

***Sustainability
Appraisal (SA) of the
Oakley and Deane
Neighbourhood Plan***

***SA Report to accompany
the Submission version of
the Neighbourhood Plan***

July 2015



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3	Final Version	Nick Chisholm-Batten Principal Consultant Paul McGimpsey Senior Consultant	Steve Smith Technical Director	Steve Smith Technical Director	14/07/15

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AECOM Limited
The Crescent Centre
Temple Back
Bristol BS1 6EZ
United Kingdom

Telephone: 0117 917 1200

Fax: 0117 930 0342

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Non-Technical Summary

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out to inform the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan. This has incorporated a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process as required by the SEA Regulations. Neighbourhood Groups use SA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the appraisal is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of Oakley and Deane and the quality of life of residents through the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan?

The Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan (ODNP) sets out a plan for Oakley and Deane Parish in the period to 2029. Prepared to be in conformity with the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the ODNP sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Oakley and Deane area. These relates to a range of topics, including, but not limited to, housing, landscape, the built environment, community services, open space and transport.

The Vision for the ODNP is as follows:

'To create a plan to meet the allocated development, which will maintain the character of Oakley as a village and respect the views and needs of the community'

It is currently anticipated that the ODNP will undergo a referendum later in 2015.

Purpose of this SA Report

This SA Report, which accompanies the Submission Version of the ODNP, is the third document to be produced as part of the SA process. The first document was the SA Scoping Report, which includes information about Oakley and Deane's environment and community and the proposed approach to the SA. The second document was the SA Report to accompany the 'Regulation 14' consultation version of the ODNP.

The purpose of this SA Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the current ODNP and alternatives; and
- Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SA process.

The SA Report contains:

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

Assessment of alternative approaches for the ODNP

A key requirement of the SEA Regulations is to appraise 'reasonable alternatives' for the ODNP. To address this requirement, a number of alternative approaches have been considered in relation to the scale and form of new housing development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan. These are designed to deliver the 150 houses which Policy SS5 of the Submission Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan specifies should be delivered in Oakley to 2029.

The consultation undertaken for the ODNP in January 2014 invited consultees to nominate sites that could be considered for residential development in the Neighbourhood Area. In total 22 sites were put forward and subsequently considered.

Of these, one of the sites was discounted due to being located outside of the area covered by the ODNP. Five of the sites are existing recreational / play areas, with the loss of these amenities not considered acceptable. For seven of the sites it was established that the landowner had no intention of developing in the plan period for the Neighbourhood Plan. And one of the sites was deemed to have physical constraints which could not readily be overcome, including major access issues.

Finally, three further sites were discounted on the basis of their location within the 'Strategic Gap' designated between Basingstoke and Oakley by the emerging Local Plan. In addition to community consultation indicating that there was a strong preference for the Strategic Gap to be maintained, it was viewed that promoting development within the Strategic Gap would not be in conformity with the provisions of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

Following this process, the evaluation established that the only sites suitable for taking forward for consideration for the purposes of the ODNP were the five sites previously considered through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment undertaken for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan¹. Whilst these five sites had been discounted as potential locations for Local Plan 'strategic' sites, the emerging Local Plan states that they can be taken forward through neighbourhood planning if the development is of an appropriate scale and if physical constraints can be overcome.

The five sites, which are all located in the vicinity of Oakley village, are as follows:

- **Park Farm** – an area of land bounded by the existing Oakley Settlement Policy Boundary to the east, Rectory Road to the south, Station Road to the west and the railway line to the north. It is accessed from Station Road.
- **Sainfoin Lane** – the site is located to the west of Pardown and accessed through Sainfoin Lane / Hill Road. **Land West of Beech Tree Close** – the site is located to the west of Beech Tree Close and Barn Lane. It is accessed from Beech Tree Close.
- **Andover Road ('The Allotments')** – the site is bordered to the north by the B3400 and to the south by the railway line. It is accessed from Station Road. This site is divided into four separate parcels. As the Village Hall and the land for the allotments will remain in situ.
- **Oakley Hall** – this is land centered around the Oak Lodge Nursing Home which is outside the existing Oakley Settlement Policy Boundary.

Based on these potential sites, two sets of options were considered through the SA process as 'reasonable alternatives'. These are described below.

1) Options for number of housing sites

- Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Oakley and Dean area through one of the five sites proposed.

¹ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (September 2014) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Version 9

- Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Oakley and Deane area through multiple sites.

These options were then considered through the SA process, with findings provided to plan makers.

The consultation undertaken in September 2014 highlighted a strong preference for development to take place over multiple sites. Alongside, the same consultation highlighted that there was a preference for development to be spread over the maximum number of sites possible.

Drawing on these consultation responses, and the SA appraisal findings, the Steering Group for the ODNP viewed that there are some clear advantages in taking an approach which spread development over the full range of sites considered suitable for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan. As such, all five sites have been taken forward through the ODNP.

2) Options for delivering reserve sites in Oakley

Due to the possibility that sites may become unavailable during the plan period, the ODNP Steering Group viewed it would be prudent to consider how elements of the Neighbourhood Plan allocation of 150 dwellings could be reallocated if required.

To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the SA process appraised a number of options under two scenarios. These are described below.

Scenario 1: Loss of Park Farm

This scenario would consider the loss of Park Farm as an allocation. The loss of Park Farm would require 45 dwellings to be redistributed among the other four sites.

It is not possible for two of the proposed sites to absorb additional housing numbers. The Andover Road ('The Allotments') site does not have capacity for additional dwellings. The preferred approach for Oakley Hall is a niche development which relates to retirement housing. As such the Oakley Hall site was also discounted for the reallocation of housing.

The two remaining sites where housing could be reallocated are Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane. The three options are therefore as follows:

Scenario 1: Loss of Park Farm (45 dwellings)		
Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to the Land West of Beech Tree Close site	Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to the Sainfoin Lane site	Option 3: Reallocate allocations between the Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane sites

Scenario 2: Loss of Sainfoin Lane

This scenario would consider the loss of Sainfoin Lane as an allocation. The loss of Sainfoin Lane would require 35 dwellings to be redistributed.

As for Scenario 1, it is not possible for these dwellings to be redistributed to the Andover Road ('The Allotments') site and to Oakley Hall.

The three options for Scenario 2 are as follows:

Scenario 2: Loss of Sainfoin Lane (45 dwellings)		
Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to the Land West of Beech Tree Close site	Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to the Park Farm site.	Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.

The findings of the appraisal highlighted that, for both scenarios, Option 3, through reallocating housing through two sites rather than one, will help limit more focussed effects in the vicinity of the site affected. This will help limit more concentrated effects on elements such as biodiversity, landscape/townscape quality, the historic environment, traffic and accessibility and the quality of life of existing residents. Whilst the allocation of additional housing would lead to larger housing sites, which would enable a more coordinated approach to community infrastructure provision to take place, this would depend on when the reallocation of housing from sites that become unavailable would take place

In terms of Scenario 1, which would result from the loss of Park Farm, additional effects are likely to take place on the historic environment and townscape quality from the options which promote a greater degree of development at the Land West of Beech Tree Close site. Similarly, as responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have indicated, a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.

For Scenario 2, allocations at both the sites proposed for reallocations have the potential to have impacts on the historic environment. This includes linked to the presence of the Church Oakley Conservation Area. In this respect, the option which spreads reallocations between the two sites (Option 3) will help enable effects on townscape character to be more effectively mitigated, including through appropriate design, the integration of green infrastructure measures and other approaches which seek to enhance the setting of the historic environment at this location. As for Scenario 1, the options which propose a larger scale of development at the Land West of Beech Tree Close site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.

Regulation 14 consultation on the ODNP: March 2015

In December 2014 the SA team appraised an initial draft of the preferred Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of this process was to provide a sustainability perspective on an initial draft of the plan prior to its finalisation for 'Regulation 14' consultation. A series of recommendations were made by the SA team to the ODNP Steering Group at this stage. The Steering Group for the ODNP subsequently considered these recommendations, and the ODNP was updated prior to consultation to reflect these comments.

In January/February 2015 the SA team appraised the final Regulation 14 consultation version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal were subsequently presented in the SA Report accompanying the Regulation 14 version of the ODNP for consultation in March 2015.

Subsequently, in May/June 2015, the Neighbourhood Plan was further updated for Submission to reflect responses received during Regulation 14 consultation. Part 3 of this SA Report appraises the current Submission version of the plan.

Appraisal of the current Submission version of the ODNP

Utilising the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during the earlier scoping stage of the SA, the SA process has appraised the policies put forward through the current Submission version of the ODNP. The SA Report has presented the findings of the appraisal through eight sustainability themes, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change (including flood risk)
- Land, soil and water resources
- Historic environment and landscape
- Population and community
- Health and wellbeing
- Transportation
- Economy and enterprise

The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the ODNP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' and 'health and wellbeing' sustainability objectives. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the Submission version of the plan and the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in the Neighbourhood Area.

In terms of potential negative effects, the development of the greenfield sites proposed through the Submission version of the plan will lead to inevitable losses of land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land. This is classified as the 'Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land'. Whilst the ODNP has sought to preserve the productivity of some of these areas through promoting the development of new allotments, residual **significant negative effects** are likely to remain in relation to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' sustainability objectives.

There are also likely to be inevitable effects on landscape and townscape quality from new areas of development on the edge of Oakley and at Oakley Hall. To help address this, the Submission version of the ODNP presents a number of policy interventions which will help limit potential effects and achieve enhancements where possible. Similarly the green infrastructure policies of the ODNP also promote the protection and enhancement of key landscape features such as areas of woodland and seek to protect local important green spaces. This will help limit significant negative effects from new development areas on landscape quality.

Whilst the proposed plan approach will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change', 'biodiversity' and 'historic environment and landscape' these are not considered as significant positive effects as the delivery of the allocations through the ODNP will inevitably lead to some adverse effects in relation to these sustainability topics. For these topics therefore, the approach put forward through the Submission version of the ODNP will limit the potential magnitude of adverse effects linked to the delivery of housing allocations in the Neighbourhood Area.

In relation to the 'economy and enterprise' sustainability objective a number of beneficial approaches are put forward by the Submission version of the plan. However, in light of the nature of the Neighbourhood Area, and the focus on housing rather than employment allocations through the ODNP, these effects are not considered to be significant.

Next steps

The ODNP has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, for its consideration. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the ODNP meeting the required statutory requirements.

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

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Introduction

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of Oakley and Deane's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2012. The ODNP, which covers Oakley and Deane parishes in Hampshire, is being prepared in the context of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 This SA Report accompanies the Submission version of the ODNP, which was submitted to Basingstoke and Deane Council in July 2015.
- 1.1.4 Key information relating to the ODNP is as follows:

Table 1.1 Key facts relating to the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Oakley and Deane Parish Council
Title of Plan	Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood plan
Purpose	The Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the saved policies of the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
Timescale	To 2029
Area covered by the plan	Oakley and Deane Parish (see Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area. Box 5.1 below presents the vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan
Plan contact point	Ian Pryce, Parish Clerk, Oakley and Deane Parish Council, 24 Medway Avenue, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG23 7DP Email address: oakleydeanepc@gmail.com Telephone number: 01256 780886

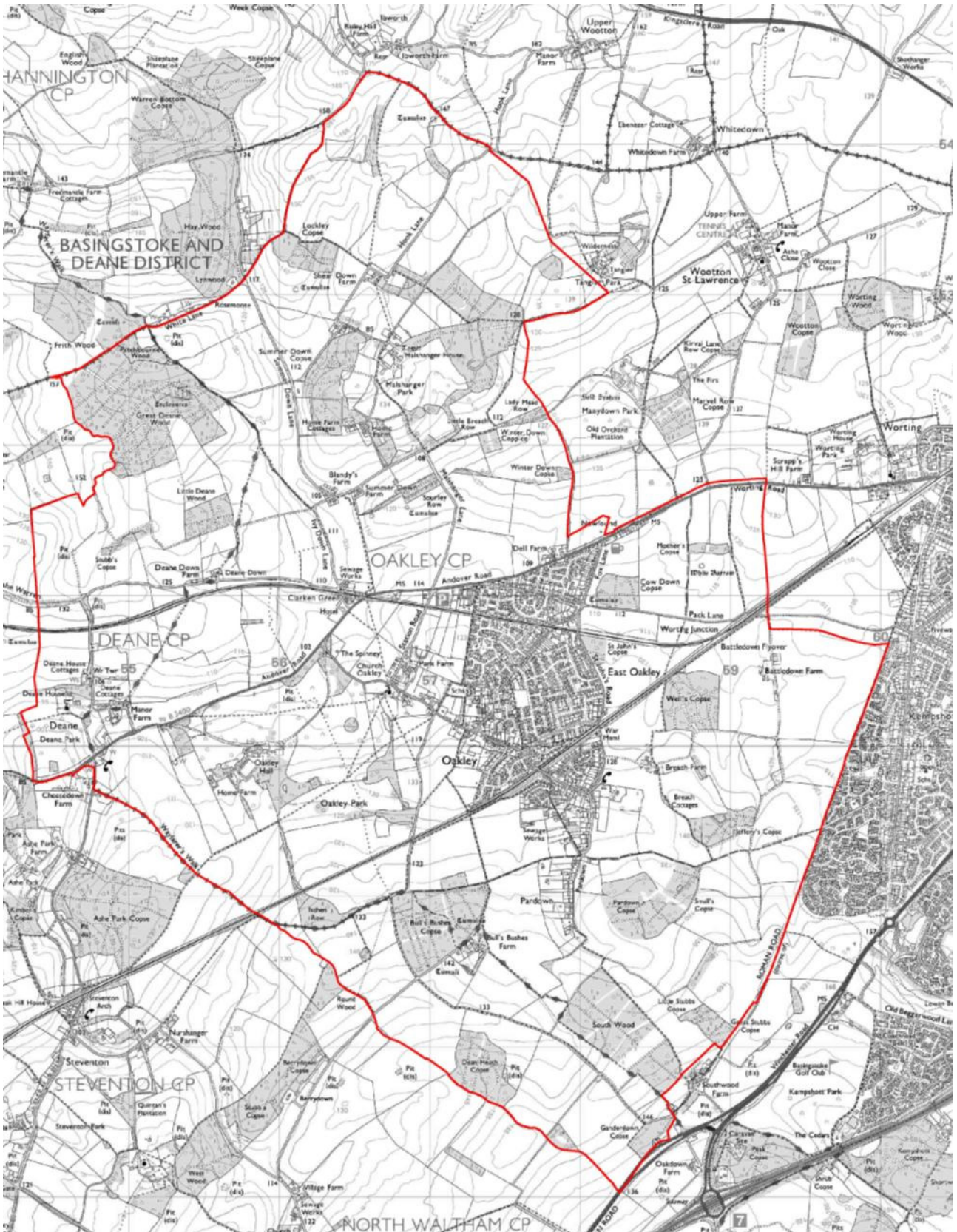


Figure 1.1 Area covered by the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan

1.2 SA explained

- 1.2.1 SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA for the ODNP seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.2 SA is in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive². It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to also include social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan; however Neighbourhood Development Plans do not require a SA through planning legislation.
- 1.2.3 The ODNP has been determined to require SEA by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. To meet this requirement, the ODNP is undergoing an SA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations. This mirrors the approach currently being taken for the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 1.2.4 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 1.2.5 In line with the SEA Regulations this report - which for the purposes of SA is known as the 'SA Report' – must essentially answer four questions:
1. What's the scope of the SA?
 2. What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?

Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan-making / SA iteration. 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been appraised.
 3. What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 4. What happens next?
- 1.2.6 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present 'the information to be provided within the report. Table 1.1 presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SA questions.

² Directive 2001/42/EC

1.3 Structure of this SA Report

1.3.1 This document is the SA Report for the Submission version of the ODNP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the Regulations. **Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:**

Table 1.1: Questions that must be answered by the SA Report in order to meet Regulatory³ requirements

SA REPORT QUESTION		IN LINE WITH SCHEDULE II THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE...
Part 1: What's the scope of the SA?	What's the plan seeking to achieve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
	What's the sustainability 'context'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
	What's the sustainability 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
	What are the key issues & objectives that should be a focus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) appraisal
Part 2: What has plan-making / SA involved up to this point?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) The likely significant effects associated with alternatives Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the Submission version of the plan.
Part 3: What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely significant effects associated with the Submission version of the plan The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Submission version of the plan
Part 4: What happens next?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next steps for plan making / SA process.

N.B. The right-hand column of Table 1.1 does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation. This interpretation is explained in Appendix I of this report.

³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

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***Part 1: What is the
Scope of the SA?***

2 Introduction to Part 1

2.1 Scope of the SA

2.1.1 This is Part 1 of the SA Report, the aim of which is to introduce the reader to the scope of the SA. In particular, and as required by the SEA Regulations⁴, this Part of the SA Report answers the series of questions below.

- What's the Plan seeking to achieve?
- What's the sustainability 'context'?
- What's the sustainability 'baseline'?
- What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus of SA?

2.1.2 **Chapter 3** answers the first question by outlining the ODNP's vision and objectives.

2.1.3 The other three scoping questions are answered in **Chapters 4-6**, with each question answered for the following eight sustainability 'topics':

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Biodiversity | • Population and community |
| • Climate change (including flood risk) | • Health and wellbeing |
| • Land, soil and water resources | • Transportation |
| • Historic environment and landscape | • Economy and enterprise |

2.2 Consultation on the scope

2.2.1 The SEA Regulations require that: *"When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies"*. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, The Environment Agency and Historic England.⁵ As such, these authorities were consulted on the scope of the ODNP SA in November 2014. Consultation responses received on the Scoping Report are presented in **Table 2.1**.

⁴ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁵ In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because *'by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities,[they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme.'*

Table 2.1 Consultation responses received on the SA Scoping Report

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
Natural England (Charles Routh)	
Having reviewed the above report, I can confirm Natural England has no comments to make, as it appears to adequately address our areas of interest.	Comment noted.
Historic England (Martin Small)	
Paragraph 5.1 – the first bullet point would be clearer if it said “adversely affect.....”. The second bullet point should read “...through affecting cultural heritage assets and their setting and landscape/townscape quality”. The fourth bullet could be amended to read “.....the loss of key built, historic and natural features”. HAR ? incremental changes ?	Comment noted and taken into account through the SA.
Paragraph 5.2.1 – the NPPF requires local plans, rather than neighbourhood plans, to set out a “positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. However, if this reference is to be retained, it could also be noted that the NPPF also requires local plans to set out a clear strategy for enhancing the historic environment.	The Historic Environment and Landscape context has been updated to reflect this distinction between Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.
Paragraph 5.3.3 – English Heritage is also a consultee on some planning applications for development within Conservation Areas and affecting listed buildings and scheduled monuments.	The historic environment and landscape context has been updated to reflect this distinction between Local Plans and Neighbourhood plans.
Paragraph 5.3.9 – the final sentence should make it clear that there are no higher-grade heritage assets on the English Heritage 2014 Heritage at Risk Register; there may be grade II listed buildings at risk. If no survey of these exists, the Scoping Report should identify this as a gap in the background data.	The historic environment and landscape baseline section has been updated to reflect the data gap.
<p>In our experience it is usual for the scoping report to set out measures or indicators for assessing and monitoring the performance of the policies and proposals of the Plan against historic environment objectives. Appendix 4 of the English Heritage advice on SEA and the historic environment contains a range of possible indicators for assessing and monitoring the performance of the policies and proposals of the Plan against a historic environment objective. Again, not all will be relevant, but, we suggest that the following be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number and percentage of different heritage assets at risk; • the percentage of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval; and • the percentage of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies were developed and implemented. 	It is recognised that monitoring indicators are an important aspect of the SA process. Monitoring indicators will be informed by the outcome of the appraisal, particularly where significant adverse environmental effects are predicted. At the scoping stage the focus has been on developing robust and appropriate appraisal criteria. This will subsequently be used to inform the framework of monitoring indicators and, if relevant, will include specific metrics as recommended by Historic England.

Consultation response	How the response was considered and addressed
<p>Environment Agency (Marie Martin)</p>	
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Paragraph 3.1 – We are pleased that is intended to protect and enhance areas of biodiversity value and that the ODNP is also seeking to support the nature conservation value of the River Test as it is a SSSI. We support the proposed SA appraisal questions in Table 3.1.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>We note that you have identified surface water run off as a key issue for parts of the neighbourhood plan area. Small areas of both Oakley and Deane are also affected by fluvial flooding and are shown to be within flood zones 2 and 3.</p>	<p>The climate change sustainability baseline has been amended to acknowledge the areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 present in the Neighbourhood Area.</p>
<p>The NPPF requires that you consider all sources of flooding this should include surface water, groundwater and fluvial flood risk. The only reference to flooding within Table 4.2 relates to 'sustainably manage water run-off. The other sources of flooding should also be considered within this section.</p>	<p>The SA objectives for climate change have been amended to cover fluvial, surface and groundwater flood risk.</p>
<p>Land, Soil and Water Resources</p> <p>We are pleased to see in Table 6.1 that one of the SA Objectives is to 'Use and Manage Water Resources in a Sustainable Way'.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>2.2.2 Information presented in this SA Report has reflected the comments received on the Scoping Report.</p>	

4 What's the sustainability 'context'?

The SA Report must include...

- The relevant sustainability objectives, established at international / national level
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate 'scope' of an SA involves reviewing 'sustainability context' messages. From the SEA Regulations it is understood that there is a need to focus on context messages relating to:

4.1.2 Broad problems / issues; and

- Objectives
- i.e. 'things that are aimed at or sought'.

4.1.3 Set out below is a summary and update to the context review presented within the November 2014 Scoping Report.

4.2 Biodiversity

4.2.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁶ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

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

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

⁶ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

⁷ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

4 What's the sustainability 'context'?

The SA Report must include...

- The relevant sustainability objectives, established at international / national level
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An important step when seeking to establish the appropriate 'scope' of an SA involves reviewing 'sustainability context' messages. From the SEA Regulations it is understood that there is a need to focus on context messages relating to:

4.1.2 Broad problems / issues; and

- Objectives
- i.e. 'things that are aimed at or sought'.

4.1.3 Set out below is a summary and update to the context review presented within the November 2014 Scoping Report.

4.2 Biodiversity

4.2.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy⁶ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.

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

- Contribute to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. 'a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities').
- Plan positively planning for 'green infrastructure' as part of planning for 'ecological networks'.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁷ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

⁶ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

⁷ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

- 4.2.3 At the local level the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets out a framework for action in two parts.
- 4.2.4 Volume One, the Strategic Plan, sets out the objectives of the Partnership, describes Hampshire's biodiversity, and identifies habitats and species of priority concern. It also presents a strategy for information, data and raising awareness of biodiversity. Volume Two contains individual action plans for priority habitats and species and topics that have a considerable influence on the conservation of biodiversity.

4.3 Climate change

4.3.1 In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.⁸ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

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

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008⁹. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
 - planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
 - actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
 - setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy;
 - positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
 - encouraging those transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion.
- Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

4.3.3 The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁰ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹¹

⁸ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁹ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

¹⁰ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

4.3.4 Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDS.¹² This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of ‘contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure’.

4.4 Historic environment and landscape

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

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

4.4.2 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England¹³ sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

4.4.3 The Consultation Draft of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 sets out a wide ranging vision for the AONB, incorporating aspects such as landscape quality and tranquillity; the protection and enhancement of the historic environment; the conservation and improvement of biodiversity, water and soil quality; the development of vibrant economy based on the area’s environmental qualities; thriving rural communities; and sustainable tourism. The Management Plan subsequently presents a series of policies and objectives to achieve this vision in the AONB, and proposes a Delivery Plan of actions.

4.5 Land, soil and water resources

4.5.1 The EU’s Soil Thematic Strategy¹⁴ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

4.5.2 The Water Framework Directive drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra’s intention is to establish a ‘framework for integrated catchment management’ across England. The Environment Agency is currently seeking to establish ‘Significant Water Management Issues’ within catchments with a view to presenting second River Basin Management Plans to ministers in 2015. The plans will seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:

- Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Reduce the pollution of water, especially by ‘priority’ and ‘priority hazardous’ substances; and

¹¹ N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹² CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDS – making it happen [online] available at: <http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

¹³ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

¹⁴ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

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

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

4.5.4 Other key documents at the national level include Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England¹⁵, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper¹⁶, which sets out the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the Government Review of Waste Policy in England¹⁷ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

4.6 Population and community

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

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

¹⁵ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf>

¹⁶ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

¹⁷ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

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

4.7 Health and wellbeing

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

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

4.7.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, Fair Society, Healthy Lives¹⁸ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: 'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'.

4.7.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in producing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent Government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government¹⁹, giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

4.8 Transportation

4.8.1 European and UK transport policies and plans place emphasis on the modernisation and sustainability of the transport network. Specific objectives include reducing pollution and road congestion through improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks and reducing the need to travel. National policy also focuses on the need for the transport network to support sustainable economic growth. The Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-31 presents a long term strategy for the area and an implementation plan for the county.

¹⁸ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

¹⁹ Upper tier and unitary local authorities

4.9 Economy and enterprise

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

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by 'ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'.
- Capitalise on 'inherent strengths', and to meet the 'twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future'.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for 'clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries'.
- Support competitive town centre environments.
- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.
- Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas and promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

5 What's the sustainability 'baseline'?

The SA Report must include...

- The relevant aspects of the current state of the sustainability baseline and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'
- The characteristics of areas / populations etc. likely to be significantly affected.
- Any existing sustainability problems / issues which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas / populations etc. of particular importance

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The baseline review tailors and develops the problems/issues identified through context review so that they are locally specific. A detailed understanding of the baseline can aid the identification and evaluation of 'likely significant effects' associated with the plan / alternatives.
- 5.1.2 Set out below is a summary and update to the baseline review presented within the November 2014 Scoping Report.

5.2 Biodiversity

Summary of current baseline

- 5.2.1 No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The closest European designated site is the River Itchen SAC, which is approximately 13km to the south of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.2.2 In terms of nationally designated nature conservation sites, the River Test SSSI is located in neighbouring Overton Parish, approximately 1.3km to the west of Deane village. The river has been designated for its interest as one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England²⁰.
- 5.2.3 The SSSI condition assessment undertaken in February 2013 deemed that the unit closest to the Neighbourhood Area is in an 'unfavourable no change' condition. This is due to the unit not complying with existing river profile or river planform targets and failing the targets for river bank vegetation and the target for the presence of non-native plant species²¹. The western part of the Neighbourhood Area is within the SSSI's Impact Risk Zone²² for housing developments of over 100 dwellings or more.
- 5.2.4 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 5.2.5 Key areas of BAP Priority Habitat in the plan area include: a large area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat at Patchbourne Wood; a number of further areas of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat scattered across the plan area; and large areas of Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat located in the vicinities of Oakley Hall and Malshanger Park. Many of the areas covered by Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat have also been classified as ancient woodland.

²⁰ River Test SSSI citation: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/2000170.pdf

²¹ River Test - river channel unit - source to Bourne: <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1027757> [accessed 5th November 2014]

²² SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

- 5.2.6 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are sites locally designated for their habitat and/or species interest by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) against a set of agreed criteria. There are approximately ten SINCs in the plan area, including, in the immediate vicinity of Oakley, Cow Down Copse and St Johns Copse.

Summary of future baseline

- 5.2.7 Sites of biodiversity importance have the potential to come under increasing pressures from an increase in the plan area's population and associated development. This includes through a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks. This may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats.
- 5.2.8 Biodiversity in the plan area has the potential to continue to be affected by the economic necessity for intensive farming in the area (as facilitated by the presence of high quality of agricultural land in the plan area). There is however the potential for gains for biodiversity in the farmed landscape to arise as a result of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), which is currently being implemented.
- 5.2.9 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning in Hampshire and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks in the area.

5.3 Climate change

Summary of current baseline

- 5.3.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²³. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.
- 5.3.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario²⁴ are likely to be as follows:
- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8°C; and
 - the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 16% and summer mean precipitation is –19%.
- 5.3.3 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Area. These include:
- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
 - increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
 - increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
 - increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
 - increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
 - effects on water resources from climate change;
 - reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;

²³ The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

²⁴ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> (accessed 11/2014)

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

5.3.4 In terms of flood risk, areas at risk of fluvial flooding are limited by the lack of watercourses in the Neighbourhood Area, although there are some limited areas within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3. However surface water flooding is a key issue for parts of the Neighbourhood Area, in particular Deane village, which in the last three years has been cut off twice for extended periods due to extreme rainfall. Figure 5.1 highlights surface water flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area



Figure 5.1: Surface water flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area (source Environment Agency flood maps)

- 5.3.5 In relation to GHG emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change²⁵ suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has also seen smaller reductions in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).
- 5.3.6 In relation to CO₂ emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from industrial and commercial sources in the borough rose fell slightly from 34% to 32%. In the same period the proportion of total emissions from domestic sources increased slightly from 25% to 27% and road transport remained the same.

Summary of future baseline

- 5.3.7 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Neighbourhood Area, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change (including surface water flooding) with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.
- 5.3.8 In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. However road transport and domestic sources are likely to be increasing contributors proportionally.

5.4 Historic environment and landscape

Summary of current baseline

- 5.4.1 The north western part of the plan area falls within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The primary purpose of AONB designation is 'conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area'. In this context the North Wessex Downs AONB was designated for its dramatic, undeveloped and locally distinct chalk downlands with extensive areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, interspersed with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and secluded valleys. The part of the Neighbourhood Area within the AONB has been classified by the AONB Management Plan as 'Downland with Woodland'.
- 5.4.2 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. A number of features and areas for the historic environment in the plan area are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and conservation areas, which are designated at the local level. English Heritage is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. English Heritage is also a consultee on some planning applications for development within Conservation Areas and affecting listed buildings and scheduled monuments
- 5.4.3 There are two conservation areas located within the plan area: Church Oakley Conservation Area and Deane Conservation Area.
- 5.4.4 Church Oakley Conservation Area was designated in 1976. It is centred on Rectory Road, and extends from Well House to the west, south-eastwards to East Oakley (and the cluster of buildings around the pond), and Oakley Lane, as far as Deepwell Cottage. The Conservation Area also

²⁵ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed on 05/11/2014)

extends to the north-west (as far as Oakley Lodge) and includes an important landscape setting to the south of the historic settlement. A Conservation Area Appraisal was prepared in 2003²⁶.

- 5.4.5 The Deane Conservation Area was designated by Basingstoke and Deane Council in 1992 in recognition of the special architectural and historic interest of the village. According to the Conservation Area Appraisal, which was prepared in 2003, the essential character of the village is a small rural settlement, derived from the openness of the layout between the buildings. The juxtaposition of the buildings and views of the surrounding farmland, afforded as a result of the layout and the local topography, emphasise this character. The special appearance of the Conservation Area is formed by a combination of groups of small domestic dwellings. These contrast with larger, visually dominant but physically separate, buildings of intended prominence, status and setting. Its topography, in combination with the encircling loop of the road, is one of its most distinctive features and enables important views through, into, and out of, the historic settlement²⁷.
- 5.4.6 The Neighbourhood Area contains numerous listed buildings. In this context Oakley Parish includes one Grade II* listed building (Church of St Leonard), and 29 Grade II listed buildings, and Deane Parish includes one Grade II* listed building (Church of All Saints), and 9 Grade II listed buildings.
- 5.4.7 Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England, there are three scheduled monuments in the plan area, all in Oakley Parish. There are no registered parks and gardens or historic battlefields in the plan area.
- 5.4.8 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2013 Heritage at Risk Register²⁸ highlighted that there are no features or areas deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Area. However, it should be noted that Grade II sites potentially deemed to be 'at risk' have yet to be assessed in the parish.
- 5.4.9 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the plan area are likely to include parks and the wider historic landscape. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.

Summary of future baseline

- 5.4.10 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- 5.4.11 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There are also likely to be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.
- 5.4.12 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

²⁶ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2003) Conservation Area Appraisal, Church Oakley
<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/889EB13D-E4CB-4396-8CAA-E5FB09B30DB4/0/ChurchOakley.pdf>

²⁷ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2003) Conservation Area Appraisal, Deane
<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/306BFD60-0501-4DE0-9814-73FD13F29B92/0/Deane.pdf>

²⁸ Heritage at Risk Register (2013), <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx> [accessed 05/11/14]

5.5 Land, soil and water resources

Summary of current baseline

- 5.5.1 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the plan area, land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land is located in the east of the plan area, covering the area to the south and east of Oakley village. Whilst agricultural land quality in the rest of the plan area has not recently been assessed, the Provisional Agricultural Land Classification established it as Grade 3 land²⁹.
- 5.5.2 There is no Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the plan area. The nearest is located in Basingstoke off Wade Road.
- 5.5.3 Whilst no significant watercourses are present in the plan area, the source of the River Test is located just to the west of Deane outside of the parish. Water supply in the area is provided by South East Water and waste water provision is provided by Southern Water. The Test and Itchen Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy highlights that there is 'Restricted Water Available for Licensing' in the area. This indicates that if all licensed water is abstracted there will not be enough water left for the needs of the environment.
- 5.5.4 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. Reflecting the vulnerability of groundwater in the area to pollution, a SPZ underlays much of part of the Neighbourhood Area east of Oakley. A further SPZ is extends across the south of the Neighbourhood Area to the south west of Oakley.
- 5.5.5 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this context the western 90% of the plan area is underlain by a eutrophic and groundwater NVZ, with the eastern 10% of the plan area underlain by a surface water and groundwater NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

- 5.5.6 In the absence of the plan, a higher proportion of development has the potential to take place on greenfield land. This is especially the case given the greater availability of such land in the plan area and the likely growth in the local population and economy which will make such development attractive. Development in the plan area also has the potential to lead to the loss of some areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land, including Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land.
- 5.5.7 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.
- 5.5.8 In terms of water quality, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area. Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies.

²⁹ It should be noted that much of the data is from prior to 1976 when the distinction between Grades 3a and 3b was introduced. The maps are intended for strategic use and Natural England state *'these maps are not sufficiently accurate for use in assessment of individual fields', or sites and any enlargement could be misleading*". A soil survey should be undertaken to verify the actual classification 'on the ground' – see <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/141047?category=2595819>

- 5.5.9 Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

5.6 Population and community

Summary of current baseline

- 5.6.1 According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the parish of Deane was 202, with the population of the parish of Oakley 5,086³⁰. The overall population for the Neighbourhood Area was therefore 5,288 in 2011.
- 5.6.2 In the parish of Deane this was an increase of 19 from the 2001 census, or a 10.38% growth, with a population decrease of 152, or a 2.9% population decline, in the parish of Oakley (see Table 5.1). The rate of growth in Deane parish is significantly higher than regional and national comparators, and in line with the borough growth rate. Overall, the population of the Neighbourhood Area has decreased by 2.45%, which is significantly lower than borough, regional and national growth rates.

Table 5.1 Population growth, 2001-2011³¹

Date	Deane	Oakley	Plan Area	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
2001	183	5,238	5,421	152,573	8,000,645	49,138,831
						53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	10.38%	-2.9%	-2.45%	9.98%	7.93%	7.88%

- 5.6.3 The Neighbourhood Area has a significantly lower proportion of individuals across the 0-44 age range than all other comparators. There is a higher proportion of the 45-59 age group within the plan area than national and borough averages, and a higher proportion of residents aged 60 and over when compared to Basingstoke and Deane, the South-East and England.
- 5.6.4 There are 1,758 people aged 60 or over living in the plan area, which is 33.3% of the population. In Oakley parish, 32.8% of the population is aged 60 and over, compared to a slightly higher figure of 45% in Deane parish.
- 5.6.5 Census statistics which measure deprivation across the four 'dimensions' of deprivation³² including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating), show that the parish of Oakley has deprivation levels that are in line with the borough of Basingstoke and Deane, while Deane has lower levels of deprivation than all comparables. In this context Deane has a significantly higher proportion of households (64.3%) that are not deprived in any dimension.

³⁰ Office for National Statistics (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

³¹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV02)

³² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)

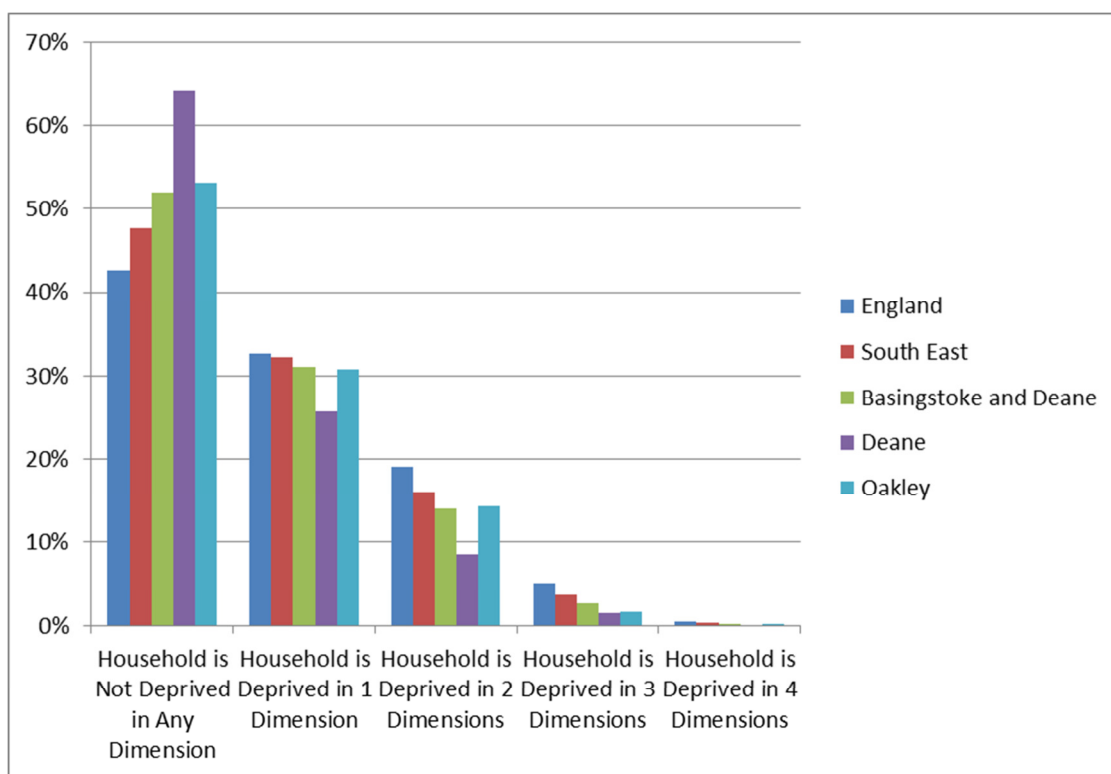


Figure 5.2 Relative deprivation dimensions

- 5.6.6 In terms of the house price to income ratio, which illustrates the multiple of the average income in the area to average house price, the affordability ratio for Basingstoke & Deane in 2013 was 6.89, a decrease from 7.36 in 2010. This is higher than the ratio of 6.72 for England.³³
- 5.6.7 The parish of Oakley has a higher proportion of its residents living in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (85% in total), while the parish of Deane has a higher proportion of residents that rent (36%) or live rent free (19%) than tenure values at borough and national level. The plan area has a significantly lower proportion of social rented tenures than borough, regional and national averages.
- 5.6.8 In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.³⁴ There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.
- 5.6.9 The population of the plan area is generally well qualified, with 35% and 32.8% of residents aged 16 and above in Deane and Oakley respectively having at least a Level 4 Qualification³⁵. This is higher than at the borough level (30.5%), and significantly higher than both the regional (29.9%) and national (27.4%) averages³⁶. Fewer people in the parish of Oakley have no qualifications (16.1%) than the borough (17.3%), the South East (19.1%) and national average (22.5%). There is however a higher percentage of residents in the parish of Deane (25%) that have no qualifications than all other comparables.

³³ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 577: ratio of median house price to median earnings by district, from 1997, [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

This data is not available at ward or parish level.

³⁴ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district: England 1997 to 2013.

³⁵ Level 4 and above qualifications cover: Degree (BA, BSc), Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level, Professional Qualifications (Teaching, Nursing, Accountancy).

³⁶ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Qualifications and Students (KS501EW)

Summary of future baseline

- 5.6.10 The population of the Neighbourhood Area is likely to continue to grow and age.
- 5.6.11 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.
- 5.6.12 The adult population across the plan area is largely well educated, with a significant number of people with degree level qualifications resident above the borough, regional and national average. Increasing economic activity rates are likely to increase demand for new housing and employment opportunities in the area.

5.7 Health and wellbeing

Summary of current baseline

- 5.7.1 As highlighted in Table 5.2, general health across the plan area is broadly favourable. 48.8% and 41.1% of people reported that they were in 'very good' health³⁷, with values in Oakley largely in line with borough, regional and national averages. The proportion of people in the parish of Deane in very good and good health is however significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages.

Table 5.2 General Health

	Oakley	Deane	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Very Good Health	48.8%	41.1%	50.7%	49%	47.2%
Good Health	35.8%	27.2%	35.1%	34.6%	34.2%
Fair Health	11.6%	23.3%	10.8%	12%	13.1%
Bad Health	3%	5.5%	2.7%	3.4%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	0.7%	3%	0.7%	1 %	1 2%

- 5.7.2 3% of residents of Deane parish stated that they have 'very bad' health, which is significantly higher than local and regional and averages. While a higher proportion of people in Deane stated they were in fair health than all other comparable areas. 24.8% of residents of Deane stated they were limited 'a lot' with day to day activities due to long-term health problems or disabilities, with 6.9% or people limited 'a little'.
- 5.7.3 6.3% of residents of Oakley parish reported that they were limited 'a lot' with day to day activities due to long-term health problems or disabilities, with 10% or people limited 'a little'. Overall in Oakley parish, the proportion of people limited in day-to-day activities with health problems and disabilities and in 'very bad' health is significantly lower than neighbouring parish of Deane. The levels of long term health and disability in Oakley are broadly in line with borough, regional and national averages.
- 5.7.4 No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators; however at the borough level the 2013 Health Profile³⁸ shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; above the national average of 73.8 and 79.3, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

³⁷ ONS (2013) Census 2011 General Health (QS302EW)

³⁸ Public Health England (2013) Health Profile 2013 [online] available at:

<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=basingstoke%20and%20deane&SPEAR=> (accessed 6/11/2014)

Summary of future baseline

- 5.7.5 The population of the plan area is predicted to grow and age in the future. This will place pressure on existing health and community facilities that are likely to face greater demand from residents.
- 5.7.6 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer.

5.8 TransportationSummary of current baseline*Rail network*

- 5.8.1 The nearest rail stations to the plan area are Overton railway station (which is c.4.5km from Deane village) and Basingstoke station (which is c.8.5km from Oakley village). Basingstoke is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line, the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line and the Cross Country Trains line to Oxford, Birmingham and the north of England. Direct services include to Winchester (15 minutes), Reading (16 minutes), Andover (16 minutes), Woking (18 minutes), Southampton (33 minutes), Salisbury (35 minutes), Oxford (46 minutes), London Waterloo (46 minutes), Bournemouth (1 hour) and Birmingham (c.2hrs). Overton is located on the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line with direct services to London Waterloo (approximately 1 hour), Andover (13 minutes), Woking (29 minutes), and Salisbury (33 minutes). In this context, whilst no railway stations are located within the Neighbourhood Area, Oakley and Deane are in good proximity to excellent rail connections.

Bus network

- 5.8.2 Oakley and Deane are connected by bus to Basingstoke and Whitchurch via Stagecoach services number 76 and 86. Services run half hourly during the day, with journey times to Basingstoke approximately 24 minutes from Deane and 20 minutes from Oakley.

Road network and congestion

- 5.8.3 The main route through the Neighbourhood Area is the B3400, which connects the plan area with Basingstoke to the east and Overton, Whitchurch and the A34 to the west. The route often becomes heavily congested at peak times, with queuing traffic giving rise to road safety issues near Scrapps Hill at the eastern edge of the plan area.
- 5.8.4 In terms of other congestion hotspots, congestion issues arise on Oakley Lane from the Barley Mow public house around school times. Likewise congestion also takes place around St Leonard's Church and Rectory Road in the morning. A number of routes within the plan area are affected by the disruption of two-way traffic due to parked vehicles and the presence of the railway bridges in the plan area. The M3, which is located to the south of the Neighbourhood Area, can also cause congestion issues when overweight vehicles use the village as an alternative route.

Availability of cars and vans

- 5.8.5 In Deane, the proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than comparable averages, while the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher. In Oakley, the proportion of households with no access to a car or van is higher than Deane's averages, but still significantly lower than borough, regional and national averages. Both parishes have significantly higher proportions of four or more cars or vans per households. High car ownership in the Neighbourhood Area reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

Travel to work

- 5.8.6 The proportion of people who travel to work by foot in Deane parish is broadly in line with borough, regional and national averages, with a significantly lower proportion walking to work in Oakley parish. A higher proportion of people travel to work by car or van in Oakley than in Deane. This proportion is broadly in line with borough levels, but higher than regional and national averages. Few people travel to work by bus or bicycle in the parish of Deane, with averages for Oakley lower than all other comparable areas.
- 5.8.7 The parish of Deane has a significantly higher proportion of people working from home than all other comparable areas. The proportion of people who work from home in Oakley is also higher than borough, regional and national averages.

5.9 Economy and enterprise

Summary of current baseline

- 5.9.1 Rates of full-time employment are significantly higher in Deane (43.3%) and Oakley (39.5%) than across Basingstoke and Deane (31.7%) but largely similar to regional rates (40.5%) and higher than national rates (38.6%). Rates of part-time employment in Deane are significantly lower than the areas compared, with part-time employment in Oakley slightly higher.³⁹
- 5.9.2 Rates of self-employment are significantly higher in Deane than at the borough, regional and national level, with 7% self-employed without employees. Oakley averages for self-employment are broadly in line with regional and national averages. The proportion of residents who are unemployed is below borough, regional, and national averages. The proportion of people retired in the plan area is significantly higher than borough, regional and national averages.
- 5.9.3 The plan area has a highly qualified population compared to borough, regional and national averages, with 32.8% in Oakley parish and 35% of Deane parish working-age residents qualified to NVQ level four or above.⁴⁰ There is however a significantly higher proportion of residents in Deane parish that have no qualifications.
- 5.9.4 Figure 5.3 shows the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile for Oakley is largely similar to borough, regional and national averages, with the one notable exception being a larger number of people working in manufacturing. The occupation profile for Deane contrasts with the areas compared, with considerably more people working in administrative and support services, professional, scientific and technical activities, and agriculture.
- 5.9.5 Oakley parish has lower levels of 'accommodation and food services; transport and storage' than borough, regional and national averages, with lower levels of 'human health and social work activities; education; wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, construction and manufacturing' in Deane.

³⁹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Economic Activity (QS601EW)

⁴⁰ Level 4 qualifications include bachelors degrees, NVQs at Level 4, HNDs and HNCs.

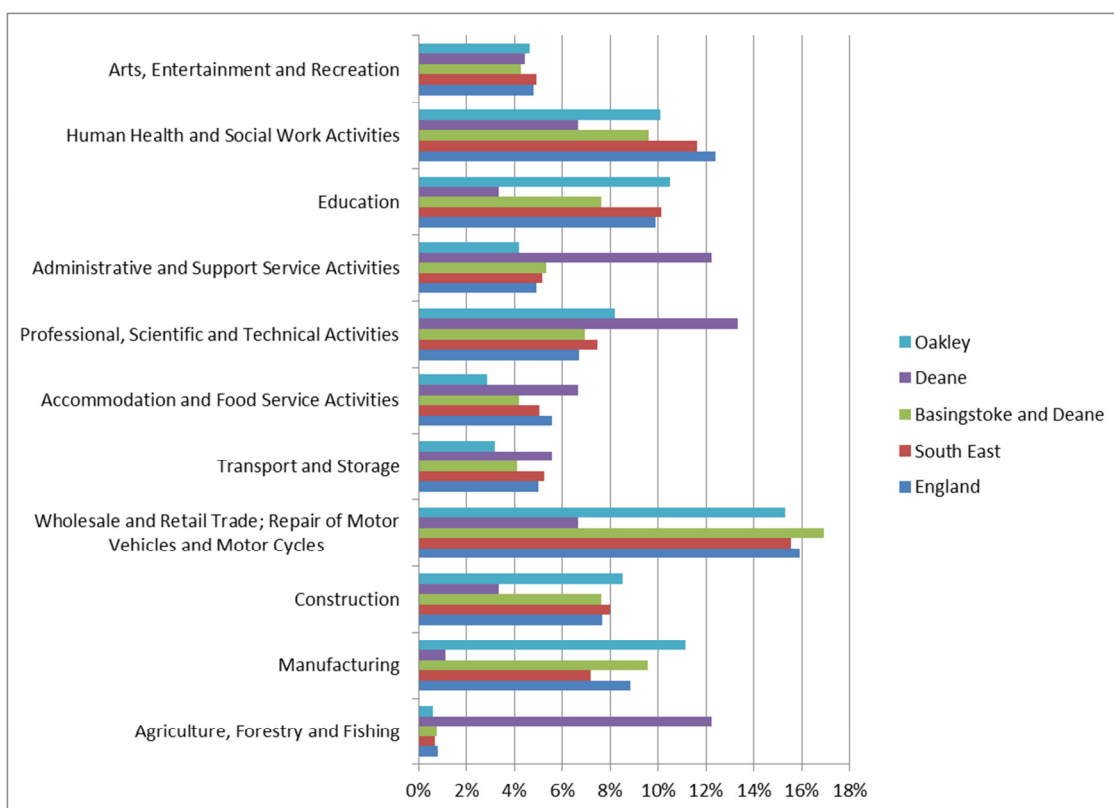


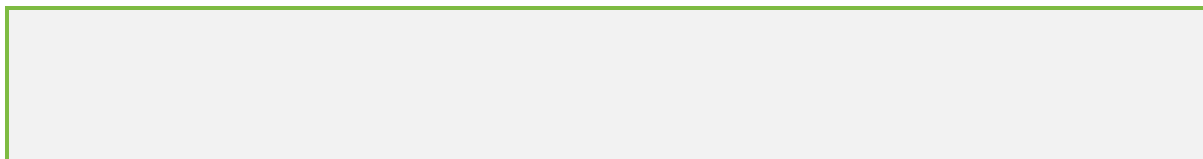
Figure 5.3 The industry of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment in the week of working-age residents⁴¹

Summary of future baseline

5.9.6 There will be an increased demand for services and facilities in the plan area with population growth. Increased economic activity in Basingstoke may provide economic opportunities for those living in the Neighbourhood Area.

⁴¹ ONS (2011) Industry 2011 (QS605EW)

6 What are the key issues and Objectives that should be a focus?



6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Drawing on the review of the sustainability context and baseline, the SA Scoping Report (2014) was able to identify a range of sustainability problems / issues that should be a particular focus of SA, ensuring it remains focused. These issues were then translated into sustainability 'objectives'. These SA Objectives provide a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

6.2 Sustainability topics and objectives

SA Topic	SA Objectives
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features
Climate change	Promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in Oakley and Deane
Historic environment and landscape	Protect, maintain and enhance Oakley and Deane's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets. Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the more efficient use of land. Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste. Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
Population and community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities. Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and well-being of Oakley and Deane's residents.
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.
Economy and enterprise	Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area

6.2.1 The full SA Framework of objectives and decision-making questions developed during the scoping stage of the SA and against which the plan has been appraised are presented in **Appendix II**.

Part 2: What has plan making / SA involved to this point?

7 Introduction to Part 2

The SA Report must include...

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal (and hence, by proxy, a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan)

The 'narrative' of plan-making / SA up to this point is told within this part of the SA Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the current Submission version of the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by an appraisal of a number of alternative approaches to delivering the Local Plan allocation for housing in the Neighbourhood Area. It also describes how the SA process has informed and influenced the development of the plan up to, and subsequent to, Regulation 14 consultation.

8 Overview of plan-making / SA work undertaken since 2013

- 8.1.1 Plan-making for the ODNP has been underway since September 2013. Initial work incorporated an extensive number of informal and formal consultation exercises carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, including consultation events, resident surveys, and engagement with local organisations. This was accompanied by the collation of baseline information from existing surveys and studies.
- 8.1.2 Following these preliminary consultation exercises, the Vision and Goals for the ODNP were developed and subsequently augmented with policy approaches. A number of housing delivery sites were also put forward for potential inclusion in the plan.
- 8.1.3 A Consultation on Key Issues document was released by the Steering Group in April 2014. Drawing on community consultation which had been carried out to date, it presented a set of 13 'key issues'. These key issues were formulated to set out the key considerations which developers should take into account when taking forward new development in the plan area.
- 8.1.4 In September 2014, the Steering Group subsequently released a Consultation on Site Selection document. This presented findings of consultation carried out over summer 2014 on the potential scale and location of new development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.1.5 The site allocations and policies for the Neighbourhood Plan were then further worked up in the period to December 2014 and subsequently updated in January/February 2015. These were included in the Regulation 14 consultation version of the ODNP which was released for consultation in February 2015, accompanied by the Regulation 14 SA Report.
- 8.1.6 The following chapter discusses in more detail the evolution of sites and policies for the ODNP in association with the SA process.

9 *Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan*

A key element of the SA process is the appraisal of ‘reasonable alternatives’ for the ODNP. In this context a number of reasonable alternatives have been considered in relation to the scale and location of housing allocations put forward by the ODNP for the Neighbourhood Area. These allocations are designed to deliver the housing numbers set out by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

9.1 Consideration of potential sites for housing allocations

9.1.1 The consultation undertaken for the ODNP in January 2014 invited consultees to nominate sites that could be considered for residential development in the Neighbourhood Area. In total 22 sites were put forward and subsequently considered.

9.1.2 Of these, one of the sites was discounted due to being located outside of the area covered by the ODNP. Five of the sites are existing recreational / play areas, with the loss of these amenities not considered acceptable. For seven of the sites it was established that the landowner had no intention of developing in the plan period for the Neighbourhood Plan. And one of the sites was deemed to have physical constraints which could not readily be overcome, including major access issues.

9.1.3 Finally, three further sites were discounted on the basis of their location within the ‘Strategic Gap’ designated between Basingstoke and Oakley by the emerging Local Plan. In addition to community consultation indicating that there was a strong preference for the Strategic Gap to be maintained, it was viewed that promoting development within the Strategic Gap would not be in conformity with the provisions of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

9.1.4 Following this process, the evaluation established that the only sites suitable for taking forward for consideration for the purposes of the ODNP were the five sites previously considered through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) undertaken for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan⁴². Whilst these five sites had been discounted as potential locations for Local Plan ‘strategic’ sites, the SHLAA states that they can be taken forward through neighbourhood planning if the development is of an appropriate scale and if physical constraints can be overcome.

9.1.5 The five sites, which are all located in the vicinity of Oakley village, are as follows:

- **Park Farm** – an area of land bounded by the existing Oakley Settlement Policy Boundary to the east, Rectory Road to the south, Station Road to the west and the railway line to the north. It is accessed from Station Road.
- **Sainfoin Lane** – the site is located to the west of Pardown and accessed through Sainfoin Lane / Hill Road. **Land West of Beech Tree Close** – the site is located to the west of Beech Tree Close and Barn Lane. It is accessed from Beech Tree Close.
- **Andover Road (‘The Allotments’)** – the site is bordered to the north by the B3400 and to the south by the railway line. It is accessed from Station Road. This site is divided into four separate parcels. As the Village Hall and the land for the allotments will remain in situ.
- **Oakley Hall** – this is land centered around the Oak Lodge Nursing Home which is outside the existing Oakley Settlement Policy Boundary.

9.1.6 A location map of these sites is presented in section 9.3.

⁴² Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (September 2014) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Version 9

9.2 Appraisal of single vs multiple housing sites to deliver the Local Plan allocation for Oakley

- 9.2.1 Undertaken as a central element of the development of the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan, the ODNP Steering Group considered what size and form new housing sites should take during the life of the plan.
- 9.2.2 To support decision-making on this element of the ODNP, the SA process considered two broad options relating to the number of housing allocations to deliver the housing numbers set out for the Oakley area by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
- 9.2.3 The two options, which were consulted on through the Consultation on Site Selection document in September 2014, were as follows:
- **Option 1:** Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Oakley area through one site; and
 - **Option 2:** Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan's housing allocation for the Oakley area through multiple sites.
- 9.2.4 These options were considered through the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping (see **Part 1**).
- 9.2.5 Table 9.1 presents the findings of the appraisal of Option 1 and Option 2 outlined above. These are presented through the eight sustainability topics discussed in section 2.1.3. To support the appraisal findings, the two options have been ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant topic. It is anticipated that this will provide the reader with a likely indication of the comparative sustainability performance of the two options in relation to each topic.

Table 9.1 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to the number of housing sites

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Biodiversity	<p>Option 1, through delivering housing allocations on fewer, but larger sites has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of localised effects on individual biodiversity assets. This includes through habitat loss and direct and indirect impacts on species. Option 2 may however lead to increases in incremental effects on biodiversity through smaller scale but multiple impacts on assets.</p> <p>All sites have the potential to have impacts on biodiversity assets if located inappropriately and have poor design and layout. Likewise all sites have the potential to promote net gains in biodiversity value. In this context, for all sites, potential effects on biodiversity depend on elements such as the provision of green infrastructure to accompany new development areas and the retention and incorporation of biodiversity features.</p>	2=	2=

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Climate change	<p>In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to emissions in the plan area. The extent to which the two options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. In this context, Option 2, through promoting housing provision in smaller sites across the plan area, has increased potential to facilitate the development of new housing at locations which are more integrated with the existing built up area of Oakley. This has the potential to allow at some locations easier access to services and facilities by sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. However Option 1, through promoting larger scale sites, may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to the plan area's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the plan area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. Whilst the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more tangible through the larger development proposed through Option 1, mechanisms including the community infrastructure levy provide opportunities for plan area-wide green infrastructure improvements through both options.</p> <p>The effect of new development areas on surface water and groundwater flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems. Areas affected by fluvial flood risk are limited due to the lack of watercourses in the plan area.</p>	2=	2=
Land, soil and water resources	<p>Option 2, through spreading development across multiple sites, has the potential to limit development on the areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land (including Grade 2 and 3a land) which are present in the vicinity of Oakley (particularly to the south and east of the village).</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. However it should be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger developments promoted by Option 1.</p>	2	1

Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through concentrating new housing provision on one large site, Option 1 has increased potential to lead to impacts on landscape quality. This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increased traffic flows. Whilst major new development areas will not be located within the North Wessex Downs AONB, views from the AONB may be adversely affected by larger sites.</p> <p>Meeting housing provision through an increased number of smaller sites is less likely to have impacts on landscape quality in the plan area. This is due to increased opportunities through this option for assimilating new development within the existing fabric of the built-up area of Oakley. The option also increases opportunities for managing the cumulative landscape impacts of the housing provision for the plan area stipulated by the Local Plan.</p> <p>In terms of potential effects on the historic environment, Option 1, through promoting larger scale housing development in the Oakley area, has the potential to have significant effects on the existing historic setting of the village. Through promoting more compact housing development sites, Option 2 is more likely to facilitate housing provision which more effectively sits within the historic setting of the settlement. However, it should be noted that the development of one larger site would help limit effects on other locations which would otherwise be taken forward as site allocations and provide opportunities for comprehensive green infrastructure improvements which help limit effects on landscape and townscape quality and provide opportunities to create new views and vistas</p> <p>Option 2, through promoting smaller scale development, increases opportunities for supporting the reuse and rejuvenation of existing heritage assets in the village. This will support the plan area's historic environment resource, if high quality design and layout is incorporated within new provision.</p>	2	1

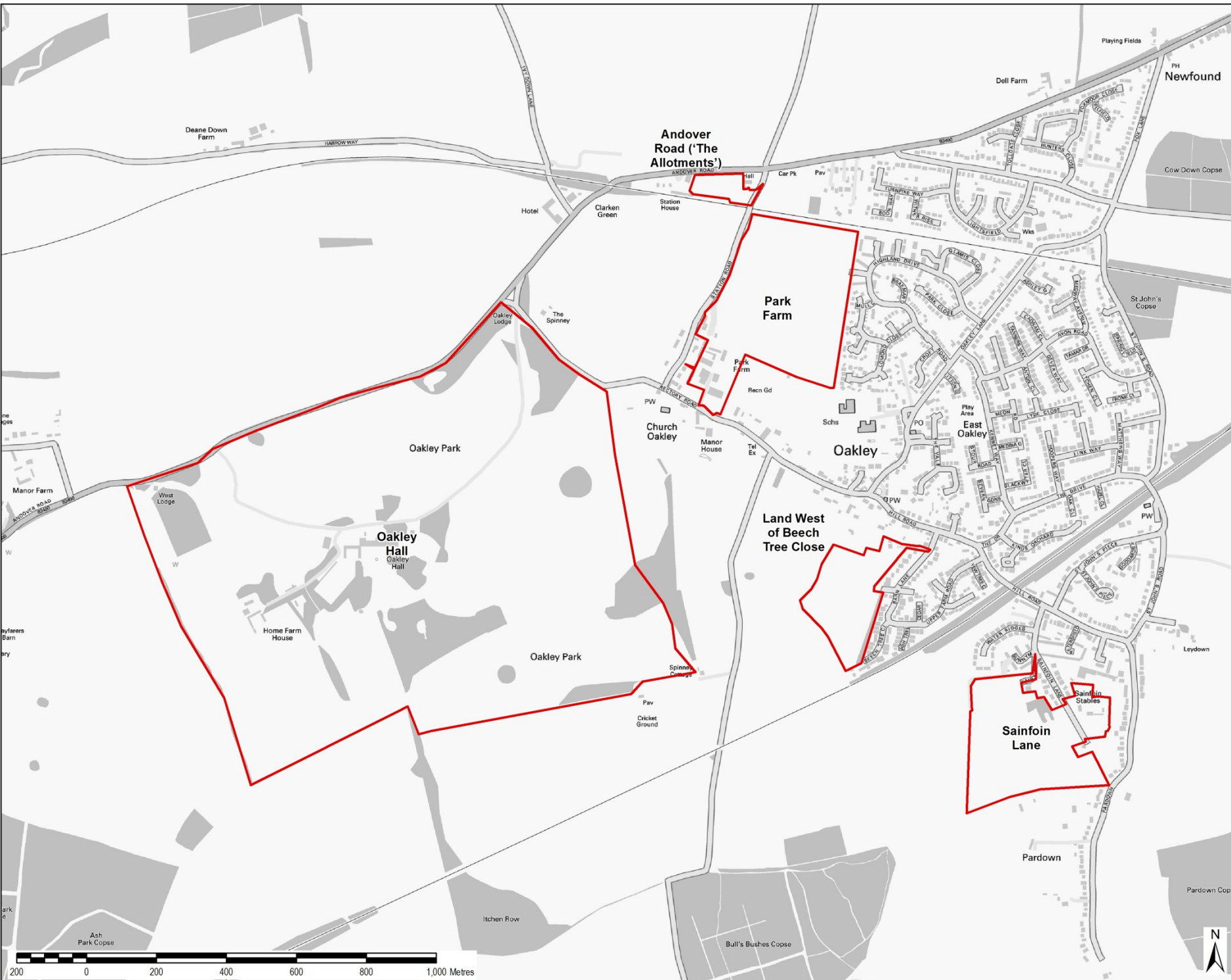
Option 1: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through one site			
Option 2: Delivery of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan s housing allocation for the Oakley area through multiple sites			
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference	
		Opt 1	Opt 2
Population and community	<p>Both options will deliver the housing numbers set out for the plan area proposed by the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.</p> <p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision may be easier to deliver through Option 1. This is linked to the delivery of Section 106 agreements likely to be levied on the larger development areas promoted through this option. Whilst all new developments involving one or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the delivery of housing at fewer and larger sites may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements. It should be noted however that such contributions are typically required to make a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable.</p> <p>In terms of wider community benefits, the effect of both options depends on the extent to which new housing provision is accompanied by new, expanded and improved health, education and other provision in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context there may be scope for a single site approach to more effectively deliver a coordinated package of community benefits for Oakley than a multi-site approach.</p>	1	2
Health and wellbeing	The delivery of housing provision through one larger site has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows on more sensitive areas of the village, including Oakley Lane and Rectory Road. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents at these locations. However, the cumulative effects of multiple development areas through Option 2 may also have similar effects. Effects therefore depend on the location of new development areas.	2=	2=
Transport	The provision of new and improved sustainable transport infrastructure to accompany new housing development, including pedestrian/cycle and public transport links may be more feasible with the concentrated nature of development proposed through Option 1.	1	2
Economy and enterprise	Through delivering 150 dwellings in the vicinity of Oakley, both options are likely to support the economic vitality and viability of the village.	1=	1=

9.3 Appraisal of key site constraints

- 9.3.1 The consultation undertaken in September 2014 highlighted a strong preference for development to take place over multiple sites. Alongside, the same consultation highlighted that there was a preference for development to be spread over the maximum number of sites possible.
- 9.3.2 Drawing on these consultation responses, and the SA appraisal findings presented in the previous section, the Steering Group for the ODNP viewed that there are advantages in taking an approach

which spread development over the full range of sites considered suitable for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan. As such, all five sites were taken forward for consideration through the ODNP.

- 9.3.3 To support the consideration of the suitability of these sites, the SA process has undertaken an appraisal of the key constraints present at each of these five sites and potential effects that may arise. In this context the sites have been considered in relation to the SA Framework of objectives and decision making questions (Appendix II) developed during SA scoping and the baseline information.
- 9.3.4 The tables below present a summary of this appraisal, and provide an indication of each site's sustainability performance in relation to the eight SA topics.



LEGEND
 Site locations

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Purpose of Issue **DRAFT**

Client
THE BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE

Project Title
SEA FOR THE OAKLEY AND DEANE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Drawing Title
SEA FOR THE OAKLEY AND DEANE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR SITE ALLOCATIONS.

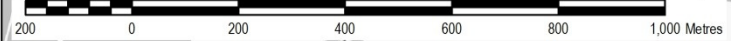
Drawn SS	Checked SB	Approved NCB	Date 06/02/2015
AECOM Internal Project No 47072781		Scale @ A3 1:10,000	

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AECOM
 80001 House
 Alport Park, Basingstoke
 Hampshire, RG21 7PP
 Telephone: 01256 316200
 Fax: 01256 316201
 www.aecom.com

Drawing Number Sheet
1

File Name: Z:\TEMP\Oakley\GIS\project_files\MXD\potential locations for site allocations_v2.mxd



Key			
Likely adverse effect (without mitigation measures)		Likely positive effect	
Neutral/no effect		Uncertain effects	

Park Farm

Biodiversity	Climate change	Land, soil and water resources	Historic environment and landscape	Population and community	Health and wellbeing	Transportation	Economy and enterprise
--------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	----------------	------------------------

Development at the Park Farm site has the potential to have impacts on the integrity of the Church Oakley Conservation Area, part of which is located in the south of the site. There are also a number of listed buildings present close to the site, including Barn Cottage and the Barn House (Grade II listed), Park Farmhouse (Grade II listed), Well House (Grade II listed), Manor House (Grade II listed), and the Grade II* Church of St Leonard. The Conservation Area Appraisal has also highlighted a number of key vistas which have the potential to be affected by development. The design and layout of development at this site should seek to support the integrity of these features. Due to topography and screening, views from the North Wessex Downs AONB are unlikely to be adversely affected.

Part of the site comprises land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Land (land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a land). Whilst no Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats are present on the site, a large area of Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat is located to the south west of the plan area (in part associated with Oakley Park).

In common with all proposed sites, the site is located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone. The site has relatively good proximity to bus routes, being located close to the A3400, which is one of the main bus routes in the Neighbourhood Area. However, current access to this bus route is limited by the current footpath, which is currently in poor condition and unsuitable as a key sustainable transport corridor.

Sainfoin Lane

Biodiversity	Climate change	Land, soil and water resources	Historic environment and landscape	Population and community	Health and wellbeing	Transportation	Economy and enterprise
--------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	----------------	------------------------

The site comprises land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land. This is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Land. A small area of surface water flood zone crosses the site from east to west. In common with all proposed sites, the site is located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone. No designated sites, features or areas including listed buildings, conservation areas or scheduled monuments are located in the immediate vicinity of the site. There are also no Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats present in the immediate vicinity of the site. Due to topography and screening, views from the North Wessex Downs AONB are unlikely to be adversely affected.

Land West of Beech Tree Close

Biodiversity	Climate change	Land, soil and water resources	Historic environment and landscape	Population and community	Health and wellbeing	Transportation	Economy and enterprise
--------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	----------------	------------------------

The northern part of the site is located within the Church Oakley Conservation Area. Listed buildings present close to the site, include East Oakley House, East Oakley House Cartshed and East Oakley House Barn (x2), Hunters Moon, 3 Rectory Road, The Malt House and Forge Cottage. These are all Grade II listed. The design and layout of development at this site should seek to support the integrity of these features. Due to topography and screening, views from the North Wessex Downs AONB are unlikely to be adversely affected.

The proposed residential development site is currently Grade 3 agricultural land. As such it is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land' (i.e. Grade 3a land). In common with all proposed sites, the site is located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone.

There are no Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats present in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Andover Road (The Allotments)

Biodiversity	Climate change	Land, soil and water resources	Historic environment and landscape	Population and community	Health and wellbeing	Transportation	Economy and enterprise
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A large part of the site comprises allotments. However the ODNP has sought to retain these.

Whilst there are no Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats present in the immediate vicinity of the site, an area of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat is present across Andover Road to the north west of the site.

The proposed residential development site is currently Grade 3 agricultural land. As such it is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land' (i.e. Grade 3a land). In common with all proposed sites, the site is located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone.

The site is located 500m east of the North Wessex Downs AONB boundary, but is well screened. There are no known historic environment constraints in the vicinity of the site. The site has relatively good access to bus, being located close to the A3400, which is one of the main bus routes in the Neighbourhood Area. Responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for this site have indicated that a larger scale of development at this location has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.

Oakley Hall

Biodiversity	Climate change	Land, soil and water resources	Historic environment and landscape	Population and community	Health and wellbeing	Transportation	Economy and enterprise
--------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	----------------	------------------------

Development at this site has the potential to have impacts on the integrity of the historic environment at this location with inappropriate design and layout. Three Grade II listed buildings/structures are present at Oakley Hall, including the hall, the stable block and courtyard, and the kitchen garden wall. Alongside, Oakley Lodge (including the gate piers and flanking walls immediately to the north east of the lodge) is listed. In this context development at this location may affect the setting of the historic environment.

The western edge of the site is located within the Impact Risk Zone for the River Test SSSI, whereby the Local Planning Authority must consult with Natural England on likely risks arising from infrastructure, residential and non-residential development. Potential effects on biodiversity assets and effects on landscape quality can be limited by restricting inappropriate development in line with plan policies and consultation with Natural England.

A number of Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats are present in the vicinity of the site. This includes a significant area of Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat covering the majority of the eastern part of the site, and a number of areas of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat present to the south of Oakley Hall and in the vicinity of the western, northern and eastern edge of the site.

The site has been classified as Grade 3 agricultural land. As such it is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as 'the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land' (i.e. Grade 3a land). In common with all proposed sites, the site is located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone.

The site has relatively good access to bus services, being located close to the A3400, which is one of the main bus routes in the Neighbourhood Area.

9.4 Assessment of options for reserve sites

- 9.4.1 Due to the possibility that sites may become unavailable during the plan period, the ODNP Steering Group viewed it would be prudent to consider how elements of the Neighbourhood Plan allocation of 150 dwellings could be reallocated if required⁴³.
- 9.4.2 To consider this issue in more detail, and provide further sustainability context, the SA process appraised options for two scenarios. These are described below.

Scenario 1: Loss of Park Farm

- 9.4.3 This scenario would consider the loss of Park Farm as an allocation. The loss of Park Farm would require 45 dwellings to be redistributed among the other four sites.
- 9.4.4 It is not possible for two of the proposed sites to absorb additional housing numbers. The Andover Road ('The Allotments') site does not have capacity for additional dwellings. The preferred approach for Oakley Hall is a niche development which relates to retirement housing. As such the Oakley Hall site is also discounted for the reallocation of housing.
- 9.4.5 The two remaining sites are Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane. The three options considered are therefore as follows:

Scenario 1: Loss of Park Farm (45 dwellings)		
Option 1: Reallocate all dwellings to the Land West of Beech Tree Close site	Option 2: Reallocate all dwellings to the Sainfoin Lane site	Option 3: Reallocate dwellings between the Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane sites

Scenario 2: Loss of Sainfoin Lane

- 9.4.6 The loss of Sainfoin Lane would require 35 dwellings to be redistributed.
- 9.4.7 As for Scenario 1, it is not possible for these dwellings to be redistributed to the Andover Road ('The Allotments') site and to Oakley Hall.
- 9.4.8 The two remaining sites are Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm. The three options are as follows:

Scenario 2: Loss of Sainfoin Lane (35 dwellings)		
Option 1: Reallocate all dwellings to the Land West of Beech Tree Close site	Option 2: Reallocate all dwellings to the Park Farm site.	Option 3: Reallocate dwellings between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.

- 9.4.9 In terms of the loss of any of the other three sites, as the proposed number of dwellings at these sites is fewer than the Park Farm and Sainfoin Lane, it was viewed by the Neighbourhood Group that a feasible contingency plan would be to spread the dwellings over the remaining sites.
- 9.4.10 As for the previous sets of options, the options under Scenario 1 and 2 above were appraised as 'reasonable alternatives' for putting forward reserve site(s) for the Neighbourhood Plan against both the baseline and relatively (i.e. against each other). They were again considered through the SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions developed during scoping and ranked in terms of their sustainability performance against the relevant topic. In addition to identifying appropriate

⁴³ Site capacities for the five sites considered were based on the SHLAA and took into account revisions proposed by developers.

reserve sites, it was also viewed that this approach would also help assess the relative merits of different scales of development at each site.

9.4.11 The findings of the appraisal are presented in **Table 9.2** and **Table 9.3** below.

Table 9.2 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to additional housing delivery, Scenario 1, reallocation of housing from Park Farm

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Sainfoin Lane				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Biodiversity	<p>Both Sainfoin Lane and Land West of Beech Tree Close have no designated biodiversity sites located in the vicinity of the sites. There are also no BAP Priority Habitats present at these locations.</p> <p>The delivery of biodiversity enhancements to accompany new development may be more achievable through the larger scale of allocations proposed through Options 1 and 2. This includes through green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological corridors and the ecological value of existing biodiversity assets. However, the more focused delivery of housing proposed through Option 1 and 2 has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of effects on habitats and species in the vicinities of the chosen sites without careful planning of development and the delivery of mitigation and avoidance measures.</p>	2	2	1
Climate change	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the plan area. The extent to which the three options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. As both Sainfoin Lane and Land West of Beech Tree Close are located at similar distances from existing services and facilities and public transport networks, the difference between the options in relation to this theme is likely to be negligible.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to the plan area's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the Neighbourhood Area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. In this respect, the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more deliverable through the larger scale proposals resulting from Option 1 or 2. It should however be noted that housing delivery is likely to be phased as a result of housing being reallocated.</p> <p>The effect of new development areas on surface water and groundwater flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</p>	1	1	3

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Sainfoin Lane				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Land, soil and water resources	<p>The Sainfoin Land site comprises land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land. This is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Land. Land West of Beech Tree Close site has been evaluated as Grade 3 agricultural land. As such it is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (i.e. Grade 3a land). For these reasons, whilst there is a degree of uncertainty, Option 2 has increased potential to lead to the loss of higher quality agricultural land.</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. It should however be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger scale development promoted by Options 1 and 2- if all development at a site is brought forward together.</p>	1	3	2
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through concentrating the reallocation of housing on one site, there is increased potential for impacts on landscape quality at the locations proposed through Option 1 and 2 (Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane respectively). This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increases in traffic flows.</p> <p>Through spreading out 45 dwellings between two sites, Option 3 is less likely to lead to concentrated effects on landscape quality in these locations. This includes by increased opportunities through this option for assimilating new development within the existing fabric of the village.</p> <p>In terms of the historic environment, through focussing the reallocation of housing at the Land West of Beech Tree Close site, Option 1 has the most potential of the options to lead to effects on the setting of the historic environment. This is due to the sensitivities of the site, including linked to the location of the northern part of the site within the Church Oakley Conservation Area and the listed buildings are present close to the site. The Sainfoin Lane site has fewer historic environment/townscape constraints.</p> <p>In relation to potential effects on the North Wessex Downs AONB, both sites proposed through the options are located to the south and south west of the village. As such, due to topography and screening, views from the AONB are unlikely to be adversely affected through each of the three options.</p>	3	2	1

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Sainfoin Lane				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Sainfoin Lane.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Population and community	<p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision is likely to be easier to deliver through Options 1 and 2. This is linked to the enhanced deliverability of affordable housing through larger scale developments. The larger scale development proposed through Options 1 and 2 may also help deliver a wider range of housing types. Whilst all new developments involving one or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the reallocation of housing at one larger site may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements. The above elements depend however on when the reallocation from sites that become unavailable would take place.</p> <p>In terms of the impact of new housing provision on existing pressures on community services and facilities, the effect of all three options depend on the extent to which new housing provision is accompanied by new, expanded and improved health, educational and service provision in the Neighbourhood Area.</p>	1	1	2
Health and wellbeing	<p>The delivery of the larger scale of housing provision at the locations proposed through Option 1 (Land West of Beech Tree Close) and Option 2 (Sainfoin Lane) has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows at these locations. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents at these respective locations. This particularly has the potential to take place through Option 1: as responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have highlighted, a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.</p> <p>Both locations have good access to the doctors' surgery.</p>	3	2	1
Transport	<p>Responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have indicated that a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety. In this context an increased delivery of housing allocations (from 25 to 70 dwellings) at this location through Option 1 has the potential to lead to significant effects relating to this issue. Through promoting a larger scale of development at one location, Options 1 and 2 may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations. However, this depends however on when the reallocation from sites that become unavailable would take place.</p>	3	1	2
Economy and enterprise	<p>The three options would all deliver the same level of housing. As such, there are likely to be negligible differences between the allocations' contribution to the economic vitality and viability of the village.</p>	1	1	1

Table 9.3 Appraisal findings: reasonable alternatives linked to additional housing delivery, Scenario 2, reallocation of housing from Sainfoin Lane

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Park Farm				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Biodiversity	<p>Park Farm and Land West of Beech Tree Close both have no designated biodiversity sites located in the vicinity of the proposed allocations. There are also no BAP Priority Habitats present at these locations.</p> <p>The delivery of biodiversity enhancements to accompany new development may be more achievable through the larger scale of allocations proposed through Options 1 and 2. This includes through green infrastructure improvements and enhancements to ecological corridors and the ecological value of existing biodiversity assets. However, the more focused delivery of housing proposed through Option 1 and 2 has the potential to lead to an increased magnitude of effects on habitats and species in the vicinities of the chosen sites without careful planning of development and the delivery of mitigation and avoidance measures.</p>	2	2	1
Climate change	<p>In terms of climate change mitigation, road transport is an increasingly significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the plan area. The extent to which the three options have the potential to support climate change mitigation through facilitating a reduced level of car dependency is therefore a key element. Park Farm and Land West of Beech Tree Close are located at similar distances from existing services and facilities and public transport networks (although Park Farm is slightly more accessible to main bus routes in the village). However, the difference between the options in relation to this theme is likely to be negligible.</p> <p>In terms of climate change adaptation, enhancements to the plan area's green infrastructure networks will be a key means of helping the Neighbourhood Area adapt to the effects of climate change. This includes through helping to regulate extreme temperatures and regulate surface water run-off. In this respect, the direct provision of green infrastructure improvements to accompany new development areas may be more deliverable through the larger scale proposals resulting from Option 1 or 2. It should however be noted that housing delivery is likely to be phased as a result of housing being reallocated.</p> <p>The effect of new development areas on surface water and groundwater flooding depends on their location and the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.</p>	1	1	3

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Park Farm				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Land, soil and water resources	<p>The Park Farm site comprises land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land. This is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Land. Land West of Beech Tree Close site has been evaluated as Grade 3 agricultural land. As such it is uncertain whether this comprises an area classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (i.e. Grade 3a land). For these reasons, whilst there is a degree of uncertainty, Option 2 has increased potential to lead to the loss of higher quality agricultural land.</p> <p>In terms of water quality, it is difficult to come to a conclusion regarding the potential for development at any given location to result in negative effects without an understanding of the design measures that will be put in place. For example sustainable drainage systems – SuDS – are an effective means of minimising surface water runoff and hence pollution. It should however be noted that there is likely to be more scope for the implementation of measures such as SuDS within the larger scale development promoted by Options 1 and 2- if all development at a site is brought forward together.</p>	1	3	2
Historic environment and landscape	<p>Through concentrating the reallocation of housing on one site, there is increased potential for impacts on landscape quality at the locations proposed through Option 1 and 2 (Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm respectively). This includes through loss of landscape features, visual impacts and impacts on noise quality linked to increases in traffic flows.</p> <p>Through spreading out 45 dwellings between two sites, Option 3 is less likely to lead to concentrated effects on landscape quality in these locations. This includes by increased opportunities through this option for assimilating new development within the existing fabric of the village.</p> <p>In terms of the historic environment, all three options have the potential to lead to effects on the setting of the historic environment. This is due to the sensitivities of the locations for development, including linked to the location of the northern part of the Land West of Beech Tree Close site and the southern part of the Park Farm site within the Church Oakley Conservation Area, as well as the listed buildings present close to the sites. However, it is likely that spreading reallocations between the two sites through Option 3 will help enable effects on townscape character to be mitigated, including through appropriate design, the integration of green infrastructure measures and other approaches which seek to enhance the setting of the historic environment at this location.</p> <p>In relation to potential effects on the North Wessex Downs AONB, both sites proposed through the options are located at locations which, due to topography and screening, views from the AONB are unlikely to be adversely affected through each of the three options.</p>	2	2	1

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Park Farm				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Population and community	<p>In terms of affordable housing, such provision is likely to be easier to deliver through Options 1 and 2. This is linked to the enhanced deliverability of affordable housing through larger scale developments. The larger scale development proposed through Options 1 and 2 may also help deliver a wider range of housing types.</p> <p>Whilst all new developments involving one or more dwellings are liable for the community infrastructure levy, concentrating the reallocation of housing at one larger site may help enable the securing of additional contributions to site specific mitigation through Section 106 planning agreements.</p> <p>The above elements depend however on when the reallocation from sites that become unavailable would take place. It should also be noted that limiting the reallocation of housing at each site through sharing the reallocation between the two sites will help limit potential effects on the quality of life of neighbouring residents.</p> <p>In terms of the impact of new housing provision on existing pressures on community services and facilities, the effect of all three options depend on the extent to which new housing provision is accompanied by new, expanded and improved health, educational and service provision in the Neighbourhood Area.</p>	1	1	1
Health and wellbeing	<p>The delivery of the larger scale of housing provision at the locations proposed through Option 1 (Land West of Beech Tree Close) and Option 2 (Park Farm) has the potential to concentrate effects on road safety and noise quality from increased traffic flows at these locations. This may have effects on the health and wellbeing of residents at these respective locations. This particularly has the potential to take place through Option 1 as responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have highlighted, a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.</p> <p>Both locations have good access to the doctors' surgery.</p>	3	2	1

Option 1: Reallocate all allocations to Land West of Beech Tree Close				
Option 2: Reallocate all allocations to Park Farm				
Option 3: Reallocate allocations between Land West of Beech Tree Close and Park Farm.				
SA topic	Discussion of potential effects and relative merits of options	Rank of preference		
		Opt 1	Opt 2	Opt 3
Transport	<p>Responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have indicated that a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety. In this context an increased delivery of housing allocations (from 25 to 60 dwellings) at this location through Option 1 has the potential to lead to significant effects relating to this issue.</p> <p>Through promoting a larger scale of development at one location, Options 1 and 2 may enable more effective improvements to walking and cycling and public transport links through the infrastructure opportunities afforded by larger allocations. However, this depends however on when the reallocation from sites that become unavailable would take place.</p>	3	1	2
Economy and enterprise	The three options would all deliver the same level of housing. As such, there are likely to be negligible differences between the allocations' contribution to the economic vitality and viability of the village.	1	1	1

Summary: appraisal of options for reserve sites

- 9.4.12 The appraisal has considered reasonable alternatives for reallocating dwellings in the event of a loss of one of these five sites to be taken forward for the purposes of the ODNP. In addition to supporting the identification of appropriate reserve sites, the appraisal has helped assess the relative merits of different scales of development at each site.
- 9.4.13 As the appraisal above highlights, for both scenarios, Option 3, through reallocating housing through two sites rather than one, will help limit more focussed effects in the vicinity of the site affected. This will help limit more concentrated effects on elements such as biodiversity, landscape/townscape quality, the historic environment, traffic and accessibility and the quality of life of existing residents. Whilst the allocation of additional housing would lead to larger housing sites, which would enable a more coordinated approach to community infrastructure provision to take place, this would likely depend on when the reallocation of housing from sites that become unavailable would take place. Overall, the findings of the appraisal do not undermine the sustainability of an approach which seeks to deliver the 150 dwellings on a wider range of sites.
- 9.4.14 In terms of Scenario 1, which would result from the loss of Park Farm, additional effects are likely to take place on the historic environment and townscape quality from the options which promote a greater degree of development at the Land West of Beech Tree Close site. Similarly, as responses from Hampshire County Council to previous planning applications for the Land West of Beech Tree Close site have indicated, a larger scale of development at this site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.
- 9.4.15 For Scenario 2, allocations at both the sites proposed for reallocations have the potential to have impacts on the historic environment. This includes linked to the presence of the Church Oakley Conservation Area. In this respect, the option which spreads reallocations between the two sites (Option 3) will help enable effects on townscape character to be more effectively mitigated, including

through appropriate design, the integration of green infrastructure measures and other approaches which seek to enhance the setting of the historic environment at this location. As for Scenario 1, the options which propose a larger scale of development at the Land West of Beech Tree Close site has the potential to lead to issues related to traffic management and road safety.

9.5 Appraisal of initial drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan

9.5.1 To support the implementation of the Vision and Goals for the Neighbourhood Plan discussed in section 3.1, early versions of the ODNP were formulated, putting forward a range of policies to guide development in the Neighbourhood Area. These were developed following the extensive community consultation and evidence gathering which had been carried out to date.

9.5.2 An initial draft of the ODNP was prepared in December 2014, which was then appraised by the SA team. The purpose of this process was to provide a sustainability perspective on an initial draft of the plan prior to its finalisation for Regulation 14 consultation.

9.5.3 The key recommendations from this iterative appraisal exercise were as follows:

Biodiversity recommendation

9.5.4 It is recommended that the biodiversity policies presented in the ODNP include reference to the need for development proposals in the west of the Neighbourhood Area to be sensitive to, and support the integrity of the River Test SSSI. This includes through highlighting the locations in the Neighbourhood Area which are within the Impact Risk Zone for the SSSI and the key elements of the SSSI which have the potential to be affected by new development at these locations.

Climate change

9.5.5 The initial version of the plan has not acknowledged the potential impacts of climate change in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context there is potential for the next iteration of the ODNP to more explicitly acknowledge the likely effects of climate change on the area.

9.5.6 It is recommended that the next version of the ODNP seeks to encourage the integration of high levels of sustainability into new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes through promoting energy efficient design and the integration of climate-resilience into new development areas.

Land, soil and water resources

9.5.7 It is recommended that the next version of the ODNP seeks to encourage the sustainability of new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area. This includes relating to water efficiency (such as through the use of flow regulators and water efficient fittings and appliances) and water reuse (such as through the use of greywater or rainwater recycling systems).

Historic environment and landscape

9.5.8 Whilst the initial draft of the ODNP has a close focus on protecting and enhancing open space provision in the plan area, there is potential for the plan to further clarify how this can be delivered through a coordinated approach to green infrastructure (GI) planning in the Neighbourhood Area.

9.5.9 In this context the delivery of new and improved GI provision is most effective when it is planned at a range of scales, including regional, sub-regional and local levels. This enables a coordinated approach to be taken which can seek to ensure the full range of benefits from a high quality GI network can be realised. It is anticipated that such an approach will also be significantly more effective in designing and managing GI as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for the Neighbourhood Area than a more piecemeal approach.

- 9.5.10 For this reason there is further scope for the ODNP to set out how improved open space provision can be delivered through a coordinated green infrastructure approach. This includes in conjunction with existing green infrastructure work being carried out by Basingstoke and Deane Council, Hampshire County Council, Natural England and other organisations. In this context the provisions for the Neighbourhood Area set out in the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy⁴⁴ should be a key consideration.
- 9.5.11 Whilst the borough council's Design Guide provides a robust basis for the protection of landscape/townscape quality and the historic environment, the ODNP should seek to ensure that all development in and adjacent to the Church Oakley Conservation Area is carried out in conjunction with, once prepared, the Church Oakley Conservation Area Appraisal. Similarly, any future development which takes within and adjacent to the Deane Conservation Area should be carried out in conjunction with the Deane Conservation Area Appraisal.
- 9.5.12 The Steering Group for the ODNP subsequently considered these recommendations, and the ODNP was updated prior to Regulation 14 consultation to reflect these comments.

9.6 Appraisal of the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 9.6.1 In January/February 2015 the SA team appraised the Regulation 14 version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal were subsequently presented in the SA Report accompanying the Regulation 14 version of the ODNP to consultation. At this point no further recommendations were suggested by the SA team over those suggested through the appraisal of the initial draft of the ODNP undertaken in December 2014 (section 9.5).
- 9.6.2 Following the receipt of consultation responses on the Regulation 14 version of the ODNP, a number of changes were made to the plan, and further SA work undertaken.
- 9.6.3 **Part 3** of this SA Report considers the updated version of the Neighbourhood Plan policies and allocations through appraising the current Submission version of the ODNP.

⁴⁴ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2013) Green Infrastructure Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2013 to 2029

Part 3: What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?

10 Introduction to Part 3

The report must include...

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

The aim of Part 3 is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the current Submission version of the ODNP. These are presented under the eight 'SA topic' headings.

11 Appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 The appraisal is structured under the eight 'topic' headings discussed. For each topic a range of sustainability objectives are listed, which are further supported by the decision-making questions developed during scoping. Taken together, these provide the assessment framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline (**Appendix II**).

11.1.2 Every effort is made to predict effects accurately; however, this is inherently challenging given the high level nature of the plan. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by understanding of the baseline as a result of incomplete data. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure assumptions are explained in full.⁴⁵ In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

11.1.3 It is important to note that effects are predicted taking into account the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations.⁴⁶ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. Cumulative effects are also considered (i.e. where the effects of the Plan may combine with the effects of other planned or on-going activity that is outside the control of the ODNP). These effect 'characteristics' are described within the appraisal as appropriate.

11.2 Biodiversity

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the integrity of the SINC's present in the plan area? • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Test SSSI? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

⁴⁵ As stated by Government Guidance (The Plan Making Manual, see <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=156210>):

"Ultimately, the significance of an effect is a matter of judgment and should require no more than a clear and reasonable justification."

⁴⁶ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.2.1 A number of the proposed sites for allocation have the potential to lead to adverse effects on biodiversity interest without the introduction of appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 11.2.2 SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. In this context, the western edge of one site, the allocation for **Oakley Hall (Policy 4)**, is within the Impact Risk Zone for the River Test SSSI for the types of development which have the potential to take place as a result of the allocation.
- 11.2.3 This is acknowledged through the site specific criteria for Oakley Hall (**Policy 6.5**), which seeks to ensure that the integrity of the SSSI is not affected by proposals at this location. It is also noted that higher-level Local Plan policies would apply and support protection of this site.
- 11.2.4 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. In this context the allocations proposed at the **Oakley Hall** and the **Andover Road 'Allotments'** sites are located within an area of, or close to BAP Priority Habitat.
- 11.2.5 The current version of the ODNP sets out a number of provisions which will help limit potential effects from allocations and other development proposals on features and areas of biodiversity interest in the Neighbourhood Area. For example **Policy 10** (Protection and Enhancement of the Environment) seeks to preclude the loss of ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows. This is supported by **Policy 14** which seeks to ensure that development proposals will only be permitted where there is no net loss of biodiversity and where possible, a net gain is achieved- and recognises that national policy may, in certain circumstances allow compensatory measures. In this context the policy seeks to ensure that any compensatory measures that do take place, such as like-for-like habitats or practical conservation works, will be located within the parish of Oakley and Deane.
- 11.2.6 **Policy 13** seeks to promote the integration of new native woodland and natural green spaces within development areas. Taking this further, the proposed projects presented in **Supporting Information M4** of the Submission version of the plan will promote the biodiversity value of the Neighbourhood Area through supporting ecological connections. This includes through the creation of new accessible natural green spaces and woodland, and the creation of new green corridors, including tree belts
- 11.2.7 The Biodiversity and Environmental Protection policies are also further supported by **Appendix A**, which highlights the key 'Local Green Spaces' (including sites of nature conservation value) to be protected and enhanced in the Neighbourhood Area. Including the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) present in the Neighbourhood Area at Cow Down Copse and St Johns Copse, this list provides a comprehensive overview of the key sites of biodiversity interest in the Neighbourhood Area.

11.3 Climate Change

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in Oakley and Deane	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the plan area from population growth? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Reduce the need to travel? • Increase number of new developments meeting sustainable design criteria? • Improve green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources? • Sustainably manage water run-off, ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either within the plan area or downstream) and where possible reduce flood risk? • Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the plan area? • Ensure that no development takes place in areas at higher risk of flooding (including fluvial, groundwater and surface water), taking into the likely effects of climate change into account? • Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the plan area to the effects of climate change?

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.3.1 Whilst no targets or standards are referred to for supporting energy efficiency of new development areas in the Neighbourhood Area (mirroring national policy on this topic), **Policy 17** seeks to promote the ‘*integration of high levels of sustainability by incorporating energy efficient design and climatic resilience through the use of renewable, decentralized or low energy carbon sources wherever feasible.*’
- 11.3.2 Enhancements to green infrastructure networks promote climate change mitigation through supporting carbon sequestration and promoting sustainable modes of transport, and climate change adaptation through helping to limit the effects of extreme weather events and regulating surface water run-off. In this context the plan’s focus on the protection and enhancement of open space in the Neighbourhood Area and the designation of new areas of open space will support these elements. In particular **Policies 10 and 13** will increase the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change through protecting and enhancing open spaces. Climate change adaptation in the Neighbourhood Area will also be supported by **Policy 17**, which seeks to integrate ‘climatic resilience’ within new development areas and the efficient use of water.
- 11.3.3 **Policies 10, 13 and 14 and the projects presented in Supporting Information M4** will also help increase the resilience of ecological networks to the effects of climate change through seeking to protect, enhance and create features and areas of biodiversity value.
- 11.3.4 In relation to flood risk in the Neighbourhood Area, the addressing of issues linked to groundwater and surface water flooding are likely to be supported by the provisions of the NPPF. Likewise, the flood risk, SuDS and surface water flooding policies proposed by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan and national guidance would further help limit adverse effects in this regard.

11.3.5 In terms of the effect of new development on surface water run-off, the Constraints Management policy (**Policy 5**) seeks to ensure that there is *'sufficient drainage or storage to handle the runoff generated as a result of the additional impermeable surfaces'*.

11.4 Land, soil and water resources

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Ensure the more efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, in particular Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land?
Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Move waste up the waste hierarchy? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.4.1 The ODNP exclusively allocates land on greenfield sites. Due to the lack of availability of lower quality agricultural land in the vicinity of Oakley village, all of the sites proposed have the potential to lead to the loss of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.
- 11.4.2 Allocations at the **Park Farm** and **Sainfoin Road** sites have the potential to take place on land classified as Grade 2 and 3a agricultural land. For the remaining sites, which are located on Grade 3 land, detailed studies of land classification have not been undertaken. Therefore it is uncertain whether development at these sites will lead to the loss of land classified as Grade 3a (which is classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land) or land classified as Grade 3b land (which is not classified as such).
- 11.4.3 The quality of agricultural land in the area is reflected by the ODNP's focus on protecting existing allotments and making provision for new allotments in the Neighbourhood Area. In this context **Policy 7** seeks to ensure that the *'loss of or harm to the existing allotments within the Parish will not be permitted unless replacement allotments are provided of at least equivalent quality and at a location that is convenient both for villagers and existing allotment holders, as agreed by the Parish Council'*. **Policy 8** (New Allotments) also seeks to encourage the provision of new allotments within new development areas. This will support the productivity of land at the sites. The focus on improving open space provision and supporting green infrastructure improvements through **Policy 10 and 13** and **Appendix A** will also prevent the sterilisation of further areas of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.
- 11.4.4 In relation to water availability, the Village and Energy Efficient Design policy (**Policy 17**) encourages water efficiency through seeking to ensure that the efficient use of water (such as through the use of flow regulators, water efficient fittings and appliances) is integrated within new development. In terms of water quality, all of the proposed sites for allocation are located within a eutrophic and groundwater nitrate vulnerable zone.

11.5 Historic environment and landscape

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Protect, maintain and enhance Oakley and Deane's cultural heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? • Support the integrity of the Church Oakley Conservation Area and Deane Conservation Area? • Preserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest? • Protect the historic settlement pattern of the villages in the plan area? • Conserve and enhance local diversity and distinctiveness? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB? • Protect and enhance landscape and townscape features?

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.5.1 All of the proposed allocations are located outside of the North Wessex Downs AONB. The closest site, the **Andover Road 'Allotments' site**, is located approximately 500m east of the AONB boundary.
- 11.5.2 In terms of historic environment designations, two sites, **Park Farm** and the **Land West of Beech Tree Close** are located in close proximity to the Church Oakley Conservation Area. A number of listed buildings are also present within and close to the proposed sites.
- 11.5.3 Whilst not within the conservation area, development at the **Oakley Hall** site has the potential to have impacts on the integrity of the historic environment. Three Grade II listed buildings/structures are present at Oakley Hall, including the hall, the stable block/courtyard, and the kitchen garden wall. Alongside, Oakley Lodge is listed. The setting of the historic environment of this area may therefore be affected by new development at this location.
- 11.5.4 The policies proposed for the ODNP have a close focus on protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area and on supporting enhancements. Potential effects on the two conservation areas in the Neighbourhood Area are considered through the current version of the ODNP. In this context **Policy 9** seeks to ensure that new development proposals 1) preserve and enhance the setting of the conservation areas and 2) utilise the Conservation Area Appraisals for the Church Oakley Conservation Area and Deane Conservation Area as appropriate. Key locally important views to and from St Leonard's Church are also offered protection through **Policy 12** (Protection of Views and Vistas).
- 11.5.5 **Policy 10 and 13** provides protection for existing open spaces and woodlands '*that are demonstrably special and have particular local significance*' through designating them as Local Green Space. This is further supported through **Supporting Information M4** for the Submission version of the plan, which sets out the projects designed to protect, enhance and create green spaces, corridors and areas of woodland in the Neighbourhood Area, and **Appendix A**, which highlights the key 'Local Green Spaces' to be protected. **Policy 6** also sets out site-specific provision for green space within allocations. In this context the protection and enhancement of open space will support landscape and townscape quality in the Neighbourhood Area and the setting of the historic environment.

- 11.5.6 **Policy 8** seeks to ‘provide physical and visual settlement separation for Newfound and Oakley from Basingstoke’. This will enable a prevention of coalescence between the built up parts of the Neighbourhood Area and Basingstoke, help preserve local distinctiveness and support the protection of landscape character and visual amenity.
- 11.5.7 Landscape/townscape quality and the Neighbourhood Area’s historic environment will be further supported by **Policy 17**, which seeks to ensure that all proposals for development reflect the provisions of the Oakley Village Design Statement. The Design Statement sets out development guidelines for a range of elements, including for: the village’s landscape setting; settlement pattern; buildings and spaces; and highways and traffic. It also sets out the key features and areas of significance for the village. In this context the Design Statement provides a robust basis for the protection and enhancement of the landscape and townscape quality and the historic environment in the vicinity of Oakley.
- 11.5.8 In terms of green infrastructure, the background information for new accessible green spaces and woodlands reinforces the linkages between 1) local green infrastructure provision and needs and 2) current work being carried out by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Natural England and Natural Basingstoke, including in relation to the implementation of the Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy. This enables a coordinated approach to be taken which will help ensure that the full range of benefits from a high quality green infrastructure network can be realised.
- 11.5.9 The ODNP provides support for preventing coalescence between Oakley and Basingstoke. This will help maintain local distinctiveness and support landscape quality to the east of Oakley.

11.6 Population and community

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Cater for existing and future residents’ needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? • Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? • Increase the ability of 'hard-to-reach' groups to influence decisions? • Minimise fuel poverty? • Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? • Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? • Provide a range of housing
Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	
Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? • Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? • Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people’s needs? • Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? • Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Achieve minimum housing requirements?

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.6.1 The Submission version of the plan puts forward five sites for housing. This is anticipated to meet the requirements of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. It is assumed that this growth quantum is appropriate given objectively assessed housing needs arising in the borough. As such it is considered that the allocations promoted by the current version of the ODNP will help meet established housing need in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 11.6.2 In addition to providing sufficient allocations to meet the requirement of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (and as such objectively assessed need), the current version of the ODNP sets out a range of provisions relating to the type and tenure of housing to be provided through the plan through **Policies 2 and 3**. This includes relating to the provision of affordable housing, the provision of housing for those with a local connection and through ensuring that the stock and supply of smaller dwellings is not compromised. This will support the provision of housing which meets the requirements of local people. This will be supported by **Policy 6, P6.5**, which will support housing provision for older people at Oakley Hall.
- 11.6.3 In terms of the **spatial strategy** for new development, the ODNP promotes a distribution strategy which will support the quality of life of residents. In this regard, the allocated sites, due to their location in Oakley village, and their relative proximity to bus routes, will support accessibility to services, facilities and amenities in the Neighbourhood Area. Further supported by the projects promoted through **Supporting Information M4** of the Submission version of the plan, this will support community cohesion and promote the vitality of the village.
- 11.6.4 The ODNP also has a strong focus on local distinctiveness and the protection and enhancement of townscape and landscape quality (section 11.5). This will contribute to the satisfaction of residents with their neighbourhood as a place to live. The ODNP's focus on the protection, enhancement and creation of accessible open space in the vicinity of Oakley village will also support the quality of life of residents in the Neighbourhood Area.

11.7 Health and wellbeing

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Improve the health and well-being of Oakley and Deane's residents.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards? Improve access to the countryside for recreation?

Summary of the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP

- 11.7.1 The current version of the ODNP has a close focus on improving open space provision and supporting green infrastructure improvements, including green corridors. **Policies 10 and 13** provides protection for existing open spaces and woodlands '*that are demonstrably special and of particular local significance*' through designating them as Accessible Natural Green Space. This is further supported through **Supporting Information M4** for the Submission plan, which sets out the projects designed to protect, enhance and create green spaces, corridors and areas of woodland in the Neighbourhood Area, and **Appendix A**, which highlights the key 'Local Green Spaces' to be protected. The Submission version of the plan's impetus on open space enhancements will therefore support the health and wellbeing of residents by facilitating improvements in levels of physical activity, enhancing social interaction between residents and promoting psychological well-being.

- 11.7.2 The ODNP's housing policies (**Policies 2 and 3**) will promote health and wellbeing through encouraging the development of new housing which is of a type and tenure appropriate for local people. This will be supported by the Health and Health Care project within **Supporting Information M4**, which seeks to support health services in Oakley.
- 11.7.3 The health and wellbeing of residents will also be promoted by **Policy 7**, which seeks to ensure that the 'loss of or harm to the existing allotments within the Parish will not be permitted unless replacement allotments are provided of at least equivalent quality and at a location that is convenient both for villagers and existing allotment holders, as agreed by the Parish Council'. **Policy 8** also seeks to put in place mechanisms for ensuring that new development in the parish contributes to the provision of additional allotments.

11.8 Transportation

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 11.8.1 The current version of the ODNP recognises that enhancements to transport networks are outside of the scope of the plan. However **Policy 18** (Traffic and Safety) supports proposals which seek to limit the congestion issues present at a number of locations in the Neighbourhood Area and improve road safety. The site specific considerations presented in **Policy 6** also set out a range of provisions for promoting walking and cycling in the new proposed development areas.
- 11.8.2 The sites proposed for allocations, due to their proximity to the main settlement in the Neighbourhood Area (Oakley village), and their relative proximity to bus routes will support the vitality and viability of bus services in the Neighbourhood Area. Issues highlighted related to the Land West of Beech Tree Close site related to traffic and road safety will be minimised by the proposed scale of development proposed at this location. The projects presented in **Supporting Information M4** also present local transport and traffic-related projects which are considered to be important for the Neighbourhood Area.
- 11.8.3 The ODNP's focus on improving open space provision and supporting green infrastructure improvements, including green corridors (**Policies 10 and 13** and **Appendix A** and projects presented in **Supporting Information M4**) will help promote walking and cycling in the Neighbourhood Area.

11.9 Economy and enterprise

Relevant sustainability objectives

SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the community offer of Oakley and the range of services and facilities available? • Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities?

Summary of the appraisal of the Draft Plan

- 11.9.1 The ODNP, whilst recognising that most people work outside of the Neighbourhood Area, also recognises that there are number of employment areas which should be supported in the area. It also recognises that an increasing proportion of people work from home.
- 11.9.2 In this context **Policy 15** (Protection of Employment) seeks to limit the loss of employment land through change of use '*unless there no reasonable prospect of a site being used for development*'. **Appendix B** of the Submission version of the ODNP also presents a list of the businesses, facilities and amenities for which non-residential uses should be retained.
- 11.9.3 The allocation of 150 dwellings in Oakley through the ODNP will also support the vitality and viability of services, facilities and amenities in the village.

11.10 Conclusions at this current stage

Potential significant effects

- 11.10.1 The appraisal has concluded that the current version of the ODNP is likely to lead to **significant positive effects** in terms of the 'population and community' and 'health and wellbeing' sustainability objectives. These benefits largely relate to the carefully targeted spatial approach proposed by the Submission version of the plan and the focus on improving the quality of life of residents in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 11.10.2 In terms of potential negative effects, the development of the greenfield sites proposed through the plan will lead to inevitable losses of land classified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land. This is classified as the 'Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land'. Whilst the ODNP has sought to preserve the productivity of some of these areas through promoting the development of new allotments, residual **significant negative effects** are likely to remain in relation to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' sustainability objectives.
- 11.10.3 There are also likely to be inevitable effects on landscape and townscape quality from new areas of development on the edge of Oakley and at Oakley Hall. To help address this, the Submission version of the ODNP presents a number of policy interventions which will help limit potential effects and achieve enhancements where possible. Similarly the green infrastructure policies of the ODNP also promote the protection and enhancement of key landscape features such as areas of woodland and seek to protect local important green spaces. This will help limit significant negative effects from new development areas on landscape quality.
- 11.10.4 Whilst the approach promoted by the Submission version of the ODNP will help initiate a range of beneficial approaches in relation to 'climate change', 'biodiversity' and 'historic environment and landscape' these are not considered as significant positive effects as the delivery of the allocations through the ODNP will inevitably lead to some adverse effects in relation to these sustainability topics. For these topics therefore, the plan approach will limit the potential magnitude of adverse effects linked to the delivery of housing allocations in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 11.10.5 In relation to the 'economy and enterprise' sustainability objective beneficial approaches are put forward by the Submission version of the plan. However, in light of the nature of the Neighbourhood Area, and the focus on housing rather than employment allocations through the ODNP, these effects are not considered to be significant.

Recommendations at this current stage

- 11.10.6 Following the appraisal of the Submission version of the ODNP, no further recommendations are made at this current stage by the SA process.

***Part 4: What are the
next steps?***

12 Introduction to Part 4

This Part of the SA Report explains the next steps that will be taken as part of the plan-making / SA process.

12.1 Plan finalisation

- 12.1.1 The ODNP has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, for its consideration. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the ODNP meeting the statutory requirements.
- 12.1.2 Subject to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's agreement, the ODNP will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan meets the requirements of the Basic Conditions and whether it is in general conformity with the Local Plan.
- 12.1.3 The Examiner has three options:
- a) That the plan proceeds to referendum as submitted
 - b) The plan is modified by the LPA to meet basic conditions and then the modified version proceeds to referendum
 - c) That the plan/ does not proceed to referendum
- 12.1.4 It is only after the independent examination has taken place and after the Examiner's report has been received that the local planning authority comes to its formal view on whether the draft neighbourhood plan meets the Basic Conditions. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will invite the ODNP Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated SA Report.
- 12.1.5 Where the examination is favourable, the ODNP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with a request it is 'made' Once adopted, the ODNP will become part of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Development Plan.

Appendices

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Appendix I: Regulatory requirements

Annex I of the SEA Directive prescribes the information that must be contained in the SA Report; however, interpretation of Annex I is not straightforward. The table below 'interprets' Annex I requirements.

Annex 1

The report must include...

(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring.

Interpretation of Annex I

The report must include...

An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	i.e. answer - <i>What's the Plan seeking to achieve?</i>	i.e. answer – <i>What's the scope of the SA?</i>
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'context'?</i>	
The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level		
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan'		
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	i.e. answer - <i>What's the 'baseline'?</i>	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance		
Key environmental problems / issues and objectives that should be a focus of appraisal	i.e. answer - <i>What are the key issues & objectives?</i>	
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (i.e. an explanation of the 'reasonableness of the approach)	i.e. answer - <i>What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?</i>	
The likely significant effects associated with alternatives, including on issues such as... ... and an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives considered / a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.		
The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan	i.e. answer - <i>What are the appraisal findings at this current stage?</i>	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan		
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring	i.e. answer - <i>What happens next?</i>	

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SA Topic	SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Land, soil and water resources	Ensure the more efficient use of land.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of previously developed land? Avoid the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, in particular Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land?
	Promote sustainable waste management solutions that encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of waste produced? Move waste up the waste hierarchy? Maximise opportunities for local management of waste in order to minimise export of waste to areas outside? Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support improvements to water quality? Minimise water consumption? Protect groundwater resources
Population and community	Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, and improve equality of access to local, high-quality community services and facilities.	Will the option/proposal help to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Increase the ability of 'hard-to-reach' groups to influence decisions? Minimise fuel poverty? Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? Provide a range of housing
	Reduce poverty and deprivation and promote more inclusive and self-contained communities.	
	Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an adequate supply of affordable housing? Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes? Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? Ensure that best use is made of the existing housing stock? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? Achieve minimum housing requirements?

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SA Topic	SA Objectives	SA appraisal Questions:
Health and wellbeing	Improve the health and well-being of Oakley and Deane's residents.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities, for all age groups? • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure, in accordance with national standards? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?
Transportation	Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements?
Economy and enterprise	Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the community offer of Oakley and the range of services and facilities available? • Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities?

ABOUT AECOM

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