.23: Socio-economic classification of occupation (September 2019)

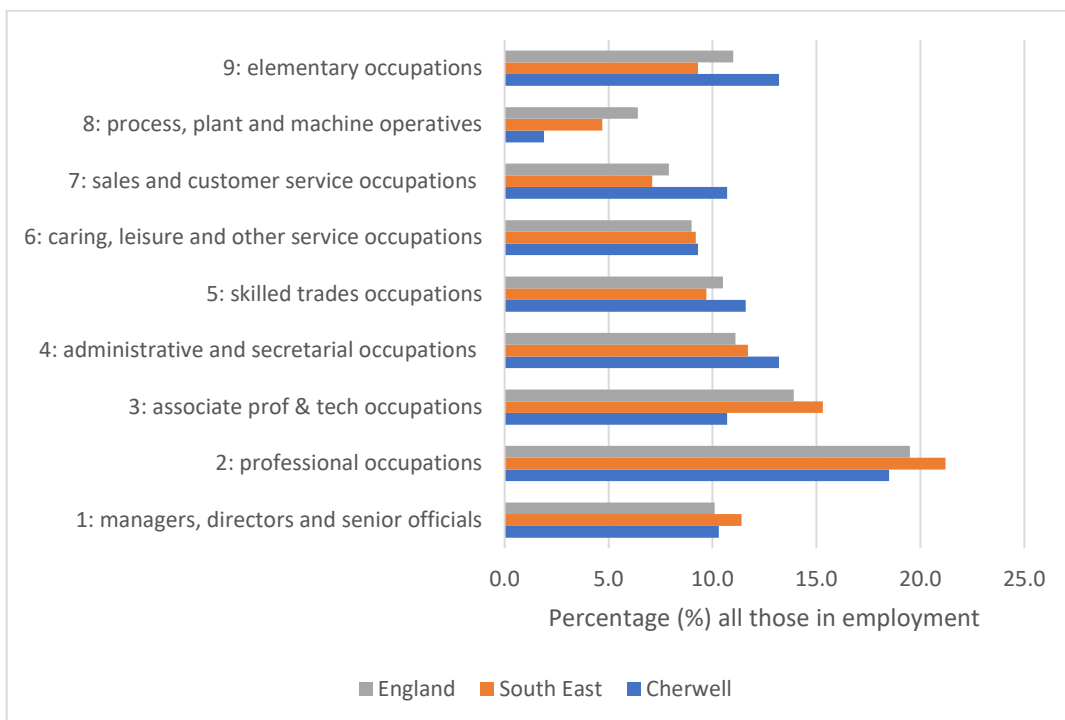[147] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell
[148] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell
[149] ONS 2011 Census
[150] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell

Figure 4.24: Socio-economic classification of occupation (September 2011)

Out of work benefits

4.161 The latest data available (May 2020) illustrates a claimant count (not seasonally adjusted) of 4.3% in Cherwell compared to a regional average of 5.4% and national average of 6.5%. The highest proportion of claimants of out of work benefits in Cherwell are those in the 18-21 age group. Between March and May 2020 there was a 175% increase in the number of the working age population claiming unemployment benefits

in Cherwell. This was above each of the increases across England (+114%) and the South East (+150%)[151].

Businesses

4.162 **Table 4.18** presents data for the size of UK businesses in Cherwell and the South East of England. The table presents analysis of businesses at both Enterprise and Local Unit level. An Enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. An individual site (for example a factory or shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

4.163 In Cherwell in 2019, 88.6% of enterprises are 'micro' (i.e. with 0-9 employees) and a further 9.4% are 'small' (i.e. with 10-49 employees). Whilst the percentage of micro enterprises in Cherwell is slightly lower than the regional average, the percentage of small businesses is slightly higher than the regional average. The percentage of medium and large enterprises is similar to that of the South East of England.

Table 4.18: UK business counts (2019)[152]

	Cherwell	South East
Enterprises		
Micro (0 to 9)	88.6%	90.2%
Small (10 to 49)	9.4%	8.0%
Medium (50 to 249)	1.7%	1.5%
Large (250+)	0.4%	0.4%
Local Units		
Micro (0 to 9)	82.6%	85.6%
Small (10 to 49)	14.0%	11.7%
Medium (50 to 249)	3.0%	2.4%
Large (250+)	0.4%	0.3%

4.164 Across Cherwell, 5% of workers work from home (compared to 3% nationally and 4% in the South East)[153].

Employee jobs and jobs density

4.165 In 2018 there were approximately 77,000 jobs (52,000 full time and 25,000 part time) in Cherwell. This is an increase of 6.9% (5,000 jobs) since 2015 which is substantially more than the increase in jobs experienced in the south east (1.9%) and England (3.7%) over the same three-year period.

4.166 In terms of jobs density, the latest statistics indicate that there are around 0.93 jobs per person aged 16-64. There are more jobs in Cherwell compared to England (0.87) or the South East (0.88)[154].

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[151] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell
[152] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell
[153] ONS 2011 Census table QS701
[154] Nomis (2020) Labour market profile – Cherwell

Earnings

4.167 **Table 4.19** confirms that in 2019, the average gross weekly pay for residents of ages 16 and above in full time work in Cherwell was £578.80. This figure is lower than the regional average of £613.50 per week and the national average of £591.40.

Table 4.19: Average pay in Cherwell in 2019[155]

	Cherwell	South East	England
Gross weekly pay for full-time worker	£578.80	£613.50	£591.40
Hourly pay for full-time worker	£14.45	£15.59	£14.94

Productivity

4.168 Cherwell's GVA per hour worked is consistently above the average for England. Whilst GVA per hour worked in Cherwell has been broadly consistent with the South East average, in 2017 and 2018, Cherwell's productivity fell below the regional average (**Figure 4.25**).

Figure 4.25: GVA per hour worked (£) 2004-2018
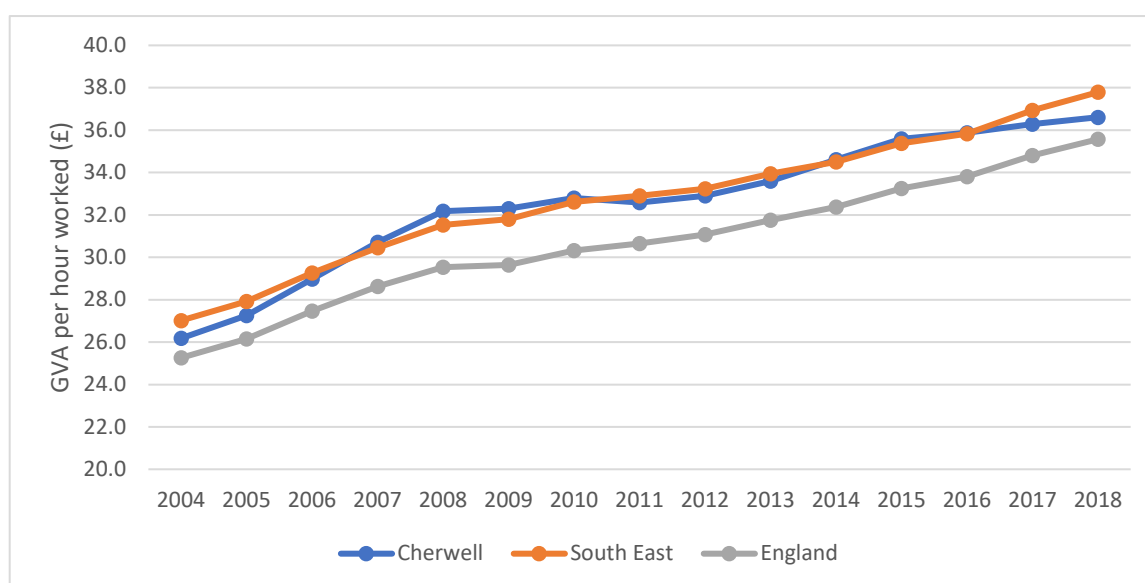
Business floorspace

4.169 Statistics on the floorspace of non-domestic properties on the 2017 central and local ratings lists as at 31 March 2019 are illustrated in **Table 4.20.**

Table 4.20: Total non-domestic floorspace by sector in Cherwell at 31 March 2019[156]

	Total floorspace (sq. m)
Retail sector	338,000 sq. m

Office sector	192,000 sq. m
Industrial sector	1,215,000 sq. m
Other sector	172,000 sq. m

4.170 The data in **Table 4.20** establishes that the industrial sector makes up the majority of non-domestic floorspace in Cherwell, followed by the other sector, the retail sector and the office sector. Non-domestic floorspace in the district is dominated by the industrial sector as a result of the economies of Bicester and Banbury being heavily focussed on manufacturing, storage and distribution, food processing and engineering.

Retail and town centres

4.171 Data from the Valuation Office Agency which is presented in **Table 4.20** confirms that retail premises make up 17.6% of Cherwell's total business floorspace and between 2000 and 2019, Cherwell experienced a 35.7% growth on retail floorspace (89,000 sq. m)[157]. Banbury is the largest of the three main centres in Cherwell and acts as a sub-regional shopping centre. The Castle Quay shopping centre is situated in the centre of Banbury by the Oxford Canal off Castle Street. It contains over 80 stores including national multiple retailers, cafes, restaurants and specialist independent stores. Bicester's historic shopping streets, particularly Sheep Street and Market Square, have a range of local and national shops together with cafes, pubs and restaurants. A redevelopment of the town centre, named Pioneer Square, opened in 2013, offering a supermarket, 7-screen cinema and small retail units and restaurants. South of Bicester is Bicester Village Outlet Centre, and beyond that is Bicester Avenue Home and Garden Centre. Recent additions to Bicester include out-of-centre retail parks off the A41 to the south of the town. Kidlington is a large village and whilst considerably smaller than the town centres of Banbury and Bicester, its centre plays an important role serving the local population.

4.172 In August 2017, there were 38 empty and / or available shop units in Banbury Town Centre, which equates to 8.07% of the total number of units[158]. The most recent survey of vacancy rates (April 2018) shows 27 empty and / or available shop units in Banbury Town Centre, which equates to 6% of the total number of units[159]. Town centre vacancy rates data are not available for Bicester or Kidlington.

4.173 Town centres across the country are facing some serious economic and social challenges due to the changing nature of consumer demand in recent years. Data published by Springboard[160] confirms that retail footfall is now declining by between 1% and 2% per annum and the rate of footfall decline in high streets has accelerated sharply in the last two years.

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[157] Valuation Office Agency (2019) Non-domestic rating business floorspace tables: table FS2.0
[158] Cherwell District Council (2017) Annual Monitoring Report
[159] Cherwell District Council (2018) Annual Monitoring Report
[160] Springboard (2019) 2019 Footfall Review

4.174 Banbury has fallen 16 places in the 2017 VenueScore annual ranking[161] of the UK's top 200 retail venues. Banbury is one of the biggest fallers in terms of its retail ranking.

Tourism

4.175 The combination of historical towns and the district's rural setting are important factors for attracting visitors to Cherwell.

4.176 Banbury is an old market town with its origins dating back to the Saxon era and is host to many historical attractions such as Broughton Castle and Tooley's boatyard dating back over 200 years. The town is attractive with many independent shops, restaurants and cafes and a range of accommodation. The Oxford Canal passes through Banbury offering the opportunities for tourist trips on narrowboats or to walk along its tranquil towpaths.

4.177 Growing from a small agricultural market town, Bicester echoes its past by holding traditional weekly market-day, as well as a Farmers' Market once a month in the Market Square. The town also has many places of historic interest including a 17th century Dovecote, St. Edburg's Church built in 1104 and the Old Priory and the Old Vicarage built around 1500.

4.178 Other popular tourism assets within Cherwell, which are used by both residents and visitors, include the Deddington Farmer's Market, Banbury Museum and Bicester Village (more than 130 outlet boutiques of British and international brands). The 2017 VenueScore rankings[162] place Bicester Village second in terms of its tourist score index which recognises the destination as providing the second greatest mix of retailers appealing to the tourist shopper. Bicester Village was also recognised as offering the most differentiated aspirational brand mix by some margin with a value-luxury index of 178 – a positioning above London's Knightsbridge.

4.179 Between January and December 2018 there were 8,147,873 visitors to the district (an increase of over 495,000 visitors from last year): 7,743,873 of day visitors; and 404,000 of overnight trips. The total visitors spend for the year is £370,886,000 which is an increase of £22,963,000 from last year. The total tourism value is £453,549,000[163].

TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

Road network

4.180 People living in, working in, or visiting Cherwell rely upon transport networks in their day to day lives, whether for example, to get to work, to access healthcare, leisure and other services, to transport goods, or to visit friends and family. Transport infrastructure is vital to spatial planning and must serve rural and urban areas and diverse user groups.

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[161] Javelin Group (2017) Venuescore 2017 UK shopping venue rankings: Executive summary
[162] Javelin Group (2017) Venuescore 2017 UK shopping venue rankings: Executive summary
[163] Cherwell District Council (2019) Annual Monitoring Report

4.181 The M40 runs north-south through the district passing to the east of Banbury and to the west of Bicester providing good links to London and Birmingham. There are also a number of A roads within the district as shown in **Figure 4.26: Transport Links**.

4.182 Cherwell District Council works with partners on transport and travel matters. These partners include Oxfordshire County Council (Highways Authority), Highways England which are responsible for the trunk roads, and Network Rail, among others.

Commuting patterns

4.183 The number of commuters increased by 8% between 2001 and 2011. In 2011, Cherwell had net commuting outflows of 2,978 persons[164].

Figure 4.27: Commuting to and from Cherwell in 2011
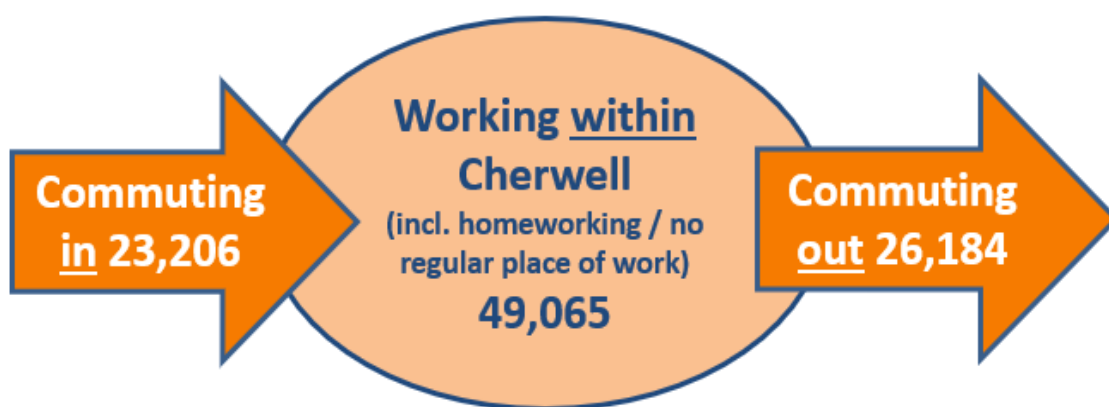
4.184 **Figure 4.27** demonstrates that more people travelled out of Cherwell district to work than travelled in. In 2011, approximately 35% of employed residents travel out of the district to work elsewhere, compared with 32% of the workforce travelling in. The greatest number of outbound commutes is to Oxford City (9,500) which is 400 more than in 2001. Journeys to Aylesbury and Stratford on Avon have increased since by 330 and 250 respectively between 2001 and 2011. In 2011, slightly fewer residents were travelling to Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire than in 2001 (2,700 compared with 2,800). The greatest number of inbound commutes to Cherwell is from South Northamptonshire, although this fell from 4,500 in 2001 to 4,300 in 2011. The greatest increase in inbound commuting between 2001 and 2011 was from Aylesbury Vale: 2,200 workers began their journey here, almost 500 more than in 2001. 600 additional journeys were made into Cherwell in 2011 from West Oxfordshire and Oxford (300 from each district)[165].

4.185 At the 2011 Census, 70,072 Cherwell residents were commuting to work outside their home. Of these, 8.5% used public transport, 73.6% were in a car or van and 16.5% were cycling or on foot[166]. **Table 4.21** demonstrates that the number of Cherwell residents

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[164] ONS Census 2001 table T103 and T10; ONS Census 2011 table WU03
[165] https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/system/files/documents/TTW%20briefing_110914_FINAL.pdf
[166] ONS Census 2011 table QS701EW

commuting to work by car or van is higher than the regional and national averages. The number of Cherwell residents commuting to work by public transport is significantly lower than the regional and national averages.

Table 4.21: Method of travel to work

	Cherwell	South East	England
Car or van	73.6%	70.5%	66.1%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Public transport	8.5%	13.0%	17.9%
Bicycle	3.7%	3.2%	3.1%
On foot	12.8%	11.6%	11.3%
Other method	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%

Car ownership

4.186 Car ownership in Cherwell is high. According to 2011 census data, 15.6% of households in Cherwell had no cars or vans in household, which is significantly lower than the national average of 25.6%. 40.1% of households in Cherwell have one car or van and 43.0% have two or more cars or vans in household[167].

Road traffic casualties

4.187 In 2018 there were a total of 66 road casualties in Cherwell, 7 of which were fatal and 59 of which were serious (**Table 4.22**). This includes pedestrians and cyclists as well as motor vehicle occupants. Whilst killed or seriously injured (KSI) numbers have fallen over time, Cherwell has a significantly higher KSI rate than in the South East and England, with 61 deaths per 100,000 population[168].

Table 4.22: Killed and seriously injured from road accidents, 2018[169]

	Pedestrian	Pedal cycle	Motor cycle	Car	Other	Total
Fatal	0	0	1	6	0	7
Serious	10	11	10	25	3	59

Public transport network

4.188 There are bus services which provide a range of routes and connect the main towns, villages and centres within the District.

4.189 There are five railway stations in Cherwell as illustrated in **Figure 4.26: Transport Links**. Banbury station is served by Chiltern Railways connecting Banbury with London Marylebone, Oxford and Birmingham. Cross Country linking the town with Manchester,

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[167] ONS Census 2011 table KS404EW
[168] Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Annual Report: Summary for Cherwell District (2019)
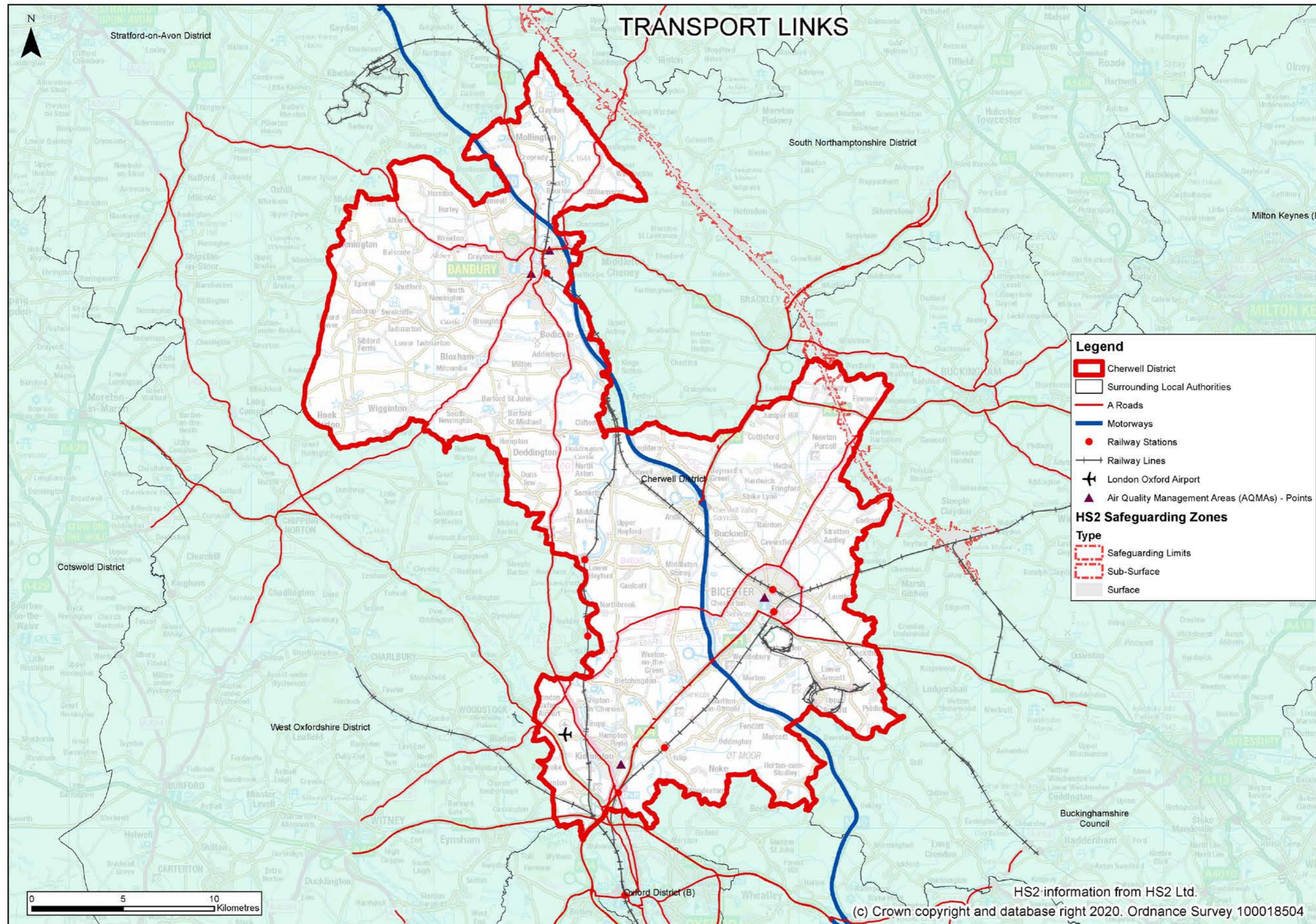[169] Oxfordshire County Council (2018) Road Traffic Accident Casualty Data Summary

Bournemouth, Newcastle and Reading. The station has four platforms, 978 car parking spaces and 63 cycle storage spaces.

4.190 Bicester has two train stations; Bicester North and Bicester Village. Bicester North station is on the Chiltern Main Line running south to London Marylebone and north to Birmingham. Bicester Village linking Oxford Parkway to London Marylebone.

4.191 Oxford Parkway Station is also served by Chiltern Railways and is located between Kidlington and Oxford, near the A34. In October 2015, a new line was introduced to London Marylebone from this station. The proposed HS2 route passes through small sections of the district's eastern boundary.

4.192 Future East-West Rail phases will improve east west rail connections to Bletchley, Milton Keynes and Cambridge.

4.193 London Oxford Airport is situated north-west of Kidlington. The airport is home to the Oxford Aviation Academy training student commercial pilots. The airport is mainly used for private and recreational aviation activity as well as operating a small number of private and chartered flights.

TRANSPORT LINKS

Legend

- Cherwell District
- Surrounding Local Authorities
- A Roads
- Motorways
- Railway Stations
- Railway Lines
- London Oxford Airport
- Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) - Points

HS2 Safeguarding Zones

Type
- Safeguarding Limits
- Sub-Surface
- Surface

HS2 information from HS2 Ltd.
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0   5   10
Kilometres

4.194 In 2013, Oxfordshire County Council entered into a contract with BT for upgrading broadband infrastructure across the county as part of the Better Broadband in Oxfordshire Programme[170]. By December 2019, the availability of superfast broadband has extended to 97% of all premises (business and residential) across the district – as illustrated in **Figure 4.28**. This is higher than the England figure of 96.9%[171].

Figure 4.28: Availability of superfast broadband in Cherwell

Authority classed as Significant Rural (SR)			
Superfast (>24 Mbps):	98.05%	Below 2 Mbps down:	0.31%
Superfast (>=30 Mbps):	97.93%	Below 10 Mbps down: (Legal USO)	1.09%
Ultrafast (>100 Mbps):	45.31%	Below 10 Mbps, 1.2 Mbps up:	1.35%
Openreach (>30 Mbps):	94.55%	Below 15 Mbps: (High Speed Broadband)	1.60%
Openreach FTTP:	6.67%		
Openreach G.fast:	14.81%	Virgin Media Cable:	22.99%
'Fibre' partial/full at any speed: (FTTC/VDSL/G.fast/Cable/FTTP)	99.35%	Full Fibre (FTTP or FTTH):	11.82%
		Gigabit (DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP):	11.82%

4.195 Whilst superfast broadband coverage has extended to 98% of the district, information from Think Broadband confirms that full fibre (FTTP or FTTH) only extends to 11.8% of the district which is lower than the England average of 13%.

4.196 The next generation of mobile connectivity, 5G, is expected to be ten times faster than the 4G network currently used by smartphones and potentially faster than home fibre broadband. The other benefits of 5G include lower latency or response times, greater

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[170] http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/
[171] Local Broadband Information by Think Broadband https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/cherwell-district,E07000177 (date accessed: 01/04/2020)

capacity for users, improved reliability and greater flexibility as a single physical network can be divided into numerous virtual networks suited to different needs. The 5G network is to be gradually rolled-out across the UK. According to the Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan (2020), to date there have been no plans formally announced for any 5G coverage in Oxfordshire, although engagement with UK mobile infrastructure service companies is underway. The online 5G coverage checker[172] lists the expected rollout dates of 5G for towns and cities and is updated on a regular basis.

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[172] https://5g.co.uk/coverage/

5. KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND LIKELY EVOLUTION WITHOUT THE PLAN

5.1   Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Cherwell to be identified.

Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires consideration of:

"*the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and*

any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan."

5.2   The key sustainability issues for Cherwell and the likely evolution of the environment in Cherwell if the Local Plan Review was not implemented are presented in **Table 5.1** and meet these requirements.

5.3   The Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 was adopted on 20 July 2015. It contains strategic development sites and a range of planning policies which replaced many of the saved policies of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 1996. Appendix 7 of the adopted Local Plan provides a list of the 1996 saved policies which continue to be used. Without the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity for new policy to address environmental (and other) issues and objectives.

Table 5.1: Current and likely future sustainability issues in Cherwell and the likely evolution without the Local Plan Review

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
Climate change	
Climate change is likely to result in extreme weather events – including intense rainfall, prolonged high temperatures and drought – becoming more common and more intense. Carbon emissions per capita are gradually decreasing and there is a requirement to contribute positively to the UK government's legally binding target to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to meet the District's declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019. As part of this, the council have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. High electricity consumption and poor uptake of ultra-low emissions vehicles do not contribute positively to climate change mitigation in the District.	Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policies ESD 1 to ESD 5 and the Oxfordshire Emerging Oxfordshire Energy Strategy aim to address and tackle climate change. Extreme weather events will still take place and other trends continue. However, without the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting objectives to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions through sustainable site allocations, encouraging the provision of renewable energy and more sustainable construction and design.
Flooding	
Flood risk in the District relates mostly to flooding from rivers and watercourses and climate change is likely to increase the potential for flash flooding frequency and severity due from these sources.	Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy ESD 6 seeks to reduce flood risk in the district by safeguarding floodplains and not increasing flood risk elsewhere. Policy ESD 7 requires all development to use SuDS for the management of surface water run-off. The Oxfordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how the County will manage flood risk in the future. These policies and strategy would continue to apply and manage flood risk in the absence of the Local Plan Review. However, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	new policy that would further assist in meeting the objectives of reducing flood risk and risk to life.
Water	
Cherwell is in an area of serious water stress with climate change and a growing population likely to increase existing pressures.

The biological and ecological statuses of watercourses in the district are poor.

High number of existing groundwater and surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. | The adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 includes policies seeking to protect and enhance water quality and protect water courses in the district including Policy ESD 8 which seeks to maintain water quality, ensure adequate water resources, promote sustainability of water use and will only permit development where adequate water resources exist and that do not adversely affect the water quality. In relation to the Oxford Meadows SAC, Policy ESD 9 requires development to have no adverse effects on the water quality or quantity of any adjacent or nearby watercourses.

These policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, however, without a coordinated approach to development and infrastructure, it is possible that development could be located in areas that will exacerbate existing water quality issues and there may not be sufficient waste water treatment capacity to accommodate growth. Opportunities to encourage the minimisation of wastewater during construction and the operation of buildings may not be realised. Other local strategies including the Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2015) will likely be in place but will not perform the same function as the Local Plan Review.

Climate change and a growing population will place increased pressure on water resources and wastewater treatment works and could result in low flow rivers during the summer thereby increasing the likelihood of droughts. |

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
Air	
Poor air quality is experienced in parts of Cherwell due to high concentrations of nitrogen oxide. There are four AQMAs designated in the district and additional development both within Cherwell and in neighbouring authorities has potential to exacerbate air quality issues at these areas.	Cherwell District Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2020 (2017) outlines the actions that the Council will take to improve air quality in Cherwell but only covers a short time period and cannot deal with development matters. Recent national policies and the emergence of new technologies are likely to improve air quality, for example, through cleaner fuels and energy sources. Without local up to date planning policy to facilitate the use of new technologies air quality may worsen. In the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to explore options for new policy to assist in meeting the objectives of improving air quality.
Material assets	
Cherwell contains safeguarded mineral resources which, where possible, should not be lost or compromised by future growth. Within the District there is a large amount of high-quality agricultural land, in particular Grades 2 and 3 which should be protected from development where appropriate. Much of the recent development which has occurred in the District has occurred on greenfield sites. While the District performs favourably in relation to the national average for recycling household waste, a growing population will place increased pressure on waste management facilities	Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 2 seeks to manage and support the use of previously developed land. This policy would continue to apply in the absence of the Cherwell Local Plan Review. However, without the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting the objectives of appropriate consideration of the best and most versatile agricultural land, including prioritising the use of previously developed land . In addition, there are potential risks of inappropriately located development which could lead to the loss of mineral resources. Adopted Cherwell Local Plan policy ESD 3 provides for waste and recycling. It is likely that waste management provision would continue

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
and there will be a need to promote the 'waste hierarchy' over the plan period.	as Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for its provision. However, the requirements of the latest Oxfordshire County Council produced Mineral and Waste plans would become increasingly difficult to achieve. More waste would be generated and less waste potentially recycled. Furthermore, the Cherwell Local Plan Review provides an opportunity to promote waste minimisation and recycling initiatives.
Biodiversity	
Cherwell contains many areas of high ecological value including sites of international and national importance and these are increasing pressures relating to urbanisation pressures, including disturbance and damage from recreational use. Not all SSSIs are in favourable condition. Climate change will affect biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem services.	Stress on biodiversity assets is likely to continue due to pressure for further development and growth. The adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 already includes policies seeking to address these pressures: Policy ESD 10 seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment. Policy ESD 11 requires proposed development within or adjacent to a Conservation Area Target Area to provide biodiversity surveys and a report will be required to identify constraints and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. Policy ESD 9 seeks protection of the Oxford Meadows SAC. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, However, without the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy to further assist in meeting the objectives of avoiding inappropriate development damaging Cherwell's valuable habitats and species. Erosion and fragmentation of habitats and ecological networks could take place through poorly located and designed development.
Cultural heritage	
The District contains numerous designated heritage assets including conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered	The adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Policy ESD 15 requires all new development to complement and enhance the character of its context through sensitive siting, layout and high quality design. Where

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
parks and gardens, a historic battlefield and listed buildings and some of these are identified on the Heritage at Risk Register. These heritage assets and their setting may be at risk from poorly located or designed development. Each of the three urban areas and the rural settlements in the District have their own unique character.	development is in the vicinity of any distinctive or historic assets, the policy states that delivering high quality design that complements the asset will be essential. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting objectives. Without the Local Plan Review there is less scope for detailed policy to positively influence design. There would be a risk of loss of heritage assets due to a less coordinated approach to housing and delivery. This could lead to an increase in historic assets on the Heritage at Risk register and the loss of historic assets. Furthermore, uncontrolled or unsympathetic development could harm local landscape and townscape character.
Landscape	
The District has significant areas of landscape importance, including the Cotswolds AONB and a diverse range of nationally recognised landscape character areas. It also benefits from large areas of open countryside. These areas are under pressure from urban influences and the demand for new development is strong. Indirect effects of development can erode landscape character through increased noise and light pollution, loss of tranquillity, recreational pressure, changes to the water environment,	The Strategic Environmental and Economic Investment Plan for Oxfordshire (2016) identifies five strategic priorities for environmental investment including landscape protection. However, it does not directly deal with development proposals at the local level to protect valuable landscape. The adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 Policy ESD 12 seeks to protect and enhance the AONB and Policy ESD 13 aims to protect and enhance the character and appearance of Cherwell's landscape. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
pressure on habitats and biodiversity and the historic environment that contribute to landscape character. Development in the south of Cherwell is constrained by the Oxford Green Belt.	policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting objectives. Uncontrolled and unplanned development may come forward in inappropriate locations which could lead to a degradation and loss of valued landscapes and lead to inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Green open space, sport and recreation facilities would likely be under threat from development.
Population	
Growing population will increase the demand for housing and services and put additional requirements on local infrastructure. An ageing population is likely to have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health. There is a need to reduce the inequalities gap between those living in the most and least deprived areas of Cherwell. 31% of Cherwell's population live in rural areas. Rural areas tend to have fewer jobs, services and facilities than urban locations and continue to lose services and facilities.	The adopted Local Plan contains policies and sites which provide for new homes. The adopted Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 (Policy BSC 4) requires new development to provide for a mix of homes which responds to both housing need and market conditions. It addresses specifically the need to respond to an aging population by requiring large housing sites to provide specialist housing for older people. With regard to addressing deprivation, Policy BSC 5 supports area renewal proposals that direct investment to improve the physical and community fabric of the District to improve social outcomes, improve health and wellbeing, educational attainment and employment outcomes. The adopted Local Plan also contains policies and proposals for employment development which will help to address deprivation. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting objectives They are not informed by the most up to date

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	information on housing and infrastructure needs. Issues may arise including: • A less co-ordinated approach to housing delivery and risk of development not being directed to areas where it is needed and where the adverse effects are minimised. • Undersupply of housing and affordable housing. • Without strategic targeting, the most deprived areas could see no reduction in deprivation. In rural areas services and infrastructure may fall behind population growth, leading to communities without access to required infrastructure and services.
Housing	
There is an increasing need for a mixture of housing in the District that will meet more specialist needs including the needs of older people. Cherwell has become increasingly unaffordable in recent years and is considerably less affordable than the national average. Therefore, there is a need for the provision of affordable housing in the District.	The proportion of new housing that will be affordable is determined through the adopted Local Plan Part 1 through Policy BSC 3 which requires a minimum of 30% of housing to be affordable at Banbury and Bicester and 35% at Kidlington and elsewhere. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting objectives. They are not informed by the most up to date information on housing and infrastructure needs. There would be a risk of: • Not meeting Objectively Assessed Need. • Decline in the delivery of affordable homes.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	• The population may be forced out of the district to have access to affordable housing. • Lack of space standards for new homes. • Not planning positively for a mix of housing types and tenures. • Specialist housing would still be provided but the supply may not meet demand.
Health and wellbeing	
Ageing population and high proportion of the population with long-term health problems and disabilities. There is also disparity between the most and least deprived areas of Cherwell. Obesity is an issue that affects much of the population in Cherwell, including children. Adult physical activity is lower than the regional average. Parts of the District experience higher levels of social isolation and loneliness. Crime is increasing in Cherwell and the severity of crime has increased in recent years.	The Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023 outlines how the NHS, Councils and Healthwatch will work together to improve health and wellbeing. However, it does not provide the detailed local planning policy that is required to assist in its implementation. Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 8 supports the provision of health facilities in sustainable locations. With regards to open space, sport and recreation provision, Policies BSC 10, BSC 11 and BSC 12 seek to protect existing sites, address existing deficiencies and set out the Council's requirements for new developments. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting the objectives. There would be a risk of: • Missed opportunities to plan positively for healthier lifestyles and encourage walking and cycling. • Continuing health inequalities. • No opportunities to address ageing population and meet the needs of a changing population. • There is potential for the quality of open spaces to deteriorate, whilst access to open space will remain limited.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	Cherwell's Local Plan does not contain a policy relating to crime. In the absence of the Local Plan Review it is likely that crime would continue to take place and less opportunity to "design out" opportunities for crime.
Education and skills	
Much of the population has achieved a high level of educational attainment although there are some residents who have no qualifications.	Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 7 states that the Council will work with partners to ensure the provision of educational facilities. The policy seeks to encourage the co-location of services and facilities with schools. Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for ensuring there are enough school places in the correct areas and the Pupil Place Plan 2019-2023 sets out how school provision is expected to change based upon birth rates school capacity and new housing. Without the Cherwell Local Plan Review, school place planning at County level will continue. However, without a coordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure there is a risk of not matching supply of educational facilities to meet demand. Without appropriate skills and training, the population will be less likely to contribute to and enable the reinforcement of a strong competitive local economy. The district will also be unable to proactively meet development needs of business and support a fit economy.
Economy	
The District has a relatively low unemployment rate; however, rates of unemployment benefits are highest amongst younger people. Out-commuting by residents of the District.	Policy SLE 1 in the Local Plan provides for new strategic employment. However, this may not provide for future employment needs. Without the Local Plan Review there would be a less coordinated approach to new employment development leading to poor access to

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
Town centres face pressures from the rise of online retailing and provision of out-of-town shopping centres. The District's tourism industry is an important part of the local economy and there will be a need to support this sector over the plan period.	employment opportunities, including in the rural areas. Employment growth could be sporadic and not balanced with new housing development leading to commuting. Infrastructure to support existing and future business may not be put in place. They may be fewer residents being employed within the District leading to a lack of a skilled workforce and a strong competitive economy. The Local Plan part contains policies for town centres including Policy SLE2, Bicester 5, Banbury 7 and Kidlington 2. The number of vacant units in town centres is partly due to the increase in online sales, which is a nationally significant change in shopping behaviours, however without up to date planning policies which take account of recent trends and evidence to assist town centres the vitality and viability of town and retail centres will be seriously affected. Policy SLE3 of the Local Plan provides for tourism development without the Local Plan Review there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting the objective of sustainable tourism development on identified sites which could provide jobs.
Transport and connectivity	
While Cherwell's town centres are well served by public transport, rural settlements have more limited public transport provision. In general, there is a high dependency on private car use in the District, which also reflects its rural character as well	Oxfordshire County Council is the Highway Authority and therefore has ultimate responsibility for highway decisions. The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) provides a strategic policy framework to address transport and connectivity issues across the county. In the absence of

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
as the high level of out commuting from Cherwell. This trend also contributes to congestion issues at some locations. Cherwell has a high number of people killed or seriously injured from road accidents. Being a largely rural district, distances between key services and facilities in rural areas are lengthy, exacerbating dependence on the private car.	the Cherwell Local Plan Review, its policies would continue to apply but district-level detail would be missing. Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy ESD 1 requires development to be located in sustainable locations, seeking to reduce the need to travel and maximising the use of sustainable modes of transport to reduce dependence on the private car. Policy SLE 4 also seeks to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport and supports proposals which limit greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the Local Plan Review, there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting the objectives and there would be a risk that: - New development and an increased population could result in increased car ownership and journeys by car. This could result in increased pressure on the road network and public transport infrastructure and could exacerbate air quality issues. - A less strategic overview of development and infrastructure delivery may occur. - Necessary highway infrastructure may not be strategically implemented. - Existing patterns of transport are likely to be reinforced, with high levels of car dependency and less opportunities to tackle social exclusion and resolve strategic matters. - Poorly located development would result in a lack of travel choice and high levels of dependency on the car.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cherwell	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan Review
	As part of the national policy drive to increase the uptake of zero emission vehicles, there may be an increased uptake of clean vehicle technology.
Digital infrastructure	
Superfast broadband coverage has extended to much of the District, however, full fibre (FTTP or FTTH) extends to parts of the District. 3G and 4G mobile coverage will need to be improved and the roll out of 5G should be facilitated over the plan period.	Adopted Cherwell Local Plan Policy BSC 9 seeks to ensure that all new developments include provision for connection to Superfast Broadband. This policy will continue to apply in the absence of the Cherwell Local Plan Review, however there would not be the opportunity to examine existing policy and explore options for new policy that would further assist in meeting the objectives. Without the Local Plan Review there is a risk of: • Damage to the rural economy from lack of reliable broadband connectivity and mobile phone coverage. • Businesses that cannot access good quality broadband may leave the area. • Missed opportunities to capitalise on the digital economy to support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections. • Poor mobile phone coverage could disadvantage the district.

6. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OBJECTIVES

6.1 The development of a set of SA objectives as part of an SA framework is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan and alternatives can be described, analysed and compared.

6.2 The SA frameworks that were developed for the Local Plan Part 1 and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 have been used as the starting point for the SA framework for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040. It has been reviewed in light of the revised and updated review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline information and key sustainability issues for Cherwell and amendments have been made to a number of the objectives to ensure that they are appropriate for the SA of the Cherwell Local Plan Review.

6.3 The proposed SA framework for the Local Plan Review is presented in **Table 6.1**. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations).

Table 6.1: SA Framework for the Cherwell Local Plan Review

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
Environmental		
1. To minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	1. Will it promote energy efficient design and the use of recycled materials? 2. Will it encourage the provision of renewable energy infrastructure? 3. Will it minimise greenhouse gas emissions from transport?	Climatic factors Air
2. To support the district's adaptation to unavoidable climate change.	1. Will it promote design which will help to mitigate the effects of climate change (for example through appropriate building orientation and incorporation of SuDS)? 2. Will it support the protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure network?	Climatic factors
3. To conserve and enhance the district's	1. Will it maintain and enhance internationally designated nature conservation sites?	Biodiversity

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
biodiversity and geodiversity.	2. Will it maintain and enhance nationally or locally designated nature conservation and geodiversity sites?	Fauna and flora
	3. Will it avoid disturbance or damage to protected species and their habitats?	
	4. Will it minimise the fragmentation of existing habitats and enhance, restore or create ecological networks?	
	5. Will it achieve net gains in biodiversity?	
	6. Will it provide opportunities for people to come into contact with resilient wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of such locations?	
4. To protect and enhance landscape character and the district's countryside.	1. Will it protect, enhance and restore the district's natural environment assets?	Landscape Biodiversity Flora and fauna
	2. Will it improve the landscape, ecological quality and character of open spaces?	
	3. Will it safeguard the character and distinctiveness of the district's settlements?	
	4. Will it prevent coalescence between settlements?	
5. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the district's historic environment.	1. Will it conserve and enhance the district's nationally and locally designated cultural and heritage assets, including their setting?	Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
	2. Will it help preserve and record archaeological features?	

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
	3. Will it help to bring heritage assets back into acceptable use where appropriate?	
6. To encourage efficient patterns of movement, promote sustainable travel and reduce the need to travel by car.	1. Will it promote the delivery of integrated, compact communities made-up of a complementary mix of land uses? 2. Will it help to address road congestion? 3. Will it enhance connectivity of the sustainable transport network and provide new walking and cycling infrastructure? 4. Will it provide good access to services and facilities?	Human health Material assets Climatic factors Air
7. To protect and where possible improve air quality and prevent light pollution.	1. Will it protect and improve air quality? 2. Will it avoid and mitigate adverse health effects associated with air pollution? 3. Will it minimise air pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses? 4. Will it help to prevent residential development occurring in close proximity to unsuitable neighbouring uses? 5. Will it avoid exacerbating existing air quality issues in designated Air Quality Management Areas? 6. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling?	Air Climatic factors Human health

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
	7. Will it facilitate the take up of low / zero emission vehicles?	
	8. Will it maintain the district's tranquil areas and dark skies?	
8. To maintain and improve water quality and resources.	1. Will it safeguard and improve the water quality of the district's rivers and inland water?	Water
		Human health
	2. Will it enable recycled water to be used?	Biodiversity
		Fauna and flora
	3. Will it promote sustainable water resource management, provision of new facilities / infrastructure or water efficient measures?	
9. To reduce the risk from all sources of flooding.	1. Will it minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into accounts the impacts of climate change?	Water
		Material assets
		Climatic factors
	2. Will it promote the use of sustainable drainage and flood resilient design?	Human health
10. To conserve and enhance soil and the efficient use of land.	1. Will it prioritise the development of brownfield land over greenfield land?	Soil
		Material assets
	2. Will it encourage the efficient use of land?	
	3. Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?	
	4. Will it avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land?	
	5. Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites?	
11. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable	1. Will it promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities?	Soil
		Climatic factors

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
management of waste.	2. Will it reduce hazardous waste? 3. Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	
Social		
12. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	1. Will it contribute to the supply of housing? 2. Will it contribute to meeting demand for a range and mix of housing including affordable housing and specialist housing? 3. Will it reduce homelessness? 4. Will it reduce the percentage of unfit / non-decent homes? 5. Will it contribute to the delivery of sustainable homes?	Population Human health Material assets
13. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it improve access to health care facilities and social care services? 2. Will it provide opportunities for sport and recreation? 3. Will it encourage healthy lifestyles by encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling? 4. Will it increase, maintain or create new access to open countryside, public open space and green infrastructure? 5. Will it assist in the reduction of health inequalities?	Population Human health
14. To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	1. Will it assist in reducing poverty and social exclusion? 2. Will it provide opportunities to contribute towards the regeneration of more deprived neighbourhoods?	Population Human health Material assets

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
15. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	1. Will it promote design that discourages crime and anti-social behaviour? 2. Will it assist in reducing the fear of crime?	Population Human health
16. To create and sustain vibrant communities including preventing noise pollution.	1. Will it affect residential amenity and facilitate sense of place and ownership? 2. Will it facilitate the integration of new communities with existing communities? 3. Will it provide for a mix of uses including homes, jobs, community facilities, retail, open space? 4. Will it encourage and support diverse town centre uses? 5. Will it ensure that new development is fully supported by appropriate community, transport and utilities infrastructure and services?	Population Human health
17. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall.	1. Will it improve qualifications and skills of young people and adults? 2. Will it support the provision of an adequate range of educational and childcare facilities? 3. Will it support access to educational facilities?	Population
Economic		
18. To ensure high and stable levels of employment across the district.	1. Will it provide for sufficient range, type and location of employment land to meet needs? 2. Will it promote accessible employment opportunities? 3. Will it allow for sufficient flexibility to respond to uncertainties and changing economic circumstances?	Population Human health Material assets

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
	4. Will it contribute to reducing unemployment? 5. Will it maintain and enhance the economic vitality and vibrancy of town centres?	
19. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation and support the long-term competitiveness of the district.	1. Will it encourage new business start-ups and opportunities for local people? 2. Will it improve business development and enhance productivity? 3. Will it enhance the image of the area as a business location? 4. Will it encourage inward investment? 5. Will it make land and property available for business development? 6. Will it assist in increasing the viability of the rural and farming economy? 7. Will it promote development in key sectors? 8. Will it promote regeneration; reducing disparities with surrounding areas? 9. Will it promote development in key clusters? 10. Will it increase business opportunities in the tourism sector?	Population Human health Material assets
20. To ensure that the digital infrastructure available meets the	1. Will it improve digital infrastructure provision?	Population Material assets

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	SEA Topic
needs of current and future generations.	2. Will it increase opportunities to improve the digital economy?	

USING THE SA FRAMEWORK

6.4 Policy and potential site options for the Local Plan Review and the draft Plan will be assessed against the objectives in the above SA framework with reference to the sub-objectives. The findings will be presented in SA matrices, which will include a colour coded symbol showing the score and a commentary provided explaining the scoring. The SA matrices will be presented as an appendix to the full SA report.

6.5 The use of colour coding in the matrices will allow for likely effects (both positive and negative) and their significance to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

Key to SA scores	
++	Significant positive effect likely
+	Minor positive effect likely
0	Negligible effect likely
-	Minor negative effect likely
--	Significant negative effect likely
?	Likely effect uncertain
+/-	Mixed effect likely

ASSUMPTIONS

6.6 In order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, sets of assumptions have been developed and are proposed to be applied in the assessment of options. Further assumptions or changes are likely be required for later stages of the SA following consultation and evidence gathering including potentially for development management policy options. These assumptions, which will be applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data and other evidence, are presented in **Appendix 3.**

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE SA REPORT

6.7 A Sustainability Appraisal Report (the environmental report) for each relevant consultation stage of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. It will include the updated table

'signposting' where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met (as shown in **Appendix 1** of this Scoping Report).

6.8   The SA Report will be accompanied by a non-technical summary which summarises the main findings. The suggested structure for the SA is set out in **Table 6.2**.

Table 6.2: Proposed structure of the SA report

Structure of the report	Outline of information provided
Non-technical summary	• Non-technical summary. • A statement of the likely significant effects of the plan. • Statement on the difference the process has made. • How to comment on the SA Report.
Introduction	• An outline of the purpose and structure of the report. • Information on the requirements for an SA / SEA. • Background on the Local Plan Review. • Plan objectives and an outline of contents. • Compliance with the SEA Directive.
Appraisal methodology	• Approach to the SA. • When the SA was carried out. • Who carried out the SA. • Who was consulted, when and how. • Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.
Baseline information and sustainability objectives	• Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account. • Summary of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline. • Difficulties in data collection and its limitations. • The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators. • Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Cherwell Local Plan Review.
Assessing options and alternatives	• Description of the main options considered and how they were identified. • Appraisal of alternative options including the 'Do Nothing' option. • How the SA process was considered when choosing the preferred options. • Any proposed mitigation measures.

Structure of the report	Outline of information provided
Appraisal of the preferred strategy	• Appraisal of the preferred options. • Sustainability implications of preferred policies and spatial strategy. • Breakdown of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. • Proposed mitigation measures. • Uncertainties and risks.
Implementation and monitoring	• Links to other tier plans and programmes at the project level. • Proposals for monitoring. • Review of existing monitoring framework. • Summary and next stages.

6.9   SA matrices presenting the detailed assessment of each option, policy or site allocation against each of the SA objectives will be presented as appendices to the main SA report. Information about how any consultation responses received in response to earlier stages of the SA have been addressed will also be presented in an appendix.

6.10 At later stages of the SA, it may be necessary to make refinements to the proposed report structure described above. However, the content of the report will be fully compliant with the requirements of the SEA Directive, Regulations and government guidance.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

7.1   The Council has published a Community Involvement paper for its Local Plan Review for public consultation. This Scoping Report has provided the context for and sought to establish the scope and approach of the SA/SEA for the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040.

7.2   In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail proposed to be included in the SA report. The SA Scoping Report is being published for public consultation for a five-week period.

7.3   In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:
   • Whether the scope of the SA generally is appropriate as set out.
   • Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included (**Appendix 2**).
   • Whether the information provided in **Chapter 4** is robust and comprehensive and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040.
   • Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues (**Chapter 5**) that should be included.
   • Whether the SA framework (**Chapter 6**) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives for assessing the effects of the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040.
   • Whether the assumptions in **Appendix 3** are appropriate as set out and whether any more are required.

7.4   Following consultation the Council will review and develop the approach to the SA proposed and an SA report (the environmental report) will be published for public consultation alongside the Local Plan Review documents.

APPENDIX 1: MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEA DIRECTIVE

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Preparation of an environmental report that identifies describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. The information to be given is:	The full SA Report for the Cherwell Local Plan Review will also form the 'environmental report'. It will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Chapters 1 and 3 and Appendix 2.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme	Chapters 4 and 5.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 4.
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 2009/147/EC (Conservation of Wild Birds) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).	Chapter 4.
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Chapter 3 and Appendix 2.
f) The likely significant effects 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, landscapes and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
Consultation procedures (regulation 13) As soon as reasonably practicable after their preparation, the draft plan or programme and environmental report shall be sent to the consultation bodies and brought to the attention of the public, who should be invited to express their opinion. The period within which opinions must be sent must be of such length as will ensure an effective opportunity to express their opinion.	Consultation on this Scoping Report is being undertaken with the relevant statutory environmental bodies. Public consultation is taking place on the Scoping Report alongside the Community Involvement Paper alongside this Scoping Report.

Information as to adoption of plan or programme (regulation 16)
As soon as reasonably practicable after the plan or programme is adopted, the consultation bodies, the public and the Secretary of State (who will inform any other EU Member States consulted) shall be informed and the following made available:
• the plan or programme adopted
• the environmental report
• a statement summarising:
a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
c) how opinions expressed in response to:
   i. the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d);
   ii. action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4),
have been taken into account;
	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme. (regulation 16)	
Monitoring of implementation of plans or programmes (regulation 17) Monitoring of significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action (regulation 17 (1)). Monitoring arrangements may comprise or include arrangements established for other purposes (regulation 17 (2).	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

APPENDIX 2: REVIEW OF PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
CLIMATE CHANGE		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Floods Directive (2007): A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.	Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of flooding.	The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.
European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010): Aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. Requires the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance. Article 9 requires that "Member States shall ensure that by 31 December 2020 all new buildings are nearly zero-energy buildings; and after 31 December 2018, new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities are nearly zero energy buildings".	Ensure that policies contribute towards achieving the zero energy buildings objective.	Include SA objective relating to energy efficiency of new buildings.
United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015): International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels.	Ensure that policies and site allocations incentivise sustainable, low carbon construction and facilitate a greater uptake of public transport infrastructure.	The SA framework should incorporate objectives which seek to actively contribute towards a reduction in emissions and improving air quality.
NATIONAL		

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Contains the following: • One of the core planning principles is to "support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure". • Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. • Local planning authorities should adopt a proactive approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Supports the content of the NPPF by promoting low carbon and renewable energy generation, including decentralised energy, the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings and sustainable transport.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Planning Act (2008): The Planning Act 2008 was amended under the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (EU Exit) Regulations 2018. Section 182 places a legal duty on local planning authorities to ensure that their development plan documents include policies to ensure that development and use of land in their area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	The Local Plan should include policies to ensure that development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	Include SA objectives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Planning and Energy Act (2008): The Act currently enables local planning authorities to set specific carbon, renewable energy and energy efficiency targets for new build properties.	The Local Plan will have to consider how energy efficiency of new development can be improved and how to encourage alternative ways of generating energy.	Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency of new build properties.
Energy Act (2013): Sets out legislation to: • Reflect the availability of new technologies; • Correspond with our changing requirements for security and supply infrastructure; and • Ensure adequate protection for the environment and the tax payer as our energy market changes.	Policies should encourage reductions in CO_2 emissions and promote sustainable growth.	The SA should include objectives which encourage the reduction of CO_2 emissions.
Climate Change Act (2008): Sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 100% by 2050 and CO2 emission reductions of at least 26% by 2015, against a 1990 baseline (in 2008 the target was set at 80%, however the target has recently been amended in 2019 by Statutory Instrument No.1056 to 100%)	Need to ensure that policies make a positive contribution in addressing climate change.	The SA should include objectives which encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
Clean Growth Strategy (2017): The report emphasises the need to provide growth at a national scale which is clean. It recognises that protecting and enhancing our natural environment through clean growth will: improve our quality of life; increase our economic prosperity; result in cleaner air; lower energy bills; and provide greater economic security. Key policies and proposals in the Strategy are: • Accelerating clean growth • Improving business and industry efficiency • Improving the energy efficiency of our homes	Policies should seek to protect and enhance the built and natural environment. Achieving this will result in social, cultural and economic benefits across the district.	The SA should recognise the pressures on the built and natural environment across the district and set objectives aimed at protecting and enhancing the environment.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport • Delivering clean, smart, flexible power • Enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources The report outlines two objectives in achieving clean growth: • To meet our domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and • To maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition.		
Community Energy Strategy (2014): Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity: • Generating energy (electricity or heat); • Reducing energy use (saving energy through energy efficiency and behaviour change); • Managing energy (balancing supply and demand); and • Purchasing energy (collective purchasing or switching to save on energy).	Ensure that site allocations and policies will support renewable energy provision.	Include SA objective relating to increasing energy provided from decentralised community renewable sources.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009): Sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our carbon emissions through the generation of renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies. Key targets are for 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and reducing UK carbon emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.	Include SA objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.
The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK (2012): Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.	Policies should seek to address the barriers identified within the strategy and improve the existing building stock through appropriate adaptation.	Include SA objectives relating to energy efficiency and adaptation of the existing building stock.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018): The report sets out visions for the following sectors: • People and the Built Environment – "to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate." • Infrastructure – "an infrastructure network that is resilient to today's natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate". • Natural Environment – "the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides." • Business and Industry – "UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change." • Local Government – "Local government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate."	Policies should take into account the aims of the programme.	Include SA objective which seeks to promote the implantation of adaptation measures to make the area more resilient to a changing climate.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017): Sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years in order to minimise risk from the effects of climate change. These priority areas include: flooding and coastal change risk to communities, businesses and infrastructure; risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures; risk of shortages in the public water supply and for agriculture, energy generation and industry; risks to	Policies should seek to minimise risk from the effects of climate change, particularly across the six priority areas identified in the assessment.	SA objectives should seek better adaptation to climate change and increase the mitigation measures of climate change.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
natural capital; risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and new and emerging pests and diseases and invasive species.		
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions that will be taken under the key area "protecting an improving our global environment" are to "provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity."	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to flood risk and which seek better adaptation to climate change and increase the mitigation measures of climate change.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Cherwell District Council Declaration on Climate Change (2019): The declaration sets out the political commitment to tackle climate change and the pledge to make Cherwell District Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.	The Local Plan should maximise the opportunity to fulfil the pledge to make Cherwell District Council carbon neutral by 2030.	Include SA objectives relating to reducing carbon emissions.
Emerging Oxfordshire Energy Strategy: will commit Oxfordshire to reducing emissions by 50% (compared with 2008 levels) by 2030 and set a pathway to achieve zero carbon growth by 2050. It also aims to secure a smart, modern, clean energy infrastructure, recognising the opportunities and need to move to cleaner economic growth through low-carbon technologies and the efficient use of resources.	The Local Plan should take into account the commitments of the emerging strategy.	The SA should include objectives aimed at reducing emissions and promoting energy efficiency.
FLOODING		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Floods Directive (2007): A framework for the assessment and management of flood risk, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.	Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of flooding.	The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce the risk

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
		and manage flooding sustainably.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Sets out that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): The guidance on flood risk and coastal change supports the content of the NPPF.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Flood and Water Management Act (2010): Sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).	Ensure that policies take into account areas at risk from flooding and ensure that flood management is incorporated as part of future growth and development proposals.	The SA framework should include objectives which relate to water management and protection of areas at risk from flooding.
Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England (2011): This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to: • Manage the risk to people and their property;	Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of flooding.	The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national; and • Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.		
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions that will be taken under the key area "using and managing land sustainably" are to "take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions."	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to flood risk and which seek better adaptation to climate change and increase the mitigation measures of climate change.
Anglian river basin district: Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-21: The plan determines the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs in the Anglian river basin district.	The Local Plan should address levels of flood risk and seek to secure the safety of new development and that development does not increase flooding elsewhere.	Include SA objectives that acknowledge the levels of flood risk across the district.
Thames river basin district: Flood Risk Management Plan 2015-21: The plan determines the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs in the Thames river basin district. Specific objectives to the Cherwell and Ray catchment are to: • Reduce the impact of flooding through community awareness and flood response; • Reduce the risk of flooding where possible through delivery of the 6-year programme;	The Local Plan should address levels of flood risk and seek to secure the safety of new development and that development does not increase flooding elsewhere.	Include SA objectives that acknowledge the levels of flood risk across the district.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Ensure development and redevelopment in areas at risk from flooding is appropriate, does not increase flood risk and reduces the risk wherever possible; • Have a better understanding of the flood risk from rivers in certain areas in the catchment; and • Where practicable seek to re-establish and enhance natural river corridors through new development in line with the Water Framework Directive.		
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Oxfordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2016): Sets out how the Lead Local Flood Authority will manage flood risk in the future. High level objectives for Oxfordshire are to: • Improve understanding of flood risks and ensure that all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities for flood risk management; • Take a collaborative approach to reducing flood risks, using all available resources and funds in an integrated way and in so doing derive enhanced overall benefit; • Prevent an increase in flood risk from development where possible, by preventing additional flow entering existing drainage systems and watercourses; and • Take a sustainable and holistic approach to flood risk management, seeking to deliver wider environmental and social benefits, climate change mitigation and improvements under the Water Framework Directive.	Policies should take into account the objectives of the strategy.	Include SA objectives relating to water management and flood risk.
Cherwell Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update (2017): Identifies parts of the district that are most vulnerable to flooding and the level of risk	Policies should be informed by the findings of the SFRA and policies should seek to	Include SA objectives relating to water

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
posed by flooding. There is an assessment of the mechanisms for controlling and preventing flooding.	direct development to areas of no or minimal flood risk wherever possible.	management and flood risk.
WATER		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Nitrates Directive (1991): Identifies nitrate vulnerability zones and puts in place measures to reduce water pollution caused by the introduction of nitrates.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objective to reduce water pollution.
European Urban Waste Water Directive (1991): Protects the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	Ensure that site allocations and policies contribute to the protection of water courses from waste water.	Include SA objective that relates to the protection of water courses.
European Drinking Water Directive (1998): Protects human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objective to protect and enhance water quality.
European Water Framework Directive (2000): Protects inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and requires all member states to achieve "good ecological status" or "good ecological potential" by 2027, and for no waterbodies to experience deterioration in status. Under the obligations of this Directive, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) are prepared.	Ensure that site allocations and policies seek to protect water networks from the negative impacts of development.	Include SA objective that relates to protection of the water network.
European Industrial Emission Directive (2010): Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objectives for reducing pollution.
NATIONAL		

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Sets out the following: • New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. • Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and ensuring resilience to climate change impacts, and new development should avoid increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Requires that plan making considers, among other issues: identifying suitable sites for new or enhanced water infrastructure; assessing whether new development is appropriate near to sites used for water infrastructure; and the phasing of new development so that such infrastructure will be in place when and where needed. The impact of water infrastructure on sites designated for biodiversity should also be considered.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Water for Life White Paper (2011): Sets out how to build resilience in the water sector. Objectives of the White Paper are to: • Paint a clear vision of the future and create the conditions which enable the water sector and water users to prepare for it. • Deliver benefits across society through an ambitious agenda for improving water quality, working with local communities to make early improvements in the health of our rivers by reducing pollution and tackling unsustainable abstraction. • Keep short- and longer-term affordability for customers at the centre of decision making in the water sector. • Protect the interest of taxpayers in the policy decisions that we take.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will support the sustainable use of water, and improvement of water quality.	Include SA objectives that promote the sustainable use of water.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Ensure a stable framework for the water sector which remains attractive to investors. • Stimulate cultural change in the water sector by removing barriers to competition, fostering innovation and efficiency, and encouraging new entrants to the market to help improve the range and quality of services offered to customers and cut business costs. • Work with water companies, regulators and other stakeholders to build understanding of the impact personal choices have on the water environment, water resources and costs. • Set out roles and responsibilities – including where Government will take a stronger role in strategic direction setting and assessing resilience to future challenges, as well as clear expectations on the regulators.		
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2011): Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, whilst discharge from sewers will be reduced.	Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this strategy.	Include SA objective which seeks to protect, manage and enhance the water environment.
Thames Water Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2100 (2020): Sets out how Thames Water will provide a secure and sustainable water supply, whilst protecting the environment. The plan has been designed to satisfy three objectives: • To provide a secure supply of water for all customers, addressing the supply demand deficits forecast in the region; • To improve resilience to a severe drought of 1:200 years average frequency; and	Policies should reflect the objectives of the strategy.	SA framework to include objectives relating to water management.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• To look beyond the needs and opportunities of the region alone and take into account the growing needs of the wider south east of England. The plan will allow for the potential transfers from and to other water companies to achieve the most effective and efficient outcome for customers in the South East.		
Anglian Water Water Resources Management Plan (2019): Sets out how Anglian Water will address pressures on water resources from a growing population, climate change and environmental needs by prioritising water demand management. The overall aim of the Plan is to develop a system of water supply that is reliable, affordable and sustainable.	Policies should reflect the objectives of the strategy.	SA framework to include objectives relating to water management.
Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2015): The River Basin Management Plan focuses on the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. The Plan sets out actions for ensuring improved quality and economic use of water; protection and enhancement of habitats and landscape; and promotion of recreation associated with the river environment. The Plan has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and includes targets in relation to water quality.	Paragraph 170 of the NPPF sets out that planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area including drawing, for example, from River Basin Management Plans.	Include SA objectives to ensure that environmental infrastructure has been taken account of.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Cherwell Water Cycle Study (2017): Provides strategic level advice on water infrastructure and environmental capacity and forms part of the evidence base for the Partial Review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan. The study identifies that there are adequate water resources to cater for growth over the plan period but that there are long term limitations on further abstraction from the raw water resources supplying the district.	Policies should take into account the recommendations of the study.	SA framework to include objectives relating to water management.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
AIR		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Air Quality Framework Directive (1996) and Air Quality Directive (2008): Put in place measures for the avoidance, prevention, and reduction in harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution and establish legally binding limits for the most common and harmful sources of air pollution.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objectives to protect and improve air quality and reduce the harmful effects to human health and the environment associated with ambient air pollution.
European Industrial Emission Directive (2010): Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objectives for reducing pollution.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Sets out the following: • New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. • The environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure should be identified and assessed at an early stage in plan making.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Requires that consideration of air quality issues is given at an early stage in plan making to ensure a strategic approach and help secure net improvements in overall air quality where possible.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2011): Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants. The objectives of the Strategy are to: make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life and render polluting emissions harmless.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.	Include SA objective to protect and improve air quality.
Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018): Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.	Ensure that the Local Plan supports the main aims of the strategy.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and improving air quality through the promotion of cleaner road transport.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions that will be taken under the key area "increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste" are "to reduce pollution by tackling air pollution in our Clean Air Strategy and reduce the impact of chemicals."	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and improving air quality.
UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017): Sets out the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESvs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.	Ensure that the Local Plan supports the Government's ambition for delivering a better environment and cleaner air.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and improving air quality through the promotion of sustainable transport.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Clean Air Strategy 2019: Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet these goals. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.	Policies will need to address air quality and encourage developments that minimise emissions.	The SA objectives will need to address air quality and encourage developments that minimise emissions.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Cherwell District Council Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2020 (2017): Outlines the actions that the Council will take to improve air quality in Cherwell. The priorities of the plan are: • Strengthening local policy to improve air quality and its role in protecting health; • Reducing NO_x emissions from cars in all AQMAs; • Ensuring new developments encourage and facilitate low emissions and alternative transport; • Ensuring transport infrastructure delivery takes account of air quality improvement potential within AQMAs; and • Raising awareness of poor air quality and encouraging improvement actions by vehicle users and fleet managers.	Ensure that site allocations and policies acknowledge the AQMAs within the district and seek solutions to improve the air quality across the district, especially in the AQMAs.	The SA should include objectives that relate to air quality and carefully manage the AQMAs located in the district.
MATERIAL ASSETS (INCLUDING SOIL AND WASTE)		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Landfill Directive (1999): Prevents and reduces the negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive.	Include SA objective to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
European Waste Framework Directive (2008): Sets out the waste hierarchy requiring the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation and final disposal that does not harm the environment, including human health.	Policies will need to address waste and encourage developments that minimise and recycle waste within the district.	Include SA objectives to ensure the sustainable use of materials through efficient use of raw materials and increased use of recycled materials. Also include SA objectives with regard to composting waste and waste reduction.
European Industrial Emission Directive (2010): Lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objectives for reducing pollution.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Sets out the following: • The planning system should protect and enhance soils in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or quality identified in the development plan. • New and existing development should be prevented from contributing to, being put at an unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. • Despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land should be remediated and mitigated where appropriate. • The reuse of previously developed land is encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Requires local planning authorities to demonstrate every effort has been made to prioritise the use of poorer quality agricultural land for development where it has been demonstrated that significant development is required on agricultural land.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Waste Management Plan for England (2013): Provides an analysis on the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Water Framework Directive.	Policies should look to promote and help achieve the objectives that the report is based on.	Include SA objectives that are in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014): Identifies key planning objectives, requiring planning authorities to: • Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. • Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns. • Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste. • Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment. • Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.	The Local Plan needs to take into account the aims and objectives of the Oxfordshire County Council produced Minerals and Waste Local Plan to ensure that the documents are in broad accordance with one another.	The SA framework should include objectives relating to the reduction of waste across the district.
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2011): The vision is "by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations". The strategy highlights the areas for priority including: • Better protection for agricultural soils; • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon;	Ensure that site allocations and policies will help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.	Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soils.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; • Preventing soil pollution; • Effective soil protection during construction and development; and • Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.		
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 (2017): sets out the planning strategies and policies for the development that will be needed for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to the end of 2031. With significant growth in population, new housing, economic development and infrastructure improvements, there are implications for the demand for and supply of minerals and also for the production of waste and how it is dealt with. Through policy M3, the Minerals and Waste Plan has identified principal locations for working aggregate material. The Core Strategy also identifies 21 existing and permitted waste management sites safeguarded under Policy W11.	Policies should consider safeguarding areas for any potential minerals and waste allocations.	The SA framework should reflect the objectives within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
Emerging Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 2 – Site Allocations Plan: will make provision and identify sites for minerals and waste management development in Oxfordshire for the period to the end of 2031, in accordance with the spatial strategy and criteria-based policies in the Core Strategy; and provide the detailed policy framework for minerals and / or waste management development management decisions.	Policies should consider safeguarding areas for any potential minerals and waste allocations.	The SA framework should reflect the objectives within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
Oxfordshire's Resources and Waste Strategy 2018-2023: Aims to keep household waste growth to zero per person per year, increase the amount of household waste that is recycled to 70% by 2030, and send less than 3% of household waste to landfill by 2020.	Ensure that objectives and targets are facilitated through Local Plan policies.	Include SA objective relating to waste management and recycling.
BIODIVERSITY		
INTERNATIONAL		

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979): Aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).	Local Plan policies should have regard to the conventions requirements and consider the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity.	Include SA objectives that relate to biodiversity.
International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992): International commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.	Local Plan policies will need to ensure that biodiversity is retained and enhanced.	Include SA objectives that relate to biodiversity.
European Habitats Directive (1992): Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.	Ensure that wild birds and habitats are protected and not adversely affected by development in the Local Plan.	Include SA objective for the protection of species and habitats.
European Birds Directive (2009): Requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.	Ensure that wild birds and habitats are protected and not adversely affected by development in the Local Plan.	Include SA objective for the protection of species and habitats.
United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014): international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.	Ensure that the commitments in the declaration are considered in the Local Plan.	Include SA objectives relating to biodiversity and habitats.
NATIONAL		

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Encourages plans to "identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation". Plans should also promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and species, ecological networks and measurable net gains for biodiversity. The NPPF states that a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure is also to be supported through planning policies and that there should also be support for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Supports the NPPF by requiring Local Plans to include strategic policies that conserve and enhance the natural environment through sustainable development.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006): Places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.	Local Plan policies will need to ensure that they meet the duty.	Include SA objectives to ensure the recognition of the importance of conserving biodiversity.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011): Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning &	Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of biodiversity and ensure that site allocations take account of the aims of the strategy.	Include SA objectives that relate to biodiversity.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Development, Water Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.		
Natural Environment White Paper (Lawton Report – Making Space for Nature) (2011): Aims to improve the quality of the natural environment across England, halt the decline in habitats and species, and strengthen the connection between people and nature.	Policies should be consistent with and support the key measures of the White Paper.	The SA framework should ensure that the key measures are reflected in the objectives.
Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (2020): A natural capital approach to policy and decision making considers the value of the natural environment for people and the economy.	The Local Plan should consider the natural capital approach.	Include SA objectives in relation to the wider economic and social benefits of the natural environment.
Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013): Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for offsetting.	Policies requiring biodiversity enhancement.	The SA should include objectives in relation to biodiversity.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Identifies six key areas around which action will be focused. Those of relevance to this chapter are: recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these key areas are as follows: • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes: o Develop a Nature Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife and provide opportunities to reintroduce species that have been lost from the countryside. • Protecting and improving our global environment:	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and enhancing the environment and biodiversity.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
o Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity. o Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture.		
REGIONAL / LOCAL		

Strategic Environmental and Economic Investment Plan for Oxfordshire (2016): The Plan identifies five strategic priorities for environmental investment:
  • Growing the green economy in Oxfordshire;
  • Enhancing the quality and resilience of urban areas;
  • Improving management of land to reduce flood risk, enhance water resources, and promote biodiversity;
  • Promoting and enabling access to the countryside; and
  • Engaging people in the environment and enabling more sustainable lifestyles.
	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the five strategic priorities for environmental investment.	Include SA objectives that plan positively for the natural environment and enable people to experience more sustainable lifestyles including through access to the countryside.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Strategic Plan 2016-2021: Be part of nature's recovery (2016): has targets for 8% of land across the three counties to be rich in wildlife by 2020 and restoring 10% of unprotected land to wildlife-rich habitats by 2030.	Policies need to consider biodiversity and ensure that no adverse impacts occur.	The SA should include objectives in relation to biodiversity.
The Wildlife Trusts: Homes for People and Wildlife – How to build housing in a nature friendly way (2017): Sets out a vision for new homes which are inspiring places to live and where people and nature can thrive together.	Ensure that site allocations and policies consider the benefits of integrating housing developments with the natural environment.	Include SA objectives that plan positively for the natural environment.
Cherwell Community Nature Plan 2018-2020 (2018): demonstrates how the Council will fulfil its duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities	The Local Plan should acknowledge the challenges and opportunities faced by	Include SA objectives that plan positively for the natural environment.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
(NERC) Act 2006 and comply with its obligations relating to important wildlife sites, habitats and species.	the natural environment, while also planning for the opportunities the natural environment provides for economic growth and health and wellbeing benefits.	
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985): Defines "architectural heritage" and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.	The Local Plan will need to include policies for the protection of designated heritage assets.	Include SA objectives to ensure the protection of designated heritage assets.
Valletta Treaty (1992) formerly the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revisited): Aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study".	The Local Plan will need to include policies for the protection of designated heritage assets.	Include SA objectives to ensure the protection of archaeological heritage.
NATIONAL		
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990: Provides guidance for local planning authorities in relation to buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The Secretary of State compiles a list of historic buildings and monuments commission for England which local planning authorities need to take into account. The Act provides the definition of a listed building and legislation as to what protection is afforded listed heritage assets and the treatment of a listed building through the control of works in respect of listed buildings.	The Local Plan will need to include policies for the protection of designated heritage assets.	Include SA objectives relating to the importance of protecting the historic environment within the district.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: Consolidates and amends the law relating to ancient monuments; to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and (in connection therewith) for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters.	Local Plan policies will need to ensure that ancient monuments are taken into account.	The SA should include objectives to ensure the recognition of the importance of scheduled monuments.
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England (2010): Sets out the Government's 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. Includes reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.	The Local Plan should recognise the importance of the historic environment as integral to economic, social, and cultural life of the district and that protection of important historic assets should be presented in a positive manner.	Include SA objectives that recognise the importance of the historic environment throughout the district.
The Heritage Statement (2017): Sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.	Ensure that the Local Plan maximises the economic and social importance of heritage assets and ensures that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.	Include SA objectives that recognise the importance of the historic environment throughout the district.
Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016): Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.	SA is important in showing how preferred options in the Local Plan were arrived at and how alternative options were discounted. This document is therefore of importance to assessing and	The following sections are of relevance to SA: • Scoping exercise; • Baseline; • SA objectives and criteria;

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
	selecting policies that relate to the historic environment.	- Assessing the impact of the plan and refining alternatives; - Mitigation; and - Consulting on the SA.
REGIONAL / LOCAL There are no specific regional or local cultural heritage policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA.		
LANDSCAPE		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Landscape Convention (2002): Promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.	Ensure that site allocations and policies promote landscape protection, management and planning.	Include SA objectives relating to conserving local landscapes.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Planning principles include: - Recognising the intrinsic beauty and character of the countryside. - Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. Development should be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting. - Conserve and enhance landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000): Increased the duty of provision of public access to the countryside and strengthened legislation relating to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In particular, it requires public bodies to	Ensure that Local Plan policies ensure that the intrinsic character and	Include SA objectives which recognise the

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs both in carrying out their operations, and in exercising their decision making functions.	beauty of the countryside is taken into account.	importance of the countryside.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions that will be taken as part of the key area "recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes" are "working with AONB authorities to deliver environmental enhancements and identifying opportunities for environmental enhancement of all England's Natural Character Areas, and monitoring indicators of landscape character and quality."	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA framework should include objectives which relate to protecting and enhancing the environment.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 (2018): The purposes of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB; and to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB. While having regard to these two purposes, the Management Plan also seeks to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities within the AONB. The management plan provides an overarching long-term vision that by 2043, the Cotswolds AONB will be: *"a distinctive, unique, accessible living landscape treasured for its diversity which is recognised by all for its wide open views, dry stone walls, intimate valleys, flower rich grasslands, ancient woodlands, dark skies, tranquillity, archaeology, historic and cultural heritage and distinctive Cotswold stone architecture"*. The four ambitions are: • To promote the Cotswolds AONB as the Walking and Exploring Capital of England;	Ensure that Local Plan policies seek to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB in the north of the district. Opportunities should also be given to make the AONB accessible for enjoyment.	Include SA objective relating to conserving and enhancing the AONB.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• To secure the local design and delivery of a Cotswolds AONB package of agri-environment payments for public goods and services and rural development support; • To ensure that communities and businesses within and around the Cotswolds AONB identify and celebrate being part of a nationally recognised landscape; and • To promote the case for the Cotswolds being designated as England's next National Park.		
Strategic Environmental and Economic Investment Plan for Oxfordshire (2016): The Plan identifies five strategic priorities for environmental investment: • Growing the green economy in Oxfordshire; • Enhancing the quality and resilience of urban areas; • Improving management of land to reduce flood risk, enhance water resources, and promote biodiversity; • Promoting and enabling access to the countryside; and • Engaging people in the environment and enabling more sustainable lifestyles.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the five strategic priorities for environmental investment.	Include SA objectives that plan positively for the natural environment and enable people to experience more sustainable lifestyles including through access to the countryside.
Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (2004): An investigation of landscape character and biodiversity across the county.	Ensure that site allocations and policies promote the conservation and enhancement of local landscapes and biodiversity.	Include SA objectives which relate to conserving and enhancing local landscapes and local distinctiveness.
Oxfordshire's Rights of Way Management Plan 2015-2025 (2014): A requirement of s60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The document sets out how the County Council will secure better management and improvement of the countryside access network in Oxfordshire. The vision is "to record and maintain the existing public rights of way and countryside access	Ensure that site allocations and policies promote the protection of the public rights of way network.	Include objectives which recognise the importance of access to the countryside.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
network for all users and would-be users, and where possible improve the extent, facilities, use and understanding of the network, so that public rights of way fulfil their role as a vital part of life in the County."		
POPULATION		
INTERNATIONAL		
United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998): Establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.	The public should be actively involved and consulted at all key junctures of the plan production process, ensuring that the Councils commitments as set out within the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) are met.	The public should be involved and consulted at relevant stages of the SA production.
United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002): Sets a broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.	Policies will need to address sustainable development.	The SA objectives will need to address sustainable development.
NATIONAL		
Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report: Ready for Ageing? (2013): Warns that society is underprepared for the 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 highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the	The Local Plan will need to look to address the challenges associated with an ageing population.	Include SA objectives that address the needs of an aging population.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.		
Localism Act (2011): The aim of the act was to devolve more decision-making powers from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The key measures of the act were grouped under four main headings: • new freedoms and flexibilities for local government; • new rights and powers for communities and individuals; • reform to make the planning system more democratic; and • more effective reform to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally.	The Local Plan will need to take into account the new freedoms and greater flexibility afforded to local communities within the Localism Act.	The SA Framework should include objectives relating to all aspects of Localism.
The Equality Act (2010): Legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. The Act bring together existing legislation covering race, disability and gender and to extend it to include gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. It covers both employment and the provision of services.	There is a need to ensure that diversity and equality have been considered throughout the process.	The SA framework should take account of diversity and equality.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Brighter Futures in Banbury Programme: is a long-term programme of projects designed to relive deprivation by improving opportunity, social sustainability, community cohesion and community resilience in Banbury's most disadvantaged areas.	Policies should seek to address deprivation and reduce inequalities.	Include SA objectives that seek to reduce inequalities.
HOUSING		
INTERNATIONAL		
There are no specific international or European housing policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA.		
NATIONAL		

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): States that planning policies should: • identify a sufficient supply and mix of sites for housing, taking into account their availability, suitability and likely economic viability. • set out the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community. • support the development of entry-level exception sites, suitable for first time buyers. • support opportunities to bring forward rural exception sites that will provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs. • promote sustainable development in rural areas by locating housing where it will enhance o maintain the vitality of rural communities. • avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside. • promote good design.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): provides guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the NPPF. Categories of relevance include: housing and economic land availability assessment, housing and economic needs assessment, housing needs of different groups, housing for older and disabled people, housing: optional technical standards, housing supply and delivery, and self-build and custom housebuilding.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015): Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites, replacing the older version published in March 2012. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.	The National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (paras 8-9) requires local planning authorities to set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople, which	The SA Framework should incorporate the principles set out in the national Planning Policy for Traveller Sites.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
	address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities.	
Housing White Paper: Fixing our Broken Housing Market (2017): Outlines ways to address issues in the housing market by encouraging the construction of more homes. The White Paper outlines a series of challenges including: planning for the right homes in the right places; building homes faster; diversifying the market; and helping people now.	The Local Plan will need to take account of the changes proposed in the white paper.	The SA will need to consider objectives in respect of housing provision, community facilities and services.
Housing Act (2004): Set standards for housing conditions and home information packs. The Act also covers the right to buy scheme and the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers with particular regard to mobile homes.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will help to create a fairer and better housing market.	Include sustainability objectives to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods – A national strategy for housing in an ageing society (2008): A strategy to address housing issues for an ageing society. Aims to ensure that people are able to stay within their own homes as they get older, promotes housing standards, and a need to improve integrations between housing and health care.	The need to provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the ageing population through providing the appropriate housing options and housing standards.	The SA should include objectives relating to providing the housing needed across the district as well as ensuring it meets the specific needs of residents.
Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England (2011): Aims to provide support to deliver new homes, support choice and quality for tenants, improve environmental standards and design quality of new homes, and bring empty homes back into use.	Make appropriate site allocations for the provision of an appropriate supply of new homes.	Include SA objective that assesses whether housing need is being met.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report: Ready for Ageing? (2013): Warns that society is underprepared for the 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 highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.	The Local Plan will need to look to address the challenges associated with an ageing population.	Include SA objectives that address the housing needs of an aging population.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014): Sets out the housing market and housing need for the district.	The Local Plan should consider the latest findings of the assessment.	Include SA objectives that support the requirement to meet housing needs and affordable housing need.
Cherwell Housing Strategy 2019-2024: Has three strategic priorities: • Increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing to ensure the rights types of housing are available in the right places • Improve the quality and sustainability of our homes and build thriving, healthy communities • Enhance opportunities for people to access suitable homes and have housing choices.	The Local Plan should establish policies for housing across the district, and affordable housing provision. Understanding the different needs for housing across the district is important in writing planning policies that aim to be inclusive of all the different housing situations people find themselves in.	Include SA objectives that support the provision of housing and affordable housing throughout the district.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Cherwell Tenancy Strategy (2017): The objectives of the strategy are: • To provide access to decent accommodation that people can afford; • To stimulate a diverse and resilient economy; and • To provide opportunities for all the community.	The Local Plan will need to consider the objectives of the strategy.	Include SA objectives that support the provision of housing and affordable housing throughout the district.
Cherwell Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020: Has four strategic priorities: • Prevent and relieve homelessness in the district; • Prevent single homelessness; • Ensure vulnerable people can access appropriate help and support; and • Ensure homeless households can access suitable temporary and permanent accommodation.	The Local Plan will need to consider the priorities of the strategy.	The SA should include objectives relating to providing the housing needed across the district, ensuring it meets the specific needs of residents, and reduces homelessness.
Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy: Cherwell – Our District; Our Future: Sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Cherwell district until 2030. A vision for Cherwell in 2030 is "a diverse economy with opportunities for all, vibrant communities connected by a sense of pride, place and purpose".	The Local Plan should have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy.	Include SA objectives to cover the vision of the strategy.
HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
INTERNATIONAL		
European Environmental Noise Directive (2002): Sets out a hierarchy for the avoidance, prevention and reduction in adverse effects associated with environmental noise, including noise generated by road and rail vehicles, infrastructure, aircraft and outdoor, industrial and mobile machinery.	Consider the impact of noise throughout the Local Plan in particular with regard to the location of development.	The SA framework will need to include an objective for reducing noise pollution.
NATIONAL		

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Promotes healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social integration, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles. The NPPF further states that developments should create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
Marmot Review Report – Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010): 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".	Policies should promote health and wellbeing for all.	Include SA objectives which promote health and wellbeing for all.
Childhood obesity: a plan for action, chapter 2 (2018): Outlines the actions the government will take towards its goal of halving childhood obesity and reducing the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030.	Policies should seek opportunities to address high obesity levels in children especially in the most deprived areas.	Include SA objectives which promote healthy lifestyles involving eating healthily and getting involved in physical activity.
The NHS Long Term Plan (2019): Developed by health and care leaders, it sets out the challenges faced by the NHS, including staff shortages and growing demand for services, and how these can be overcome. The Plan also sets out the ways in which patient care will be improved over the next ten years through: • Making sure everyone gets the best start in life; • Delivering world-class care for major health problems; and • Supporting people to age well.	Policies should support the objectives of the plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to health and wellbeing.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Public Health England Strategy 2020-2025 (2019): Sets out how Public Health England will work to protect and improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities over the next 5 years. It outlines 10 priorities where PHE will focus effort to both protect people and help people to live longer in good health: smoke-free society; healthier diets, healthier weight; cleaner air; better mental health; best start in life; effective responses to major incidents; reduced risk from antimicrobial resistance; predictive prevention; enhanced data and surveillance capabilities; and new national science campus.	Policies should support the objectives of improved health.	The SA should include objectives which relate to health and wellbeing.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018): Sets out goals for improving the environment within the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. Actions that will be taken under the key area "connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing are as follows": - Help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services; - Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas; "Green" our towns and cities by creating green infrastructure and planting one million urban trees; and - Make 2019 a year of action for the environment, working with Step Up To Serve and other partners to help children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment.	Ensure that site allocations and policies are written in accordance with the objectives and requirements set out in the 25 year plan.	The SA should include objectives which relate to health and wellbeing.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Emerging Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2020): Provides information about Oxfordshire's population and the factors affecting health,	The Local Plan should use the most up to date information available on health and	The SA framework should include objectives relating to improving the

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
wellbeing, and social care needs. It informs future service planning, taking into account evidence of effectiveness.	wellbeing to ensure mechanisms are in place to tackle social deprivation within the district.	overall health of the population.
Oxfordshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023 (2019): Outlines how the NHS, councils and Healthwatch will work together to improve health and wellbeing. The priorities can be summarised as: • Agreeing a coordinated approach to prevention and "healthy place-shaping"; • Improving the resident's journey through the health and social care system; • Agreeing an approach to working with the public so as to re-shape and transform services locality by locality; and • Agreeing plans to tack critical workforce shortages.	Policies should seek to deliver sustainable and healthy communities which support individuals physical, mental and social wellbeing.	The SA should include objectives relating to health and wellbeing.
Recommendations for action on health inequalities in Oxfordshire: Oxfordshire Health Inequalities Commission (2016): Identifies a range of areas for future policy development in order to address inequalities in health in Oxfordshire. These areas include: poverty, education, housing, transport and access to health and other services. Areas are also identified by the stages of the life course – mothers, children and families; young people and adults of working age; and older people – and by focussing on ethnic and gender inequalities. These areas offer opportunities over time to improve the health of the less well off.	Policies should promote health and wellbeing for all and aim to reduce health inequalities.	Include SA objectives which promote health and wellbeing for all.
Oxfordshire Prevention Framework 2019-2024: Focuses on: • Lifestyle factors particularly obesity, poor diet, lack of physical activity, smoking and alcohol;	The Local Plan should take account of the aims of the framework.	The SA should include objectives relating to all aspects of health and wellbeing.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Built environment and socio-economic factors including healthy place shaping, loneliness, low income and affordable warmth; and • Health care factors and how prevention initiatives can be embedded in all parts of the health and care system.		
Cherwell District Council Active Communities Strategy 2019-2023: Has four priorities: • To enable all residents to lead an active life, increase physical activity and improve inactivity levels; • To increase accessibility to physical activity opportunities and services for all ages; • To improve and develop the quality of local sport and leisure facilities; and • To support the improvement of health and mental and physical wellbeing for the Cherwell District through our delivered services and working with our partners.	The Local Plan should promote active communities and places that allow for children and adults to be active on a regular basis, seek to improve and develop local sport and leisure facilities and ensure their accessibility for all groups of people.	Include SA objectives that promote healthy lifestyles involving physical activity for all ages.
Cherwell District Council Playing Pitch Strategy (2018): Forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2031.	Policies should reflect the findings of the study.	The SA framework should reflect the findings of the study.
Cherwell District Council Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021: As required under The Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The six priorities (business areas) are: anti-social behaviour, young people, CSE, burglary, drugs, and domestic abuse.	The Local Plan should take account of the priorities within the strategy.	Include SA objectives regarding community safety.
EDUCATION AND SKILLS		
INTERNATIONAL		
There are no specific international or European education and skills policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA.		
NATIONAL		

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Recognises the need to take a "proactive, positive and collaborative approach" to bring forward development that will "widen choice in education", including sufficient choice of school places.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
Planning for schools development: statement (2011): sets out the government's commitment to support the development of state-funded schools and their delivery through the planning system.	Local Plan policies need to ensure there are a sufficient number of state funded schools within the district.	SA objectives that consider requirements for schools.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Oxfordshire County Council Pupil Place Plan 2019-2023 (2019): sets out Oxfordshire County Council's framework and approach towards meeting its statutory duty to ensure the provision of nursery and school places up to 2023 and beyond.	Local Plan policies need to ensure there are a sufficient number of nurseries and schools within the district.	SA objectives that consider requirements for schools.
Oxfordshire Skills Strategy: Building a 21st century skills ecosystem (2016): sets out an ambition to secure the skills base needed by the local economy to support growth and the transfer of new ideas through an aligned and responsive local skills infrastructure that addresses the skills required by a growing economy.	Ensure that policies seek to improve the educational attainment and employability of the population in order to support strong local economic growth.	Include SA objectives that relate to economic growth, improvement of educational attainment and employability.
ECONOMY		
INTERNATIONAL		
There are no specific international or European economic policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA, although there are a large number of trading agreements, regulations and standards that set down the basis of trade within the European Union (although these are subject to change now that the UK has left the EU) and with other nations.		

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Sets out the following: • The economic role of the planning system is to contribute towards building a "strong, responsive and competitive economy" by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation. There is also a requirement for the planning system to identify and coordinate the provision of infrastructure. • Planning policies should address the specific locational requirements of different sectors. • Local planning authorities should incorporate planning policies which "support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation". • When considering edge of centre and out of centre proposals, preference should be given to accessible sites which are well connected to the town centre. Sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas should be supported, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. • The NPPF requires Local Plans to "set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration."	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Reiterates the importance for Local Plans to include a positive strategy for town centres to enable sustainable economic growth and provide a wide range of social and environmental benefits.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.

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Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
The Local Growth White Paper (2010): Highlights the importance of economic policy that focusses on the delivery of strong, sustainable and balanced growth of income and employment over the long-term, growth which is broad-based industrially and geographically to provide equality of access and opportunity and build businesses that are competitive internationally.	Ensure that policies and site allocations support economic growth across a range of sectors and locations and deliver accessible employment opportunities.	Include SA objectives that support economic growth across a range of sectors and locations which deliver accessible employment opportunities for all.
Rural White Paper 2000 (Our Countryside: the future – A fair deal for rural England): Sets out the Government's rural policy objectives: • To facilitate the development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside; • To maintain and stimulate communities and secure access to services which is equitable in all the circumstances, for those who live and work in the countryside; • To conserve and enhance rural landscapes; and • To increase opportunities for people to get enjoyment from the countryside.	Allocate sites that will increase employment and services in the rural parts of the district whilst conserving the landscape.	Include SA objectives that aim to improve the economies of rural areas with minimal impact on the environment.
Rural Economy Growth Review (2011): is a set of measures designed to stimulate sustainable growth in the rural economy and help rural businesses to reach their full potential.	Policies should promote opportunities for rural growth.	Include SA objectives that support rural growth.
Towards a One Nation Economy: A 10-point Plan for Boosting Rural Productivity (2015): sets out measures to boost the rural economy by investing in education and skills, increasing wages, improving infrastructure and connectivity, and simplifying planning laws for rural businesses and communities.	Ensure that measures to boost the rural economy are reflected in the Local Plan.	Include SA objectives that support rural productivity.
The Industrial Strategy (2017): sets out the approach to building an industrial strategy that addresses long term challenges to the UK economy by improving	The Local Plan should acknowledge the importance	Include SA objectives that support economic growth

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth. The Industrial Strategy will be delivered by 10 pillars: • Investing in science, research and innovation; • Developing skills; • Upgrading infrastructure; • Supporting businesses to start and grow; • Improving procurement; • Encouraging trade and inward investment; • Delivering affordable energy and clean growth; • Cultivating world leading sectors; • Driving growth across the whole country; and • Creating the right local institutions.	of creating the right environment for different industries to thrive across the whole plan area.	across a range of sectors and locations.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire (2016): sets out the county's economic ambition to 2030 which is "Driving Economic Growth through Innovation" whereby it seeks to exploit the existing outstanding science and knowledge rich sectors which are underpinned by the internationally renowned universities. As well as generating economic growth, the SEP facilitates the infrastructure required to support this growth through furthering the City Deal.	The Local Plan should take into account the ambitions of the document.	Include SA objectives relating to sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth.
Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy (2019): sets out a plan to build on Oxfordshire's strong foundations and world-leading assets, to deliver transformative economic growth which is clean and sustainable and delivers prosperity for all communities across the county. It highlights how Oxfordshire has a well-balanced, resilient economy which has been instrumental to its track record of continued growth. The Vision Statement is: 'To position Oxfordshire as one of the top three global innovation ecosystems by 2040, building on the	The Local Plan should include objectives and policies to facilitate sustainable economic growth across the district, taking into account the vision statement of the Strategy.	Include SA objectives relating to sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
region's world leading science and technology clusters to be a pioneer for the UK in emerging transformative technologies and sectors.'		
Oxfordshire Skills Strategy: Building a 21st century skills ecosystem (2016): sets out an ambition to secure the skills base needed by the local economy to support growth and the transfer of new ideas through an aligned and responsive local skills infrastructure that addresses the skills required by a growing economy.	Ensure that policies seek to improve the educational attainment and employability of the population in order to support strong local economic growth.	Include SA objectives that relate to economic growth, improvement of educational attainment and employability.
Oxfordshire Innovation Strategy (2016): sets out a strategy to better understand, increase, and make use of innovation in Oxfordshire. The strategy is structured around ten key themes, each of which underpins innovation across all sectors: • Understanding the ecosystem; • Understanding our networks; • Building innovation spaces; • Reinforcing the science and research base for innovation; • Innovation for all; • Innovation for social good; • Nurturing talent and developing skills; • Attracting significant business; • Attracting capital; and • Embedding innovation in the ecosystem.	The Local Plan should include objectives and policies to facilitate sustainable economic growth across the district.	Include SA objectives relating to sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth.
Oxfordshire Creative, Cultural, Heritage and Tourism Strategy (2016): sits under the Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire and will help to deliver economic growth in Oxfordshire up to 2030, particularly through investment in the visitor economy. The priorities are: productive and engaging experiences; skills, talent development and business growth; and creative place-making.	Include policies to promote tourism opportunities across the district.	Include SA objectives relating to tourism, economic growth and inward investment.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Oxfordshire Transformative Technologies Alliance: Science and Innovation Audit (2017): focused on four transformative technologies (digital health, space-led data applications, autonomous vehicles and technologies underpinning quantum computing) for which Oxfordshire has high capability and potential for. The Audit estimates that by 2030 these four technologies could contribute 800,000 jobs to the UK economy (8% of which would be in Oxfordshire), £181 billion to the UK economy, and £1,300 billion to the global economy.	Policies should acknowledge the importance of transformative technologies in Oxfordshire.	Include SA objectives that support a sustainable economy.
TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY		
INTERNATIONAL		
There are no specific international or European transport policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA.		
The Trans-European Networks (TEN) (1996): Created by the European Union by Articles 154-156 of the Treaty of Rome (1957), with the stated goals of the creation of an internal market and the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion. These include the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), which includes High Speed 1, and the Trans-European Telecommunications Networks (eTEN).	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Directive.	Include SA objectives that support the goals of the Directive.
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Encourages local planning authorities to consider transport issues from the earliest stages of plan making so that: opportunities to promote sustainable transport are identified and pursued; the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified and assessed; and opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure and changing transport technology and usage are realised. The framework also states that the planning system should actively manage growth patterns in support of these objectives.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): Reiterates the requirement for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications of reviewing their Local Plan.	The Local Plan will need to be produced in accordance with the guidance outlined in the PPG.	The SA should be prepared in line with guidance in the PPG.
Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018): Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.	Ensure that the Local Plan supports the main aims of the strategy.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and improving air quality through the promotion of cleaner road transport.
UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017): Sets out the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESvs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.	Ensure that the Local Plan supports the Government's ambition for delivering a better environment and cleaner air.	The SA should include objectives which relate to protecting and improving air quality through the promotion of sustainable transport.
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031: sets out policy and strategy for developing the transport system in Oxfordshire to 2031. The LTP4 aims to: • support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality; • reduce transport emissions and meet our obligations from Government; • protect, and where possible enhance Oxfordshire's environment and improve quality of life; and • improve public health, air quality, safety and individual well-being.	Policies should be broadly in line with the Local Transport Plan. The Local Plan should take account of the projects and schemes proposed in the Local Transport Plan.	The Local Transport Plan should help inform site selection as this will have a knock-on effect on the environmental, social and economic factors.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE		
INTERNATIONAL		
There are no specific international or European digital infrastructure policy agreements relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan Review and the SA.		
NATIONAL		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019): Paragraph 112 states that "planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections. Policies should… prioritise full fibre connections to existing and new developments."	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the Local Plan.	Use these core principles in the NPPF as guiding principles for the SA framework.
The Industrial Strategy (2017): sets out the approach to building an industrial strategy that addresses long term challenges to the UK economy by improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth. The Industrial Strategy will be delivered by 10 pillars: • Investing in science, research and innovation; • Developing skills; • Upgrading infrastructure; • Supporting businesses to start and grow; • Improving procurement; • Encouraging trade and inward investment; • Delivering affordable energy and clean growth; • Cultivating world leading sectors; • Driving growth across the whole country; and • Creating the right local institutions.	The Local Plan should acknowledge the importance of creating the right environment for different industries to thrive across the whole plan area.	Include SA objectives that support economic growth across a range of sectors and locations.
UK Digital Strategy (2017): applies the principles outlined in the Industrial Strategy green paper to the digital economy and is formed of seven strands: • Building world-class digital infrastructure for the UK;	The Local Plan should acknowledge the importance of the digital economy and its	Include SA objectives that support the digital economy.

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
• Giving everyone access to the digital skills they need; • Making the UK the best place to start and grow a digital business; • Helping every British business become a digital business; • Making the UK the safest place in the world to live and work online; • Maintaining the UK government as a world leader in serving its citizens online; and • Unlocking the power of data in the UK economy and improving public confidence in its use.	clear future importance, and plan for a future where the digital economy is at the forefront.	
REGIONAL / LOCAL		
Oxfordshire Transformative Technologies Alliance: Science and Innovation Audit (2017): focused on four transformative technologies (digital health, space-led data applications, autonomous vehicles and technologies underpinning quantum computing) for which Oxfordshire has high capability and potential for. The Audit estimates that by 2030 these four technologies could contribute 800,000 jobs to the UK economy (8% of which would be in Oxfordshire), £181 billion to the UK economy, and £1,300 billion to the global economy.	Policies should acknowledge the importance of transformative technologies in Oxfordshire.	Include SA objectives that support the digital economy.
Better Broadband for Oxfordshire Programme: a programme, initiated in 2013, to bring fibre enabled broadband to homes and businesses in Oxfordshire.	The Local Plan should acknowledge the need for electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology and full fibre broadband coverage throughout the district for business and social life.	Include SA objectives that support the need for full fibre broadband to homes and businesses.
Oxfordshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan (2020): sets out a framework for delivering full fibre broadband to homes and businesses in	The Local Plan should acknowledge the need for	Include SA objectives that support the need for full

Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to plan and SA	Implications for the Cherwell Local Plan Review (where new policies are needed)	Implications for Sustainability Appraisal
Oxfordshire, along with improving mobile coverage. The Digital Infrastructure Programme has interim targets of achieving 99% superfast coverage and 16% full fibre coverage by 2021.	electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology, superfast and full fibre broadband coverage throughout the district.	fibre broadband to homes and businesses.

APPENDIX 3: DRAFT ASSUMPTIONS PROPOSED TO BE APPLIED DURING THE SA OF POTENTIAL SITE OPTIONS FOR THE CHERWELL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2040

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
1. To minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	1. Will it promote energy efficient design and the use of recycled materials? 2. Will it encourage the provision of renewable energy infrastructure? 3. Will it minimise greenhouse gas emissions from transport?	<u>All site options</u> The effects of new developments on adoption of energy efficient design, the use of recycled materials and use of renewable energy will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site or other policies). Therefore, the effects of potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0), unless specific proposals indicate a significant contribution to any of the sub-objectives would occur. However, all new development will result in the increased consumption of minerals for construction and the location of development sites could restrict the availability of resources in the district. Therefore: • Sites that are within a Minerals Safeguarding Area are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are not within a Minerals Safeguarding Area would have a negligible (0) effect. The location of development will influence greenhouse gas emissions from transport by affecting the level of likely car use. Therefore:

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are within 800m of three or more sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 800m of one or two sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 800m from any sustainable transport links will have a minor negative (-) effect.
2. To support the district's adaptation to unavoidable climate change.	1. Will it promote design which will help to mitigate the effects of climate change (for example through appropriate building orientation and incorporation of SuDS)? 2. Will it support the protection and enhancement of the green infrastructure network?	Residential site, mixed use site, gypsy and traveller site and employment site options The effects of new developments in terms of adopting measures which could help to respond more positively to the expected impacts of climate change will be dependent upon the incorporation of positive design. This SA objective will therefore not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site or other policies). Therefore, the effects of potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0), unless specific proposals indicate a significant contribution to any of the sub-objectives would occur. Open space site options The provision of open spaces can play a role in terms of flood water storage and responding to the heat island effect; therefore, the effect recorded for all sites will be minor positive (+).

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
3. To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and geodiversity.	1. Will it maintain and enhance internationally designated nature conservation sites? 2. Will it maintain and enhance nationally or locally designated nature conservation and geodiversity sites? 3. Will it avoid disturbance or damage to protected species and their habitats? 4. Will it minimise the fragmentation of existing habitats and enhance, restore or create ecological networks? 5. Will it achieve net gains in biodiversity? 6. Will it provide opportunities for people to come into contact with resilient wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of such locations?	<u>Residential site, gypsy and traveller site, mixed use site and employment site options</u> Site options that are close to an international, national or local designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists, as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity present on each site, or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites, cannot be determined with certainty at a strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application. • Sites that are within 250m of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites may have a significant negative (--?) effect. • Sites that are between 250m and 1km of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, that are within 250m of a locally

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		designated site or are within 15m of an area of ancient woodland may have a minor negative (-?) effect. • Sites that are outside of the specified distances from any internationally, nationally or locally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites and ancient woodland could have a negligible (0?) effect. Open space site options New areas of open space are likely to have a positive effect on biodiversity by securing areas of habitat and promoting habitat connectivity. Larger sites may have particularly positive effects. • Sites that are large (over 3ha) will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are small (less than 3ha) will have a minor positive (+) effect.
4. To protect and enhance landscape character and the district's countryside.	1. Will it protect, enhance and restore the district's natural environment assets? 2. Will it improve the landscape, ecological quality and character of open spaces? 3. Will it safeguard the character and distinctiveness of the district's settlements?	Residential site, gypsy and traveller site, mixed use site and employment site options A small area of land to the north-west of the district lies within nationally designated Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Development within the AONB could have a negative effect on the quality of the landscape although that is uncertain until the design of the development is known.

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	4. Will it prevent coalescence between settlements?	• Sites that are within, or within 250m of the AONB could have a significant negative effect (--?) on the landscape. Outside of this designated landscape area the character of the local environment is still likely to be affected and this may need to be determined by updated evidence. <u>Open space site options</u> New open space sites will likely help to enhance the character and appearance of the surrounding area. However, the provision of new formal open space may have impacts on the character and appearance of the surrounding area and therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be minor positive (+).
5. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the district's historic environment.	1. Will it conserve and enhance the district's nationally and locally designated cultural and heritage assets, including their setting? 2. Will it help preserve and record archaeological features? 3. Will it help to bring heritage assets back into acceptable use where appropriate?	<u>Residential site, gypsy and traveller site, mixed use site and employment site options</u> Historic England bases its definition of the setting of a heritage asset on the previous national Planning Policy Statement 5, as 'the surroundings in which [the asset] is experienced'. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance, or may be neutral. Detailed impacts on the setting of individual historic assets may be difficult to determine during a desk-

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		based strategic level of assessment such as this SA for potential sites to be allocated in the Local Plan Review. Effects would be more able to be determined once specific proposals are developed for a site and submitted as part of a planning application. As an indication of potential effects on heritage assets from development of any of the potential sites, reference will be made to the Council's available heritage impact asset work (e.g. Conservation Area Appraisals and advice from the Council's Conservation Officers). Consideration will also be given to existing development and likely visibility between the potential development site and the heritage asset, in order to make an assessment of the likely impacts. Updated evidence may be required to assess the effects on the historic environment. In all cases potential effects will be uncertain (?) as the potential for negative or positive effects on cultural heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect). Open space site options Open space sites that are within close proximity of designated heritage assets could have effects on those assets and their

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		settings, including by preventing other development (which could otherwise have had negative effects) from taking place. However detailed impacts on the setting of individual historic assets cannot be determined with certainty at this strategic level of assessment. Therefore, all open space site options will have a negligible effect (0) although this is uncertain.
6. To encourage efficient patterns of movement, promote sustainable travel and reduce the need to travel by car.	1. Will it promote the delivery of integrated communities? 2. Will it help to address road congestion? 3. Will it enhance connectivity of the sustainable transport network and provide new walking and cycling infrastructure? 4. Will it provide good access to services and facilities?	<u>Residential, mixed use sites that incorporate residential development and gypsy and traveller site options</u> The location of sites will not directly affect the nature of developments, as these would be more influenced by development management policies. However, the location of housing could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to access good quality local services including education, retail, leisure and cultural opportunities in a particular location by means other than the private car. Cherwell's two main towns of Bicester and Banbury, and to a lesser extent Kidlington, have a good range of retail and cultural services and facilities, and public transport links. The villages and rural areas have a smaller range and fewer services, facilities and public transport links. - Sites within or adjacent to Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington will have a significant positive (++) effect. - Sites within or adjacent to sustainable villages, excluding Kidlington, will have a minor positive (+) effect. - Sites within or adjacent to sustainable villages, excluding Kidlington, and within 800m of a primary

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		school and a secondary school will be upgraded from a minor positive (+) to a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites not within or adjacent to the main towns or sustainable villages, excluding Kidlington, but are within walking distance (800m) of public transport links (bus stops, cycle paths and railway stations) will have a minor positive but uncertain (+?) effect. • Sites not within or adjacent to the main towns or sustainable villages, excluding Kidlington, and are not within walking distance of public transport links (bus stops, cycle paths and railway stations) will have a significant negative (--) effect. Employment site options For employment sites there is less need to access local services. The emphasis is on alternative forms of transport. • Sites that are within 800m of three or more sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are either within 800m of one or two sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are more than 800m from any sustainable transport links are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. Open space site options Open space sites that are within walking distance (800m) of the urban edges of Cherwell's settlements (all towns and villages) will ensure that people have good access to areas that can be used for recreation. • Sites that are within 800m of Cherwell's settlements (all towns and villages) will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 800m from Cherwell's settlements (all towns and villages) will have a minor negative (-) effect.
7. To protect and where possible improve air quality and prevent light pollution	1. Will it protect and improve air quality? 2. Will it avoid and mitigate adverse health effects associated with air pollution? 3. Will it minimise air pollution caused by traffic and commercial uses?	Residential site, gypsy and traveller site, mixed use site and employment site options The location of residential development will influence levels of air pollution by affecting the level of likely car use amongst residents. There are currently four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within Cherwell, where existing air quality issues would be exacerbated as a result of new development. Therefore:

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	4. Will it avoid exacerbating existing air quality issues in designated Air Quality Management Areas? 5. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns and reduce the need to travel, particularly in areas of high congestion, including public transport, walking and cycling? 6. Will it facilitate the take up of low / zero emission vehicles? 7. Will it maintain the district's tranquil areas and dark skies?	• Sites that are within 800m of three or more sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are either within 800m of one or two sustainable transport links (bus stops, railway stations or cycle paths) will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 800m from any sustainable transport links will have a minor negative (-) effect. If a housing site is within (or adjacent to) an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) there could be an impact on local air quality and health, particularly if vehicle movements associated with the new development (including potentially HGVs) intensify existing air quality problems. Sites that are within or directly linked to an AQMA would have a significant negative (--) effect on this SA objective. <u>Open space site options</u> The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective; therefore, the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).
8. To maintain and improve water quality and resources.	1. Will it safeguard and improve the water quality of the district's rivers and inland water? 2. Will it enable recycled water to be used?	<u>All site options</u> The location of sites could affect water quality, depending on whether they are in an area where there is capacity at the local sewage treatment works to treat additional wastewater generated by the overall scale of development proposed. The

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	3. Will it promote sustainable water resource management, provision of new facilities / infrastructure or water efficient measures?	Local Plan Review will only determine the specific location of that development within the Plan area. In addition, the location of potential sites is unlikely to influence sustainable resource management and use of recycled water, which would be determined through the detailed proposals for each site. Therefore, potential site options will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective. The appraisal of sites will however consider those sites which fall within SPZs as having a minor negative (-) effect on this SA objective.
9. To reduce the risk from all sources of flooding.	1. Will it minimise inappropriate development in areas prone to flood risk and areas prone to increasing flood risk elsewhere, taking into accounts the impacts of climate change? 2. Will it promote the use of sustainable drainage and flood resilient design?	Residential site, mixed use site and gypsy and traveller site options The development of new housing on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are within high risk flood zones. National Planning Practice Guidance identifies residential properties as a 'more vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 and 2 but would require an exception test in flood zone 3a and is unsuitable in flood zone 3b. While new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate SuDS, and therefore have a positive effect on reducing flood risk, this would depend on the design of the proposed development and not on the location of the site.

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3a or flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 2 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 1 are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. Employment site options Employment development on greenfield land would increase the area of impermeable surfaces and could therefore increase overall flood risk, particularly where the sites are within high risk flood zones. National Planning Practice Guidance identifies offices and general industry as a 'less vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1, 2 and 3a but is unsuitable in flood zone 3b. While new development in any location may offer good opportunities to incorporate SuDS, and therefore have a positive effect on reducing flood risk, this would depend on the design of the proposed development and not on the location of the site. • Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zone 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zone 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. Furthermore: • Sites that are on greenfield land are expected to have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are on brownfield land are expected to have a negligible (0) effect. Open space site options Where open space is allocated it could have a positive effect on flood risk by ensuring that there are areas of permeable surfaces which should increase infiltration and reduce the risk of surface water flooding. This will be particularly beneficial where sites are large and are within areas of higher flood risk. • Large sites (over 3ha) within high flood risk areas (flood zones 2, 3a and 3b) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Small sites (less than 3ha) within high flood risk areas (flood zones 2, 3a and 3b) or large sites outside of those areas are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. • Small sites (less than 3ha) outside of high flood risk areas are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
10. To conserve and enhance soil and the efficient use of land.	1. Will it prioritise the development of brownfield land over greenfield land?	Residential site, mixed use site, gypsy and traveller site and employment site options The location of development can influence the efficient use of land, as sites on high quality agricultural land would result in

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	2. Will it encourage the efficient use of land? 3. Will it maintain and enhance soil quality? 4. Will it avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land? 5. Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites?	that land being lost to other uses. Development on brownfield land also represents more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. Therefore: • Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 1 or Grade 2 agricultural quality would have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality could have a significant negative effect (--). • Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 4 or below, or urban land, would have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land could have a minor positive (+) effect. Open space site options Where sites are located on high quality (grade 1, 2 or 3) agricultural land there will be a positive effect on preserving soil quality as development (e.g. housing or employment) will be prevented from taking place on the site, which could otherwise have led to the loss of that high value land. However, this will depend on the nature of the open space use, and whether agricultural uses are to be retained. • Sites that are on grade 1 or 2 agricultural land are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are on grade 3 agricultural land are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are not on grade 1, 2 or 3 agricultural land are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
11. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	1. Will it promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities? 2. Will it reduce hazardous waste? 3. Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	<u>Residential site, mixed use site, gypsy and traveller site and employment site options</u> All new development will inevitably involve an increase in waste generation, but it may also offer opportunities for incorporating sustainable waste management practices, regardless of the location. Levels of recycling will not be influenced by the location of site options, as the whole of Cherwell District are covered by kerbside recycling collections for residential properties and levels of recycling within employment developments will depend on the practices of the businesses that locate there. Where development is proposed on brownfield land there may be opportunities for re-using existing buildings and materials although this is uncertain depending on the previous use of the site. • Sites on brownfield land would have a minor positive (+?) effect. • Sites on greenfield land would have a minor negative (-) effect. <u>Open space site options</u>

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).
12. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	1. Will it contribute to the supply of housing? 2. Will it contribute to meeting demand for a range and mix of housing including affordable housing and specialist housing? 3. Will it reduce homelessness? 4. Will it reduce the percentage of unfit / non-decent homes? 5. Will it contribute to the delivery of sustainable homes?	<u>Housing site, gypsy and traveller and mixed use site options</u> All potential residential sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. It is assumed that all housing sites will make provision for affordable housing (either on site or by way of financial contribution). Therefore, all sites are considered to have a significant positive (++) effect. <u>Employment site options</u> The location of employment sites will not have a direct effect on this SA objective and all sites will therefore have a negligible (0) effect. <u>Open space site options</u> The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).
13. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it improve access to health care facilities and social care services? 2. Will it provide opportunities for sport and recreation?	<u>Residential sites and mixed-use sites that incorporate residential development</u> Sites that are within walking distance (800m) of healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries or hospitals), open spaces and footpaths and cycle routes will ensure that residents have

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	3. Will it encourage healthy lifestyles by encouraging and facilitating walking and cycling? 4. Will it increase, maintain or create new access to open countryside, public open space and green infrastructure? 5. Will it assist in the reduction of health inequalities?	good access to healthcare facilities and may encourage them to make more journeys on foot or by bicycle and to be active outdoors in open space, thus promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles. • Sites that are within 800m of a healthcare facility, an area of open space or sports facility and at least one PRoW/cycle path will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 800m of either a healthcare facility, an area of open space, sports facility or PRoW/cycle path will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 800m from either a healthcare facility, an area of open space, sports facility or PRoW/cycle paths will have a minor negative (-) effect. Residential development or mixed-use development that includes new open space or healthcare would have a minor positive (+) effect. <u>Employment site options</u> The location of employment sites would affect this objective by influencing the extent to which people may be able to walk or cycle to the site for work. • Sites that are within 800m of a cycle path or that are at Bicester, Banbury or Kidlington will have a minor positive (+) effect.

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		• Sites that are not within 800m of a cycle path and are not at Bicester, Banbury or Kidlington will have a negligible (0) effect. Open space site options All areas of open space are likely to have a positive effect on this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be minor positive (+).
14. To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	1. Will it assist in reducing poverty and social exclusion? 2. Will it provide opportunities to contribute towards the regeneration of more deprived neighbourhoods?	All site options The location of new developments will not have a direct effect on this SA objective as poverty and social exclusion are more likely to be affected by other policies and strategies. However, a site may bring new housing, jobs, and services and facilities to the areas where there is deprivation. Where a site is within or adjacent to a neighbourhood that is among the most deprived in Cherwell (within the bottom 30%), a minor positive (+) effect is likely. Where a site is not within or adjacent to a neighbourhood that is among the most deprived (above 30%) in Cherwell, a negligible (0) effect is likely. Gypsy and Traveller sites will have negligible (0) effect due to the likely lack of new associated facilities.
15. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime.	1. Will it promote design that discourages crime and anti-social behaviour?	All site options

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	2. Will it assist in reducing the fear of crime?	The effects of new developments on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within developments which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site or other policies). Therefore, the effects of potential sites on this SA objective will be negligible (0).
16. To create and sustain vibrant communities including preventing noise pollution.	1. Will it affect residential amenity and facilitate sense of place and ownership? 2. Will it facilitate the integration of new communities with existing communities? 3. Will it provide for a mix of uses including homes, jobs, community facilities, retail, open space? 4. Will it help to prevent residential development occurring in close proximity to unsuitable neighbouring uses?	<u>Residential, mixed use sites that incorporate residential development, employment and gypsy and traveller site options</u> Where new development is proposed within close proximity to sensitive receptors (e.g. existing houses, schools, hospitals etc.) there may be negative effects on amenity as a result of increased noise and light pollution, particularly during the construction phase. New residential development within close proximity to major roads or railways or industrial areas (as indicated on the GIS basemap) may result in noise pollution affecting residents in the longer term. Therefore: • Sites that are in close proximity to existing residential development or other sensitive receptors may have a short-term negative (-) effect during the construction phase. • Sites (except employment sites) that are in close proximity to an 'A' road, motorway or railway line, or

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	5. Will it ensure that new development is fully supported by appropriate community, transport and utilities infrastructure and services?	industrial area would result in a negative (-) effect in the longer-term. The effect of sites on the vibrancy of communities will be influenced by development management policy. The potential for effects on residential air quality are assessed under SA objective 7. Open space site options All areas of open space are likely to have a positive effect on this objective by providing space which residents can use; therefore, the effect recorded for all sites will be minor positive (+).
17. To maintain and improve levels of education and skills in the population overall.	1. Will it improve qualifications and skills of young people and adults? 2. Will it support the provision of an adequate range of educational and childcare facilities? 3. Will it support access to educational facilities?	Residential, mixed use sites that incorporate residential development and gypsy and traveller site options Site options that are close to a primary or secondary school and further or higher education facilities will ensure that residents have good access to educational facilities. • Sites that are within 400m of one or more primary school or within 500m of one or more secondary school, further or higher education facilities or will provide a new school will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are between 400m and 800m of one or more primary school or between 500m and 1km of one or

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		more secondary school, further or higher education facilities will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 800m from any primary school or more than 1km from any secondary school will have a minor negative (-) effect. Mixed use sites that do not incorporate residential development Mixed use sites that do not incorporate residential development will have a negligible (0) effect on this SA objective unless they include provision for new educational facilities. Employment site options The location of employment sites will not have a direct effect on this SA objective and all sites will therefore have a negligible (0) effect. Open space site options The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).
18. To ensure high and stable levels of employment across the district.	1. Will it provide for sufficient range, type and location of employment land to meet needs?	Residential site, mixed use site and gypsy and traveller site options

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SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	2. Will it promote accessible employment opportunities? 3. Will it allow for sufficient flexibility to respond to uncertainties and changing economic circumstances? 4. Will it contribute to reducing unemployment? 5. Will it maintain and enhance the economic vitality and vibrancy of town centres?	Population growth associated with new development could have an effect on this objective by increasing the number of economically active people. Good accessibility to employment is important for developing and strengthening the relationship between labour and workplace ensuring economic growth. Although it is not possible to predict where new residents would choose to work, the relative accessibility of each site to jobs, either by walking and cycling, public transport or private car could be used to determine their contribution to this SA objective. In addition, how well connected sites are to public transport links will influence how easily people are able to access job opportunities further away from the site. In all cases, effects are uncertain depending on whether those transport links connect sites to key employment areas, and factors such as the frequency of bus services which is not known. • Sites that are within or adjacent to key employment areas would have a significant positive but uncertain (++) effect. • Sites that are within 800m of a key employment area or a sustainable transport link (bus stop or railway station) would have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are further than 800m from a key employment area or the nearest sustainable transport links would have a minor negative (-) effect. Where residential or mixed-use sites for mostly residential uses are proposed on current employment sites, a significant

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
		negative (--) effect will be identified given the potential loss of viable employment land in the district. Employment site options All potential employment sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Larger sites will provide opportunities for generating larger numbers of jobs and the greatest economic benefits, and therefore are assumed to have a significant positive effect. • Large sites will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Smaller sites will have a minor positive (+) effect. What constitutes a small or large site will be determined later in the plan making and SA process following consultation on this Scoping Report and the Consultation Paper. Open space site options The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).
19. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation and support the long-term	1. Will it encourage new business start-ups and opportunities for local people?	Residential and gypsy and traveller site options The provision of sites will make it easier for the District to retain and grow its skilled workforce, which is likely to have an indirect minor positive (+) effect. Indirect minor positive (+) effects on economic growth are also likely in the short term as

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
competitiveness of the district.	2. Will it improve business development and enhance productivity? 3. Will it enhance the image of the area as a business location? 4. Will it encourage inward investment? 5. Will it make land and property available for business development? 6. Will it assist in increasing the viability of the rural and farming economy? 7. Will it promote development in key sectors? 8. Will it promote regeneration; reducing disparities with surrounding areas? 9. Will it promote development in key clusters?	a result of the increased rates of construction associated with the new developments. Employment site and mixed use options All potential sites are expected to have positive effects on this objective. However, the exact nature / type of the proposed development is likely to be unknown until the detailed planning application is submitted. Where the type of development for any proposals are known for potential site options, these will be assessed as minor (+) or significant positive (++) depending on how well they meet one or more of the sub-objectives. Open space site options The location of areas of open space would not affect this objective, therefore the effect recorded for all sites will be negligible (0).

SA Objective	Sub-Objective	Draft Assumptions
	10. Will it increase opportunities in the tourism sector?	
20. To ensure that the digital infrastructure available meets the needs of current and future generations.	1. Will it improve digital infrastructure provision? 2. Will it increase opportunities to improve the digital economy?	<u>All site options</u> Site options would not affect this objective unless effective digital infrastructure could not be provided by sites in particular locations. The score for all sites will likely be negligible (0). Development management policies are likely to have an effect on this objective.