Basingstoke and Deane New Local Plan
Integrated Impact Assessment

Scoping Report

October 2026

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Prepared for

Basingstoke and Deane New Local Plan

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (the 'Council') is preparing a new Local Plan ('New Local Plan') to replace the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029) (adopted May 2016). The New Local Plan will establish the planning framework for managing growth and development within the borough and will respond to changes in national planning policy, local circumstances and future development needs. It will set out the vision, objectives, planning policies and site allocations that will guide development in the borough over the plan period.

1.1.2 The Council has elected to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) of the New Local Plan and as part of this, has commissioned WSP to prepare an IIA Scoping Report. The IIA will incorporate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

1.1.3 Reflecting the regulatory requirements of SEA, the IIA is an assessment process designed to identify, assess and communicate the likely significant environmental effects of emerging plans and their reasonable alternatives. IIA is undertaken iteratively alongside plan preparation and helps refine the Plan's vision, objectives, policies and site allocations to maximise positive environmental outcomes and avoid, reduce or mitigate potential adverse effects wherever possible.

1.2 Purpose of this Scoping Report

1.2.1 Reflecting the regulatory requirements for SEA, this Scoping Report represents the first formal output of the IIA process for the New Local Plan. The purpose of the report is to provide sufficient information to the statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) to enable them to comment on the proposed scope of the IIA. Specifically, the Scoping Report sets out:

- an overview of the New Local Plan;
- key policy objectives, appropriate to the assessment of the New Local Plan, identified following a review of relevant international, national, regional and local plans, policy and programmes;
- baseline information across a range of topics;
- key issues relevant to the IIA of the New Local Plan; and
- the proposed approach to undertaking the assessment of the New Local Plan including a draft IIA framework.

1.3 The Basingstoke and Deane New Local Plan

Overview

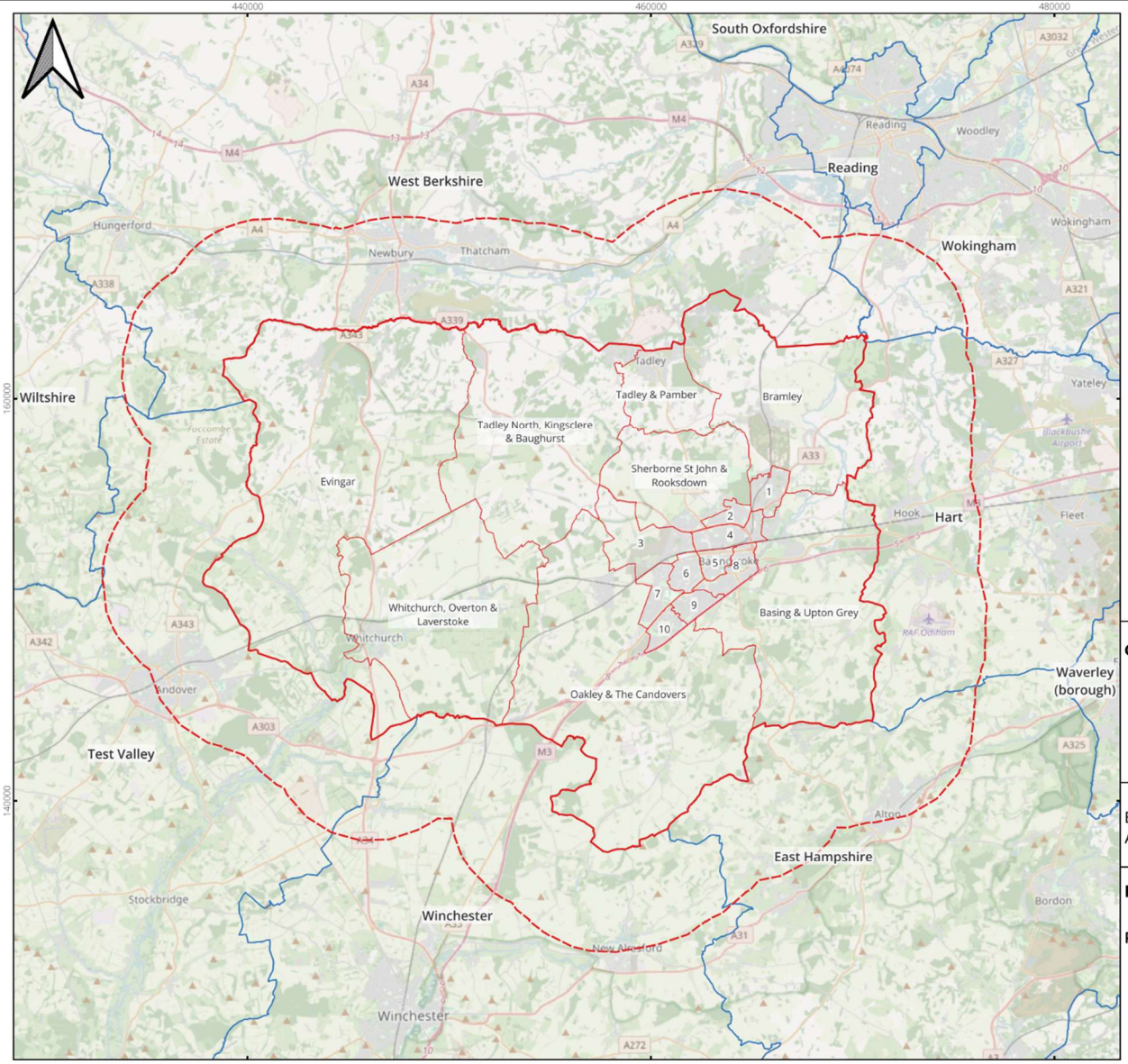
1.3.2 The Council is preparing the New Local Plan to replace the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011 to 2029) (adopted May 2016). The New Local Plan will establish the planning framework for managing growth and development within the borough and will respond to changes in national planning policy, local circumstances and future development needs. It will set out the vision, objectives, planning policies and site allocations that will guide development in the borough over the plan period.

1.3.3 In March 2026, new regulations (The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026[1]) came into force introducing a new system for preparing Local Plans. In September 2026, the council resolved to continue plan making under this new system, in accordance with relevant statutory requirements.

1.3.4 The New Local Plan will be prepared under the new regulations, in line with the requirements of the National Planning Polic Framework (NPPF)[2]. Section 2 of the NPPF promotes a plan-led system by requiring local planning authorities to prepare and maintain up-to-date local plans, enabling communities to influence the location and form of development while supporting sustainable growth, climate action, regeneration, and environmental protection. Policy PM2 requires local plans to set out a positive vision and spatial strategy for the area, including proposals to meet development needs and conserve and enhance the environment.

1.3.5 The boundary of the Basingstoke and Deane borough, as well as the wards it contains and the surrounding local authorities is presented in **Figure 1-1.**

[1] UK Government (2026) The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, SI 2026/186. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2026/186/made [Accessed 16/09/2026]
[2] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) *National Planning Policy Framework.* Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a8334c03bd75b81e2329ac4/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf [Accessed 09/09/2026]



Key

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Boundary
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Boundary Operational Area 5km Buffer
- Ward Boundaries
- Neighbouring Authority District Boundaries

1	Chineham
2	Popley
3	Winklebury & Manydown
4	Norden
5	Brookvale & Kings Furlong
6	South Ham
7	Kempshott & Buckskin
8	Eastdrop & Grove
9	Brighton Hill
10	Hatch Warren & Beggarwood

0 7.5 15 km

Scale at A3: 1:200,000

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Client: Basingstoke and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Figure Title:

Plan Area Boundary and Administrative Context

August 2026

Scope and Content of the Basingstoke and Deane New Local Plan

1.3.6 The New Local Plan will be prepared under the new Local Plan regulations (The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026) and will provide the statutory framework for directing future growth and development within the borough. It will:

- establish a vision and objectives for the borough;
- set out a spatial strategy;
- provide an overall quantum of housing and employment growth for the borough;
- set out priorities for housing, employment, infrastructure, design and environmental protection and enhancement.
- Include a range of site allocations to meet the identified requirements.

Plan Preparation Timetable

1.3.7 **Table 1-1** sets out the Council's proposed timetable in line with the local plan Gateway process.

Table 1-1 New Local Plan Timetable

Stage	Date
Scoping Consultation	9 October – 20 November 2026
Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment summary	12 March 2027
Consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence	2 July - 27 August 2027
Gateway 2 when observations and advice will be sought from Gateway Assessor	10 January
Consultation on proposed local plan	30 June – 25 August 2028
Gateway 3 when observations and advice will be sought from Gateway Assessor	8 January 2029
Submission of the proposed local plan to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination	23 February 2029
Adoption of the proposed local plan	20 September 2029

1.4 Approach to Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Overview

1.4.2 For the assessment of the New Local Plan an IIA approach has been proposed. This process brings together multiple assessments into one streamlined process. The assessments included as part of the IIA are as follows:

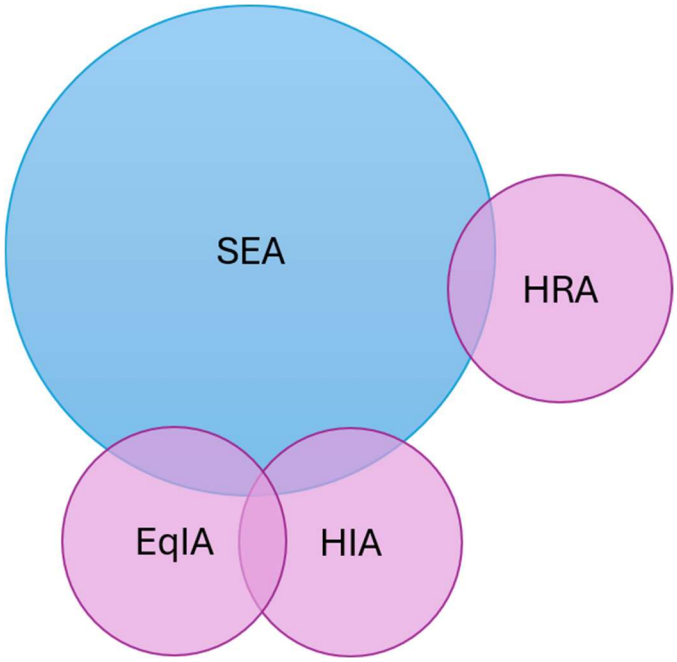
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA);
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA); and
- Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).

1.4.3 Each of these components are discussed briefly in turn below.

1.4.4 The IIA brings together into a single framework the SEA, HIA and EqIA to present a common and fully integrated assessment of the New Local Plan. The HRA will be published as a separate report.

1.4.5 An integrated assessment approach enables synergies and cross-cutting impacts to be identified. A single process can improve efficiencies in the assessment itself, as many of the issues covered in the different forms of assessment overlap. This is demonstrated in **Figure 1-2**.

Figure 1-2 IIA and Component Processes



1.5 Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.5.1 SEA is required under Statutory Instrument 2004 No.1633 - The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations')[3]. SEA is a systematic assessment process, aiming to ensure that the likely significant environmental effects of plans and programmes are identified, described and assessed. In this context, the purpose of SEA is to encourage relevant plan and programme authors to integrate environmental considerations into the development of any plan or programme.

1.5.2 Government guidance[4] on the new plan-making system confirms that local plans will require SEA where the criteria set out in Regulation 5 of the SEA Regulations are met[5]. The Government has also indicated that all local plans are expected to be subject to SEA.

1.5.3 Within this context, the Council has determined that SEA will be required for the New Local Plan. No separate SEA screening report has been published, and this Scoping report should be considered to incorporate both the Screening and Scoping Stages under the SEA regulations.

Key Stages

1.5.4 The SEA of the New Local Plan will comprise four key stages:

1. Scoping and consultation with the statutory consultees to establish the scope of the assessment, including the review of plans and programmes, baseline evidence, key issues and IIA framework.
2. Assessment of the New Local Plan and reasonable alternatives, including consideration of likely significant environmental effects and opportunities for enhancement.
3. Preparation and consultation on the Environmental Report alongside the Draft New Local Plan, setting out the findings of the IIA and how environmental considerations have informed plan preparation.
4. Preparation of a Post Adoption Statement following adoption of the New Local Plan, explaining how environmental considerations, consultation responses and the findings of the IIA have been taken into account.

1.5.5 This Scoping Report has been prepared as the first stage of the IIA process. It sets out the proposed framework for assessing the likely significant environmental effects of the New Local Plan and will be issued to the statutory consultation bodies identified in Regulation 4 of the SEA Regulations for a six-week consultation period.

[3] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/regulation/12 and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1531/made [Accessed 08/09/2026]

[4] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) *30-month local plan process: an overview*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/30-month-local-plan-process-an-overview# [Accessed 08/09/2026]

[5] Regulation 5(1) SEA Regulations (as amended) requires an environmental assessment for plans and programmes which, inter alia, fall within the description set out in Regulation 5(2). Regulation 5(2) includes plans and programmes that are prepared for town and country planning or land use and set the framework for future development consent of projects. The Local Plan therefore falls within the scope of the SEA Regulations and requires Strategic Environmental Assessment.

1.5.6 Following consultation on this Scoping Report, the IIA framework will be refined where necessary and used to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the emerging New Local Plan and any reasonable alternatives. The findings of the assessment will help inform the development of the Local Plan, supporting consultation on proposed local plan content and evidence. As the Plan evolves, the assessment will be updated and presented within an Environmental Report prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

1.5.7 The Environmental Report will be published alongside the proposed Local Plan and consulted on as part of the plan-making process. Following adoption of the Local Plan, a Post Adoption Statement (PAS) will be prepared in accordance with Regulation 16(4) of the SEA Regulations, setting out how environmental considerations, consultation responses and the findings of the IIA have been taken into account in preparing the Plan.

1.5.8 Following adoption of the New Local Plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will monitor any significant environmental effects arising from implementation of the New Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 17 of the SEA Regulations. Monitoring will help identify any unforeseen adverse effects and inform any necessary remedial action or future review of the Plan.

1.6 Environmental Outcomes Reports

1.6.1 Whilst the Government intends to introduce Environmental Outcomes Reports (EORs) to replace SEA and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) through a phased transition by the end of 2027[6], the current SEA legislative framework remains in force. In line with current legislation and Government guidance, SEA will therefore continue to provide the basis for environmental assessment of the New Local Plan. Any future changes to the assessment framework arising from the implementation of EORs will be considered as plan preparation progresses.

1.6.2 This IIA Scoping Report has been prepared to support the New Local Plan preparation process, ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated throughout the gateway stages and that the assessment framework remains sufficiently flexible to respond to evolving national policy, guidance and plan-making requirements.

1.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

1.7.1 An EqIA is a tool to assist the Council in complying with requirements under the UK Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, which require public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. EqIA serves as a mechanism for ensuring that 'due regard' is given to minority groups in decision-making and the activities of the Council. This includes policies, procedures, projects and proposals.

[6] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) *Environmental Outcomes Reports: Roadmap to reform Environmental Outcomes Reports: Roadmap to reform*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/environmental-outcomes-reports-a-new-approach-to-environmental-assessment/outcome/environmental-outcomes-reports-roadmap-to-reform [Accessed 08/09/2026]

1.8 Health Impact Assessment

1.8.1 There is no statutory requirement for HIA. Undertaking HIA helps ensure that health and wellbeing are being properly considered in planning policies and proposals. The process looks at the positive and negative health and wellbeing impacts of development as well as assessing the indirect implications for the wider community. Within the context of the Local Pan, the aim is to assess the main health and wellbeing impacts of policies and proposals in order to identify any opportunities for the emerging planning policies to maximise the benefits and avoid any potential adverse impacts.

1.9 Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.9.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) requires the potential effects of plans and programmes on internationally important nature conservation sites to be considered through Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A separate HRA of the New Local Plan will be undertaken alongside and inform the IIA. The findings of the HRA will be reported separately and used to inform subsequent stages of the IIA, particularly in relation to biodiversity, habitats and nature conservation interests.

1.10 Scoping Report Structure

1.10.1 Following this introductory chapter, the Scoping Report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** summarises the initial review of relevant international, national, regional and local plans, policy and programmes.
- **Section 3:** presents the current and future baseline characteristics across a range of topics.
- **Section 4:** identifies the key issues relevant to the New Local Plan and IIA, identified through the review of plans and programmes (**Section 2**) and analysis of the current and future baseline (**Section 3**).
- **Section 5:** describes the proposed approach to the IIA of the New Local Plan including the draft assessment (IIA) framework.
- **Section 6:** sets out the next steps in the IIA process.

2. Review of Plans and Programmes

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires a report containing information on the following:

- *"An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*" (Schedule 2, Paragraph 1)*; and*
- *"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"* (Schedule 2, Paragraph 5).

2.1.2 In consequence, one of the first steps in undertaking the IIA of the New Local Plan is to identify and review other relevant plans and programmes which could influence the Plan and its IIA. These may be plans and programmes at an international, national, regional or sub-regional level, commensurate with the scope of the New Local Plan. The review aims to identify the relationships between the New Local Plan and these other plans and programmes, i.e. how it could be affected by the other plans' and programmes' aims, objectives and/ or targets, or how it could contribute to the achievement of their environmental objectives. The review of plans and programmes informs the identification of key issues as well as the development of the IIA framework of objectives. An overview of key international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes is set out below.

2.2 Key Objectives from the Review of Plans and Programmes

Key International Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.2.2 Since the UK left the European Union, environmental legislation derived from EU law has largely been retained within domestic legislation. Amendments made following EU exit ensured that the SEA Regulations continue to operate effectively within the UK legal framework, without making substantive changes to the SEA process. Consequently, relevant international and European environmental requirements are reflected through national legislation, policy and guidance, which have been considered as part of this review of plans, programmes and legislative requirements. The main environmental considerations of international plans and programmes which are of most relevance for the New Local Plan and the IIA are provided in **Table 2-1** below.

Key National Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.2.3 A broad range of national policies, plans and programmes are relevant to the New Local Plan and the IIA process. To ensure a proportionate review, a targeted approach has been adopted

to identify those policies, plans and programmes of most relevance to the New Local Plan. Particular focus has been placed on the National Planning Policy Framework[7] (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance[8], with a summary of the main objectives and their relevance to the New Local Plan and IIA summarised below.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England, and Local Plans must therefore be consistent with its requirements. The NPPF was originally published in 2012 and has since been revised several times, most recently in August 2026. The NPPF has three interdependent overarching objectives in providing for the homes, commercial development, facilities and infrastructure which society needs. The three objectives consist of:

- *"a. **An economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
- *b. **A social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible community facilities, public service infrastructure and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- *c. **An environmental objective** – to support efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy; and to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, and minimising waste and pollution."*

Biodiversity

2.2.5 The NPPF, at chapter 19, outlines policies to influence the design and location of new development to help drive nature's recovery and contribute to wider environmental outcomes, safeguarding our most important habitats, species and landscapes and recognising the centrality of natural capital to delivering sustainable growth.

2.2.6 Plan-making Policy N1 states that, "*Development plans should safeguard and enhance the natural environment, and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, by using Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Protected Landscape Management Plans, River Basin Management Plans, National Forest Strategies, Community Forest Plans and other relevant evidence."* Policy N1 further requires development plans to identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of habitats and species; support habitat restoration

[7] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) (2026) National Planning Policy Framework. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6aa92dcc44ec1aa417346a8f/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf [Accessed 15/09/2026]
[8] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (various) Planning practice guidance. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance [Accessed 15/09/2026]

and nature-based solutions; strengthen ecological networks; steer development away from areas of high environmental value; and establish appropriate standards for green infrastructure provision. These requirements are intended to support nature recovery and improve the resilience of biodiversity to existing and future pressures.

2.2.7 The NPPF requires development proposals to contribute positively to the natural environment, and support nature's recovery by taking suitable opportunities to connect to and strengthen ecological networks, considering the quality of agricultural land, and using green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to secure multiple benefits to biodiversity and natural capital.

2.2.8 Considering this, the New Local Plan should seek to support and maximise the delivery of wider biodiversity initiatives and BNG at a strategic landscape/catchment scale, including approaches which are supportive of enhancing the connectivity of green infrastructure and BNG delivery.

2.2.9 The IIA Framework should include a specific objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity including green infrastructure provision, and should support the identification of potential benefits through the consideration of alternatives and assessment of both negative and positive significant effects.

Land Use, Geology and Soils

2.2.10 Chapter 12 of the NPPF stipulates that planning policies and decisions should promote the effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.

2.2.11 Plan-making Policy L1 concerns planning for the effective use of land, specifying that development plans should promote the efficient and effective use of land by prioritising previously developed land, supporting the redevelopment and intensification of underutilised sites, optimising development densities in sustainable locations, securing multiple social, economic and environmental benefits through development, and bringing forward suitable land to meet identified development needs

2.2.12 Policy L2 states that substantial weight should be given to the benefits where a development proposal would achieve one or more of the following: remediating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land; making better use of vacant and underutilised land and buildings; making effective use of previously developed land and buildings through temporary uses; and creating additional homes or floorspace by using the airspace above existing residential and commercial premises.

2.2.13 Plan-making Policy P1 seeks to ensure that development is directed to suitable land and does not give rise to unacceptable risks associated with contaminated, degraded, unstable or otherwise constrained land. The policy promotes the remediation and reuse of previously developed land where appropriate, requires ground conditions and land contamination to be considered in plan-making and development decisions, and seeks to minimise pollution and its effects on people, soils and the wider environment.

2.2.14 Plan-making Policy P2, chapter 17, states that sites proposed for development should be suitable for the proposed use, taking into account *"Ground conditions, including any risks arising from land instability or contamination (whether due to natural hazards or current and former*

activities such as mining or fuel storage); and the extent to which any such risks can be mitigated, and the potential impacts on the natural environment arising from remediation."

2.2.15 The New Local Plan should therefore seek to ensure the effective use of land and incorporate measures that ensure the appropriate protection of soil quality, including Best and Most valuable (BMV) agricultural land. The New Local Plan should also ensure that new development does not conflict with current mineral operations, as well as long-term mineral resource plans.

2.2.16 The IIA process should enable the identification of effective land use, support avoidance of areas of highest soil quality and BMV agricultural land where possible, and encourage the use of previously developed land and buildings. The IIA framework should promote high-quality design including mix-used development.

Air Quality

2.2.17 The NPPF (chapter 17, Plan-making Policy P1) outlines the development plans should include measures to avoid and mitigate risks from natural and man-made hazards, minimise levels of pollution and create clean, liveable and safe places for people to live, work and visit. Opportunities to reduce air pollution and contribute to national and local environmental targets and objectives through the spatial strategy and policies should be considered.

2.2.18 Chapter 17, Policy P3 states that development proposals should "*sustain and contribute to compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives and targets for air pollutants including PM2.5*". Development proposals should therefore take account of Air Quality Management Areas and be consistent with the objectives of relevant Air Quality Action Plans, Clean Air Plans and Local Air Quality Strategies.

2.2.19 Development proposals should "*Provide healthy living conditions for occupiers and users"* and avoid exposure to unacceptable levels of air pollution which could have an adverse effect on health and the quality of life.

2.2.20 Chapter 15, Policy TR3 of the NPPF requires transport and traffic impacts to be fully considered through the planning process. Development should be directed towards sustainable locations that reduce the need to travel, particularly by private car, provide opportunities for travel by a range of transport modes, and minimise adverse environmental effects arising from transport movements, including impacts on air quality and the wider environment.

2.2.21 The New Local Plan should therefore seek to ensure that development is sited away from areas of adverse air quality (including AQMAs, although none are present within the Council area) and ensure that measures are in place to reduce and prevent air pollution.

2.2.22 The IIA framework should include a specific objective and/or guide question relating to air quality in order to identify and address potential negative effects on air quality.

Water (Quality and Quantity)

2.2.23 Chapter 10 of the NPPF seeks to "*support the development and operation of energy and water infrastructure in ways which align with wider development, clean power and net zero objectives (including the delivery of clean power by 2030)*". Plan-making Policy W1 outlines the importance of early engagement between plan-making authorities, utility providers, regulators and network

operators so there is a clear understanding of water supply, drainage and wastewater capacity, and associated requirements for additional infrastructure provision.

2.2.24 Policy W4 seeks to ensure that, when considering proposals for water supply, drainage and wastewater development, substantial weight is given to the benefits of providing the capacity needed to serve proposed development and/or improving the security of supply and capacity; and improving water quality and reducing water-borne pollution.

2.2.25 The New Local Plan should therefore promote investment in water management infrastructure to accommodate new development, and incorporate targets for water efficiency, water consumption and grey water recycling in new development.

2.2.26 The IIA framework should include specific objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of water quality and seek to identify and address potential negative effects on the water environment, including implications relating to wastewater.

Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)

2.2.27 At Chapter 5, the NPPF outlines policies to "*support the transition to net zero by 2050 and to shape places in ways which are more resilient to the effects of climate change. It does this by setting out policies to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the full range of current and potential impacts of climate change, by minimising vulnerability and improving resilience*". Plan-making Policy CC1 sets out how development plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating climate change and supporting the transition to net zero in line with the Climate Change Act 2008. Policy CC1 and CC2 set out how development proposals should take into account climate change mitigation and adaptation, respectively.

2.2.28 The New Local Plan should therefore seek to encourage the provision of renewable energy technologies and move towards a low-carbon economy in line with climate change mitigation strategies and targets. The New Local Plan should also seek to support design choices that are best-adapted to the effects of climate change.

2.2.29 At Chapter 18, the NPPF provides the basis for the consideration of flood risk in determining planning applications and requires that proposals seek to avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk and ensure that development does not increase flood risk elsewhere.

2.2.30 Plan-making Policy F1 provides guidance on assessing flood risk for plan-making and Policy F2 provides guidance on planning for effective flood risk management, highlighting that development plans should be informed by up-to-date flood risk assessments and advice from relevant authorities.

2.2.31 Policy F8 states that proposals which could affect drainage on or around the site "*should incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff, in ways which are proportionate to the nature and scale of the proposal*". These should provide multifunctional benefits wherever possible, through facilitating improvements in water quality and biodiversity, as well as benefits for amenity.

2.2.32 The New Local Plan should therefore ensure that development is sited away from areas of high flood risk and that appropriate water drainage is in place in line with flood risk strategies.

2.2.33 The IIA framework should include specific objectives relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation. (including flood risk).

Population

2.2.34 Plan-making Policy PM2 concerns the development of Local Plans and sets out that "*Local plans should set out a positive vision and spatial strategy which supports the delivery of the spatial development strategy for their area, and should set out specific proposals for accommodating development needs and conserving and improving the environment at a local level*".

2.2.35 Chapter 6 of the NPPF seeks to ensure the delivery of a sufficient supply of homes by supporting a substantial increase in housing provision, ensuring that sufficient and suitable land is available to meet identified needs, and promoting the timely delivery of housing. Plan-making Policies HO1 to HO6 require plans to provide an adequate supply of deliverable and developable land, allocate sites to support housing delivery, provide affordable housing, deliver an appropriate mix of homes, and meet the needs of groups requiring specialist accommodation.

2.2.36 Chapter 7 relates to the economy to enable businesses to invest, expand and adapt in a way that reflects the opportunities, challenges and characteristics of different areas, and support long-term economic growth both locally and nationally. Plan-making Policy E1 seeks to support sustainable economic growth by requiring plans to set out a clear economic vision and strategy, address barriers to investment, and allocate sufficient and suitable land to meet the needs of existing and emerging sectors. The policy promotes the provision of flexible employment sites and infrastructure, supports innovation, logistics, tourism and rural businesses, and recognises the importance of accommodating new technologies and sectors that contribute to economic growth and resilience.

2.2.37 Chapter 16 concerns the promotion of healthy communities. Policies within this chapter seek to promote the creation of healthy and inclusive places and support the provision of appropriate public services, by enabling development which can support this aim and seeking to retain, improve and deliver new facilities which are important for community wellbeing and minimising inequalities.

2.2.38 The New Local Plan should therefore seek to contain policies that promote social equity and equality, including the provision of high quality services, community facilities, and social infrastructure for all residents. The New Local Plan should also meet the local housing need; provide sufficient employment land; strengthen education, retail and leisure facilities; and support a strong, diverse and skilled economy.

2.2.39 The IIA framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to addressing deprivation and promoting equality and inclusion; the provision of high quality housing, community facilities and services; the enhancement of education and skills; delivery of employment land that supports economic diversification and the creation of high quality, local jobs; and the enhancement of the borough.

Health and Wellbeing, Equalities

2.2.40 Chapter 16 of the NPPF concerns the promotion of health and safe communities. Plan-making policy HC1 seeks to promote the "*creation of healthy and inclusive places, and the provision, retention and enhancement of appropriate public services infrastructure"* by enabling development which can support this aim and seeking to retain, improve and deliver new facilities which are important for community wellbeing and minimising inequalities.

2.2.41 Plan-making Policy HC2 enables local plans to designate and protect Local Green Spaces that are demonstrably special to local communities because of their environmental, recreational, historic or wildlife value, provided they are local in character and consistent with achieving sustainable development and meeting development needs.

2.2.42 The loss of key community facilities should be prevented where possible, as highlighted in Policy HC6 which states that development proposals should not result in the loss of key community facilities and public service infrastructure unless there are extenuating circumstances.

2.2.43 Policy TR4 at Chapter 17 of the NPPF seeks to ensure that development creates places "*that are safe, inclusive and attractive for all users (particularly for women and girls, for other groups who may be vulnerable to crime or the fear of crime, and for those with limited mobility)*".

2.2.44 The New Local Plan should therefore seek to ensure that new development promotes healthier lifestyles, ensure the provision of appropriate facilities for existing and new residents, and ensure that future development does not exacerbate existing inequalities.

2.2.45 The IIA framework should include a specific objective and/or guide questions relating to the promotion of health and wellbeing; the delivery of health facilities and services; the provision of open space and recreational facilities; reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour; and reducing inequalities.

Materials and Waste

2.2.46 Chapter 11 of the NPPF concerns the sustainable use of materials, with an objective to ensure that "*there is a sufficient supply of minerals, which are essential to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods that the country needs; while restricting peat, coal and onshore oil and gas extraction for environmental reasons.*" Plan-making policies M1 and M2 seek to ensure that development plans provide for the sufficient and timely supply of minerals of local and national importance, safeguard mineral resources, and ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts, whilst maintaining a sustainable supply.

2.2.47 Plan-making Policy PM3 seeks to ensure that minerals and waste plans provide for sustainable waste management and support the transition to a circular economy by identifying sufficient facilities and infrastructure to manage waste in accordance with identified needs.

2.2.48 The New Local Plan should ensure that new development does not conflict with current mineral operations, as well as long-term mineral resource plans. The New Local Plan should promote the waste hierarchy and ensure the adequate provision of local waste management facilities.

2.2.49 The IIA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to the promotion of the waste hierarchy; the sustainable use of minerals; and investment in infrastructure to meet future needs.

Historic Environment

2.2.50 Chapter 20 of the NPPF sets out that great weight should be given to the conservation of heritage assets; the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Plan-making policies HE1 – HE3 highlight that heritage assets should be identified, conserved and enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

2.2.51 Policies HE4 and HE6 seek to ensure that heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, with any harm requiring clear justification and substantial harm or loss being permitted only in exceptional circumstances. The policies afford the highest level of protection to designated heritage assets of greatest significance and recognise that non-designated archaeological assets of equivalent significance should be afforded the same level of consideration as designated heritage assets.

2.2.52 Policy HE10 further requires that, where the loss of, or harm to, a heritage asset is justified, developers should record and advance understanding of its significance in a manner proportionate to its importance and the degree of impact.

2.2.53 The New Local Plan should therefore offer protection for designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, including any potential archaeological finds in line with heritage protection and enhancement plans.

2.2.54 The IIA framework should include a specific objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.

Landscape and Townscape

2.2.55 Chapter 19 concerns the safeguarding of the most important habitats, species and landscapes and recognising the centrality of natural capital to delivering sustainable growth. Plan-making policy N1 states that development proposals should safeguard and enhance the natural environment, and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, by using Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Protected Landscape Management Plans, River Basin Management Plans, National Forest Strategies, Community Forest Plans and other relevant evidence.

2.2.56 The policy seeks to safeguard, enhance and restore landscapes through plan-making by protecting designated landscapes, identifying opportunities for landscape recovery and environmental enhancement, directing development away from areas of high environmental value, and promoting green infrastructure informed by relevant environmental evidence and strategies.

2.2.57 Policy N4 states that development proposals within Protected Landscapes should be limited in scale and extent and sensitively located and designed to avoid harm, emphasising that substantial weight should be placed on the importance of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, alongside conserving and enhancing wildlife and cultural heritage in National Parks and

the Broads. Policy N4 further states that "*Proposals for major development within Protected Landscapes should be refused other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest".*

2.2.58 Aligned with the NPPF, the New Local Plan should seek to include measures to conserve and enhance landscape and minimise effects on visual amenity. The New Local Plan should seek to protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of Basingstoke and Deane's natural landscape character and its surrounds. The New Local Plan should also promote high quality design that respects and enhances local character.

2.2.59 The IIA framework should include a specific objective relating to the protection and enhancement of landscape and townscapes.

Key Regional and Sub-regional Plans, Policies and Programmes

2.2.60 Numerous other policies, plans and programmes at both regional and sub-regional level are of relevance to the preparation of the New Local Plan and the IIA. The plans and programmes considered of most relevance to the IIA have been grouped by the topics they most directly seek to address.

Key Objectives of the International, National and Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes for the Local Plan and the IIA

2.2.61 **Table 2-1** below outlines the key objectives of the international, national and regional plans, policies and programmes for the Local Plan and the IIA.

Table 2-1 Key Objectives from the Review of Plans and Programmes for Each IIA Topic

Topic	
Biodiversity	
National Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 Environmental Improvement Plan annual progress report 2025 to 2026 (2026) Working with Nature (2022) The Environment Act 2021 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2015 Defra Right of Way Circular (01/09) (2011) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Relevant plans and programmes seek to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity, including designated nature conservation sites (including habitats sites), irreplaceable habitats, priority species, habitats and ecological networks. Objectives include a mandatory minimum 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) for new developments, nature positive planning, delivery of blue and green infrastructure, habitat and species recovery, increasing climate change resilience in biodiversity, restoring natural processes, utilisation of Nature Based Solutions and management of invasive non-native species (INNS).

Topic	
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire (2025) Horizon 2050 (2019) Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework (2009) Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018-29 (2018) Basingstoke and Deane Biodiversity Strategy 2023-29 (2024) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document (2018)	Plans and programmes at the regional and local level seek to actively encourage nature recovery and delivery of BNG, creating a connected green infrastructure network across the borough and beyond. Plans include objectives to protect and restore habitats, deliver blue and green infrastructure, support healthy communities and the economy, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and raise awareness regarding conservation. Collectively, these plans aim to support sustainable growth and development, and ensure that nature is recognised as a vital asset underpinning Basingstoke and Deane's environmental, social, and economic prosperity.
Land Use, Geology and Soils	
National A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) Agriculture Act 2020 Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (2021) England Peat Action Plan (2021) Environmental Land Management (ELM) update: how government will pay for land-based environment and climate goods and services (2023) National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2011) The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 (2020) The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2026	Relevant plans and programmes seek to encourage the use of previously developed and brownfield land, promote the use of derelict land and buildings where appropriate, and reduce and remediate land contamination. They include measures to enhance, restore and safeguard soils, including best and most versatile agricultural land, and ensure climate change resilient and sustainable remediation of existing contamination. Sites designated for their geological interest are protected. Plans and programmes at the regional and local level seek to manage land use and development across Basingstoke and Deane and the wider region, aiming to direct development to the most suitable locations, promoting the efficient use of previously developed land, safeguarding important mineral and geological resources, protecting geodiversity sites and landscape features, and minimising the loss of high-quality agricultural land where possible.

Topic	
Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023)	
Air Quality	
National Clean Air Strategy 2019 UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations (2017) Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 2025 TfSE Transport Strategy Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy (2025) Basingstoke and Deane 2025 Air Quality Annual Status Report (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Transport Strategy (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) (2023)	Relevant plans and programmes seek to ensure that air quality is maintained or enhanced and that emissions of air pollutants are kept to a minimum. Air quality objectives have been established for certain pollutants. Local level plans seek to reduce air pollution and subsequent health impacts on the population of Basingstoke and Deane, taking a joint approach to tackle climate change and air quality issues. Plans aim to identify sources of air pollution, and provide education relating to air quality.
Water (Quality and Quantity)	
National Water Management Plan 2025 to 2026 (2026) The National Framework for Water Resources 2025: Water for Growth, Nature and a Resilient Future (2025) National Framework for Water Resources 2025: water for growth, nature and a resilient future (2025) Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 Drought: how it is managed in England (2026) Managing Water Abstraction (2026) National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 Flood Risk Regulations 2009	Relevant plans and programmes seek to improve water quality and protect resources. They promote investment in water management infrastructure to secure sustainable supply, support new development and population growth, adopt demand management/ water efficiency/ saving measures, and ensure effective long term wastewater management, including catchment management and the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs). Regional and local plans and programmes seek to manage water resources and water quality across Basingstoke and Deane, and the wider region, in a sustainable and resilient manner. Objectives include managing flood risk, securing safe, reliable, and resilient water supplies, managing drought risks, improving wastewater infrastructure, improving water quality, and protecting the environment. Overall, these plans aim to strengthen climate

Topic	
Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994 Notice of designation of sensitive catchment areas 2024 Nutrient pollution: reducing the impact on protected sites (2023) Tools and resources for calculating nutrient neutrality (2024) **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Thames river basin district river basin management Plan: updated 2022 South East river basin district river basin management Plan: updated 2022 South East Water Water Resources Management Plan 2025 to 2075 (2024) Southern Water Final Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2025) Thames Water Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2024) Southern Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 (2023) Thames Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 (2023) South East Water Drought Plan 2022 to 2027 (2022) Southern Water Drought Plan 2022 (2025) Thames Water Drought Plan 2022 (2022) Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for Hampshire (2013) Hampshire Local Flood and Water Management Strategy (2020) Flood and Water Management Catchment Management Plans (various) Abstraction Licensing Strategies (various) Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Water Cycle Study (2022 and Addendum 2024) Basingstoke and Deane draft Water Cycle Study (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2025)	resilience, support sustainable growth, and ensure that water resources continue to provide benefits for communities, businesses, and wildlife across Basingstoke and Deane. Overall, these plans aim to strengthen climate resilience, support sustainable growth, and ensure that water resources continue to provide benefits for communities, businesses, and wildlife across the borough and surrounding region.

Topic	
Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)	
National Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan (2025) The Hydrogen Update to the Market (2025) The Onshore Wind Strategy (2025) Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan (2025) Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A New Era of Clean Electricity (2024) Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023) Powering Up Britain (2023) The Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 British Energy Security Strategy (2022) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 The Environment Act 2021 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales Regulations 2012 National Infrastructure Strategy: Fairer, Faster, Greener (2020) The Energy White Paper: Powering Our Net Zero Future (2020) The Seventh Carbon Budget (2025) Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming (2019) Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change Act 2009 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 The National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (2023) The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) Planning and Energy Act 2008 National Energy System Operator (NESO) Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) (2026) Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020) The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) The Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Relevant plans and programmes promote measures which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage reducing embedded carbon, and mitigate/ adapt to the impacts of climate change. Objectives include achieving net zero greenhouse gases by 2050; minimising the effects of climate change on natural resources, people and the economy; and adapting to the impacts of climate change and improving resilience to its effects. In relation to flood risk, relevant plans and programmes seek to manage flood risk and coastal erosion across England by directing water sensitive development to areas of lower flood risk, bolstering resilience to flooding and coastal change, and educating local people on flood risks. Objectives include minimising flood risk and improving flood control infrastructure. Regional and local plans and programmes seek to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, prepare to be resilient to the impacts of temperature rise and decarbonise the transport network, including encouraging a shift towards electric vehicles. Plans and programmes include objectives to embed climate mitigation and adaptation across policies and sectors, reduce carbon emissions, and encourage creation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the transition of public transport, council fleet and local distribution to zero emission vehicles. Measures include sustainable growth and development across the area, ensuring that new housing, infrastructure, and employment opportunities are delivered in a way that supports environmental protection and climate objectives. Alongside a focus on decarbonising transport and energy systems through the provision of low-carbon infrastructure, improved energy efficiency, and the expansion of renewable and sustainable energy solutions. In relation to Flood Risk, regional and local level plans seek to improve resilience to flooding by identifying areas at risk, promoting sustainable flood management measures, protecting people, infrastructure, and the natural environment, and supporting informed planning and development decisions. They

Topic	
The Flood and Water (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Hampshire County Council Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025 (2020) 2025 TfSE Transport Strategy Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Climate Change Action Plan Hampshire Local Transport Plan 4 (2024) Hampshire Rural Active Travel Guidance (2024) Basingstoke Transport Strategy (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (2025) Hampshire Local Flood and Water Management Strategy (2020) Thames river basin district river basin management Plan: updated 2022 South East river basin district river basin management Plan: updated 2022 Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2021 and 2025 South East Water Water Resources Management Plan 2025 to 2075 (2024) Southern Water Final Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2025) Thames Water Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (2024) Southern Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 (2023) Thames Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 (2023) South East Water Drought Plan 2022 to 2027 (2022) Southern Water Drought Plan 2022 (2025) Thames Water Drought Plan 2022 (2022)	also encourage partnerships between local authorities, statutory bodies, water companies, developers, and communities to improve preparedness, adapt to future climate pressures, and ensure that flood risk is managed in a way that supports sustainable growth and long-term environmental resilience. Collectively, these plans and programmes seek to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, enhance energy security, support green economic growth, ensure resilience to and minimise flood risk, and build a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient borough for future generations.
Population	
International UN Sustainable Development Goals 2016	Relevant plans and programmes address the need for improvements to infrastructure, provision of housing, services and facilities

Topic	
National A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) The Environment Act 2021 The Equality Act 2010 UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy (2025) **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Economic Strategy for Hampshire 2025 to 2027 (2024) 2025 TfSE Transport Strategy Hampshire Local Transport Plan 4 (2024) Hampshire Strategic Plan 2025 to 2028 (2025) Hampshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (2021) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Horizon 2050 (2019) Hart Local Plan 2016-32 (2020) (new plan emerging) East Hampshire Local Plan (JCS 2014, Part 2 2016) (new plan emerging) Winchester Local Plan 2020 – 2040 (2026) (new plan emerging) Test Valley Local Plan 2011-29 (2016) (new plan emerging) West Berkshire Local Plan 2023-41 (2025) (new plan emerging) Wokingham Borough Local Plan (CS 2010, Part 2 2014) (new plan emerging) Rushmoor Local Plan 2014-2032 (2019) (new plan emerging) Reading Borough Local Plan (2019, partial update 2023) Adopted Neighbourhood Plans; Ashford Hill with Headley, Cliddesden, Kingsclere, Overton, Silchester, Wootton St Lawrence, Bramley, East Woodhay, Oakley and Deane, Sherborne St John, St Mary Bourne, Burghclere, Ecchinswell, Sydmonton and Bishops Green, Old Basing and Lychpit, Sherfield on Loddon, and Whitchurch Parish and Community Plans Basingstoke and Deane Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2023 to 2027 (2023)	and the creation of employment opportunities. Plans and programmes seek to: significantly boost housing supply, including affordable housing; address deprivation and reduce inequality; achieve sustainable economic growth and promote key sectors in the local economy; maximise job opportunities for all; optimise skills; and enhance the quality of employment opportunities. Regional and local plans and programmes provide an overarching vision for Basingstoke and Deane's sustainable growth, connectivity, prosperity, and wellbeing. They include objectives on how the borough will accommodate housing, employment, infrastructure, and population growth, while protecting environmental assets, enhancing quality of life and contributing to prosperity. Overall, the plans and programmes aim to create a safe, prosperous, productive, inclusive, connected, and sustainable area that supports economic growth, wellbeing, quality of life, environmental enhancement, and long-term resilience. Plans and programmes also set out aims and objectives to contribute to the region's prosperity, support sustainable economic growth, protect and enhance quality of place, enhance employment space, support key sectors, provide affordable housing and reduce homelessness.

Topic	
Basingstoke and Deane Strengthening Communities Strategy 2022 to 2027 (2022) Basingstoke and Deane Transport Strategy (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Future Economy Framework 2025 to 2030 (2025) Economic Masterplan for Basingstoke 2033 (2014) Basingstoke and Deane Housing Supplementary Planning Document (2018) Basingstoke and Deane Planning Obligations for Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (2018) Basingstoke Town Centre Masterplan (2022) Basing View Masterplan (2018)	
Equalities	
National The Equality Act 2010 National Disability Strategy (2021) LGBT Action Plan 2018 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan (2024) Basingstoke Transport Strategy (2019)	Relevant plans and programmes seek to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote inclusion for all members of society, particularly those with protected characteristics and other vulnerable groups. They aim to ensure fair access to housing, employment, services, facilities, transport and public spaces, reduce inequalities in outcomes, and support the creation of inclusive, accessible and cohesive communities. Regional and local plans seek to tackle inequality, celebrate diversity, and provide inclusive and accessible services across the borough. These plans contain objectives to support inclusive and accessible communities, and to provide equal opportunities regarding access to jobs, education, and health services for communities across Basingstoke and Deane.
Health and Wellbeing	
National Renters' Rights Act 2025 Healthy Homes - a foundation for healthier and resilient communities (2025) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2024) Homes England Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028 (2023) Green Infrastructure Framework (2023) White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022) National Design Guide (2021) The Environment Act 2021	Relevant plans and programmes address seek to protect and improve health and wellbeing. Objectives include promoting improvements to health and well-being; providing high quality services, community facilities and social infrastructure that are accessible to all, including high quality open space; minimising noise and air pollution; and promoting sustainable transport including active travel. Regional and local plans seek to support active, healthy, safe and inclusive lifestyles and communities with access to a network of

Topic	
The State of the Environment: Health, People and the Environment (2020) Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 (2019) The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPIR) **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Joint Local Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2025 – 2035 (2025) Hampshire Public Health Strategy 2023 – 2026 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Active Wellbeing Strategy 2026 to 2031 (2026) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke Community Investment Framework (2016) Basingstoke and Deane Community Buildings Policy 2025 (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2015 to 2027 (2015, updated 2022) Basingstoke and Deane Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 to 2027 (2015, updated 2022) Basingstoke and Deane A framework for culture 2022 to 2032 (2022) Basingstoke and Deane Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) (2023)	quality parks and open space as well as health and community facilities. They aim to improve health and wellbeing for residents, reduce health inequalities Plans and programmes include objectives to increase the number of years of good health for residents, reduce the gap in life expectancy, support residents, provide inclusive healthcare, promote healthy lifestyles, improve health services, and ensure a variety of sports facilities are available. Collectively, these plans aim to create a healthier, more active, inclusive, and resilient borough, with high-quality services, infrastructure that support the wellbeing of current and future residents.
Materials and Waste	
National Waste Management Plan for England 2021 Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England (2018) National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 **Regional/Local**	Relevant plans and programmes seek to promote the efficient and sustainable use of mineral resources, ensure the adequate provision of waste management facilities, and promote a circular economy approach alongside the waste hierarchy. Objectives include promoting the sustainable use of soils during construction; minimising waste production; promoting re-use and recycling; promoting the most effective and efficient use of natural resources; promoting the use of sustainable/ renewable energy; promoting the

Topic	
Hampshire 2050 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2026 Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Basingstoke and Deane Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy (2021) Basingstoke and Deane Recycling and Waste Strategy 2026 to 2032 (2026) Basingstoke and Deane Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (2018) Basingstoke and Deane Planning Obligations for Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (2018)	use of sustainable design and construction; encouraging energy efficiency; encouraging a whole-life approach to material use in construction and development; and safeguarding minerals areas. Regional and local plans seek to sustainably manage resources, waste, and materials across Basingstoke and Deane, and the wider region. These plans seek to reduce consumption and waste generation, whilst increasing reuse, recycling, recovery, and food waste processing rates, improve public understanding of reduction and recycling and overall support a circular economy. They aim to provide a steady and adequate supply of minerals, and ensure that adequate waste management infrastructure is available to support future development while minimising the environmental and community impacts of mineral extraction and ensuring high-quality restoration of sites following use.
Historic Environment	
International Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Valetta Convention) 1992 European Landscape Convention Treaty 2000 (as amended) **National** Historic England Corporate Plan 2023-26 (2023) Heritage Statement (2017) Sustainability Appraisal and Strategy Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Basingstoke and Deane Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (2023) Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane A framework for culture 2022 to 2032 (2022)	Relevant plans and programmes aim to carefully manage development that may impact the historic environment, requiring that development proposals protect, conserve, and where possible enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets. Archaeological heritage, the urban historic environment, and the quality of the built environment is taken into consideration and opportunities for the historic environment to contribute to the character and sense of place of new development are taken by putting heritage assets to viable uses consistent with their conservation. Regional and local plans aim to protect, conserve, enhance and promote Basingstoke and Deane's historic environment and heritage assets. Objectives include safeguarding Basingstoke and Deane's historic and cultural heritage assets, allowing culture to benefit the borough and support local needs and priorities including the economy, health and wellbeing, regeneration, diversity and inclusion, and climate change. Overall, plans aim to protect historic assets, strengthen local identity and sense of place, support heritage-led regeneration, and ensure that Basingstoke's cultural and historic environment continues to be valued,

Topic	
Basingstoke and Deane Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans and maps Basingstoke and Deane Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest Basingstoke and Deane Heritage Supplementary Planning Document (2019)	understood, and enjoyed by future generations.
Landscape and Townscape	
International European Landscape Convention Treaty 2000 (as amended) **National** Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (2021) England Peat Action Plan (2021) Environmental Land Management Scheme (2025) Green Infrastructure Framework Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 National Character Areas profiles National Park/ National Landscape Management Plans Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (England) 2006 Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework 2024 The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 The UK Forestry Standard (2023) **Regional/Local** Hampshire 2050 Hampshire County Council Countryside Access Plan 2025-35 (2025) Horizon 2050 (2019) Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018-29 (2018) North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030 (2025) Basingstoke and Deane Design and Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (2018) Basingstoke and Deane Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document (2018) Basingstoke Urban Design Framework (2020)	Relevant plans and programmes aim to carefully manage development that may impact landscape and/ or townscape character, promote high quality design that respects and enhances local character, and consider designated landscapes and dark sky areas. Overall, plans and programmes aim to protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and character of natural landscapes and townscapes. Regional and local plans aim to protect, conserve, and enhance landscape character across the borough, including the North Wessex Downs. Objectives include safeguarding Basingstoke and Deane's natural landscapes and townscape while supporting health and wellbeing, sustainable land management and development, and tourism. Overall, plans aim to protect Basingstoke and Deane's landscape and townscape, strengthen local identity and sense of place, and ensure that Basingstoke and Deane's valued landscape and townscape continues to be valued, understood, and enjoyed by future generations.

Topic	
Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans and maps Village Design Statements	

3. Baseline Conditions

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The SEA Regulations require a report containing *"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"* (Schedule 2(2)), *"The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be affected*" (Schedule 2(3)) and *"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"* (Schedule 2(4)).

3.1.2 In terms of the range of topics to be considered, whilst not definitive, Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations requires that the assessment includes information on 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 inter-relationship between the issues referred to"...*

3.1.3 This section presents the relevant information in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations. It sets out the current and future baseline characteristics for Basingstoke and Deane borough, reflecting the scale and scope of the New Local Plan. This proportionate approach is aligned with the scope and strategic nature of the Plan.

3.1.4 Baseline information is presented for the following topics in-turn, which include all those required by Schedule 2 (6) of the SEA Regulations, alongside others, reflecting the expanded scope of the IIA:

- Biodiversity;
- Land Use, Geology and Soils;
- Air Quality;
- Water (Quality and Quantity);
- Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation);
- Population;
- Equalities;
- Health and Wellbeing;
- Materials and Waste;
- Historic Environment; and
- Landscape and Townscape.

3.1.5 **Table 3-1** outlines the potential interrelationships between the IIA topics.

Table 3-1 Potential Interrelationships Between IIA Topics

IIA Topic	
Biodiversity	▪ Air Quality; ▪ Land Use, Geology and Soils; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Landscape and Townscape; and ▪ Water (Quality and Quantity).
Land Use, Geology and Soils	▪ Biodiversity; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Materials and Waste; and ▪ Water (Quality and Quantity).
Air Quality	▪ Biodiversity; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Health and Wellbeing; and ▪ Historic Environment.
Water (Quality and Quantity)	▪ Biodiversity; ▪ Land Use, Geology and Soils; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Health and Wellbeing; and ▪ Population.
Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)	▪ Air Quality; ▪ Biodiversity; ▪ Land Use, Geology and Soils; ▪ Historic Environment; ▪ Landscape and Townscape; ▪ Health and Wellbeing; ▪ Materials and Waste; ▪ Population and ▪ Water (Quality and Quantity).
Population	▪ Air Quality ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Health and Wellbeing; ▪ Landscape and Townscape; ▪ Equalities; and ▪ Water (Quantity and Quality)
Equalities	▪ Population ▪ Health and Wellbeing
Health and Wellbeing	▪ Air Quality; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation);

IIA Topic	
	▪ Historic Environment; ▪ Landscape and Townscape; ▪ Population; ▪ Equalities; and ▪ Water (Quality and Quantity).
Materials and Waste	▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Land Use, Geology and Soils; and ▪ Landscape and Townscape.
Historic Environment	▪ Air Quality; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Health and Wellbeing; and ▪ Landscape and Townscape.
Landscape and Townscape	▪ Biodiversity; ▪ Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation); ▪ Health and Wellbeing; ▪ Historic Environment; ▪ Materials and Waste; and ▪ Population.

3.1.6 This section is structured as follows, for each topic in turn:

- **Baseline Characteristics** - presents the current baseline characteristics for Basingstoke and Deane under each IIA topic; and
- **Likely Evolution of the Baseline** - outlines the future evolution of the baseline, including any expected housing delivery, in the absence of the New Local Plan.

3.1.7 Where appropriate, figures are referenced in this overview, which show the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council administrative boundary (the area which the New Local Plan covers).

3.1.8 A 5km buffer outside the boundary of the plan area has been included within the figures to take into account potential sites which could be affected by the measures in the New Local Plan, although, it is recognised that when considering hydrological connectivity and the potential effects of an individual site option, a distance beyond this may be required.

3.2 Biodiversity

3.2.1 Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants (flora) and animals (fauna) in an area, and their associated habitats. All ecological processes are the product of interactions between different groups of organisms and are dependent upon there being a range of these present. In this sense, biodiversity – the variety and variability of living organisms – ultimately underpins the functioning of all ecosystems and thereby the delivery of all ecosystem services (which are critical in: providing clean air and water, food and raw materials; helping to regulate the climate;

and providing space for recreation and amenity). Protected sites are key in the protection of semi-natural habitats and species and can act as excellent examples of natural resource management. The importance of preserving biodiversity is recognised from an international to a local level.

Baseline Characteristics

3.2.2 There are four categories of protected site:

- Protected areas that were established under European Union (EU) Directives and retained following the UK's exit from the EU (including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), identified as making significant contribution to conserving designated habitats and species). Following the UK's exit from the EU, SPAs and SACs form part of the UK National Site Network (NSN). Additionally, government policy[9] states that potential SPAs, possible SACs and compensation sites should be given the same protections as SPAs and SACs.
- Protected areas that are established through International Agreements (including Ramsar Sites, which are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention and under recent changes to legislation[9], are afforded the same degree of statutory protection as National Site Network sites[10] and often overlap with SACs and SPAs).
- Protected areas that are established under National Legislation (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs)).
- Marine Protected Areas[11], which include Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), SACs and SPAs.

Internationally Designated Sites

3.2.3 There are no internationally designated biodiversity sites within the borough, however, there are five within 5km of the boundary of the borough, with these being:

- Thames Basin Heaths SPA (4km to the east of the borough);
- Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC (2.5km to the north of the borough);
- River Lambourn SAC (3.6km to the north of the borough);
- Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC (3.2km to the north of the borough); and
- River Itchen SAC (2.5km to the south of the borough).

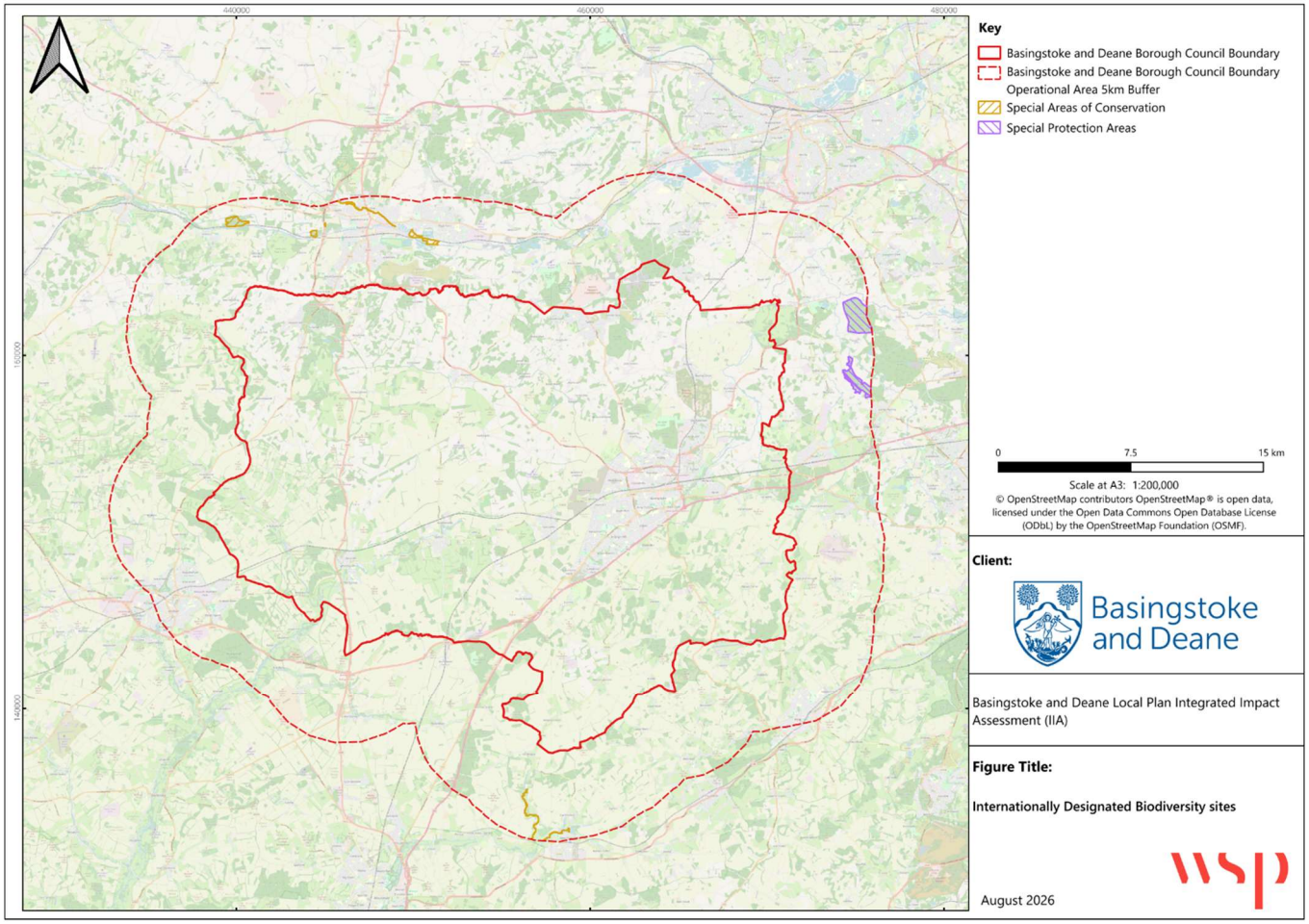
[9] HM Government (2025) Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 – Schedule 5, Part 1. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/34/schedule/5/part/1 [Accessed 31/07/2026]

[10] Since 21 May 2026, Ramsar sites in England have been subject to the statutory assessment requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), rather than being protected solely through national planning policy. This change was introduced through Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, which inserted Regulation 63(1A) into the Habitats Regulations. Regulation 63(1A) requires a competent authority to undertake an appropriate assessment where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Ramsar site and is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of that site. Ramsar sites should therefore be considered within the HRA process as a matter of law rather than policy.

[11] Reflecting the inland position of the borough, Marine Protected Areas are not of relevance in this instance.

3.2.4 **Figure 3-1** shows the relative positions of these sites in relation to the boundary of the borough.

Figure 3-1 Internationally Designated Biodiversity Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.2.5 Whilst the Thames Basin Heaths SPA lies outside of the borough, Natural England's research suggests that increased population arising from housing developments at a distance of up to 5km away can cause significant disturbance to the breeding success of bird populations (Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar) as set out in the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework. The north-east part of the borough falls within this 5km buffer zone where mitigation measures are required. The impact of large residential developments within 5-7km may also need to be considered.

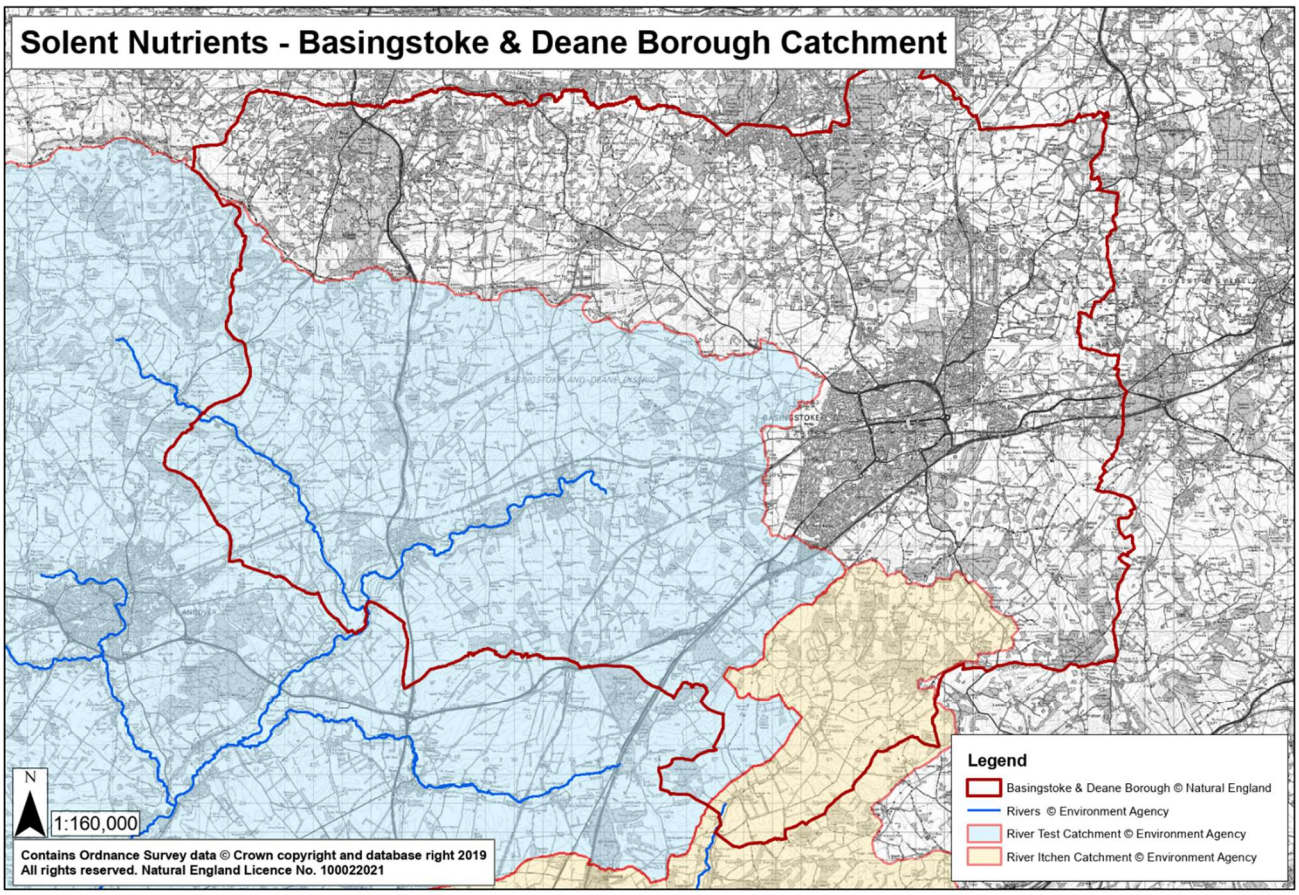
3.2.6 In addition to those sites listed above, outside of the 5km buffer, other international sites of particular relevance, reflecting that parts of Basingstoke and Deane are hydrologically connected to the River Itchen and River Test catchments (and as such new development in these areas is required to be nutrient neutral), are the downstream Solent European sites, comprising the Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar, Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and River Test Compensatory SAC.

3.2.7 Although initially raised as an issue in 2019 by Natural England, in 2024 Defra designated sensitive catchments for phosphorus or nitrogen where a habitats site is considered to be in an unfavourable condition by virtue of pollution from nutrients in water from one or both of those

nutrients. Therefore, growth supported through the Local Plan needs to address nutrient loading to the sensitive freshwater, estuarine and coastal habitats of the Solent and River Itchen, particularly through increased demand on wastewater treatment infrastructure and additional surface water runoff. Elevated nutrient inputs can contribute to eutrophication, leading to algal growth, changes in aquatic plant communities, reduced dissolved oxygen and wider changes to habitat condition, with potential implications for the qualifying habitats and species of the affected European sites. The issue is primarily an in-combination effect, reflecting the cumulative contribution of new development alongside wider catchment pressures. As such, nutrient neutrality and water quality effects will need to remain a key consideration as the Local Plan progresses, including through further assessment of wastewater treatment capacity, catchment pathways, nutrient neutrality requirements and any mitigation or strategic nutrient solutions needed to avoid adverse effects on European site integrity in the Solent and River Itchen SAC.

3.2.8 **Figure 3-2** shows the overlap between the River Test and River Itchen catchments and the Basingstoke and Deane Borough boundary.

Figure 3-2 Overlap of River Test and Itchen Catchments and Basingstoke and Deane Borough[12]



[12] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Natural England and Environment Agency (2019) Solent Nutrients – Basingstoke & Deane Borough Catchment. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/3012.pdf [Accessed 29/09/2026]

Nationally Designated Sites

3.2.9 Sites of Special Scientific interest are sites notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), recognising that they represent the finest sites for wildlife and natural features in England, supporting many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features[13].

3.2.10 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are areas that are open to the public, that are protected due to the presence of important habitats, species, or geology. There is one National Nature Reserve within the borough (Ashford Hill).

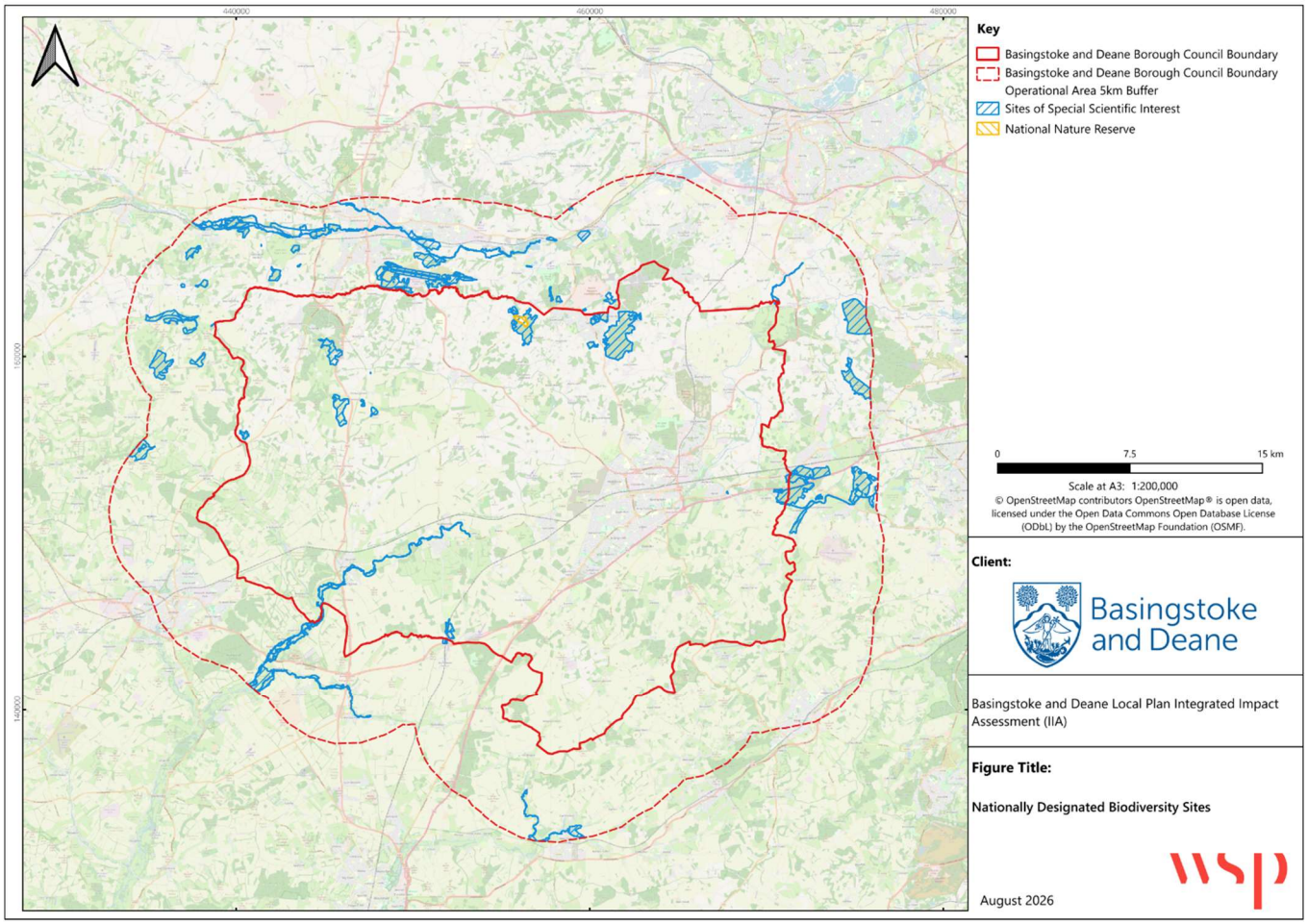
3.2.11 **Table 3-2** sets out the number of nationally designated biodiversity sites within the borough and within 5km of the borough, whilst **Figure 3-3** shows the relative positions of these sites.

Table 3-2 The Number of Nationally Designated Biodiversity Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

Site	Number within the Borough	Number with 5km buffer
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	20	34
National Nature Reserve	1	0

[13] Natural England (2026) *Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Available* online at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::sites-of-special-scientific-interest-england/about [Accessed 07/09/2026]

Figure 3-3 Nationally Designated Biodiversity Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.2.12 The condition of SSSIs across the borough is variable. The data shows that the largest proportion of SSSIs in Basingstoke and Deane are of favourable condition (60.20%), while around 33.36% of SSSIs in the in borough are in unfavourable condition but are recovering. Approximately 5.37% of sites in the borough are unfavourable and saw no change in condition. Lastly, no sites in Basingstoke and Deane have been reported as destroyed or partially destroyed.

3.2.13 **Table 3-3** below sets out a summary of the condition of SSSIs in Basingstoke and Deane as at March 2025, as set out in the most recent Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report (2024/25) published by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre.

Table 3-3 Condition of SSSIs in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough as of March 2025

	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Recorded
Basingstoke and Deane[14]	60.20%	33.36%	5.37%	1.08%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

3.2.14 **Table 3-4** sets out a summary of the condition of SSSIs in the county of Hampshire, the South East region, and England as a whole as at September 2026. It shows that the condition of SSSIs in Hampshire is generally less favourable than across the South East and England. Hampshire also has a notably large number of sites for which no condition assessment has been recorded, indicating a less complete evidence base than at for the South East and to a lesser extend for England.

Table 3-4 Condition of SSSIs in Hampshire, the South East, and England as of September 2026

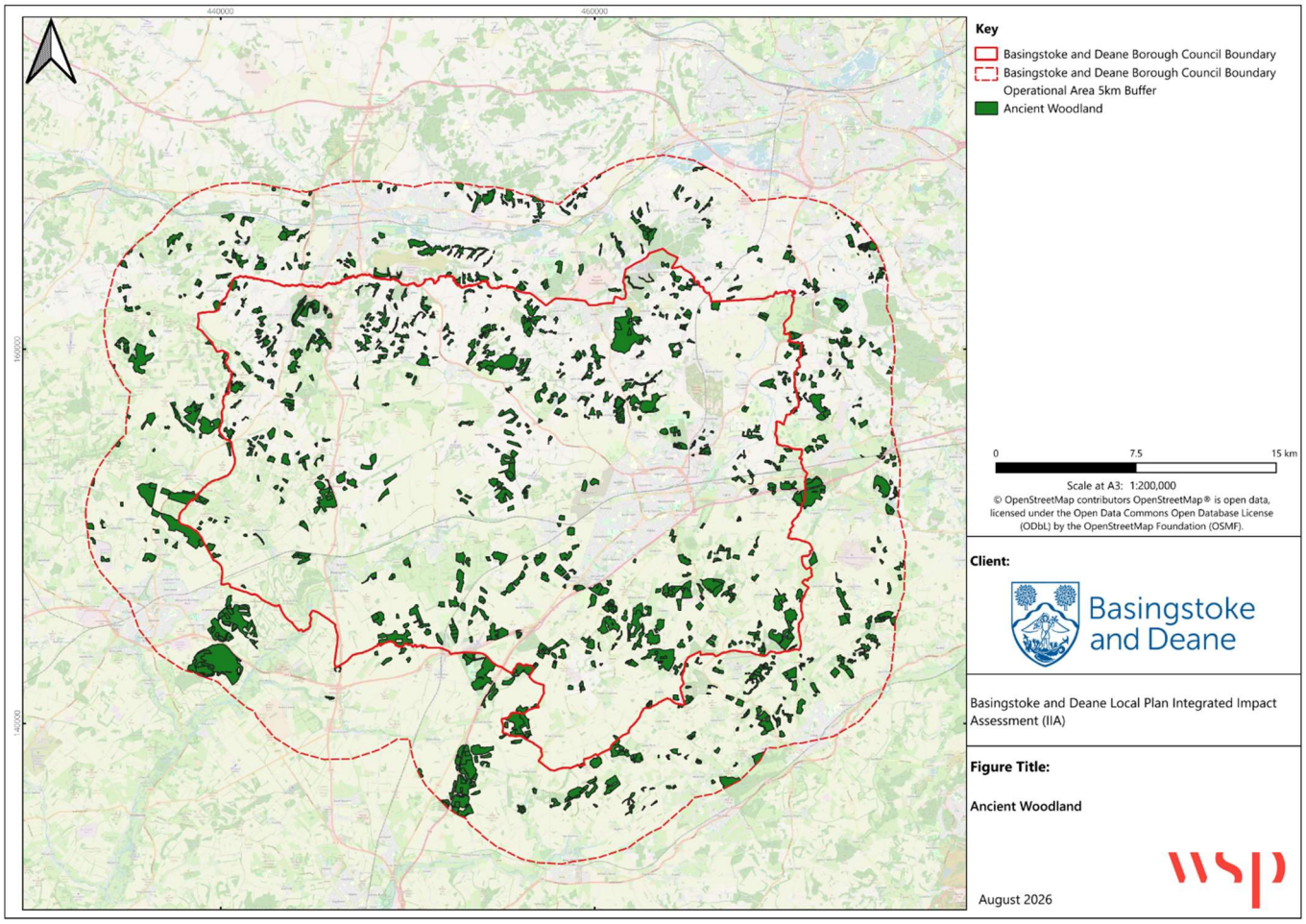
	Favourable	Unfavourable - Recovering	Unfavourable - No change	Unfavourable - Declining	Partially destroyed	Destroyed	Not Recorded
Hampshire[15]	32.18%	22.80%	11.40%	10.82%	1.01%	0.00%	21.79%
South East[16]	54.70%	30.44%	4.96%	9.80%	0.02%	0.04%	0.05%
England[17]	41.10%	20.22%	8.78%	11.71%	0.35%	0.08%	17.75%

Ancient Woodland

3.2.15 Ancient Woodlands are areas of woodland which have existed since at least 1600 and while not a statutory designation they are recognised as an important and irreplaceable habitat. The borough contains approximately 3,728 ha of ancient woodland, making up 5.9% of the borough's total area, while the 5km operational buffer contains an additional 1,034 ha. **Figure 3-4** shows the distribution of Ancient Woodland across the borough.

[14] Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (2025), *Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report 2024/25*. Available online at: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/HBICAnnualBiodiversityMonitoringReport2024-2025.pdf [Accessed 08/09/2026]
[15] Natural England (2026), *Designated Sites View, SSSI Condition Summary. County: HAMPSHIRE*. Available online at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportFeatureConditionSummary.aspx?countyCode=19&ReportTitle=HAMPSHIRE [Accessed 08/08/2026]
[16] Natural England (2026), *Designated Sites View, SSSI Condition Summary. Region: SOUTH EAST*. Available online at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitConditionSummary.aspx?regionName=SOUTH+EAST&ReportTitle=SOUTH+EAST [Accessed 08/09/2026]
[17] Natural England (2026), *Designated Sites View, SSSI Condition Summary. Whole of England*. Available online at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportFeatureConditionSummary.aspx?SiteType=ALL [Accessed 08/09/2026]

Figure 3-4 Ancient Woodland within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Locally Designated Sites

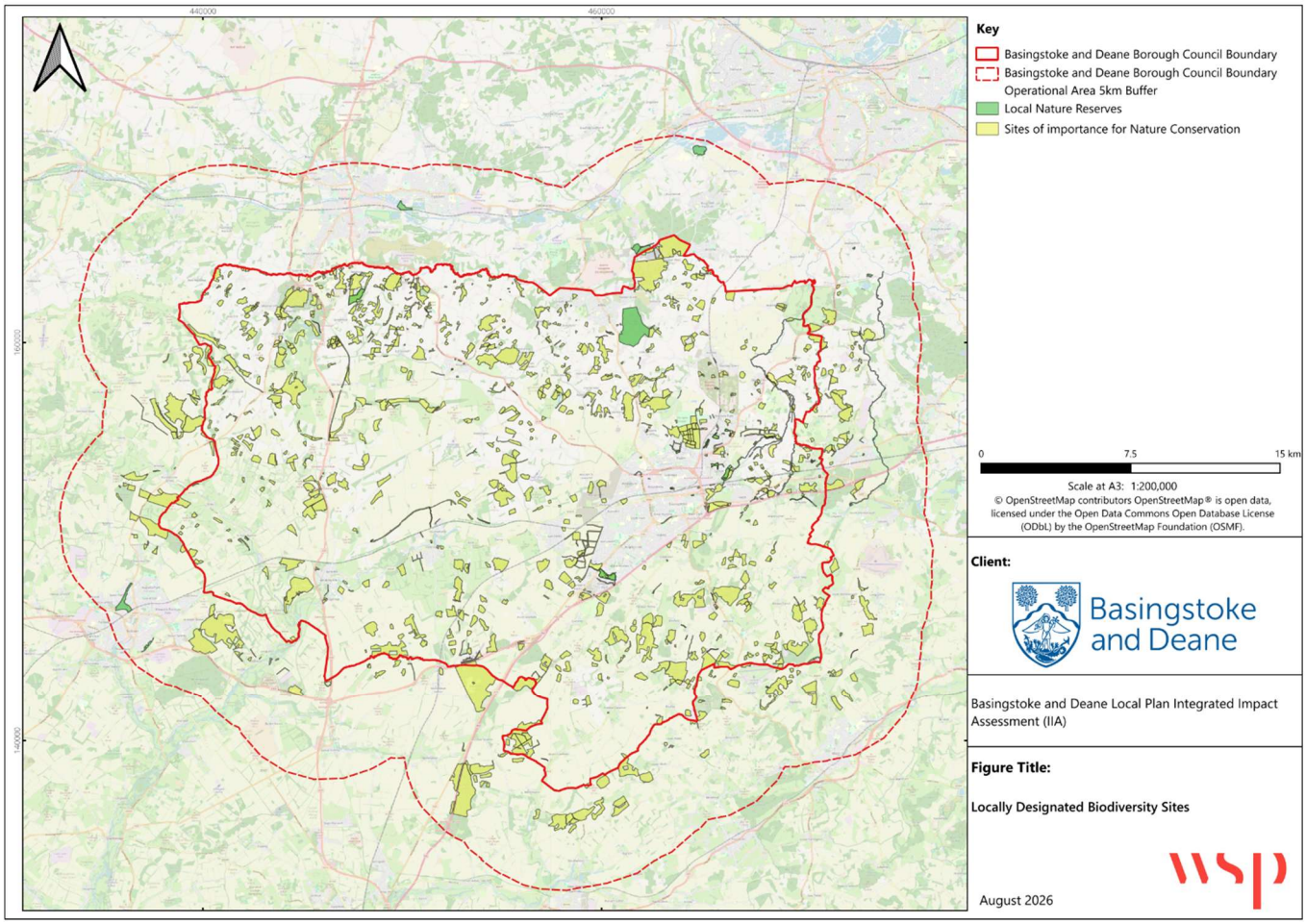
3.2.16 **Table 3-5** sets out the number of locally designated biodiversity sites within the borough and within 5km of the borough, whilst **Figure 3-5** shows the relative positions of these sites.

Table 3-5 The Number of Locally Designated Biodiversity Sites in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

Site	Number within the Borough	Number with 5km buffer
Local Nature Reserve	9	6
***Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)[14]**	835	No data

* Number of SINCs as of 31/03/2025

Figure 3-5 Local Biodiversity Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

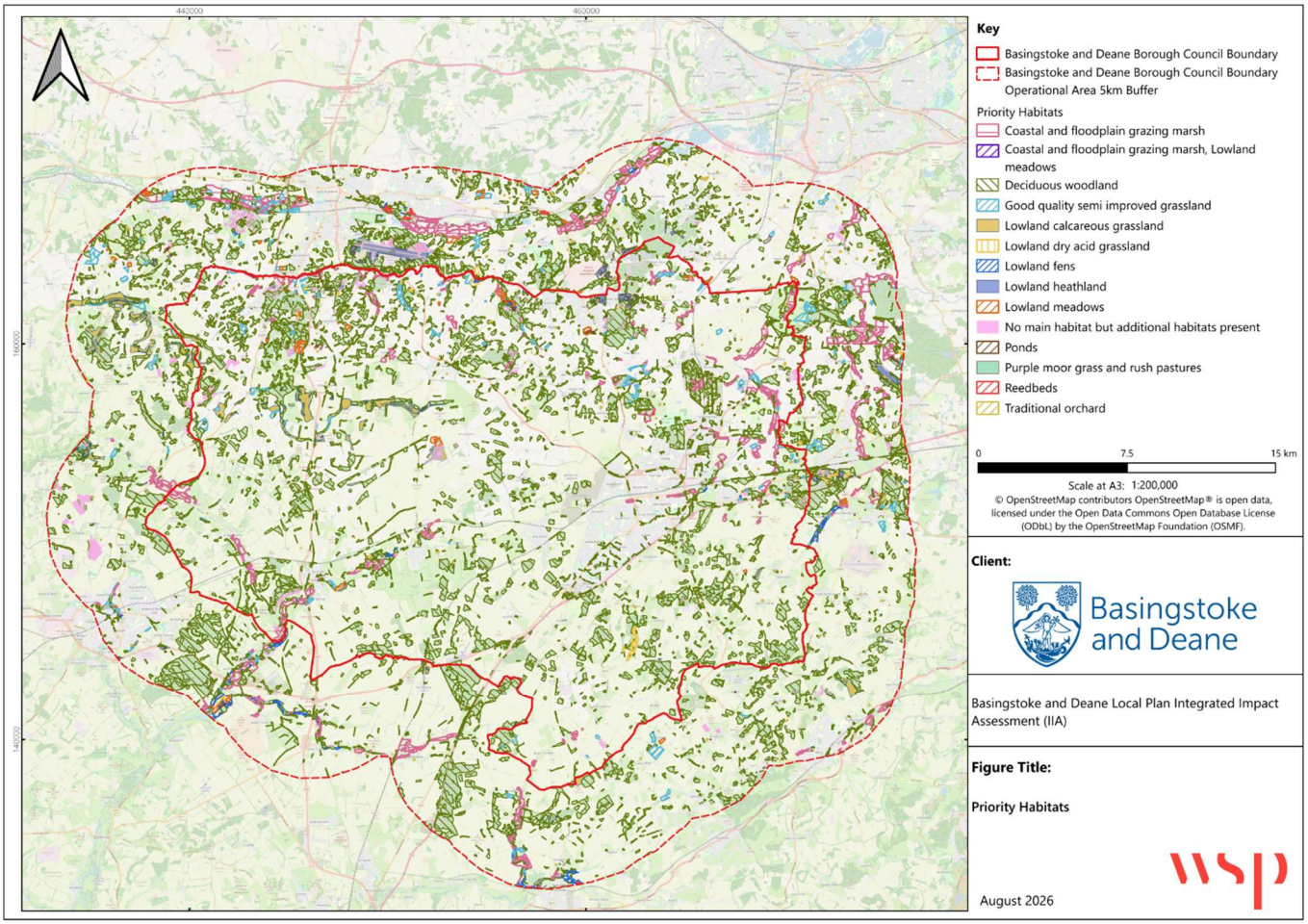
3.2.17 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire[18] sets out the strategic framework to restore habitat networks across the county and identifies locations to create, restore and enhance habitats, across Hampshire, that provide the best opportunities to deliver nature's recovery, focusing on areas outside of designated sites. The LNRS sits underneath the wider Nature Recovery Network[19] within England, supporting national goals to create and restore 140,000 ha of habitats outside of designated sites by 2028.

3.2.18 The LNRS highlights the county's rich biodiversity, stating that Hampshire has recorded 23,462 species of flora and fauna and supports all 12 of the UK's species of native amphibians and reptiles. The Strategy also details that 20% of 11 million species records held by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) are of notable species, meaning they are rare, threatened, or declining.

[18] Hampshire County Council (2025), *Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire*. Available online at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire/hampshire-strategy [Accessed 14/09/2026]
[19] Defra (2024), *The Nature Recovery Network*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-recovery-network/nature-recovery-network [Accessed 14/09/2026]

3.2.19 There are 14 habitats included within the Priority Habitats Inventory[20], which are present within the borough which cover total area of 9,330 ha which is approximately 14.7% of borough. The largest of these habitats are deciduous woodland which covers 7,213 ha (11.4% of the borough), coastal and floodplain grazing marsh which covers 728 ha (1.2% of the borough) and 'no main habitat but additional habitats present' which covers 537 ha (0.85% of the borough). **Figure 3-6** shows the distribution of Priority Habitats across the borough.

Figure 3-6 Priority Habitats within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.2.20 **Table 3-6** shows Basingstoke and Deane's species richness data according to the Natural Environment Valuation Online (NEVO) tool[21]. Basingstoke and Deane has a species richness of 45 out of the 100 priority species identified by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

[20] The Priority Habitats Inventory (PHI) maps priority habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and listed as being of principal importance for the purpose of conserving or enhancing biodiversity, under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. The PHI currently maps 27 terrestrial and freshwater priority habitats across England and also includes four habitat classes which are not priority habitats, but which hold potential importance for conservation of biodiversity in England. These can indicate a mosaic of habitat which may contain priority habitats, have restoration potential and/or contribute to ecological networks. Where evidence indicates the presence of unmapped or fragmented priority habitats these are attributed as additional habitats. These classes are as follows: fragmented heath, grass moorland, good quality semi-improved grassland, and no main habitat but additional habitats present . The PHI also includes 39 coincident habitats, where more than one main priority habitat type exists at the same location.

[21] University of Exeter, *NEVO*. Available online at: https://www.leep.exeter.ac.uk/nevo/?x=463755&y=149408&z=5 [Accessed 18/08/2026]

Table 3-6 Species Richness in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

Species	Richness in Basingstoke and Deane
Plants	17/38
Invertebrates	11/25
Birds	10/17
Mammals	5/14
Lichen	1/5
Herptiles	1/1
Total	45/100

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.2.21 Although outside the borough's administrative boundary, elevated nitrogen and phosphorus levels within the Solent catchment remain an issue, arising primarily from agricultural runoff but also from wastewater generated by new housing and overnight accommodation. Natural England has identified the potential for adverse effects on the Solent sites, including the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent & Southampton Water SPA, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA, and Solent & Southampton Water Ramsar site. A significant part of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, particularly areas served by Southern Water wastewater treatment works and local treatment plants and septic tanks within the upper catchments of the River Test and River Itchen which discharge to the Solent, is affected by these concerns. As a result, new housing and overnight accommodation in these areas must demonstrate nutrient neutrality, or provide appropriate mitigation, to ensure no additional nutrient loading to the Solent. While local authorities (including Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and other local authorities) and stakeholders are developing strategic mitigation measures and wastewater infrastructure improvements may help reduce nutrient inputs over time, continued coordinated management of nutrient and water quality pressures will be required, as nutrient enrichment and eutrophication are likely to remain key environmental challenges affecting the River Test, River Itchen and downstream Solent sites.

3.2.22 The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) has the potential to be impacted by increased population arising from housing developments at a distance of up to 5km away causing significant disturbance to the breeding success of bird populations. The north-east part of the borough falls within this 5km buffer zone where mitigation measures are required. The impact of large residential developments within 5-7km may also need to be considered.

3.2.23 The 2023 State of Nature Report[22] highlights the general decrease in biodiversity in the UK. Since 1970, species abundance has decreased by 19%. Of the 10,008 species that have been assessed using the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Red List criteria, 16% are currently threatened with extinction and 2% are already extinct in Great Britain.

[22] The State of Nature Partnership (2023) *State of Nature Report 2023*. Available online at: https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]

New development in the borough could have the potential to place additional pressure on biodiversity, for example, through the loss and fragmentation of habitats.

3.2.24 Current data shows that the condition of SSSIs in the borough is generally very good. Effort is being made to ensure the condition of SSSIs improve further, with targets set by the Environment Act and Environmental Improvement Plan.

3.2.25 Under the Environment Act 2021, the government proposed a number of targets for biodiversity in its consultation on environmental targets. These targets were published in December 2022 and included the following commitments for nature and biodiversity:

- Halt the decline in species populations by 2030 and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042.
- Deliver net zero ambitions and boost nature recovery by increasing tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050.
- Restore 70% of designated features in our Marine Protected Areas to a favourable condition by 2042, with the rest in a recovering condition

3.2.26 These targets were subsequently set out in The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2023 and The Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside Woodland) (England) Regulations 2023[23].

3.2.27 In 2023 the government published Environment Implementation Plan, updating the 25-Year Environment Plan, and in December 2025, the government updated the EIP with the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025[24]. The Plan provides for a set of interim targets to support the statutory longer-term targets and to help track progress:

- restore or create a total of 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by December 2030
- by December 2030, 50% of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features to have actions on track to achieve favourable condition
- by 2030, double the number of farms providing sufficient year-round resources for farm wildlife, compared with 2025
- reduce the rate of establishment of invasive non-native species (INNS) by at least 50% by December 2030, compared to 2000 levels
- increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.33% of land area by December 2030 from the 2022 baseline of 14.9%. (Equivalent to a net increase 43,000 hectares.)
- at least 49% of Marine Protected Area (MPA) protected features are in favourable condition and at least 46% in recovering condition, by December 2030

[23] House of Commons Library (2024) *Biodiversity Loss.* Available online at: https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2024-0101/CDP-2024-0101.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[24] Defra (2025) *Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025.* Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025#annex-2-full-list-of-revised-eip-interim-targets [Accessed 29/06/2026]

3.2.28 The Biodiversity Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2023 to 2029[25] refers to information in the State of Nature 2023[26] report which describes the ongoing trend of biodiversity decline, stating that 19% of species have declined since 1970, with one in six species threatened by extinction. The Strategy also refers to Hampshire's Natural Environment Report 2020[27] which points out that 48% of Hampshire's 50 most notable species are in decline, along with 82% of its rivers failing to reach good ecological status. In light of this, the strategy sets out a vision for the borough along with a series of principles and objectives to combat the decline of biodiversity and nature.

3.2.29 The Council's annual Biodiversity Report sets out current biodiversity strategy documents and provide a list of key actions from those relevant plans that have been completed. In the latest report, the Council reported a number of results and outcomes of their proposed actions including:

- Planting 1,870 trees in 2023-24 and 1,028 trees in 2025-26;
- The signing off of a privately-run habitat bank in the borough which generated 19.14 biodiversity units;
- The successful hand out of 3,300 free trees;
- A new three-year deal with HBIC agreed in 2025, ensuring annual updates to biodiversity data;
- The creation of three new ponds and over 12 ha of high-quality terrestrial habits to support Great Crested Newts;
- The setting up of 17 conservation groups across the borough, as of December 2025, working with 266 volunteer and generating 12,052 volunteer hours across the year; and
- The designation of seven new SINCs contributing to a total of 835 across 6,306 ha.

3.2.30 The UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030[28] contains the UK Governments commitment to implement the four goals and 23 targets for biodiversity of the GBF (Global Biodiversity Framework) set out in December 2022. This includes the target to halt the decline in species' abundance by 2030.

3.2.31 Climate change is anticipated to have an impact on wildlife in the future by exacerbating existing pressures such as changes to the timing of seasonal activity, and water scarcity. The IPCCs current projections state that global temperature increase is likely to exceed 1.5°C during the 21st century[29]. This increase in temperature is expected to impact water availability, lead to increases in flooding events, and create changes to ecosystem structures. There is, therefore,

[25] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2024), *Biodiversity Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2023 to 2029.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/94366/Biodiversity%20Strategy%20for%20Basingstoke%20and%20Deane%202023%20to%202029%20with%20glossary.pdf [Accessed 09/09/2026]
[26] State of Nature Partnership (2023), *State of Nature*. Available online at: https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP25999-State-of-Nature-main-report_2023_FULL-DOC-v12.pdf [Accessed 9/09/2026]
[27] Hampshire County Council (2020), *State of Hampshire's natural environment*. Available online at: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/hampshire2050/StateofNaturalEnvironmentReport.pdf [Accessed 09/09/2026]
[28] Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Scottish Government, Welsh Government and UK Government (2025) *Blueprint for Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss: the UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030.* Available online at: https://uk.chm-cbd.net/sites/gb/files/2025-02/UK_National_Biodiversity_Strategy_and_Action_Plan.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[29] IPCC (2023) *Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report.* Available online at: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]

a need to allow wildlife to adapt to climate change, in line with the Government's ambition for the reversal of the decline in native species and increase in wildlife-rich habitats[30]. The Strategic Framework for International Climate and Nature Action recognises the link between climate change and biodiversity loss and aims to have built resilience to climate impacts and halt and reverse nature loss by 2030[31].

3.2.32 The Environment Act specifies a mandatory 10% increase in biodiversity net gain (BNG) for new developments[32]. This applies to developments that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990[33]. Biodiversity on development sites will need to be preserved, with additional mitigation put in to increase biodiversity by at least 10%. This increase in biodiversity may be provided through on site enhancement, or through off-site compensation.

3.3 Land Use, Geology and Soils

3.3.1 Geology, land use and soils shape the physical character, stability, and productivity of the landscape. This topic considers how a plan or programme may affect underlying geological features, patterns of land use, soil quality (including agricultural land quality) and the functions soils provide (e.g. supporting biodiversity, food production, water storage and regulating carbon). Understanding existing constraints helps to safeguard soil health, maintain landscape integrity and promote sustainable, resilient land management.

Baseline Characteristics

Geology

3.3.2 The borough sits at the apex between two geological areas, covered by a section of the north of the Hampshire Basin[34] and a section to the south and west of the Thames Valley Basin[35]. The borough's geology is thereby made up of mostly late cretaceous chalk along with areas of upper greensand and gault formations. The north of the borough also contains Palaeogene sediments as well as some mid to late Jurassic sedimentary rocks.

3.3.3 There is one SSSI located within the borough that is notified for its geological interest, with this being Duncroft Farm Pit SSSI[36], which is also a designated Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site. The site is notified as it provides the only known exposure of beds of Upper Chalk dipping 25° to the north within the middle limit of the regional fold structure known as the Kingsclere Monocline. This fold is thought to have formed due to accommodation of the

[30] Defra (2019) Annexes to the Environment Bill Impact Assessment. Available online at: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0009/Environment%20Bill%20IA%20ANNEXES.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[31] HM Government (2023) 2030 Strategic Framework for International Climate and Nature Action. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/642a9b717de82b000c313473/2030-strategic-framework-for-international-climate-and-nature-action.pdf [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[32] HM Government (2021) *The Environment Act 2021*. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[33] HM Government (1990) *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. Available online at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/106 [Accessed 29/06/2026]
[34] British Geological Survey (2020), *The Hampshire Basin and adjoining areas*. Available online at: file:///C:/Users/UKKDH775/Downloads/Regional_SM6_Hampshire_Basin_and_adjoining_areas.pdf [Accessed 16/09/2026]
[35] British Geological Survey (2020), *London and the Thames Valley region.* Available online at: file:///C:/Users/UKKDH775/Downloads/Regional_SM6_London_and_the_Thames_Valley.pdf [Accessed 16/09/2026]
[36] Natural England (undated) *Designated Sites View – Duncroft Farm Pit SSSI*. Available online at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1005588&SiteName=Duncroft%20Farm%20Pit&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea= [Accessed 21/09/2026]

Mesozoic cover rocks above major faults in the underlying basement which moved during the Tertiary period[37].

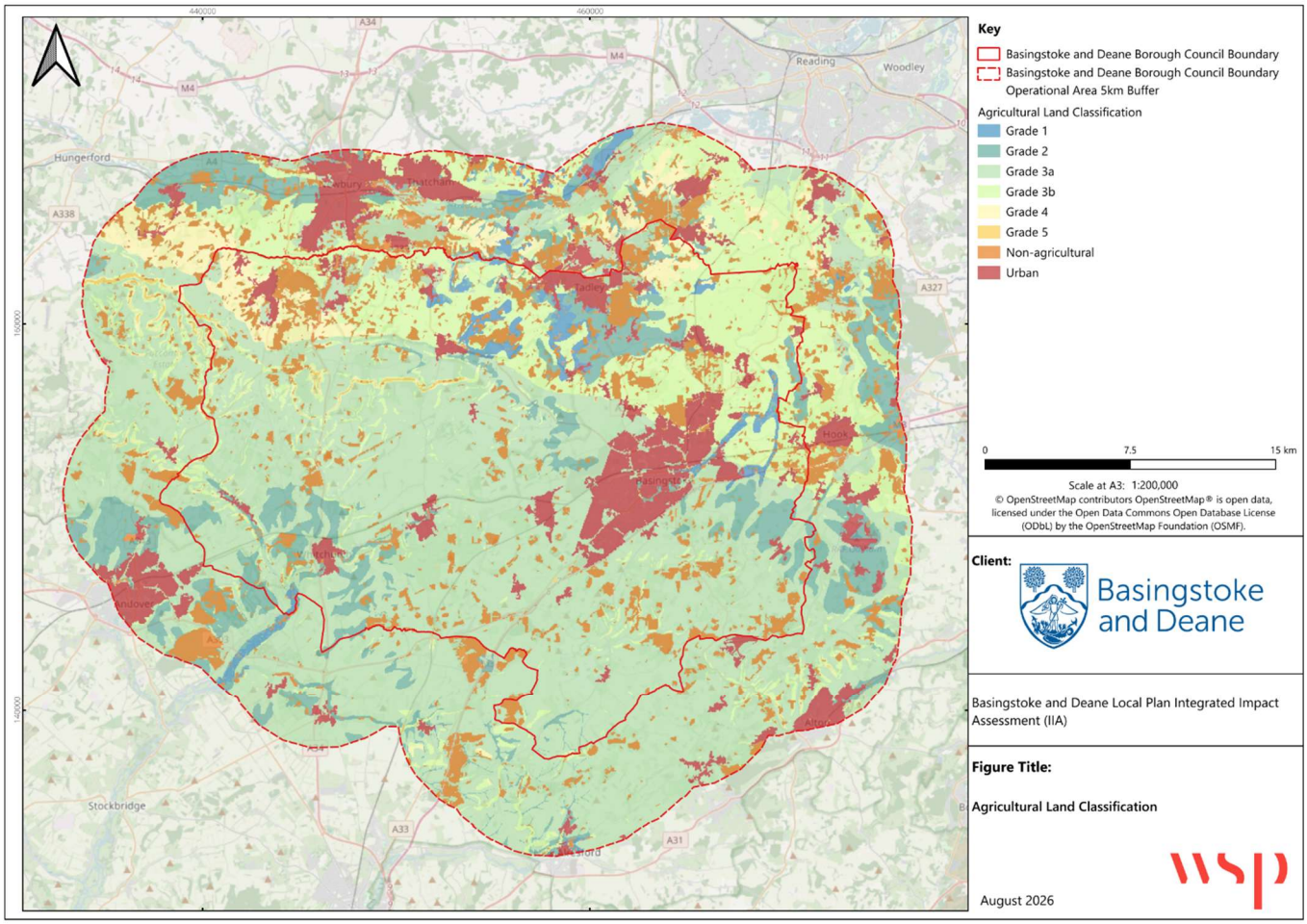
Soils

3.3.4 The Agricultural Land Classification System developed by Defra provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland, principally for use in land use planning. The system divides the quality of land into five categories, as well as non-agricultural and urban. The 'best and most versatile land' is generally defined as the agricultural land which falls into Grades 1, 2 and 3a.

3.3.5 **Figure 3-7** presents the agricultural land classification across the borough. It shows that the majority of the borough and the 5km operational buffer are made up of Grade 3a, and to a lesser extent 3b ALC land. There are areas of Grade 2 ALC land in the south west and east/north east of Basingstoke, as well as in the north, east and south west of the 5km buffer area. There are areas of Grade 4 ALC land present particularly in the north west and north of the borough as well as in the north and north west of the 5km buffer. Settlements such as Basingstoke, Newbury, Baughurst, and Andover are classified as urban, and some land around these settlements are classified as Grade 5 ALC land, or 'non-agricultural'. There are small pockets of Grade 1 ALC land located in the north /north east of the borough and in the north and south west of the 5km operational buffer.

[37] Natural England (undated) Ducroft Farm Pit SSSI citation. Available online at: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1005588.pdf [Accessed 21/09/2026]

Figure 3-7 Agricultural Land Classification within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

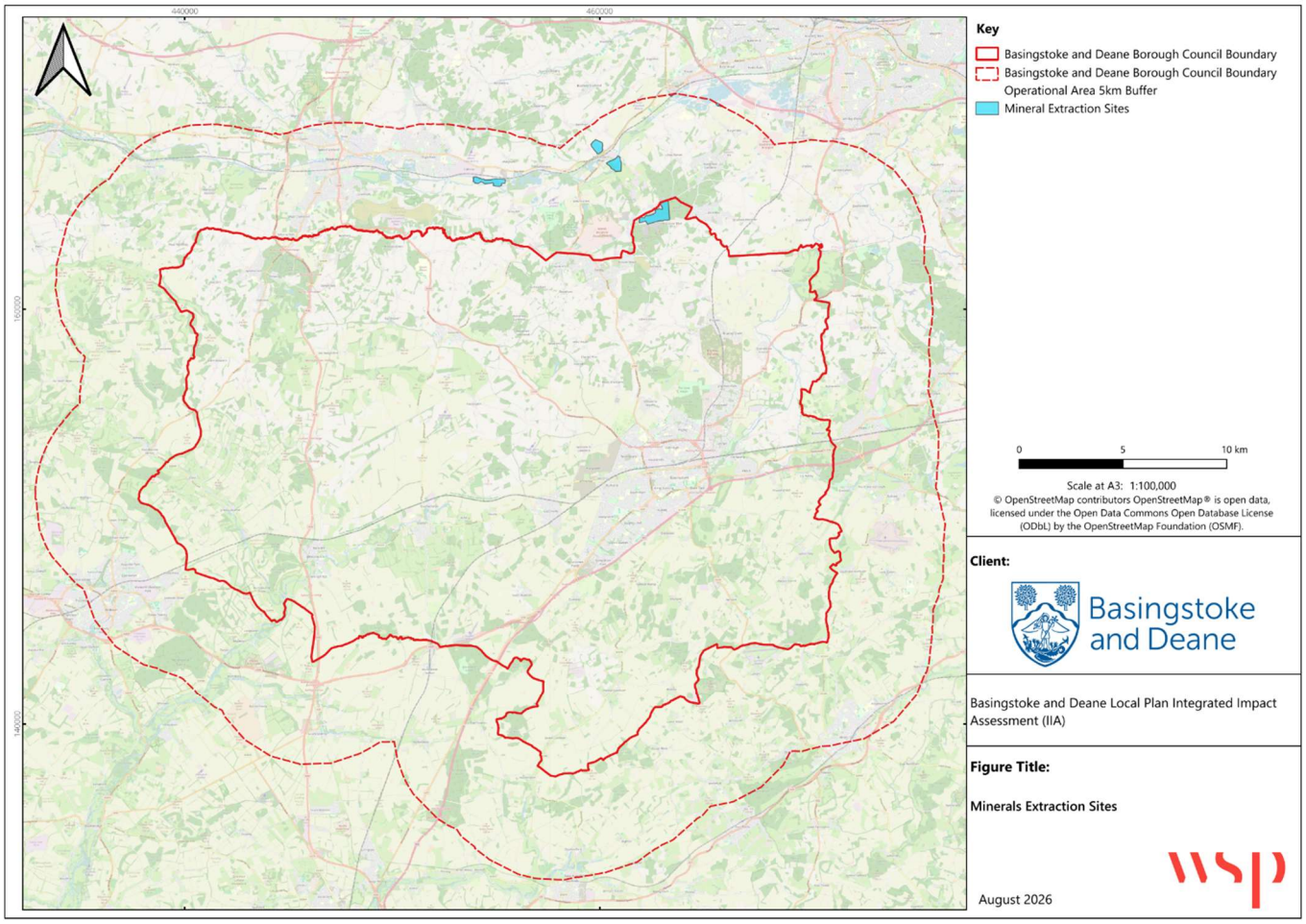


Land Use

3.3.6 According to the Natural Environment Valuation Online (NEVO) tool[21], Basingstoke and Deane has a total land area of 63,400 ha, of which 41,400 ha (65.3%) is agricultural land. The borough is also made up of 10,100 ha of woodland (15.9%), 8,800 ha of urban land (13.9%), 2,900 ha of semi-natural grassland (4.6%), and 43 ha of water (0.07%).

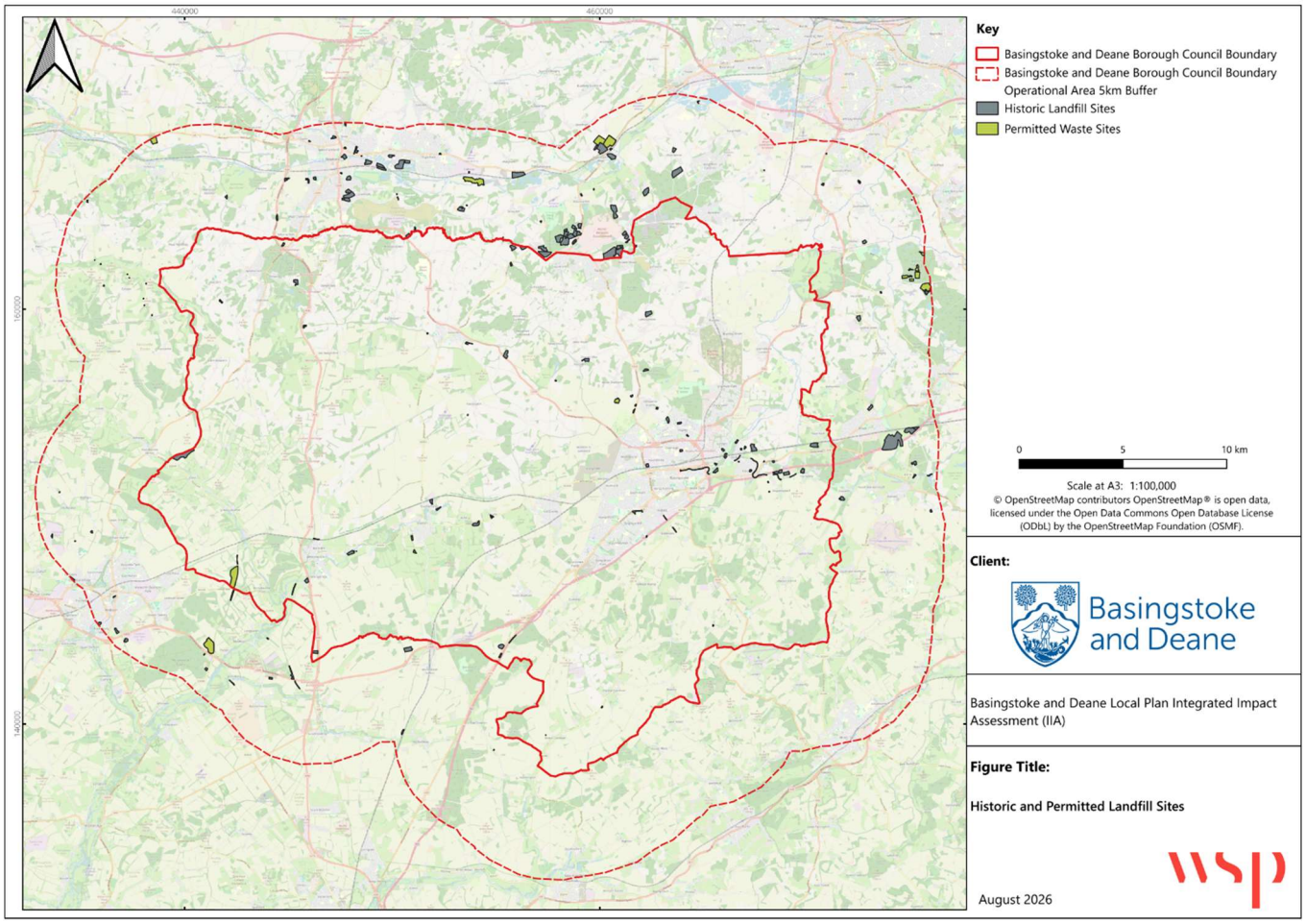
3.3.7 **Figure 3-8** below sets out the location of mineral extraction sites across the borough and surrounding area. It shows that there is one mineral extraction site in the borough located to the north east of Pamber Heath. There are also three mineral sites located in the north of the 5km operational buffer to the east of Thatcham.

Figure 3-8 Minerals Extraction Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.3.8 **Figure 3-9** below shows the location of historic landfill sites and permitted waste sites in the borough and the 5km operational area. It shows that the majority of historic landfill sites in the borough are concentrated to the east and north of Basingstoke. There is also a significant concentration of historic landfill sites in the north of the 5km operational buffer, particularly around the settlements of Tadley and Newbury. Within the borough there are permitted waste sites in the south west, either side of the village of Whitchurch, as well as a site to the north west of Basingstoke. Within the buffer area, the largest concentration of permitted waste sites are in the north around Thatcham and Aldermaston Wharf, and the east around Bramshill.

Figure 3-9 Historic and Permitted Landfill Sites within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.3.9 Further detail in relation to protected mineral resources and waste sites and areas, is provided in **Section 3.10.**

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.3.10 Continued population and economic growth are likely to increase demand for housing, employment development and supporting infrastructure. The delivery of these uses, without proper planning, may result in the permanent loss of soil resources, including best and most versatile agricultural land, and could contribute to soil sealing, compaction and degradation. Consequently, the quantity and quality of soil resources may decline over time, reducing their capacity to support agriculture, biodiversity, carbon storage and other important ecosystem functions.

3.3.11 Climate change is the biggest threat to soils. Studies predict that changes in precipitation could lead to changes in the extent and distribution of agricultural land classification. Reductions in rainfall could result in higher ALC grades in wetter areas but may lead to lower classification in drier areas[38].

[38] Keay CA, Jones RJA, Hannam JA, Barrie IA. (2012), *The implications of a changing climate on agricultural land classification in England and Wales, The Journal of Agricultural Science, Volume 152, Issue 1, 2012, pp. 23-37*. Available online at: https://dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk/server/api/core/bitstreams/c034cd5f-b306-479a-8985-e83a283afc56/content [Accessed 18/08/2026]

3.3.12 Soils need to be safeguarded to protect their ability to support plants and animals, store carbon, and provide other important ecosystem services. The vision of Defra's Soils Strategy for England[39] is for all England's soils to be managed sustainably, and degradation threats tackled successfully by 2030. This will improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.

3.3.13 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan states that England's soils must be managed sustainably by 2030, and the UK's soils must be restored. Farmers will be incentivised to work towards healthy soils[40]. Key threats to soils include draining soils, intensive agriculture, changes in land management, climate change, construction, population growth, urbanisation, and pollution.

3.3.14 Loss of nitrates from agricultural soils can lead to failure of drinking water standards and contribute to eutrophication in estuaries and the sea. Eutrophication can also be caused by excess phosphate entering water bodies, usually via soil erosion[41]. However, it is expected that there will be increased opportunities to protect soils and improve water quality as agricultural practices and farm management are influenced by sustainable land management schemes. Despite these opportunities, nutrient enrichment within the River Test and River Itchen catchments and downstream Solent sites remain a concern, requiring new development in affected areas to demonstrate nutrient neutrality or provide appropriate mitigation to avoid adverse effects on internationally designated habitats (see **Section 3.2**).

3.3.15 Geological hazards may change as a response to climate change; for example, landslides and pollution.

3.4 Air Quality

3.4.1 Air quality refers to the mixture and concentrations of gases in the air, including the level of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM). Good air quality is essential to ensure people and ecosystems are healthy, productive and balanced. The emission of pollutants to air can pose a hazard to human health (e.g. respiratory illnesses and lung conditions)[42] and can also have a negative impact on the environment (e.g. changes to ecosystems and damage to vegetation when present within the atmosphere in excess of certain concentrations). Air quality within this context concerns the levels of pollutants emitted into the air and their significance, in terms of the risk of adverse effects on the environment and/or human health. Improving air quality is an important consideration for the achievement of sustainable development.

[39] Defra (2009), *Safeguarding our Soils A Strategy for England*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65fd6fddf1d3a0001132adb8/CD1.I_DEFRA__Safeguarding_our_Soils_A_Strategy_for_England.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[40] HM Government (2018), *25 Year Environment Plan*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[41] Environment Agency (2019), *Phosphorus and Freshwater Eutrophication Pressure Narrative*. Available online at: https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/challenges-and-choices/user_uploads/phosphorus-pressure-rbmp-2021.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[42] UK Government (2022) *Air pollution: applying All Our Health*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health/air-pollution-applying-all-our-health#:~:text=The%20health%20impacts%20of%20air%20pollution,-The%20health%20effects&text=Short%2Dterm%20exposure%20(over%20hours,low%2Dincome%20communities. [Accessed 19/02/2026]

Baseline Characteristics

3.4.2 There are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane, nor within the 5km buffer zone. The closest AQMA to the borough is the Reading AQMA located approximately 6km to the north east.

3.4.3 Because of the absence of any Air Quality Management Area, there is no statutory requirement for the council to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan or Air Quality Strategy, however, the Council has prepared a combined Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy[43]. Despite there being no requirement to do so, the council has set out a number of measures within the borough's Annual Air Quality Status Report 2025[44] to help improve air quality. The report concludes that from 2023 to 2024, all but three monitoring locations (that had remained in the same place as previous years), saw a decrease in pollutants. Furthermore, the report confirms that no monitoring locations within the borough saw concentrations above the annual objective of 40µg/m3 for nitrogen dioxide and therefore AQMAs are not required.

3.4.4 Basingstoke and Deane's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy[43] states that the main pollutant of concern in the borough is nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), while another is $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres), however, the presence of both pollutants in the borough falls below national limits. The strategy also sets out the source for each of the pollutants within the borough, these are:

3.4.5 Sources of NOx emissions in the borough:

- Roads – 53.7%
- Other – 14.9%
- Other transport – 10.9%
- Domestic and business heating – 12.1%
- Industrial process – 5.3%
- Industrial combustion – 3%
- Waste – 0.2%

3.4.6 Sources of $PM_{2.5}$ in the borough:

- Roads – 28.3%
- Wood burning – 24.9%
- Waste – 11.1%
- Domestic and business heating – 10.4%
- Other – 8%

[43] Basingstoke and Deane (2025), *Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/pagepdf/climate-change-air-quality-strategy.pdf [Accessed 09/09/2026]
[44] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2025), *Basingstoke and Deane Annual Status Report 2025*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4621.pdf [Accessed 07/09/2026]

- Industrial process – 6.7%
- Other transport – 4.3%
- Agriculture – 3.2%
- Industrial combustion – 3.1%

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.4.7 The Air Quality Strategy for England[45] sets out the plan for reducing air pollution in the UK. This will likely have positive impacts for the environment, human health, and the economy. The strategy includes reducing air pollution from the transport sector, power, food production and manufacturing.

3.4.8 Air pollution from road traffic is likely to increase as the population of the borough increases, this may have negative impacts on sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity[46] as well as human health. However, the UK is phasing out petrol and diesel cars, which will no longer be sold after 2030, and all new cars (and vans) will need to be zero emissions by 2035[47]. This may lead to improvements in air quality as cars and vans become less polluting.

3.4.9 In the UK there is strong air quality legislation. This alongside de-industrialisation and technological improvements, such as lower emission vehicles, is likely to result in decreasing levels of the majority of air pollutants.

3.4.10 Basingstoke and Deane's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy[43] states that the levels of NO_2 in the borough are generally below the annual objective and are steadily declining year on year, which indicates that national and local measures to improve air quality are having a positive impact.

3.4.11 The Council is also required to reduce concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$. As it stands the borough is below current objectives set out in national targets and 99% below the target concentration (10 µg/m^3) for 2040. The strategy also recognises that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has tighter guidelines in relation to $PM_{2.5}$ and therefore the council commits to proactively targeting a reduction in these emissions, in addition to tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

3.5 Water (Quality and Quantity)

3.5.1 Water resources are sources of water that can be used by people for various purposes, such as drinking water and irrigation and are also key components of the natural environment and contribute to ecosystem services. As such, there is a strong cross over between the water topic and the biodiversity, population and human health topics. Water quality and quantity can provide insight into issues such as the chemical and physical characteristics of water resources

[45] UK Government (2023), *Air Quality Strategy for England*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[46] Natural England (2024), *Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest*. Available online at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/metadata_for_magic/sssi irz user guidance magic.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[47] Department for Transport (2025), Ph*asing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 and support for zero emission vehicle (ZEV) transition*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/phasing-out-the-sale-of-new-petrol-and-diesel-cars-from-2030-and-support-for-zero-emission-vehicle-zev-transition [Accessed 18/08/2026]

as well as the availability and suitability of water supply, which are important considerations for the achievement of sustainable development.

Baseline Characteristics

3.5.2 Waterbodies in the UK are split into river basin districts (RBDs) that cover an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies. Each RBD has a River Basin Management Plan produced by the Environment Agency, in line with the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, to protect and improve the quality of the water environment. RBDs are subdivided into Management Catchments, which are large river catchment areas used for the strategic planning, management and reporting of water bodies. Management catchments are further subdivided into Operational Catchments, which are used for detailed monitoring, assessment and implementation of measures to improve water quality and ecological status.

3.5.3 The borough of Basingstoke and Deane lies within two River Basin Districts, the Thames RBD, and the South East RBD. Within those RBDs, the borough contains a total of three Management Catchments: Loddon and Trib, Kennet and Trib (in the Thames RBD), and Test and Itchen (in the South East RBD). The Operational Catchments within Basingstoke and Deane are: Loddon, Kennet, Itchen, and Test Upper and Middle, and together include 75 waterbodies[48].

3.5.4 The distribution of these 75 waterbodies are such that 22 fall within the Loddon Operational Catchment, 33 fall within the Kennet Operational Catchment and 8 fall within the Itchen Operational Catchment. **Table 3-7** below shows the breakdown of the types of waterbodies that fall within these operational catchments, however, it should be noted that due to differences in the boundaries of operational catchments and local authorities, not all of the waterbodies within the Loddon, Kennet, and Itchen operational Catchments are located within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane.

Table 3-7 Number of Waterbodies and their Categories within the Operational Catchments Covering the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

Water body categories	Natural	Artificial	Heavily modified	Total
River, canals and surface water transfers	58	0	8	66
Lake	1	3	5	9
Coastal	0	0	0	0
Estuarine	0	0	0	0
Groundwater	0	0	0	0
Total	59	3	13	75

[48] Environment Agency (2025), *Explore catchment data.* Available online at: https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning [Accessed 18/08/2026]

3.5.5 **Table 3-8** below sets out the ecological status of the waterbodies within the operational catchments that cross through the borough of Basingstoke and Deane. It shows that most waterbodies are of a moderate condition, while just over 25% have a current status of 'good'. Currently there are no waterbodies across the borough with a status of 'high', while there are two in the coinciding operational catchments that are 'bad'. 'Poor' ecological status has been assessed for 12 waterbodies across the four relevant operational catchments.

Table 3-8 Ecological Status of Waterbodies within the Operational Catchments Covering the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

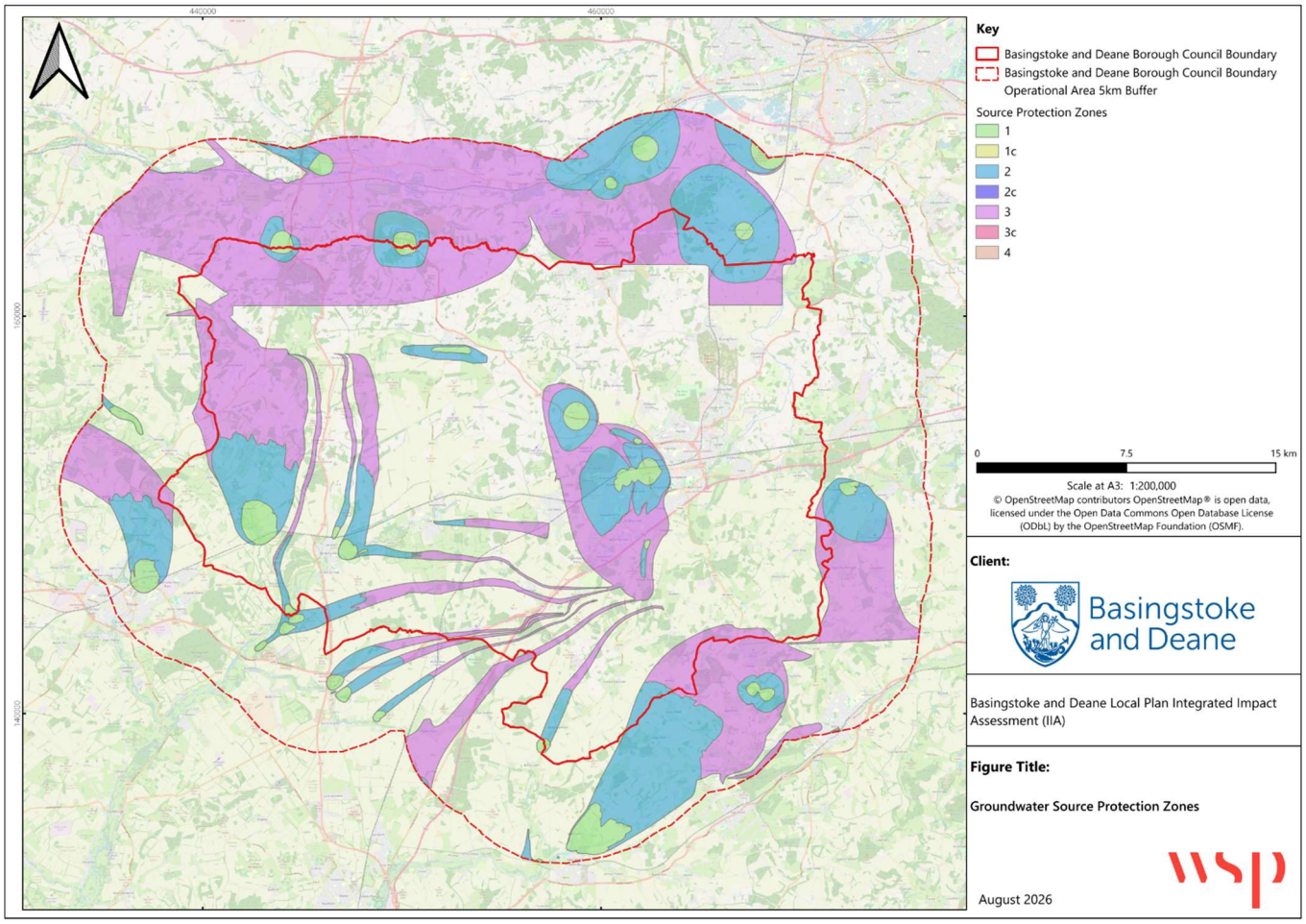
Ecological status or potential	Bad	Poor	Moderate	Good	High
Number of waterbodies	2	12	42	19	0

3.5.6 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are areas designated to protect groundwater sources used for drinking water supply, including wells, boreholes and springs. Groundwater provides around one-third of England's drinking water and plays an important role in maintaining river flows[49]. Zone I (Inner Zone) covers the area where groundwater reaches the source within 50 days and is the most sensitive to contamination. Zone II (Outer Zone) covers areas where groundwater travel time is up to 400 days, while Zone III (Total Catchment Zone) encompasses the entire area contributing groundwater to the abstraction point.

3.5.7 **Figure 3-10** below shows the SPZs within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane and its surrounding area. It shows that the borough contains a several areas of SPZ1, SPZ2 and SPZ3, with the largest areas located in the centre of the borough as well as along its western boundary. Within the 5km operational buffer, the vast majority of the northern part of the buffer is covered by SPZs, particularly SPZ3, however there are also areas of SPZ2, and SPZ1. Significant portions in the south east of the 5km buffer are also covered SPZs, particularly SPZ2 and SPZ3.

[49] Environment Agency (2019) *Groundwater source protection zones (SPZs)* Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/groundwater-source-protection-zones-spzs [Accessed 19/09/2026]

Figure 3-10 Source Protection Zones within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.5.8 The borough is supplied by three water companies; Thames Water, Southern Water, and South East Water. Each company has to produce a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) every five years which sets out how each company plans to secure water supplies for customers and protect the environment. Each of the three WRMPs identify growing populations and climate change as key challenges for the future and set out measures in order to improve the resilience of the water supply to drought and climate change in their respective areas[50, 51, 52]. As it stands, Thames Water, Southern Water and South West Water are all deemed to be areas of serious water stress according to the Water Stressed Areas Classification 2021[53].

3.5.9 The broad characteristics of the water company supply areas (Water Resource Zones) that coincide with the borough of Basingstoke and Deane are summarised in **Table 3-9**.

[50] Thames Water (2024), *Water Resources Management Plan 2024: Section 1 – Introduction and Background*. Available online at: https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/5nmpjafr/intro-and-background.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[51] Southern Water (2024), *Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 – Technical Report*. Available online at: https://waterresources.southernwater.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/02-WRMP24-Technical-Report.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[52] South East Water (2024), *Water Resources Management Plan 2025 to 2075*. Available online at: https://cdn.southeastwater.co.uk/SewHousehold/Documents/WRMP2023/Final/SEW_WRMP24_Technical_Overview_Document.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[53] Defra and Environment Agency (2021), *Water stressed areas – 2021 classification*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification [Accessed 11/09/2026]

Table 3-9 Basingstoke and Deane Water Resource Zones

Supplier	Water Resource Zone	Supply Summary
Thames Water	Kennet Valley WRZ	Predominantly supplied by groundwater abstractions (60%) with some support from local rivers (notably the River Kennet in Reading). There is minor interconnectivity with both South East Water and Southern Water to the south and east of the zone.
Southern Water	Hampshire Kingsclere WRZ	The northern part of this WRZ is supplied from groundwater, with minor interconnectivity with Thames water.
South East Water	WRZ4 (Bracknell)	The zone is comprised of a mixture of surface water (principally from the River Thames at Bray), groundwater (various boreholes) and bulk transfers (from the River Thames via Affinity Water).

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.5.10 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the WFD Regulations should lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses. However, this depends on the reduction of challenges causing waterbodies to not meet good status. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents; runoff from urban areas and transport infrastructure; the presence of non-native species; abstraction and physical modifications to water bodies.

3.5.11 The UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) indicate that the UK is likely to experience warmer temperatures, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers over the 21st century, along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. For the South East, UKCP18 suggests that winter precipitation could increase by around 9-26% by the 2080s, while summer precipitation could decrease by approximately 18-41%, depending on emissions scenario and model uncertainty[54]. The effects of this could include reduced river flows, lower groundwater recharge and greater demand for water in the summertime whilst wetter winters and more frequent extreme rainfall events may also increase surface water runoff, flooding and the mobilisation of pollutants, potentially affecting both water quantity and water quality.

3.5.12 The third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Evidence Report projects significant reductions in the availability of public water supplies by both the 2050s and 2080s, under both medium and high climate change scenarios[55]. Climate change is also identified as a key driver of increasing drought risk, with hotter, drier summers, reduced summer river flows, and increased pressure on water resources expected to result in a growing likelihood of severe and prolonged drought events across the UK without adaptive action.

[54] Met Office (2022), *UKCP summaries and headline findings – Key results 2022 (excel spreadsheet)*. Available online at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/summaries-headline-findings [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[55] HM Government (2022), *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61e54d8f8fa8f505985ef3c7/climate-change-risk-assessment-2022.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]

3.6 Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)

3.6.1 Climate change mitigation refers to measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance carbon sequestration to limit the magnitude of future climate change, while climate change adaptation refers to measures that increase the resilience of communities, infrastructure and the natural environment to the current and anticipated effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, flooding, drought, heatwaves and other extreme weather events[56]. In this context, this topic also incorporates flood risk.

3.6.2 Climate change is one of the most significant environmental problems facing the UK. The effects of climate change could include increased variability in precipitation and drought patterns, sea level rise, and an increased risk of flooding.

3.6.3 Flood risk considers the probability of an area experiencing flooding and the potential consequences of it. Flood risk will impact existing infrastructure and would affect future locations for any proposed new development. It also affects development design, resilience and access. Climate change is likely to exacerbate flood risk, with more extreme flood events likely to occur more frequently in the future.

Baseline Characteristics

Climate Change Mitigation

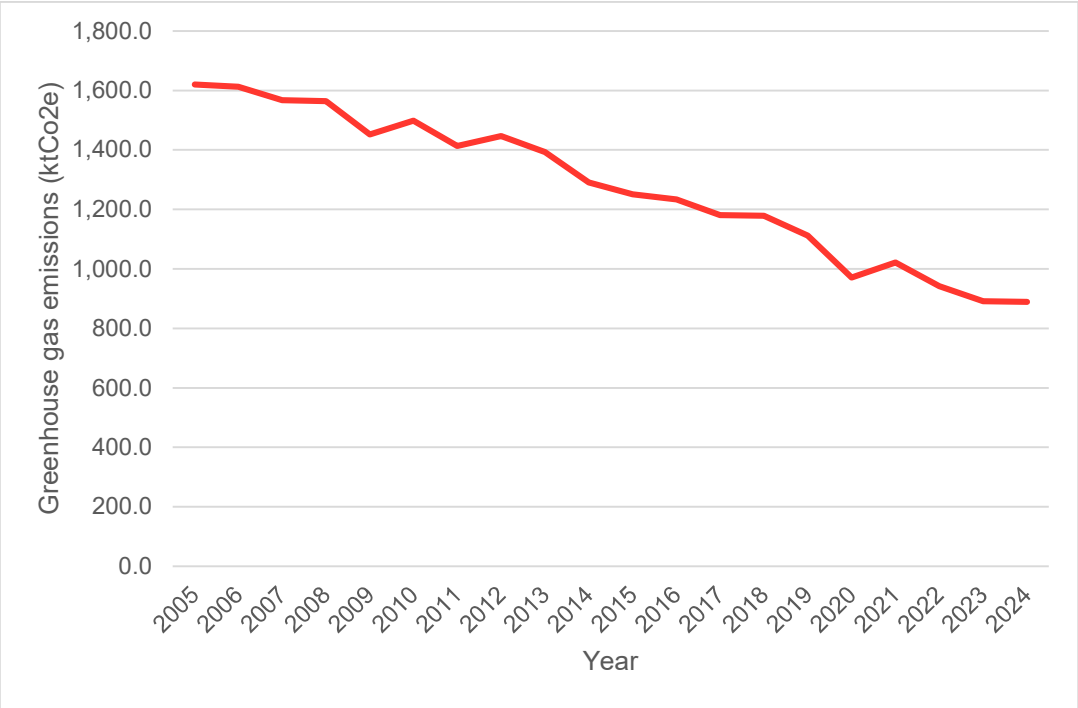
Greenhouse Gas Emissions

3.6.4 In 2024, total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Basingstoke and Deane were 890.1 ktCO_2e, making up approximately 2.3% of emissions in the South East. Since 2005, Basingstoke and Deane has seen a 45.1% decrease in emissions, which is lower than the average for the South East at 48.2%, and England at 46.4%[57].

3.6.5 **Figure 3-11** below shows the annual GHG emissions in Basingstoke and Deane between 2005 and 2024.

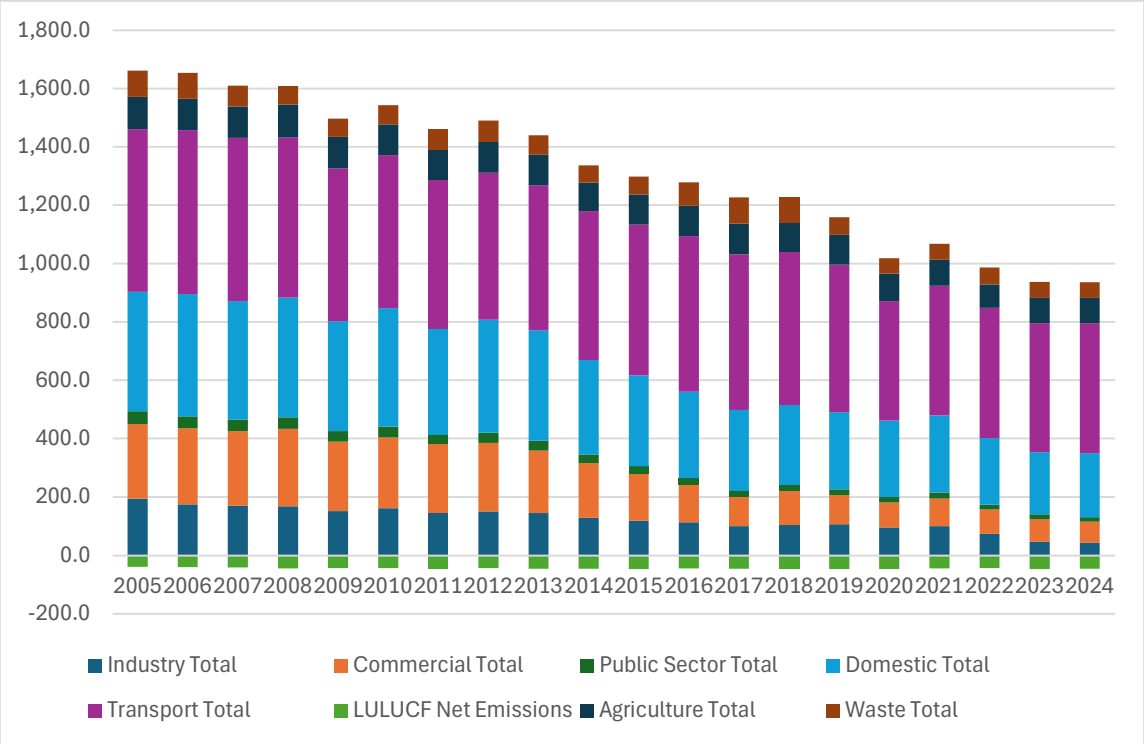
[56] European Environment Agency (2024) *What is the difference between adaptation and mitigation?*. Available online at: https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/about/contact-us/faqs/what-is-the-difference-between-adaptation-and-mitigation [Accessed 19/09/2026]
[57] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), *UK local and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005-2023*. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023 [Accessed 18/08/2026]

Figure 3-11 Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Basingstoke and Deane, 2005-2024



3.6.6 In 2024, the majority of emissions in Basingstoke and Deane came from transport with those emissions making up 50.0% of GHG emitted in that year. The next most came from domestic emissions (24.6%), and agriculture (9.8%). **Figure 3-12** below shows breakdown of GHG emission by industry from 2005 to 2024.

Figure 3-12 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Basingstoke and Deane by Sector, 2005-2024



Renewable Energy Generation

3.6.7 Increasing the amount of renewable energy generation is one response to the need to reduce CO_2 emissions, and the South East has shown an increase in renewable electricity generation from 792.8 GWh to 10,031.5 GWh between 2003 and 2024, however, there have been fluctuations in figures since 2020[58]. As of 2024, the South East has a total renewable energy installed capacity of 5,044.1 MW, equivalent to 8.3% of the total UK capacity of 60,595.8 MW[59].

3.6.8 Further information on energy sources within the borough is provided in **Section 3.10**.

Climate Change Adaptation

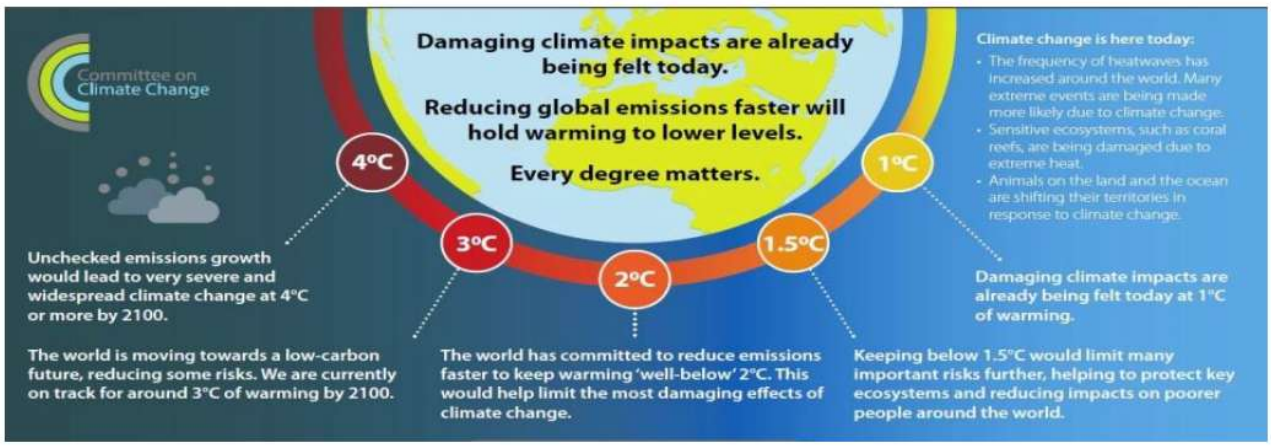
Climate Change Effects

3.6.9 According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) human activities have already caused global warming. Since pre-industrial times the global mean surface temperature has been estimated to have risen by 1°C. In 2018, it was identified that at the current rate, global warming is likely to reach an increase of 1.5℃ between 2030 and 2052[60]. The HadCRUT5 methodology of calculating average temperature rise identifies that in 2025, average temperatures had already risen by 1.6°C, with the NOAAGlobalTemperature metric identifying temperatures as having risen 1.4°C in 2025[61].

3.6.10 The IPCC estimates that the actions currently pledged are not enough to reach commitments; with current ambition likely to result in warming of 3℃ by 2100 (see **Figure 3-13**). Warming of 2℃ and above will lead to significant impacts around the world and in the UK; such as sea level rise, flooding, heatwaves, water shortages and falling crop yields.

[58] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), *Regional Renewable Statistics - Regional Statistics 2003-2024: Generation*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[59] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), *Regional Renewable Statistics - Regional Statistics 2003-2024: Installed Capacity*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[60] IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, H.-O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J.B.R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M.I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, and T. Waterfield (eds.)]. Available online at: https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/.
[61] Met Office (2025) Indicators of Global Warming. Available online at: Indicators of Global Warming [Accessed 17/09/2026].

Figure 3-13 Committee on Climate Change - Impact of Temperature Rises



Source: Committee on Climate Change (2019)

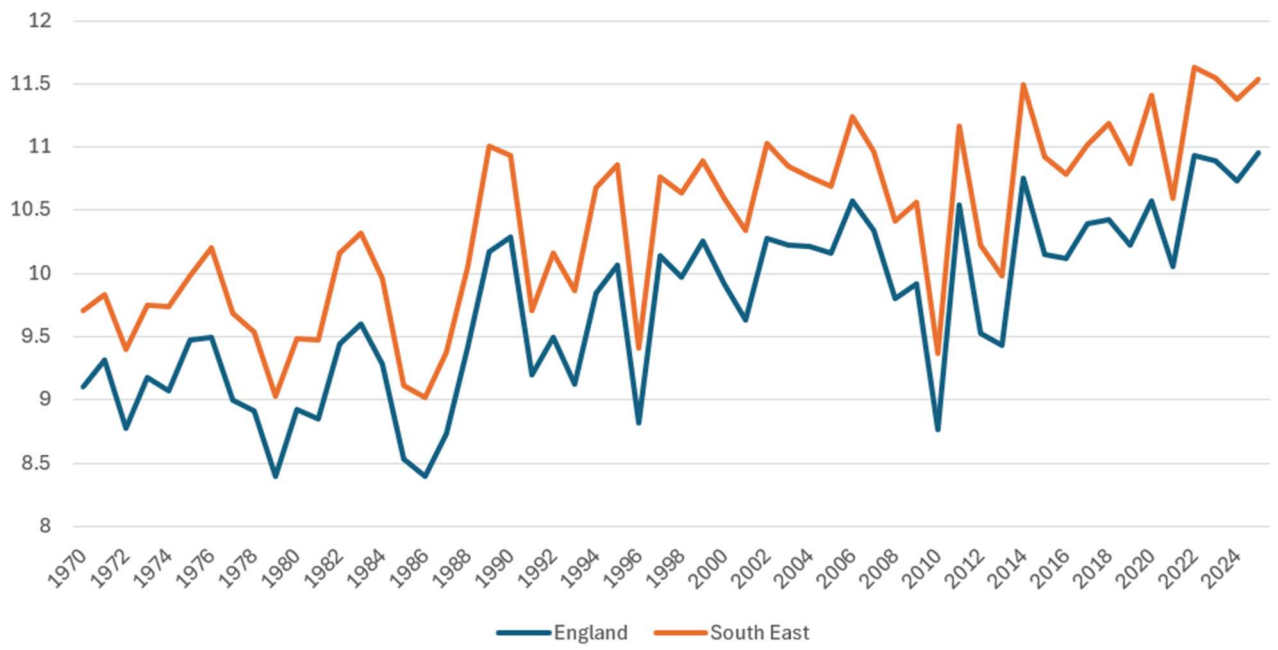
3.6.11 These trends have been reflected in rising temperatures across the UK. As required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government produces a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) every five years, with the first UK CCRA being published in 2012. The UK CCRA3 (2022)[62] summarises how the climate in England has already changed:

- Since the mid-1970s to mid-2010s, annual temperatures have seen an increase of 0.9°C, annual mean rainfall has increased by 4.5%, and sunshine has increased by 9.2%;
- There has been a UK-wide increase in extreme heat events; and
- There has been a UK-wide ~1.4mm sea level rise per year since 1901.

3.6.12 In more recent years, temperatures in 2016 to 2025 have been on average 0.51°C warmer than the period 1991 to 2020[63] in the UK. Within the England and the South East region, average annual temperatures have also steadily risen (see **Figure 3-14**).

[62] Defra (2022), *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022 [Accessed 21/09/2026]
[63] Met Office (2026) *State of the UK Climate*. Available online: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/about/state-of-climate [Accessed 21/09/2026]

Figure 3-14 Average Annual Temperature Rises across England and the South East Region from 1970 to 2025[64]



3.6.13 Rising temperatures across the UK and internationally are contributing to a range of interconnected climate change impacts, such as drought, sea level rise, increased flood risk, extreme weather and biodiversity loss. As a result of these challenges, the CCRA considers 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy[62], with the following eight risk areas prioritised for action:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards;
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards;
- risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards;
- risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks;
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;
- risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings; and
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.

3.6.14 The UK Government has committed to significantly increasing efforts to respond to these risks and opportunities. In 2023, the UK published its Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)[65]

[64] Met Office (2026), *UK and Regional Series*. Available online at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-and-regional-series [Accessed 21/09/2026]
[65] DEFRA (2024), *Third National Adaptation Programme*. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3 [Accessed 21/09/2026]

which sets out the actions that the Government will take to adapt to the impact of climate change from 2023 to 2028. Such measures include strengthening flood resilience methods, increasing green infrastructure in urban areas, planting more drought-resistant crops, and building more resilient infrastructure to withstand impacts such as flooding and extreme heat.

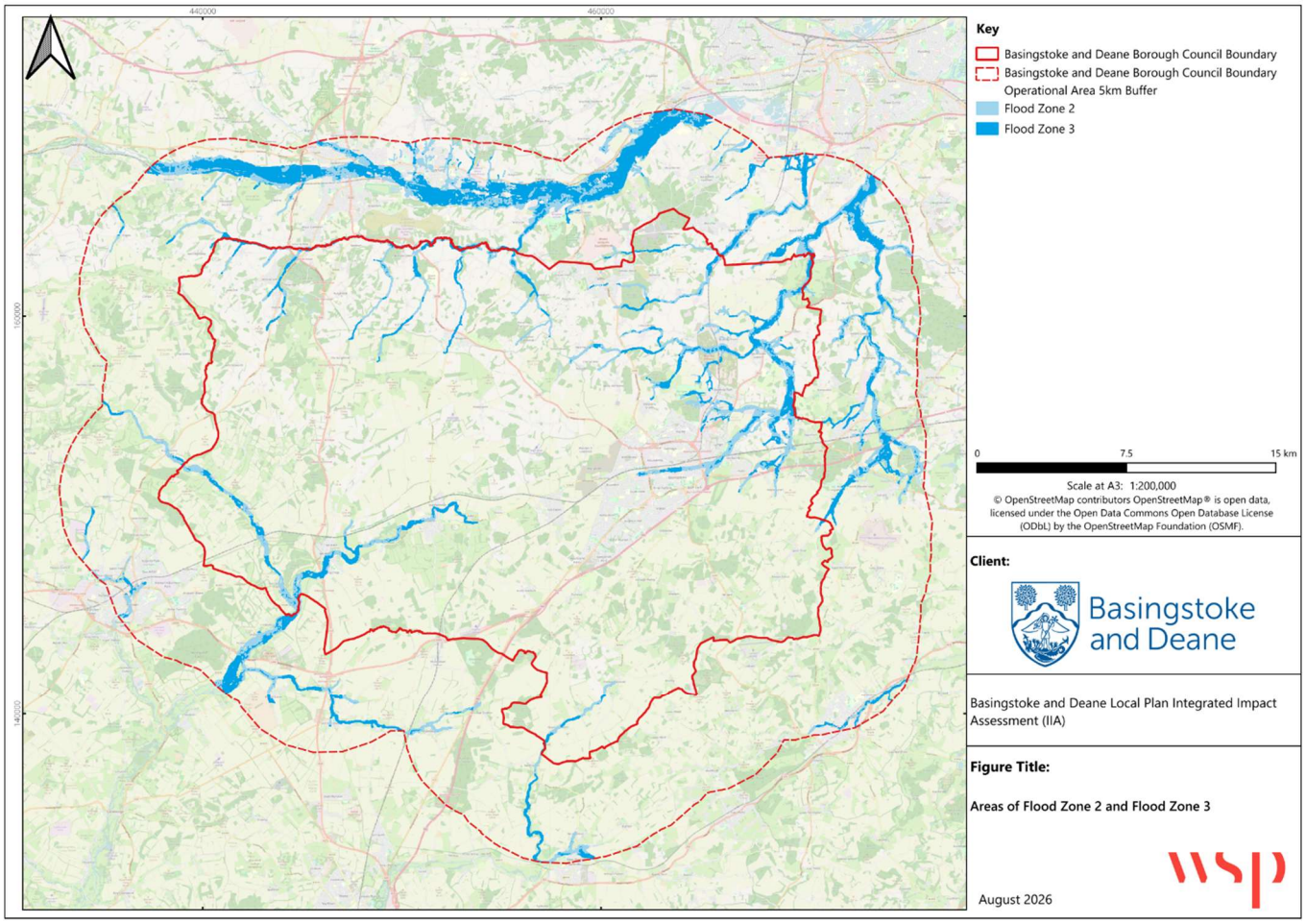
Flood Risk

3.6.15 Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 are terms used to describe a series of fluvial (river), and coastal (sea) flood extent datasets produced by the Environment Agency. Flood Zone 1 represents areas least at risk of flooding (assessed as having a less than 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river or sea flooding in any year). Flood Zone 2 represents area at medium risk of flooding, with between a 0.1% (1 in 1,000) and 1% (1 in 100) chance of flooding from rivers, or between a 0.1% (1 in 1,000) and 0.5% (1 in 200) chance of flooding from the sea, occurring each year. Flood Zone 3, meanwhile, represents areas with a high probability of flooding, with the chance of flooding from rivers 1% (1 in 100) or greater each year or flooding from the sea 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater each year.

3.6.16 The Environment Agency flood map[66] for Basingstoke and Deane is shown in **Figure 3-15**, which illustrates areas at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. This highlights that most of the borough falls within Flood Zone 1, however there are areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3, particularly around the River Loddon in the north east of the borough, as well as the River Test in the south west. The figure also shows that a significant portion in the north of the 5km operational buffer is within Flood Zone 3, this is specifically areas around the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal.

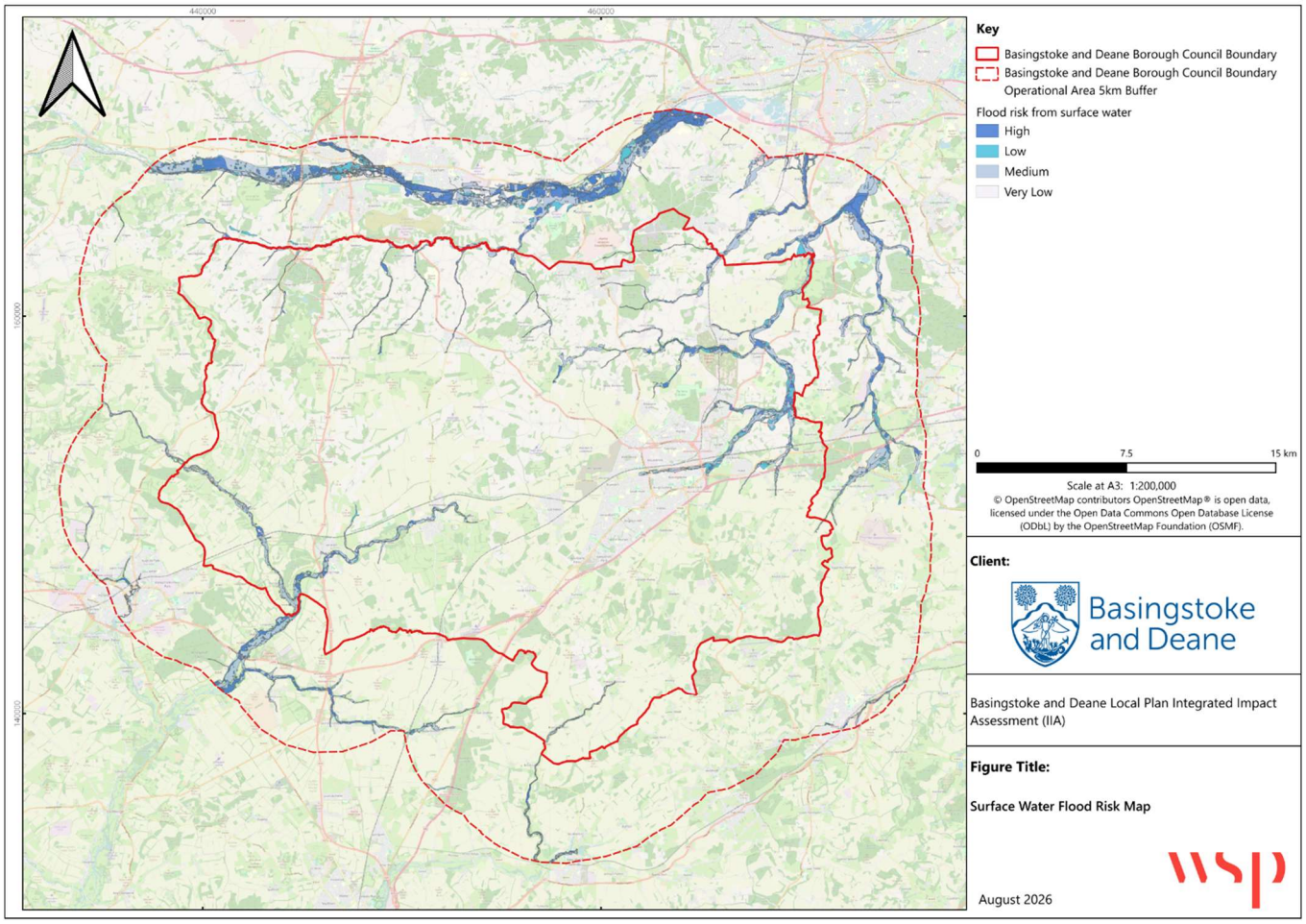
[66] Gov.uk (2026), *Flood map for planning.* Available online at: https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/map?cz=474467.8,161624.1,9.128 [Accessed 18/08/2026]

Figure 3-15 Environment Agency Flood Risk Zones within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.6.17 **Figure 3-16** shows surface water flooding across the borough and surrounding area. Surface water flooding is specifically flooding resulting from heavy rainfall overwhelming local drainage systems, as opposed to flooding resulting from the sea, river, or other waterbodies. This figure shows that the majority of the borough and surrounding area are at very low risk to surface water flooding. However, there are areas of high and medium risk in the borough around the River Loddon in the north east of the borough, as well as the River Test in the south west. The area around the River Kennet and the Kennet and Avon Canal in the 5km operational buffer are also at high to medium risk of surface water flooding.

Figure 3-16 Surface Water Flood Risk within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.6.18 Hampshire County Council has produced a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy[67] as part of its responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority. The Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy primarily seeks to protect people, homes, businesses and key infrastructure by:

- Avoiding risks and managing water resources through effective planning and design;
- Preventing future flooding by reducing or removing existing risks;
- Adapting to flood risk in order to minimise the impact and enable normal life to return as soon as possible;
- Enabling communities to be better prepared to react to flood events and recover more easily; and
- Adopting effective practices that are sustainable and affordable now and in the future.

3.6.19 This strategy also divides Hampshire into 18 water catchment areas that allows the Council to better understand the risks associated with the movement of water within the county.

[67] Hampshire County Council (2020), *Local flood and water management strategy*. Available online at: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/local-flood-water-management-strategy.pdf [Accessed 16/09/

3.6.20 The Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2025[68] gives an update on the current flood defences in place in the borough using the Environment Agency spatial flood defences dataset. It states that majority of the watercourses are not defended, however there is a small section along the Pettys Brook which is protected by flood defences.

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

Climate Change Mitigation

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

3.6.21 The Hampshire Climate Change Strategy 2020 confirms that Hampshire County Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have committed to being carbon neutral by 2050, in line with national targets, as well as preparing the county to be resilient to the impacts of rising temperatures. The strategy follows the national governments carbon budgets as a pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050, which calls for an average reduction of 3% of carbon emissions a year. The strategy goes on to state that with no changes to current emissions, Hampshire will use up the 2050 carbon budget by 2035, and the 1.5°C temperature limit, set by the Parish Agreement, by 2031. The strategy therefore sets out a number of key priorities, each with actions, in order to reduce emissions and build resilience which in turn would help to provide other benefits including reducing congestion, improving air quality, improved health, and economic growth.

3.6.22 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have set ambitious targets to be a carbon-neutral council in December 2025 and to work with communities and partners towards a net zero carbon borough by 2045. Adopted in March 2021 and updated in December 2025, the Basingstoke and Deane Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy sets out the approach to lead by example, facilitate change through policies and strategies and to inspire by educating, encouraging and empowering residents, business and communities. Actions are focussed on six areas; action by all, talking emissions from buildings, tackling emissions from transport, supporting the transition to zero carbon electricity, reducing consumption and waste and maximising mitigation and adaption of the natural environment. The Strategy is supported by an action plan which is regularly monitored and reported upon.

Renewable Energy Generation

3.6.23 The North Hampshire Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development Study[69], published in 2010, identified that the borough of Basingstoke and Deane has significant potential for the generation of renewable energy, stating the borough has significant resource for:

- Large and medium scale wind
- Biomass for direct combustion

[68] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2025), *Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/90560/Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment%20November%202025.pdf [Accessed 16/09/2026]

[69] AECOM (2020), *North Hampshire Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development Study*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26107/Final%20Study.pdf [Accessed 10/09/2026]

- Biomass for anaerobic digestion
- District heating with Combined Heat and Power (CHP)
- Micro-generation in existing development
- On-site generation in new development

3.6.24 The study also identified that the borough already utilises energy from waste generation.

3.6.25 The Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Sensitivity to Wind and Solar Energy Development study[70] assessed the sensitivity of landscape character-based Assessment Parcels to renewable energy development, considering landscape value and a range of visual and environmental factors to inform planning policy and identify areas with greater or lesser capacity to accommodate wind and solar schemes. The study is described further in **Section 3.12**.

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Effects

3.6.26 The UK CCRA3 utilises UKCP18 data from a 1981 – 2000 baseline to project how the climate will change in the future (to 2050 under the RCP2.6 scenario)[71]. In England, by 2050:

- Annual temperature is expected to rise by 1.3 ºC;
- Summer rainfall is expected to decrease by 15%;
- Winter rainfall is expected to increase by 6%; and
- Sea level rise is expected rise by approximately 23cm in London.

3.6.27 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) provides the following predictions of future climate in the UK (based on low and maximum emission scenarios with 10, 50% and 90% probability). The predictions indicate that by the end of the 21st Century[72]:

- All areas of the UK are projected to be warmer, more so in summer than in winter;
- Rainfall patterns across the UK are not uniform and vary on seasonal and regional scales and will continue to vary in the future.

3.6.28 UKCP18 provides the following probabilistic projections on changes in climate in the UK up to 2070 (based on a high emissions scenario)[73]:

- Winter temperature: an increase of 0.6 °C to 3.8 °C;
- Summer temperature: an increase of 1.3 °C to 5.1 °C;

[70] Hankinson Duckett Associates (2024) *Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Sensitivity to Wind and Solar Energy Development.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4447.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]
[71] UK Climate Risk (2021), *Summary for England (CCRA30IA).* Available online at: https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/publications/summary-for-england-ccra3-ia/#section-5-application [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[72] Defra, BEIS, Met Office (2022), *UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings*. Available online at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18_headline_findings_v4_aug22.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[73] UKCP18 website. *UK Climate projections (2019) Headline findings*. Available online: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp-headline-findings-v2.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026].

- Winter precipitation: a change of -3% to +39% in winter (where a negative change indicates less precipitation and a positive change indicates more precipitation);
- Summer precipitation: a change of -45% to +5%.

3.6.29 The changes in average temperatures and rainfall as a result of climate change are likely to cause hotter, drier summers which will potentially result in:

- increased maximum summer temperatures that are likely to lead to increased thermal discomfort in buildings;
- increased health problems in the summer, including heat related deaths and those linked to high air pollution;
- increased summer water shortages as summer rainfall decreases;
- growth in summer tourism; and
- changes to the natural environment including impacts on habitats and species associated with changing temperatures and water availability (in both summer and winter).

3.6.30 Milder winters are expected to result in:

- a reduction in the number and severity of annual frosts and snowfall, caused by the likely increased temperatures during the winter months which could lead to longer growing seasons for suitable crops and grasslands;
- less cold weather transport disruption;
- reduced demand for winter heating;
- less cold weather related illnesses;
- increased river and urban flooding, due to the increased incidence and severity of extreme rainfall events;
- increased pressure on sewer systems with associated water quality impacts; and
- increased localised flooding as a result of pressures on the sewerage/drainage network due to exceeded capacity.

3.6.31 The third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Evidence Report projects significant reductions in the availability of public water supplies by both the 2050s and 2080s, under both medium and high climate change scenarios[74]. Climate change is also identified as a key driver of increasing drought risk, with hotter, drier summers, reduced summer river flows, and increased pressure on water resources expected to result in a growing likelihood of severe and prolonged drought events across the UK without adaptive action.

Flood Risk

3.6.32 Climate change presents increased risk with respect to coastal flooding in the long term, while climate change combined with an increase in housing numbers and/or built up urban area

[74] HM Government (2022), *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61e54d8f8fa8f505985ef3c7/climate-change-risk-assessment-2022.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]

presents an increased risk to fluvial and sewer flooding. The UK Climate Programme 2009 (UKCP09)[75] projections for the South East for the medium emissions scenario central estimate (50% probability) that:

- Winter mean precipitation will increase by 16% by the 2050s. It is very unlikely to increase by less than 2% and is very unlikely to increase by more than 36%.
- Summer mean precipitation will reduce by 18% by the 2050s. It is very unlikely that summer mean precipitation will reduce by more than 40% and it is very unlikely that it will increase by more than 7%.

3.6.33 UKCP18[76] has updated the UKCP09 projections. It has found that climate change trends projected over UK land for the 21st century are broadly consistent with earlier projections (UKCP09) showing an increased chance of milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes.

3.6.34 The UKCP18 highlight several observations and projections relevant to flooding:

- The period between 2009-2018 has been on average 1% wetter than 1981-2010 and 5% wetter than 1961-1990 for the UK overall.
- Total rainfall from extremely wet days (days exceeding the 99th percentile of the 1961-1990 rainfall) increased by around 17% between 2008-2017, for the UK overall.
- UKCP Local project increases in the intensity of summer rainfall; which will impact the frequency and severity of surface water flooding, particularly in urban areas.
- There is expected to be a change in the seasonality of extremes, with increases in heavy hourly rainfall intensity into the autumn.

3.6.35 The Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2025[68] states that there are no proposed flood management scheme under the Environment Agency's current 6-year Capital Program in the borough and recommends that the Council should consider the following mitigation measures:

- Natural flood management;
- River restoration;
- Flood Storage;
- Green Infrastructure and urban greening plans; and
- Catchment partnerships.

[75] Defra (2009), *Climate change projections*. Available online at: file:///C:/Users/UKKDH775/Downloads/climate_projections_full_report.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[76] Defra, Beis, Met Office and Environment Agency (2022), *UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings*. Available online at: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/ukcp/ukcp18_headline_findings_v4_aug22.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]

3.7 Population

3.7.1 Population is an important factor for understanding how a plan or programme may affect communities over time. Changes in population size, age structure, and distribution influence the demand for housing, healthcare, transport, and essential services, and affect how different communities experience and respond to change.

Baseline Characteristics

Demographics

3.7.2 As of mid-2025, Basingstoke and Deane had an estimated population of 194,037 residents. Since mid-2021, Basingstoke and Deane's population has grown by 4.48% which is greater than the regional average of 4.26% and the England average of 4.03%[77]. The population and gender breakdown of the borough, the South East, and England as of mid-2025 is shown in **Table 3-10** below.

3.7.3 The population density in Basingstoke and Deane is much lower than the regional and England averages with a figure of 306 people per square kilometre, compared to 508 for the South East, and 451 for England[77].

Table 3-10 Population and Gender Breakdown as of Mid-2025

Area	Total	Male	% Male	Female	% Female
Basingstoke and Deane	194,037	95,766	49.35	98,271	50.65
South East	9,691,844	4,730,880	48.81	4,960,964	51.19
England	58,834,812	28,840,455	49.02	29,994,357	50.98

3.7.4 The 2011 Census recorded that the borough's population had a median age of 39 years old[78], however, the 2021 Census recorded that this had increased to 40 years old[79]. **Table 3-11** provides a breakdown of the age of the population as recorded in the 2021 Census. It shows that the age groups which made up the largest proportion were 35 to 40 years, 50 to 64 years and 25 to 34 years, whilst those that made up the lowest proportion were 85 years and over, 16 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years.

[77] ONS (2026), *Estimates of the population for England and Wales*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[78] NOMIS (2011), *Basingstoke and Deane Local Authority Local Area Report 2011*. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2011_ks/report?compare=E07000084 [Accessed 21/09/2026].
[79] ONS (2022) *Census 2021 (Age structure of the population, 2021, local authorities in England and Wales)*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwales/census2021unroundeddata [Accessed 21/09/2026]

Table 3-11 Age Breakdown within Basingstoke and Deane (Census 2021)[80]

Age Group	Count	%
All usual residents	185,154	100.0
Aged 4 years and under	10,555	5.7
Aged 5 to 9 years	11,550	6.2
Aged 10 to 15 years	13,242	7.2
Aged 16 to 19 years	7,071	3.8
Aged 20 to 24 years	9,233	5.0
Aged 25 to 34 years	25,646	13.9
Aged 35 to 49 years	38,813	21.0
Aged 50 to 64 years	37,032	20.0
Aged 65 to 74 years	17,458	9.4
Aged 75 to 84 years	10,692	5.8
Aged 85 years and over	3,862	2.1

Economy and Employment

3.7.5 In 2023, the South East of England has a Gross Value Added (GVA) of £354,501 million, the second largest of the regions of the UK, second only to London. Despite this, the South East is the second lowest growing region in the UK, with Gross Value Added (GVA) rising by 8.7 percent from the previous year, with only Wales below at 8.6%. The South East's growth was supported by stronger performance in real estate activities, wholesale and retail trade, and professional, scientific and technical activities.

3.7.6 The South East's share of total UK gross value added (GVA) has remained relatively stable over the period 2013 - 2023 (remaining between 14.4% - 15.4%) with a 14.4% share of total UK GVA in 2023. In absolute terms, the region's GVA grew by 50.4% over this period which is lower than that of the UK as a whole at 55.0%[81].

3.7.7 In 2025, the average gross weekly earnings for full-time employees living in Basingstoke and Deane stood at £823.10[82], greater than the average for the South East at £815.20[83], and

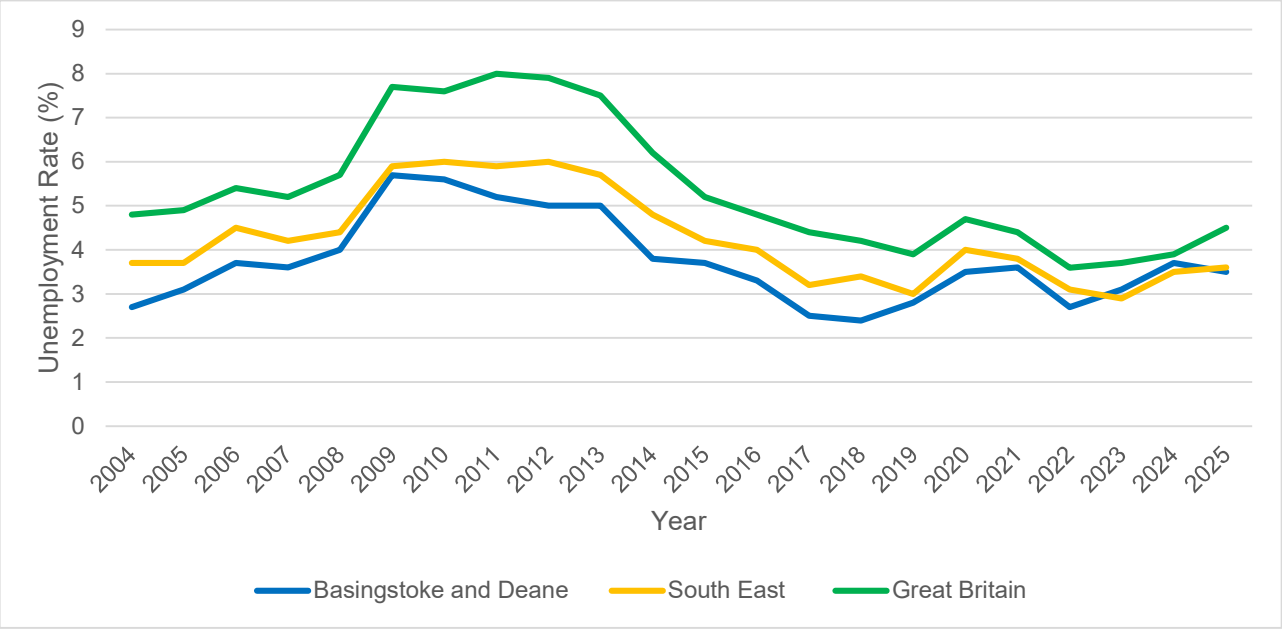
[80] ONS (2026) *Basingstoke and Deane Local Authority – 2021 Census Area Profile*. Available online at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021/report?compare=E07000084 [Accessed 21/09/2026]
[81] ONS (2025), *Regional gross value added (balanced) per head and income components*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva/datasets/nominalregionalgrossvalueaddedbalancedperheadandincomecomponents [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[82] Nomis (2026), *Labour Market Profile – Basingstoke and Deane*. Available online at: Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[83] Nomis (2026), *Labour Market Profile – South East*. Available online at: Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]

significantly greater than the England-wide average of £769.50, as well as the UK average of £766.60[84].

3.7.8 Employment rates (seasonally adjusted) between April 2025 and Marh 2026 show that Basingstoke and Deane had a higher proportion of economically active people in employment (80.2%) than the South East (78.9%), and Great Britain (75.5%). Economically active in this context is defined by the ONS as those persons of working age who are employed or looking to be employed.

3.7.9 **Figure 3-17** below shows the unemployment rate amongst the economically active population of Basingstoke and Deane, the South East, and Great Britain. As of 2025, Basingstoke and Deane had an unemployment rate of 3.5%, which is lower than both the South East average of 3.6%, and the Great Britain average of 4.5%. The figure below also shows that Basingstoke and Deane had consistently had a lower unemployment rate than the South East and Great Britain between 2004 and 2025, with only the South East having a lower unemployment rate in 2023 and 2024[82].

Figure 3-17 Unemployment Rate from 2004 to 2025



3.7.10 A breakdown of the workforce by industry sector as of 2024 is shown in **Table 3-12**. It shows that there was a total of 85,000 jobs in the borough, of which the largest proportions were in 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles', 'Human health and social work activities', and 'Professional, scientific and technical activities', making up 40% of jobs in Basingstoke and Deane[82].

[84] Nomis (2026), *Labour Market Profile – England*. Available online at: Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]

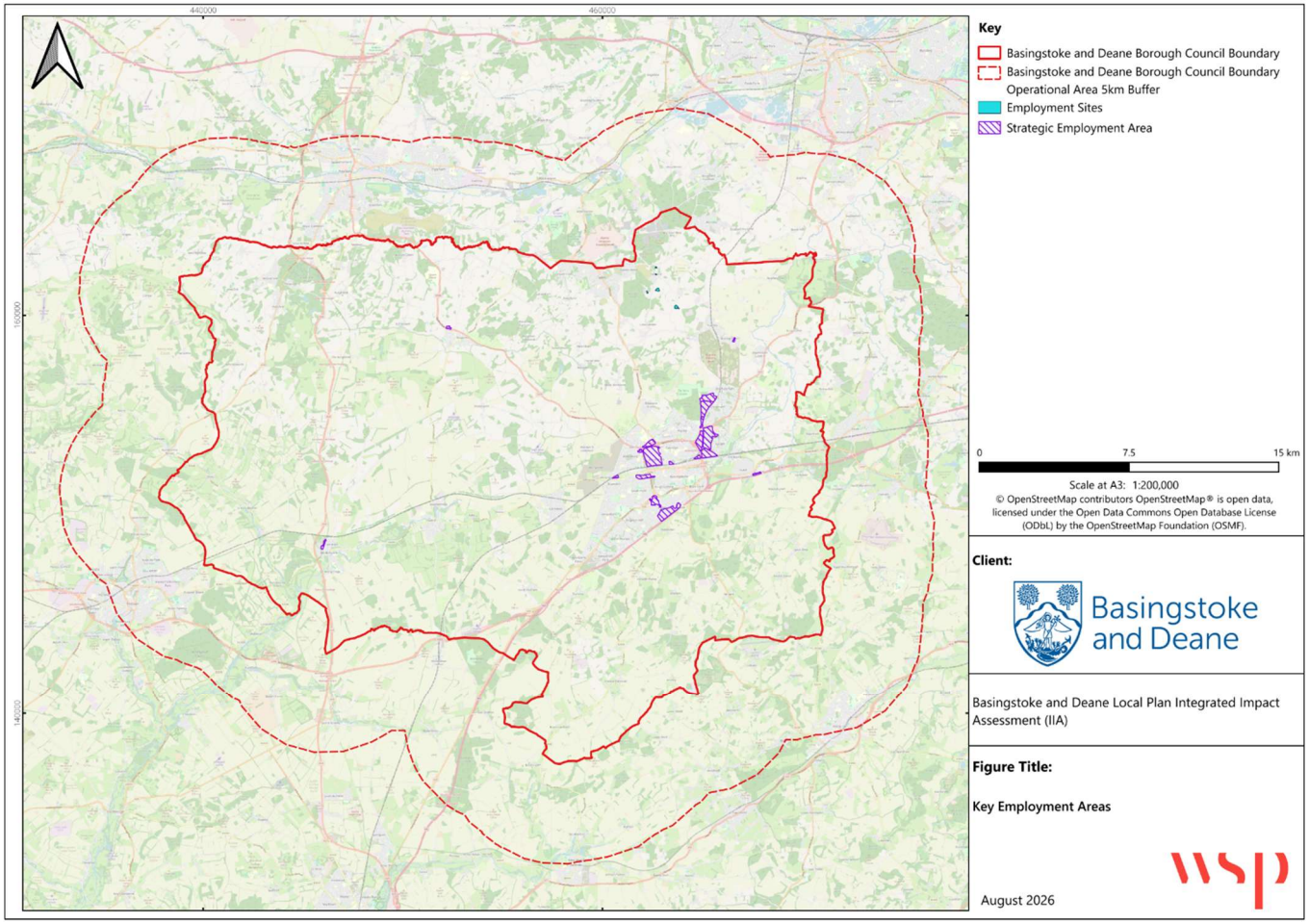
Table 3-12 Employee Jobs by Industry (2024)

	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	Great Britain
Job	Number	%	%	%
Mining and quarrying	50	0.1	0.0	0.2
Manufacturing	4,500	5.3	5.8	7.3
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	200	0.2	0.4	0.4
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	400	0.5	0.9	0.7
Construction	5,000	5.9	5.5	5.0
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	15,000	17.6	15.2	13.7
Transportation and storage	3,500	4.1	4.9	5.0
Accommodation and food service activities	5,000	5.9	7.8	7.8
Information and communication	6,000	7.1	5.6	4.5
Financial and insurance activities	2,500	2.9	2.5	3.4
Real estate activities	2,000	2.4	1.8	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical activities	7,000	8.2	9.3	9.3
Administrative and support service activities	6,000	7.1	8.3	8.6
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2,250	2.6	3.6	4.9
Education	5,000	5.9	9.8	8.6
Human health and social work activities	12,000	14.1	13.7	14.2
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2,500	2.9	2.6	2.5
Other service activities	6,000	7.1	2.1	1.9

3.7.11 Employment sites (existing sites with recognised established employment uses that are protected and where appropriate further intensification of employment uses is supported, as set out within the adopted Neighbourhood Plans) and strategic employment areas (which are

protected for employment generating uses as set out within the adopted Local Plan) within the borough are shown in **Figure 3-18** below. It shows that strategic employment sites in the borough are heavily concentrated in Basingstoke with some other areas located in Kingsclere in the north west, and Whitchurch in the south west. The figure also shows there are a number of employment sites located in the north east of the borough to the north of Basingstoke.

Figure 3-18 Employment Sites (Neighbourhood Plans) and Strategic Employment Areas (Adopted Local Plan)



3.7.12 **Table 3-13** below shows that Basingstoke and Deane has a higher proportion (48.9%) of those with RQF4 and above[85] qualifications and above than the national average (48.6%), but slightly lower than the South East on average (49.5%). The data also shows that in relation to each of those with RQF3 and above[86], RQF2 and above[87], and RQF1 and above[88] qualifications, the borough has a higher proportion than both the region and Great Britain on average.

[85] RQF/NVQ 4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent.
[86] RQF/NVQ 3 equivalent: e.g. 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3, 2 or more higher or advanced higher national qualifications (Scotland) or equivalent.
[87] RQF/NVQ 2 equivalent: e.g. 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2, intermediate 2 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent.
[88] RQF/NVQ 1 equivalent: e.g. fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C, foundation GNVQ, NVQ 1, intermediate 1 national qualification (Scotland) or equivalent.

Table 3-13 Highest Level of Qualification of the Working Age Population (age 16-64) in the within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East and United Kingdom

	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	Great Britain
Job	Number	%	%	%
RQF4 and above	53,500	48.9	49.5	48.6
RQF3 and above	83,900	76.6	71.0	69.0
RQF2 and above	99,600	90.9	88.6	87.0
RQF1 and above	102,900	93.9	91.2	89.3
Other qualifications[89]	#	#	3.9	4.4
No qualifications[90]	#	#	4.8	6.3

Note: # - Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Housing

3.7.13 As of March 2025, the borough of Basingstoke and Deane contained 82,204 homes. Of these homes, the majority were private owned (66,823), 15,256 were owned by housing associations, and 125 were owned by other public sector entities. None of the homes in Basingstoke and Deane were Local Authority owned[91]. The total net supply of new homes in 2024/25 was 721, 6.8% of the total net homes provided between 2012 and 2025[91].

3.7.14 **Table 3-14** and **Table 3-15** set out the number of market and affordable dwellings constructed in the borough in 2024/25. In 2024/25, the borough saw an almost equal increase in both market and affordable homes, with a net increase in 361 market dwellings and 360 affordable dwellings. The tables show that construction of houses in the borough has focused on the delivery of 3-bed homes for both market and affordable dwellings, while the construction of flats has focused on delivering more 1-bed and 2-bed dwellings. The delivery of affordable dwellings in the borough has seen a higher proportion in the construction of flats (39.0%) that is almost three times greater than that of constructed market dwellings (13.2%).

Table 3-14 Market Dwelling Completions in Basingstoke and Deane Borough in 2024/25[92]

House Type	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5+ Bed	Unknown	Total
Houses	7	42	147	97	24	-4	313
Flats	26	22	1	0	-1	0	48
Total	33	64	148	97	23	-4	**361**

[89] Other Qualifications: Includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications.
[90] No qualifications: No formal qualifications held.
[91] House of Commons Library (2026), *Local authority data: Housing supp17.9ly*. Available online: https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10562/ [Accessed 07/09/2026]
[92] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2025), *Basingstoke and Deane Authority Monitoring Report 2024/25*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/91016/Final%20AMR%202024-2025.pdf [Accessed 14/09/2026]

Table 3-15 Affordable Dwelling Completions in Basingstoke and Deane Borough in 2024/25[92]

House Type	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	Total
Houses	0	86	117	17	0	220
Flats	61	79	0	0	0	140
Total	61	165	117	17	0	**360**

3.7.15 **Table 3-16** below shows the proportion of different household tenures in the borough, the South East, and England. It shows that the largest proportion of people in the borough have a mortgage or loan at 34.1%, which is greater than that of the South East (31.4%), and England (28.8%) averages. A lower proportion of people in the borough own their home outright (30.6%) compared to the regional and national averages (34.3% and 32.5% respectively). Meanwhile a larger proportion of people in the borough live in socially rented accommodation, while fewer people rent their homes through private landlord, agencies or other means compared to those in the South East or England on average.

Table 3-16 Household Tenure in Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England (Census 2021)[93]

Tenure of Household	Basingstoke and Deane (%)	South East (%)	England (%)
Owned: Owns outright	30.6	34.3	32.5
Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan	34.1	31.4	28.8
Shared ownership	1.9	1.4	1.0
Social rented	17.9	13.6	17.1
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	13.6	16.9	18.2
Private rented: Other	1.8	2.3	2.2
Lives rent free	0.0	0.1	0.1

3.7.16 As of June 2026, average house price in Basingstoke and Deane was £272,188, with detached houses being the most expensive at £444,652 on average, followed by semi-detached at £277,332, terraced at £230,994, and flats/maisonettes at £193,711[94].

3.7.17 The Housing Affordability Ratio is the ratio between median earnings and median house prices, i.e. the number of median annual earnings needed to purchase a median price house. The

[93] ONS (2023), *Household characteristics by tenure, England and Wales: Census 2021*.Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/householdcharacteristicsbytenureenglandandwalescensus2021 [Accessed 14/09/2026]
[94] HM Land Registry (2026), *House Price Statistics*. Available from: https://landregistry.data.gov.uk/app/ukhpi/browse?from=2025-06-01&location=http%3A%2F%2Flandregistry.data.gov.uk%2Fid%2Fregion%2Funited-kingdom&to=2026-06-01&lang=en [Accessed 07/09/2026]

affordability ratio for Basingstoke and Deane is 8.78, below that of the South East average of 9.58, but above the average for England of 7.63[95].

3.7.18 Basingstoke and Deane's updated Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)[96], completed in 2017, assessed the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Basingstoke and Deane to 2032. Applying the planning definition in the *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites* (2015), the study identified 11 Gypsy and Traveller households and one Travelling Showperson household that met the definition of a Traveller, alongside a number of households whose status could not be confirmed. The assessment concluded that there was a need for 8 additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the period 2017-2032, comprising 3 pitches of current need and 5 pitches of future need arising from household growth and family formation.

3.7.19 No additional need was identified for Travelling Showperson plots. The study found that unauthorised encampments had generally declined and were largely associated with a small number of local Traveller households. As a result, it did not recommend a formal transit site, instead advising continued monitoring of unauthorised encampments and consideration of negotiated stopping arrangements or emergency stopping places if required.

3.7.20 Unauthorised encampments have historically been a problem in the borough. This relates to short-term encampments by local travellers rather than transit sites. Consequently, since the current Local Plan was adopted, the council has been granted an injunction (up to 3rd April 2027) against the setting up of unauthorised encampments within the urbanised area of Basingstoke town, as well as the outlying areas of Bramley, Silchester, Tadley Common and a small parcel of land at Stratfield Turgis.

Deprivation

3.7.21 The 2025 English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25) comprises of seven standalone indexes/domains (income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment) which are combined and weighted together to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD25), which is the official measure of deprivation in England[97]. The IoD25 measures relative levels of deprivation in small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), each of which have an average population of approximately 1,500 people or 650 households. There are 33,755 LSOAs in England.

3.7.22 Deciles are calculated by ranking the 33,755 LSOAs in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups. Decile 1 represents the most deprived 10 per cent of areas nationally and decile 10 represents the least deprived 10 per cent of areas nationally.

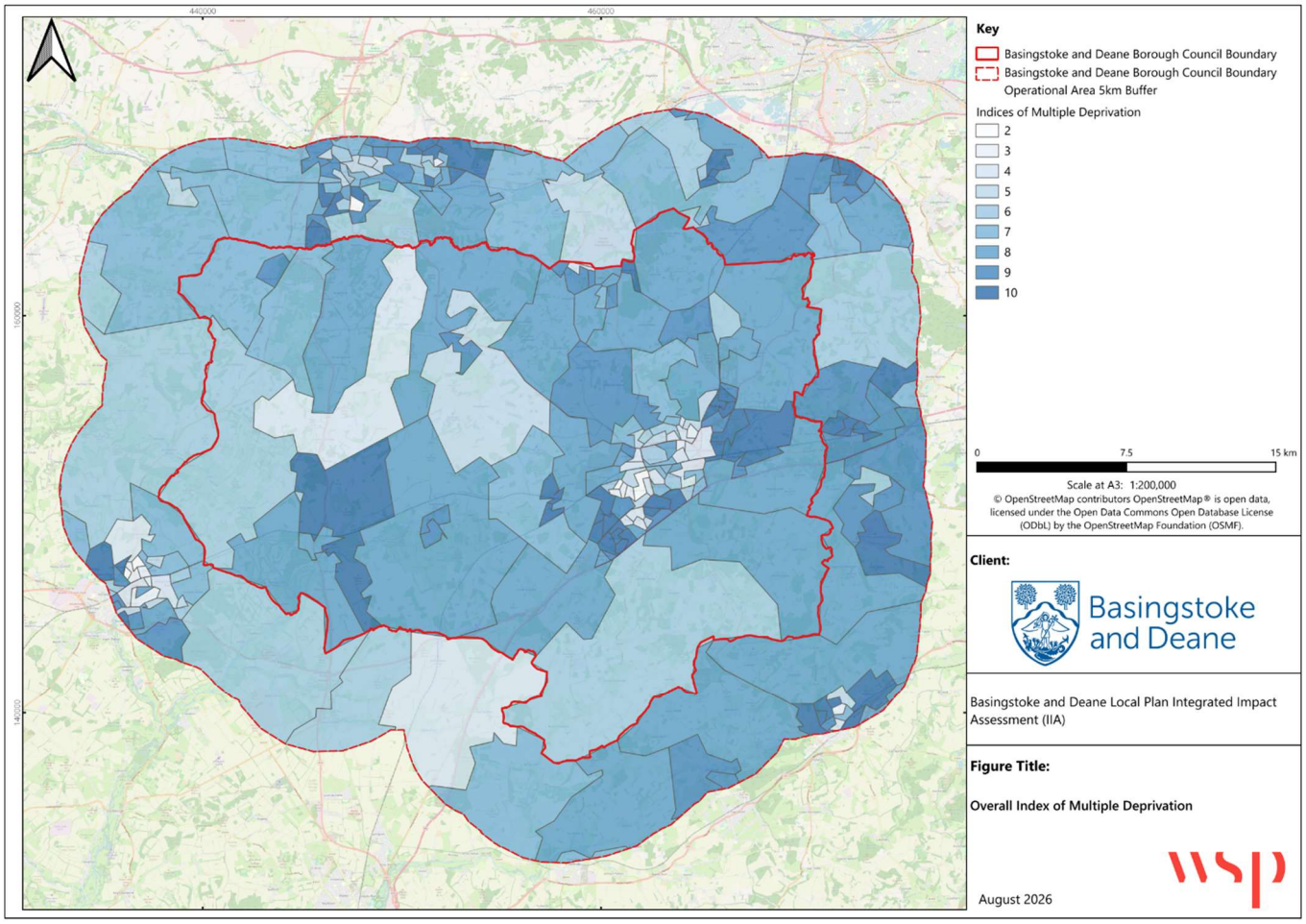
[95] ONS (2026), *Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2025.* Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2025#regions-and-local-authority-affordability [Accessed 15/09/2026]

[96] Opinion Research Services (2017) *Basingstoke and Deane Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/51085/Gypsy%20and%20Travellers%20Accommodation%20Accessment%20Final%20Report%20-%20April%202017.pdf [Accessed 01/10/2026]

[97] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025), *English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025-statistical-release [Accessed 07/09/2026]

3.7.23 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2025 rank and its distribution in the borough and the surrounding area is shown in **Figure 3-19** below. The largest proportion of LSOAs within the borough fall within the 8th decile (19.9%), while the largest proportion of LSOAs in the 5km operational buffer are within the 10th decile (23.1%), meaning the 10% least deprived in England. Approximately 52.5% of LSOAs in the borough are within the 30% least deprived, slightly lower than that of those in the 5km buffer which stands at 53.0%. No LSOAs within the borough or the surrounding area are within the 10% most deprived in England. Only approximately 4.9% of LSOAs in the borough are within the 30% most deprived in the country, while this figure is 7.7% in the buffer area.

Figure 3-19 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025 by LSOA within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.7.24 Population projections from ONS (2022-based) state that the population of Basingstoke and Deane will increase from 187,870 in 2022 to 215,281 in 2047, a change of 14.6%, over double

the UK average of 7.0% (increase from 67.6 million to 72.3 millions)[98, 99]. Moreover, the number of homes in Basingstoke and Deane is set to increase to 97,397 by 2047[100].

3.7.25 The Old Age Dependency Ratio (OADR) shows the number of people of state pension age per 1,000 people. By 2047, Basingstoke and Deane is set to have an OADR of 300.3 which is slightly less than that of the UK at 302. The figure for Basingstoke is Deane will represent an increase from its 2022 ratio of 257.1, while the UK average will be an increase from 278 in the same year[101, 102].

3.7.26 There will be a continued and substantial growth in the demand for housing, the number of dwellings completed, and the number of households formed, as a result of increasing population.

3.7.27 The Housing Market Assessment[103] assessed current and future housing needs, affordability, housing mix requirements, and the needs of specific groups. The study concludes that the Borough has a growing housing market, with a need for around 1,127 new homes per year to 2042, alongside a significant requirement for affordable housing, estimated at 371 homes per year. It identifies a particular need for social rented housing, recommends a housing mix focused on two- and three-bedroom properties across most tenures, and highlights the challenges posed by rising house prices, affordability pressures and an ageing population. Overall, the report emphasises the importance of maximising affordable housing delivery and ensuring that future housing provision responds to demographic change, local needs and planned growth across the Borough.

3.7.28 The Basingstoke Hotel Development Assessment[104] assessed the potential for future hotel development across the Borough and concludes that there is no requirement to allocate additional hotel sites up to 2030, as existing commitments are expected to meet forecast demand, with limited potential for only one additional budget hotel in the longer term. It identifies that the main opportunities lie in the further development of existing country house and golf hotels, through the addition of spa and leisure and function and wedding facilities, and possible development of additional bedrooms and perhaps alternative accommodation options (e.g. lodges, cabins, glamping, etc.)

[98] ONS (2025), *Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2022based [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[99] ONS (2026), *National population projections: 2024-based*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/nationalpopulationprojections/2024based [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[100] LG Inform (2026), *Household projections in Basingstoke and Deane*. Available online at: https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-area=E07000084&mod-metric=13453&mod-group=AllSingleTierAndCountyLaInCountry_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup [Accessed 07/09/2026]
[101] ONS (2025) *Old age dependency ratios and projections of State Pension and working age populations for local authorities.* Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/populationofstatepensionageandworkingageandoldagedependencyratiosforlocalauthoritiesandregionsinengland [Accessed 30/09/2026]
[102] ONS (2025) *National population projections: 2022-based.* Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/nationalpopulationprojections/2022based [Accessed 30/09/2026]
[103] JG Consulting (2026) *Housing Market Assessment.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/3414.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]
[104] Hotel Solutions (2019) *Basingstoke Hotel Development Assessment.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/66042/Hotels%20Study.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]

3.7.29 The Economic Master Plan for Basingstoke 2033[105] sets out the strengths of Basingstoke and the wider borough that would attract business and investment such as having a high-skilled workforce, being a regional visitor destination, creating new homes, and possessing a vibrant town centre. The plan sets out that, by 2033, Basingstoke with have:

- 4,000 new jobs from the regeneration of basing view
- An additional £233 million GVA per annum as a result of economic growth
- An additional 13,400 homes as a result of the housing development programme

3.7.30 The Economic Needs Assessment Update[106] assessed future employment land and floorspace requirements between 2024 and 2042. Drawing on economic forecasts, labour supply projections and market evidence, it concludes that the Borough is expected to generate around 12,400 additional jobs over the plan period, creating demand for approximately 58,000m² of office floorspace, with a residual requirement of 24,000m² after accounting for committed supply. The assessment also identifies a need for approximately 59,000m² of industrial (light and general) floorspace, of which around 37,000m² remains to be provided after accounting for committed supply. For logistics and distribution uses, the study identifies a requirement for approximately 189,000m² floorspace, with a residual requirement of approximately 177,000m² after accounting for committed supply. Overall, the study concludes that the Local Plan should maintain a flexible and sufficient supply of employment land and premises to accommodate projected economic growth, support investment and provide long-term market choice across the Borough.

3.7.31 The Basing View Intensification Study[107] was prepared to identify how the employment needs identified in the Economic Needs Assessment can be accommodated within Basing View. The study concludes that the area has the capacity to deliver the 24,000 m² residual office floorspace requirement identified through site intensification and redevelopment, while also supporting additional residential development and the continued regeneration of Basing View as a key employment location.

3.7.32 The Retail and Main Town Centre Uses Study[108] updates the evidence on retail floorspace needs across Basingstoke and Deane to 2041. The study concludes that, after accounting for existing commitments and allocations, there is no borough-wide need for additional retail (convenience and comparison goods) floorspace over the period to 2041, after accounting for all known commitments and allocations. Instead, it highlights that there is an existing oversupply of retail space, particularly in Basingstoke town centre, and suggests a strategy focused on the repurposing, diversification and redevelopment of existing retail premises to strengthen town centre vitality and viability.

[105] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2013), *Economic Master Plan for Basingstoke 2033*. Available online at: https://basp.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/437.pdf [Accessed 14/09/2026]
[106] Rapleys (2025) *Basingstoke and Deane – Economic Needs Assessment Update.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4549.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]
[107] AHR and Lichfields (2025) *Basing View Intensification Study*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4548.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]
[108] Lambert Smith Hampton (2025) Retail and Main Town Centre Uses Study. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4545.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]

3.8 Equalities

3.8.1 Equalities refers to the fair and inclusive treatment of all people, regardless of their personal characteristics or circumstances. It is concerned with eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, and fostering good relations between different groups within society. Equalities considerations focus on identifying and addressing barriers that may affect particular groups, promoting inclusion, and ensuring that people have equitable access to services, facilities, opportunities and decision-making.

3.8.2 Equalities is typically considered in relation to the protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership. It also often encompasses broader issues of social inclusion, deprivation, vulnerability and disadvantage.

3.8.3 Baseline information on gender identity, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and legal partnership status, is provided in the sections below. Baseline information on age and sex at birth and deprivation is provided in **Section 3.7** whilst baseline information on disability is provided in **Section 3.9**.

Baseline Characteristics

Ethnicity

3.8.4 As of the 2021 Census, 88.5% of the population of Basingstoke and Deane was white, meaning 11.5% of the population were other ethnicities, the largest of which are Asian (including Asian British and Welsh) who make up 5.9% of the borough population[109]**.** According to the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Resident's Survey, 79% of residents agreed that their local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together[110]. The full breakdown of ethnicity from the Census 2021 for Basingstoke and Deane, the South East Region and England, is shown in **Table 3-17**.

Table 3-17 Census 2021 - Ethnicity[111]

	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
Ethnicity	Number	%	%	%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	10,967	5.9	7.0	9.6
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	3,611	2.0	2.4	4.2

[109] ONS (2021), *2021 Census Profile for areas in England and Wales*. Available online at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[110] m.e.l research (2022), *Residents' Survey 2022 - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/81165/Basingstoke%20and%20Deane%20Residents'%20Survey%202022%20-%20Final%20report.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[111] ONS (2021), *2021 Census Area Profile – Basingstoke and Deane Local Authority, South East Region, and England Country*. Available online at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E07000084,E12000008,E92000001#section_8 [Accessed 21/09/2026]

Ethnicity	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	%	%	%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	4,717	2.5	2.8	3.0
White	163,840	88.5	86.3	81.0
Other ethnic group	2,019	1.1	1.5	2.2

Note: Percentages based on 'all usual residents' for Census 2021

Religion

3.8.5 The Census 2021 data shows that the largest religious group in Basingstoke and Deane is Christian, comprising 45.4% of the borough population, followed by 'no religion' with 43.4%. The next largest religious group in the borough is Hindu with 2.2% of the population, a larger proportion that both the South East average (1.7%), and England (1.8%). The full breakdown of religion from the Census 2021 for Basingstoke and Deane, the South East Region and England, is shown in **Table 3-18**.

Table 3-18 Census 2021 - Religion[111]

Religion	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	%	%	%
No religion	80,443	43.4	40.2	36.7
Christian	84,090	45.4	46.5	46.3
Buddhist	1,583	0.9	0.6	0.5
Hindu	4,099	2.2	1.7	1.8
Jewish	168	0.1	0.2	0.5
Muslim	2,802	1.5	3.3	6.7
Sikh	505	0.3	0.8	0.9
Other religion	1,139	0.6	0.6	0.6
Not answered	10,323	5.6	6.1	6.0

Note: Percentages based on 'all usual residents' for Census 2021

Sexual Orientation

3.8.6 In relation to sexual orientation, the Census 2021 shows that the vast majority of those in Basingstoke and Deane identify as straight or heterosexual with 91.2% of people (aged over 16) identifying as such, which is a greater proportion than the average seen in the South East (89.8%), and England (89.4%). A slightly lower proportion of people in the borough identify as gay or lesbian (1.3%), or bisexual (1.2%) than in the region or England on average (both 1.5% and 1.3% respectively). Proportions of those who report to be other sexualities in the borough are broadly consistent with regional and national proportions[109]. The full breakdown of sexual

orientation from the Census 2021 for Basingstoke and Deane, the South East Region and England, is shown in **Table 3-19**.

Table 3-19 Census 2021 - Sexual Orientation[111]

Religion	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	%	%	%
Straight or Heterosexual	136,562	91.2	89.8	89.4
Gay or Lesbian	1,914	1.3	1.5	1.5
Bisexual	1,794	1.2	1.3	1.3
Pansexual	160	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asexual	101	0.1	0.1	0.1
Queer	23	0.0	0.0	0.0
All other sexual orientations	170	0.1	0.1	0.2
Not answered	9,082	6.1	7.0	7.5

Note: Percentages based on 'all usual residents aged 16 and over' for Census 2021

Gender Identity

3.8.7 **Table 3-20** below shows the breakdown of gender identity in the borough along with the South East and England, as reported in the 2021 Census. The proportions are fairly similar across the borough, region, and the country as a whole. Basingstoke and Deane has a slightly higher proportion of people who identify as the same sex they were assigned at birth and 0.1% lower proportion of those who identify different to their assigned sex/gender, however the borough also has a smaller proportion of people who did not give an answer in the 2021 Census.

Table 3-20 – Gender Identity in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England[111]

Gender Identity	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	%	%	%
Same as sex registered at birth	142,392	95.1	94.1	93.5
Different to sex registered at birth	208	0.1	0.2	0.2
Trans woman	138	0.1	0.1	0.1
Trans man	154	0.1	0.1	0.1
Non-binary	76	0.1	0.1	0.1

Gender Identity	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	%	%	%
All other gender identities	61	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not answered	6,778	4.5	5.4	6.0

Marriage and Civil Partnership

3.8.8 Compared to the South East and England as a whole, the borough has a slightly lower proportion of people who have never been married or in a civil partnership, while it also has a slightly higher proportion of those who are married. Across all legal partnership statuses, proportions for the borough, region, and country are fairly consistent. The breakdown of legal partnership statuses in each as reported in the 2021 Census is shown in **Table 3-21** below.

Table 3-21 – Legal Partnership Status in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England[111]

Gender Identity	Basingstoke and Deane		South East	England
	Number	**%**	**%**	**%**
Never married and never registered a civil partnership	49,968	33.4	34.8	37.9
Married	74,613	49.8	47.4	44.5
In a registered civil partnership	229	0.2	0.2	0.2
Separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership	3,029	2.0	2.1	2.2
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	13,726	9.2	9.3	9.1
Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner	8,241	5.5	6.1	6.1

Pregnancy and Maternity

3.8.9 The latest data on births from 2025, shows that Basingstoke and Deane has higher averages than the South East and England for crude birth rate (9.8 compared to 9.1 and 9.5 respectively),

total birth rate (1.48 compared to 1.43 and 1.39 respectively), general fertility rate (51.6 compared to 48.2) and maternity rate (50/9 compared to 47.7 and 47.6 respectively). **Table 3-22** below sets out 2025 data relating to births for the borough, the South East, and England.

Table 3-22 – Data on Births in Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England for 2025[112]

	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Number of live births	1,910	87,765	558,988
Crude birth rate[113]	9.8	9.1	9.5
Total birth rate[114] (ages 15 to 44)	1.48	1.43	1.39
General fertility rate[115] (ages 15 to 44)	51.6	48.2	48.2
Number of maternities[116]	1,885	86,801	552,960
Maternity rate[117] (ages 15 to 44)	50.9	47.7	47.6

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.8.10 Projections based on the 2011 and 2021 census shows that the proportion of white British people in the borough will steadily decrease over the years to 55% in 2061, while 'white other' will increase to 10%, 'Asian' to 12%, and 'mixed' to 12%[118].

3.8.11 Those with no religion are set to become the largest religious group in the borough by 2051 with 74% of people identifying as such. Meanwhile the proportion of those who identify as Christian is set to decrease to 11% by 2051, and Hindu and Muslim populations are set to increase to make up 8% and 4% of the borough respectively[118].

3.9 Health and Wellbeing

3.9.1 Human health and wellbeing is an important factor for understanding how a plan or programme may affect communities over time. Environmental factors (such as air quality, water availability, and exposure to pollutants) or changes to these, can directly affect physical and mental health outcomes.

[112] ONS (2026), *Births in England and Wales: birth registrations*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/birthsinenglandandwalesbirthregistrations [Accessed 21/09/2026]
[113] The number of live births per 1,000 people
[114] Number of children a woman is expected to have over her lifetime
[115] Number of live births in a year per 1,000 women (aged 15 to 44)
[116] A maternity is a pregnancy resulting in the birth of one or more children, including stillbirths
[117] Maternities per 1,000 women
[118] UK Demographics (2026), *Basingstoke and Deane*. Available online at: https://ukdemographics.co.uk/places/basingstoke-and-deane/#religion [Accessed 11/09/2026]

Baseline Characteristics

Health

3.9.2 Life expectancy is used as a broad measure of the health of an area. In general, the health of the UK population is good, with the life expectancy at birth for both men and women having increased significantly in recent decades. Life expectancy at birth in Basingstoke and Deane in 2022 to 2024 was 81.5 for males 84.3 for females. In the South East and England life expectancy at birth was 80.7 years and 79.5 years respectively for males and 84.4 years and 83.3 years respectively for females[119]. These figures suggest relatively favourable long-term health outcomes for the population of Basingstoke and Deane and the wider South East region.

3.9.3 Figures from 2025 show that life expectancy at 65 is 20.8 years for males, and 21.6 years for females in Basingstoke and Deane, compared to 19.9 years for males and 22.3 years for females in the South East, and 19.3 years for males and 21.7 years for females in England[120, 121].

3.9.4 The 2021 Census reported that 85.1% of Basingstoke and Deane rated their general health as "very good" or "good", slightly above the rates for those of the South East (84.0%), and England (82.2%). Moreover, a lower proportion of people in Basingstoke and Deane (3.7%), reported their health to be either "bad" or "very bad" than in the South East (4.2%), and England (5.2%) generally[122].

3.9.5 Mortality profiles can be a useful indicator of the health of a population. The under 75 years mortality rate from all causes (persons, 1-year range) in the borough in 2025 was 264.2 per 100,000, which is lower than the England average of 321.0 per 100,000[123]. The infant mortality rate between 2022 – 24 was 4.3 per 1,000 live births, which is slightly higher than the England average of 4.2 per 1,000 live births, and there has been an overall decline in infant mortality rate since 2001[124].

3.9.6 With regard to self-reported mental wellbeing, for the period of 2022/23, 10.8% of people in Basingstoke and Deane had a 'low satisfaction score', higher than the average of 5.6% for England. Data for those with a 'low worthwhile score' was unavailable for the borough due to the value being supressed for disclosure control due to such a small count, however the average for England was 4.4.%. For those with a 'low happiness score', the borough proportion

[119] Office for National Statistics (2025), *Life expectancy for local areas of the UK: between 2001 to 2003 and 2022 to 2024*. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/bulletins/lifeexpectancyforlocalareasoftheuk/between2001to2003and2022to2024 [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[120] Fingertips (2026), *Public health profiles – Life expectancy at 65 (Male, 1 year range)*. Available online at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/age#page/3/gid/1/pat/6/ati/501/are/E07000084/iid/91102/age/94/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0 [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[121] Fingertips (2026), *Public health profiles – Life expectancy at 65 (Female, 1 year range)*. Available online at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/age#page/3/gid/1938133462/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/501/are/E07000084/iid/91102/age/94/sex/2/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0 [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[122] ONS (2021), *TS037 – General Health*. Available online at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts037 [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[123] Department of Health and Social Care (2025), *Mortality Profile.* Available online at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/mortality-profile/data [Accessed 17/09/2026].
[124] Department of Health and Social Care (2024), *Public health profiles.* Available online at: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/infant%20mortality#page/4/gid/1/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/501/are/E07000084/iid/92196/age/2/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1 [Accessed 17/09/2026]

of 12.9%, higher than the average of 8.9% for England; while 27.2% had a 'high anxiety score', which is also higher than the 23.3% reported for England[125].

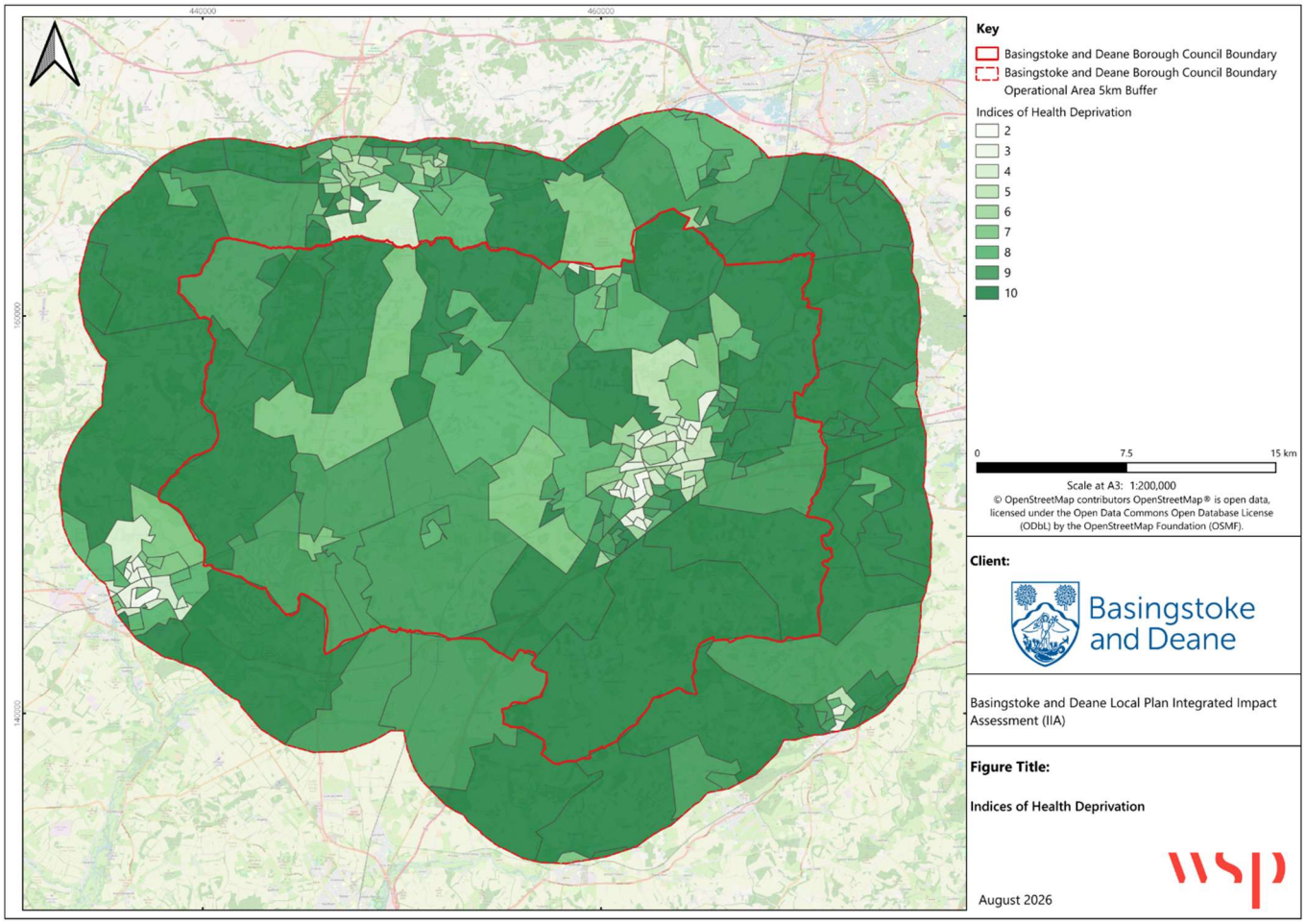
3.9.7 The Census shows that the prevalence of activity-limiting health problems or disabilities was marginally lower in Basingstoke and Deane than the regional and national averages. In Basingstoke and Deane, 9.6% of residents reported conditions that limited their activities "a little" while in the South East and England the figure is 9.9% 10.0% respectively. Additionally, 5.4% of residents in Basingstoke and Deane reported conditions that limited their activities "a lot", compared to 6.3% in the South East and 6.8% across England[109].

Health Deprivation

3.9.8 **Figure 3-20** shows the distribution and rank of indices of health deprivation (2025) across the borough of Basingstoke and Deane and the surrounding area. It shows that the highest proportion of LSOAs in the borough (27.7%), and the 5km operational borough (26.5%) fall within the 10th decile, meaning those areas are within the 10% least deprived areas in England in terms of health. In fact, 58.9% of the LSOAs within the borough, and 59.0% within the 5km operational buffer fall within the 30% least deprived in England. None of the LSOAs in the borough or surrounding area are within the 10% most deprived and only one area in the borough is in the 2nd decile. Approximately 10% of the LSOAs in the borough are within the 30% most deprived in terms of health.

[125] Department of Health and Social Care (2023),

Figure 3-20 Indices of Health Deprivation 2025 by LSOA within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Public Open Space

3.9.9 Regarding access to green and blue infrastructure, Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standard[126] aims to ensure access for everyone to green spaces and sets targets for the proximity and size for nearby green spaces. The main aim of the Standards is to ensure everyone has access to quality green/blue space within a 15-minute walk from home.

3.9.10 Some of the standards set by Natural England include:

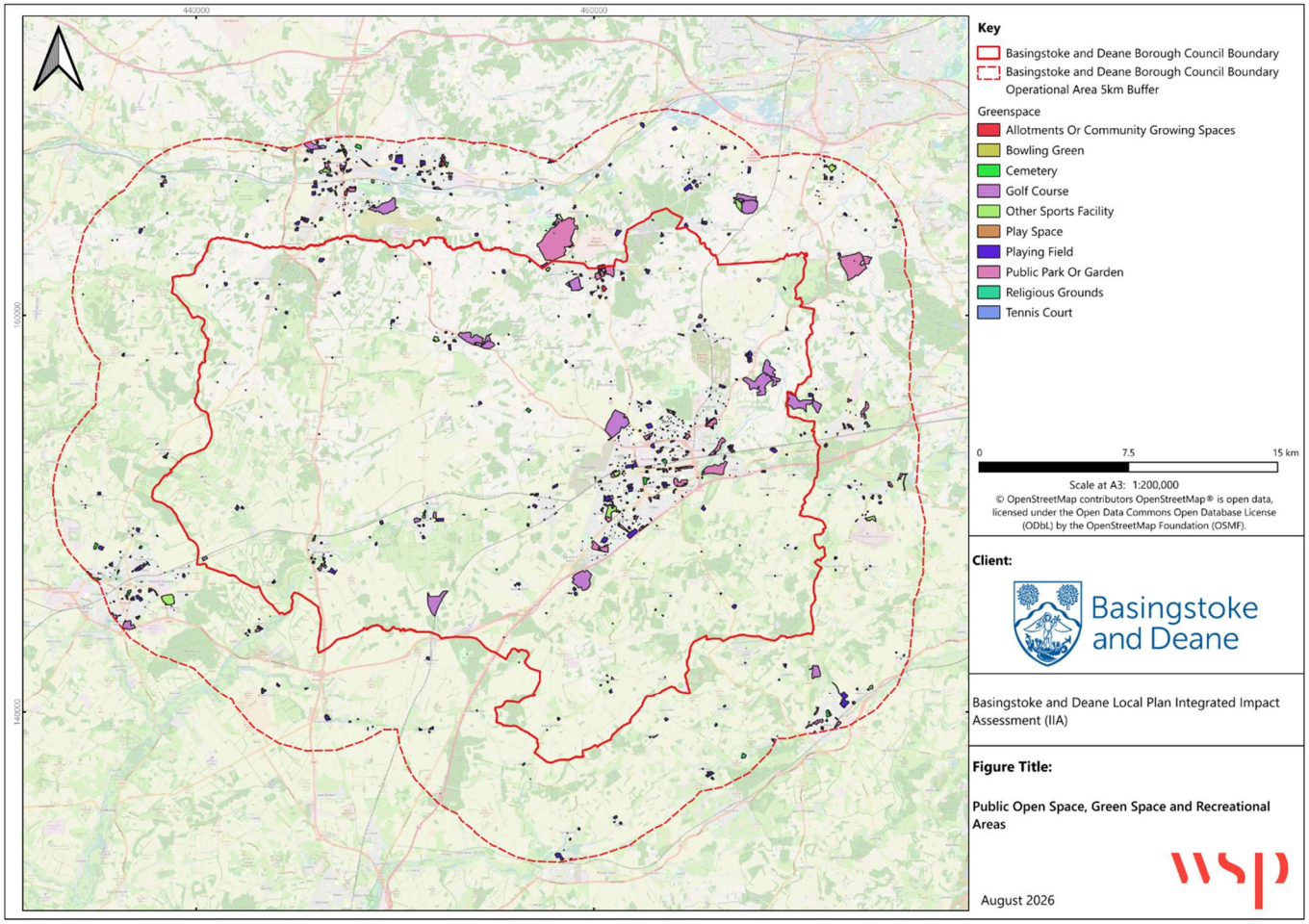
- Doorsteps standards: A 0.5-hectare site within 200m from home;
- Local Standards: A 2-hectare site within 300m from home; and
- Neighbourhood Standards: A 10-hectare site within 1km from home.

3.9.11 The distribution of public open spaces, green space, and recreational areas are shown in **Figure 3-21**. It shows that the largest areas of open space and recreational areas within the borough and surrounding area are public parks and gardens, and golf courses. The majority of open and green spaces and recreational areas within the borough are concentrated to the east

[126] Natural England (2026), *Accessible Greenspace Standard*. Available online at: Natural England Greenspace Standard [Accessed 17/09/2026]

of the borough around Basingstoke. Other, smaller areas of concentration are seen in the southern central part of the borough around Whitchurch, and the central northern part of the borough around Kingsclere. Within the 5km operational buffer, the majority of green and open spaces and recreational areas are located in the north around Newbury, as well as the south east around Andover.

Figure 3-21 Public Open Space, Green Space and Recreational Areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

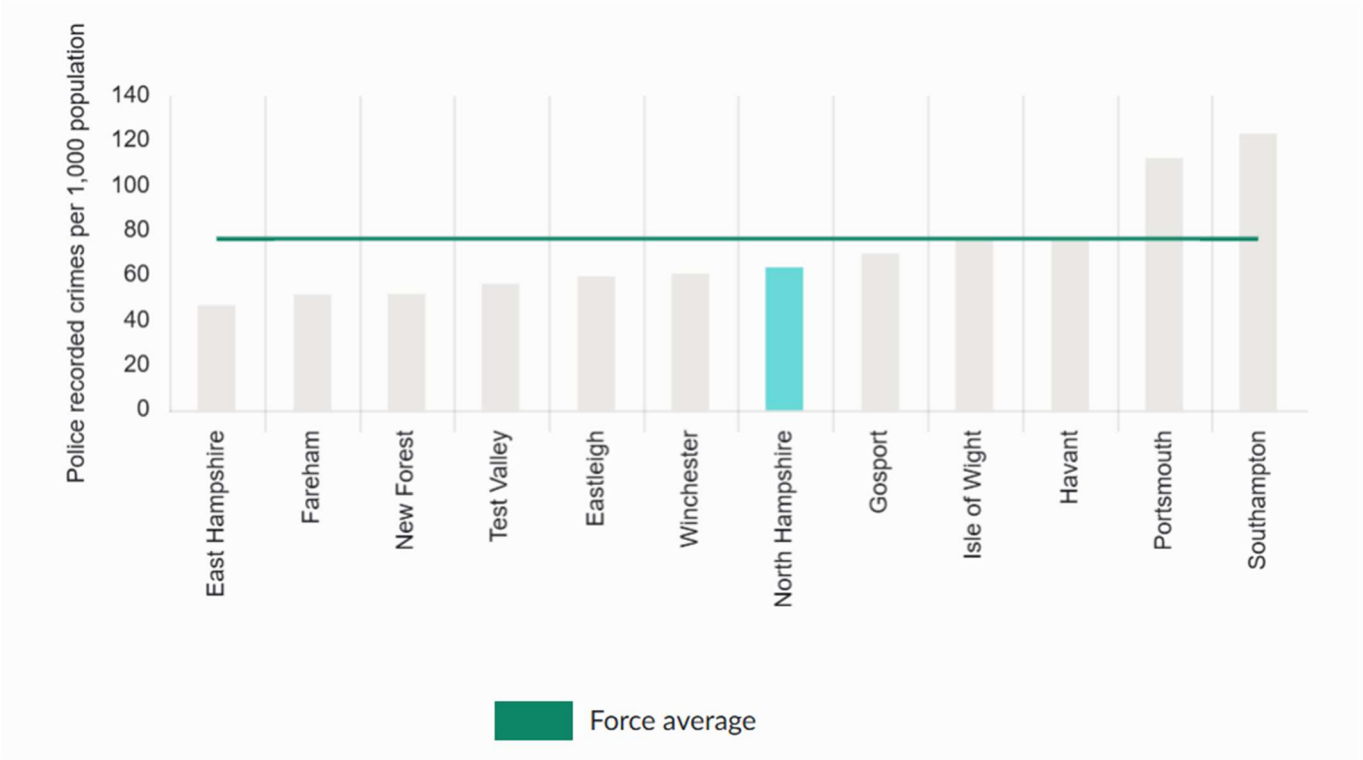


Crime

3.9.12 **Figure 3-22** outlines the recorded crime rate per 1,000 population for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary area. In the year ending March 2026, the crime rate for all crimes in North Hampshire was lower than average for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary area[127].

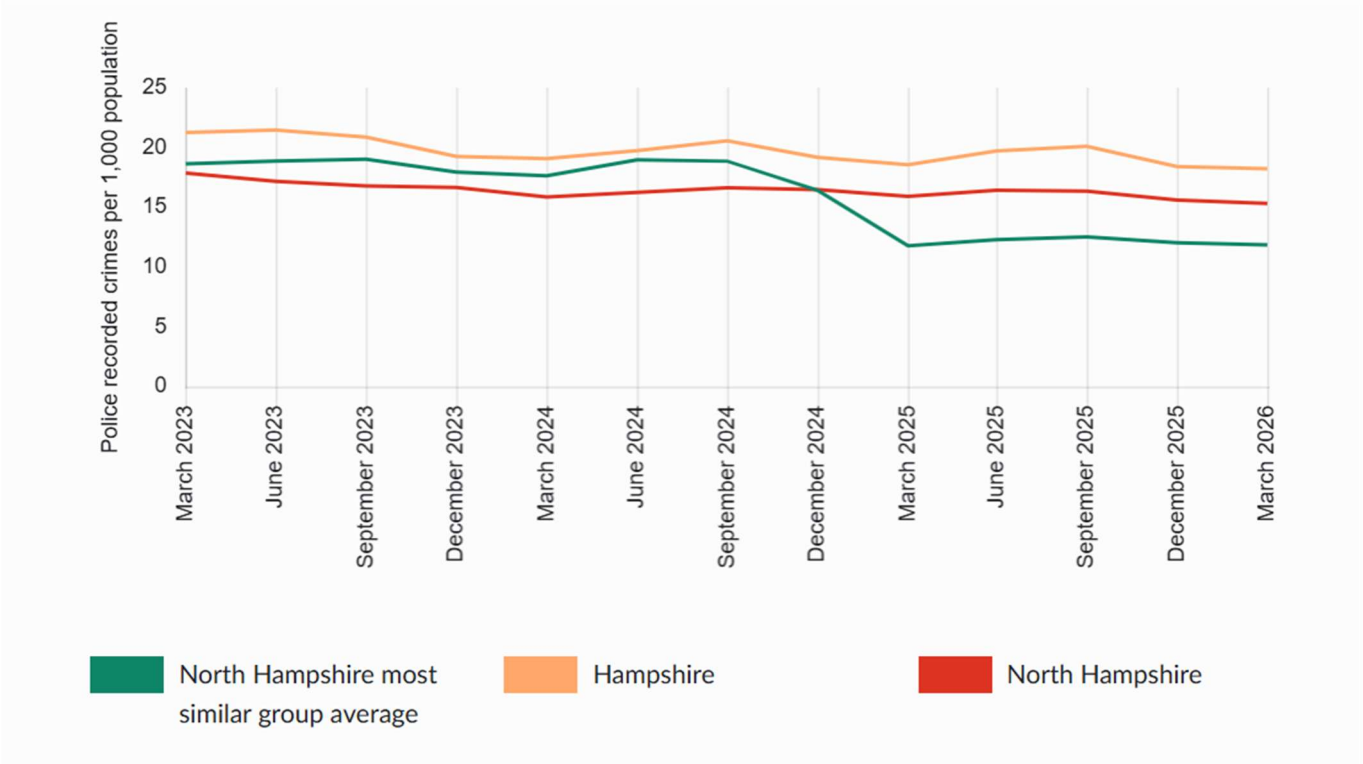
[127] Police.UK (2026), *Compare your area*. Available online: https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/hampshire-constabulary/performance/compare-your-area/?tc=12BB02 [Accessed 17/092026]

Figure 3-22 Crime in North Hampshire Compared with Crime in Other Areas in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary Area (2026)



3.9.13 **Figure 3-23** shows the trend in crime rates of all recorded crime between March 2023 and March 2026. North Hampshire has seen fairly even levels of crime across the period and has been consistently lower than Hampshire as a whole on average. As of March 2026, recorded crime rates were 11.9 per 1,000 population compared with 18.2 per 1,000 population in Hampshire as a whole.

Figure 3-23 Crime Changes Over Time in Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary Area (2023 – 2026)[127, 128]



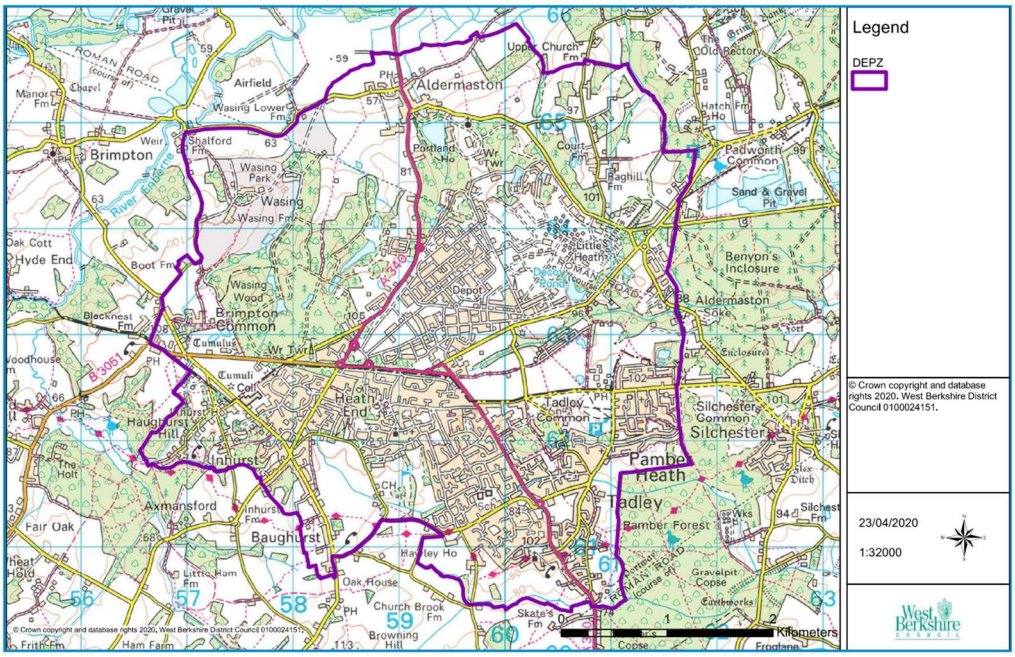
Nuclear Installations and Public Safety

3.9.14 There are two licensed nuclear installations located close to the Borough boundary: the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield, both within West Berkshire. To ensure public safety, new development in the vicinity of these facilities must be capable of being accommodated within the Off-Site Nuclear Emergency Plan in the event of an emergency.

3.9.15 **Figure 3-24** shows the Aldermaston Detailed Emergency Planning Zone, which extends into parts of the Borough, particularly Tadley. Policy SS1 of the adopted Local Plan 2011–2029 requires consultation with the Office for Nuclear Regulation on development proposals within the consultation zones. The resulting development constraints have influenced the scale and distribution of growth in Tadley over recent years.

[128] The 'North Hampshire most similar group average' shows how the average crime rates in similar areas to North Hampshire have changed over time.

Figure 3-24 AWE Aldermaston Detailed Emergency Planning Zone[129]



Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.9.16 Population projections indicate a significant proportion of growth will be in the 65 and over age group. Overall increases in population are likely to place additional pressures on water resources as well as health services, which is likely to be exacerbated by an ageing population.

3.9.17 The Basingstoke and Deane Active Wellbeing Strategy 2026 to 2031[130] sets out a vision for the borough to contain '*happier, healthier communities where everyone can be active in their own way'.* It sets out four priority areas in which the Council focuses in order to deliver meaningful and measurable improvements to the lives of residents. The strategy also sets out an action plan, centred around the four priorities, which is maintained as a live document to be regularly reviewed and updated. The four priories of the strategy are:

- **Adults** – focuses on supporting residents experiencing mental health conditions, individuals from ethnically diverse communities, women and adults aged over 65, ensuring that our ambitions and actions are effectively tailored to reach and engage these groups.
- **People living in areas facing socio-economic challenges** – to reach, include and support individuals, contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for those who may benefit most.
- **People living with disabilities and long-term health conditions** – improving accessibility, building confidence and creating inclusive opportunities to take part and benefit from.

[129] West Berkshire Council (undated) *What you should do if there is a radiation emergency at the AWE Aldermaston or Burghfield sites.* Available online at: https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/59584/CD27-10-WBC-REPPIR-booklet/pdf/CD27.10_WBC_REPPIR_booklet.pdf?m=1723644792637 [Accessed 01/10/2026]
[130] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2026), *Active Wellbeing Strategy 2026 to 2031.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/pagepdf/active-wellbeing-strategy.pdf [Accessed 14/09/2026]

- **Children and young people** – particular emphasis on girls and those experiencing mental health conditions, guiding our ambitions and actions to better reach and support them to improve their active wellbeing.

3.9.18 With regard to greenspace, the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane (2018-2029)[131] sets out a clear long-term ambition to create a more connected, multifunctional and resilient green infrastructure network that supports planned growth whilst improving biodiversity, access to nature, health and wellbeing, climate resilience and the quality of the borough's landscapes. The strategy seeks to move beyond simply protecting existing open spaces towards expanding green infrastructure, addressing deficiencies in provision, creating new country parks, strengthening ecological networks, increasing woodland cover and urban tree canopy, achieving biodiversity net gain through development, and improving access to high quality green spaces across both Basingstoke and the wider rural area.

3.9.19 The Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment - 2022 Update[132] provides the evidence base for planning future sport, recreation, community facility and playing pitch provision across Basingstoke and Deane to 2040. It assesses existing facilities, projected population growth, participation trends and community needs, identifying where investment, enhancement or new provision will be required to support healthy, active and connected communities. The study aligns with the emerging Local Plan, Horizon 2050 and Sport England guidance, and sets out strategic priorities and an action plan to help the Council, partners and developers direct future funding and infrastructure delivery, ensuring that leisure, recreation and community facilities keep pace with growth and continue to support residents' health and wellbeing.

3.10 Materials and Waste

3.10.1 Material assets and resource use (including waste) will impact new development and may have implications for how development is designed, particularly regarding material re-use. Resources are likely to become more scarce into the future, therefore making materials and resource use important considerations for the achievement of sustainable development. Waste management in this context is defined as the processing, recycling or disposal of waste.

Baseline Characteristics

Energy

3.10.2 **Table 3-23** shows that total energy use for Basingstoke and Deane, the South East, and England, for domestic, transport, and industrial, commercial and other uses. It shows that domestic use in the South East was broadly in line with that of England as a whole, however, transport was slightly higher whilst industrial, commercial and other use was notably lower. Meanwhile, the data shows that energy consumption for industrial, commercial and other uses in Basingstoke and Deane are significantly below regional and national levels, while energy

[131] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2018) Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane (2018 to 2029). Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/94159/Green%20Infrastructure%20Strategy%20for%20Basingstoke%20and%20Deane%202018-29%20-%20Nov2018.pdf [Accessed 01/10/2026]

[132] LUC (2022) *Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment – 2022 Update.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-evidence [Accessed 02/10/2026]

consumption in transport within the borough is significantly above the regional and national level[133].

Table 3-23 Breakdown of Energy Consumption in Basingstoke and Deane, the South East and England (ktoe) (2024)[133]

	Domestic		Transport		Industrial, Commercial and Other		
Area	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Total**
Basingstoke and Deane	103.4	30.6	162.4	48.0	72.5	21.4	**338.2**
South East	5,237.3	32.6	5,872.8	36.5	4,969.6	30.9	**16,079.8**
England	30,771.3	31.8	32,985.9	34.1	32,998.2	34.1	**96,755.3**

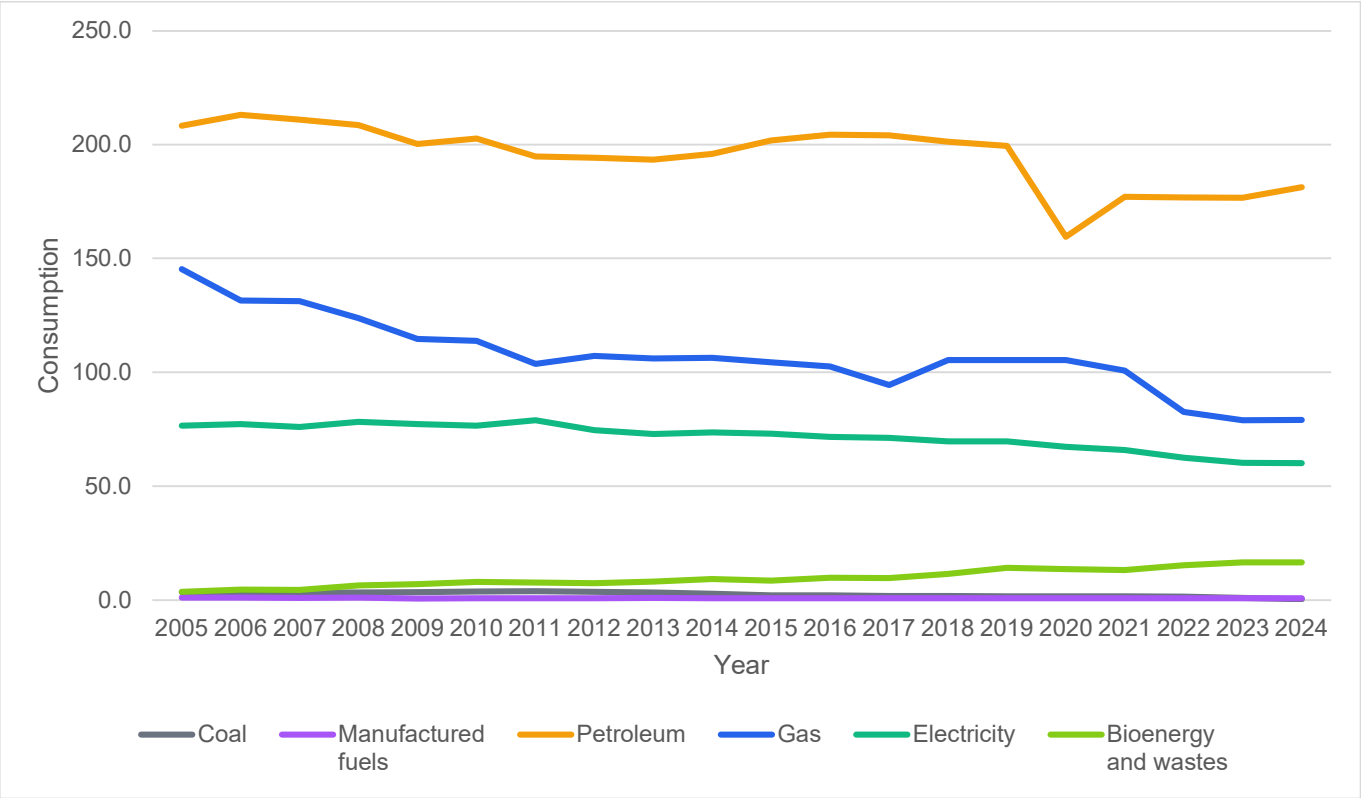
3.10.3 Energy consumption by source in Basingstoke and Deane is generally representative of regional and national trends with the most energy coming from petroleum followed by natural gas, however petroleum is used to generate a greater proportion of energy in Basingstoke and Deane (53.6%) than in the South East (45.9%) and England (41.1%), while natural gas generates a lower proportion in the borough (23.4%) than the South East (29.7%) and England (33.2%) in 2024[133].

3.10.4 Overall total energy consumption in Basingstoke and Deane has reduced by 22.8% between 2005 and 2024. **Figure 3-25** shows how energy consumption by source has changed over the same period. It shows that broadly energy from coal, petroleum, gas, and electricity have all reduced, whilst energy from bioenergy and wastes has increased, and energy from manufactured fuels (such as coke oven coke, coke breeze, and patent fuel[134]) has remained relatively consistent, with only a minor decrease.

[133] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026), *Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2024*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2024 [Accessed 18/09/2026]

[134] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2026) *UK sub-national residual fuels 2005-2024 methodology summary*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-residual-fuel-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2024/uk-sub-national-residual-fuels-2005-2024-methodology-summary [Accessed 29/09/2026]

Figure 3-25 Total Energy Consumption (ktoe) by Fuel Type, Basingstoke and Deane, 2005 to 2024[133]



3.10.5 The South East region generated 10,031.5 GWh of electricity from renewable sources in 2024, making up approximately 10.7% of England's and 7.0% of the UK's renewable generation in the same year (94,109.0 GWh and 143,564.0 GWh respectively)[135]. Renewable energy generation has significantly increased in all regions over the past 20 years, with generation from renewables in 2004 being 953.9 GWh in the South East (increase of 951.6% between 2004 and 2024). This is in line with trends seen nationally (the whole of England saw a 1221.8% increase in renewable generation over the same period).

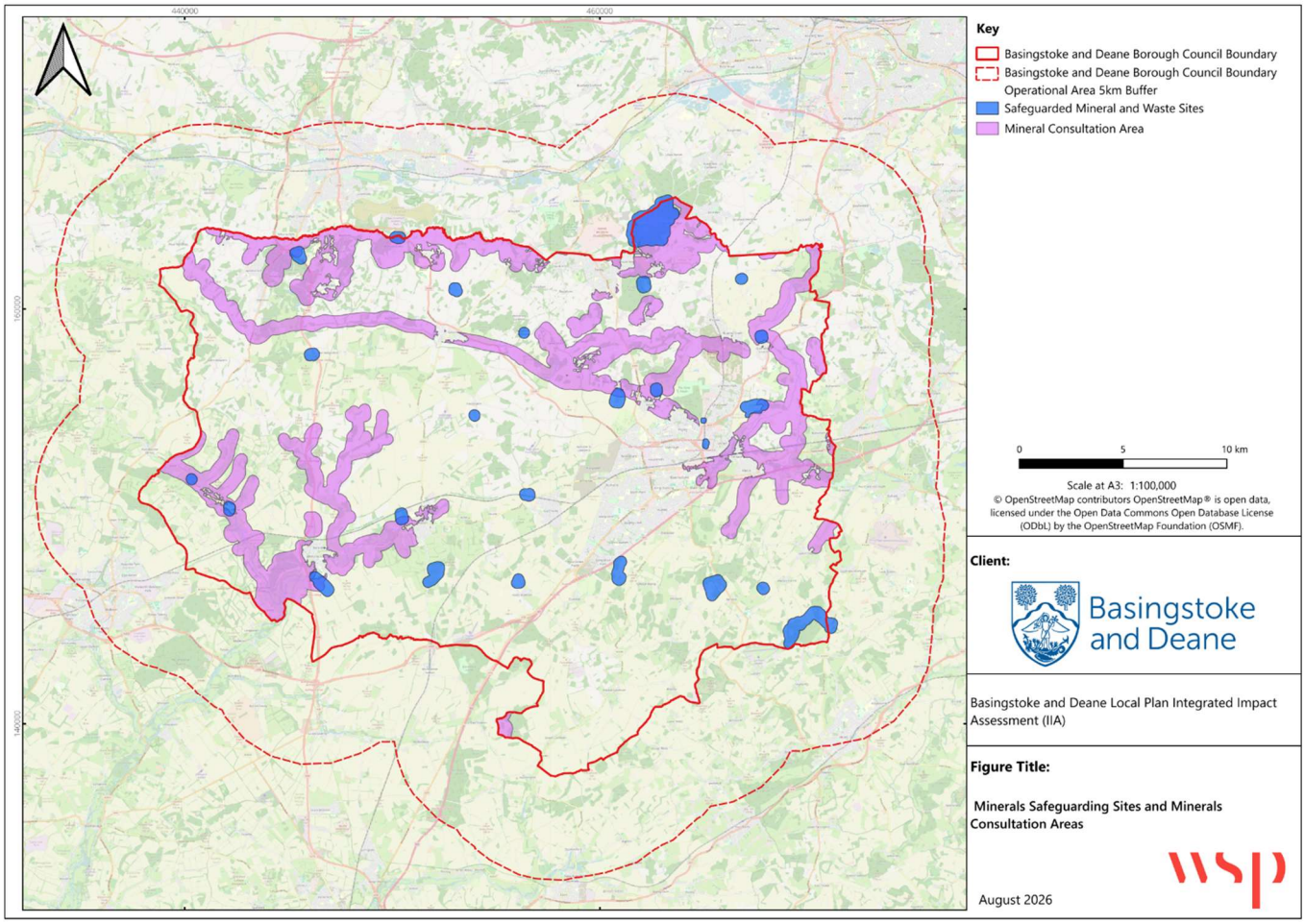
Mineral Resources

3.10.6 **Figure 3-26** sets out the safeguarded minerals and waste sites and mineral consultation areas in the borough and surrounding area. The figure shows that safeguarded mineral and waste sites appear to be evenly distributed throughout the borough. There is a particularly large safeguarded mineral site located in the north east of the borough at Mortimer Quarry to the north of Aldermaston Soke. Mineral Consultation Areas cover a sizeable portion of the north and west of the borough, however there are few located in the centre or south east.

3.10.7 Further detail in relation to existing mineral extraction sites and waste sites is contained in **Section 3.3.**

[135] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2025), *Regional Statistics 2003-2024: Generation*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics [Accessed 18/08/2026]

Figure 3-26 Minerals and Waste Safeguarded Sites and Minerals Consultation Areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Waste

3.10.8 In 2024/25, roughly 63,000 tonnes of waste was collected by the local authority in Basingstoke and Deane, of the roughly 4.0 million tonnes of waste collected across the South East. **Table 3-24** shows that the amount of waste generated that awas collected by the local authority has fluctuated in the five year period between 2020/21 to 2024/35 across all sub-categories[136].

Table 3-24 Local Authority Collected Waste Generation (Tonnes) in Basingstoke and Deane 2020/21 to 2024/25

Household water from:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Regular household collection	41,974	42,263	40,481	40,863	41,348
Other household sources	2,998	2,837	2,675	2,484	2,521
Civic amenity sites	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

[136] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2026), *Local authority collected waste management - annual results*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results [Accessed 18/08/2026]

Household water from:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Household recycling	19,676	19,027	17,962	18,569	18,681
Total household	**64,647**	**64,128**	**61,118**	**61,916**	**62,550**
Non household sources (excl. recycling)	409	284	200	265	125
Non household recycling	-	-	-	-	87
Total LA Collected Waste	**65,056**	**64,412**	**61,318**	**62,181**	**62,761**

3.10.9 As shown in **Table 3-25** below, recycling rates in the South East have remained fairly consistent over the five year period between 2020/21 and 2024/25, which is in line with the trend at the national level. Recycling rates in the South East have risen significantly since 2000/01 in which the rate was 18% compared to the national figure of 12%. As it stands the recycling rate in the South East is still higher than the national average in 2024/25 with a figure of 45.2% compared to the national rate of 41.2%. Whilst the volume of local authority collected waste sent to landfill in England as a whole and the South East have reduced over the five year period between 2020/21 and 2024/25 (3.9% to 2.3% in South East, compared to 7.8% to 5.5% in England), there has also been notable increase in incineration with energy from waste (EfW) in the same period, in England as a whole and the South East.

Table 3-25 Management of Local Authority Collected Waste (Thousands of Tonnes) in the South East from 2020/21 to 2024/25

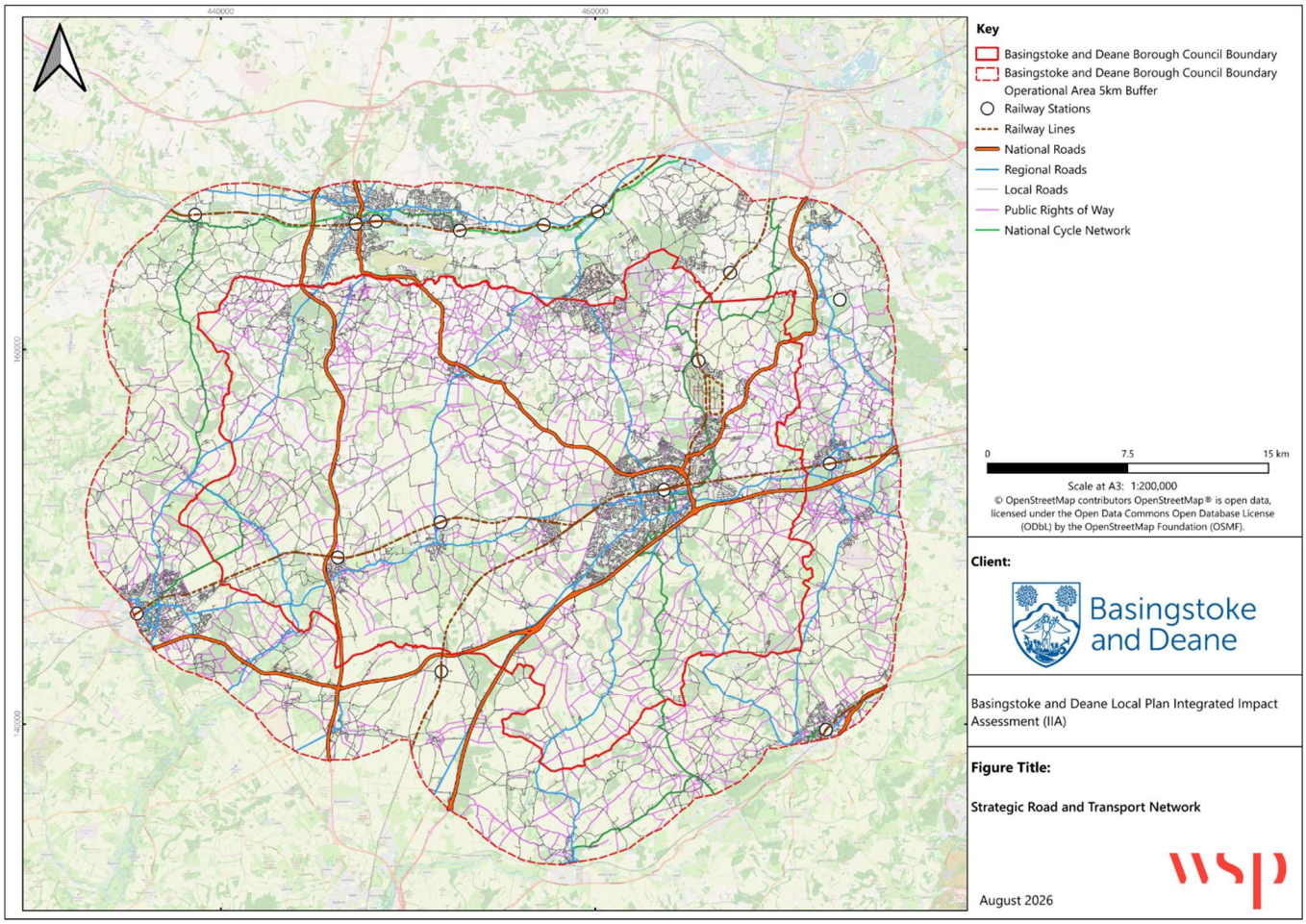
Household water from:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Landfill	159	203	119	85	93
(percentage)	3.9%	4.9%	3.1%	2.1%	2.3%
Incineration with EfW	1,996	1,907	1,880	2,001	2,041
(percentage)	48.4%	46.3%	48.1%	49.9%	50.3%
Incineration without EfW	4	10	4	4	2
(percentage)	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Recycled-composted	1,870	1,888	1,750	1,827	1,836
(percentage)	45.4%	45.8%	44.8%	45.5%	45.2%
Other	92	114	156	95	88
(percentage)	2.2%	2.8%	4.0%	2.4%	2.2%
Total	**4,121**	**4,121**	**3,910**	**4,012**	**4,060**

Transport Infrastructure

3.10.10 **Figure 3-27** shows the strategic road and transport network across the borough. The borough benefits from a well-connected transport network comprising strategic roads, rail infrastructure, National Cycle Network routes and Public Rights of Way. The strategic road network includes the M3 motorway, which crosses the southern/south eastern part of the borough on a west-east alignment, the A34, which runs north-south through the western part of the borough, and the A303, which crosses into the south-west of the borough, connecting to the M3. Other key routes include the A339, which runs from the northern section of the borough in a south eastern direction to the town of Basingstoke and connects to the M4 to the north of the borough, and the A33 which runs from the north eastern part of the borough down to the town of Basingstoke and also connects to the M4 to the north east of the borough. Additionally the A340 connects the borough's rural areas with neighbouring settlements and strategic transport corridors.

3.10.11 The borough is served by the South West Main Line, which runs west-east through the centre of the borough and serves Basingstoke station within the borough, and the West of England Line, which crosses the western part of the borough on a south-west to north-east alignment and serves Whitchurch, Overton and Basingstoke stations. National Cycle Network routes extend across the borough, principally on a north-south alignment through the eastern part of the borough, through Basingstoke town, and in the south western part of the borough. An extensive network of Public Rights of Way provides connectivity throughout the rural landscape and supports access to the wider countryside.

Figure 3-27 Strategic Road and Transport Network within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.10.12 The growing population and associated need for development and services to development are also likely to increase the use of mineral resources and waste generation. As such, it will be necessary to apply resource efficiency and waste management measures, including the re-use and recycling of materials and waste.

3.10.13 Taking into consideration Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England[137], and the Environmental Improvement Plan[138], diminishing landfill capacity and a fast-growing waste recycling and recovery industry, the proportion of waste sent to recovery rather than landfill is set to continue to increase in the future.

[137] HM Government (2018), *Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c18f11740f0b60bbee0d827/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[138] UK Government (2025), *Environmental Improvement Plan*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/692d8d9cce50d215cae962a5/Environmental_Improvement_Plan__EIP__2025.pdf [Accessed 18/08/2026]

3.10.14 The Basingstoke and Deane Recycling and Waste Strategy 2026 to 2032[139] sets out the Council's targets for waste generation and recycling as well as numerous actions that the Council will take in order to meet these targets. The Council aims to:

By 2028:

- Increase the household recycling rate from 30% to 40%;
- Achieve 75% participation in weekly food waste collections;
- Reduce contamination in dry recycling to below 20%.

By 2030:

- Reduce household waste per household from 535kg to 462kg per year;
- Increase the household recycling rate to 47%.

By 2032:

- Increase the recycling rate to 55%;
- Reduce contamination in dry recycling to below 15%;
- Double the volume of items reused, repaired or redistributed through community partners.

3.11 Historic Environment

3.11.1 The historic environment concerns all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora[140]. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites.

Baseline Characteristics

3.11.2 The borough of Basingstoke and Deane contains a rich and diverse historic environment, ranging from nationally significant heritage assets such as Highclere Castle and The Vyne to historic towns, villages and conservation areas. Heritage assets are found both within settlements and the wider countryside, reflecting the area's long history of occupation and development. Many settlements, including Basingstoke, contain buildings and places of architectural and historic interest that contribute to local character and identity.

3.11.3 The borough's heritage assets include medieval and later places of worship (such as the Church of St Michael in Basingstoke and the parish churches of smaller settlements within the borough, as well as Sandham Memorial Chapel), historic mill complexes such as Whitchurch Silk Mill and Laverstoke Mill, Victorian residential areas (for example Fairfields), civic buildings (such as Whitchurch Town Hall) and notable twentieth-century commercial architecture (such as

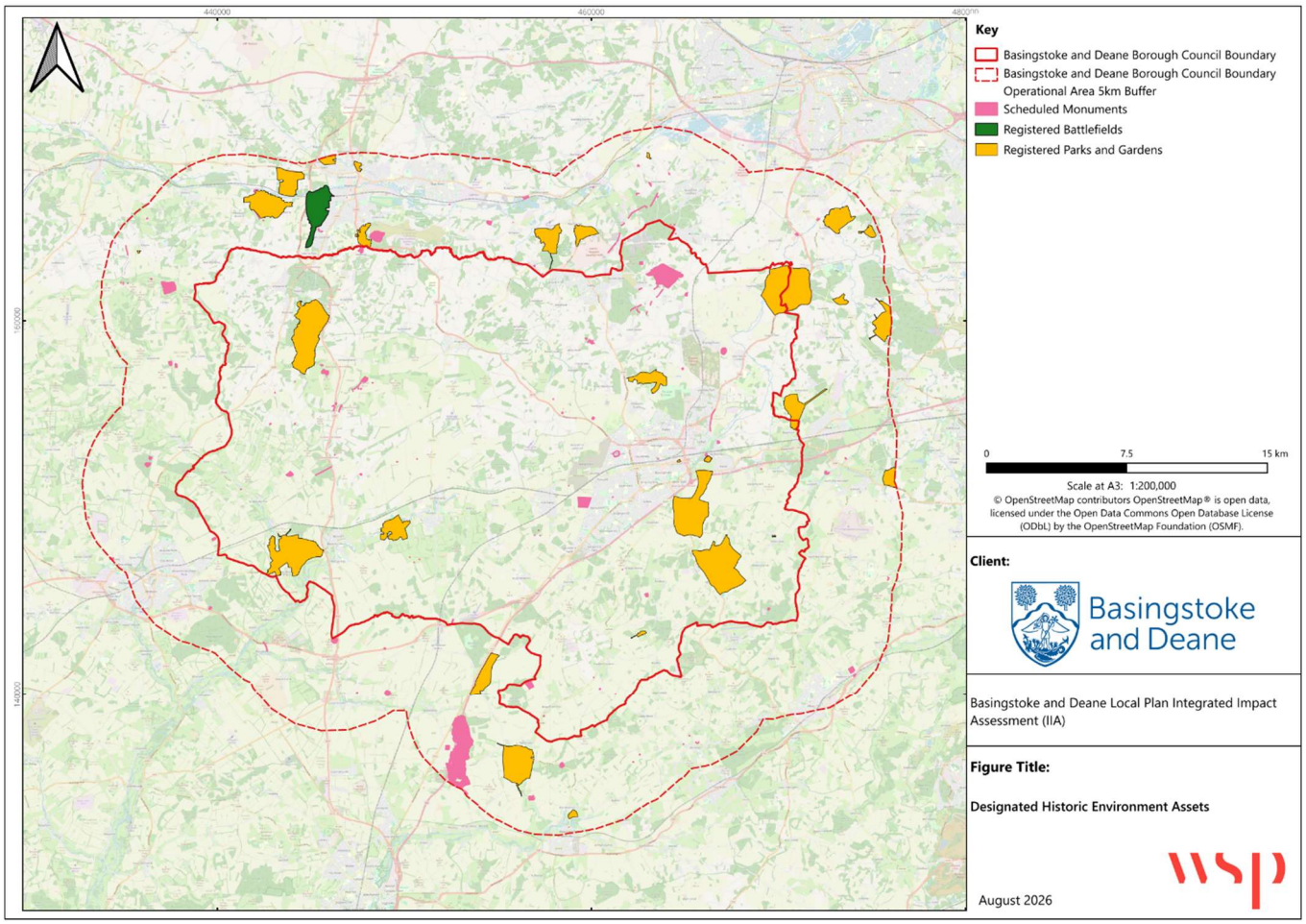
[139] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2026), *Basingstoke and Deane Recycling and Waste Strategy 2026 to 2032*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/95831/Waste%20and%20recycling%20strategy%202026%20to%202032.pdf [Accessed 14/09/2026]

[140] MHCLG (2026) *National Planning Policy Framework Annex B: Glossary.* Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a8334c03bd75b81e2329ac4/National_Planning_Policy_Framework.pdf [Accessed 01/09/2026]

Mountbatten House and the former Eli Lilly Building). There are also a number of designed landscapes (as at Hackwood Park) as well as scheduled monuments and other sites and features of archaeological interest (such as the Roman road linking Winchester to Silchester; Iron Age and Roman settlements such as those at Beggarwood Lane and Scrapps Hill and ancient burial mounds; and defended sites. Sections of the Basingstoke Canal also remain[141].

3.11.4 **Figure 3-28** below shows the designated heritage assets within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane and its surrounding area. It shows that the borough contains 63 scheduled monuments and 13 registered parks and gardens (two Grade I, three Grade II*, and eight Grade II). It also shows that within the 5km buffer around the borough there are 72 scheduled monuments, 16 registered parks and gardens, and one register battlefield (Battle of Newbury 1643).

Figure 3-28 Designated Heritage Assets within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



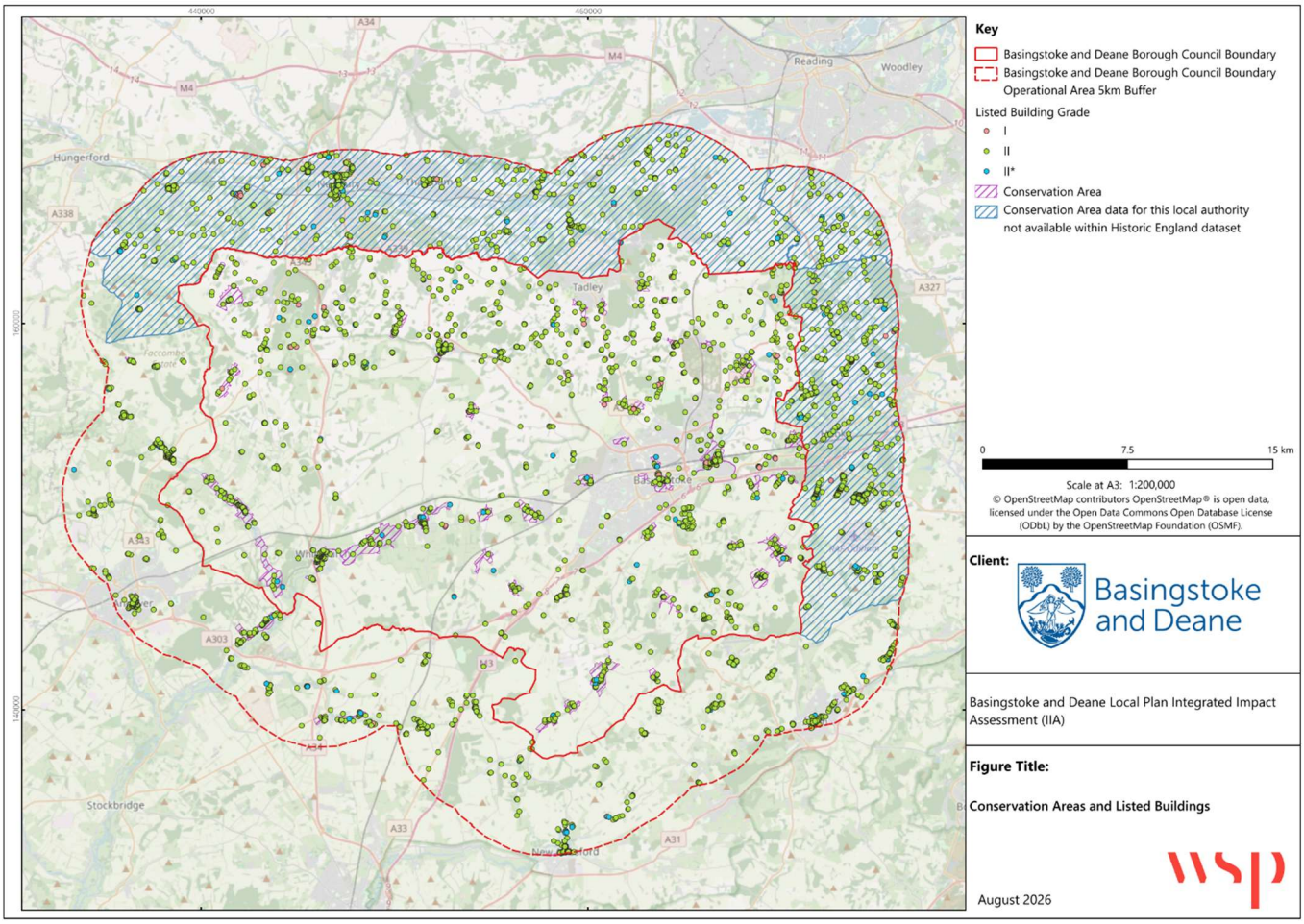
3.11.5 The National Heritage List for England states that there are 1,607 listed buildings within the borough, comprising of 34 at Grade I, 59 at Grade II*, and 1,514 at Grade II. The borough also

[141] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2019) *Heritage Supplementary Planning Document.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/60667/Heritage%20Supplement%20Planning%20Document%20(SPD)%20-%20March%202019.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]

contains one building with an active Certificate of Immunity (COI) (Ashe Park House and outbuildings)[142, 143].

3.11.6 There are 43 Conservation areas in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane, some of which are subject to Article 4 directions[144]. The borough possesses the highest number of conservation areas in Hampshire which demonstrates the richness of the borough's historic environment[145]. Listed buildings and conservation areas in the borough and surrounding area are shown in **Figure 3-29** below.

Figure 3-29 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.11.7 There may be many buildings and sites in a local planning authority's area that make a positive contribution to its local character and sense of place due to their heritage value. Local lists (also known as local heritage lists) are usually developed by the local planning authority, often in

[142] Historic England (2026), *Search the National Heritage List for England*. Available online at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/results/?size=n_24_n&filters%5B0%5D%5Bfield%5D=district&filters%5B0%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D=Basingstoke%20and%20Deane&filters%5B0%5D%5Btype%5D=all [Accessed 18/08/2026]

[143] Certificates of Immunity (COI) help confirm whether a building will be listed. If granted by the Secretary of State, a certificate prevents a building from being listed or the Local Planning Authority serving a Building Preservation Notice (a form of temporary listing served by a local planning authority (LPA)) in relation to it for a period of 5 years. A COI therefore offers clarity and certainty on whether the building meets the tests of special architectural or historic interest, which can help inform development proposals for a site.

[144] Basingstoke and Deane (2026), *Conservation area maps and appraisals.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/conservationappraisals#elem_33903 [Accessed 18/08/2026]

[145] Basingstoke and Deane (2026), *Conservation areas.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/conservation-areas [Accessed 18/08/2026]

collaboration with the community. Local lists can include buildings, designed landscapes (such as parks and gardens), archaeology and elements of the natural environment. Whilst Local Heritage Lists are not statutory, they are recognised under national planning policy and are given a degree of protection in the planning system, under the NPPF[146]. The Local List for Basingstoke and Deane was first adopted by the Borough Council on 27th March 2007. Buildings are included on the Local List if they meet the criteria set out in the council's adopted Heritage Supplementary Planning Document[147]. The Local List is intended to recognise these buildings so that they can be properly considered when development proposals are submitted to the borough council[148].

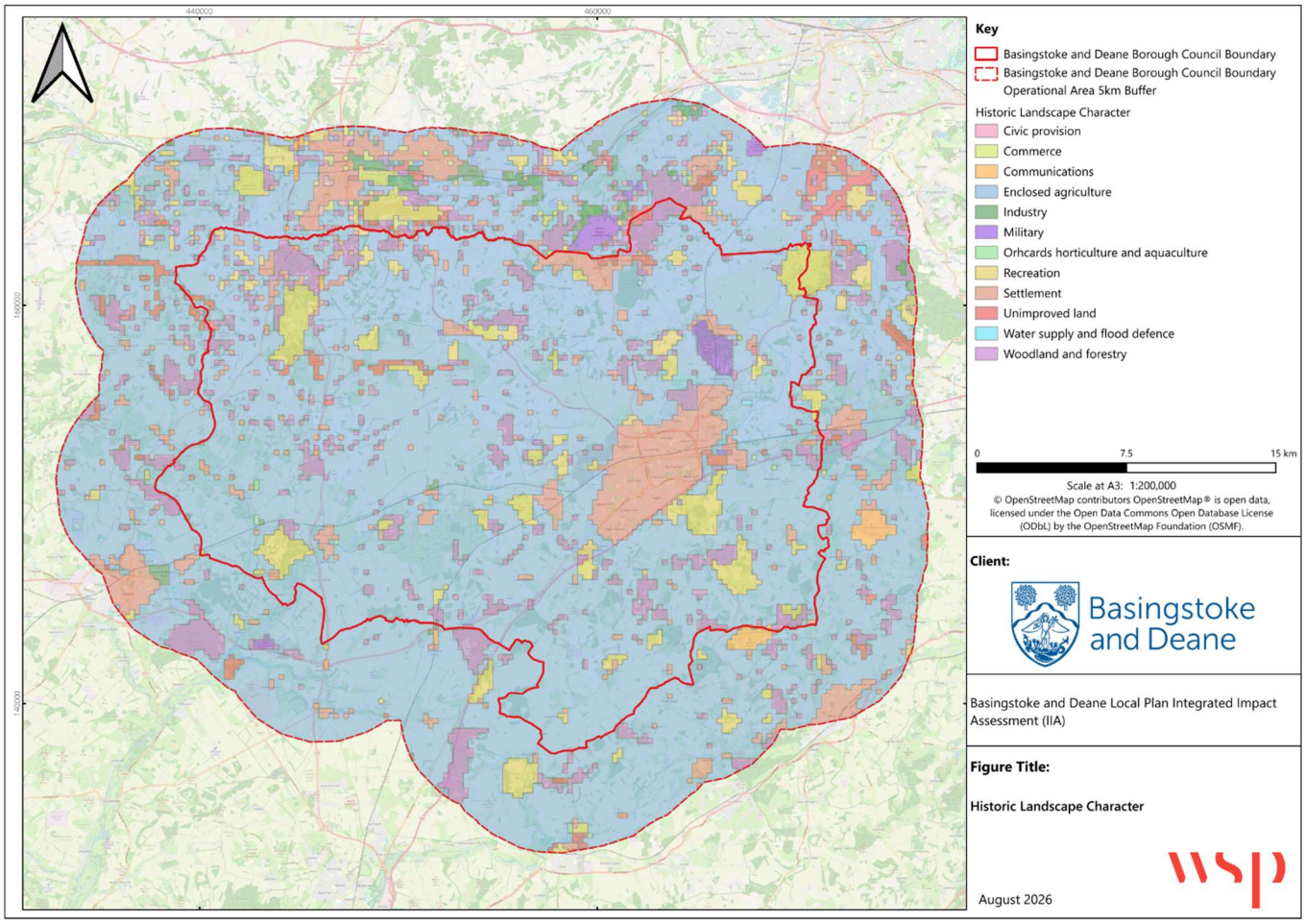
3.11.8 The Heritage at Risk Register indicates that there are two assets in the borough at risk of neglect, decay or inappropriate change. These are:

- Sandleford Priory, Greenham / Newtown – Grade II Registered Park and Garden
- Egbury camp, St. Mary Bourne – Scheduled Monument

3.11.9 **Figure 3-30** below shows the Historic Landscape Characterisation[149] within the borough and surrounding area, which is mapped based on the landscape of today in relation to historic development. It shows that the majority of the borough and the 5km buffer areas are characterised as 'enclosed agriculture', as well as 'settlement' around areas such as Basingstoke, Tadley, Andover, and Newbury. Areas categorised as 'woodland and forestry' and 'recreation' are also present in both the borough and the 5km operational buffer and are distributed fairly evenly. An area of 'military' landscape character is located within the borough to the north of Basingstoke town, while several areas of 'industry' are seen within the north of the 5km buffer area.

[146] Historic England (2025), *Protecting Heritage Beyond the List*. Available online at: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/protecting-heritage-beyond-list/ [Accessed 18/08/2026]
[147] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2019) *Heritage Supplementary Planning Document.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/60667/Heritage%20Supplement%20Planning%20Document%20(SPD)%20-%20March%202019.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[148] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (undated) *The Local List.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/HE02 [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[149] Natural England (2024) *National Historic Landscape Characterisation 500m Grid (England)*. Available online at: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::national-historic-landscape-characterisation-500m-grid-england/about [Accessed 18/09/2026]

Figure 3-30 Historic Landscape Character within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.11.10 Protection of the historic environment is firmly embedded in national and local policy, and this has been the case since 1990. However, whilst harm to the significance of heritage assets is largely restricted, harm to the setting of heritage assets still occurs; for example, relating to visual intrusion, or aspects such as traffic, lighting, and noise. This can be a sensitive planning issue.

3.11.11 Climate change also poses a risk of harm to heritage assets, their characteristics, and settings, particularly through increased flooding, extreme heat events, and changes to energy requirements. To help combat this, Historic England have outlined guidance to achieving net zero targets and adapting the heritage environment to climate change[150].

3.11.12 The historic environment remains at risk from development activities, land management practices, and the impacts of climate change, and these pressures are expected to persist.

3.11.13 New development can negatively affect heritage assets and features if not properly considered through the site allocation process and informed by up to date planning policy and associated documents such as Village Design Statements, the Countryside Design Summary and

[150] Historic England (2022), *Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation and Energy Measures*. Available online at: https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/features/climate-change [Accessed 18/08/2026].

Conservation Area Appraisals. Conversely, development can be sited and designed such that it enhances heritage assets and features and their settings. It is therefore essential to consider the protection, preservation, and setting of heritage assets when planning and locating development.

3.12 Landscape and Townscape

3.12.1 Landscape is defined by The European Landscape Convention as "*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*"[151]. This definition is stated as covering natural, rural, urban and peri-urban (i.e., the urban-rural fringe) and includes land, inland water and marine areas.

Baseline Characteristics

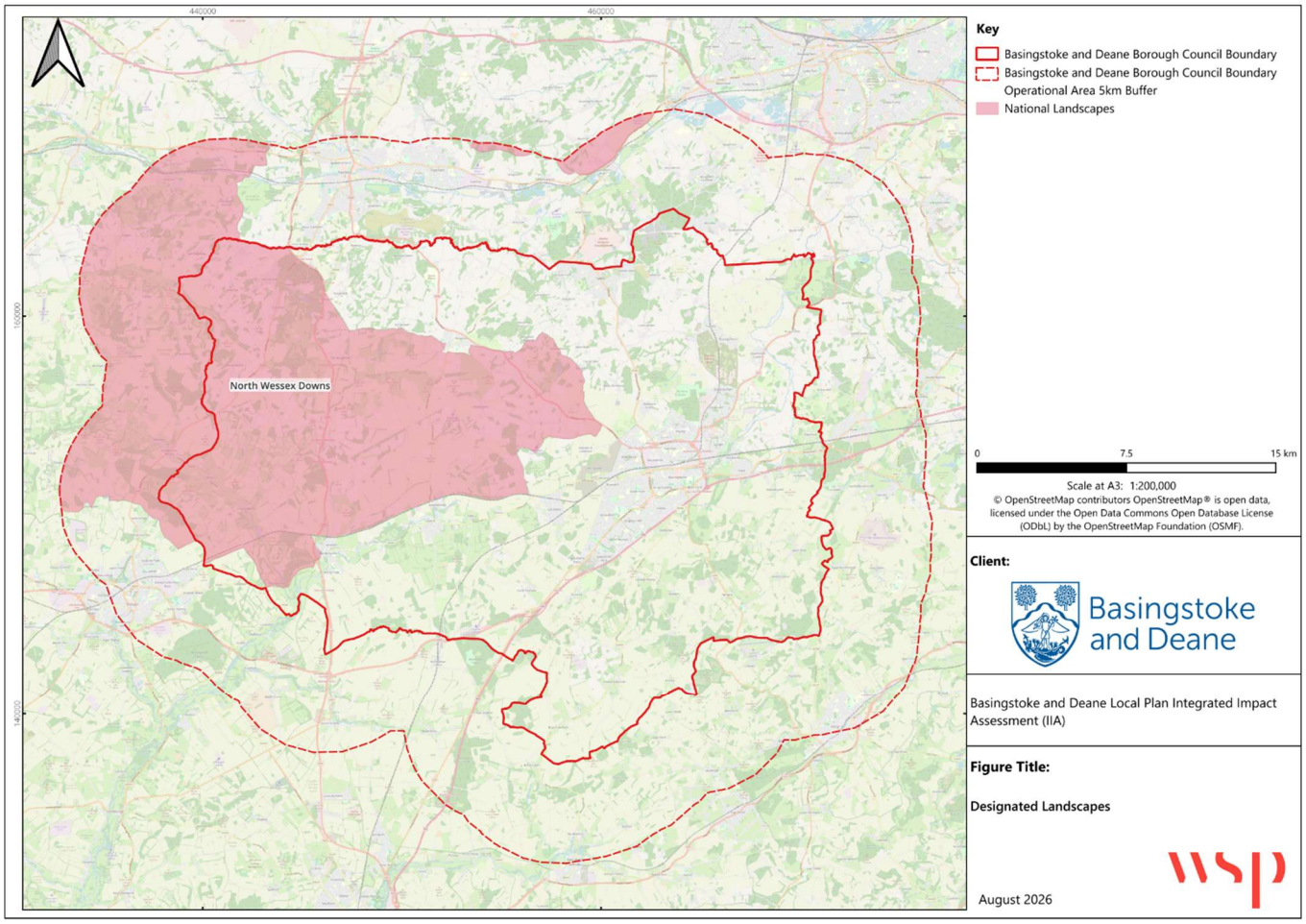
Landscape

3.12.2 The borough of Basingstoke and Deane includes a range of landscapes, including rolling chalk downland, pastoral river valleys, historic parkland, remnants of ancient forests and intimate mosaics of lowland farmland and woodland, along with scattered farms, villages and hamlets, and a few larger settlements, including Basingstoke[152].

3.12.3 **Figure 3-31** shows the designated landscapes within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane as well as its surrounding area. It shows that the borough and the 5km operational areas contains one National Landscape, the North Wessex Downs, which covers a significant portion of the western and central areas of the borough.

[151] Council of Europe (2000) *European Landscape Convention.* Available online: https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016802f80c6 [Accessed 04/08/2026]
[152] Hawkinson Duckett Associates (2021) *Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Sensitivity Study*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/3418.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]

Figure 3-31 Designated Landscapes within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough

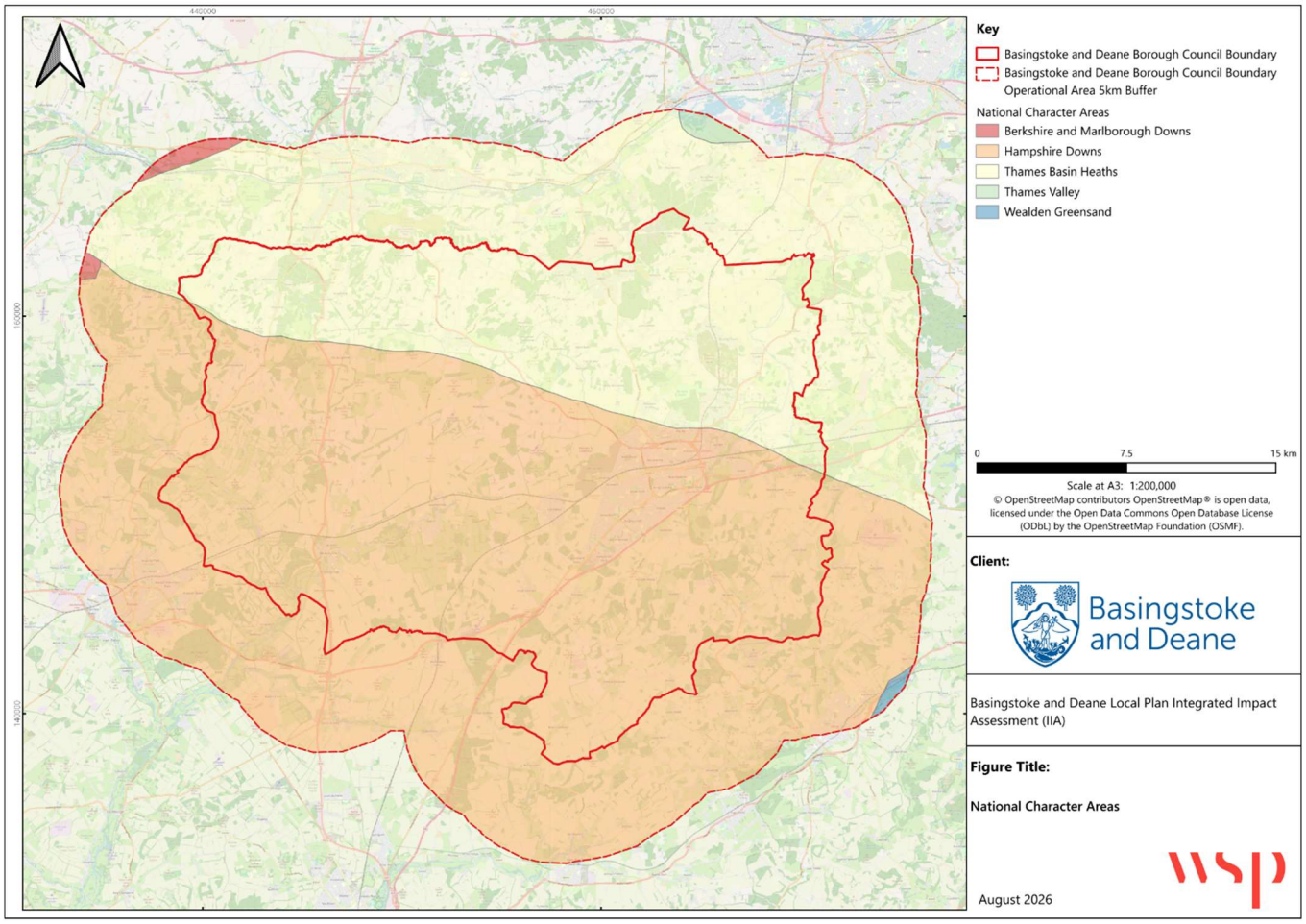


3.12.4 National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England's landscape into 159 distinct areas, each defined by a distinct combination of landscape features, biodiversity, geodiversity, historical context, and cultural and economic activities. The boundaries of these NCAs are determined by natural landscape characteristics rather than administrative divisions such as counties or districts[153].

3.12.5 The National Character Areas (NCAs) within the borough and the surrounding area are shown in **Figure 3-32** below. The figure shows that the borough overlaps with two NCAs, Hampshire Downs, and Thames Basin Heaths. In addition to these, the operational areas 5km buffer contains small areas of the Thames Valley, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs, and Wealden Greensand NCAs.

[153] Defra (2024) *National Character Area profiles: information for local decision making.* Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-character-area-profiles-information-for-local-decision-making [21/04/2026]

Figure 3-32 National Character Areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough



3.12.6 Twenty Landscape Character Areas within the borough were identified and described in the Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment (2001). The 2021 update to the Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment[154], retains the 20 landscape character areas established in the 2001 assessment, while updating descriptions and making limited boundary revisions to reflect changes in development, land cover and landscape character. The update also takes account of neighbouring authorities' landscape character assessments and Natural England's National Landscape Character Areas, ensuring that character area boundaries more accurately reflect current landscape conditions and transitions between areas. The boundaries of the 20 landscape character areas are shown in **Figure 3-33.**

3.12.7 Building on the 2021 Landscape Character Assessment, the Basingstoke and Deane Valued Landscape Study (2023)[155] divided land outside the AONB into a series of assessment parcels based on the 20 landscape character area boundaries. Each parcel was then evaluated against Landscape Institute guidance using nine criteria covering physical attributes (such as natural heritage and landscape condition), experiential qualities (including distinctiveness, recreation

[154] Hawkinson Duckett Associates (2021) *Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/66731/Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%20-%20May%202021.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]
[155] Hawkinson Duckett Associates (2023) *Basingstoke and Deane Valued Landscape Study*. Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4114.pdf [Accessed 11/09/2026]

and cultural associations), and perceptual characteristics (such as tranquillity, wildness and scenic appeal).

3.12.8 Each assessment parcel was scored against the nine factors on a five-point scale ranging from 'Exemplary' to 'None Identified'. The assessment combined desk-based analysis, field surveys and consideration of evidence from local communities, including Neighbourhood Plans where relevant. An overall judgement of landscape value was then made for each parcel. Parcels demonstrating exemplary qualities in at least some factors and above-average performance across most others were considered suitable for designation as a local 'Valued Landscape' affording them protection from inappropriate development through the Local Plan. The process identified five potential Valued Landscapes: the Ecchinswell and Wolverton Lowland, Pamber Forests and Heaths, Loddon Floodplain, Ellisfield and Candover Valleys, and Test Valley. While these areas were considered particularly important to local communities and visitors, the assessment recognised that many other parts of the borough also possess landscape value, although not to the same consistently high standard required for local designation.

Figure 3-33 Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Areas

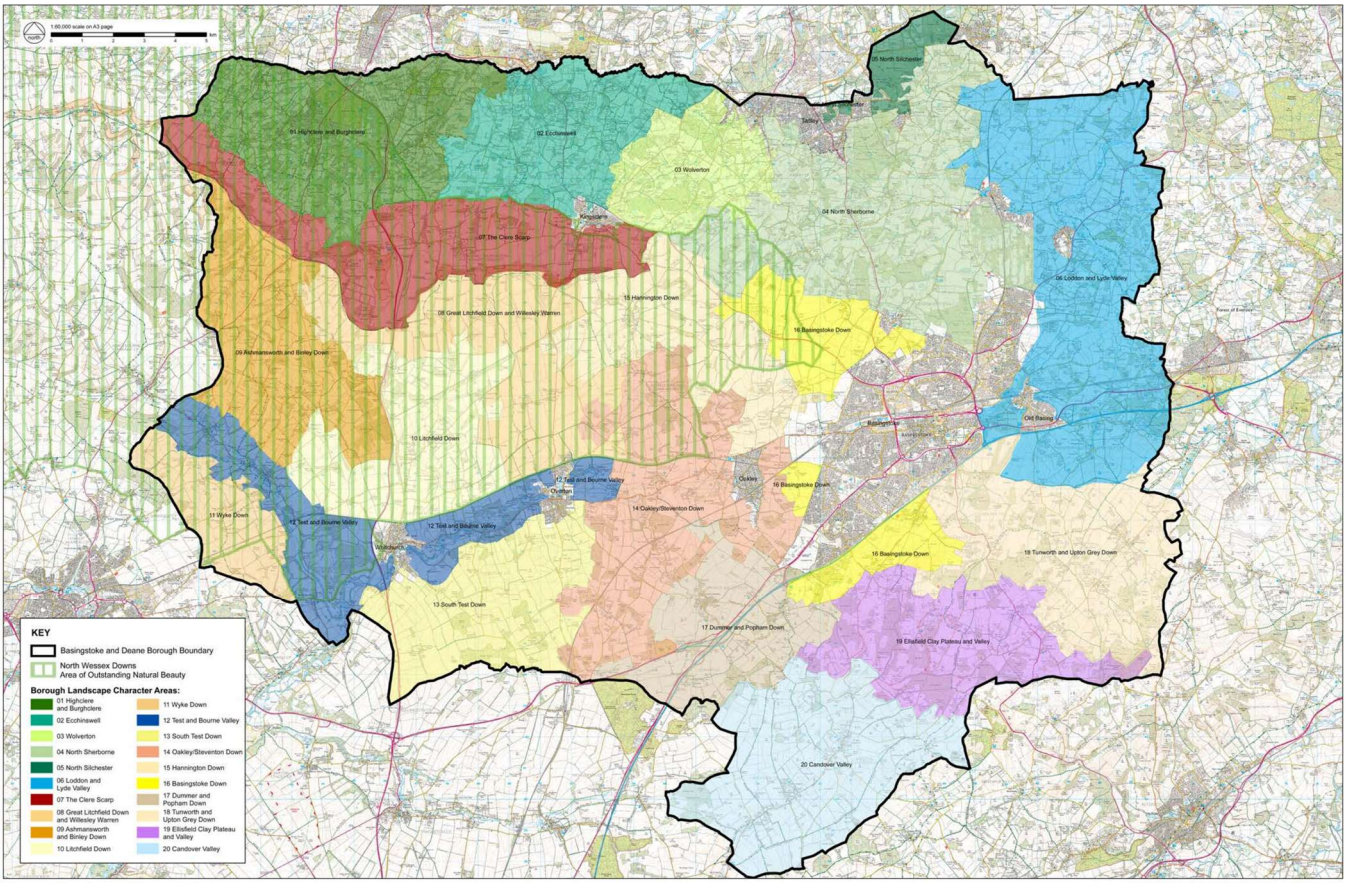


Figure 7 Landscape Character Areas

Based on mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey, Crown copyright.

3.12.9 The Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Sensitivity to Wind and Solar Energy Development study[156] uses the 20 character areas as a starting point, with further subdivisions identified as appropriate, such as where there are distinct variations in topography, to define landscape

[156] Hankinson Duckett Associates (2024) *Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Sensitivity to Wind and Solar Energy Development.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/4447.pdf [Accessed 02/10/2026]

character derived Assessment Parcels. The study assessed the sensitivity of landscapes across Basingstoke and Deane to wind and solar energy development, using Natural England's guidance on landscape sensitivity together with evidence from the 2023 Basingstoke and Deane Valued Landscape Study. It considered landscape value alongside physical, aesthetic, perceptual, experiential and visual factors, recognising the high intrinsic value of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and applying equivalent assessments to areas outside it. Each Assessment Parcel was evaluated against a range of criteria and assigned an overall sensitivity rating, taking account of parcel characteristics and potential cumulative effects from existing or proposed renewable energy schemes. The findings of the study are intended to inform planning policy, identify areas that may be more or less suitable for wind and solar development, and provide an evidence base for decision-making, while recognising that individual proposals will still require detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

Townscape

3.12.10 The borough's settlement pattern is characterised by the town of Basingstoke alongside a number of smaller towns and villages, set within extensive areas of predominantly rural countryside. Basingstoke is largest settlement in the borough, the second largest settlement is Tadley on the northern borough boundary. Other notable towns and villages that act as centres for the local population include Whitchurch, Oakley, Overton, Bramley and Kingsclere.

3.12.11 Basingstoke town's historic core survives around London Street, Winchester Street, Church Street and Wote Street, focused on Market Square and the early 19th century former Town Hall (now the Museum), with landmarks including Deane's Almshouses, the United Reformed Church and St Michael's Church. Around the church, buildings such as Chute House and the timber-framed Church Cottage sit alongside 19th century brick cottages, their setting reinforced by the enclosed open spaces of Glebe Gardens, Church Square and the Remembrance Gardens, while the late 18th century War Memorial Park provides a further important green space. The railways of 1840 and 1848 prompted expansion, with brick terraces and semi-detached villas (as at Sarum Hill) laid out around the core, followed by 1930s–1950s ribbon development along the arterial routes and interwar and post-war estates filling the gaps between them. Designation as a London overspill town in the 1960s brought estates such as Popley, characterised by repeated short terraces on small plots with generous, well-treed open space and separate parking courts. Industry concentrated at Houndmills and Daneshill, the central shopping area was comprehensively redeveloped in the late 1960s/early 1970s at the expense of much of the historic core, and a heavily landscaped ring road now screens adjoining development, with good quality office schemes at Viables and along Churchill Way overlooking Eastrop Park[154].

3.12.12 Key settlements outside of Basingstoke town, for example Tadley/Baughurst/Pamber Heath, Chineham, Oakley, Whitchurch, Overton, Kingsclere, Old Basing, and Bramley and Bramley Green, illustrate a common pattern across the borough: a compact historic core with buildings constructed of local materials (timber frame, brick, flint, thatch, clay tile and slate), often focused on a crossroads, high street or parish church, surrounded by successive phases of post-medieval and 19th century expansion, 20th century linear ribbon development along approach roads, and later cul-de-sac housing estates. Their settings are rural, including river valleys, downland slopes, prominent ridgelines, woodland blocks and hedgerows[154].

3.12.13 The council has published a number of village design statements (VDS) which describe the distinctive character of particular villages or towns which can help to inform planning decisions on design in relation to Local Plan Policy. There are currently 17 VDSs for 17 different towns or villages across the borough[157].

3.12.14 The importance of settlement character and local distinctiveness is also recognised through Conservation Area Appraisals and the neighbourhood planning process within the borough, with policies to address this issue contained within the majority of the adopted neighbourhood plans in the borough.

Likely Evolution of the Baseline

3.12.15 Key factors determining landscape and townscape change are, in particular, the planned expansion of settlements associated with the provision of housing, commercial and industrial development, road improvements, services improvements, renewable energy developments and recreational related developments.

3.12.16 It is anticipated that National Landscapes will continue to receive the same level of protection currently provided under the NPPF.

3.12.17 Changes in weather patterns and soil conditions will alter the vegetation that is an important landscape feature, whilst flooding may affect landscape character. Responses to climate change such as the introduction of new crops and land uses may also have an impact on the visual appearance of the landscape. NCAs are likely to remain important as the basis for protecting, enhancing and managing landscape.

3.12.18 Under the Environment Act, the government set a statutory target to increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover to at least 16.5% of all land in England by 31 December 2050. Interim targets have also been set to increase England's tree canopy and woodland cover by 0.33% of land area by December 2030 from the 2022 baseline of 14.9% equivalent to a net increase of 43,000 hectares[158]

3.12.19 Climate change and land use change (e.g. due to agricultural reform associated with the UK's exit from the EU and Common Agricultural Policy) may also, in the longer term, lead to changes in the visual amenity of the borough.

[157] Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (undated) *Other Planning Policy Guidance – Village Design Statements.* Available online at: https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planningpolicyguidance [Accessed 21/09/2026]
[158] Defra (2026) *Tree canopy and woodland cover Environment Act target delivery plan.* Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-canopy-and-woodland-cover-environment-act-target-delivery-plan/tree-canopy-and-woodland-cover-environment-act-target-delivery-plan [Accessed 11/09/2026]

4. Summary of the Key Sustainability Issues

4.1.1 From the analysis of the review of plans and programmes presented in **Section 2** and the review of the current and future baseline presented in **Section 3**, a number of key issues have been identified as being relevant to the New Local Plan and the IIA. These issues are summarised in **Table 4-1.**

Table 4-1 Key Issues Relevant to the New Local Plan and IIA

IIA Topic	Key issues
Biodiversity	▪ The need to protect, maintain and enhance where possible, designated and non-designated sites for biodiversity within and surrounding the borough; ▪ The need to ensure that growth does not increase nutrient loading or adversely affect water quality within the River Test and River Itchen catchments, linking to downstream European sites in the Solent, through the application of nutrient neutrality requirements and appropriate mitigation measures. ▪ The need to improve the condition of priority habitats, and SSSIs, and increase priority species, in order to restore populations of these species; ▪ The need to reduce light, air, water and noise pollution from new development, which can have impacts on designated and non-designated biodiversity sites; ▪ The need to avoid activities likely to cause irreversible damage to natural heritage; ▪ The need to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species and diseases resulting from infrastructure development, particularly in freshwater and marine ecosystems; ▪ The need to take opportunities to improve connectivity between fragmented habitats to create functioning habitat corridors; ▪ The need to recognise the importance of allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change; and ▪ The need to engage more people in biodiversity issues so that they personally value biodiversity and know what they can do to help, including through recognising the value of the ecosystem services.

IIA Topic	Key issues
	▪ Protect and secure net gains in biodiversity.
Land Use, Geology and Soils	▪ The need to avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land and sustainably manage and improve the quality of agricultural land in the region. ▪ The need to protect, maintain and enhance geomorphological functions and services; ▪ The need to influence how land is managed, promoting sustainable patterns of land use; ▪ The need to conserve and enhance soil quality and function (including carbon sequestration); ▪ The need to protect and avoid damage to geodiversity and conserve and enhance sites designated for geological interest (including geological SSSIs/GCR sites); ▪ The need to manage impacts on soil resources, including control of pollution and remediation of contaminated land; ▪ The need to manage land more holistically at the catchment level, benefitting landowners, other stakeholders, the environment and sustainability of natural resources (including water resources); ▪ The need to make use of previously developed land (PDL), and to reduce the prevalence of derelict land. Ensure efficient use of land with higher density development in appropriate locations.
Air Quality	▪ The need to minimise emissions of pollutant gases and particulates, reduce atmospheric pollution and improve air quality for people and biodiversity; and ▪ The need to support the development of electric charging facilities and promote uptake of electric vehicles in line with the UK Government's plan to end the sale all new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2035. This will likely reduce air and noise pollution.
Water (Quality and Quantity)	▪ The need to address severe water stress in the South East of England by improving the resilience, flexibility and sustainability of water resources, whilst reducing water demand through water efficiency measures in new development and accommodating future population growth and climate change impacts. ▪ The need to protect and enhance the water environment, including groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs), chalk

IIA Topic	Key issues
	aquifers and chalk streams, by managing abstraction pressures, maintaining and improving water quality, preventing deterioration of Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies, and achieving protected area and waterbody status objectives. ▪ The need to increase resilience to climate change, drought and flood risk through sustainable water management, including the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and green infrastructure to support water quality improvements, pollutant filtration and flood attenuation.
Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)	▪ The need to support the continued increase in infrastructure to support the demand in electric cars. ▪ The need to plan for and implement/ facilitate climate change adaptation, in respect of rising temperatures, water scarcity and extreme weather events, particularly heavy rainfall/ flooding. ▪ The need to support the reduction of GHG emissions and transition towards net-zero, including supporting the implementation of renewable energy sources. ▪ The need to improve the resilience, flexibility and sustainability of water resources in the region, particularly in light of potential climate change impacts on surface water and groundwaters. ▪ The need to ensure the continued risk of flooding is mitigated effectively. ▪ The need to take into account, and where possible adapt to, the potential effects of climate change, including the effects of flooding. ▪ The need to increase environmental resilience to the effects of climate change, including the effects of flooding or low flows. ▪ Implement high standards for sustainable design and construction of new developments, including minimising waste of resources such as water.
Population	▪ The need to address issues affecting different groups to varying extents, and there is evidence to show that barriers to accessing and using transport can be exacerbated by age, ethnicity, and gender. ▪ The need to ensure that the needs of the growing Basingstoke and Deane population are addressed such as new homes, services, and transport connections to meet all sections of the community.

IIA Topic	Key issues
	▪ Support the provision of a range of new housing that is of a suitable size, design and adaptability to meet current and future housing needs, including affordable housing and specialist accommodation. ▪ Ensure specific housing needs are met such as provision of land for gypsies and travellers ▪ The need to account for the changing age demographic of the borough which may lead to additional demand on the area's services and infrastructure. ▪ The need to ensure that the New Local Plan has a positive economic impact and that benefits are maximised, including the provision of sufficient employment premises to meet identified needs; ▪ Support the improvement/expansion of education facilities in the borough, to improve the skill levels of the local workforce including higher level education and ▪ The need to ensure that sites of nature conservation importance, heritage assets, important landscapes and public rights of way contribute to recreation and tourism opportunities and subsequently health and wellbeing and the economy. ▪ Support development which improves the vitality and viability of the borough's retail centres in light of changing needs and trends
Equalities	▪ The population of the borough is expected to increase both in number and diversity; ▪ The need to promote equality, inclusion and community cohesion, including for individuals and groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership); ▪ The need to address any necessary housing and service development to ensure provisions to young adults and socially excluded population groups; and ▪ The need to ensure there are adequate provisions of services and facilities within the borough, particularly for young adults, socially excluded groups and people with disabilities.
Health and Wellbeing	▪ The need to ensure that the New Local Plan does not adversely affect the health and well-being of any member of the community; ▪ The New Local Plan should maximise opportunities to enhance walking and cycling routes and encourage the use of active travel;

IIA Topic	Key issues
	▪ The need to improve air quality within the borough to improve health outcomes for residents; ▪ The need to address the ageing population in the borough which may lead to increased strain on existing healthcare facilities; and ▪ The need to address social isolation which can lead to loneliness and has the potential to undermine well-being thereby impacting negatively on people's quality of life. ▪ Protect existing facilities and services, and enable new provision where relevant and ensure the long term sustainability of the borough's rural communities. ▪ Protect and enhance existing leisure and cultural facilities and enable new improved facilities if suitable ▪ Ensure access to greenspaces to encourage healthy lifestyles including the provision of new greenspace of sufficient quality and quantity in new developments. Protect those greenspaces particularly valued by local communities. ▪ Ensure public safety is managed in the consideration of policy for new development within the land use planning consultation zones surrounding Aldermaston and Burghfield. ▪ Support regeneration opportunities.
Materials and Waste	▪ The need to reduce energy consumption; ▪ The need to ensure the sustainable and efficient use of resources such as construction materials; ▪ The need to manage impacts on minerals and avoid the sterilisation of resources; and ▪ The need to minimise waste arisings, promote reuse, recovery and recycling and minimise the impact of waste on the environment and communities.
Historic Environment	▪ The need to conserve and enhance the historic significance of buildings, monuments, features, sites, places, areas of archaeological and historic environment interest, particularly those which are sensitive to the water environment; ▪ Ensure the character and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced where possible through the location and design of new development and ▪ The need to improve the resilience of historic assets to future change, including the impacts of climate change.

IIA Topic	Key issues
Landscape and Townscape	▪ The need to conserve and enhance landscape and townscape character and distinctiveness, taking into account the effects of climate change and recommendations for managing change in the profile of relevant NCAs; ▪ The need to protect and improve the natural beauty and special qualities of designated landscapes including the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and other areas of natural beauty including undesignated landscapes; ▪ Ensure the pressures on landscape and townscape designations caused by climate change and extreme weather are minimised; and ▪ The need to minimise any adverse impacts upon landscape and townscape that may result from measures in the New Local Plan.

5. IIA Framework and Methodology

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section describes the proposed approach to the IIA of the New Local Plan. In particular, it draws on the information contained in **Section 2** and **Section 3** and the key issues identified in **Section 4** to develop the appraisal framework (the IIA Framework) and sets out how this Framework will be used to support the appraisal of the New Local Plan (including reasonable alternatives).

5.2 Proposed Scope

Topics

5.2.2 The aim of the IIA is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of implementing the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan on the environment. Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires that the assessment includes information on 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 inter-relationship between the issues referred to"…*

5.2.3 The key policy objectives identified from the review of other plans and programmes relevant to the assessment of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (**Section 2**), the review of the baseline **Section 3** and the key issues arising from the review of plans and programmes and analysis of the baseline (**Section 4**), together with the nature/ characteristics of the Plan, have been used to define the scope of the assessment in terms of the topics set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.

5.2.4 In this instance, all the topics set out below and that are aligned with the issues identified by Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations have been scoped in for assessment:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
- Land Use, Geology and Soils;
- Air Quality;
- Water (Quality and Quantity);
- Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation);
- Population;
- Equalities
- Health and Wellbeing;

- Materials and Waste;
- Historic Environment; and
- Landscape and Townscape.

Geographic Scope

5.2.5 The geographic extent for the IIA of the New Local Plan is the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council administrative boundary (the New Local Plan boundary).

5.2.6 However, it should be noted that the geographic extent outlined above does not preclude the potential to identify likely significant effects on receptors outside the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council administrative boundary. For example, the assessment could identify the potential for a likely significant effect associated with a broad location on a sensitive receptor outside these areas and which if this arose, would then be reflected in revisions to the relevant contextual information and any proposed consultations on the IIA.

Temporal Scope

5.2.7 When considering the timing of potential effects of the New Local Plan, the assessment will classify effects as 'short,' 'medium' or 'long-term.' This reflects an intention to capture the differences that could arise at different timescales, consistent with the requirements of Schedule 1 (2)(a) of the SEA Regulations where the assessment of the effects should have regard to *"the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects".*

5.2.8 The IIA will evaluate the effects of the Local Plan over the following timescales:

- short term (0 to <5 years);
- medium term (5-15 years); and
- long term (15+ years).

5.3 Proposed IIA Framework

5.3.1 The proposed IIA framework is comprised of objectives and guide questions and is presented in full in **Table 5-1**. The selected objectives reflect the issues contained in Schedule 2(6) of the SEA Regulations and have been informed by:

- the IIA framework developed through the previous stages of work on the Local Plan Update;
- the review of plans and programmes and the associated environmental protection objectives identified (see **Section 2**);
- the current and future baseline characteristics (see **Section 3**);
- key issues (see **Section 4**); and
- a broad understanding of the likely generic effects arising from New Local Plan.

5.3.2 Broadly, the IIA objectives present the preferred environmental outcomes, which typically involve minimising detrimental effects and enhancing positive effects. Associated guide questions have been developed for each IIA objective, which provide a detailed framework against which the New Local Plan can be appraised.

Table 5-1 Proposed IIA framework

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
Biodiversity	To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity (habitats, species and ecosystems) working within environmental capacities and limits to contribute to ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity and deliver a net biodiversity gain.	▪ Will it maintain and enhance the Borough's biodiversity? ▪ Will it protect species, sites and habitats of local, national and international nature conservation value (e.g. SACs, SPAs, SSSIs, NNRs, LNRs and SINCs) within and outside of the borough? ▪ Will it avoid adverse effects on water quality and nutrient loading within the River Test, River Itchen and Solent catchments? ▪ Will it affect habitats or species, including those that are non-designated as well as those that are protected e.g. ancient woodland, Section 41 of the NERC act habitats and species of principal importance? ▪ Does it deliver opportunities to achieve net gains in biodiversity? ▪ Does it provide opportunities to deliver green and blue infrastructure, including improvements to the connectivity of the green/ blue infrastructure network? ▪ Will it retain and enhance habitat connectivity? ▪ Will it promote climate change resilience of both designated and non-designated sites and enable habitats to cope/adjust to the impacts of climate change? ▪ Will it support the delivery of the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy?
Land Use, Geology and Soils	To conserve and, where possible, enhance soil quantity, quality, functionality and geodiversity, and contribute to the sustainable use of land.	▪ Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land and/or reclaimed land? ▪ Will it encourage an efficient use of land and an appropriate use of the site in light of alternative uses? ▪ Will it have an effect on soil quality/function, variety, extent, and/or compaction levels and retain the Borough's best and most versatile agricultural land? ▪ Will it avoid damage to, protect and enhance where possible protected sites designated for their geological interest (e.g. SSSIs and GCR sites) and features of wider geodiversity interest? ▪ Will it increase the risk of, or affect known and existing, land contamination, including through remediation?

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
		▪ Will it affect land stability?
Air Quality	To minimise emissions of pollutant gases and particulates and enhance air quality.	▪ Will it reduce or minimise atmospheric pollution? ▪ Will it maintain and improve air quality? ▪ Will it create a nuisance for people through, for example, dust or odours?
Water (Quality and Quantity)	To protect, enhance and increase resilience of water quantity and quality, adopting an integrated and sustainable approach to the provision and management of water resources.	▪ Will it maintain, and where possible improve, the quality of the water environment (including surface water and groundwater)? ▪ Will it encourage the efficient and sustainable use of water resources and avoid increases in demand for water and where possible, reduce demand? ▪ Is there appropriate water and wastewater infrastructure available or will it support the delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure in a timely manner?
Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)	To reduce and minimise embodied carbon and greenhouse gas emissions as a contribution to climate change.	▪ Will it reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions? ▪ Will it help to ensure low carbon design solutions to the construction and operation of new development to minimise embodied carbon and greenhouse gas emissions? ▪ Will it promote carbon sequestration, through regenerative and restorative processes such as land improvement, planting, blue/ green infrastructure and SuDS? ▪ Will it promote the use of renewable energy technologies?
	To adapt and improve resilience to the threats of climate change, including flood risk and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy.	▪ Will it reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and support adaptation of communities, infrastructure and the natural environment to the effects of climate change, including overheating, extreme weather events and storm damage? ▪ Will it direct development away from areas of higher risk of flooding (Flood Zones 2 and 3) and apply a sequential approach to locating vulnerable land uses? ▪ Will it avoid, reduce or mitigate flood risk to people, property and the environment, including through the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and natural flood management measures? ▪ Will it protect and enhance the natural functioning of watercourses, including avoiding culverting and supporting river restoration where appropriate
Population	To support the development of sustainable, inclusive and	▪ Will it increase housing supply and support the timely delivery of housing to meet identified needs?

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
	thriving communities through the delivery of high-quality, well-designed, affordable and adaptable homes; sustainable economic growth, employment opportunities and a resilient economy; access to high quality education facilities that provide opportunities for the attainment of skills and learning opportunities; the creation of vibrant town centres, and the provision of high quality services and facilities; and the provision of safe, efficient, sustainable and healthy transport choices that meet the needs of current and future residents and support tourism.	▪ Will it provide a suitable mix of high-quality, well-designed, sustainable and adaptable homes to meet local needs? ▪ Will it support the delivery of affordable housing and meet the housing needs of different groups, including older people, gypsies and travellers? ▪ Will it support the provision of housing in both urban and rural areas to meet local needs? ▪ Will it ensure the delivery of an appropriate balance of housing and jobs? ▪ Will it maintain a sufficient supply and range of employment land and premises to support business needs, economic resilience and inward investment? ▪ Will it support business start-up, growth and diversification across the local economy? ▪ Will it meet the need for specialist employment uses, including storage and distribution premises? ▪ Will it support the regeneration of key employment areas, including Basing View, and strengthen the rural economy? ▪ Will it provide new/improved educational facilities? ▪ Will it provide access to education, skills and training (encouraging lifelong learning)? ▪ Will it support the provision and retention of key facilities and services to meet the needs of local communities? ▪ Will it promote the viability and vitality of the Borough's town, district, and local centres? ▪ Will it enable Basingstoke Town Centre to reflect and adjust to changing retail and leisure trends? ▪ Will it improve the image of the Borough to attract inward investment and tourism? ▪ Will it reduce the need to travel and promote sustainable travel choices, including walking, cycling and public transport? ▪ Will it improve sustainable access to services, facilities and employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas? ▪ Will it support the delivery of strategic transport infrastructure, including public transport enhancements?

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
		▪ Will it maintain or enhance the safety, efficiency and connectivity of the local and strategic transport networks? ▪ Will it improve accessibility and movement within Basingstoke Town Centre?
Equalities	To build inclusive communities by reducing social exclusion, promoting equity and equality and respecting diversity.	▪ Will it promote equality, inclusion and community cohesion, including for individuals and groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership)? ▪ Will it help to reduce inequalities, particularly for those people and communities most vulnerable? ▪ Will it improve access to services, facilities and transport for all inclusively? ▪ Will it support diversity?
Health and Wellbeing	To ensure the creation of healthy, inclusive and safe communities, both in relation to the provision of new neighbourhoods, and the enhancement of existing places, including by supporting regeneration.	▪ Will it protect and/or enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of local communities and specific groups within those communities? ▪ Will it reduce deprivation in the most deprived areas of the Borough? ▪ Does it protect existing local facilities and services, and enable new provision, particularly outside of Basingstoke Town? ▪ Will it support the regeneration of relevant areas? ▪ Will it reduce opportunities for crime (e.g. through design and layout)? ▪ Will reduce health, well-being and environmental issues? ▪ Will it provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles including access to greenspace? ▪ Will it increase the greening of urban areas? ▪ Will it maintain or improve public access to open space and sport/recreation facilities? ▪ Will it promote active travel and provide opportunities to socialise? ▪ Will it help deliver high quality design and support well-being? ▪ Will it ensure a high standard of amenity for residents? ▪ Will it be compatible with neighbouring uses/users? ▪ Will it help to reduce levels of air pollution? ▪ Will it minimise noise pollution? ▪ Does it accord with the Off-Site Emergency Plan for the nuclear installations outside of the Borough?

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
Materials and Waste	To promote circular economy principles, minimise waste using the waste hierarchy, promote reuse, recovery and recycling, minimise the impact of waste on the environment and communities, and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and material assets, including soils.	▪ Will it encourage the re-use of existing buildings? ▪ Will it encourage the re-use of previously developed land? ▪ Will it encourage an efficient use of land and an appropriate use of the site in light of alternative uses? ▪ Will it retain the Borough's best and most versatile agricultural land? ▪ Will it result in a reduction in waste? ▪ Will it support sustainable design and construction techniques in new development? ▪ Will it ensure effective use of mineral resources? ▪ Will it avoid sterilisation of mineral resources? ▪ Will it encourage the maximisation of the re-use and recycling of recovered components and materials? ▪ Will it help achieve Government targets for minimising, recovering and recycling waste? ▪ Will it increase the burden on limited natural resources? ▪ Will it avoid the loss of or harm to existing built infrastructure assets, including transport infrastructure?
Historic Environment	To conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment, including designated and non-designated heritage assets, and their setting, to ensure these contribute to the character and sense of place of new development.	▪ Will it protect, and where possible enhance, the Borough's historic and cultural heritage? ▪ Will it conserve or enhance heritage assets (including designated and non-designated heritage assets) and the wider historic environment including landscapes, townscapes, buildings, structures and archaeological remains, and their settings? ▪ Will it safeguard sites and monuments of archaeological importance? ▪ Will it affect the fabric and setting of historic buildings, places or spaces that contribute to local distinctiveness, character and appearances? ▪ Will it promote sustainable repair and reuse of heritage assets and their integration into broader development proposals? ▪ Will it improve access to, and interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the significance of heritage assets? ▪ Will it affect the heritage of communities? ▪ Will it tackle issues affecting heritage assets identified as being 'at risk'? ▪ Will it promote local cultural distinctiveness?

IIA Topic	IIA Objectives	Guide Questions
Landscape and Townscape	To conserve, protect and where possible enhance the character and quality of the local landscape, townscape and visual amenity.	▪ Will it protect, and enhance where possible, areas of highest landscape value such as the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and their settings ? ▪ Will it protect and enhance the Borough's landscape character and diversity? ▪ Will it have significant visual impacts (including those at night)? ▪ Will it promote high quality design, which is sensitive to the local landscape/townscape context? ▪ Will it respect and retain the unique and individual character and distinctiveness of settlements and prevent coalescence?

5.4 Proposed Assessment Methodology

5.4.1 The proposed methodology for the assessment will be designed to be proportionate to the strategic nature of the Local Plan as well as reflect its locationally specific elements. The assessment will be based on expert judgement, informed by evidence and discussion/ validation with stakeholders.

5.4.2 The proposed IIA framework will be used to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the New Local Plan; and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan.

5.4.3 A qualitative assessment will be carried out that provides:

- an assessment commentary that will set out the nature and significance of predicted effects on the current baseline for each SEA objective. Any assumptions or uncertainties that underpin the assessment will be identified where necessary;
- a qualitative assessment score for effects identified;
- commentary on potential mitigation measures that could reduce the significance of any identified negative effects and enhance any positive effects.

5.4.4 Further details on the proposed assessment methodology will be outlined in the Environmental Report that will be published alongside the draft New Local Plan for public consultation.

5.5 Technical Difficulties

5.5.1 The following uncertainties have been identified when completing this SEA Scoping Report and which may be material to the subsequent assessment of the New Local Plan:

- the detailed design and layout of development and associated facilities and infrastructure is unknown;

- future changes to the baseline beyond those outlined are difficult to predict in light of the long operational lifespan of development;
- the exact scale of greenhouse gas emissions associated with development is unknown and will be dependent on a number of factors including: the exact design of new development; future travel patterns and trends; individual energy consumption behaviour;
- the exact scale of waste arisings associated with the New Local Plan will be dependent on a number of factors including: the design of new development; waste collection and disposal regimes; and individual behaviour with regard to recycling and reuse;
- the exact volume of materials and resources required during the construction of development is unknown;
- the exact scale of resource use associated with development once complete is unknown; and
- the extent of green and blue infrastructure provision associated with development is unknown.

6. Next Steps

6.1 Consultation on the Scoping Report

6.1.1 This Scoping Report is being issued for consultation. We would welcome views on any aspect of this report. Please provide your comments by **5pm on Friday 20 November 2026**.

6.1.2 Further information, including how to respond can be found on the council's **website**. Comments should be submitted via the online consultation portal.

6.1.3 If you do not have access to the internet, comments can be sent by post to: Planning Policy Team, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AH.

6.2 Next Steps

6.2.1 We are consulting on this Scoping Report for a period of six weeks. The approach set out in this report, amended on the basis of consultation responses where appropriate, will be used to assess the likely significant effects of the New Local Plan. The results of the assessment will be presented within an interim Environmental Report, which will be issued for consultation alongside Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's consultation on the New Local Plan scope and content (Gateway 2).

Appendix A – Quality Assurance Checklist

The Government's Guidance on SEA[159] contains a quality assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Regulations are met. Those requirements relevant to the scoping stage of the SEA of New Local Plan have been set out below.

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	The plan's purpose and objectives are set out in **Section 1.3**.
Sustainability issues, including international objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Key issues (**Section 4**) identified through a review of relevant plans and programmes (see **Section 2** of this Scoping Report) and analysis of baseline conditions (see **Section 3**) have informed the development of the assessment framework presented in **Section 5.3**.
SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	**Section 5.3** presents the SEA objectives and guide questions.
Links to other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	A review of related plans and programmes is contained in **Section 2** of this Scoping Report.
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Scoping Report.	This is the consultation on the scope of the SEA.
The SEA focuses on significant issues.	Significant issues have been identified from the baseline analysis contained in **Section 3** of this Scoping Report on a topic-by-topic basis. These are summarised in **Section 4**.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	**Section 5.5** details limitations of the data used in the Scoping Report and assumptions made.
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	The proposed scope of the assessment is set out in **Section 5.2**. In this instance none of the topic areas have been scoped out of the assessment.
Baseline Information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	**Section 3** of this Scoping Report characterises the current environmental baseline conditions, along with how these are likely to change in the future.
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is	Throughout **Section 3** of this Scoping Report, reference is made to areas which may be affected by the New Local Plan although it should be noted that until the plan measures have been determined, it is not possible to determine with

[159] Office of the Deputy Prime Minister et al (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78ec0740f0b62b22cbddd2/practicalguidesea.pdf [Accessed 22/12/2025]

Quality Assurance Checklist	
likely to be affected by the plan (where practical to do so).	certainty those areas that are likely to be most affected by the plan.
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	**Section 5.5** details limitations of the data used in the Scoping Report and assumptions made.

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