

**Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan
Sustainability Appraisal Report**

Submission Version

July 2014

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This is the Non-Technical Summary for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report of the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan (HNNP).

Sustainability Appraisal assesses the Neighbourhood Plan's environmental, social and economic effects, to ensure that the policies included in the Plan contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. It has supported the plan making process and the testing of proposals for future development in Hook Norton.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Hook Norton residents under the provisions of the Localism Act of 2011 to guide the future development of Hook Norton. The Neighbourhood Plan covers Hook Norton Civil Parish area. The 8 Goals of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home
- To maintain and enhance the character, vitality and community spirit of the village
- To maintain and develop an infrastructure to support our community activities
- To maintain and enhance employment opportunities and businesses providing sustainable services and local employment
- To maintain the rural character and tranquillity of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain
- To minimise the environmental impact of new development, and ensure that any development is sympathetic to its setting within the village and wider neighbourhood
- To reduce harm to the environment by aiming for a low carbon community
- Improve access within the parish, improve travel choices and reduce the need to travel.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

The Sustainability Appraisal has been informing the development of the Neighbourhood Plan from its outset by helping to develop the goals, objectives and policies that are now included in the Submission Plan.

A Scoping Report was prepared during the early stages, on the sustainability appraisal to identify the key sustainability issues and opportunities faced in Hook Norton parish. Following consultation on that report with Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal methodology covers all the important environmental considerations, the Submission policies have now been assessed against a series of sustainability objectives that cover the following topic areas:

- Housing
- Flood risk
- Well-being
- Social exclusion
- Crime
- Communities
- Accessibility
- Land use
- Air quality
- Biodiversity
- Landscape/Heritage
- Travel
- Resources
- Waste
- Water
- Energy
- Employment
- Economy

The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives were tested for their compatibility with the Neighbourhood Plan Goals and Objectives. This process did not identify any areas where there was potential conflict between the two sets of objectives.

Assessment Findings

If the Neighbourhood Plan policies did not exist, any new development in Hook Norton would be controlled through Cherwell District Council policies and also national planning policy. The sustainability appraisal has therefore assessed the Neighbourhood Plan policies by comparing them with the 'do nothing' option of having no Neighbourhood Plan and relying on the policies at a district level to control the amount and nature of new development.

The assessment has found that the Neighbourhood Plan policies strongly support several of the SA objectives, whilst for others (e.g. crime) the Plan does not further contribute to the effects predicted for the policies at a district level. This is not a weakness of the Neighbourhood Plan, but more a recognition that the policies in place at a district level are appropriate at the Hook Norton level, as well as the district level.

This assessment was originally undertaken in 2013 to feed into the SA Report that was produced to accompany the consultation on the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. Following that consultation some of the draft Plan policies have been updated and it has therefore been necessary to revisit the assessment to determine whether any of the updates affect the findings of the original assessment.

Whilst the policy amendments were seen to enhance the effects predicted against certain SA objectives, in the majority of cases this did not result in a change being required to the original assessment 'scoring'. Only two changes were made to the scoring, these being in relation to the introduction of policy wording in the 'Housing' theme on avoiding flood risk and locating development away from watercourses. Therefore, other than these minor changes, the findings of the original assessment remain valid.

The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, grouped under the themes of Hook Norton Character and Countryside; Community; Housing; and Transport, have been assessed against each of the SA Objectives. The figure below summarises the findings of the assessment.

| | | POLICY THEMES | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------|-----------|
| SA Objective | | HOOK NORTON CHARACTER AND COUNTRYSIDE | COMMUNITY - LIVING AND WORKING IN HOOK NORTON | HOUSING | TRANSPORT |
| 1 | Housing | 0 | 0 | ++ | 0 |
| 2 | Flood risk | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| 3 | Well-being | 0 | + | 0 | + |
| 4 | Social exclusion | 0 | + | + | 0 |
| 5 | Crime | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Communities | 0 | ++ | + | 0 |
| 7 | Accessibility | 0 | + | 0 | + |
| 8 | Land use | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Air quality | + | + | 0 | + |
| 10 | Biodiversity | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Landscape/Heritage | ++ | + | + | + |
| 12 | Travel | + | + | 0 | + |
| 13 | Resources | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Water | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| 16 | Energy | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Employment | 0 | + | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Economy | 0 | + | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| -- | Significant negative effects |
| - | Minor negative effects |
| 0 | No predicted effects |
| + | Minor positive effects |
| ++ | Significant positive effects |

Significant positive effects have been identified against the SA Objectives for 'housing'; 'communities'; and 'landscape/heritage', along with a range of other minor positive effects. No negative effects have been identified, which is not surprising given that the Neighbourhood Plan is not allocating sites for development, but instead is providing policies to control any future development.

When considering the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole, rather than as separate groups of policies, the cumulative effects for several of the SA Objectives will become more significant. At this stage in the process it is difficult however to predict exactly how well all the objectives will be met.

Monitoring

When the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will be necessary to monitor any significant effects that result from its implementation. It is envisaged that this monitoring will be undertaken by Cherwell District Council as part of the Council's Monitoring Report which is published on an annual basis.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

In addition to undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal on the Neighbourhood Plan there is also a requirement to determine whether implementation of the NP 'in combination' with other projects and plans would have likely significant effects on the ecological integrity of internationally important nature conservation sites (Natura 2000 sites).

A Habitats Regulations Assessment carried out on the new Cherwell Local Plan concluded that the Plan would not lead to likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

As the closest Natura 2000 site to Hook Norton is Oxford Meadows SAC, over 20 miles away, so the same conclusion can be drawn for the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan and no further detailed assessment will need to be undertaken.

Next Steps

The SA Report prepared at the Submission Stage will be submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and other supporting documentation when it is submitted for an independent examination to be undertaken by a planning inspector.

Any substantive changes that are made to the Plan as a result of the Examination will need to be subjected to Sustainability Appraisal to identify whether any new significant effects would result from the changes, or whether previously identified significant effects are no longer predicted as a result of the changes.

The next stage will then be for the Plan (with any modifications required by the Examiner) to progress to a referendum. A vote in favour at referendum stage means that the Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the Development Plan for the area, against which any proposals for development will be assessed.

At the stage when the Plan is finally adopted an SA Adoption Statement will be produced that provides a summary of the SA process that has been undertaken and how it has influenced the development of the Plan.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Hook Norton is a parish with a population of just over 2,000 people, located in the north-west of Cherwell District, which in turn is located in North Oxfordshire.

This document is the Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report) for the Submission Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan (HNNP). It describes the context and findings of the Sustainability Appraisal that has assessed the Plan's environmental, social and economic effects. It also incorporates the legal requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are incorporated into all levels of planning policy.

The HNNP needs to comply with the Cherwell Local Plan. In order to ensure consistency with the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Local Plan this sustainability appraisal draws heavily on the methodology and information included in Cherwell Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The Sustainability Appraisal Report is being published alongside the Submission version of the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) 2014-2031. The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 provides a summary of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Section 3 describes the stages of Sustainability Appraisal and the work undertaken to date
- Section 4 provides the sustainability context that has informed the Sustainability Appraisal and the development on the Neighbourhood Plan and identifies the issues and opportunities the Neighbourhood Plan could seek to address
- Section 5 provides the framework of objectives that have been used to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal and tests the compatibility of these objectives against the Neighbourhood Plan goals.
- Section 6 provides a summary of the findings of the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies.
- Section 7 provides information on Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Section 8 details the next steps for the Sustainability Appraisal process

2. Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan

The Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan will be a Neighbourhood Development Plan covering the whole of the Civil Parish of Hook Norton. The extent of the parish is shown below.

NB: when referring to "Hook Norton" in this Scoping Report this applies to the Civil Parish and not just the village.



At the 2011 Census the parish had a population of 2,117 spread across 867 households.

The HNNP is being produced by the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group (HNNPSG). This is a working group led by the Parish Council and made up of volunteers from the parish. This approach was chosen to ensure that the views of local people are obtained and was key to the development of the plan. Cherwell District Council officers have provided some support to the HNNPSG.

The Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan is a parish implementation of the Cherwell Local Plan which is planned to be submitted to the Secretary of State in autumn 2013 for Examination by a Planning Inspector.

Once the Cherwell Local Plan is approved by the Planning Inspector and formally adopted by the Council any development that takes place in Hook Norton will need to comply with the following policies that are specific to villages, as well as the other more general policies included in the Local Plan:

- Policy for Villages 1 – Village Categorisation
- Policy for Villages 2 - Distributing Growth across the Rural Areas
- Policy for Villages 3 - Rural Exception Sites

The emerging Cherwell Local Plan does not allocate a specific number of new dwellings to Hook Norton for the Plan period, but instead in 'Policy for Villages 2' requires a group of six villages, including Hook Norton, to provide 252 during the Plan period.

Hook Norton had full planning permission granted for 28 houses on a brownfield site in August 2012 and outline planning permission granted at appeal (September 2013) for up to 70 new dwellings on a greenfield site on the edge of the village. Both count against this figure of 252 dwellings.

It is unlikely that the NP will allocate specific sites for new housing or employment development. Instead it will set out how future development should take place in Hook Norton to meet the goals and objectives of the NP.

2.1 Goals and Objectives

The Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan is being developed around eight goals as follows:

- To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home
- To maintain and enhance the character, vitality and community spirit of the village
- To maintain and develop an infrastructure to support our community activities
- To maintain and enhance employment opportunities and businesses providing sustainable services and local employment
- To maintain the rural character and tranquillity of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain
- To minimise the environmental impact of new development, and ensure that any development is sympathetic to its setting within the village and wider neighbourhood
- To reduce harm to the environment by aiming for a low carbon community
- Improve access within the parish, improve travel choices and reduce the need to travel.

Each of these Goals is supported by a series of more detailed objectives. These goals and objectives have been developed through Community consultation. The detailed objectives that support these goals are provided in Appendix A of the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan.

It is proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan will include policies that cover topics including, but not restricted to the following:

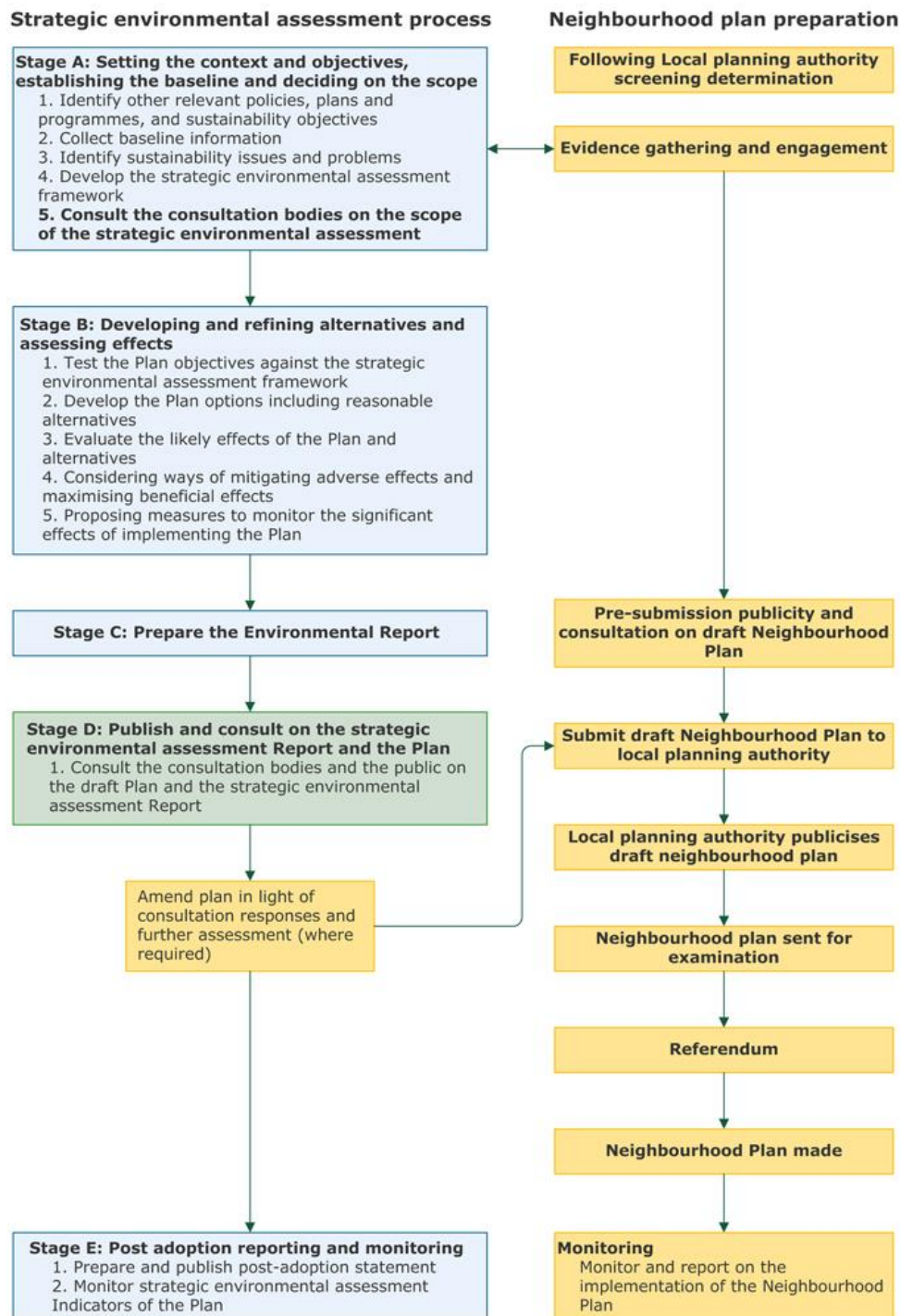
- HOOK NORTON CHARACTER AND COUNTRYSIDE
 - Protection and enhancement of local landscape and character of Hook Norton
 - Design
 - Local distinctiveness, variety, and cohesiveness
 - Resource efficient design
 - Lighting
- COMMUNITY
 - Protection of Locally Valued Resources
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Developer contributions to Community Infrastructure
 - Broadband
 - Retention of Local employment
- HOUSING
 - Sustainable housing growth
 - Location of housing
 - Housing density
 - Types of housing
 - Provision and retention of affordable housing
- TRANSPORT
 - Access and parking
 - Non-car transport

3. Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

The process undertaken for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan has been based on Government guidance, in particular emerging National Planning Policy Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning:

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

This Sustainability Appraisal process that is being followed is in line with the stages identified in the diagram below:



At 'Stage A' (in the diagram above) a Scoping Report was prepared that covered all the elements shown in the figure above.

As required by Regulations, this Scoping Report was sent to Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage for their comments. It was also sent to Cherwell District Council. Where appropriate the representations received were taken into account when undertaking

the assessments, preparing the SA Report and also in finalising the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. Details of the representations and how they were taken into account are provided in Appendix C1.

Taking account of comments received from the Stage A consultation the SA methodology was updated for Stage B of the process, in which the SA contributed to the development of the Plan objectives and policies and provided an assessment of the likely effects on sustainability that would result from implementing the Plan.

The findings of the Stage B work were included in the SA Report (Stage C) which was then sent to Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage and made available to the public for comment (Stage D). This consultation was undertaken alongside that for the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. Details of the representations received and how they have been taken into account are provided in Appendix C2.

4. Sustainability Context

4.1 Policy Context

The requirement to undertake the 'context review' arises from the SEA Directive which states (Annex 1(a) and (e)) that the Environmental Report should include:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes”

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State 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”

Cherwell District Council (CDC) carried out this context review for the Scoping Report supporting their Local Plan and presented the findings in Appendix 1 of that Scoping Report. An update to this review was provided in Appendix A of the SA Report (October 2013) that was submitted alongside the Cherwell Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Examination on 31 January 2014.

Since the publication of the HNNP Pre-Submission SA Report (November 2013), a further update to the CDC SA baseline and policy context has been produced¹ and this has also had to be taken into account.

As noted in Section 2 of this report the HNNP is a parish implementation of the Local Plan and thus this scoping report draws heavily on the CDC context review.

The CDC review looks at international, national, regional (South East England), and local (County and District) plans and policies and incorporates a review of the National Planning Policy Framework that was finalised in March 2012 and which is a key document for guiding development.

This section focuses on summarising the relevant local plans and policies which could influence the HNNP. This is because it is assumed that, if relevant, then international, national and regional sustainability objectives are contained within the county and local plans and policies.

The results of this review have been used to identify key issues for Hook Norton, to inform the baseline data and have been incorporated into the SEA/SA framework.

Other Policies, Plans and Programmes of relevance to the SA of the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan include the following:

- Adopted Cherwell Local Plan (1996)
- Draft Cherwell Local Plan (2012) and focused consultation (2013)
- Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030
- Oxfordshire's Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024
- Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (2014)
- Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy, our District, our Future. Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership 2010
- The Oxfordshire Local Investment Plan (LIP). Oxfordshire Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership (SPIP)
- Low Carbon Environmental Strategy (2012)
- Cherwell Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2010

¹ Sustainability Appraisal Addendum for Main Modifications to the Cherwell Submission Local Plan - Scoping Report. Land Use Consultants June 2014

- Urban Housing Potential Study, CDC (Sept 2005)
- Cherwell District Council Housing Strategy (2005-2011)
- Cherwell's Housing Strategy for Older People 2009-2014, consultation draft-April 2009
- Cherwell Rural Strategy 2009-2014 (April 2009)
- Cherwell Recreation Strategy 2007-2012
- Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
- Cherwell Rural Areas Integrated Transport Land Use Study (CRAITLUS), 2009

4.2 Baseline Context

The collection of baseline information is a requirement for the early stages of a Sustainability Appraisal. It provides a starting point for assessing the likely effects of the HNNP and identifying sustainability issues and opportunities.

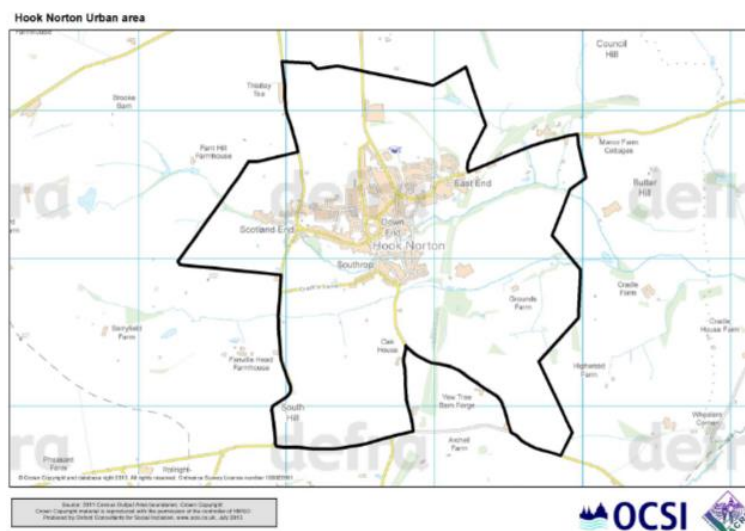
The key source of baseline information used for this Sustainability Appraisal is the 'Community Profile for Hook Norton (Urban Area)'². This was updated in August 2013 to incorporate data from the 2011 Census and is therefore very up to date. The profile covers a wide range of topics including:

- Social and cultural - information on who lives in the local community, how the local community is changing and community cohesion
- Equity & prosperity - information on deprivation, low incomes, poor health and disability in the local community
- Economy - information on the labour market, skills and resident employment
- Housing & the built environment - information on housing in the local area, household ownership, affordability and housing conditions
- Transport and connectivity - information on access to transport and services within the local area
- Services - information on distance to local services
- Environmental - information on the quality of the local environment
- Governance - information on the level of engagement within the local community

Whilst being wide-ranging in its scope and detailed in nature, the profile does not provide all the baseline information topics that need to be considered in the Sustainability Appraisal. Other sources of baseline data which have been used are detailed under the relevant topic in Section 4.

NB: the 'Community Profile for Hook Norton (Urban Area)' (2013) does not cover the entire parish of Hook Norton and so the data included within it differs slightly from that for the entire parish. As an example the Census 2011 has a population figure of 2,117 for the parish across 867 households, whilst the Profile has a population of 1,920 across 785 households. A map of the Hook Norton 'Urban Area' is reproduced below.

² Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Rural evidence project © ACRE, RCAN, OCSI 2013



The SEA Regulations require that the SA should describe the baseline environment in the neighbourhood in terms of:

- Nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna);
- Landscape and townscape;
- Heritage and archaeology;
- Material assets;
- Population and human health;
- Soils and geology;
- Water;
- Air quality; and
- Climatic factors.

Data has been collected for these considerations to support the sustainability baseline by providing, where possible:

- Information on the current situation and trends;
- Details of any established targets and how the current situation relates to these;
- Information on particularly sensitive or important features of locations impacted by the HNNP.

Note: Detailed information is not always available at parish level. In such cases, and if appropriate, projections from district or national data will be used.

4.2.1 Air quality and climatic factors

There are no Air Quality Management Areas or known air quality issues in Hook Norton.

4.2.2 Heritage and archaeology

The earliest documented reference to Hook Norton (Hocneratun) dates back to 917 and at the time of the Domesday book (1086) it is thought that the village had a population of about 400. Its development was then influenced by agriculture, in particular the wool trade, the brewery and the arrival of the railway. The Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal (May 2007) provides further details on the village's history and development.

Conservation Area

The Hook Norton Conservation Area as designated in the Cherwell Local Plan (1996) covers a large area of the village of Hook Norton, excluding the more modern developments on the fringes of the village.



Source: <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1672>

The Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal (May 2007) classifies the Conservation Area into 10 Character Zones and provides details on each zone, including threats to the areas. On-street parking and inappropriate developments/modifications are two threats that are common to several of these zones.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Parks and Gardens, and Listed Buildings

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Hook Norton. Part of the Swerford Park Registered Parks and Gardens lies in the parish.

The parish contains the following Listed Buildings:

- One Grade I Listed Building: St Peter's Church;
- One Grade 2* Listed Building: Swerford Park (partially within Hook Norton parish); and
- 69 Grade 2 Listed Buildings (see Appendix A for a full list).

Undesignated Heritage Assets

In addition to the Listed Buildings in the village the Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal identifies seventeen unlisted buildings that make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area and justify their preservation.

The Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record includes nearly 100 records relating to Hook Norton. In addition to the Listed Buildings mentioned above these include monuments and archaeological remains from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.

<http://publicapps.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

The parish also has a range of buildings/structures of local importance such as Brymbo ironstone workings, the railway viaduct pillars and the Memorial Hall (a memorial to those that served in the Great War).

Further detail and mapping of heritage assets in the parish are available at:

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

Buildings at Risk

The 2013 Heritage at Risk Register includes 12 entries for Cherwell District but none in Hook Norton.

NB: The 2012 version of the Heritage at Risk Register included St Peter's Church. The explanation provided on the register for this is as follows:

"Large church constructed of coursed rubble ironstone with limestone ashlar dressings, dating from Norman period. Roof coverings are failing and allowing water ingress. Repairs required to chancel roof, gutters, associated timbers, and stonework repointing. A Repair Grant for Places of Worship has been offered to support this work."

Source: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/buildings/buildings-at-risk/>

4.2.3 Landscape and village scape

The entire parish lies in an Area of High Landscape Value as designated through Policies C13, C28 & C39 of the Cherwell Local Plan (1996).

The western boundary of the parish coincides with the boundary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

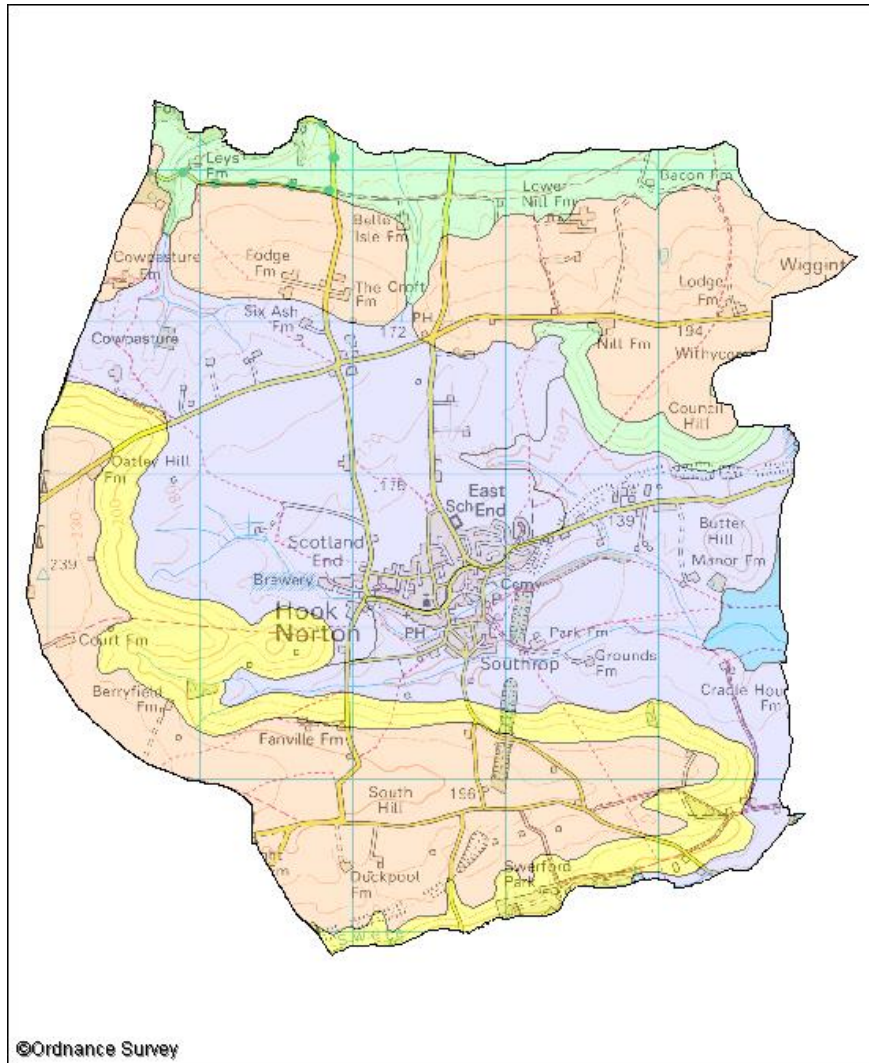
Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2006

This plan is in two parts. 'Part 1: Statement of Action' sets out a vision and aims. Part 2 analyses the extent to which local rights of way meet present and future needs.

There are three references to Hook Norton in the ROWIP

- Additions suggested by the Ramblers Association: i) disused railways - Hook Norton to Chipping Norton
- Agri-environment scheme permissive access:
 - Cow Lane Farm - near Hook Norton
 - Nill Farm - near Hook Norton

The Oxfordshire Wildlife & Landscape Study (OWLS) provides a wide range of information relating to biodiversity and landscape at County and parish levels. The map below highlights the landscape types within Hook Norton, and its associated local character areas.



Landscape Types

- Farmland Plateau
- Farmland Slopes and Valley Sides
- River Meadowlands
- Rolling Village Pastures
- Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes

Source: <http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/>

OWLS also provides information and maps covering the following other topics:

- Regional Character Areas;
- Landscape Types;
- Oxfordshire Biomap; and
- Oxfordshire Biolandscape

NB: These four maps are at a level of detail that makes it difficult to use the information at a parish level and they have therefore not been considered appropriate for use to inform this SA.

4.2.4 Nature Conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)

There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Hook Norton parish:

'Hook Norton Cutting and Banks SSSI', which is made up of three separate SSSI Units as follows:

- Unit 1 - Size: 2 hectares. Designated for: 'Earth Heritage' importance. Site condition: Unfavourable recovering (January 2010).
- Unit 2 - Size: 2 hectares. Designated for: 'Calcareous grassland – Lowland habitat' importance. Site condition: Unfavourable recovering (January 2010).
- Unit 3 - Size: 1 hectare. Designated for: 'Calcareous grassland – Lowland habitat' importance. Site condition: Favourable (October 2009).

'Sharp's Hill Quarry SSSI', which is made up of a single unit as follows:

- Size: 2 hectares. Designated for: 'Earth Heritage' importance. Site condition: Favourable (March 2009).

There are no Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Hook Norton. Within Cherwell District there are three LNRs, two with Cherwell District Council as the declaring authority, with the third being declared by Adderbury Parish Council (Adderbury Lakes LNR designated in November 2011). <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/lnr/default.aspx>

Local Wildlife Sites

There are five Local Wildlife Sites that lie wholly or partly within Hook Norton parish. These are as follows:

- Site Name: Berryfields Farm (Site Code 33G02)
- Site Name: Swere Bank (Site Code 33K01)
- Site Name: Temple Mills Quarries (Site Code 33N02)
- Site Name: Wood West of Swerford Park (Site Code 33Q03/3)
- Site Name: Cradle and Grounds Farm Banks (Site Code 33Q03/3)

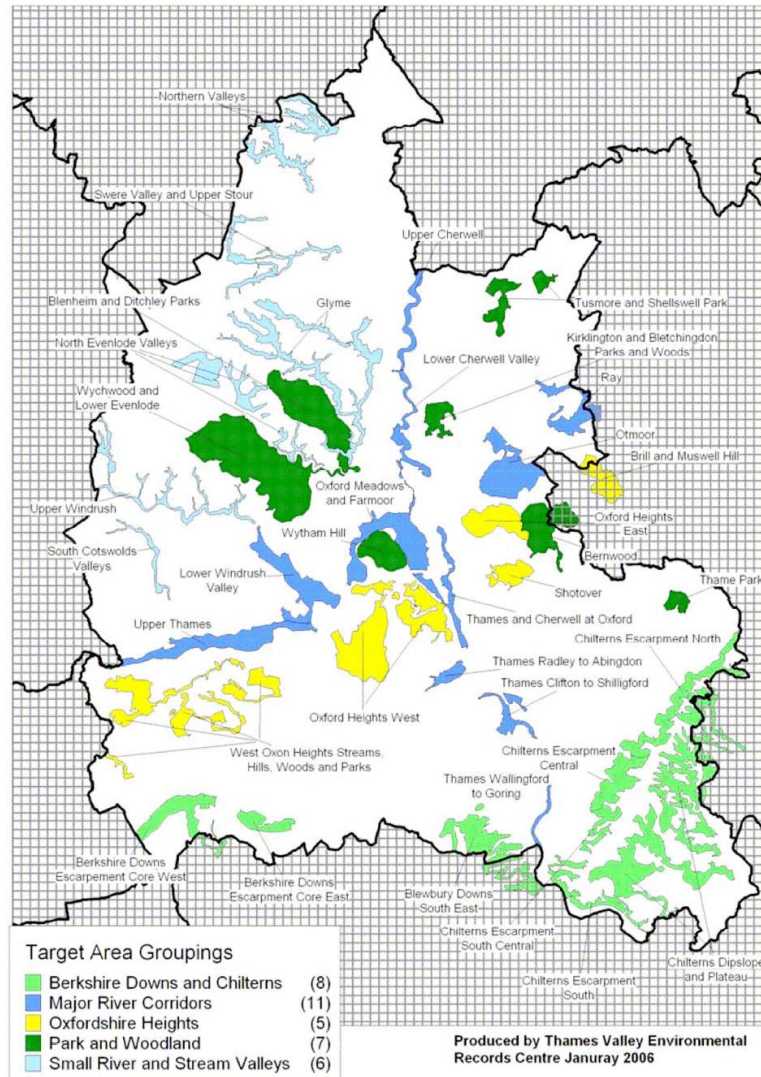
Source: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

Conservation Target Areas

Conservation Target Areas from Draft Cherwell Local Plan Policy ESD 11.

Mapped by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC). Ten of these areas lie wholly or partly in Cherwell.

Oxfordshire Conservation Target Area Groupings

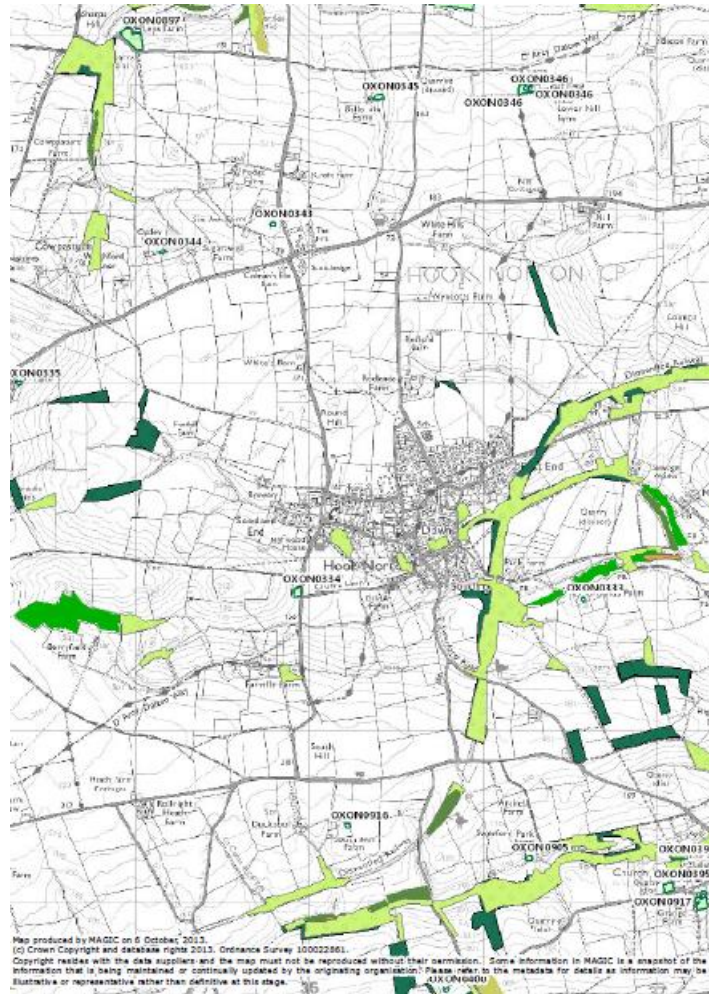


Source: <http://www.oncf.org.uk/pdfs/CTA%20map1.pdf>

The parish includes some areas of the following Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats:

- Lowland Calcareous Grassland BAP Priority Habitat (England)
- Lowland Meadows BAP Priority Habitat (England)
- Fens BAP Priority Habitat (England) (NB: this covers only a very small area of the parish)
- Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat (England)
- Traditional Orchard BAP Priority Habitat (England) (NB: this covers only a very small area of the parish)

In addition there are some further areas that are included in the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (England). A general indication of the extent of the BAP habitats is shown in the following figure, reproduced from the MAGIC website.



Source MAGIC website at URL: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

The Oxfordshire Wildlife & Landscape Study (OWLS) provides information on wildlife habitats that fall within parishes. The following wildlife habitats are identified for Hook Norton:

- Farmland Plateau
- Rolling Village Pastures
- Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes

Full details of the sites associated with these habitats are provided in Appendix B.

4.2.5 Soils and geology

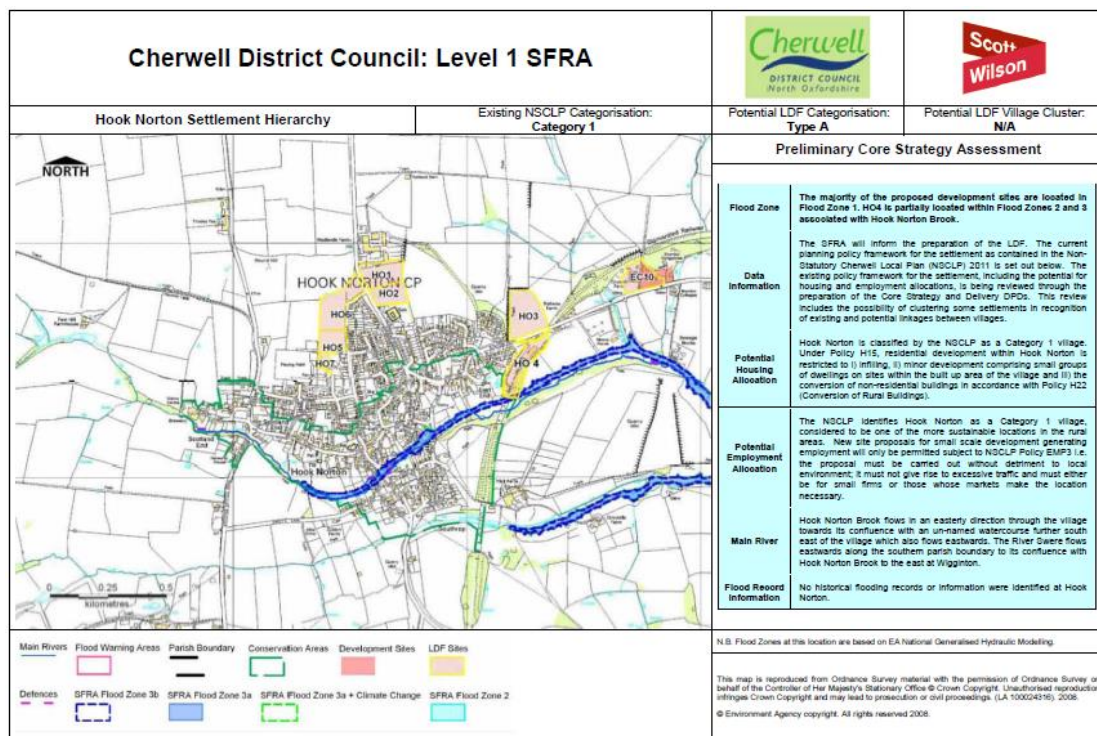
Hook Norton is in an area of Ironstone hills and valleys. The geology is complex, with a Marlstone rock bed, middle lias clay, iron-bearing limestone and finally sandy deposits mixed with iron rich soil. (Source: Cobham Resource Consultants, 1995 – reproduced in the Hook Norton Conservation area Appraisal (CDC, 2007))

No information was available on the detailed Agricultural Land Classification for the fields in the parish. This will be further investigated.

4.2.6 Water

There are two main river watercourses within the extent of the parish, the Hook Norton Brook and the River Swere. The parish lies on a watershed with the River Swere draining into the Cherwell and then Thames, whilst the River Stour drains into the River Avon.

The parish has some areas in Flood Zones 2 and 3, as shown in the Cherwell District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment see below.



Source: Cherwell LDF Evidence Base <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3244>

The Oxfordshire County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment provides a high-level summary of significant flood risk, based on available information, describing both the probability and consequences of past and future flooding. It lists Hook Norton as an area that experiences groundwater flooding issues.

Source:

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-preliminary-flood-risk-assessment-pfra>

The European Commission (EC) Nitrates Directive requires areas of land that drain into waters polluted by nitrates to be designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs). Farmers with land in NVZs have to follow mandatory rules to tackle nitrate loss from agriculture (Environment Agency). Hook Norton parish lies in such a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Source: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/54714.aspx>

and MAGIC website at URL: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

4.2.7 Population

The Parish population at the time of the 2011 Census was 2,117. This compares to 2,001 in the 2001 Census and 1,361 in the 1971 Census. The parish population has therefore grown by 56% in the last 40 years.

The 'Community Profile for Hook Norton (Urban Area)' (ORCC, 2013) which has been used as a source of information for the majority of the social topics in the baseline is not based on the entire parish but on a smaller area that aligns more closely with the village itself. The information included therefore varies slightly from that for the full parish. The information on the ORCC profile is taken from a range of sources including amongst others the 2011 Census, the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation and data from the Commission for Rural Communities.

Age Profile

The percentages of under 16s (20.9%) and over 65's (18.4%) are both higher than the Oxfordshire average (18.8% and 15.9% respectively).

The percentage of pensioner households (25.5%) is higher than the England average (20.7%).

Equity and prosperity

The levels of people living on a low income are significantly lower than the England average, with average household incomes being significantly higher than average. The overall prosperity of the community should not however mask the fact that 4.1% of the population of Hook Norton live in 'income deprivation'.

4.2.8 Health and wellbeing

7.7% of the 16-64 year olds in Hook Norton have a limiting long-term illness, with 2.9% claiming disability living allowance.

Key Services

Whilst the distances to a Job Centre and a Secondary School are higher than the England average, distances to a Public House, GP Surgery and Post Office are all at or below the England averages.

4.2.9 Material assets

57% of dwellings are detached (England 22.3%) with 84% of housing being owner occupied (England 64.1%). Social rented housing makes up 7.6% (England 17.7%) whilst 6.1% is private rented (England 15.4%).

Only 2.8% of dwellings lie in Council Tax Band A (England 24.8%). From the 2009 Land Registry the median house price for a semi-detached house was £208,500 (England £211,043).

2.7% of households in Hook Norton live in overcrowded conditions (England 8.7%) with 13.2% estimated to be in Fuel Poverty (England 16.4%).

5.5% of dwellings are vacant, which is higher than for Oxfordshire (4.2%) and England (4.3%).

8.3% of households have no cars (England 25.8%), whilst 56.3% of households have two or more cars (England 32.1%).

In 2001, 12.3% of people travelled less than 2km to work (England 20%) whilst 11.7% travelled 40km+ (England 4.9%) (Source: Office for National Statistics. Indicator UV35).

3% of people travel to work by public transport (England 11%) with the average travel time to the nearest town centre by public transport/walking being 32 minutes (Oxfordshire average 18 minutes).

4.2.10 Employment and jobs

73% of 16-74 year olds are economically active, compared to an England average of 69.9%. 17.4% are self-employed (England 9.8%) and 10.6% work from home (England 3.5%).

In February 2013 only 0.9% of working age adults claimed 'Jobseekers Allowance' (England 3.8%).

4.2.11 Education and skills

14.9% of people aged 16+ have no qualifications (England 22.5%). 41% have degree level qualifications (England 27.4%)

4.3 Issues and Opportunities

Within Hook Norton certain sustainability issues are more significant than others, for example affordable housing and the need to safeguard facilities.

Issues of particular relevance to Hook Norton were identified from:

- Analysis of the baseline information;
- Consultation activities undertaken within the parish; and
- Issues identified in the Sustainability Appraisal for the Cherwell Local Plan.

The CDC Scoping Report for the Core Strategy identified the sustainability issues and problems for the District. Particular issues and problems relevant to Hook Norton are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sustainability issues and opportunities identified for Hook Norton

| Issue/Opportunity | Evidence |
|--|---|
| Environmental | |
| The distinctive character and setting of the village needs to be protected | HN Neighbourhood Plan Survey Community consultation |
| Development needs to be controlled to retain historic and natural assets, views and unspoilt landscape | H N Neighbourhood Plan Survey Community consultation |
| Conservation and enhancement of the historic environment in the Parish | English Heritage response |
| Brownfield locations generally preferred over Greenfield for any necessary development | Community consultation |
| The rights-of-way network needs to be protected and enhanced | HN Neighbourhood Plan Survey Community consultation |
| Consideration needs to be given to wildlife sites and conservation. | Community consultation |
| There are some areas that are at risk from fluvial flooding | Cherwell SFRA Environment Agency response |
| There are some areas of the village that suffer from pluvial (run-off) flooding | Community consultation |
| New developments should be built to high standards of energy efficiency and maximise renewable energy generation and use | Community consultation |
| Combined heat and power should be considered in new developments | Community consultation |
| Reduce the need to travel generally; more low carbon public and | Community consultation |

| Issue/Opportunity | Evidence |
|---|---|
| private transport options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions | |
| Recycling of waste should be maximised | Community consultation |
| Social | |
| There is a need for affordable housing, including social housing to meet the needs of the local population. Starter homes are needed as is sheltered housing and possibly a nursing home. There is a lack of affordable rented property. | Community consultation. HN Neighbourhood Plan Survey |
| Local facilities need to be protected | Community consultation HN Neighbourhood Plan Survey |
| Cars parked on roads cause problems for traffic. | Community consultation |
| Heavy goods vehicles cause issues in the village | Community consultation |
| There is a lack of free places at the primary school with the potential for primary age children being bussed to other schools | Community consultation |
| The Memorial Hall needs to be refurbished / rebuilt | Community consultation |
| More facilities for the young people of the village are required | Community consultation |
| There is a need for safer cycle routes | Community consultation |
| Rural North: deficiencies are identified in natural and semi-natural greenspace (48.12ha), amenity greenspace (4.08ha), younger children's play (9.24ha), older children's play (1.70ha). Action plan includes negotiating public access agreements to privately owned natural/semi-natural green space, to meet shortfalls in Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote, Cropredy, Hook Norton and Sibford wards. | Cherwell DC Sustainability Appraisal |
| Economic | |
| Broadband speed and mobile reception for some networks are poor | Community consultation |
| Employment in the parish is limited | Community consultation |

5. Sustainability Appraisal Framework of Objectives

As the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan will be a 'daughter' document of the Cherwell Local Plan (yet to be adopted) the framework of objectives that will be used when identifying and assessing the potential effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan is based on the framework from the Sustainability Appraisal for the Cherwell Local Plan. Some changes to the Cherwell SA Framework have been made to make it more appropriate for the Hook Norton context. These changes are shown below in strikethrough text (deletions) and underlined text (additions).

Table 2: Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal Framework

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it contribute to the parish housing requirements and completions? 2. Will it increase the supply of affordable homes in the parish? 3. Will it reduce the percentage of unfit/ non-decent homes? |
| 2 | To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it reduce the risk of flooding from rivers, watercourses and sewer flooding to people and property? 2. Will it result in inappropriate development in the flood plain? 3. Will it increase the provision of sustainable drainage in new developments? |
| 3 | To improve the health and well-being of the population & reduce inequalities in health. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it improve access to doctors' surgeries and health care facilities? 2. Will it encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation? |
| 4 | To reduce poverty and social exclusion. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it assist in reducing poverty and social exclusion? |
| 5 | To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the principles of good urban design in reducing crime promoted as part of the proposal? 2. Will it assist in reducing actual levels of crime? 3. Will it assist in reducing the fear of crime? |
| 6 | To create and sustain a vibrant community and engage cultural activity across all sections of the Hook Norton community <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it encourage a mixed use and range of housing tenure, including meeting affordable housing needs including for key workers? 2. Will it improve residential amenity and sense of place? 3. Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhood as a place to live and encourage ownership? 4. Will it reduce nuisance such as by noise, odour, visual intrusion, traffic congestion or pollutants? 5. Will it provide, protect or enhance locations for cultural activities, including the arts? 6. Will it enhance the village-scape and public realm? |
| 7 | To improve accessibility to all services and facilities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it promote compact, mixed-use development, with good accessibility to local facilities (e.g. employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, green spaces and culture) that improves accessibility and decreases the need to travel? |
| 8 | To improve efficiency in land use through the reuse of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the reuse of materials from buildings. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it maximise the provision of housing development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? 2. Will it maximise the provision of employment development on previously developed land as opposed to greenfield sites? 3. Will it ensure appropriate housing densities to make efficient use of land? |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>4. Will it promote the adoption of sustainable design in construction practices and the use of recycled materials?</p> <p>5. Will it promote good design which positively contributes to the locally distinctive character and context?</p> <p>6. Will it ensure land is remediated where appropriate?</p> <p>7. Will it reduce the loss of soil to development?</p> |
| 9 | <p>To reduce air pollution including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the parish is ready for its impacts</p> <p>1. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns including public transport, walking and cycling?</p> <p>2. Will it address any particular air quality impacts arising from specific operational and/or construction related development activities?</p> <p>3. Will it improve air quality?</p> |
| 10 | <p>To conserve and enhance and create resources for the parish's biodiversity</p> <p>1. Will it, protect, enhance or restore a locally or nationally designated site of nature conservation importance?</p> <p>2. Will it assist Cherwell District Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and/or the Oxfordshire BAP achieve its targets?</p> <p>3. Will it conserve or enhance biodiversity assets or create new habitats?</p> <p>4. Will it minimise the fragmentation of existing habitats and enhance, restore or create networks of habitats?</p> <p>5. Will it conserve and enhance species diversity; and in particular avoid harm to protected species?</p> <p>6. Will it encourage protection of and increase the number of trees?</p> |
| 11 | <p>To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment.</p> <p>1. Will it protect, enhance and restore the parish's natural environment assets (e.g. the locally distinctive countryside, integrity of local landscape, unspoilt rural views, common land, open spaces, woodland, AONBs etc.)?</p> <p>2. Will it protect, enhance and restore the parish's cultural and heritage assets (e.g. Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and the Conservation Area and locally important buildings, structures and features (e.g. important hedgerows and historic landscape such as Ridge & Furrow fields)?)</p> <p>3. Will it promote the accessibility of the parish's countryside and historic environment in a sustainable and well-managed manner?</p> <p>4. Will it improve the landscape, ecological quality and character of open spaces?</p> <p>5. Will it help preserve and record archaeological features?</p> |
| 12 | <p>To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry</p> <p>1. 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?</p> <p>2. Will it promote more sustainable transport patterns in rural areas?</p> <p>3. Will it reduce journey times between key employment areas and key transport interchanges?</p> |
| 13 | <p>To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products.</p> <p>1. Will it promote the use of locally and sustainable sourced, and recycling materials in construction and renovation?</p> <p>2. Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?</p> |
| 14 | <p>To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste</p> <p>1. Will it promote sustainable waste management practices through a range of waste management facilities?</p> <p>2. Will it reduce hazardous waste?</p> <p>3. Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?</p> |
| 15 | <p>To maintain and improve the water quality of parish's groundwater and watercourses and to achieve sustainable water resources management</p> |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | |
|---|---|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it improve the water quality of the district's rivers and inland water? 2. Will it enable recycled water to be used? 3. Will it promote sustainable water resource management, provision of new facilities/ infrastructure or water efficient measures? |
| 16 | <p>To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it lead to an increase in the proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources? 2. Will it promote the incorporation of small-scale renewable in developments? |
| 17 | <p>To increase levels of employment within the parish.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it promote accessible employment opportunities? 2. Will it contribute to reducing short and long-term unemployment? |
| 18 | <p>To sustain and develop an educated/ skilled workforce, local employment opportunities and the long term viability of the parish</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will it encourage opportunities for local people? 2. Will it assist in maintaining and increasing the viability of the rural and farming economy? |

5.1 Compatibility of Neighbourhood Plan Goals and SA Objectives

As part of the SA process the Goals of the Neighbourhood Plan have been tested against the SA framework to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are imbedded from the beginning of the project.

| | | To provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home | To maintain and enhance the character, vitality and community spirit of the village | To maintain and develop an infrastructure to support our community activities | To maintain and enhance employment opportunities and businesses providing sustainable services and local employment | To maintain the rural character and tranquility of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain. | To minimise the environmental impact of new development, and ensure that any development is sympathetic to its setting within the village and wider neighbourhood | To reduce harm to the environment by aiming for a low carbon community | Improve access within the parish, improve travel choices and reduce the need to travel. |
|----|--------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Housing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Flood risk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Well-being | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 4 | Social exclusion | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Crime | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Communities | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | Accessibility | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 8 | Land use | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Air quality | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Biodiversity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Landscape/Heritage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Travel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 13 | Resources | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | Waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | Water | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Energy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | Employment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Economy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| -1 | Incompatible objectives |
| 0 | No relationship between objectives |
| 1 | Compatible objectives |
| ? | Uncertainty over compatibility |

No incompatibilities have been identified that require any amendments to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan goals.

6. Assessment Methodology and Findings

6.1 SA Methodology

The approach to the SA of the NP has been to provide an expert judgement based system of prediction and assessment guided by the SA objectives. Broadly, the assessment has included:

- Identifying the sustainability effects of the NP; and
- Assessing effects for their significance.

In defining what is a 'significant effect' the same methodology is used as that for the Cherwell Local Plan SA.

In order to adhere to the SEA Regulations the following types of effects have been identified - short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects where relevant (and where possible to identify). The plan has been assessed using appraisal matrices. An SA matrix is designed to help identify the potential effects of the options / policies on the SA objectives (guided by the SA sub-objectives within the SA Framework – see Section 5). A combination of expert judgement and analysis of baseline data has been used to judge the potential effects of the plan.

The SEA Regulations specify the criteria that should be taken into account when determining likely significant effects. These criteria, which principally relate to the nature of the effects arising from the plan and the value and vulnerability of the receptors, are as follows:

- How valuable and vulnerable is the receptor that is being impacted?
- How probable, frequent, long lasting and reversible are the effects?
- What is the magnitude and spatial scale of the effect?
- Are the effects positive or negative?

The Cherwell Local Plan SA reported the findings of the assessment using the 'rating' system shown in the extract from the Cherwell SA Report below. The HNNP SA will use this same 'rating' system.

Geographical scope of the assessment

The assessment will primarily consider the effects of implementing the plan on the parish of Hook Norton. However it will also consider whether there could be effects on neighbouring parishes.

| Table 3.2: SA scoring | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Score | Description | Symbol |
| Significant positive impact | The policy/site fully achieves the SA objective and will have a positive effect with relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors (where known) | ++ |
| Minor positive impact | The policy/site partly achieves the SA objective and has a positive effect with relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors (where known) | + |
| Neutral | The policy/site does not have an effect on the achievement of the SA objective | 0 |
| Minor negative impact | The policy/site will partially conflict with the SA objective and have a negative effect with relation to the characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors (where known) | - |
| Significant negative impact | The policy/site will actively work against the SA objective and have a negative effect with relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors (where known) | -- |
| Uncertain | It is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SA objectives | ? |

In keeping with the methodology for the Cherwell Local Plan SA the detailed assessments of plan elements have been recorded in assessment tables (see Appendix D).

Where the assessment identifies the potential for adverse environmental effects, the SA has either recommended changes to the plan or identified mitigation measures that can help to offset these effects. In addition to mitigating adverse effects, the SA also seeks to promote changes and additions to the plan which will help to achieve enhancements in relation to the SA Objectives.

If the Neighbourhood Plan policies did not exist, any new development in Hook Norton would be controlled through Cherwell District Council policies and also national planning policy. The sustainability appraisal has therefore assessed the Neighbourhood Plan policies by comparing them with the 'do nothing' option of having no Neighbourhood Plan and relying on policies at national and district level.

The assessment was initially undertaken on the policies in the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan (November 2013) and the findings were reported in the SA Report that accompanied the NP consultation. As some of the policies in the Pre-Submission NP were updated for the Submission version – based on consultation feedback and changing circumstances – so it has been necessary to revisit the assessment to determine whether the original findings still stand or whether they need to be updated.

In order to show the changes made to the policies and associated assessments, the detailed assessment matrices included in Appendix D use bold and strikethrough text to denote the changes that have been made between Pre-Submission and Submission stages.

6.2 Assessment Findings

As described above some updates to the Plan policies were made between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages.

Whilst the policy amendments were seen to enhance the effects predicted against certain SA objectives, in the majority of cases this did not result in a change being required to the original assessment 'scoring'. Only two changes were made to the scoring, these being in relation to the introduction of policy wording in the 'Housing' theme on avoiding floodrisk and locating development away from watercourses. Therefore, other than these minor changes, the findings of the original assessment remain valid.

The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, grouped under the themes of Hook Norton Character and Countryside; Community; Housing; and Transport, have been assessed against each of the SA Objectives. The detail of the assessments is provided in Appendix D, with the figure below summarising the findings of the assessment.

| | | POLICY THEMES | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------|-----------|
| SA Objective | | HOOK NORTON CHARACTER AND COUNTRYSIDE | COMMUNITY - LIVING AND WORKING IN HOOK NORTON | HOUSING | TRANSPORT |
| 1 | Housing | 0 | 0 | ++ | 0 |
| 2 | Flood risk | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| 3 | Well-being | 0 | + | 0 | + |
| 4 | Social exclusion | 0 | + | + | 0 |
| 5 | Crime | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Communities | 0 | ++ | + | 0 |
| 7 | Accessibility | 0 | + | 0 | + |
| 8 | Land use | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Air quality | + | + | 0 | + |
| 10 | Biodiversity | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Landscape/Heritage | ++ | + | + | + |
| 12 | Travel | + | + | 0 | + |
| 13 | Resources | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | Waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Water | 0 | 0 | + | 0 |
| 16 | Energy | + | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Employment | 0 | + | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Economy | 0 | + | 0 | 0 |

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| -- | Significant negative effects |
| - | Minor negative effects |
| 0 | No predicted effects |
| + | Minor positive effects |
| ++ | Significant positive effects |

Significant positive effects have been identified against the 'housing'; 'communities'; and 'landscape/heritage' SA Objectives, along with a range of other minor positive effects. No negative effects have been identified, which is not surprising given that the Neighbourhood Plan is not allocating sites for development, but instead is providing policies to control any future development.

There are two SA Objectives against which the Sustainability Appraisal has not identified any effects. These are the objectives relating to 'Crime'; and 'Waste'. The reason for this is that these topics are all covered by Cherwell District Council policies and the Neighbourhood Plan policies do not add anything that is locally specific in a Hook Norton context.

When considering the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole, rather than as separate groups of policies, the cumulative effects for several of the SA Objectives will become more significant. At this stage in the process it is difficult however to predict exactly how well all the objectives will be met.

6.3 Monitoring

Where significant effects have been identified by the Sustainability Appraisal there is a requirement³ on the local authority (i.e. Cherwell District Council) to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions. The monitoring results should be reported in the local planning authority's Monitoring Report.

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

The Sustainability Appraisal has not identified any significant adverse effects relating to the implementation of the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan. It has however identified some significant positive effects relating to the following SA objectives:

- SA1: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home;
- SA6: To create and sustain vibrant communities and engage cultural activity across all section of the Hook Norton community; and
- SA11: To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment.

Measures for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan need to be developed with Cherwell District Council as they develop further the monitoring measures associated with the implementation of the Cherwell Local Plan.

Annex F of the Cherwell Local Plan Submission SA Report (October 2013) provides 'significant effects indicators' that will be used to monitor the predicted 'significant effects' of the plan's policies. It is anticipated that where appropriate the same indicators will be used to monitor the significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan. The monitoring measures will be finalised prior to the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.

³ Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

7. Habitats Regulations Assessment

In addition to undertaking an SA/SEA on the Neighbourhood Plan there is also a requirement to determine whether implementation of the NP 'in combination' with other projects and plans would have likely significant effects on the ecological integrity of the most valued nature conservation sites. These sites are called Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites (collectively called Natura 2000 sites).

An HRA was carried out at various stages of the Cherwell Local Plan preparation. The conclusion of this work was that none of the policies or the proposals contained in the submitted Cherwell Local Plan (January 2014) will lead to likely significant effects on the most valued nature conservation sites.

As the closest Natura 2000 site to Hook Norton is Oxford Meadows SAC, over 20 miles away, so the same conclusion can be drawn for the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan and no further detailed assessment will need to be undertaken.

8. Next Steps

The SA Report prepared at the Submission Stage will be submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan and other supporting documentation when it is submitted for an independent examination to be undertaken by a planning inspector.

Any substantive changes that are made to the Plan as a result of the Examination will need to be subjected to Sustainability Appraisal to identify whether any new significant effects would result from the changes, or whether previously identified significant effects are no longer predicted as a result of the changes.

The next stage will then be for the Plan (with any modifications required by the Examiner) to progress to a referendum. A vote in favour at referendum stage means that the Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the Development Plan for the area, against which any proposals for development will be assessed.

8.1 SA/SEA Adoption Statement

When the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will be accompanied by a SA/SEA Statement. In line with the SEA Regulations, the SA/SEA Statement will provide the following information:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- How the SA Report has been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed in relation to the consultations on the plan/ programme and SA Report have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

8.2 Post Adoption

Following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan there will be a need to undertake SA/SEA monitoring of the significant effects identified. It is envisaged that this monitoring will take place alongside the monitoring of the Cherwell Local Plan which will be the responsibility of Cherwell District Council.

Appendix A: Listed Buildings in Hook Norton

Some building names may be abbreviated or partial; this is how they are recorded in the original register.

Sources

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk>

<http://gohistoric.com/places/hook-norton-england>

Grade I (x1)

Church of St Peter

1 High Street, Hook Norton, Oxfordshire

Grade II* (x1)

Swerford Park

Hook Norton

Grade II (x69)

2, the Green

Tite Lane, Hook Norton

Baptist Chapel

Netting Street, Hook Norton

Barclays Bank

1 High Street, Hook Norton

Belleisle Farmhouse, Barn Approximately 25 Metres South

Hook Norton

Beanacre Cottage

Ashburton Lane, Hook Norton

Blackbirds

Chapel Street, Hook Norton

Blarney Cottage

Bell's Lane, Hook Norton

Brewery Cottage

Brewery Lane, Hook Norton

Brewhouse at Hook Norton Brewery

Brewery Lane, Hook Norton

Bridge House

Brick Hill, Hook Norton

Central Stores

High Street, Hook Norton

Gazebo Homeleigh

High Street, Hook Norton

Gingerbread Cottage

Well Bank, Hook Norton

Gosling Cottage Hataway Cottage

High Street, Hook Norton

Harwood House

Chipping Norton Road, Hook
Norton

Heydon House

E End, Hook Norton

Horn's Butchers Shop

Queen Street, Hook Norton

House to Left of Mace's Store

Down End, Hook Norton

House to Right of the Old Sweet Shop⁴

Netting Street, Hook Norton

Ivydene

E End, Hook Norton

Jasmine Cottage

The Green, Hook Norton

Laburnum

Queen Street, Hook Norton

Priestfield

1 High Street, Hook Norton

Priestfield Cottage

1 High Street, Hook Norton

Scotland House

Hook Norton

Scotland Mount Cottage

Scotland Mount House

Brewery Lane, Hook Norton

South Hill House

2 Bury Croft Road, Hook
Norton

Southrop Farmhouse

Brick Hill, Hook Norton

Southrop House

Southrop Road, Hook Norton

St Valentines

Hook Norton

Stable Block at Hook Norton Brewery

Hook Norton

Staddle Cottage

Bell's Lane, Hook Norton

Stapenhill

⁴ "House to Right of the Old Sweet Shop, Netting Street" is actually two separate dwellings: "Moonbeam Thatch"; and "Hare Cottage".

Central Stores (Middle Block)
High Street, Hook Norton

Chest Tomb Approximately 4 Metres North West of Baptist Chapel
Netting Street, Hook Norton

Clay Bank
Clay Bank, Hook Norton

Cornerways
Bell's Lane, Hook Norton

Court Farmhouse
Hook Norton

Crooked Cottage
E End, Hook Norton

Crooked Thatch
Station Road, Hook Norton

Dial House The Middle House
High Street, Hook Norton

Downend Cottage
Down End, Hook Norton

East End House The Pottery
E End, Hook Norton

Easter Cottage
Southrop Road, Hook Norton

Former National School and Old School House
1 High Street, Hook Norton

Leas Farmhouse
Hook Norton

Lincoln's Inn Salfords
Hook Norton

Long Thatch
Chapel Street, Hook Norton

Magdalen Lodge
1 High Street, Hook Norton

Malthouse at Hook Norton Brewery
Brewery Lane, Hook Norton

Manor Farmhouse
Hook Norton

Marrie Mount
Round Close Road, Hook Norton

Netting Cottage
Hook Norton

Oatley Hill Farmhouse
Hook Norton

Office Block at Hook Norton Brewery
Brewery Lane, Hook Norton

Pear tree Cottage
Chipping Norton Road, Hook Norton

Petra
Netting Street, Hook Norton

Scotland End, Hook Norton

Stuart House
Down End, Hook Norton

Swerford Park Bridge
Swerford, Oxfordshire

The Bell Inn
High Street, Hook Norton

The Manor House
Netting Street, Hook Norton

The Old Malt House Cottage
Down End, Hook Norton

The Old Post Office
Chapel Street, Hook Norton

The Old Surgery
Chapel Street, Hook Norton

The Old Sweet Shop
Netting Street, Hook Norton

The Paddocks
Hook Norton

The Thatch
1 High Street, Hook Norton

Walnut Tree Cottage
Park Road, Hook Norton

Wisteria House
High Street, Hook Norton

Appendix B: Hook Norton Wildlife Habitats (OWLS)

The following wildlife habitats fall within Hook Norton. They are listed according to their associated landscape type or local character area.

If you want more information about any of the sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) listed below, take a look at English Nature's [Nature on the Map](#) website. It may also be possible to find out a bit more about the unnamed wildlife habitats in the parish by contacting the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (gavin.bird@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and quoting the site code next to the habitat description.

The majority of these wildlife habitats are on private land and access to them is not possible without permission of the landowner, unless there is a statutory [right of way](#). However, many wildlife habitats in the county are open to the public. More information on these can be obtained from the [Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum](#).

Farmland Plateau

Site Code: 33K01/1 (Bank) and Lin6/1 (Cuttings)

Area: 6.8 ha

Hook Norton Cutting and Banks SSSI

South of Hook Norton, the disused railway and the River Swere cut through limestone rocks. The valley side and cuttings support limestone grassland, which is a national nature conservation priority. Limestone grassland is particularly rich in colourful wildflowers and great variety can be seen here. These include autumn gentian, harebell, cowslip, and common spotted orchid. At the base of Hook Norton Bank next to the river marshy wetland vegetation can be found and water mint and marsh marigold can be seen here.

Oak and ash woodland has established on the northern cutting. The cuttings are a nature reserve managed by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. The reserve extends to the cutting north of the SSSI. The site is also important for insects especially bees. One species has only been recorded in three other sites in Britain.

The cutting is also important for its geology due the layers of rock exposed when then they were dug which are important in our understanding of geological history.

Rolling Village Pastures

Site Code: 33R01

Area: 15.7 ha

This site consists of a section of valleys along a small tributary of the River Swere which cuts through the limestone and ironstone rocks in the area. The valley has banks of grassland rich in wildflowers while in the valley bottom there are marshy areas and a pond.

The grassland on the banks, while being neutral in character, is quite varied due to the influence of the underlying rocks. Some areas have wildflowers, such as salad burnet, indicate the presence of limestone. On the more acidic sandy soils betony, tormentil and marsh lousewort are found. Other grassland wildflowers present include lady's mantle and harebell. This type of grassland is a national nature conservation priority.

In the valley bottom there is a mixture of tall wetland habitat and marshy areas with sedge and rushes. Many wetland wildflowers are found here including ragged robin, marsh marigold, the uncommon wood-club rush, yellow flag iris and meadowsweet. A pond has

been dug at the east end. These wetland habitats are also a priority for nature conservation and provide good habitat for birds. Snipe and woodcock have been recorded here.

Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes

Site Code: 33H01

Area: 2.4ha

Sharp's Hill Quarry SSSI

Sharp's Hill Quarry is one of a number of sites in Oxfordshire where quarrying has left important geological exposures which are of great value in the understanding of geological history. This quarry has a fine example of what is known as the Sharp's Hill formation which is rich in fossils.

Site Code: 33N02

Area: 17.7 ha

This is an area of disused quarries and pasture on limestone rocks and sandy soils. Limestone grassland is a national nature conservation priority and is now mainly found on small banks along the valleys and in the old quarries.

The grassland has green winged orchids and cowslips as well as a population of Cotswold pennycress. This very rare species is a national nature conservation priority. The areas with sandy soil are more acidic and gorse is found here. There are also areas of ash woodland and wet areas along a stream. A good variety of birds can be seen at the site including buzzard and green woodpecker while brown argus is one of the butterflies that can be seen here.

Site Code: 33H04

Area: 1.3ha

This site is a small bank of west facing limestone grassland on the valley side of one of the headwater tributary streams of the River Stour. Limestone grassland is a national nature conservation priority.

The main feature of the limestone grassland is the presence of green-winged, pyramidal and common spotted orchids. Other wildflowers present include cowslip, lady's bedstraw, small scabious and salad burnet. There are also areas of hawthorn scrub on the bank providing good habitat for birds. At the bottom of the bank the soil is much deeper and richer and therefore lacks the richness in wildflowers of the bank. There is a marshy area here with rushes and reed grass where marsh marigold and meadowsweet are found.

Appendix C: Consultation Comments

C1: Scoping Report (September 2013)

| Natural England | Sustainability Appraisal response to consultation comments |
|---|--|
| <p>Q. Are there any other plans and programmes relevant to the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan that need to be considered in the Sustainability Appraisal?</p> <p>A. No</p> | <p>No update required</p> |
| <p>Q. Is the baseline data appropriate to the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan? Please provide any other relevant baseline data of relevance.</p> <p>A. The baseline data appears to be appropriate.</p> <p>Please note that there are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the parish, not one as stated on page 9 (Hook Norton Cutting and Banks). However you do refer to the other SSSI in appendix B (Sharp's Hill Quarry).</p> <p>In terms of Soil and Geology, we advocate further work on the Agricultural Land Classification as mentioned on page 11. To assist in understanding agricultural land quality within the plan area and to safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land in line with paragraph 112 of the National Planning Policy Framework, strategic scale Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Maps are available. Natural England also has an archive of more detailed ALC surveys for selected locations. Both these types of data can be supplied digitally free of charge by contacting Natural England. We suggest emailing enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk with a request and we can look into it for you. Some of this data is also available on the www.magic.gov.uk website. General mapped information on soil types is available as 'Soilscapes' on the www.magic.gov.uk and also from the LandIS website http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm which contains more information about obtaining soil data.</p> | <p>Sharp's Hill Quarry SSSI is now included in Section 4.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policy to respect and enhance the natural assets of the surrounding area. However it relies on the strong policy at district level to provide the necessary protection and enhancement of the parish's soil resource.</p> |
| <p>Q. Do you agree with the key issues and opportunities identified for the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan in Table 1 of the Scoping Report?</p> <p>A. Yes</p> | <p>No update required</p> |
| <p>Would you like to see any amendments to the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan Proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework in Table 2 of the Scoping Report?</p> <p>No</p> | <p>No update required</p> |
| <p>Q. 5. Do you have any other comments you would like to make?</p> <p>A. On page 7 you mention that part of the parish boundary coincides with the boundary of the Cotswolds AONB. You may like to consider developing this in your objectives, with reference</p> | <p>SA Objective 3 includes the sub-objective: "Will it protect, enhance and restore the parish's natural environment"</p> |

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| <p>to the management plan aims, ensuring development does not detrimentally impact on them or on the setting of the adjacent AONB.</p> | <p>assets (e.g. the locally distinctive countryside, integrity of local landscape, unspoilt rural views, common land, open spaces, woodland, AONBs etc.)?"</p> <p>Under the NP Goal "To maintain the rural character and tranquillity of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain" there is an objective to "To maintain and enhance key views within and of the village and the wider District, including the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty"</p> |
| <p>English Heritage</p> | |
| <p>English Heritage welcomes the comprehensive description of the current historic environment of Hook Norton, particularly the references to the Conservation Area Appraisal, the Historic Environment Record and undesignated but locally important heritage assets. However, it would be helpful to set the context for these assets by describing the historical development of Hook Norton. Information on the historical significance of the countryside in the parish may be available from the Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Assessment.</p> | <p>Some additional description has been added to Section 4 of the SA Report. The Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal provides information on Hook Norton's historical development and cross-reference is made to that document..</p> |
| <p>We note that there is an existing Conservation Area Appraisal, but is there any characterisation study of the village as a whole? Such a study can help inform locations and details of proposed new development and identify possible townscape improvements. There are links in the appendix to this letter to "Placecheck", "Building in Context", the "Oxford Character Assessment Toolkit" and "Understanding Place", all of which contain further information on local characterisation.</p> | <p>We are not aware of any 'whole village' characterisation to use in informing the sustainability appraisal.</p> |
| <p>According to the recently-published 2013 Heritage at Risk Register, there are no assets at risk in Hook Norton, which is pleasing. However, the Scoping Report could include a consideration of the current and potential future condition of the heritage assets in the parish - are there are particular threats to their significance e.g. from development, lack of maintenance etc.? Has there been any change in their condition in recent years, particularly for the worse?</p> | <p>Section 4 of the SA Report has been updated to reflect this new information.</p> |
| <p>Although we welcome the identification of the need to control development to retain historic assets, we believe that the Sustainability Issues and Opportunities in Table 1 should specifically</p> | <p>Table 1 updated to include this topic</p> |

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| include the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment in the Parish. | |
| <p>In addition, given the historical significance of the village and the range of heritage assets therein, it is disappointing that this not a specific goal or objective of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, nor are opportunities to be sought for historic environment "gain". However, we do welcome the goals to maintain and enhance the character of the village and to ensure that any development is sympathetic to its setting within the village. Would it be beneficial for the Plan to include a specific policy on the historic environment of the village/parish?</p> | <p>The goal "To maintain the rural character and tranquillity of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, recreational and ecological gain" has been updated to include 'heritage' as follows: "To maintain the rural character and tranquillity of the parish whilst seeking opportunities for landscape, heritage, recreational and ecological gain" There are objectives relating to protection and enhancement of the village's heritage. The N.Plan also includes policies (CC1 and CC2) that include relating to heritage.</p> |
| <p>We also welcome Sustainability Objective 11 and its sub-objectives. The Scoping Report normally also sets out the "indicators", with which the policies and/or site allocations can be assessed against the objectives and sub-objectives. The English Heritage guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessments and the historic environment contains further details on and suggestions for indicators.</p> | <p>Indicators will be included in the SA Report.</p> |
| <p>Finally, the nature of the locally-led neighbourhood plan process is that the community itself should determine its own agenda based on the issues about which it is concerned. At the same time, as a national organisation able increasingly to draw upon our experiences of neighbourhood planning exercises across the country, our input, agreed on a case by case basis, can help those communities reflect upon the special (heritage) qualities which define their area to best ensure that optimum and sustainable outcomes are achieved. To this end, information on our website might be of assistance http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improving-your-neighbourhood/.</p> | <p>Engagement with the residents and other key stakeholder of the parish has been an ongoing part of the Neighbourhood planning process.</p> |
| Environment Agency | |
| <p>Flood Risk There are two main river watercourses within the extent of the parish, the Hook Norton Brook and the River Swere.</p> <p>There are also a number of Ordinary Watercourses which come under the jurisdiction of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), which in this case is Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). There are locations which are in Flood Zones 2 and 3 associated with the</p> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan relies on policies at district and national level to provide the appropriate control of development in terms of flood risk. Reference to the</p> |

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| <p>two main river watercourses and with an unnamed ordinary watercourse. These affect parts of Hook Norton and outlying areas.</p> <p>There are locations which are in the Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW) for the 1 in 30 and 1 in 200 chance rainfall events. These affect parts of Hook Norton and outlying areas. We have no records of historic flood extents within the extent of the parish. Flood risk data is available from the Environment Agency from the Customers & Engagement team via the email address below. mailto:wtenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</p> <p>The LLFA may be able to provide further information relating to flooding and flood risk associated with ordinary watercourses, surface water and ground water.</p> <p>We can see references to flooding and flood risk in the Scoping Report. We would expect the Neighbourhood Plan to address the risk of flooding to people and property from all sources, including main river, ordinary watercourses, surface water and ground water, as well as sewer flooding.</p> <p>Development should be directed away from areas of flood risk, including Flood Zones 2 and 3, as the areas at risk of flooding are limited and we would expect these areas to be avoided. We would want to see adequate undeveloped buffers left adjacent to watercourses, to avoid flood risk and to provide opportunities for environmental enhancements.</p> <p>In addition to the Cherwell District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, reference should also be made to the Oxfordshire County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Both of these documents may contain references to other sources of information relating to flooding and flood risk.</p> | <p>Oxfordshire County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is provided in Section 4.</p> |
| <p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>We are pleased to see that biodiversity has been considered and are satisfied with the baseline information compiled. We would expect the plan to consider protecting the water environment by taking a number of measures.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain eight metre buffer zones along the Hook Norton Stream and its tributaries and managed in a way that has a positive impact on biodiversity. 2. Take the opportunity to create and enhance habitat along the river corridor-gravel, pond's scrapes and backwaters. | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides policy to respect and enhance the natural assets of the surrounding area. However it relies on the strong policy at district level to provide the necessary protection and enhancement of the parish's watercourses.</p> |
| <p>Groundwater and Contaminated Land</p> <p>We would welcome reference to groundwater in the item 15 of the Sustainability appraisal framework. We would advise that "parish's groundwater and watercourses" are referred to instead of just "parish's Watercourses"</p> <p>Hook Norton is underlain by Secondary Aquifer (Marlstone Rock Beds). Areas to the south of the neighbourhood plan area are underlain by Oolitic principal aquifer. We would also highlight that</p> | <p>SA Objective 15 has been updated.</p> |

Hook Norton brewery relies on a groundwater abstractions. There are a number of other private groundwater abstractions within the Hook Norton neighbourhood plan area.

Once impacted, groundwater can take many years to recover. Groundwater also supplies base flows for many surface watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. Ensuring groundwater is not impacted by inappropriate development is crucial in protecting groundwater and surface water resource for the future.

C2: Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2013)

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| Natural England | Sustainability Appraisal response to consultation comments |
| No comments received relating to the SA Report. | No action taken. |
| English Heritage | |
| As regards the Sustainability Appraisal, we are grateful for the changes that have been made in response to our comments on the Scoping Report. | Noted. No action taken. |
| Environment Agency | |
| No comments received relating to the SA Report. | No action taken. |
| Cherwell District Council | |
| Page 6 – second and third paragraphs refer to the July 2012 update of the Cherwell Local Plan SA. The SA report has been updated again in October 2013 and approved for submission by Council alongside the Local Plan. The requirements of the NPPF have been fully incorporated into the Local Plan. The text should be amended to take these two points into account. | <p>SA Report updated to reflect this more advanced stage for the Cherwell Local Plan SA Report.</p> <p>NB: further work on the Cherwell Local Plan SA has been undertaken since CDC's 2013 response. A Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal Addendum for Main Modifications to the Cherwell Submission Local Plan was published in June 2014.</p> <p>Further updates have been made to the HNNP SA Report to reflect this new CDC SA.</p> |
| Page 23 – Habitat Regulations Assessment, paragraph needs updating to refer to the October 2013 Local Plan and the accompanying update. | SA Report updated to reflect this more advanced stage for the Cherwell Local Plan HRA Report. |

Appendix D: Assessment of Submission Policies

This appendix provides the assessment of the HNNP Submission Policies, grouped by Theme, against each of the objectives that make up the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. The tables are based on the assessments undertaken on the Pre-Submission HNNP, as reported in the SA Report that accompanied the HNNP consultation in November 2013.

Changes to the policies and assessments to reflect the updates made between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages are shown using **bold** (denoting new text) and ~~strike through~~ (denoting deleted/superseded text).

POLICIES FOR THE THEME: 'HOOK NORTON CHARACTER AND COUNTRYSIDE'

Policy HN - CC 1: Protection and enhancement of local landscape and character of Hook Norton

Any development must be located and designed so that it is readily visually accommodated into its surroundings and setting, and provides a positive contribution to the locally distinctive character and context of Hook Norton.

Proposals which would introduce development to isolated sites in the open countryside which would adversely affect the tranquillity, unspoilt character and amenity value of the landscape will not be permitted.

Development which makes use of previously developed land and buildings will generally be preferred to greenfield locations. Residential gardens are not considered previously developed land and redevelopment of residential gardens to provide inappropriate housing is specifically not supported.

Policy HN - CC 2: Design

Any planning application for development must contain sufficient detail to demonstrate the proposal is of high quality design. In particular for Hook Norton, high quality design means that any proposal must build upon the principles set out in the Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal and must:

Reflect local distinctiveness and be readily assimilated particularly in terms of: the extent and amount of development; scale; layout; open spaces; appearance; and materials

~~Respect and enhance the heritage and natural assets of the surrounding area~~

Respect and enhance the historic environment of the parish and its heritage and natural assets.

Ensure that locally important views and vistas are maintained or enhanced

Retain and enhance open spaces, walls, hedgerows and trees which are important to the local character

Take account of information and design guidance included in the Cherwell Countryside Design SPD, Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study, Hook Norton Conservation Area Appraisal and any specific design guidance provided by Hook Norton Parish Council

Incorporate features to improve environmental performance and reduce carbon emissions, unless it is demonstrated to be not practicable and viable

Policy HN - CC 3: Local distinctiveness, variety, and cohesiveness

The traditional pattern of growth which characterises Hook Norton is small scale and gradual change. This must be reflected in the extent and amount of any development in Hook Norton. Designs which could be 'anywhere place' will not be acceptable. Variety in density, layout, building orientation and sizes will be sought to reflect the local context. Building styles and materials must also reflect and positively contribute to local distinctiveness. Hook Norton is one of Oxfordshire's Ironstone villages and it is therefore expected that local ironstone will continue to be the predominant building material. All elements of schemes must be considered at an early stage to produce a cohesive and high quality design in which detailing such as car

parking, boundary treatments, bin stores, meter boxes, and lighting are all provided for in a harmonious and inclusive design.

Policy HN - CC 4: Resource efficient design

High levels of resource efficiency will be expected and must be demonstrated in any application for development. Applicants will be expected to put forward site-specific proposals which take account of location, layout and building orientation to minimise energy consumption.

Policy HN - CC 5:Lighting

Any lighting proposed must be of a design which does not cause visual intrusion nor cause adverse effects due to light pollution. All lighting must meet high levels of energy efficiency.

| SA Objective | Duration | | | Assessment |
|---|----------|---|---|---|
| | S | M | L | |
| 1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 3. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 5. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 6. To create and sustain vibrant communities and engage cultural activity across all section of the Hook Norton community | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 8. To improve efficiency in land through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from buildings | + | + | + | Policy CC1 encourages the prioritisation of development on previously developed sites. |
| 9. To reduce air pollution including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the parish is ready for its impacts | + | + | + | The policies encourage resource efficiency and incorporation of features to reduce carbon emissions. |
| 10. To conserve and enhance and create resources for the parish's biodiversity | + | + | + | Protecting and enhancing natural assets could have positive benefits for biodiversity. However, CDC policies provide the major thrust in terms of biodiversity protection and enhancement |
| 11. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment. | + | + | + | The policies under this theme will directly help towards achieving this objective through the requirement for design that is in keeping with the local context and through minimising light pollution from new development. The emphasis on 'enhancement' provided by the policies will be key to realising the objective's aims. The change made to Policy CC2 between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages further supports this objective. |
| 12. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry | + | + | + | Preventing development in the open countryside will help to reduce the need to travel. |
| 13. To reduce the global, social and | + | + | + | Policy CC4 supports resource efficient |

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| environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products. | | | | design, whilst CC3 encourages the use of local ironstone. |
| 14. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 15. To maintain and improve the water quality of the parish's groundwater and watercourses and to achieve sustainable water resources management | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 16. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish | + | + | + | Policies CC2 and CC4 encourage resource efficient design and improved energy efficiency. |
| 17. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 18. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |

POLICIES FOR THE THEME: 'COMMUNITY - LIVING AND WORKING IN HOOK NORTON'

NB: Changes to the policies and assessments to reflect the updates made between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages are shown using **bold** (denoting new text) and ~~strike through~~ (denoting deleted/superseded text).

Policy HN - COM 1: Protection of Locally Valued Resources

Any proposal which would adversely affect or result in the loss of any Locally Valued Resource will not be permitted unless in exceptional circumstances and where it has been clearly shown as the only, or most locally acceptable option, taking into account all relevant factors including: full exploration of options to secure the continuation of the facility; designation as an Asset of Community Value and community purchase; and alternative provision, to the extent that each **factor** is applicable. The list of Locally Valued Resources is shown in Table 1 and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Policy HN - COM 2: Public Rights of Way

Existing Public Rights of Way in the parish will be protected from loss, re-routing or development which would adversely affect the amenity value to users.

Opportunities will be sought to enhance the network of Public Rights of Way through the creation of new links, improved maintenance and waymarking, and making use of developer contributions, agricultural schemes and local partnership initiatives.

Policy HN - COM 3: Developer Contributions to Community Infrastructure

~~Any contributions by developers made under Section 106 agreements or similar shall be used for community facilities, and the detail shall be determined in conjunction with Hook Norton Parish Council as representative of the community.~~ **For any planning application which triggers a Section 106 Agreement or similar, the determining authority shall consult with Hook Norton Parish Council, as the representative of the community, regarding the provisions of the Agreement.**

Policy HN - COM 4: Broadband

It is understood that Oxfordshire County Council will be rolling out high speed broadband to Hook Norton by 2015. In the event that this does not happen, proposals which would facilitate better quality broadband to Hook Norton will be supported provided this can be delivered in compliance with other relevant policies in this Plan, and in particular policies regarding Protection of Local Landscape and Character of Hook Norton. Any development occurring after high speed broadband infrastructure has been provided to Hook Norton will be expected to provide connectivity to that infrastructure.

Policy HN - COM 5: Retention of Local Employment

Sites providing local employment within the parish should be retained for employment use except in circumstances where it is demonstrated not to be viable.

| SA Objective | Duration | | | Assessment |
|---|----------|---|---|---|
| | S | M | L | |
| 1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 3. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health | + | + | + | Improved community facilities (that could be provided through a Section 106 Agreement or similar) and potential enhancements to the rights of way network that may result through these policies will help to improve general health and well-being. |
| 4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion | + | + | + | Policy COM5 seeks to protect sites providing local employment which will help to reduce the risk of local poverty from job losses. |
| 5. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 6. To create and sustain vibrant communities and engage cultural activity across all section of the Hook Norton community | + | + | + | Policy COM3 will enable developer contributions to be channelled towards community facilities that are prioritised by the community, rather than by the local authority. Change made to Policy COM3 between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages does not alter this assessment. |
| 7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities | + | + | + | The policies promote the provision and accessibility to community facilities and improved broadband services which may help reduce the need to travel. |
| 8. To improve efficiency in land through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 9. To reduce air pollution including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the parish is ready for its impacts | + | + | + | Any reduced travel need that results from these policies will help to contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. |
| 10. To conserve and enhance and create resources for the parish's biodiversity | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 11. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment. | + | + | + | Policy COM1 seeks to protect locally valued resources which will help to maintain the parish's cultural and heritage assets. |
| 12. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry | + | + | + | The provision of improved broadband may help to reduce the need to travel. |
| 13. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |

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| and local products. | | | | |
| 14. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 15. To maintain and improve the water quality of the parish's groundwater and watercourses and to achieve sustainable water resources management | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 16. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 17. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the parish | + | + | + | Policy COM5 seeks to protect sites providing local employment which will help to maintain existing local employment opportunities. |
| 18. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the parish | + | + | + | Policy COM5 seeks to protect sites providing local employment which will help to sustain the local economy. |

POLICIES FOR THE THEME: 'HOUSING'

NB: Changes to the policies and assessments to reflect the updates made between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages are shown using **bold** (denoting new text) and ~~strike through~~ (denoting deleted/superseded text).

Policy HN - H1: Sustainable housing growth

~~Sustainable housing growth for Hook Norton in this Plan period (2014 to 2031) means infilling, minor development and conversions. Infilling means the development of a small gap in an otherwise continuous built up frontage suitable for one or two dwellings. Minor development means small scale development proposals, typically but not exclusively for less than 10 dwellings. 'Conversions' means the conversion of non-residential buildings.~~

~~In all cases, housing growth must comply with all relevant policies in this Plan.~~

~~To maintain a sustainable community and avoid over development, the number of additional dwellings to be permitted during the plan period shall not exceed 20 unless justified by exceptional circumstances. To maintain a sustainable rate of change, no further sites of more than 10 dwellings will be permitted during the first half of the plan period.~~

Sustainable housing growth for Hook Norton in this Plan period (2014 to 2031) means conversions, infilling and minor development. 'Conversions' means the conversion of either residential or non-residential buildings. 'Infilling' means the development of a small gap in an otherwise continuous built-up frontage, typically but not exclusively suitable for one or two dwellings. 'Minor development' means small scale development proposals, typically but not exclusively for less than 10 dwellings. To maintain a sustainable community, proposals for up to 20 dwellings will be allowed where justified by objectively assessed local need and where this does not result in more than 20 dwellings being built in any location at any time, taking into account any extant permissions. In all cases, housing growth must comply with all relevant policies in this Plan.

Policy HN - H2: Location of housing

Any applications for housing development will be assessed for suitability of location using the following criteria. Suitable locations will:

- **Not be in Flood Zone 2 or 3 or within 8 metres of a watercourse**
- Comply with policies and advice in this Neighbourhood Plan
- ~~Give very significant weight to the evidence gained during Neighbourhood Plan consultation regarding general locations and extents of sites, as set out above~~ **Comply with the evidence gained during Neighbourhood Plan consultation regarding general locations and extents of sites, as set out above in Section 4.2**
- Take account of existing or potential alternative site uses which shall be identified with reference to consultation with the Parish Council.

Policy HN - H3 : Housing density

For housing development within Hook Norton the maintenance of local character has a higher significance than achieving a minimum housing density figure. The appropriate density for a housing site should in every case within Hook Norton result in a development that is in character with the local surrounding area.

Policy HN - H4: Types of housing

A mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households in Hook Norton will be sought in any development resulting in 3 or more homes. Scheme proposers are required to submit with any application for planning an objective assessment of the need for the proposed housing types, sizes and tenures in Hook Norton and to demonstrate how the proposed development addresses these needs.

Policy HN - H5: Provision and retention of affordable housing

~~Any affordable housing in Hook Norton will be subject to a legally binding obligation to ensure~~

that initial occupation, and any subsequent lettings or sales, is limited to people meeting Hook Norton Needs or connections criteria as set out in Appendix E. This obligation will have permanent effect unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer any requirement for the affordable housing.

Any affordable housing provided as a Rural Exception Site development in Hook Norton will be subject to a legally binding obligation to ensure that initial occupation, and any subsequent lettings or sales, is limited to people meeting Hook Norton Needs or connections criteria as set out in Appendix D. This obligation will have permanent effect unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer any requirement for the affordable housing.

Where affordable housing is provided under a Section 106 agreement or similar planning obligation Agreement as a requirement of a housing development under Local Plan policy, the maximum proportion possible of the total units provided shall at every opportunity be allocated to people meeting Hook Norton Needs or connections criteria as set out in Appendix D. This obligation will have permanent effect unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer any requirement for the affordable housing.

| SA Objective | Duration | | | Assessment |
|---|----------|---|---|---|
| | S | M | L | |
| 1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home. | + | + | + | The policies directly support this objective by having detailed criteria seeking to provide ensure that affordable housing is provided for people meeting Hook Norton Needs or connections criteria. However restricting the number of new dwellings over the plan period to 20 could mean that local needs are not met – although the policy does allow more than 20 dwellings if justified by exceptional circumstances, which could include a strong local demand. |
| 2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects The requirement in Policy H2 to avoid the location of housing in areas at risk from flooding supports this objective. |
| 3. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion | + | + | + | The policies to provide affordable housing, and ensure its retention, will help towards achieving this objective. |
| 5. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 6. To create and sustain vibrant communities and engage cultural activity across all section of the Hook Norton community | + | + | + | Allowing local people to remain living in the village will help to maintain community vitality. |
| 7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 8. To improve efficiency in land through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 9. To reduce air pollution including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the parish is ready for its impacts | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 10. To conserve and enhance and create resources for the parish's biodiversity | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 11. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment. | + | + | + | Policies H2 and H3 will help to ensure that any new housing is located and built to a density that has respect to the surrounding area. Policy H1 will ensure that developments are of a scale that can be assimilated into the surrounding area. |
| 12. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 13. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 14. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 15. To maintain and improve the water quality of the parish's groundwater and watercourses and to achieve sustainable water resources management | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | + | + | + | The requirement in Policy H2 to avoid the location of housing within 8 metres of a watercourse supports this objective. |
| 16. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 17. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 18. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |

POLICIES FOR THE THEME: 'TRANSPORT'

NB: Changes to the policies and assessments to reflect the updates made between the Pre-Submission and Submission stages are shown using **bold** (denoting new text) and ~~strike through~~ (denoting deleted/superseded text).

Policy HN - T1: Access and parking

Any new development must provide access to the local road network which is suitable and sympathetic to the surroundings, and must provide sufficient off road parking **in line with Oxfordshire County Council's parking standards**. Applicants for planning permission must clearly set out the proposed level of parking provision in relation to objectively assessed needs at the time, and show how future needs have been taken into account.

Policy HN - T2: Non-car transport

Opportunities will be sought to improve the local foot/cycleway network to facilitate safe, active and energy efficient means of transport and provide enhanced linkages, **including to bus stops**. All development proposals must demonstrate how their proposal has taken this requirement into account. **Developer contributions will be expected towards the provision of an enhanced bus service for Hook Norton.**

| SA Objective | Duration | | | Assessment |
|--|----------|---|---|---|
| | S | M | L | |
| 1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 2. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 3. To improve the health and well being of the population and reduce inequalities in health | + | + | + | Policy T2 seeks to improve the opportunities that exist for walking and cycling. If this results in more people using these modes of travel there will be positive effects on general health and wellbeing. |
| 4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 5. To reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 6. To create and sustain vibrant communities and engage cultural activity across all section of the Hook Norton community | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities | + | + | + | Policy T2 will help towards achieving this objective. The requirement for developer contributions to help fund enhanced bus services will further support this objective. |
| 8. To improve efficiency in land through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including the re-use of materials from buildings, and encouraging urban renaissance | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 9. To reduce air pollution including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the parish is ready for its impacts | + | + | + | Any shift to non-motorised modes of travel that result from Policy T2 will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If enhanced bus services are provided via developer contributions, this would help to reduce the reliance on private cars, with subsequent benefits for air quality and ghg emissions. |
| 10. To conserve and enhance and create resources for the parish's biodiversity | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| 11. To protect, enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the parish's countryside and historic environment. | + | + | + | Seeking to reduce the growth in levels of on street parking (through Policy T1) should help to prevent further erosion of the village's character, that has been identified as a threat in the Conservation Area appraisal. |
| 12. To reduce road congestion and pollution levels by improving travel choice, and reducing the need for travel by car/lorry | + | + | + | Policy T2 seeks to reduce the amount of car use for trips within the village. Policy T1 aims to reduce future growth in the levels of on street parking – that cause traffic issues. |

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|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 13. To reduce the global, social and environmental impact of consumption of resource by using sustainably produced and local products. | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |
| 14. To reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |
| 15. To maintain and improve the water quality of the parish's groundwater and watercourses and to achieve sustainable water resources management | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |
| 16. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |
| 17. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |
| 18. To sustain and develop economic growth and innovation, an educated/ skilled workforce and support the long term competitiveness of the parish | 0 | 0 | 0 | No predicted effects |
| | | | | |