

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report to accompany the
Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan

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Quality information

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Glossary

Term	Explanation
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	An area of high scenic quality which has statutory protection in order to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of its landscape. They have the same planning protection as National Parks but different purposes without a statutory duty to promote outdoor recreation.
Basic conditions	A set of requirements that a neighbourhood plan or Order needs to meet in order for the Plan or Order to proceed to referendum and be made.
SEA consultation body	In England, these are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England for the purposes of SEA. The consultation bodies are statutory consultees at the screening, scoping and environmental report stages of SEA.
Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden or Registered Battlefield
Designated site	In this document, reference to Designated sites should be taken to include European Sites ((i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)); Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites); European Marine Sites (EMSs)) Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (biological and /or geological SSSIs).
Environmental Report	The report that documents the assessment of the draft Plan and accompanies the draft Plan for pre-submission consultation or Submission. The environmental report needs to contain certain information as set out in Schedule 2 to the SEA Regulations 2004.
European site (sometimes known as 'Natura 2000' sites / network)	This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	This is a general term used for convenience which describes the full step-wise process required in making assessments of the impacts on European sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, including the steps of screening for likely significant effects and making appropriate assessments (AA).
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Impact Risk Zone	A tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.
Local Plan	The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.
Made	A neighbourhood plan is made by the Local Planning Authority once it has successfully gone through referendum. Once made, the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory development plan.

Term	Explanation
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The Framework sets out the government's national planning policies and how they are expected to be applied in plans and planning decisions.
National planning practice guidance (PPG)	Planning practice guidance web-based resource. Important information for any user of the planning system can be found here.
Neighbourhood Development Plan	A plan prepared by a Parish / Town Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area which, when made by the local planning authority, forms part of the statutory Development Plan. This is commonly referred to as the 'neighbourhood plan'
Priority habitat and species	Species and Habitats of Principle Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
Protected landscapes	Protected landscapes refer to the statutory designations; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the Broads Authority and National Parks (NPs), and the non-statutory areas encompassed by the Heritage Coasts
Setting of heritage asset	The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Significant effects	Effects that, for the purposes of the SEA Regulations 2004 (Schedule 1) are considered to be significant.
Sites of special scientific interest (SSSI)	A suite of sites, representing some of the best wildlife and geology, designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), and subject to national level legal protection.
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Non-statutory wildlife site designated for their habitat and/or species interests against a set of criteria developed by Hampshire County Council, Natural England and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. SINCs are put forward for selection and review by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre on behalf of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.
Strategic environmental assessment	A procedure (set out in the SEA Regulations) which requires the environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	A study carried out by one or more local planning authorities to assess the risk to an area from flooding from all sources, now and in the future, taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to assess the impact that land use changes and development in the area will have on flood risk.
Sustainable development	International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future set out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

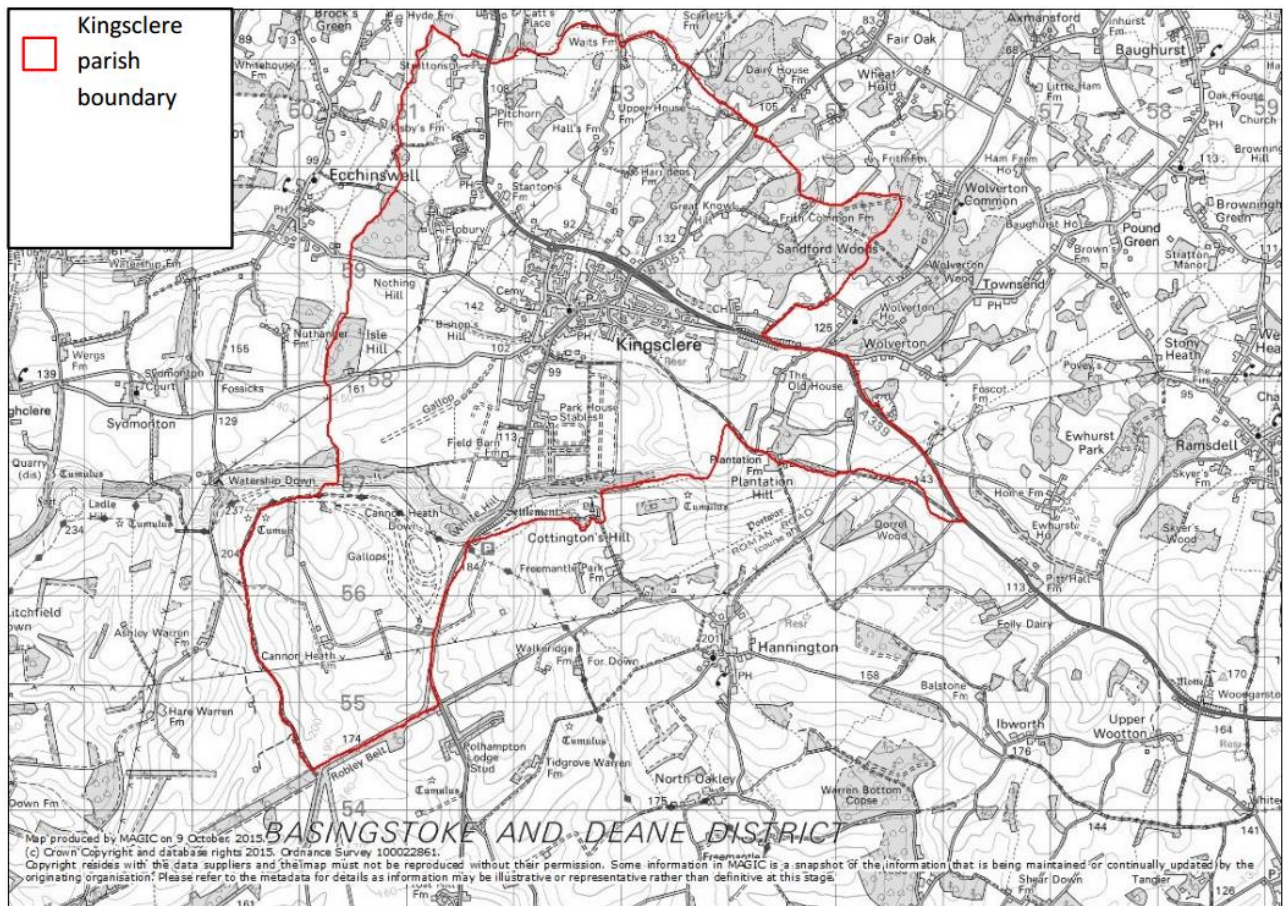


Figure 1.1: Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan area

Non-Technical Summary

What is strategic environmental assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been carried out to inform the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

Neighbourhood Plan groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the Neighbourhood Plan, and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and the quality of life of residents.

What is the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan?

The Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan (KNP) presents a plan for the parish of Kingsclere in Hampshire for the period to 2029. Prepared to be in conformity with the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the KNP sets out a vision and a range of policies for the parish. These relate to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing allocations, local character, quality of life and the protection and enhancement of the environment.

The key vision for the KNP is as follows:

“To create a Neighbourhood Plan that meets the allocated development requirement, which maintains the character of the village of Kingsclere and the surrounding area, and respects the opinions and needs of the majority of the community.”

It is currently anticipated that the KNP will be ‘made’ in 2018.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

This Environmental Report, which accompanies the Submission version of the KNP, is the third document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (October 2015), which includes information about the Neighbourhood Plan area’s environment and community. The second document was the Environmental Report prepared to accompany ‘Regulation 14’ consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan (January 2017).

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the KNP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the KNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the KNP has been assessed;
- The appraisal of alternative approaches for the KNP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the KNP;
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the KNP; and
- The next steps for the KNP and accompanying SEA process.

Assessment of alternative approaches for the KNP

A key requirement of the SEA Regulations is to appraise ‘reasonable alternatives’ for the KNP. To address this requirement, a number of alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the scale and form of new housing to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan. These are designed to deliver the 50 houses which the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan specifies should be delivered in the parish to 2029.

Two sets of options were considered through the SEA process as ‘reasonable alternatives’. These are described below.

1) Options for the size and number of housing sites to be allocated through the KNP

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group viewed that different options should be considered in the relation to the number and size of housing allocations to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the Local Plan requirement. This was a view to informing consultation through exploring the relative merits of different spatial strategies for delivering housing in the parish, in light of potential suitable, available and achievable sites.

The options, which were assessed through the SEA process, were as follows:

- Option 1: Delivery of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan’s housing requirement for the Kingsclere area through one site.
- Option 2: Delivery of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan’s housing requirement for the Kingsclere area through multiple sites, with a preference for smaller sites.

In response to consultation events undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan, the KNP Steering Group concluded the following:

“The KNP team received clear guidance from the public meetings held in November 2014 and October 2015 and from written submissions of the preference for development on a number of smaller sites (rather than one large site).”

2) Options for site allocations

The next stage of the SEA process was to consider the relative sustainability merits of allocating different potential sites in the village.

Following an initial consideration of a ‘long list’ of 31 sites by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups, six sites were shortlisted and considered through the SEA process. This followed a process of considering which sites were potentially achievable and did not pose constraints that could not be mitigated or overcome. The six sites assessed were as follows:

Table NTS1: Sites assessed through the SEA process

Site location	Area (ha)	Estimated capacity
Fawconer Rd	0.59	12
West of Winchester Rd, North of Gaily Mill	2	40
Land North of Strokins Road	0.7	14
Land North of Coppice Road	1.8	36
Land South of Povey’s Mead	2	40
Porch Farm		50

Following representations received at Regulation 14 consultation, a further site was considered, as follows:

Site location	Area (ha)	Estimated capacity
New Yew Tree Farm site	11.1	c.220

Three sites were subsequently selected by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to deliver the objectives of the KNP. The sites selected are:

- Fawconer Road (Policy KHA1) – 12 dwellings to be delivered on this 0.6 ha site.
- Coppice Road (Policy KHA2) – 26 dwellings on this 1.8 ha site.
- Strokins Road (Policy KHA3) – 14 dwellings to be delivered on this 0.7 ha site.

Together, these three sites provide 52 dwellings in a linear strip of development to the south of the A339 and reflect the spatial strategy Option 2 ‘Delivery on small sites’.

The Parish Council included the following rationale in their Site Assessment Report with regard to the three sites not selected:

“The KNP team received clear guidance from the public meetings held in November 2014 and October 2015 and from written submissions of the preference for development on a number of smaller sites (rather than one large site). This was evidenced through a “show of hands” at the public meetings.

Allocation of Porch Farm would clearly conflict with this objective.

Allocation of Gaily Mill (in conjunction with one other site) would partially satisfy this objective.

The allocation of the three sites of Strokins Road, Coppice Road and Fawconer Road clearly satisfies this objective.”

Following the later submission of the New Yew Tree Farm site the parish council concluded the allocation of this site would also conflict with this objective.

The assessment findings linked to the SEA of the two sets of options outlined above are presented in Chapter 3 of this Environmental Report.

Assessment of the current version of the KNP

Utilising the SEA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SEA, the SEA process assessed the policies put forward through the current Submission version of the KNP. The SEA Report has presented the findings of the appraisal under the following sustainability themes:

- Biodiversity;
- Climate change;
- Health and wellbeing;
- Historic environment and landscape;
- Land, soil and water resources;
- Population and community; and
- Transport.

The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the KNP is likely to lead to a range of positive effects relating to the biodiversity, climate change, health and wellbeing, historic environment and landscape and the population and community sustainability themes. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the plan, its impetus on protecting and enhancing open space and green infrastructure networks and focus on conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment.

Next steps

The KNP and this Environmental Report have been submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for its consideration. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the KNP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan.

If the subsequent Independent Examination is favourable, the KNP will be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with a request it is made. Once made, the KNP will become part of the Development Plan for Kingsclere Parish.

1. Introduction

AECOM is commissioned to undertake the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan (KNP or the 'Plan'). The Plan is being prepared by Kingsclere Parish Council (the 'Council').

The Plan, once made, will present planning policy and guidance for the neighbourhood area alongside the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029). The Parish Council intend for the Plan to be made in 2018.

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment explained

SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of environmental (and wider sustainability) issues, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. It is a process that is set out in European (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and national (the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (the 'SEA Regulations) legislation. A qualifying body needs to demonstrate that Plan meets a set of 'basic conditions' before the Plan is subsequently put to a referendum and made. Condition f. states that:

"the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations."

There are two ways that a neighbourhood plan can demonstrate this compatibility; either through a statement of reasons for a determination under regulation 9(1) of the SEA Regulations that the proposal is unlikely to have significant environmental effects or an environmental report prepared in accordance with the SEA Regulations

In order to determine which of these requirements the Parish Council was required to meet, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council requested a screening opinion from the SEA consultation bodies¹ in April 2015. The screening opinion [determination] states that:

"...an [strategic] Environmental Assessment is considered to be required to accompany the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan but it would not need to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment."

The reasons given for this determination are summarised as:

- The effects of site allocations on the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- The effects of site allocations on the conservation area and 95 listed buildings in the parish

1.2 This Environmental Report

In line with the SEA Regulations, and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), an environmental report must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan (i.e. pre-submission) that assesses the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'.² The environmental report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

The environmental report should address three primary questions (answered in turn in this report):

1. What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?
 - a. Specifically with regard to assessing 'reasonable alternatives'.
2. What are the SA findings at this stage?

¹ Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

² Regulation 12(2)

- a. i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
3. What happens next?
- a. What steps will be taken to finalise the plan?
- b. What measures are proposed to monitor plan implementation?

Table 1.1 explains more about the regulatory basis for answering certain questions within the environmental report.

Table 1.1: Question answered by this environmental report

SEA question	As per regulatory requirements... The Report must include
What's the plan seeking to achieve?	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
What's the scope of the SEA?	Relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
What's the sustainability context?	
What's the sustainability baseline?	Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus?	Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment
What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?	Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) The likely significant effects associated with alternatives Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives assessment / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan
What are the SEA findings at this current stage?	The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan
What happens next?	A description of the monitoring measures envisaged

N.B. The right-hand column of the table does not quote directly from the SEA Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation. Also, **Appendix A** presents supplementary information (in the form of a checklist) to further explain how/where regulatory requirements are met.

1.3 What is the Plan seeking to achieve?

1.3.1 Purpose of Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan

The Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter referred to as 'the KNP') is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The Plan, which covers the area shown in **Figure 1.1**, is being prepared by the Kingsclere Parish Council in the context of the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. The KNP will need to be prepared to ensure that it meets the Basic Conditions³ of a Neighbourhood Plan, specifically:

- a. having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the order (or neighbourhood plan).
- b. having special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders.
- c. having special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area, it is appropriate to make the order. This applies only to Orders.
- d. the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- e. the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- f. the making of the order (or neighbourhood plan) does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.⁴
- g. prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).

This Environmental Report has been prepared to support the Parish Council in demonstrating that they are compliant with Basic Condition 'f'.

The Purpose of the KNP is to reflect the wishes of the majority of the community and to, as the Development Plan for the area (with the Basingstoke and Deane Adopted Local Plan 2011 – 2029), determine future planning applications within Kingsclere Parish.

This Purpose will be achieved through a series of objectives as outlined below:

1. The provision of housing, with particular regard to low cost housing within the parish boundary.
2. The identification of potential sites for development in accordance with the Borough's Local Development Plan, taking account of the historical integrity of the village.
3. The implications for local road use and parking, in the light of any new developments.
4. The protection of existing facilities, continued provision and addition of a variety of sport and leisure facilities, particularly for children and young people, where need has been identified.
5. All activity will take cognisance of existing relevant work on, for example, the protection of the natural environment, reduction of all forms of pollution, maintenance of footpaths, improving water flow and recycling provision.

Over the period to 2029 the policies within the Plan will be applied (alongside those of the Development Plan) when determining planning applications within the Plan area (see **Figure 1.1**) with a view to achieving a vision for the area.

³ As per paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

⁴ This Environmental Report contributes to meeting this Basic Condition.

2. The Scope of the SEA

2.1 Scope

This section sets out the scope of the SEA, i.e. the issues / objectives that should be a focus of (and provide a broad methodological framework for) SEA. Further information on the SEA scope – i.e. a more detailed review of issues/objectives as highlighted through a review of the ‘context’ and ‘baseline’ - is presented in within **Appendix B**.

2.2 Consultation on the scope

The SEA Regulations require that:

“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the [environmental] Report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies [Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency] by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [the consultation bodies] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans”.

A scoping report was published for consultation in October 2015. All comments received on the scope have been considered and are reflected in the current SEA scope where applicable. A summary of comments is set out in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: Summary consultation responses and comments from the Parish Council / AECOM

Organisation	Comment	Response
Environment Agency	We recommend the inclusion of the following wording to objective 1: 1) Protect, and where possible enhance designated biodiversity features and all other features of biodiversity and geological value. We would also suggest the inclusion within the identified sub-objectives of the following bullet point: Achieve a net gain in biodiversity	Amended
	...we would like to suggest the use of the Flood Map for Planning. This will show the extent of flood zone 3 and 2 and therefore the probability of flooding from rivers within the area of the neighbourhood plan. Moreover, this is the map used to assess planning applications and site allocations. In light with the above, we recommend the inclusion of the following sub-objectives: Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account Ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk.	The Flood Map for Planning has been utilised for the site assessment for the SEA. Additional sub-objectives included in the SEA Framework as suggested.
	... we recommend the inclusion of the following sub-objective: Support improvements to water quality and ensure that water supply infrastructures are in place to support new developments.	Additional sub-objective included in the SEA Framework as suggested.
Historic England	...we would have liked to see a specific objective to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the parish [in Box 1.1]	Slightly amended sub-objective for heritage assets now included.
	...we suggest that the two [historic environment and landscape] be considered separately - both are significant issues in their own right and their combining can mask potentially significant effects on one or the other.	Noted. Structure retains as it is considered both are covered adequately.
	It would be helpful to explain in paragraph 7.2.2 when the Conservation Area was designated, why (i.e. what is the special historic or architectural interest), and whether or not there is a Conservation Area Character Appraisal and/or Management Plan.	Amended

Organisation Comment

Response

	We would promote a character appraisal of the whole village as part of the baseline for the Neighbourhood Plan.	Noted.
	Historic England also considers that Neighbourhood Plans should be underpinned by a thorough understanding of the character and special qualities of the area covered by the Plan. We therefore suggest a characterisation study as a precursor to plan preparation as such a study can help inform locations and detailed design of proposed new development, identify possible townscape improvements and establish a baseline against which to measure change. If no such characterisation currently exists, then this too should be identified as a gap in the baseline.	Noted.
	We welcome the proposed sustainability objectives in paragraph 7.3.3 of the Report. Normally we would seek the inclusion of a reference to setting, but this is covered by the first of the proposed sub-objectives. "..., especially the Conservation Area" could ideally be added to the end of the second sub-objective.	Noted
	In paragraph 7.3.4 we would prefer "conserve" to "preserve" in the first sub-objective, reflecting the terminology of the NPPF and recognising that sensitive change can maintain, or even enhance, the significance of heritage assets.	Amended
Natural England	...agree that there is a potential risk from residential houses to the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI and would look to the SEA to set out clearly proposals to ensure that avoidance of impacts can be obtained or minimised.	Noted
	Natural England would advise that the SEA take account of Species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.	Noted
	Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the neighbourhood plan as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The SEA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any potential physical effects of the development proposals, such as changes in topography. The European Landscape Convention places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to consider the impacts of landscape when exercising their functions.	Noted. It is considered that SEA takes a strategic approach to considering the significant effect of the NDP and a full VIA would not be proportionate at this scale.
	The SEA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.	Noted. It is considered that SEA takes a strategic approach to considering the significant effect of the NDP and a full LCA would not be proportionate at this scale
	You should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest. An up-to-date list may be obtained at www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm and further information can be found on Natural England's landscape pages here.	This has been considered through the assessment. There is no land affected by development proposals in this respect.
	The SEA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land, and rights of way in the vicinity of the development.	Noted

2.3 SEA Framework

Table 2.2 sets out the objectives established through SEA scoping, i.e. in light of context/baseline review and consultation. This list of objectives provides a methodological 'framework' for SEA and are based on the 'topics' mentioned in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

Table 2.2: SEA Framework for the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan

SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objective
Protect, and where possible enhance designated biodiversity features and all other features of biodiversity and geological value.	Protect and enhance the integrity of the designated habitats in the parish.
	Protect and enhance areas of ancient woodland in the parish.
	Minimise, and where possible, avoid negative effects on Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI.
	Achieve a net gain in biodiversity.
Promote climate change mitigation in Kingsclere parish	Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the parish as a result of population growth.
	Support reduced car dependency and increase, walking cycling and public transport use.
Support the resilience of Kingsclere Parish to the potential effects of climate change	Improve resilience to the estimated increase in frequency and severity of winter flooding, and summer time water shortages, through appropriate measures (e.g. green infrastructure).
	Where possible reduce the flood risk, and ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either in the immediate vicinity of a proposal, or in neighbouring locations due to alterations in the flood risk pattern).
	Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into the likely effects of climate change into account.
	Ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk.
Promote health and well-being of Kingsclere's residents	Promote accessibility to health facilities.
	Provide and enhance the provision of community access to active recreation (e.g. walking and cycling).
Protect, maintain and enhance Kingsclere's cultural heritage resources, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	Conserve and enhance the setting and significance of heritage assets in the parish.
	Support access to the historic environment.
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Protect and enhance townscape features.
	Protect and enhance the North Wessex Downs AONB.
Ensure the more efficient use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and Buildings	Promote the use of previously developed land where possible.
Protect, and where possible enhance, groundwater and surface water bodies	Minimise the risk to groundwater SPZs, and where possible avoid development which has the potential to negatively impact on these.
	Protect, and where possible enhance the quality of Gailey Brook and other surface water bodies.
	Support improvements to water quality and ensure that water supply infrastructures are in place to support new developments.

SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objective
Provide a range of housing types appropriate for the local community, including: affordable housing and starter homes, specialist housing for older persons, and a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes. Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs.
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	Reduce the need to travel, through sustainable patterns of land use and development.

3. What has plan making / SEA involved to this point?

3.1 Reasonable alternatives in SEA

The SEA Regulations require that the environmental report “shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of...reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.” In terms of the level of detail required, the SEA Regulations set out that the environmental report includes “*an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.*” Case law has also been informative in setting out what should be considered.

Mindful of the above, this section provides information on the following:

- Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the ‘reasonableness’ of the approach)
- The likely significant effects associated with alternatives
- Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives assessment / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan

On reviewing the plan and evidence base, reasonable alternatives have been identified for the following issues:

1. Sites – this is split into two elements:
 - a. What approach to site allocation should the Parish Council adopt (i.e. many small sites vs. fewer large sites)?
 - b. Once (i) is decided, which site(s) should be allocated in the Plan?
2. Housing – the housing allocation for the KNP is at least 50. Are there any alternative levels of housing that are ‘reasonable’?

3.2 Spatial strategy alternatives

The updated NPPG paragraph 009 sets out that “Neighbourhood plans should consider providing indicative delivery timetables, and allocating reserve sites to ensure that emerging evidence of housing need is addressed. This can help minimise potential conflicts and ensure that policies in the neighbourhood plan are not overridden by a new Local Plan.” It is clear from the site capacities that one site alone could not deliver the total housing requirement of 50 dwellings. While Porch Farm could potentially provide 50 dwellings, it would not fully meet the requirements of the NPPF in terms of flexibility and reserve sites. AECOM and the Parish Council have identified the following two alternative ways of allocating the sites. An assessment of these options follows the descriptions.

- **Option 1:** If a strategy of delivering on larger sites is adopted, which sites are best and if one site is to deliver all 50 dwellings (Porch Farm) which sites should be allocated as reserve sites?
- **Option 2:** If a number of smaller sites are to be allocated, which arrangement or ‘package of sites’ is the most sustainable.

3.2.1 Option 1: Delivery on large site(s)

This option would deliver the entire allocation of housing for Kingsclere on the Porch Farm site. It is then a matter of which site would be likely to be included as a reserve site from the remaining five. It is assumed that the Parish Council would allocate one of the smaller sites as the reserve site as it would seem unreasonable to allocate sites in reserve that are nearly the same capacity as Porch Farm if the allocation remained at 50 dwellings. This would exclude the West of Winchester Rd, North of Gaily site and Land South of Povey’s Mead site, and arguably the Land North of Coppice Road site. This would leave the Fawconer Rd site and the Land North of Strokings Road site as the two remaining

choices for a reserve site (see **Figure 3.1**). These two sites have been assessed to determine their relative sustainability.

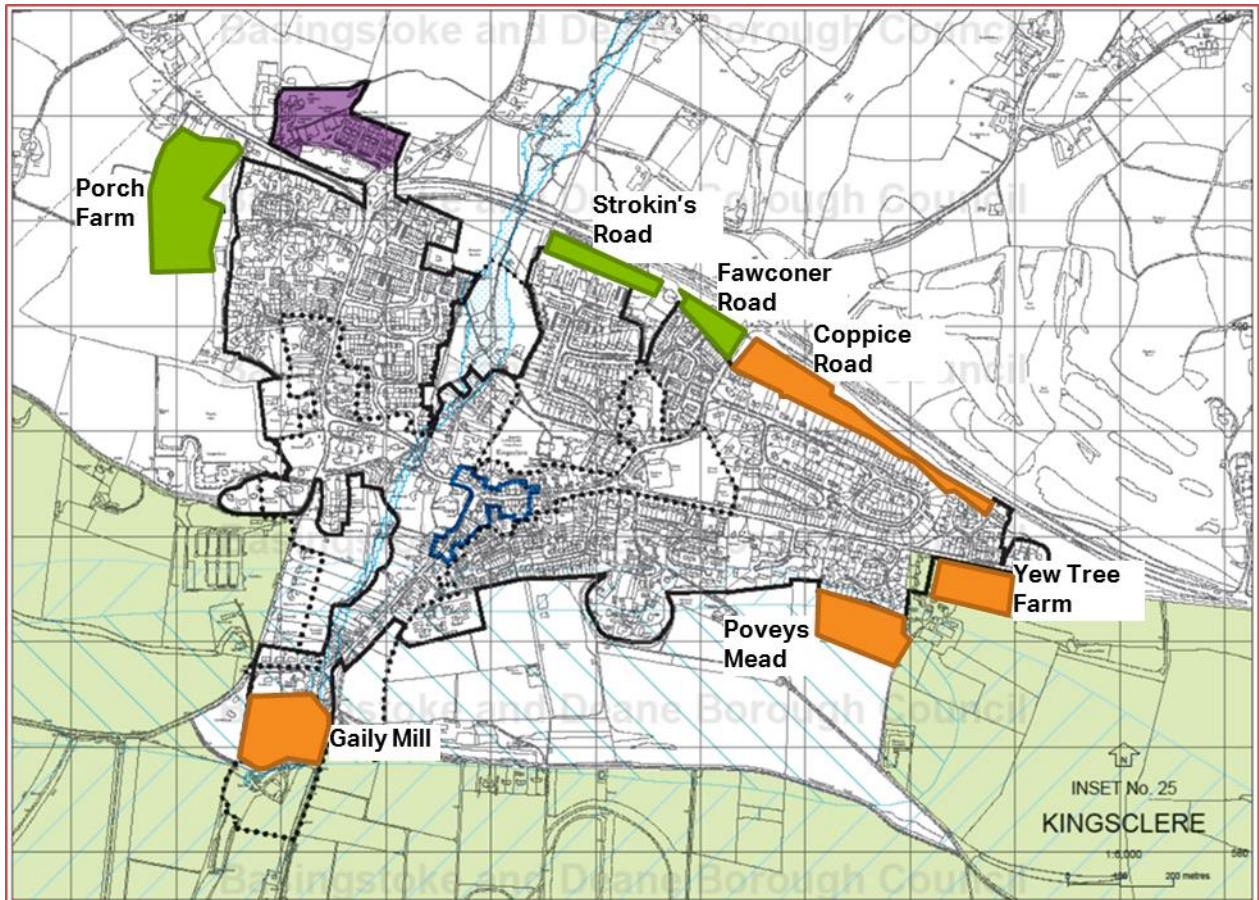


Figure 3.1: Option 1 (allocated sites shaded in green, unallocated in orange)⁵

3.2.2 Option 2: Smaller sites

This option has been based on taking forward the smaller sites in reverse order of capacity, for example, Fawconer Rd has the least capacity (12) and the next preferred site would be Land North of Strokin's Road (14). The next largest site would be Land North of Coppice Road (36). This would provide an overall allocation of 62 (see Figure 3.2).

⁵ Please note that the Yew Tree Farm site was withdrawn for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, and has, as such, not been considered through the SEA process

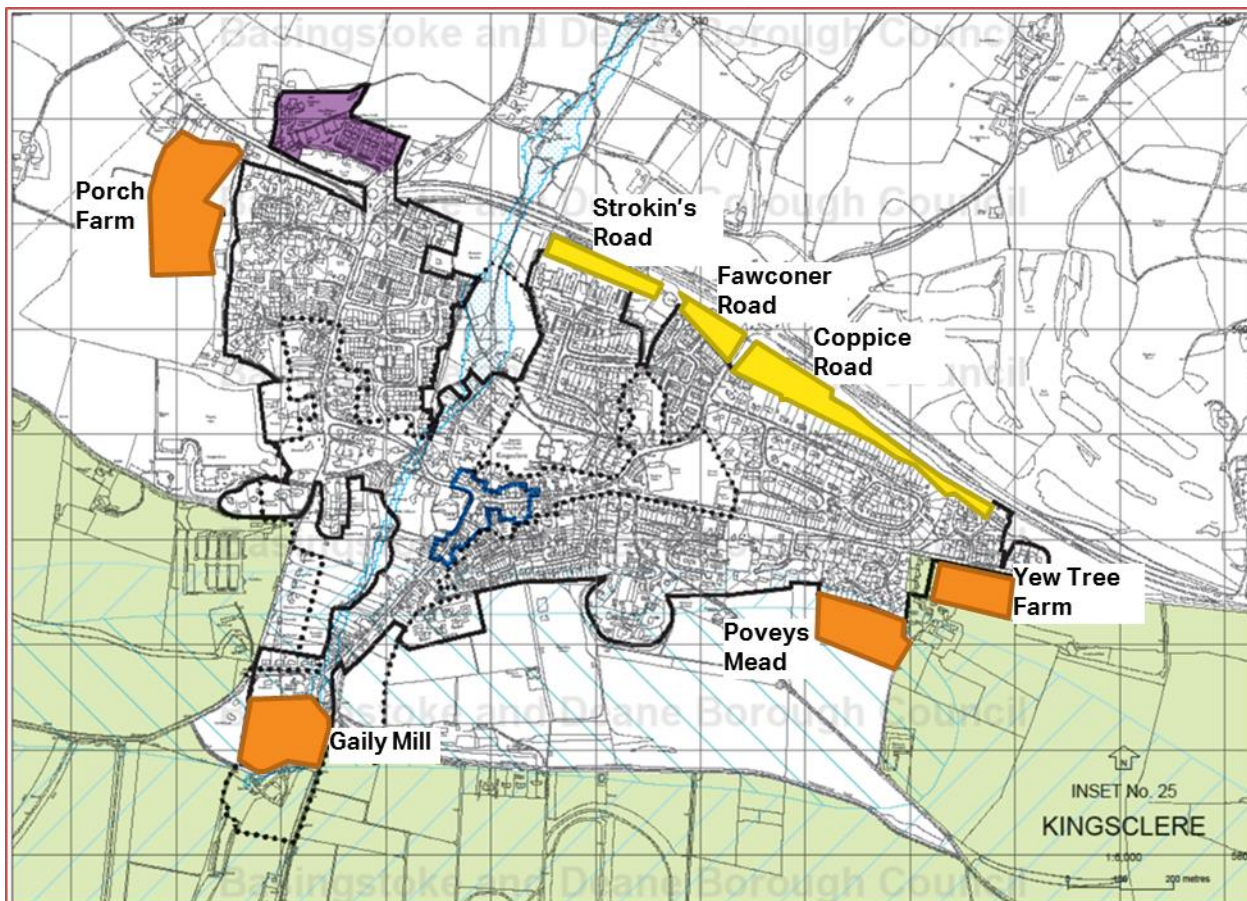


Figure 3.2: Option 2 (allocated sites shaded in yellow, unallocated in orange)⁶

⁶ Please note that the Yew Tree Farm site was withdrawn for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, and has, as such, not been considered through the SEA process

3.3 Strategy assessment

SEA Topic	Discussion of effects	Rank	
		Option 1	Option 2
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The inclusion in Option 1 of two sites for development of sufficient size to have potential impacts on the SSSI (Porch Farm and Strokins Road) presents the possibility of negative effects on the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. The SSSI is in 'unfavourable recovering condition'. Potential effects are likely to relate to the possibility of increased visitor numbers to the site, which is highlighted by the Greenham and Crookham Commons Management Plan 2009-2014 as a key issue. Although it is thought that the quantum of development proposed, and the distance from the SSSI should minimise any effect.</p> <p>All sites fall within the Impact Risk Zones for Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. The Impact Risk Zone has been notified for residential development of 50 or more houses outside existing settlements/urban areas. Both options propose the same quantum and both are in the same IRZ so it is considered that on balance, both have similar effects on this objective.</p>	=	=
Climate change	<p>In respect of Option 1, the Fawconer Road site is arguably the better 'reserve site' due to the proximity of a bus stop. However, this is not considered to be a significant enough advantage as it is possible for new routes and stops to be provided.</p> <p>There are no fundamental differences between these two options. Neither have fluvial flood risk issues and both have surface water flood risk issues. The latter can be addressed through design policies.</p>	=	=
Health and wellbeing	<p>All allocations through both options will provide residents with access to recreational facilities, with benefits for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Through allocating housing in the vicinity of the A339, both options may contribute to noise quality issues. Given potential effects on health and wellbeing from noise issues, there will be a need to integrate elements within new design and layout which mitigates these effects.</p>	=	=
Historic environment and landscape	<p>In relation to Option 1, the development of the Porch Farm site may affect the setting of Porch Farm itself, which is Grade II listed. This can be either through enhancement (positive effect) or harm, depending on the scale, layout and design of the development. This includes effects on the setting of the area. In terms of the development of land at Strokins Road and at the Fawconer Road site, allocations at these locations would have impacts on the existing settlement pattern of the village in the north.</p> <p>Option 2, and the development of the strip of smaller sites might have cumulative effects with regard to the existing settlement pattern of the village in the north. However, unlike Option 1, the option is not anticipated to result in effects on nationally important heritage assets.</p>	2	1
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Porch Farm is mainly Grade 3 agricultural land. Recent Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) has not been undertaken at this location and is not known how much of this comprises land classified as Grade 3a agricultural land (the best and most versatile agricultural land). As such there is potential for development at this site to lead to the loss of land comprising the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	2	1
Population and community	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transport	<p>Site packages for both options perform relatively well in relation to accessibility. In this context all sites proposed through the two options are located in relatively good proximity to public transport and main road links.</p>	=	=

3.4 Which strategy was chosen and why?

It is important that the Environmental Report includes outline reasons for taking forward and rejecting different alternatives. In practice this means a summary of the reasons for selecting the 'preferred' options as well as a summary justification of the sites that were discarded and why.

The Parish Council included the followed rational in their Site Assessment Report:

“The KNP team received clear guidance from the public meetings held in November 2014 and October 2015 and from written submissions of the preference for development on a number of smaller sites (rather than one large site).”

3.5 Sites

A brief description of the site assessment process undertaken by the Parish Council is set out below.

Initially the Parish Council conducted a thorough search for suitable housing sites for the KNP. Four key sources were:

- the Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) January 2013;
- the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Inquiry Topic Paper 12 of September 2004;
- sites proposed to the Neighbourhood Plan Housing Sub-Group; and
- a list of sites previously evaluated in 2008 for the Kingsclere Parish Council as potentially suitable affordable housing sites.

The initial long-list of 31 sites was originally whittled down to ten sites that were considered to be potentially achievable and did not pose constraints that could not be mitigated or overcome. Four of these sites were subsequently deemed inappropriate to assess and two further ones added, leaving eight in total. These eight sites were subject to an independent site assessment (by consultancy URS, now AECOM).

The eight sites are shown in **Figure 3.3**.

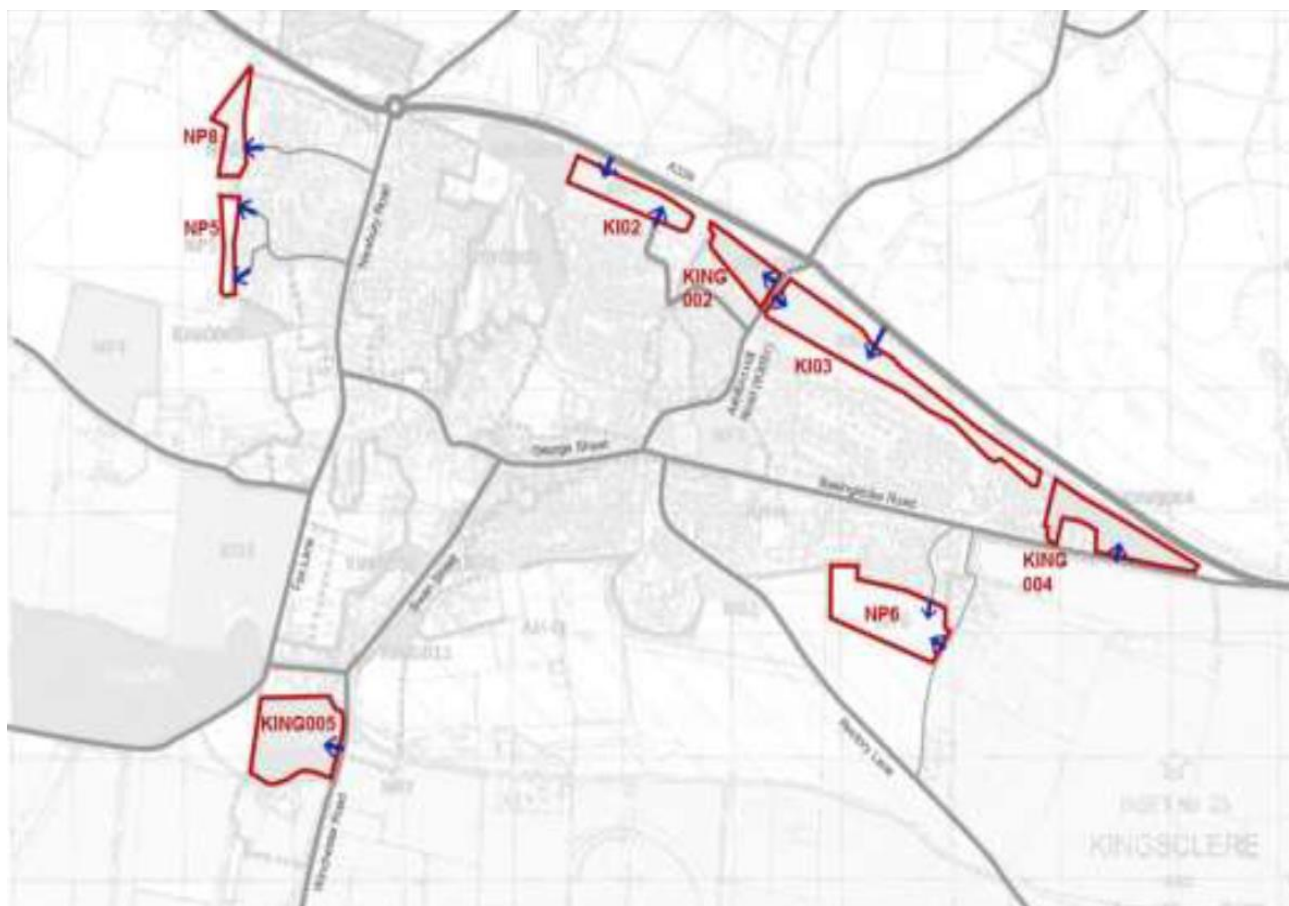


Figure 3.3: Initial eight sites subject to site assessment

Of these eight, three were deemed suitable - Gaily Mill and Poveys Mead (suitable with few constraints) and Fawconer Road (suitable but with some constraints). Following the assessment, two more sites came forward for consideration: Porch Farm and Yew Tree Farm. Further assessment undertaken by URS concluded that that Porch Farm was suitable and a small site at Yew Tree Farm bordering the Basingstoke Road. Yew Tree Farm was withdrawn for potential development by the owner in October 2015. Following representations from potential developers, the KNP group also considered that the sites at Strokins Road and Coppice Road be further considered

The final shortlist of sites considered by the Parish Council is set out in **Table 3.1** and illustrated in **Figure 3.3**.

Table 3.1. Shortlisted sites






Site reference	Site location	Area (ha)	Estimated capacity
KING 002	Fawconer Rd	0.59	12
KING 005	West of Winchester Rd, North of Gaily Mill	2	40
KI 02	Land North of Strokins Road	0.7	14
KI 03	Land North of Coppice Road	1.8	36
NP 6	Land South of Povey's Mead	2	40
	Porch Farm		50

3.6 Assessment of sites considered

To support decision making on the choice of sites, the SEA team undertook an assessment of the key constraints present at each of the six proposed sites and the potential effects that might arise from development. The sites have been considered in relation to the baseline information and SEA framework of objectives and sub-objectives developed through scoping.

The tables below present a summary of this assessment, and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the seven SEA topics. Regarding the potential effects which development might have on nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), reference is made to Impact Risk Zones (IRZs). IRZs are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to provide for a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs from development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which the SSSI in question has been notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts.

Key:

	Positive implications
	No or negligible implications
	Negative implications
	Uncertain implication
	No link to topic

3.6.1 Site: Porch Farm

The proposed site at Porch farm is the largest of the sites considered. It is situated within an agricultural field at Porch Farm next to the footpath behind Keeps Mead. As previously discussed, Porch Farm has the potential to deliver all 50 dwellings being proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan area. The sustainability performance of Porch Farm against the SEA framework is discussed below.

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site: Porch Farm	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located at a distance of over 7km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, development at this site is unlikely to have significant effects on this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 4.3km and 4.7km, respectively.</p> <p>Natural England has advised that this site is located within an IRZ of the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. In this respect it is noted that any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units could potentially lead to negative effects on this SSSI.</p> <p>In more general terms the majority of the site is composed of agricultural land which is unlikely to be of significant biodiversity value. The boundaries of the site contain mature trees and hedgerows; which although undesignated, may provide habitat for bats and other species of high ecological value. If this site is put forward for development it would be important for these assets to be preserved as part of the development. Overall this assessment concludes that there would be <u>negative effects</u> on biodiversity through development of this site.</p>	↓
Climate change	<p>Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding; however there are areas at low and medium risk of surface water flooding. Any development has the potential to increase surface water runoff through an increase in the built footprint (i.e. an increase in impermeable ground surfaces). This can lead to an increase in flood risk and, as such, measures should be taken to minimise this risk through appropriate design / layout and an emphasis on green infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).</p>	?
Health and wellbeing	<p>The site is in close proximity to the A339 and, as such, development at this site may result in <u>negative effects</u> for health and well-being for residents living in the newly developed site due to its proximity to a main road. Any development on this site would need to be designed so as to mitigate road traffic noise arising from the A339.</p> <p>The site is located within walking distance (150m) of the Fieldgate Centre. This will have <u>positive effects</u> for health and wellbeing particularly in regard to access to leisure facilities.</p>	→
Historic environment and landscape	<p>There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within the site boundaries. However, Porch Farm is a grade II listed building and is located immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site. Development at this site therefore has potential to have a minor <u>negative effect</u> on the setting of this listed building. The site is outside of the Kingsclere Conservation Area. Whilst the site is located outside of the AONB, development at this location may be viewed from some parts of the AONB to the south. Whilst its edge of village location adjacent to open countryside may lead to <u>negative effects</u> on views from the east, the site is relatively well screened by mature trees on the eastern boundary.</p> <p>Taking into account these factors, the site will not present any significantly negative implications for the historic environment. However, due to the potentially large number of dwellings (50) that could be developed on the site, its edge of settlement location, and potential to affect some views from the AONB, there is potential for <u>negative effects</u> on landscape setting and character.</p>	↓

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site: Porch Farm	Score
Land, soil and water resources	The majority of the site is composed of agricultural land which has been classified as Grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the best and most versatile agricultural land' (i.e. Grade 3a land). Development will have an irreversible impact on the land / soil in terms of supporting agriculture. As such, this site will have a <u>negative effect</u> on land and soil resources.	↓
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The development of a site with direct access to the A339 will likely limit residents driving in other residential streets in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This site may therefore have a <u>positive effect</u> relative to other sites under consideration with regards to minimising traffic congestion in Kingsclere. The site is also located approximately 250m from a bus stop on the A339, which will potentially facilitate the use of local bus services thereby having a <u>positive effect</u> on the numbers of residents using public transport. However, the site is 900m from key village amenities which may have a <u>negative effect</u> in terms of increasing the number of short car journeys within the Neighbourhood Area. Alongside, due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.	↗

3.6.2 Site KI 02: Land north of Strokins Road

The site is located outside of the Settlement Policy Boundary of Kingsclere and forms a buffer between the village and the A339 (fulfilling a noise buffer and visual amenity role). This site has a capacity for 14 dwellings if developed for residential purposes; although access provision would need further consideration. The sustainability performance of this site against the SEA framework is discussed below.

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site KI 02: Land North of Strokins Road	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain SAC which is located at a distance of over 7km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, development of this site is unlikely to have significant effects on this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 3.6km and 4.8km, respectively.</p> <p>Natural England has advised that this site is located within an IRZ of the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. In this respect approximately two thirds of the site is within an IRZ for 'Any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units' with the remainder within an IRZ for 'Residential development of 50 units or more'. In this respect it is noted that in the majority of the site any residential development could potentially lead to <u>negative effects</u> on this SSSI.</p> <p>An area designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is located adjacent to likely development areas and has remnants of fen meadow habitat. These meadows contain rare and protected species such as blunt-flowered rush. However no development is likely to be proposed on the SINC itself. There is deciduous woodland designated as a Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat at the eastern boundary of the site. Some potential impacts from construction (e.g. noise, dust or vibration) may arise through development at this location. The boundaries of the site also contain mature trees and hedgerows, which although undesignated, may provide habitat for bats and other species of high ecological value. If this site is put forward for development it would be important for these assets to be preserved as part of the development.</p>	↓
Climate change	<p>Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding; however there are areas at low and medium risk of surface water flooding. Any development has the potential to increase surface water runoff through an increase in the built footprint (i.e. an increase in impermeable ground surfaces). This can lead to an increase in flood risk and, as such, measures should be taken to minimise this risk through appropriate design / layout and an emphasis on green infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).</p>	?
Health and wellbeing	<p>The site currently functions as a noise buffer for road noise arising from the A339. Additionally it has been identified as a valued visual amenity for the village. Development of this site may result in <u>negative effects</u> for health and well-being for residents living in new development on the site due to its proximity to the A339.</p> <p>The site is located close to the William Holding Field⁷ (within 300m to the south of the site) and Strokin's Road play area is adjacent to the site (to the south). Access to this facility for future residents may provide for <u>positive effects</u> on health and wellbeing.</p>	→
Historic environment and landscape	<p>There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within or in close proximity to the site boundaries. In relation to contribution to local distinctiveness, the site does not contribute to the setting of historic environment assets, is not of rural character and is not within an area of landscape sensitivity. As such, whilst development would lead to the loss of the open perspective of the area, it is considered that the allocation of this site through the Neighbourhood Plan would have negligible effects in relation to the integrity of the historic environment and landscape/townscape character.</p>	→

⁷ Facility location can be found here: <http://sports-facilities.co.uk/sites/view/1040170>

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site KI 02: Land North of Strokins Road	Score
Land, soil and water resources	The site has a total area of 0.7Ha, is not used for agricultural purposes and is not located within an SPZ. As such it is likely to have <u>negligible effects</u> on land, soil and water resources.	→
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The site is located approximately 300m from the nearest bus stop, which will potentially facilitate the use of public transport. It is also located approximately 740m from key village facilities which can be accessed through residential roads and footpaths. This may increase the likelihood of residents accessing amenities on foot or by bicycle and therefore may have positive implications for Transport objectives. However, it should be noted that due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.	↗

3.6.3 Site KING 002: Fawconer Road

This site has a capacity of 12 dwellings; however the location and character of the site places constraints on its deliverability. The site is located outside of the Settlement Policy Boundary of Kingsclere, and – in a similar manner to site KI02 – also forms a buffer between the village and the A339. The site is comprised of a wooded plot of trees and is broadly flat.

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site KING 002: Fawconer Road	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain SAC which is located at a distance of over 7km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, it is unlikely that development of this site will have significant effects for this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 3.5km and 4.8km, respectively. The site is within an IRZ for the Greenham and Crookham Common SSSI relating to 'Residential development of 50 units or more'. As such the site's capacity of 12 dwellings limits the potential for significant effects on the SSSI.</p> <p>The majority of the site area is comprised of deciduous woodland designated as a Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat. Development of this site would result in the loss of some or all of this woodland and, as such, would have a <u>negative effect</u> on biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	↘
Climate change	<p>Whilst the site is immediately adjacent to a bus stop, which will potentially facilitate the use of public transport, due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding, however there are areas at low, medium and high risk of surface water flooding immediately to the south of the site. Any development has the potential to increase surface water runoff through an increase in the built footprint (i.e. an increase in impermeable ground surfaces). However this has the potential to increase surface water flood risk for the Neighbourhood Plan area. Measures should be taken to minimise this risk through appropriate design / layout and an emphasis on green infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS).</p>	→

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site KING 002: Fawconer Road	Score
Health and wellbeing	The site currently functions as a noise buffer from road noise arising from the A339. Development at this site may result in negative effects for health and well-being of residents living on the newly developed site. These effects may be mitigated in part by use of appropriate screening and retention of boundary trees where possible. The site is located close to the William Holding Field ⁸ (within 300 m to the south of the site). Access to this facility for future residents may provide for <u>positive effects</u> on health and wellbeing.	→
Historic environment and landscape	There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within or in close proximity to the site boundaries. In relation to contribution to local distinctiveness, the site does not contribute to the setting of historic environment assets, is not of rural character and is not within an area of landscape sensitivity. As such, whilst development would lead to the loss of the open perspective of the area, it is considered that the allocation of this site through the Neighbourhood Plan would have negligible effects in relation to the integrity of the historic environment and landscape/townscape character.	→
Land, soil and water resources	Relative to other potential sites, Fawconer Road has a smaller total area (0.59 ha), and therefore will have a smaller land take associated with development. It is also not used for agricultural purposes; so will have negligible effects with regard to soil. Additionally it is not located within an SPZ so will therefore have a minimal effect on water resources.	→
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The site is immediately adjacent to a bus stop, which will potentially facilitate the use of public transport and is located within walking distance of key village amenities and services (450m). Therefore, in line with the SEA objectives, it may result in higher levels of public transport use and a reduced need to travel (relative to sites located further from public transport and amenities). It will therefore have <u>positive effects</u> in terms of transport objectives. However, it should be noted that due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.	↗

⁸ Facility location can be found here: <http://sports-facilities.co.uk/sites/view/1040170>

3.6.4 Site KI 03: Land north of Coppice Road

The site has a capacity of 36 dwellings and forms a strip of land immediately north of the existing Settlement Policy Boundary of Kingsclere. It forms a buffer between the village and the A339. The site is very narrow in the eastern section so comprehensive development of the site is compromised.

SEA Topic	Discussion on site KI 03 : Land North of Coppice Road	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located at a distance of over 7km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, it is unlikely that development of this site will have significant effects on this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 3.3km and 5.3km, respectively.</p> <p>The site is within an IRZ for the Greenham and Crookham Common SSSI relating to 'Residential development of 50 units or more'. As such, the site's capacity of 36 dwellings limits the potential for significant effects on the SSSI.</p> <p>The site is bordered to the north east and west by deciduous woodland designated as a Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat. Development of this site would result in the loss of some or all of this designated woodland, and as such would have a <u>negative effect</u> on biodiversity.</p> <p>The remainder of the site is composed of grass land which is noted to have remnants of fen meadow. These meadows contain rare and protected species such as blunt-flowered rush. Development of this site would result in the loss of this habitat and would therefore have a <u>negative effect</u> on biodiversity.</p> <p>Part of the site (at the north west extent) is designated as Kingsclere Fen Meadow Remnants SINC, a small part of which may be needed to provide access to the site. As with Strokins Road, <u>negative effects</u> may arise through the loss of habitat area, and impacts from construction (e.g. noise, dust or vibration).</p>	↓
Climate change	<p>With regard to climate change mitigation, the site is immediately adjacent to a bus stop on Ashford Hill Road. However, Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends) residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding, however there are areas at medium and high risk of surface water flooding. Any development has the potential to increase surface water runoff through an increase in the built footprint (i.e. increase in impermeable ground surfaces). This may increase surface water flood risk for the Neighbourhood Plan area, although this is uncertain.</p>	→
Health and wellbeing	<p>The site currently functions as a noise buffer from road noise arising from the A339. Development at this site may result in <u>negative effects</u> for health and well-being for residents of the new development on the site. These effects may be mitigated in part by use of appropriate screening and retention of boundary trees where possible.</p> <p>The site is located close to the William Holding Field⁹ (within 300 m to the south of the site). Access to this facility for future residents may provide for <u>positive effects</u> on health and wellbeing.</p>	→
Historic environment and landscape	<p>There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within or in close proximity to the site boundaries. In relation to contribution to local distinctiveness, the site does not contribute to the setting of historic environment assets, is not of rural character and is not within an area of landscape sensitivity. As such, whilst development would lead to the loss of the open perspective of the area, it is considered that the allocation of this site through the Neighbourhood Plan would have negligible effects in relation to the integrity of the historic environment and landscape/townscape character.</p>	→

⁹ Facility location can be found here: <http://sports-facilities.co.uk/sites/view/1040170>

SEA Topic	Discussion on site KI 03 : Land North of Coppice Road	Score
Land, soil and water resources	Relative to other potential sites this site has a relatively large area (1.9 ha), however previous site assessment work carried out by URS (now AECOM) in 2014 noted that the eastern portion of the site would not be appropriate for development as it is very narrow in nature. As such, the land-take associated with development would likely be smaller than the total gross area. It is also not used for agricultural purposes; so will have <u>negligible effects</u> with regard to soil. Additionally it is not located within an SPZ so will therefore have a <u>negligible effect</u> on water resources.	→
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The site is immediately adjacent to a bus stop, which will potentially facilitate the use of public transport and is located within walking distance of key village amenities and services (450m). Therefore, in line with the SEA objectives, it is likely to result in higher levels of public transport use, and a reduced need to travel (relative to sites located further from public transport and amenities). It will therefore have <u>positive effects</u> in terms of transport objectives. However, it should be noted that due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.	↗

3.6.5 Site NP6: land south of Poveys Mead

The site has capacity for 40 dwellings if developed, however there are a number of constraints which would need to be recognised in the design of a scheme. The site is located outside of the Settlement Policy Boundary of Kingsclere and contributes to the rural character of the settlement. The site is elevated above adjoining properties to the north due to its topography, and may also be visible from the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site NP6: land south of Poveys Mead	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located at a distance of approximately 9km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, development of this site is unlikely to have significant effects for this SAC. The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI; the Ladle Hill SSSI; and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 3.5km, 5.5km, and 5.9km, respectively. Natural England has advised this site is located within an IRZ of the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI for residential developments of 50 or more dwellings. Taking into account the site's capacity of 40 dwellings, the assessment considers that development at this site will have no significant effects for this SSSI. The site itself is composed of agricultural land which is unlikely to be of significant biodiversity value. Overall this assessment considers that development of this site would result in <u>negligible effects</u> on biodiversity.	→
Climate change	Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends) residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency. With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding or surface water flooding. Development does have the potential to increase the surface water flood risk for the Neighbourhood Plan area through an increase in the areal extent of impermeable ground surfaces. As such, measures should be taken to minimise this risk through appropriate design / layout and an emphasis on green infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS). This assessment considers that overall development of this site will have <u>negligible effects</u> in terms of climate change mitigation and resilience.	→

SEA Topic	Discussion on Site NP6: land south of Poveys Mead	Score
Health and wellbeing	The site is located within walking distance of key recreational facilities (600m from the William Holding Field on Basingstoke Road, and 800m from the recreation ground south of King John Road). This will may have <u>positive effects</u> for health and wellbeing.	↗
Historic environment and landscape	There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within or in close proximity to the site boundaries. The site will therefore have no significant effects on the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The site is elevated above adjoining properties to the north due to topography and, as such, will hold a prominent position in terms of landscape character and effects on views. The site is visible from the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it is likely that there would be significant negative effects resulting from this site being taken forward.	↘
Land, soil and water resources	Relative to other potential sites this site has a large area (2 ha). The site is composed of agricultural land which has been classified as Grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the best and most versatile agricultural land' (i.e. Grade 3a land). Development will have an irreversible impact on the land / soil in terms of supporting agriculture. As such, development at this site will have a <u>negative effect</u> on land and soil resources. This site is located within a Groundwater SPZ Inner Zone. This zone indicates that groundwater at this site is at the highest risk of contamination from activities that might cause pollution. Although housing development is unlikely to pose a significant risk to groundwater there is still potential for <u>negative effects</u> on groundwater to be realised through development at this site.	↘
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The site is located approximately 750m from the nearest bus stop, and is also located approximately 800m from key village facilities. Relative to other sites under consideration this is a greater distance from public transportation routes and village facilities and therefore may result in a greater reliance on cars by residents. Likewise, due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency. This could have impacts in terms of congestion and also accessibility issues for those without access to a car (e.g. older and younger people). Overall this assessment considers that this site will have <u>negative effects</u> in terms of transport objectives.	↘

3.6.6 Site King 005: west of Winchester Rd, north of Gaily Mill

The site has a capacity of 40 dwellings, however there are significant constraints associated with the development of this site. It is located outside the Settlement Policy Boundary of Kingsclere and is within the Kingsclere Conservation Area; a portion of the site is also at risk from fluvial flooding (i.e. it falls within flood Zones 2 and 3). The site is also adjacent to the boundaries of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Residential properties border the site in each direction and so impact on adjoining residents would be a consideration in potentially allocating this site.

SEA Topic	Discussion on site King 005: west of Winchester Rd, north of Gaily Mill	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain SAC which is located at a distance of approximately 8km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the site capacity, development is unlikely to have significant effects for this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ladle Hill SSSI; the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI; and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 4.2km, 4.5km, and 5.6km, respectively.</p> <p>Natural England has advised this site is located within an IRZ of the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. In this respect it is noted that residential developments of 50 or more dwellings could pose a risk. Taking into account the site's capacity of 40 dwellings, the assessment considers that development of this site will have no significant effects for this SSSI.</p> <p>Although there are no designated habitats in the vicinity of the site; the boundaries do contain mature trees which could provide habitat for bats and other species of high ecological value. Mitigation measures should be considered to preserve these trees as part of any potential development. The site itself is composed of agricultural land which is unlikely to be of significant biodiversity value; overall this assessment considers that development of this site would <u>not result in significant effects</u> on biodiversity.</p>	→
Climate change	<p>Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is located in an area at risk from fluvial flooding with Flood Zone 2 and 3 located on the eastern side of the site. Additionally a large proportion of the site is at medium and high risk of surface water flooding. Any development has the potential to increase surface water runoff through an increase in the built footprint (i.e. increase in impermeable ground surfaces) and this may increase surface water flood risk for the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Additionally properties on this site may be at risk from fluvial flooding depending on the design and layout of the development. The assessment therefore considers that development on this site will have a <u>negative effect</u> in terms of climate change resilience.</p>	↘
Health and wellbeing	<p>The site is located within walking distance of key recreational facilities (approximately 450m to the sports fields at the Fieldgate Centre, 600m from the cricket ground on Basingstoke Road, and 450m from the recreation ground south of King John Road). This will have <u>positive effects</u> for health and wellbeing.</p>	↗
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Gaily Mill House and its associated barn and stables are located immediately south of the site. These three buildings are grade II listed. Additionally the site is located within the Kingsclere Conservation Area. Any development on this site may have impacts on the setting and character of the listed buildings and the wider Conservation Area. As such, this assessment considers that there will be minor <u>negative effects</u> on Kingsclere's historic environment and townscape resulting from development. Mitigation may be provided through consideration of housing design, massing and scale.</p> <p>In relation to landscape character, the site is located adjacent to the AONB boundary. Whilst well screened from the immediate area, the site is likely to be visible over a longer distance from a number of locations within the AONB, including from the Watership Down scarp. Therefore development at this location is likely to have <u>negative effects</u> on views from the AONB.</p>	↘

SEA Topic	Discussion on site King 005: west of Winchester Rd, north of Gaily Mill	Score
Land, soil and water resources	The site is composed of agricultural land which has been classified as Grade 2 agricultural land (i.e. 'the best and most versatile agricultural land'). Development will have an irreversible impact on the land / soil in terms of supporting agriculture. As such, development of this site will have a <u>negative effect</u> on land and soil resources. This site is located within a Groundwater SPZ Inner Zone. This zone indicates that groundwater at this site is at the highest risk of contamination from activities that might cause pollution. Although housing development is unlikely to pose a significant risk to groundwater there is still potential for <u>negative effects</u> on groundwater to be realised through development of this site.	↓
Population and community	The site will deliver new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.	↗
Transport	The site is 450m distance from the nearest bus stop on George Street. The site is located 490m from key village facilities on George Street, allowing travel on foot and reducing the need to travel further distances by car. This site therefore is likely to lead to <u>positive effects</u> in terms of transport objectives. However, it should be noted that due to relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.	↗

3.6.7 Assessment of an updated Yew Tree Farm site, June 2017

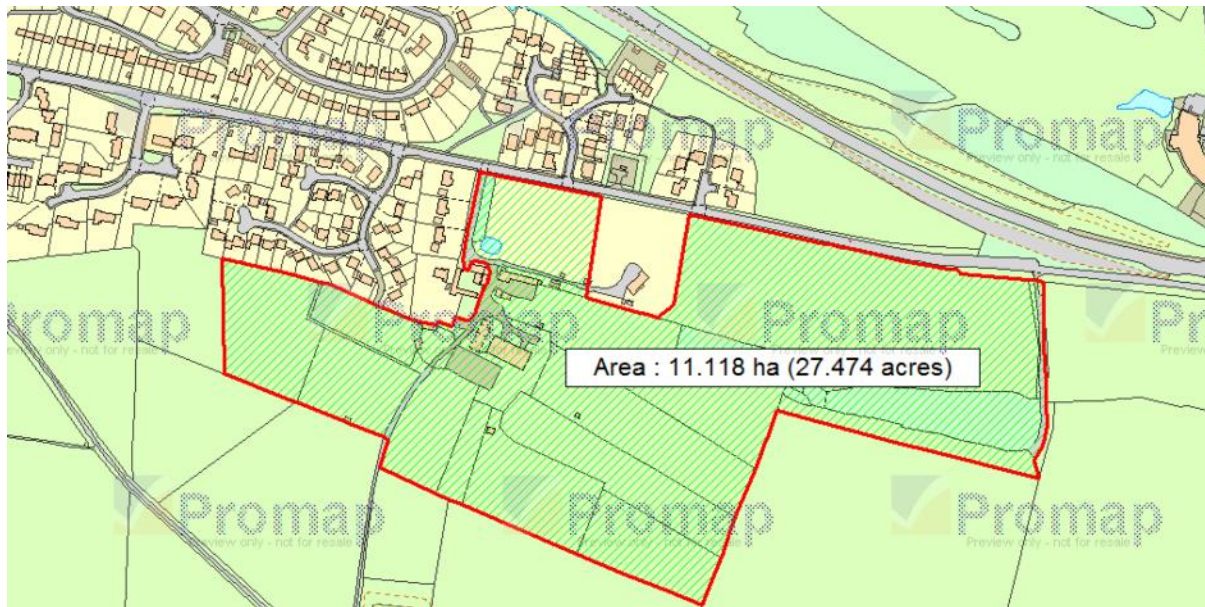
Following the consideration of representations received during Regulation 14 consultation on the KNP, the SEA process has undertaken an appraisal of an additional site, a new Yew Tree Farm site. The new Yew Tree Farm site includes both the original Yew Tree Farm site and site NP6, land south of Poveys mead. This larger site was put forward as a potential site at Regulation 14 consultation by the landowner/site promoter.

Mirroring the approach taken to the assessment of the other sites, the SEA process has undertaken an assessment of the key constraints present at the additional site and the potential effects that might arise from development. The site has been considered in relation to the baseline information and SEA framework of objectives and sub-objectives developed through scoping.

This approach enables the site to be considered in a consistent and objective manner alongside the other sites previously considered.

The appraisal findings are presented below.

Figure 3.4: Updated Yew Tree Farm site



SEA Topic	Discussion on updated Yew Tree Farm site	Score
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	<p>The nearest designated site of European importance is the Kennet and Lambourn floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located at a distance of approximately 9km. With consideration given to the distance from this proposed site and the number of dwellings likely to be developed, development of this site is unlikely to have significant effects for this SAC.</p> <p>The nearest designated sites of national importance are the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI; the Ladle Hill SSSI; and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. These are located at distances of approximately 3.5km, 5.5km, and 5.9km, respectively.</p> <p>Natural England has advised this site is located within an Impact Risk Zone of the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI for residential developments of 50 or more dwellings. Taking into account the site's capacity of significantly over 50 dwellings, the assessment considers that development at this site has the potential to have impacts on this site if fully or mostly developed.</p> <p>An area of deciduous woodland Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat is located in the eastern part of the site.</p> <p>Overall this assessment considers that development of this site would result in <u>negative effects</u> on biodiversity without appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures.</p>	↓
Climate change	<p>Due to the rural nature of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and relatively limited public transport links (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency.</p> <p>With regard to climate change resilience, the site is not located in an area at risk from fluvial, groundwater or surface water flooding.</p> <p>Development does have the potential to increase the surface water flood risk for the Neighbourhood Plan area through an increase in the overall extent of impermeable ground surfaces. As such, measures should be taken to minimise this risk through appropriate design / layout and an emphasis on green infrastructure solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS). This assessment considers that overall development of this site will have <u>negligible effects</u> in terms of climate change mitigation and resilience.</p>	→
Health and wellbeing	<p>The site is located within walking distance of key recreational facilities (550m from the William Holding Field on Basingstoke Road, and 800m from the recreation ground south of King John Road). This will support <u>positive effects</u> for health and wellbeing.</p>	↗

SEA Topic	Discussion on updated Yew Tree Farm site	Score
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Approximately 80% of the site is located within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with only the western edge located outside of this nationally designated landscape. As such it is likely that there would be significant negative effects on landscape character within the AONB resulting from this site being taken forward. In this context the site slopes to the south and the south east and many parts are elevated above adjoining properties to the north due to topography. The site will therefore hold a prominent position in terms of landscape character and effects on views.</p> <p>There are no designated historic environment sites, features or areas including listed buildings or scheduled monuments located within or in close proximity to the site boundaries. The site will therefore have no significant effects on the fabric or setting of features of historic environment interest in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	↓
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Relative to other potential sites this site has a very large area (c.11ha). The site is composed of agricultural land which has been classified as Grade 3 agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the best and most versatile agricultural land' (i.e. Grade 3a land) or land which has not been classified as such i.e. Grade 3b land). However development will have an irreversible impact on the land / soil in terms of supporting agriculture. As such, development at this site will have a <u>negative effect</u> on land and soil resources.</p> <p>The southern part of the site is located within a Groundwater SPZ Inner Zone (Zone 1). This zone indicates that groundwater at this site is at the highest risk of contamination from activities that might cause pollution. Southern parts of the site are also located within a Groundwater SPZ Outer Zone (Zone 2). Although housing development is unlikely to pose a significant risk to groundwater there is still potential for <u>negative effects</u> on groundwater to be realised through development at this site.</p>	↓
Population and community	<p>The site has the potential to deliver a significant degree of new housing in the Neighbourhood Plan area, helping to meet housing needs. The site's relative proximity to the village centre and public transport networks will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, it should be noted that the distance to key village facilities is further from this site than from a number of the other sites being considered for the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	↑
Transport	<p>The site is located approximately 750m from the nearest bus stop, and is also located approximately 900m from key village facilities. Relative to other sites under consideration this is a greater distance from public transportation routes and village facilities and therefore may result in a greater reliance on cars by residents. Likewise, due to relatively limited public transport links in the village (particularly during the evenings and weekends), residents of the new development will likely have high car dependency. This could have impacts in terms of congestion and also accessibility issues for those without access to a car (e.g. older and younger people). Overall this assessment considers that this site will have <u>negative effects</u> in terms of transport objectives.</p>	↓

3.7 Which sites were chosen and why?

It is important that the Environmental Report includes outline reasons for the alternatives dealt with. In practice this means providing a summary of the sites selected, and why, as well as a summary of the sites that were discarded and why.

3.7.1 'Preferred' sites

These are the sites that are included in the Draft KNP and have been selected by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to deliver the objectives of the KNP. The sites selected are:

- Fawconer Road (Policy KHA1) – 12 dwellings to be delivered on this 0.6 ha site.
- Coppice Road (Policy KHA2) – 26 dwellings on this 1.8 ha site.
- Strokings Road (Policy KHA3) – 14 dwellings to be delivered on this 0.7 ha site.

Together, these three sites provide 52 dwellings in a linear strip of development to the south of the A339 and reflect the spatial strategy Option 2 'Delivery on small sites'.

The Parish Council included the following rationale in their Site Assessment Report with regard to the three sites not selected:

“The KNP team received clear guidance from the public meetings held in November 2014 and October 2015 and from written submissions of the preference for development on a number of smaller sites (rather than one large site). This was evidenced through a “show of hands” at the public meetings.

Allocation of Porch Farm would clearly conflict with this objective.

Allocation of Gaily Mill (in conjunction with one other site) would partially satisfy this objective.

The allocation of the three sites of Stokins Road, Coppice Road and Fawconer Road clearly satisfies this objective.”

Following the later submission of the New Yew Tree Farm site, the parish council concluded the allocation of this site would also conflict with this objective.

4. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

4.1 Introduction

This section provides information on the following:

- The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan
- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan.

4.2 Method of assessment

The assessment is structured using the seven SEA topics established through scoping, i.e.:






1. Biodiversity (flora and fauna);
2. Climate change;
3. Health and wellbeing;
4. Historic environment and landscape;
5. Land, soil and water resources;
6. Population and community; and
7. Transport.

For each topic a range of sustainability objectives (as identified through scoping) are listed. Taken together, the topics and objectives provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of likely significant effects on the baseline.

The assessment takes account of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. So, for example, account is taken of the timescale and reversibility of effects in regards to the significance of effects. Cumulative effects are also considered, i.e. the potential for the plan to impact the baseline in combination with other plans, or reasonably foreseeable activity.

Every effort is made to identify and evaluate effects accurately; however, there is inherent uncertainty regarding the 'on the ground' implications of policy. The appraisal of the policies is set out within a table that sets out the 'broad implications' for the SEA topics - it is important to note that these symbols are not used to indicate significant effects. Effects are identified in the narrative text though being underlined or for significant effects **underlined and bold text** coloured **red** for negative and **green** for positive.

The symbol definitions used in the table are set out below:

	Positive implications
	No or negligible implications
	Negative implications
	Uncertain implication
	No link to topic

4.3 Biodiversity

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Protect, and where possible, enhance designated biodiversity features and other features of significant biodiversity value.	Protect and enhance the integrity of the designated habitats in the parish.
	Protect and enhance areas of ancient woodland in the parish.
	Minimise, and where possible, avoid negative effects on Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI.

K4 'Good quality design' provides an opportunity to integrate biodiversity into development in Kingsclere. Part 'i' of the policy should secure positive effects on this objective through seeking to integrate features which will provide habitats for key species.

Minimising light pollution (through Policy K5 'External Lighting') should have positive effects on biodiversity generally as it is known that street lighting can affect the foraging activities of nocturnal fauna (e.g. bats and moths).

Policy K7 'Protecting mature trees and hedgerows and enhancing rural character' is likely to have positive effects on biodiversity through the retention of important trees and, significantly, groups of trees. It should be borne in mind that replacing mature trees, or groups of trees should be avoided given that it will take a significant *amount* of time for these replacement trees to become 'mature'. The encouragement of planting of additional trees (native) is positive.

Policy K14 sets out a robust approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity including a requirement for development proposals to demonstrate a quantified net gain in biodiversity and encouraging native planting, and promoting an enhancement of ecological networks. The criteria in the policy are also encouraging with regard to biodiversity. Deliverability is also considered through the policy setting out how this can be achieved. As such K15 would likely have direct positive effects including through encouraging native flora and fauna and supporting biodiversity linkages in the parish.

Policies K18 – K20 should all encourage biodiversity through the protection (designation) of green spaces, provision of green spaces in new development and the provision / enhancement of allotments.

As a whole, it is considered that the Plan will bring a range of positive effects for biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

4.4 Climate change

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Promote climate change mitigation in Kingsclere Parish	<p>Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the parish as a result of population growth</p> <p>Support reduced car dependency and increase, walking cycling and public transport use</p>
Support the resilience of Kingsclere Parish to the potential effects of climate change	<p>Improve resilience to the estimated increase in frequency and severity of winter flooding, and summer time water shortages, through appropriate measures (e.g. green infrastructure)</p> <p>Where possible reduce the flood risk, and ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either in the immediate vicinity of a proposal, or in neighbouring locations due to alterations in the flood risk pattern).</p>

A number of the Plan policies have the explicit intent to reduce emissions, including through encourage energy efficiency. Policy K4 ‘Good quality design’ sets out that development should take *“every opportunity, where practicable and viable, to innovate to achieve low carbon design and incorporate features that improve environmental performance thereby reducing carbon emissions. These can include both energy efficiency measures and green energy generation”*. This policy should serve to make new development more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions provided they are implemented as intended with the result being direct positive effects.

Indirectly, K7 ‘Protecting mature trees and hedgerows and enhancing rural character’ through the additional planting of trees in new developments; K8 ‘Support for community infrastructure’ through the provisions of green space; K14 ‘Conserving and enhancing biodiversity’ through the provision no-net-loss on new development, and green corridors; K18 ‘Local Green Spaces’ through designating eleven areas as Local Green Space; K19 ‘Green spaces in new developments’ through the provision of green spaces in new development and K20 through the provision of allotments should all provide opportunities for climate change mitigation through absorption of CO₂ as well as adaptation through increasing permeability and surface water drainage resulting in indirect positive effects.

4.5 Health and wellbeing

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Promote health and well-being of Kingsclere’s residents	<p>Promote accessibility to health facilities</p> <p>Provide and enhance the provision of community access to active recreation (e.g. walking and cycling)</p>
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The determinants of health are varied and the effects of these determinants are complex and uncertain. Positive health outcomes can come from planning policy but it is more likely that they will arise as a result of lifestyle changes. Where these might be changed through spatial planning there are likely to be positive effects.



Figure 4.1: Determinants of health¹⁰

With this in mind, there are a number of policies that should have positive effects on health and wellbeing: K2 'Provision of housing to meet local needs' through the provision of suitable housing types; K4 'Good quality design' through ensuring security by design (minimising the perception and risk of crime) and the provision of amenity space; K3 'Housing for Older People' through ensuring suitable housing in light of an ageing population.

There is now robust evidence that access to the natural environment improves people's health and wellbeing through encouraging healthy outdoor recreation and relaxation. In this context, a number of policies within the Neighbourhood Plan aim to enhance green infrastructure provision in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This includes K18, 19 and 20, which set out a range of provisions for creating, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area, including through the creation and preservation of green spaces, including allotments.

The most likely negative effect of development on health, poor air quality, is not considered to be significant at this stage given the limited extent of the development proposed (c. 50 dwellings).

4.6 Historic environment and landscape

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Protect, maintain and enhance Kingsclere's cultural heritage resources, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	Conserve and enhance the setting and integrity of listed buildings and conservation areas.
	Support access to the historic environment

The Plan as a whole will provide a range of benefits in relation to landscape and villagescape character and on conserving and enhancing the fabric and setting of historic environment assets.

Insofar as housing densities are concerned, the plan sets a priority of character over maximising density which should ensure preservation of some elements of local character resulting in positive effects. K4 sets out that "All new development must demonstrate good quality design. This means responding to and integrating with local surroundings and landscape context as well as the existing

¹⁰ http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE

built environment.” Under this ‘heading’ there are a number of definitions of good design that highlight the importance of the historic character and landscape, and the enhancement / preservation of it. K4 should therefore result in positive effects. K6 takes a very positive approach to the local character of Kingsclere with elements protecting the historic and natural assets of the area and the need to reinforce this. K7, through the retention of mature trees, should help maintain the wider character of the area and thus have indirect positive effects. Similarly, the use of native plants (K15) should result in indirect positive effects through ensuring that flora native to the parish is used in new developments.

Policies K21 ‘Heritage assets’ presents a number of provisions for the conservation and enhancement of features and areas of interest for the historic environment. This includes in related to nationally designated heritage assets and conservation areas. The integrity of the Kingsclere Conservation Area will also be supported by Policy K1 ‘Sites within the settlement boundary’, which seeks to ensure new development proposals utilises the Conservation Area Appraisal. This provides an appropriate context for the protection and enhancement of the conservation area.

4.7 Land, soil and water resources

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Ensure the more efficient use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	Promote the use of previously developed land where possible
Protect, and where possible enhance, groundwater and surface water bodies	Minimise the risk to groundwater SPZs, and where possible avoid development which has the potential to negatively impact on these. Protect, and where possible enhance the quality of Gailey Brook and other surface water bodies.

It is likely that effects on land, soil and water resources will be consistent with those under the business-as-usual scenario (e.g. NPPF). K4 references the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) and so would likely have positive effects on groundwater and surface water bodies though minimising surface water run-off.

K9, 14,18 and 19 are all likely to have indirect positive effects on the water environment through creating green space, encouraging biodiversity and ensuring that mature trees are retained.

4.8 Population and community

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Provide a range of housing types appropriate for the local community, including: affordable housing and starter homes, specialist housing for older persons, and a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures	Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities, particularly for older age groups.
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K1 should be supportive for this objective through helping to providing affordable homes in sites for local people and result in positive effects. K2 should, through setting out that the provision of new housing should deliver a mix of housing which meets local needs, provide for a positive effect.

K3 will support the delivery of housing for older people in Kingsclere.

K8 'Support for community infrastructure' explicitly sets out policy for supporting community infrastructure projects and has identified five areas that are priorities for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds in the parish. Should these be delivered there are likely to be positive effects in terms of community facilities.

K18, 19 and 20 set out a range of provisions for creating, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area, including through the creation and preservation of green spaces, including allotments. This will support the quality of life of residents through support physical and mental health and wellbeing, facilitating enhancements to the quality of neighbourhoods and improving accessibility to recreational opportunities.

Policy K11 supports the economic vitality of the village centre through seeking to preclude changes in use from shops, pubs, restaurants and business premises to residential within the conservation area. It also seeks to encourage proposals that support existing and new businesses within the village centre. Rural vitality will be supported by Policy K13, which seeks to facilitate the re-use of agricultural and other rural buildings for businesses if certain conditions will be met. The economic vitality of the parish will also be supported by Policy K10 'Provision of good broadband connection', which will support opportunities to work from home or run a business from home.

4.9 Transport

The elements of the SEA framework relevant to this issue are:

Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development.
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K17 seeks to provide safe pedestrian access to link up with existing or proposed footpaths, and seeks to ensure that residents can walk safely to bus stops, the village centre and the school. Combined with the Neighbourhood Plan's close focus on protecting and enhancing the quality of the public realm, the plan's focus on supporting the range of services and facilities in the village centre (promoting accessibility) and Policy K4's provision for bicycle parking, this will help enhance the conditions for walking and cycling in the Neighbourhood Plan area, supporting modal shift from the private car. This will result in positive effects in relation to this theme.

4.10 Summary of the assessment of policies

The table below sets out the summary scores for all the policies in the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 4.1: Policy summary scores

Policy	Objective						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	→	→	→	→	→	↗	→
2	→	→	↗	→	→	↗	→
3	→	→	↗	→	→	↗	→
4	↗	↗	→	↗	↗	↗	↗
5	↗	→	→	→	→	→	→
6	→	→	→	↗	→	→	→
7	↗	↗	→	↗	↗	→	→
8	→	↗	→	→	→	↗	→
9	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
10		↗				↗	↗
11	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
12	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
13	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
14	↗	↗	→	→	↗	→	→
15	→	→	→	↗	→	→	→
16	→	→	→	→	→	→	↗
17	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
18	↗	↗	→	→	↗	↗	→
19	↗	↗	→	→	↗	↗	→
20	↗	↗	→	→	→	↗	→
21	↗	→	→	↗	→	→	→
22	→	→	→	↗	→	→	→

4.11 Site assessment

As discussed in Section 3, the submission version of the KNP has proposed the allocation of three sites in a linear development to the south of the A339 (Fawconer Road, Coppice Road and Strokins Road). Collectively these sites will provide an anticipated 52 – 62 dwellings during the plan period, therefore exceeding the agreed housing target of at least 50 dwellings.

Presented below is a summary table of the performance of each of the sites assessed individually in Section 3.

Table 4.2: Site summary scores

	KHA1 (Fawconer)	KHA2 (Coppice)	KHA3 (Strokins)	Porch Farm	NP6 (Poveys Mead)	King 005 (Gaily Mill)	New Yew Tree Farm
BD	↘	↘	↘	↘	→	→	↘
CC	→	→	?	?	→	↘	→
H&W	→	→	→	→	↗	↗	↗
HE	→	→	→	↘	↘	↘	↘
L,S & WR	→	→	→	↘	↘	↘	↘
P&C	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
T	↗	↗	↗	↗	↘	↗	↘

In terms of significant effects of the preferred sites, the most prominent are those on biodiversity, climate change, health and wellbeing, and historic assets.

4.11.1 Biodiversity

The issue here stems in the main from the proximity of the sites to Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. Natural England has advised that the sites are in an IRZ for 'Any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units' and an IRZ for 'Residential development of 50 units or more'. It is possible that the extent of the IRZ (being limited to part of Strokins Road) may mean that technically less than 50 dwellings may be within the IRZ, but this is to some extent a straw man argument. The fact is that there are three sites wholly or partly within a SSSI IRZ that will cumulatively provide 52 - 62 dwellings. This being the case, there is an issue to be dealt with in terms of potential significant effects of the Plan on the SSSI. There is also an issue with negative effects on the Fen Meadow SINC which may arise through impacts from construction (e.g. noise, dust or vibration). Given the development approach adopted, the sites taken forward will cumulatively affect the strip of SINC to the south of the A339 (see Figure 4.2).

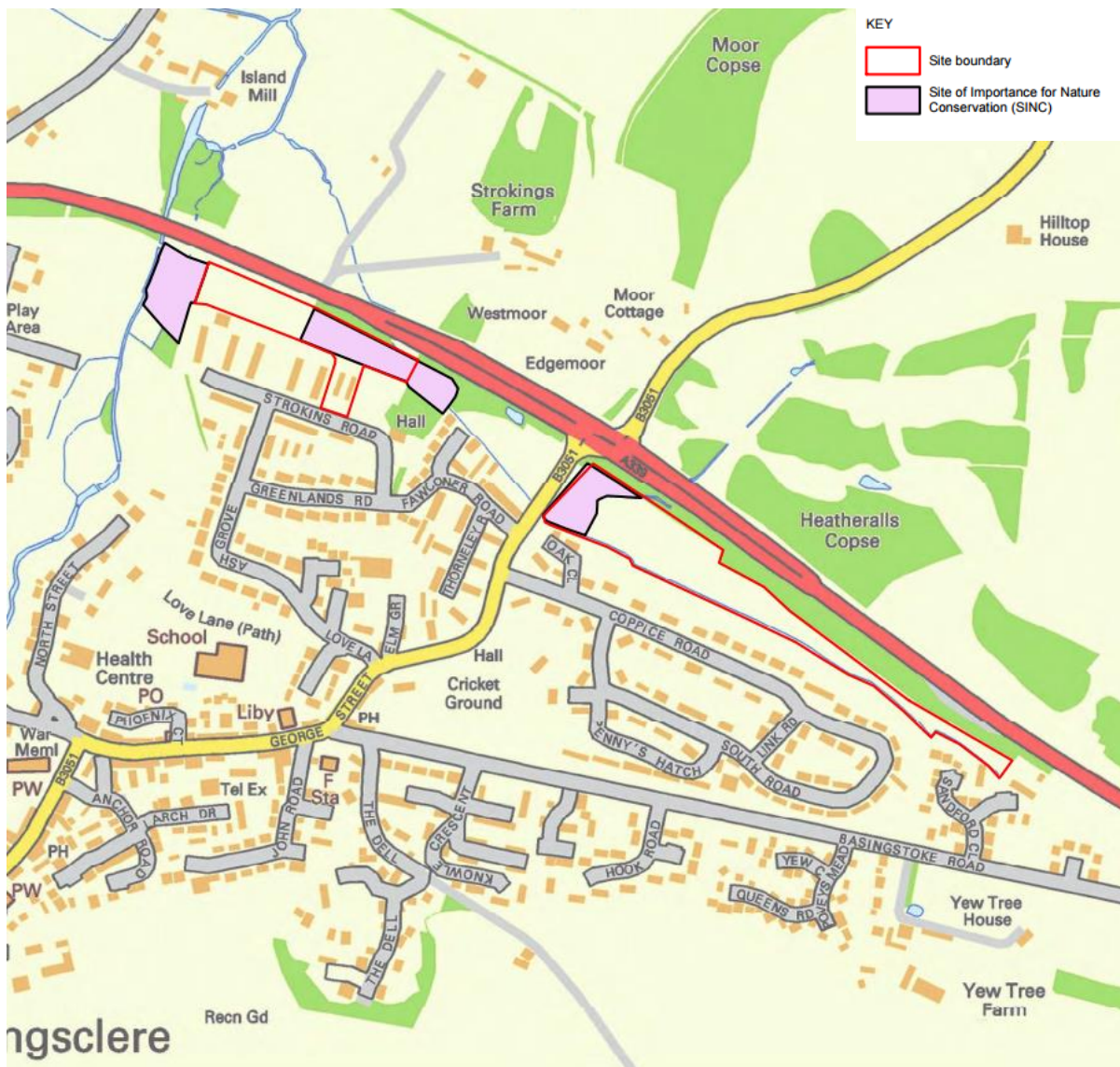


Figure 4.2. Area designated as Kingsclere Fen Meadow Remnants Site of Importance for Nature Conservation¹¹

To some extent, Policy K7 'Protecting mature trees and hedgerows and enhancing rural character', Policy K14 'Conserving and enhancing biodiversity', and Policy K15 'Ensuring the use of native plants within development sites' should mitigate the negative effects identified for these sites. It is felt, however, that a greater emphasis on recreational sites and open space would go further to offset the potential recreational effects on the SSSI that may result from the Plan.

4.11.2 Climate change

The effect of the sites on climate change mitigation is likely to be minimal. Policy K14 'Conserving and enhancing biodiversity', and Policy K15 'Ensuring the use of native plants within development sites' should serve to mitigate for any loss in the carbon sequestration potential of the sites. However, there are flood risks associated with some of sites and the design / layout of the sites should be developed in a way that prevents increased flood risk.

¹¹ Ecological Planning and Research (2015) Management Plan for part of 'Kingsclere Fen Meadow Remnants' Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) [online] @ <https://www.huqfox.com/shared/attachments.asp?f=7974b4e1-18cd-49ad-9038-e5da28a924ae%2Epdf>. Accessed October 2016

4.11.3 Health and wellbeing

The main issue related to health are the potential health impacts associated with housing located next to a main road. All three sites will be very close to the A339 and the residents of housing on these sites will be exposed to direct impacts from traffic noise (and potential air quality issues). These issues can be mitigated for through design and it would be expected that the design of the new dwellings would mitigate any potential noise / air quality issues. It is recommended that policies are included in the Plan to this effect.

4.11.4 Historic environment

There may be negative effects on the landscape and townscape character through the development of the three selected sites; however, this are considered to be mitigated through the inclusion of Policy K21 'Heritage assets'.

4.12 Conclusion

In summary, the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan will lead to a range of positive effects relating to the biodiversity, climate change, health and wellbeing, historic environment and landscape and the population and community SEA topics. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the plan, its impetus on protecting and enhancing open space and green infrastructure networks and focus on conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment.

It will also enable the Neighbourhood Plan area to meet its housing target (50 new dwellings) and provides flexibility for exceeding this in the Plan period.

5. What are the next steps (including monitoring)?

This part of the report explains next steps (i.e. steps subsequent to submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council) that will be taken as part of plan-making / SEA.

5.1 Plan finalisation and adoption

Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, requires that the Parish Council submit (to the Local Authority) the 'Proposed' Plan and a 'Consultation Statement'. The Consultation Statement must describe issues or concerns raised through the current consultation and how these were addressed when preparing the 'Proposed Plan' for submission.

Regulation 16 then requires that the Local Authority 'publicises' the Proposed Plan so that stakeholders can make representations that may then be considered at Examination. It will be appropriate for the Local Authority to also publicise an updated version of the Environmental Report, with a view to informing representations.

Regulation 17 requires that the Local Authority submits (to the person appointed to carry out the Examination) the Proposed Plan and a copy of any representations which have been made in accordance with Regulation 16. It may be appropriate for the Local Authority to also submit the updated Environmental Report, with a view to informing the Examination.

Regulations 18 and 19 require that, subsequent to the Examination, the Local Authority publishes the Examiner's Report and a Decision Statement. The Decision Statement sets out whether or not the Local Authority is prepared to 'make' (i.e. adopt) the Plan. If the Local Authority is prepared to make the Plan, then a referendum can be held. It may be appropriate for the Local Authority to also publish an updated Environmental Report, with a view to informing the Referendum.

Regulation 20 states what the Local Authority must do when the Plan is 'made' (i.e. adopted). An SEA Statement must be published alongside the made Plan, with a view to providing:

- information on the decision, i.e. an explanation of why the final Plan approach was decided-upon in light of SEA and consultation; and
- measures *decided* concerning monitoring.

5.2 Monitoring

At the current stage – i.e. in the Environmental Report - there is a need to present 'a description of the measures *envisaged* concerning monitoring'. In light of the nature of the assessment findings presented in this report, there are no suggestions put forward for monitoring

Appendix A Regulatory requirements

Environmental Report must include:	Where in the Environmental Report has this been addressed?
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	See Appendix B
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	See Appendix B
(c) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	See Appendix B
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (The Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive);	See Appendix B
(e) 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;	See Appendix B
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	See Section 3 and 4
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	See Section 4
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	See Section 3
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	See Section 5
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	See non-technical summary.

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Appendix B Evidence base

B.1 Air quality

SEA Topic	Themes considered
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution sources Air quality management

Context

National

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

- “Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan”.
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.
- In terms of the local context, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is required to monitor air quality across the borough, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an action plan to improve air quality in the area.

Baseline

Current baseline

There are no areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area that have been declared as AQMA¹². As such; there are no locations within Kingsclere Parish known to be at risk of exceeding national air pollutant limits. No locations are subject to air quality monitoring, and there are no AQMA.

The car is the predominant mode of transport for those travelling to work in the parish area. More sustainable forms of transport that have less negative impact on air quality such as cycling, walking, or public transport see a much lower level of use¹³. The nearest AQMA to Kingsclere Parish is located around junction 11 of the M4 which is on the southern city limits of Reading¹⁴. This is approximately 18km away.

Future baseline

No significant air quality issues exist within Kingsclere Parish, or indeed within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area. However, the car is likely to remain the dominant form of transport due to the rural location of the parish. New housing and employment provision has the potential to increase traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants which could have an adverse effect on air quality. However, these effects may be in part offset by policy EM12 - ‘Pollution’ from the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council emerging Local Plan. This policy states:

¹² Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Air quality information* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=80> accessed 9 October 2015

¹³ ONS (2011) *Method of travel to work (QS701EW)* [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=>. Accessed 9 October 2015

¹⁴ Defra (undated) *AQMAs interactive map* [online] available at: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps> accessed 9 October 2015

“Development which is sensitive to pollution¹⁵ will only be permitted where: a) There would be no detrimental impact on quality of life as a result of existing, historic, or nearby land uses and activities; and b) It would not lead to unacceptable risks to human health or the natural environment, as a result of existing, historic, or nearby land uses and activities; or c) Adequate remedial or mitigation measures are proposed and can be implemented”¹⁶

Conclusions

1. No significant air quality issues exist within Kingsclere parish, or indeed within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area. However proposed development could have the potential to create adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic levels. The plan can have a bearing on the location of housing and employment, which both have an effect on the volume of traffic within an area. There is also the potential for the plan to facilitate the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, including new and improved pedestrian and cycle links, and enhancements to public transport networks.
2. It is not likely that development in Kingsclere could impact on AQMAs, as the nearest of these is approximately 18km away. After consideration of the scale of development likely to occur within Kingsclere, and review of the baseline data, it is concluded that air quality can be scoped out of the SEA.

B.2 Biodiversity

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Biodiversity

- Habitats and species
- Nature conservation designations
- Geological features

Context

European

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy¹⁷ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to “halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020”.

National

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

- Contribute to the government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the ‘preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks’ and the ‘protection and recovery of priority species’. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.

¹⁵ Pollution is defined within the Local Plan as anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soil, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity

¹⁶ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/34953/Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

¹⁷ European Commission (2011) *Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020* [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. ‘a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’).
- Plan positively planning for ‘green infrastructure’ as part of planning for ‘ecological networks’.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

The ‘Natural Environment White Paper’ (NEWP)¹⁸ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK’s failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010; it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

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

Sub-regional

At the county level the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hampshire reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets out a framework for action in two parts. Volume One, ‘the Strategic Plan’, sets out the objectives of the partnership, describes Hampshire’s biodiversity, and identifies habitats and species of priority concern. It also presents a strategy for disseminating information, data and raising awareness of biodiversity. Volume Two contains individual action plans for priority habitats and species and topics that have a considerable influence on the conservation of biodiversity.

Local

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council emerging Local Plan reflects the key messages from the NPPF and the NEWP within its own objectives and policies. Objective N) states the need to:

“Protect and enhance the borough’s biodiversity and the locally distinctive character of our priority habitats and landscapes, such as the North Wessex Downs AONB, through protection, partnership working, conservation and active management”

Policy EM4 – ‘Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation’ outlines a series of conditions which must be met by development to ensure protection of important Biodiversity and Geodiversity features of the parish:

“Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that:

- a. There will be no significant impact on the conservation status of key species; and*
- b. There will be no adverse impact on the integrity of designated and proposed European designated sites; and*
- c. There will be no harm to nationally designated sites; and*
- d. There will be no harm to locally designated sites including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); and*

¹⁸ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

- e. *There will be no loss or deterioration of a key habitat type, including irreplaceable habitats; and*
- f. *There will be no harm to the integrity of linkages between designated sites and key habitats*¹⁹

Baseline

Current baseline

No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in Kingsclere Parish. The closest European designated site is the Kennet and Lambourn Flood plain, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It is approximately 5.3km to the north of the parish.

There are also no sites within the Kingsclere parish which have been nationally designated for nature conservation (e.g. Special Sites of Scientific Interest) However, the parish is located within Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) of two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The closest SSSI is Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows, which is located approximately 2km to the east and has been designated for its habitat quality, diversity of communities and number of rare and threatened species. It is mostly classed as being in unfavourable but improving condition – with some areas of the SSSI being classed as favourable.

The second SSSI is the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. This is located 3km to the north and has been designated for extensive areas of dry heath, acid grassland and neutral grassland. It is mostly classed as being in unfavourable but improving condition – with some areas of the SSSI being classed as favourable, while others are unfavourable.

The risk to these SSSI's is most pronounced in the north of the parish. Here, any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units is listed as a risk. Further south in the parish, any developments of 50 or more residential units is listed as a risk²⁰.

The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' present within the parish, that are characteristic of Hampshire and which make a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. There are a number of these habitats present in the parish area including:

- coastal and flood plain grazing marsh
- lowland calcareous grassland
- deciduous woodland and, wood pasture and parkland.

In addition, some areas of the deciduous woodland have been identified as ancient woodland. This is woodland which has existed since before 1600 in England meaning that it will typically be composed of native species and will have an especially high biodiversity value²¹.

The location and spatial extent of these BAP priority habitats and areas of ancient woodland within the parish are shown below in **Figure B1**.

¹⁹ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/34953/Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

²⁰ Defra *Magic Interactive Map* [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm>

²¹ Parliamentary Office For Science and Technology (2014) *Post note number 456: Ancient woodland*.

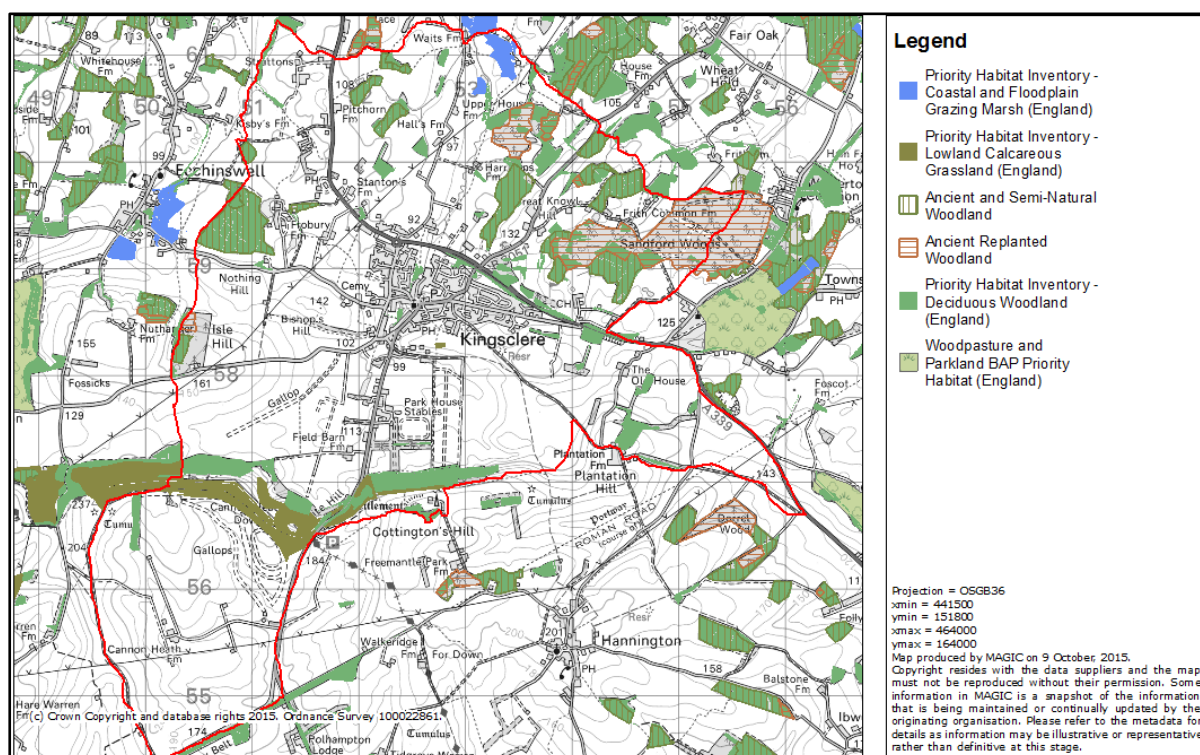


Figure B1: BAP priority habitats and ancient woodland in Kingsclere Parish²²

There are also a number of areas designated as SINC within the parish. This is a non-statutory designation, which aims to protect areas that are valuable for plants and wildlife. Two of these SINCs are located on potential development sites²³ and as such there is potential for significant negative effects from future development.

The two sites containing SINCs are: 'KI 02', north of Strokins Road; and 'KI 03', north of Coppice Road. These sites are located outside of the settlement policy boundary of Kingsclere and form a buffer between the village and the A339. These sites are both designated as SINCs because they contain remnants of fen meadows.

In relation to geodiversity, there are no SSSIs within or nearby the parish designated for geodiversity nor are there any Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in the parish.

Future baseline

Sites of biodiversity importance, such as the areas of BAP priority habitats and ancient woodland, have the potential to come under pressure from an increase in the population size, and associated development. However, these are currently protected under Section 41 of the 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006', and this protection is likely to continue.

The sustainability appraisal (SA) of the pre-submission draft of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough local plan 2011-2025 notes that, after considering environmental, economic, and social aspects; the preferred approach for Kingsclere is an allocation of 50 dwellings. Kingsclere parish is located within IRZs of the two SSSIs, which suggest that a housing allocation of this number will present a risk to the condition of these SSSIs.

The Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI is classified as either unfavourable, but improving, or in favourable condition. There is no causal relationship between the condition and trend; suggesting that this is more down to management regimes. The Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI is mostly classed as unfavourable but improving, however some areas are classified as unfavourable with no change. As such, any negative effect that the NP has on this SSSI should be carefully considered.

²² Defra Magic Interactive Map [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> accessed 9 October 2015

²³ URS (2014) Kingsclere Neighbourhood plan site assessment review final report [online] available at: <http://www.hugofox.com/shared/attachments.asp?f=59cd6af8-f774-4566-aeab-b00ca90e021c%2Epdf>

If the two potential development sites which contain SINC are chosen for development, these SINCs will be at significant risk of damage or removal.

Conclusions

1. The plan has a role to play in conserving areas of biodiversity value, and could also deliver targeted enhancements to biodiversity through measures (e.g. 'green infrastructure') to enhance ecological connectivity. There are no sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest within the parish area. The nearest of these is 5.3km to the north of the parish, and therefore is unlikely to be affected.
2. The Kingsclere parish is located within the IRZ of two SSSIs: Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. In the north of the parish any residential developments with a total net gain in units is considered a risk. Further south in the parish, any developments of 50 or more residential units is listed as a risk²⁴.
3. The SA of the of the pre-submission draft of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough local plan 2011-2025 has recommended an allocation of 50 dwellings on unspecified sites within Kingsclere Parish. Due to the parish's location within IRZ's of SSSIs, the impact which this development will have on these should be carefully considered. There is also a significant number of BAP priority habitats and areas of ancient woodland within the parish.
4. On this evidence, it is recommended that biodiversity should be a focus of the assessment work.

B.3 Climate change

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions • Effects of climate change • Flood risk
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Context

European

In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2°C.²⁵ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

National

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

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008²⁶. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;

²⁴ Defra *Magic Interactive Map* [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> accessed 9 October 2015

²⁵ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

²⁶ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80%

by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

- Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the government's zero carbon buildings policy;
- Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
- Encouraging transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development “...*not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding.*” Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010²⁷ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion ; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)²⁸

Further guidance is provided in the document ‘Planning for SuDs’²⁹. This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of “*contributing to local quality of life and Green Infrastructure*”.

Local

At the local level, the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council adopted Local Plan notes the importance of including climate change minimisation, mitigation and adaption measures within future development. Objective K of the Local plan states that the plan should:

“Minimise our contribution to climate change through more efficient use of energy and natural resources and increased use of renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure, as well as mitigating and adapting to climate change.”

Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are also included as part of the spatial strategy, Section 3.11 states:

*“Climate change mitigation and adaption, and minimising carbon emissions will be key for the future success of the borough; our approach will therefore embrace cleaner and smarter growth that focuses on productivity gains which do not compromise the quality of the environment.”*³⁰

²⁷ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

²⁸ Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on 1 October 2012, making it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

²⁹ CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

³⁰ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Revised Pre-Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26203/2%20Revised%20Pre-Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf>

A range of policies are in place to deliver specific aspects of the climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives. With regards to adaptation, Policy EM5 – ‘Green Infrastructure’ and its accompanying green infrastructure strategy highlight that green infrastructure can be used to create natural drainage, flood water storage, and pollution and microclimate control.

Policy EM7 – ‘Managing Flood Risk’ ensures that an increased flood risk - which has been identified as an impact of climate change - is taken into account for development, as identified by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

With regards to mitigation, the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council climate change strategy³¹ outlines a council plan up to 2017 to: *“Take action to reduce energy use and introduce renewable energy, both for our own premises and the borough”*. The strategy outlines the specific actions which will be undertaken to achieve this plan. This includes a green investment fund which will be used to support borough residents, businesses and community groups to finance proposals to introduce renewable energy and improve insulation.

Until the emerging Local Plan has been adopted, the extant Local Plan (1996-2011)³² still carries significant weight in the planning process. The adopted plan does not contain any specific policies or strategies relating to climate change, however it does contain a number which are pertinent to managing the effects of, and mitigating, climate change. These include;

- Policy E8, which states: “development will not be permitted if it would increase the number of people or property at high risk of flooding, or be likely to increase the risk or severity of flooding elsewhere”
- Policy E1, which states that, as part of its requirement for high standard of design all development proposals should: “incorporate features to minimise the energy consumed in the construction and future use of the building, conserve water and minimise water use.”

Baseline

Current Baseline

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team³³. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario³⁴ are likely to be as follows:

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

Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for Kingsclere parish. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;

³¹ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Climate Change Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane borough Council* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/334.pdf>

³² Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2006) *adopted local plan 1996-2011* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/DP01>

³³ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

³⁴ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290>

- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;
- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

The flood plain of the Gailey Brook runs through the village of Kingsclere, this results in a predominantly medium risk of flooding along the length of the Gailey Brook. As shown in **Figure B2**.

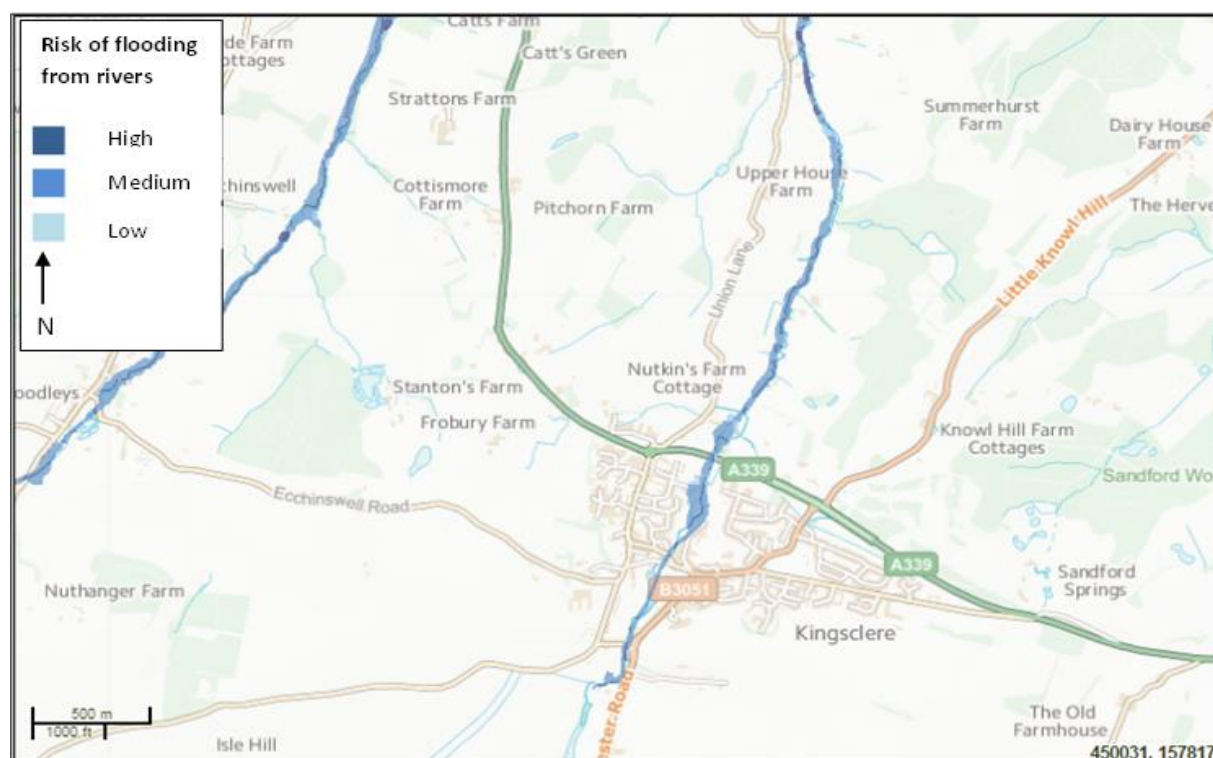


Figure B2: Risk of flooding from rivers in Kingsclere Parish

The Basingstoke and Deane strategic flood risk assessment report (SFRA)³⁵ notes that despite this risk, no incidents of the stream over topping are known of. The report does however note that surface run off is a problem in the south east of the village. **Figure B3** displays the risk of flooding from surface run off for the whole of the parish.

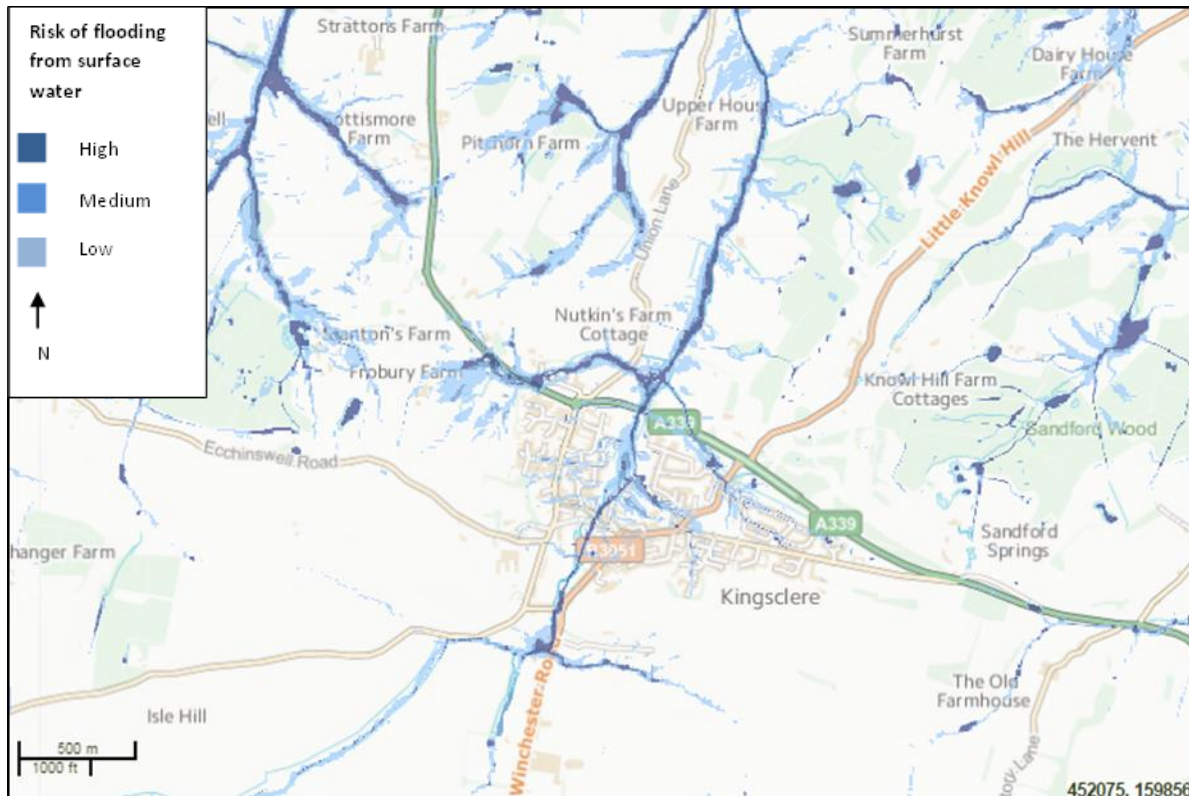


Figure B3: Risk of surface water flooding in Kingsclere parish

As **Figure B3** illustrates there is a significantly larger area of land at some level of risk of flooding from surface water when compared to risk from river flooding. Surface water flood risk is important to taken into consideration within the NP because, as noted by the Basingstoke and Deane SFRA, development has the potential to alter the pattern of flood risk and therefore impact on areas outside the development site.

Figure B4 illustrates the Environment Agency's assessment of Flood Zones for Kingsclere. The main risk of flooding comes from the Gaily Brook, fed by Wells Head Springs.

³⁵ Halcrow (January 2010) *Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26006/1%20Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment.pdf> accessed 12 October 2015

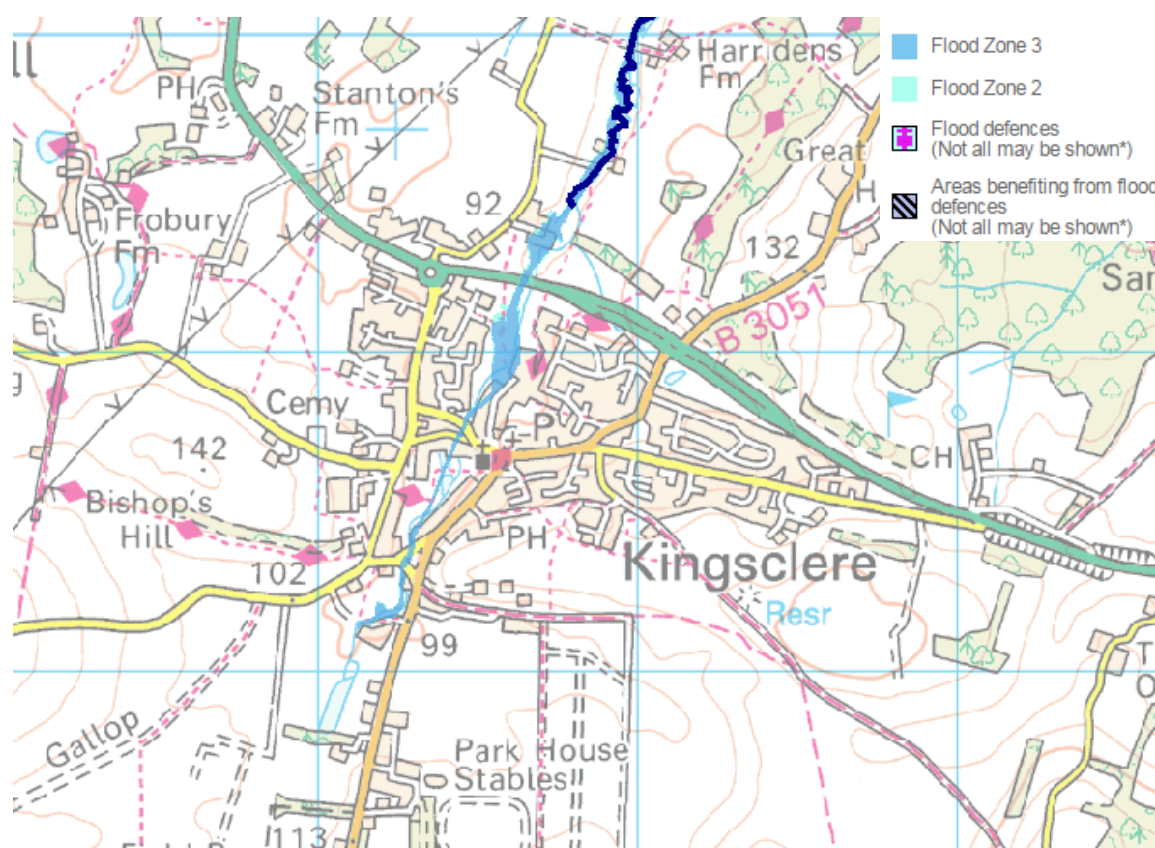


Figure B4: Flood Map for Planning³⁶

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change³⁷ (shown in **Table B1**) suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher *per capita* emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has seen smaller reductions in emissions *per capita* between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).

³⁶ Environment Agency (2016) Flood Map for Planning [online]@ <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=452500.0&y=158500.0&topic=floodmap&ep=map&scale=9&location=Kingsclere,%20Hampshire&lang=e&layerGroups=default&distance=&textonly=off#x=452685&y=158733&lq=1.2,10.&scale=9>

³⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) *Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions* [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

Table B1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita 2005-2012

	<i>Industrial and commercial (t CO₂)</i>	<i>Domestic (t CO₂)</i>	<i>Road and transport (t CO₂)</i>	<i>Total (t CO₂)</i>
Basingstoke & Deane				
2005	3.3	2.5	3.9	9.7
2006	3.2	2.6	3.8	9.7
2007	3.1	2.5	3.8	9.5
2008	3.0	2.4	3.6	9.1
2009	2.7	2.2	3.4	8.4
2010	2.8	2.3	3.4	8.6
2011	2.5	2.0	3.3	7.9
2012	2.6	2.2	3.2	8.1
Hampshire				
2005	3.5	2.5	3.0	9.0
2006	3.2	2.5	2.9	8.7
2007	3.3	2.4	2.9	8.7
2008	3.2	2.4	2.7	8.3
2009	2.9	2.2	2.6	7.7
2010	2.9	2.3	2.6	7.8
2011	2.1	2.0	2.5	6.6
2012	2.2	2.2	2.5	6.9
South East England				
2005	3.0	2.6	2.6	8.2
2006	2.9	2.6	2.6	8.1
2007	2.8	2.5	2.6	7.9
2008	2.7	2.4	2.4	7.6
2009	2.3	2.2	2.3	6.9
2010	2.4	2.3	2.3	7.1
2011	2.1	2.0	2.2	6.4
2012	2.2	2.2	2.2	6.7
England				
2005	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.7	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.5	2.4	2.2	8.2
2008	3.4	2.4	2.1	8.0
2009	2.9	2.1	2.0	7.1
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.3
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.7
2012	2.9	2.2	1.9	7.0

In relation to CO₂ emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from industrial and commercial sources in the borough fell slightly from 34% to 32%. In the same period the proportion of total emissions from domestic sources increased slightly from 25% to 27%; road transport remained the same.

Future baseline

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the parish, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team have estimated that under a medium emissions scenario, the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is an increase of 16%³⁸, while there is estimated to be an average drop in summer

³⁸ UK climate projections (2009) *South East 2050s medium emissions scenario* [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>

precipitation of 19%. This is likely to increase the risk of flooding in winter months and increase water shortages during summer months with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

The Climate Change Partnership for the South East has produced a report detailing the risks faced in the region from climate change. Flooding was identified as a major risk, particularly to businesses and the local economy, where it could cause damage to assets, stock, and premises. The possibility of un-insurability and reputational damage represent significant threats.³⁹

The SA of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough emerging Local Plan notes that the Local Plan objectives are, in principle, compatible with the SA objectives on climate change. This suggests that in terms of climate change mitigation, *per capita* emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However, road transport and domestic sources are likely to be increasing contributors proportionally.

Conclusions

1. The NPPF promotes a move towards a low carbon future by reducing the level of greenhouse gas emissions. Regarding adaptation and risk mitigation, it also notes that development should take place away from flood risk zones.
2. The overall CO₂ emissions data suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. Development within Kingsclere Parish has the potential to increase overall CO₂ emissions for the borough further. However, these increases can be mitigated through decreasing car dependency, and increasing walking, cycling, and public transport provision. As such, this should be considered further within the SEA process.
3. At a regional level, UKCP09 estimates show winter mean precipitation may increase and summer precipitation may drop. As the parish is shown to have areas at risk from both river and surface water flooding, and UKCP09 estimates suggest extreme weather events such as winter flooding and summer water shortages may increase; and further development has the potential to change this flood risk pattern; these issues should be considered further.

B.4 Economy and enterprise

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Economy and enterprise

- Economic and employment sectors
- Skills and qualifications

Context

National

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

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by 'ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'.
- Capitalise on 'inherent strengths', and to meet the 'twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future'.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for 'clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries'.
- Support competitive town centre environments.

³⁹ Climate South East (2012) *A summary of Climate Change Risks for the South East of England* [online] available at: http://www.climatesoutheast.org.uk/images/uploads/South_East_LOW_RES.pdf accessed 12 October 2015

- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.
- Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas and promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

Baseline

Current baseline

Figure B5 illustrates that economic activity rates within the parish are in line with borough levels. These levels are higher than regional and national averages. Rates of full time employment (59%) in Kingsclere are higher than across Basingstoke and Deane (47.9%) and significantly higher than regional (40.5%) and national (38.6%) levels.

Rates of self-employment (both with and without employees) are also higher than borough, regional, and national averages. In contrast, the number of retired residents is broadly comparable with national averages.

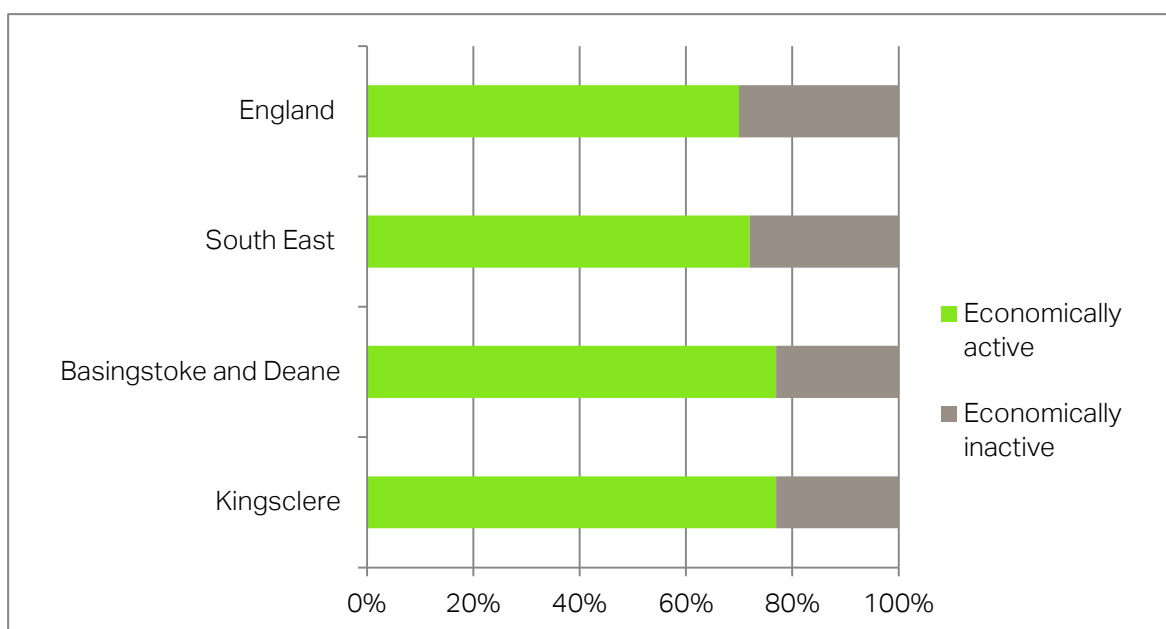


Figure B5: economic activity of residents aged 16-74

Figure B6 shows the highest level of qualification attained by residents in Kingsclere compared with the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England averages⁴⁰.

Kingsclere has a significantly higher percentage of residents with level 4 or above qualifications (32%) when compared with Basingstoke and Deane (18%), the South East (19%), and England (17%) averages. There is also a lower percentage of residents with no qualifications than England averages, however slightly more than borough and regional averages. **Figure B6** also indicates a below national average level of apprenticeships in the area.

⁴⁰ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Highest Level of Qualification (QS501EW)

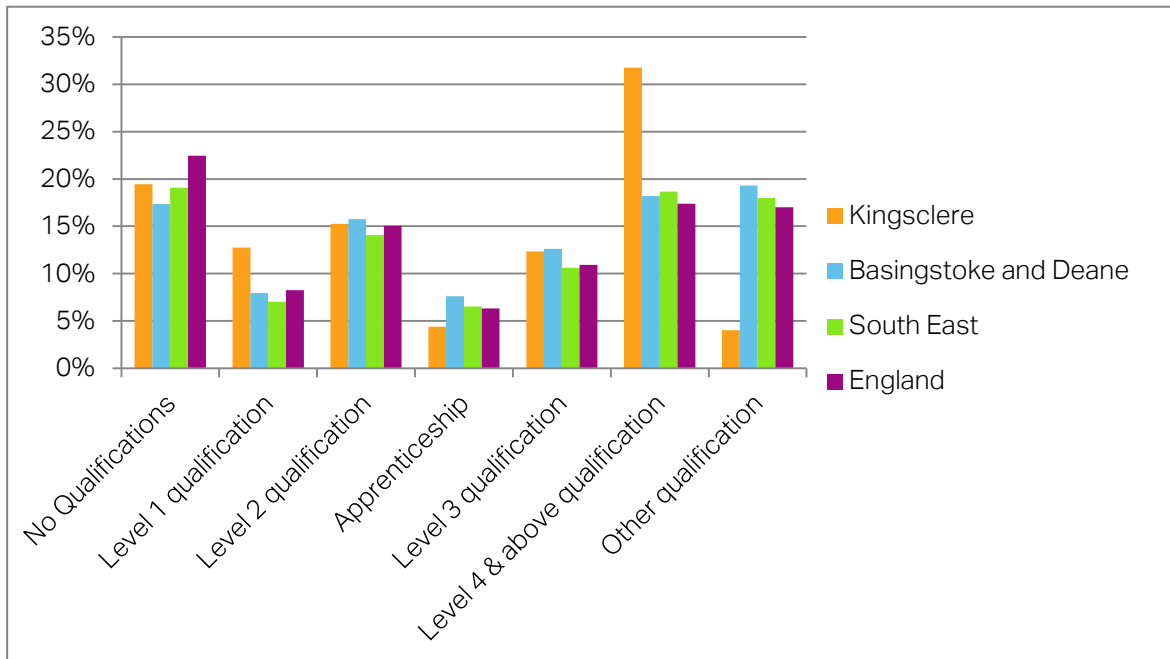


Figure B6: Highest level of qualification

Figure B7 demonstrates the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile shows that there are larger numbers of: managers, directors & senior officials; professionals; and skilled trade’s people, than when compared with borough, regional, and national averages.

Conversely there are fewer people working in sales and customer services, and caring, leisure and other service based roles than borough, regional, and national averages. This, together with the educational information found in **Figure B6** indicates a highly educated, skilled workforce.

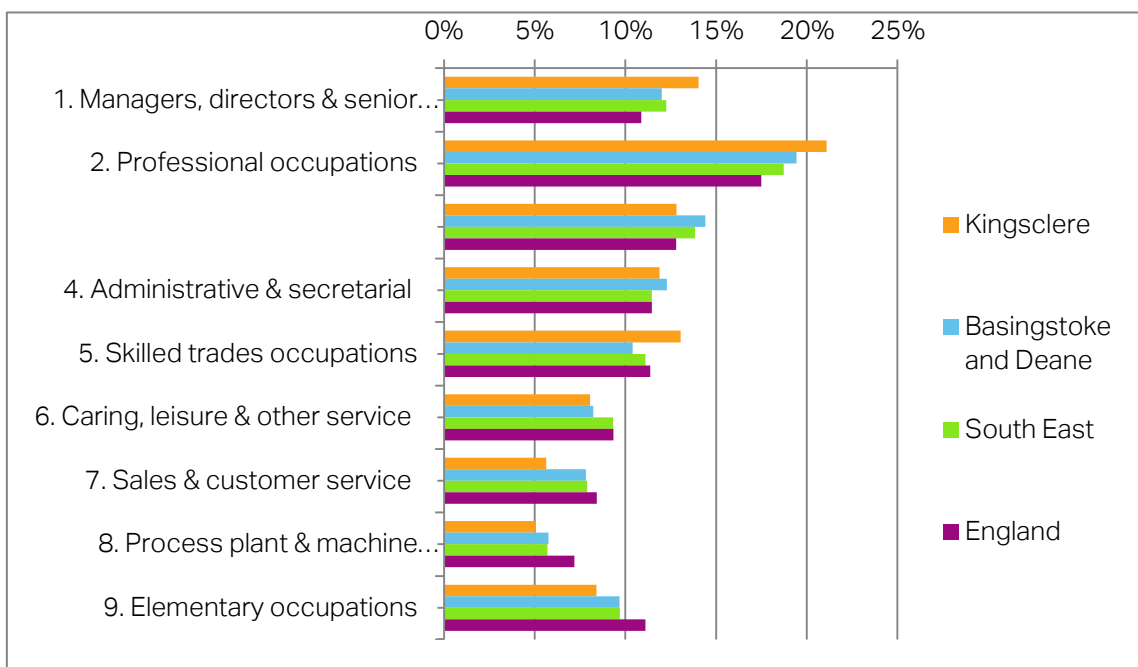


Figure B7: Employment occupation of residents aged 16-74⁴¹

⁴¹ ONS (2011) *Industry 2011* (KS608EW) [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=>

Future baseline

There is likely to be an increased demand for services and facilities in Kingsclere with population growth. An increased population will lead to a requirement to strengthen service provision to maintain a healthy local economy. This may provide opportunities for employment in this area.

Conclusions

1. The local economy in Kingsclere is remarkably strong in a national context. Economic activity of residents aged 16-74 are in-line with borough values, and higher than regional and national averages. The workforce is also highly qualified, with a higher proportion of residents working in skilled jobs such as trades persons and professional occupations when compared to regional and national averages.
2. The local economy is strong, and the NP objectives thus far considered do not set out significant objectives with regard to the local economy or aspects of this such as job creation. After consideration of the scale of development likely to occur within Kingsclere, and review of the baseline data, it is concluded that economy and enterprise can be scoped out of the SEA.

B.5 Health and well-being

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Health and well-being

- Health indicators
 - Healthcare inequalities
 - Sport, fitness and activity levels
-

Context

National

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

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

In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*⁴² (‘The Marmot Review’) investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: “*overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities*”.

⁴² The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

Local

The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government⁴³, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

Baseline

Current baseline

Table B2: General health⁴⁴

	Kingsclere	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Very good health	49%	51%	49%	48%
Good health	37%	35%	35%	34%
Fair health	11%	11%	12%	13%
Bad health	3%	3%	3%	4%
Very bad health	1%	1%	1%	1%

As highlighted in **Table B2** general health across Kingsclere Parish is broadly favourable when compared to regional and national averages, and slightly less favourable than the Basingstoke and Deane average. 49% of people in Kingsclere reported that they were in 'very good' health⁴⁵, which is slightly below borough values, similar to regional averages and above national averages. The proportion of people in 'very bad health' is slightly higher than borough averages, but lower than regional and national averages.

No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators. However, at the borough level the 2014 Health Profile⁴⁶ shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; slightly above the national average of 79.2 and 83, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

Future baseline

There is likely to be a proportional increase in the number of older people in Kingsclere population. This will place pressure on existing health and community facilities that are likely to face greater demand from residents.

Obesity is seen as an increasing issue in the UK by health professionals, and one that will contribute to a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer⁴⁷. 2011 data for Basingstoke and Deane shows that the borough has an adult obesity level of 23.9%. This is broadly comparable to the national average of 24.2% and suggests that obesity could contribute negatively to the health of the Kingsclere Parish population in the future.⁴⁸

⁴³ Upper tier and unitary local authorities

⁴⁴ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

⁴⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

⁴⁶ Public Health England (2014) Health Profile 2014 [online] available at:

<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=basingstoke%20and%20deane&SPEAR> (accessed 17/03/2015)

⁴⁷ NHS (2014) [online] available at: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/obesity/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

⁴⁸ Public Health England (2011) *Health Profile 2011 Basingstoke and Deane* [online] available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50461>

Conclusions

1. General health in Kingsclere slightly worse than in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, however it compares favourably with regional and national averages. It is important that this comparatively good level of health is maintained.
2. The age structure of the UK population has a growing proportion of older people. As discussed in chapter 5, retirement rates in Kingsclere are broadly in line with national averages, as such, this would suggest that the parish also has a growing proportion of older people. Consequently there will be implications for health service provision and the provision of other services, facilities and amenities in the future.

B.6 Historic environment and landscape

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Historic environment
and landscape

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

Context

National

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

- Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
- Heritage assets should be recognised as an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a 'manner appropriate to their significance', taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation, whilst also recognising the positive contribution new development can make to local character and distinctiveness.
- Set out a 'positive strategy' for the 'conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', including those heritage assets that are most at risk.
- Consider the effects of climate change in the long term, including in terms of landscape. Adopt 'proactive strategies' to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

The government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England⁴⁹ calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

Local

A significant portion of the southern area of Kingsclere parish is situated within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The consultation draft of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 sets out a wide ranging vision for the AONB, incorporating aspects such as landscape quality and tranquillity; the protection and enhancement of the historic environment; the conservation and improvement of biodiversity, water and soil quality; the development of vibrant economy based on the area's environmental qualities; thriving rural communities; and sustainable tourism. The management plan subsequently presents a series of policies and objectives to achieve this vision in the AONB, and proposes a delivery plan of actions.

⁴⁹ HM Government (2010) The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

Baseline

Current Baseline

The Kingsclere Parish is particularly sensitive in regard to historic environment features, heritage assets and surrounding landscape. **Figure C8** provides an over view of some of the key constraints (listed buildings and the North Wessex Downs AONB). There is a high density of listed buildings within the parish area –particularly within Kingsclere Village.

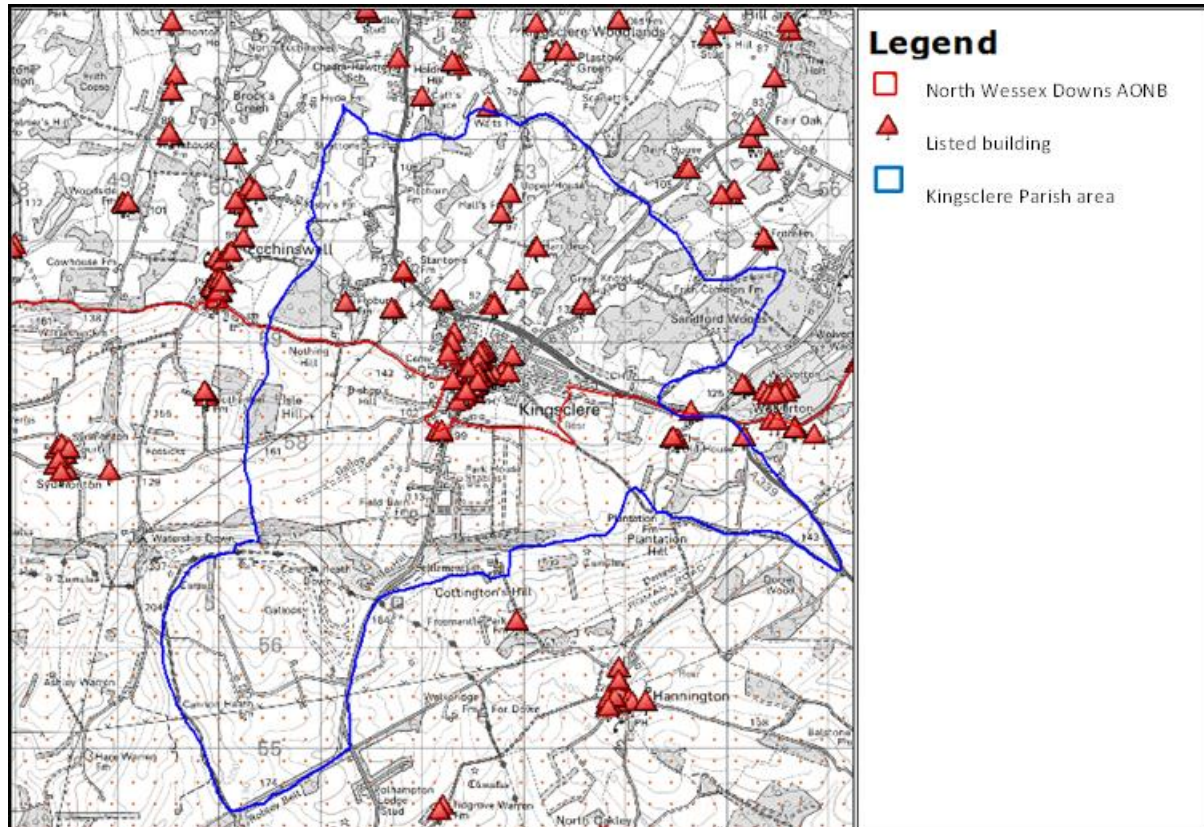


Figure B8: Listed buildings and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the parish

The village also has a designated conservation area, which recognises the special architectural and historic interest present in the settlement. In this regard there is a total of 65 listed buildings in the conservation area, of which there are two grade II* buildings (the Church of St Mary and 20 Swan Street). A grade II* listing denotes that these buildings are of national importance. The remaining 63 buildings are listed as grade II (of local or regional interest). Outside of the conservation area, there is a total of 38 other grade II listed buildings present within the parish⁵⁰.

As previously stated, a significant portion of the parish is located within the North Wessex Downs AONB. The boundary of the AONB extends east-west across the parish area immediately to south of Kingsclere Village. Consequently land area to the south of the A339 (in the east of the parish), and south of Ecchinswell Road (in the west of the parish) falls within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

The North Wessex Downs were designated as an AONB in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent. As such the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should be equivalent

The primary purpose of AONB designation is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'. In this context the North Wessex Downs AONB was designated for its dramatic, undeveloped

⁵⁰ Basingstoke and Deal borough Council (2004) *Conservation area appraisal: Kingsclere* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33822/Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal%20for%20Kingsclere.pdf> accessed 13 October 2015

and locally distinct chalk downlands with extensive areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, interspersed with woodland, and arable lands.

Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2014 Heritage at Risk Register⁵¹ highlighted that there are no features in the parish deemed to be at risk.

It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and are seen as important by local communities. For example, there are no registered parks or gardens within the parish area, however, there are likely to be parks and wider historic landscape assets which are important to the residents of the parish. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance

Future baseline

New development areas in the parish have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance.

New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. Kingsclere is likely to be particularly susceptible to this due to its historic village core, and the large proportion of the parish within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Conclusions

3. The NPPF outlines guidance on the value of local historic areas and valued landscapes, whilst promoting the enhancement and conservation of 'irreplaceable resources'. In this context, Kingsclere parish is home to a total of 106 listed buildings, 68 of which are within the Kingsclere Village conservation area. Of these listed buildings two are designated as grade II* showing that they are of national importance. However, none of these buildings have been identified by Historic England as at risk.
4. A significant portion of the parish area - south of the A339 and Ecchinswell Road - is located within the North Wessex Downs AONB. In the context of the high density of listed buildings and sensitive landscape it is deemed necessary to consider the impacts on the historic environment and landscape within the SEA.

⁵¹ Historic England (2014) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx> accessed 13 October 2015

B.7 Land, soil and water resources

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Land, soil and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils and agricultural land • Water resources • Waste management
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Context

European

The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy⁵² presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra's intention is to establish a 'framework for integrated catchment management' across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish 'Significant Water Management Issues' within catchments with a view to submit the proposed updated River Basin Management plans (RBMPs) to ministers for approval on 30 October 2015. The Second RBMPs will then be published in December 2015.. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

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

National

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

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

At the national level, other key documents produced by Defra include 'Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England'⁵³, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and 'Water for Life' document

⁵² European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

⁵³ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

⁵⁴, which sets out the government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the *Government Review of Waste Policy in England*⁵⁵ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

Baseline

Current Baseline

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. The entire Kingsclere parish is defined as Grade 3 'good to moderate'. However, it is unclear from the available data whether this is 3a or 3b land.

There is a recycling centre at the provided at the Fieldgate Community Centre in Kingsclere. The nearest household waste centre, and next closest recycling centre, is located on Newtown Road, Newbury which is 6.9 miles away from Kingsclere Village. Kingsclere is close to the border with West Berkshire and as such, many residents tend to use facilities provided in Newbury rather than Basingstoke.

Regarding surface water bodies, as discussed in Chapter 4, Gailey Brook runs through the parish area. It enters from the north and flows through Kingsclere Village to the south.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of groundwater contamination in the area. Regarding the susceptibility of ground water within the parish area to pollution, there is a Zone 1 and Zone 2⁵⁶ SPZ underlying Kingsclere Village.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where ground waters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of agricultural nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such ground waters are designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs). There is an area to the south east of Kingsclere Village which is designated as a groundwater NVZ, and an area around the southern boundary of the parish is designated as being at risk from eutrophication. However, the plan is unlikely to govern agricultural activities, and as such these designations are unlikely to be relevant.

Future Baseline

In the absence of the plan, development has the potential to be delivered in a less sustainable manner, and in a way that is not supported by the community.

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates and move towards zero waste to landfill. However, the population size and level of development foreseen within the parish is unlikely to impose a significant negative effect on recycling and waste management facilities within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough. Furthermore, Defra's estimation for waste growth shows that national waste growth and estimates of future waste arising are expected to remain consistent with current levels⁵⁷. This is because widespread initiatives to reduce waste and improve materials reuse and recycling are likely to reduce long-term production of waste.

In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and

⁵⁴ Defra (2011) *Water for life (The Water White Paper)* [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

⁵⁵ Defra (2011) *Government Review of Waste Policy in England* [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

⁵⁶ A Zone 1 is defined as the 50 day travel time for from any point below the water table to the source. This zone has a minimum radius of 50 metres, a Zone 2 is defined by a 400 day travel time from a point below the water table

⁵⁷ Defra (2015) Provisional Statistics on Waste Managed by Local Authorities in England including April to June 2014.

physical modifications to water bodies. Further development also has the potential to increase surface water run-off into the Gaily Brook, which flows through the parish area.

Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought which is estimated to become increasingly prevalent in the South East, as the effects of climate change take hold⁵⁸

Conclusions

5. The entirety of the Kingsclere parish is defined as Grade 3 agricultural land. However, it is unclear whether this is 3b, or 3a (the best and most versatile) land. There is one significant surface water body in the area: the Gailey Brook, which flows north-south through Kingsclere Village. There is also a Zone 1 and Zone 2 SPZ, located directly underneath Kingsclere Village. This indicates that the groundwater in this area is susceptible to pollution causing activities. An area to the south east of the village is designated as an NVZ, and there is an area in the south of the parish designated as at risk from eutrophication. On this evidence, it is recommended that Land, Soil and Water resources should be a focus of the assessment work.

B.8 Population and community

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Population and community

- Population characteristics
- Deprivation
- House prices and affordability

Context

National

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

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

⁵⁸ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290>

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

The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report 'Ready for Ageing?'⁵⁹ warns that society is underprepared for a proportional increase in the number of older people within the population. The report says that "*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*". The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

Baseline

Current baseline

According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the Kingsclere parish was 4,934. This was a decrease of 0.2% from the 2001 census. In contrast, borough, regional and national averages have all shown increases in population of 9.1%, 7.4% and 7.9% respectively. This is shown below in **Table B3**.

Table B3: Population growth 2001 - 2011⁶⁰

Date	Kingsclere	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
2001	4,944	152,573	8,000,645	49138831
2011	4,934	167,799	8,634,750	53012456
Population change 2001-2011	- 0.2%	+ 9.1%	+ 7.4%	+ 7.9%

The age structure of Kingsclere in comparison to Basingstoke and Deane, the South East, and England wide averages is shown in **Table B4**. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total population of each age group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

⁵⁹ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>

⁶⁰ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV041) [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=13692258&c=kingsclere&d=14&e=16&g=6428635&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1444740416006&enc=1&dsFamilyId=75>

Table B4: Age structure of Kingsclere village (2011)⁶¹

Age group	Kingsclere village	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
0-15	557 (18%)	33,852 (20%)	1,642,084 (19%)	10,022,836 (19%)
16-24	253 (8%)	16,339 (10%)	969,055 (11%)	6,284,760 (12%)
25-44	728 (23%)	48,548 (29%)	2,289,335 (27%)	14,645,152 (28%)
45-59	784 (25%)	34,720 (21%)	1,716,857 (19%)	10,276,902 (19%)
60+	842 (27%)	34,340 (20%)	2,017,419 (23%)	11,832,806 (22%)
Totals	3,164	167,799	8,634,750	53,012,456

Kingsclere village has a significantly lower proportion of individuals across the 16-44 age range than Basingstoke and Deane, South East; and England. There is a higher proportion of the 45-59 age group within the plan area than other averages, and a significantly higher proportion of residents aged 60 and over when compared to Basingstoke and Deane, the South-East and England, with 27% of the population being over the age of 59.

Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation⁶² including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating). Based on these dimensions, Kingsclere has deprivation levels that are slightly lower than that of borough, regional, and national averages, and with a lower proportion of households with deprivation in 2 and 3 dimensions than the borough, regional and national averages. This shows that proportionally there are fewer deprived households, and as such, more households with a higher quality of life. This is shown in **Figure B9**.

⁶¹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS102EW)

⁶² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)

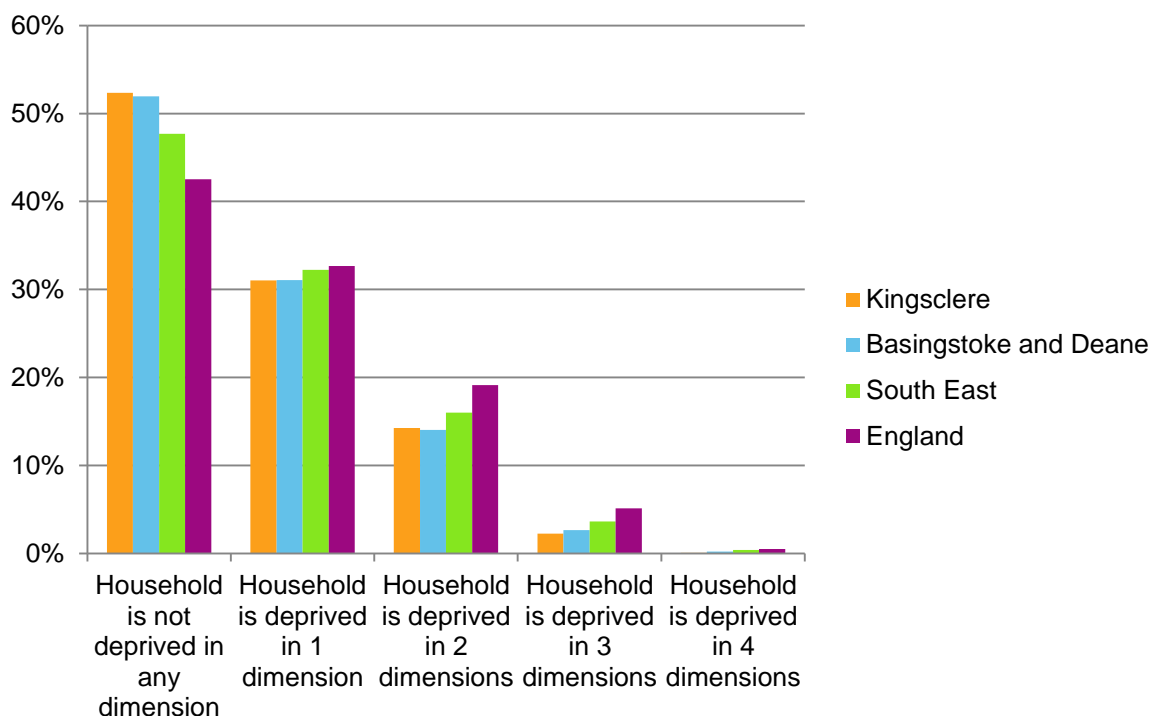


Figure B9: Relative household deprivation dimensions

Data from the DCLG indicates that the median selling price of property⁶³ in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane in the fourth quarter of 2012 was £253,337, higher than the 2012 England-wide median of £242,127, but lower than the Hampshire County median of £271,537. The median house selling price in Basingstoke & Deane increased from £225,000 to £254,000 from 2008 to 2011.

The affordability ratio illustrates the relationship between the average income in the area to average house price in the area; the affordability ratio for Basingstoke & Deane in 2013 was 6.89, a decrease from 7.36 in 2010. This is higher than the average ratio of 6.72 for England⁶⁴ and means that homes are less affordable in the area than the national average.

Figure B10 shows the tenure of households⁶⁵ in Kingsclere Parish in comparison with those in Basingstoke & Deane, the South East, and England. A slightly higher proportion of Kingsclere residents live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (68.8% in total), than borough (67.7%), regional (67.6%) or national (63.3%) averages. Conversely Kingsclere has a lower proportion of people that rent privately (8.8%) than at borough, regional and national level.

The plan area has similar proportions of social rented tenures as borough and national averages, which are significantly higher than the regional level.

In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.⁶⁶ There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.

⁶³ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 581 Housing market: mean house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996 (quarterly), [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

⁶⁴ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 577: ratio of median house price to median earnings by district, from 1997, [online] available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

This data is not available at ward or parish level.

⁶⁵ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Tenure - Households, 2011 (QS405EW)

⁶⁶ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district: England 1997 to 2013.

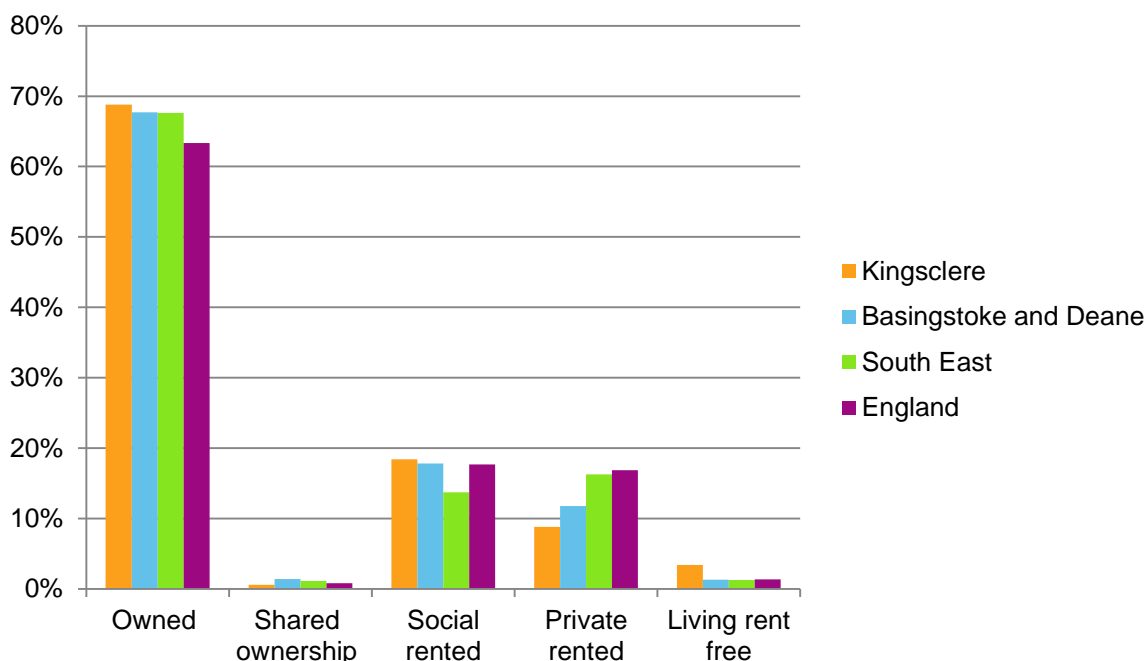


Figure B10: Tenure by household

Future baseline

The proportion of older people within the population is likely to continue to increase in the future, while the total number of residents may stay relatively stable or decrease slightly, as seen from the 0.2% decrease in population size between 2001 and 2011. **Table B4** suggests that there are currently significantly lower levels of residents aged 25-44 compared with national averages. As such it is important to create and maintain future employment opportunities in the local area to encourage a proportional increase in numbers of working age residents within the population of Kingsclere Parish.

The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the local plan and NP. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

Conclusions

6. Kingsclere has a population base which is largely consistent with national, regional and local levels between up to the age of 24. However, it has a lower proportion of those in the 25 to 44 age group, and as discussed previously, a higher proportion of residents over the age of 59 when compared with borough, regional, and national averages. Levels of deprivation within Kingsclere are broadly comparable with Basingstoke and Deane, and lower than regional and national averages.
7. An issue which requires consideration not only within Kingsclere, but across England is an ageing population, and as discussed previously, plans need to consider the provision of housing for older residents. Furthermore, population growth in the area will need to be appropriately managed to minimise potential impacts and maximise accessibility to services, facilities and amenities and new community and employment provision in the parish should reflect existing and future needs.

B.9 Transport

SEA Topic

Themes considered

Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic flows and congestion Car ownership and travel to work
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Context

European & National

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

Sub-Regional

The Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-31 presents a long term strategy for the area, and an implementation plan for the county. Specific policies from the plan which contribute towards aims found in UK and European transport plans are:

- Policy Objective 10: “Contribute to achieving local targets for improving air quality and national carbon targets through transport measures, where possible and affordable.”
- Policy Objective 11: “Reduce the need to travel through encouragement of a high speed broadband network, supporting the local delivery of services and in urban areas the application of ‘Smarter Choices’ initiatives.”
- Policy Objective 12: “Invest in sustainable transport measures, including walking and cycling infrastructure, principally in urban areas, to provide a healthy alternative to the car for local short journeys to work, local services or schools; and work with health authorities to ensure that transport policy supports local ambitions for health and well-being.”

Baseline

Current baseline

a. Rail network

The parish is not served by a rail connection. The two nearest train stations to the parish are Newbury, and Thatcham which are located approximately 12km to the north, and north east, of Kingsclere Village respectively. Basingstoke Station, which has a wider range of rail services, is located 14km from Kingsclere Village.

Newbury and Thatcham are located on the Reading to Taunton line. Newbury is served by regular high speed services from London Paddington to the West Country. Local trains from London Paddington to Bedwyn call at Newbury also.

Basingstoke station is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line, the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line and the Cross Country Trains line to Oxford, Birmingham and the north of England. Direct services include to Winchester (15 minutes), Reading (16 minutes), Andover (16 minutes), Woking (18 minutes), Southampton (33 minutes), Salisbury (35 minutes), Oxford (46 minutes), London Waterloo (46 minutes), Bournemouth (1 hour) and Birmingham (c.2hrs).

b. Bus network

Kingsclere is connected to both Basingstoke and Newbury via the number 32 link bus, with services every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday (except Banks Holidays). In addition there is a service between

Kingsclere and Basingstoke at 35 min past the hour starting at Wellmans Meadow from 9.35am to 2.35pm.

c. Road network and congestion

Kingsclere is located adjacent to the A339, which is the main north-south road from Basingstoke to Newbury. The A339 has been de-trunked from the M40 but remains a heavily used primary route, particularly by HGVs travelling between Midlands distribution centres and the south of England. The A339 is heavily loaded at peak hours and the South East England Regional Assembly Transport Plan predicts heavy peak hour congestion on the Greenham Common. There are also reported to be frequent congestion problems in the centre of the village, exacerbated by parking on double yellow lines⁶⁷

d. Availability of cars and vans

Figure B11 highlights the availability of cars and vans in the parish. The proportion of car or van ownership is slightly higher than borough average, in that the proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than regional and national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher than regional/national averages, and slightly higher than borough averages. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is higher than all comparators. High car ownership in the parish reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

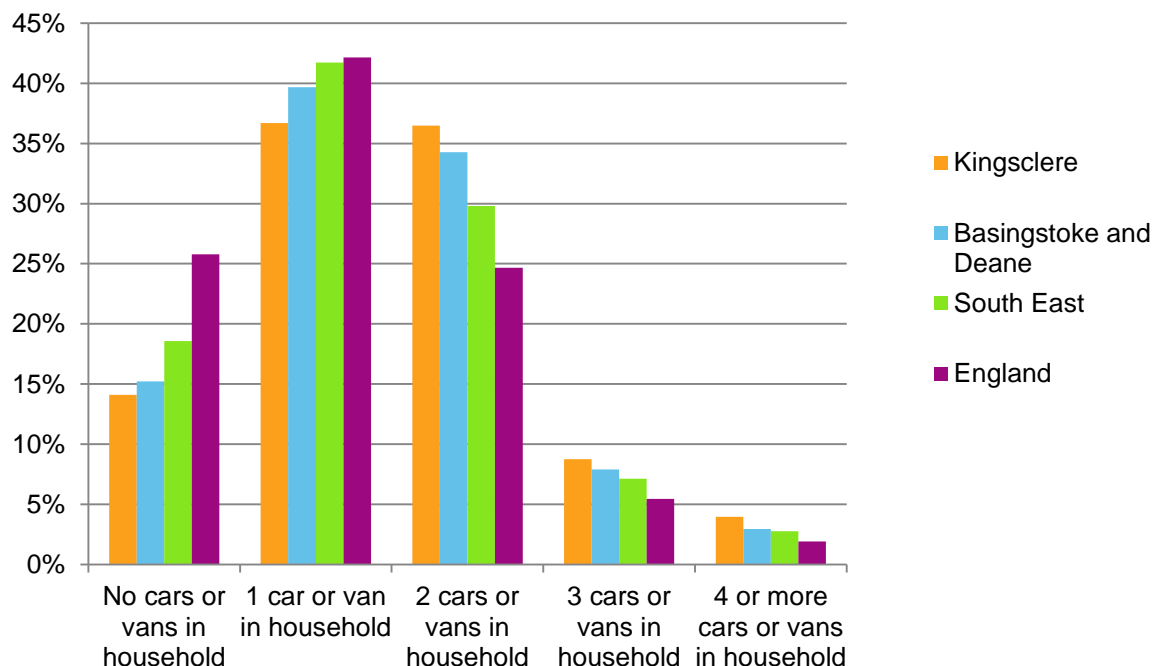


Figure B11: Availability of cars

Figure B12 shows the method of travel to work for residents in the plan area, compared with borough, regional and England averages. The proportion of people traveling work by driving a car or van is higher than borough averages, and significantly higher than regional and national averages; this is likely to reflect the rural, and relatively affluent, nature of the parish. Conversely a much higher proportion of people in Kingsclere parish work from home than compared to borough, regional, and national averages.

The proportion of Kingsclere residents travelling to work by sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling, or public transport is consistently lower than borough, regional, and national averages.

⁶⁷ Kingsclere Parish Council *The Kingsclere Village Plan* [online] available at: http://www3.hants.gov.uk/kingsclere_plan.pdf accessed 12 October 2015

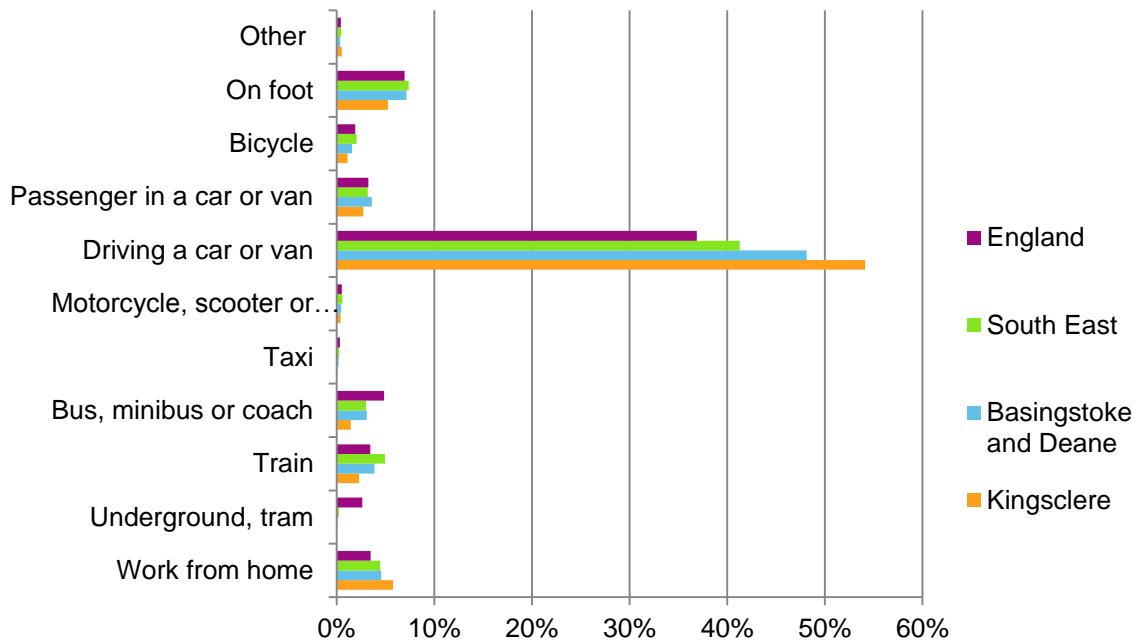


Figure B12: Method of travel to work⁶⁸

Future baseline

Figure B12 illustrates the high level of car use in the area, and an increase in Kingsclere's population has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This may exacerbate congestion within Kingsclere Village, and heavy traffic on the A339. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan. In addition, the viability of addition bus and rail services may be supported by future population growth.

Conclusions

8. It is likely that the car will remain the primary mode of transport for residents within Kingsclere. New development will be likely to add to congestion unless strategies are implemented to reduce these impacts.
9. Whilst negative effects of new development are likely to be mitigated in part by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan, it is important that new development is situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car and also address issues of on-street parking causing unnecessary congestion.

⁶⁸ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW)

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