

West Berkshire Local Plan

**West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery
Development Plan Document (SAD DPD)**

**Sustainability Appraisal /
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Scoping Report

September 2013

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Executive Non-Technical Summary

The West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (SAD DPD) forms part of the Local Plan for West Berkshire. The SAD DPD supports the delivery of the Core Strategy for the District (Adopted July 2012) by identifying sites for housing, employment and other types of development as well as setting out development management policies.

The SAD DPD must be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

The SA/SEA Stages

SA/SEA stages	
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.
Stage B	Developing and refining the options
Stage C	Appraising the effects of the plan
Stage D	Consultation
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan

This report will cover Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal, known as the scoping stage. This is the first stage in the production of a sustainability appraisal. This scoping report relates to the West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD. It builds upon the scoping report produced for the Core Strategy. The scoping report contains the following:

- An outline of contents, the methodology and description of the SA/SEA process and the specific SA/SEA tasks undertaken
- A review of other plans and programmes and their relationship to the West Berkshire Core Strategy
- A description of the environmental and sustainability context, or baseline information
- A summary of key sustainability issues
- The SA/SEA Framework which sets out the SA/SEA objectives for assessing the West Berkshire SAD DPD.

Other Plans, Programmes and Objectives

The Council must take account of relationships between the West Berkshire SAD DPD and other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives and also take into account environmental protection objectives established at international, European Community and national levels. The SA process requires these relationships to be reviewed as the DPD is prepared.

Baseline information

West Berkshire is located in the South East of England, within the county of Berkshire. It is a Unitary Authority and covers an area of 704 square kilometres, extending from Hungerford in the west to Calcot in the east. The area is predominately rural in character, with approximately 74% of the land area making up part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford, Theale, Purley-on-Thames, Tilehurst, Calcot and Burghfield Common are the largest settlements in the area.

The 2011 Census of Population give the population of West Berkshire as 154,000. Approximately 75% of the population is concentrated in the Kennet Valley at strategic points along the A4 and on the western side of Reading. West Berkshire has by far the most dispersed population of all the unitary authorities in Berkshire.

A significant issue in West Berkshire is the cost of accommodation in the area. Compared to the region, West Berkshire is a relatively expensive place to buy a property. This highlights the increasing need for affordable housing for local people and key workers. The generally high affluence of the region and of West Berkshire masks pockets of deprivation and exclusion. There are communities with individuals and families who experience particular difficulties as a consequence of being poor within a generally wealthy region. West Berkshire has a higher than

average proportion of people with higher qualifications however, significant numbers of the working population have no qualifications and poor literacy and numeracy skills.

Aside from the nationally important landscape of the North Wessex Downs AONB, the authority area has numerous designated statutory and non-statutory areas which aim to protect and enhance sites of international, national, regional and local nature conservation importance. The historic environment is also of great value to West Berkshire and consists of listed buildings, conservation areas, listed monuments, historic parks and gardens and historic battlefields.

West Berkshire is located in the Thames Valley sub region which is a world class business region and one of Europe’s fastest growing economies. West Berkshire has a strong commercial base characterised by new technology industries with a strong service sector and several manufacturing and distribution firms. Tourism is also significant for West Berkshire but not a major industry. Unemployment levels in West Berkshire remain lower than the national average despite a slight increase in recent years due to the nationwide recession.

Increased development and economic activity in West Berkshire and the sub-region are placing mounting pressure on the natural environment and natural resources. Waste minimisation and recycling, water use efficiency and energy efficiency through renewables will require particular consideration.

Social, environmental and economic issues

Specific key issues, relevant to West Berkshire, have been identified through the review of other plans and programmes and used to inform the SA objectives. These key issues include the following:

- An increasingly ageing population placing an increased demand on social care and healthcare services
- The availability of water resources reflecting low annual rainfall currently recorded and forecast within the Thames Valley area combined with increasing consumer demand.
- A heavy reliance on private car use leading to congestion and excessive demand on the road network at peak times.
- An identified shortage of affordable homes for local people
- The impacts of climate change including vulnerability to flooding from rivers, groundwater and surface water run-off.

SA Objectives

The SA/SEA objectives are based on those included in the Core Strategy SA/SEA. They have been updated following a review of current plans and programmes, the baseline information and previous consultation with environmental bodies and local stakeholders, to ensure that they remain relevant to the DPD.

The objectives are outlined below:

SA Objectives	
1	To secure provision of sufficient good quality housing to meet objectively assessed needs
2	To improve health and well being and reduce inequalities
3	To safeguard and improve accessibility to services and facilities
4	To improve and promote opportunities for sustainable travel
5	To protect and enhance the natural the environment
6	Ensure that the built, historic and cultural environment is conserved and enhanced
7	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire
8	To improve the efficiency of land use
9	To reduce consumption of natural resources and manage their use efficiently
10	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are

	in place to respond to climate change
11	To ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets objectively assessed economic needs

1. Introduction

The main aim of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPD). This document forms the Scoping Report for the SA, incorporating the requirements of a SEA for the Site Allocations and Delivery (SAD) as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the European Directive on the SEA.

This SA scoping report should be read in conjunction with the full SA Report for the Adopted Core Strategy.

The Development Plan for West Berkshire

The Council's adopted Core Strategy (July 2012) forms part of the Local Plan for the district. The Core Strategy sets out the overall planning strategy for the District, explaining the vision for the area and how it will be delivered.

The Site Allocations and Delivery DPD will identify specific sites for housing, employment and other types of development as well as set out development management policies to enable development to be managed within the context of the spatial strategy set out in the Core Strategy DPD.

The West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 – 2006 was adopted in June 2002, and in 2007 a number of the policies were extended, producing a Saved Policies version of the Local Plan. Any policies not saved are either no longer required or are covered by national or local policies. The adopted Core Strategy replaced a number of policies within the West Berkshire District Local Plan, and the SAD DPD will replace the remaining policies, once adopted.

Aim of Scoping report

The scoping report is the first stage in the production of a Sustainability Appraisal. This involves the assessment of available information in order to agree the scope and level of detail of the SA, including social, environmental and economic effects and options to be considered, assessment methods to be used and the structure and content of the resulting environmental reports.

This scoping report builds upon the scoping report done for the Core Strategy and takes account of comments made through previous consultation exercises.

The scoping report forms part A of the Sustainability Appraisal, the table below sets all stages of the SA.

Table 1 – Stages of the SA		
DPD stage	SA Stage	
Pre-production	A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
	A1	Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
	A2	Collect baseline information
	A3	Identify sustainability issues and problems
	A4	Develop the SA framework
	A5	Consult on the Scope of the SA
Production	B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects
	B1	Test the DPD objectives against the SA framework
	B2	Develop the DPD options
	B3	Predict the effects of the DPD
	B4	Evaluate the effects of the DPD
	B5	Consider mitigation measures and ways to maximise beneficial effects
	B6	Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD
	C	Preparing the SA report
D	Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA report	

	D1	Public Participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA report
	D2 (i)	Appraise significant changes
Examination	D2 (ii)	Appraise significant changes resulting from representations
Adoption and Monitoring	D3	Make decisions and provide information
	E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD
	E1	Finalise aims and methods for monitoring
	E2	Respond to adverse effects

2. Stage A1 - Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes and sustainability objectives

The Core Strategy SA included a wide-ranging review of the plans, policies and programmes which are likely to impact on the plans within the Local Plan. This has been updated to take into account recent changes in National (NPPF), regional (removal of government offices and Regional Spatial Strategies) and local policies, plans and programmes.

The updated list is given in *appendix 1*

The key issues relevant to West Berkshire include:

- An increasingly ageing population placing an increased demand on social care and health care services
- The availability of water resources reflecting low annual rainfall currently recorded and forecast within the Thames Valley area combined with increasing consumer demand
- A heavy reliance on private car use leading to congestion and excessive demand on the road network at peak times
- An identified shortage of affordable home for local people
- Renewable energy targets require the UK to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2022, and by 50% by 2027 compared to 1990 levels.
- The impacts of climate change including vulnerability to flooding from rivers, groundwater and surface water run-off.

Screening under the Habitats Directive

A Screening report and Appropriate Assessment (AA) was carried out for the Core Strategy. As the SAD is a supplementary document to the Core Strategy, the outcomes of the AA are still relevant, therefore, further screening work is not, at this stage, proposed for the SAD DPD.

3. Stage A2 - Baseline data

A comprehensive amount of baseline data was presented with the Core Strategy SA. This has been updated to take into account updated information, although the basic information has not changed.

The updated baseline data is shown in *appendix 2*

Other relevant background documents to the SAD include the following technical evidence produced in support of the Core Strategy:

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)
- Landscape Sensitivity Study
- Berkshire Housing Land Availability Assessment
- West Berkshire Retail and Leisure Study
- Employment Land Assessment (2007)
- Transport Assessment

The following evidence will be collected as part of the preparation of the SAD:

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Economic Assessment
- Open space / Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Transport Assessments

- Tourism / Leisure Assessment
- Landscape Character

4. Stage A3 - Identify sustainability issues

The Core Strategy scoping report provided information on the significant issues within West Berkshire. A summary is set out below:

Social

- Ageing population and impact on health care facilities
- Availability of affordable housing
- Access to essential facilities

Environmental

- Protecting the historical / archaeological, landscape and townscape character of the district
- Impact of nuclear installations within the district
- Reduction in carbon emissions
- Air Quality
- Minimisation of waste production and increase in recycling
- Impact of climate change
- Water supply and sewerage, usage and quality
- Flooding

Material Assets

- Unemployment as a result of the recession
- Waste minimisation and recycling
- Use of renewable energy
- Congestion and reliance on the car

5. Stage A4 - Developing the sustainability appraisal framework

Developing an SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared and forms a central part of the SA process.

The Core Strategy includes a sustainability framework that enables policies and proposals to be assessed against social, environmental and economic objectives and indicators, and for the success of the policies in achieving the objectives to be monitored. The framework was informed by many of the issues, policies and plans highlighted in previous paragraphs.

All the sustainability objectives identified in the Core Strategy SA scoping report are relevant to the SAD, although some tweaks have been made to ensure that they are in line with the updated background information and with the aims of the SAD. The sub-objectives will be used as an additional tool when appraising the DPD. The indicators suggested remain the same as in the Core Strategy SA. The SA framework has been set out in the table below.

SA Objective	SA Sub-Objective	Suggested Indicators	SEA topic
1. To secure provision of sufficient good quality housing to meet objectively assessed needs	1.1 To maximise the provision of affordable housing to meet identified need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of housing completions • No. of Affordable housing completions • Households on housing register (WBC Housing Operations) 	Population
	1.2 To enable the provision of good quality market housing required to meet identified need.		Human Health
2. To improve health and well being and	2.1 To support and encourage healthy, active lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General health “not good” • Years of potential life lost (ONS) 	Human Health Population

reduce inequalities	2.2 To increase opportunities for access to sports facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of people visiting spots/recreation facilities per annum** No. of people visiting parks and gardens per annum** 	
	2.3 To reduce levels and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of crime surveys (WBC) No. of violent crime, robberies, vehicle crimes and domestic burglaries per 1000 population 	
	2.4 To protect and enhance green infrastructure across the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents perception of quality of open space (PMP study) Availability, use and access to green space** Percentage of the Rights of Way network in a "favourable" condition 	
3. To safeguard and improve accessibility to services and facilities	3.1 To improve access to education, employment services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new residential development within 30 min public transport (or walk) times of a GP, hospital, primary & Secondary school, employment and a major retail centre Proportion of 19yr olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 + GCSEs A* to C) 	Population
	3.2 To support the development of access to IT facilities including Broadband particularly in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of coverage of Broadband / telecommunications 	
4. To improve and promote opportunities for sustainable travel	4.1 To increase travel choices, especially opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of car use to work Bus passenger numbers (LA subsidised) Percentage of new residential development within 30 min public transport (or walk) times of a GP, hospital, primary & Secondary school, employment and a major retail centre 	Human Health Air Population
	4.2 To reduce the no. of road traffic accidents and improve safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No deaths and serious injuries (for all ages and children) on the District's roads 	
5. To protect and enhance the natural environment	5.1 To conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity assets across West Berkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % SSSI land in favourable condition Loss in ha of SSSIs WHS and ancient woodlands Extent of BAP priority habitats Area of statutory LNRs per number of population (EN) Loss of Geologically/geomorphologically important sites (RIGs) Changes in areas and population of biodiversity importance, including i) change in priority habitat and species (by type) and ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value 	Biodiversity Fauna Flora Landscape
	5.2 To conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness of the character of the Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Countryside Quality based on the Countryside Quality Counts data used to inform condition of Countryside Character Areas % building on Greenfield land 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % land under the new agri-environmental schemes 	
6. To ensure that the built, historic and cultural environment is conserved and enhanced	6.1 To conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness of the character of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Scheduled Monuments at Risk • No and % listed buildings indicated as “at risk” by English Heritage and no rescued • Areas of highly sensitive Historic Landscape Characterisation types which have been altered and their character eroded** • No nationally important archaeological sites identified in the planning process and preserved in situ or by record** 	Cultural heritage (inc. architectural and archaeological) Material Assets Landscape
	6.2 To conserve and enhance the significance of the District’s heritage assets		
	6.3 To promote, conserve and enhance the District’s cultural assets		
7. To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	7.1 To reduce air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of air pollutants NO₂ • Level of traffic flows 	Air Water Soil Human Health
	7.2 To reduce noise levels in main settlements		
	7.3 To maintain and improve soil quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of high grade agricultural land to development • Loss of greenfield land to development 	
	7.4 To maintain and improve water quality		
8. To improve the efficiency of land use	8.1 To maximise the use of previously developed land and buildings where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % new dwellings completed at: i) less than 30dph; ii) between 30 and 50dph iii) above 50dph • % new and converted dwellings on previously developed land 	Material Assets Soil
9. To reduce consumption of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	9.1 To reduce energy use and promote the use of sustainable / renewable energy technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % new development achieving EcoHomes “Excellent” of Code Level 3* standards • % commercial buildings meeting BREEAM “very good” • Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources 	Material Assets Climate Factors
	9.2 To promote the adoption of sustainable design and construction practices		
	9.3 To reduce waste generation and disposal in line with the waste hierarchy and reuse of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % total tonnage of all types of waste that has been recycled, composted or used to recover heat power and other sources of energy 	
	9.4 To reduce water consumption and promote reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % development incorporating water conservation and/or water efficiency measures • New development with SUDs installed (EA) 	
	9.5 To reduce the consumption of minerals and promote reuse of secondary materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % development achieving EcoHomes / BREEAM “excellent” of Code level 3* Standards 	

10. To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	10.1 To reduce West Berkshire's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of car use to work % development achieving EcoHomes / BREEAM "excellent" of Code level 3* Standards 	Climate Factors
	10.2 To sustainably manage flood risk to people, property and the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the EA on flood defence grounds 	
11. To ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets objectively assessed economic needs	11.1 To enable the provision of high quality economic development which responds to business needs and delivers a range of employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % people of working age in employment % population claiming Job Seekers Allowance No. and type of non-residential completions 	Population
	11.2 To promote and support key business sectors and utilise employment land effectively and efficiently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % land developed for employment by type which is on previously developed land Vacancy rates within existing centres 	
	11.3 To promote and support the vitality and viability of the District's commercial centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footfall rates within existing centres 	

Key:
(ONS) is information available from the Office of National Statistics
(EA) is information available from the Environment Agency
** Additional indicators recommended through previous SA consultations which are not presently monitored by the Council, but may be considered at a future date.

The SAD DPD will have the same objectives as the Core Strategy at this stage. A review of the compatibility between the SA objectives and the Core Strategy objectives was carried out in the Core Strategy SA scoping report, however, as some of the objectives have been tweaked for the SAD DPD an updated compatibility test has been carried out (see table 4 below). Potential tensions identified in the Core Strategy SA scoping report are the same for this scoping report:

- Impacts on the built and natural environment are heavily dependent on the siting and type of development being proposed and their proximity to sensitive sites.
- Like the remainder of the South East, all future development proposals need to minimise energy consumption, ensure new design incorporate water conservation measures to mitigate against a potential shortage in water supply and reduce where possible vehicular trips.

The SAD DPD objectives are:

Table 3 – SAD Objectives	
A. Tackling Climate Change	To exceed national targets for carbon dioxide emissions reduction and deliver the District's growth in a way that helps to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change
B. Housing Growth	To deliver at least 10,500 homes across West Berkshire between 2006 – 2026. These homes will be delivered in an effective and timely manner, will maximise the use of suitable Brownfield land and access to facilities and services and will be developed at densities within make the most efficient use of land whilst responding to the existing build environment.
C. Housing Needs	To secure provision of affordable and market housing to meet local needs in both urban and rural areas of the district. To provide homes in a way that promotes sustainable communities, providing a mix of house sizes, types and tenures to meet identified needs, and respond to the changing demographic profile of the District.

D. Economy	To provide for a range of sizes and types of employment land and premises in the right locations to respond to the forecast changes in economic activity, the location of new residential development and the specific needs of the rural economy, including the equestrian and horseracing industries.
E. Infrastructure Requirements	To ensure that infrastructure needs (including community services and facilities) arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided in a timely and coordinated manner, which keeps pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
F. Green Infrastructure	To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of well-connected and multi-functional green infrastructure which provides an attractive environment to live, work and spend leisure time, providing benefits for health and opportunities for formal and informal recreation.
G. Transport	To put in place a sustainable transport network which supports the growth in West Berkshire, links existing and new development, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport and provides a genuine choice of modes. Traffic management measures will minimise the impact of new development on the existing network.
H. Retail	To achieve growth in retail activity and consequently increase the vitality and vibrancy of town centres in West Berkshire. To meet the range of shopping needs for residents and visitors largely through completion of the Parkway development and through the regeneration of Thatcham town centre. To provide for local shopping need in town, district and local centres to serve the needs of existing and future residents.
I. Heritage	To ensure that development to 2026 is planned, designed and managed in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic and natural environment in West Berkshire's Towns, villages and countryside.

The table below shows the compatibility between the SA objectives and the proposed SAD DPD objectives. The full details of the compatibility test is given in appendix 3.

Table 4 – SA / SAD objective compatibility

		SA objectives										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
WBC Objectives	A	+	+	+	++	++	0	+	+	++	++	+
	B	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	?	++	?	?	+
	C	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	?	++	?	?	++
	D	++	+	+	+	+/?	0	?	+	?	?	++
	E	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	F	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	+
	G	+	+	++	++	+/?	0	?	0	?	?	+
	H	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	?	?	+
	I	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	0

Key:

- ++ Strongly supports sustainable objectives
- + Supports sustainable objectives
- 0 Neutral
- ? Uncertain
- Works against sustainable objectives
- Works strongly against sustainable objectives

6. Stage A5 - Consultation on scope

The SEA Directive (Article 5.4) requires the Council to seek the views of the three statutory environmental consultation bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information in the SA. This consultation stage will help to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust in its support of the West Berkshire's Site Allocations and Development DPD.

The Scoping Report and the SA have been consulted on previously as part of the development of the Core Strategy. Consultation responses received as part of previous consultations have been taken into account when developing this draft Scoping Report.

This consultation will be integrated into the Statement of Consultation.

The consultation will start on Friday 20th September for 5 weeks, closing on Friday 25th October 2013.

7. Next Stages of the SA

This report has covered SA stages A1 – A5. When stage A5, consultation on the Scoping Report with the three statutory environmental consultees, has been completed the development of the SA will move on to Stage B, developing and refining options and assessing effects, with Stages C, D and E to follow.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

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Appendix 3 – Compatibility of the SA Objectives and the SAD DPD Objectives

Appendix 4 – Glossary

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

International level

It is assumed that these plans and programmes have already been 'scoped' during the production of the more recent UK National Plans.

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
The Johannesburg Declaration of Sustainability Development	United Nations	2002	Context
European Biodiversity Strategy	European Community	1998	Context
Bern Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	European Community	1979	Context
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitats	Ramsar Convention	1971	Context
Bonn Convention on Migratory Species	United Nations	1979	Context
Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds	European Commission	1979	Context
Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Directive 92/43/EC) (The Habitats Directive)	European Commission	1994	Context
Water Framework Directive.	European Commission	2000	Context
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	European Commission	1991	Context
Air Quality Framework Directive (Directive 96/62/EC)	European Commission	1996	Context
Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	United Nations	1999/1997	Context
Directive to promote Electricity from Renewable Energy (Directive 2001/77/EC)	European Commission	2001	Context
Directive concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (Nitrates Directive)	European Commission	1991	Context
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro	United Nations	1992	Context
Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Management	European Commission	1966	Context
European Spatial Development Perspective, Towards Balanced and Spatial Development of the Territory of the European Union	European Commission	1999	Context
Waste Framework Directive	European Commission	1991	Context
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice, EU Sixth Environment Action Programme, 2001-2010	European Commission	2001	Context
Groundwater Directive 80/68	European Commission	1991	Context
Water Framework Directive (as amended)	European Commission	2000	Context
European Sustainable Development Strategy May 2001 (updated 2009)	European Commission	2009	Context

National level

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	CLG	2012	Context
Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework (Flood Risk and Minerals Policy)	CLG	2012	Context
PPG 4: Industrial, commercial and small firms	DTLR	2001	Context
PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	ODPM	2005	Context
PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment	DOE	1994	Context
PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning	DTLR	1990	Context
PPG 21: Tourism	DTLR	1992	Context
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)	UK Government	1981	Context
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW)	UK Government	2000	Context
Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	HM Government	2005	Context
Climate Change: The UK Programme	Defra	2006	Context
The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future	HM Government	2011	Context
The Climate Act	HM Government	2008	Context

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
UK Foresight Programme – Foresight Report: Future Flooding	DTI	2004	Context
The Future of Transport – A Network for 2030. White Paper	DfT	2004	Context
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making sustainable local transport happen. White Paper	DfT	2011	Context
Making the Connections: Final Report on Transport and Social Exclusion	Social Exclusion Unit	2003	Context
Government Planning White Paper. Planning for a Sustainable Future	HM Government	2007	Context
Government Urban White Paper. Our Towns and Cities; the Future – Delivering an Urban Renaissance	DETR	2000	Context
Government Urban White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England	DETR	2000	Context
Housing Green Paper. Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable	DCLG	2007	Context
Water Resources for the Future – A Strategy for England and Wales	Environment Agency	2001	Context
Making space for water: Developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. A consultation exercise	DEFRA	2004	Context
Air Quality Strategy: Working Together for Clean Air	DETR	2000	Context
Safe Guarding our soils: A strategy for England 2030	DEFRA	2009	Context
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (White Paper)	DEFRA	2011	Context
Strategic Environmental assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners	CCC, EN,EA, and RSPB	2004	Context
UK Post 2010 – Biodiversity Framework	JNCC / DEFRA	2012	Context
Government Forestry & Woodlands Policy Statement	DEFRA	2013	Context
England Forestry Strategy	Forestry Commission	1999	Context
Biodiversity 2020 – A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services	DEFRA	2011	Context
Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy	DTI	2002	Context
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future	English Heritage	2001	Context
Sustainable Communities Plan (Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future)	ODPM	2003	Context
Road Traffic Reduction Act	HMSO	1997	Context
The Water Act	HMSO	2003	Context
Policy and Practice for the protection of groundwater	Environment Agency	Out of Print	Context
Policy and Practice for the protection of floodplains	Environment Agency	Current	Context
Safer Places: the planning system and crime prevention	ODPM, Home Office	Current	Context
Flood and Water Management Act	HMSO	2010	Context
Localism Act	HMSO	2011	Context
The Future of High Streets: Progress since the Portas Review	DCLG	2013	Context
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	DCLG	2012	Context
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England	DCLG	2011	Context

Regional level

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
South East Plan Policy NRM6 (Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area)	Partnership Board	2009	Strategic
River Basin Management Plan: Thames River Basin District	Environment Agency, DEFRA	December 2009	Strategic
Action for Biodiversity in South East England	South East England Biodiversity Forum	2001	Strategic
Catchment Abstraction Management Plan	Environment Agency		Strategic

County level

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
The Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy	Berkshire Local Nature Partnership	2012	Strategic

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire incorporating Alterations adopted 1997 and May 2001	Berkshire Unitary Authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit	1995	Strategic
Waste Local Plan for Berkshire	Berkshire Unitary Authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit	1998	Strategic
Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment	Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit	2003	Context

Local level (see below for a review)

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
West Berkshire Core Strategy 2006 - 2026	West Berkshire Council	2012	Direct
West Berkshire Council Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026	West Berkshire Council	2011	Direct
Sustainable Community Strategy – A Breath of Fresh Air (including refresh)	West Berkshire Partnership	2008	Direct
West Berkshire Council Strategy 2013 - 17	West Berkshire Council	2013	Direct
The West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008-2011	West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership	2008	Direct
West Berkshire Council's Corporate Equality Plan 2007 - 2011	West Berkshire Council	2008	Direct
Homelessness Strategy 2012	West Berkshire Council	2012	Direct
Housing Strategy 2010-2015	West Berkshire Council	2010	Direct
Newbury Vision 2025	West Berkshire Partnership	October 2003	Direct
Draft Newbury Vision (2026) refresh	West Berkshire Partnership	2013	Direct
Kennet and Thames Vision	West Berkshire Council	October 2006	Direct
West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991-2006 - Saved Policies 2007	West Berkshire Council	June 2002, saved Sept 2007	Direct
Health and Wellbeing Strategy	West Berkshire Council	2013	Direct
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	West Berkshire Council	2011	direct
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009 - 2014	North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners	November 2009	Direct
Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need	West Berkshire Council	July 2005	Direct
Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan – Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Mitigation Standards for Residential Development	English Nature	May 2006	Direct
AWE - Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations	AWE	April 2007	Direct

Neighbouring Authorities policies/plans

It is assumed that each Local Authority has had regard to their existing Local Plans and Community Strategies in developing their emerging Local Development Documents. Each of these documents contain strategic policy objectives and land use development proposals for their area and the West Berkshire Core Strategy will need to consider cross-boundary issues.

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2016 (October 2005) – saved policies	Oxfordshire County Council	March 2009	Strategic
Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1996 – 2006 - Saved Policies	Oxfordshire County Council	Adopted 1996 Saved Policies 2007	Strategic
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011	South Oxfordshire District Council	January 2006	Strategic
South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (to 2027)	South Oxfordshire District Council	December 2012	Strategic
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2011	Vale of White Horse District Council	July 2006	Strategic
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2029 (Consultation ended May 2013)	Vale of White Horse District Council	February 2013	Strategic
The Vale Community Strategy 2008-2016	The Vale Strategic Partnership	October 2008	Strategic
Wiltshire Core Strategy 2026 (Submission Stage)	Wiltshire County Council	July 2012	Strategic
South Wiltshire Core Strategy (Adopted)	Wiltshire County Council	February 2012	Strategic

Appendix 1 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

Title	Author	Date	Relevance
Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 – Saved Policies	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	April 2006	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	July 2009	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	July 2009	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Development Control Policies	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	September 2009	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Control Policies	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	September 2009	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Site Allocations	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	May 2013	Strategic
Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations	Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council	February 2013	Strategic
Swindon Borough Local Plan 2011 – Saved Policies	Swindon Borough Council	July 2006	Strategic
Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 (Submission Stage)	Swindon Borough Council	June 2013	Strategic
Kennet Local Plan 2011 – Saved Policies	Kennet District Council	April 2004, Saved Sept 2007	Strategic
Revised Test Valley Borough Local Plan	Test Valley Borough Council	February 2013	Strategic
Test Valley Borough Local Plan, 2006 - Saved Policies (June 2009)	Test Valley Borough Council	2009	Strategic
Draft Revised Test Valley Local Plan	Test Valley Borough Council	2013	Strategic
Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review) – Saved Policies	Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council	March 2010 (saved Sept 2007)	Strategic
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (Found sound by Inspector subject to some main modifications)	Hampshire County Council	June 2013	Strategic
Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and New Forest National Park Minerals and Waste Core Strategy	Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council, New Forest National Park Authority	2007	Strategic
Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Saved Policies	Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council	1998	Strategic
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan (1996 – 2011) Saved Policies	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	July 2006, saved July 2009	Strategic
Basingstoke and Dean Core Strategy (pre Submission version quashed at Judicial Review in Spring 2012, awaiting changes and re-consultation)	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	January 2008	Strategic
Hart District Council Local Plan (Replacement incorporating 'First Alternations 2006') 1996-2006 – Saved Policies	Hart District Council	2002, Saved Sept 2007	Strategic
Hart District Council Core Strategy – Submission Stage, Hearing completed 19 July 2013	Hart District Council	July 2013	Strategic
Wokingham District Local Plan – Saved Policies	Wokingham District Council	March 2004, Saved Sept 2007	Strategic
Wokingham Borough Core Strategy (adopted)	Wokingham Borough Council	January 2010	Strategic
Wokingham Borough Council Managing Development Delivery DPD (at examination)	Wokingham Borough Council	December 2012	Strategic
Reading Borough Local Plan (1991-2006) – Saved Policies	Reading Borough Council	1998, Saved Sept 2007	Strategic
Reading Borough Core Strategy	Reading Borough Council	January 2008	Strategic
Reading 2020 – Making it Happen, Community Strategy	Reading Partnership	2004	Local
Reading Borough Council Sites and Detailed Policies Document	Reading Borough Council	October 2012	Strategic

Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes:

Overall aim or purpose of document	Objectives / Targets	Implications for the West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD
Local level:		
West Berkshire Council Core Strategy 2006 - 2026		
<p>Sets out the long term vision for West Berkshire to 2026 and translates this into spatial terms, setting out proposals for where development will go, and how this development will be built. The Core Strategy aims to make the different settlements within West Berkshire even more attractive places within which to live, work and enjoy leisure time. The Core Strategy sets out the over all framework for the more detailed policies and site specific proposals to be contained in other documents of the Development Plan.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackling Climate Change - To exceed national targets for carbon dioxide emissions reduction and deliver the District's growth in a way that helps to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change 2. Housing Growth - To deliver at least 10,500 homes across West Berkshire between 2006 – 2026. These homes will be delivered in an effective and timely manner, will maximise the use of suitable Brownfield land and access to facilities and services and will be developed at densities within make the most efficient use of land whilst responding to the existing build environment. 3. Housing Needs - To secure provision of affordable and market housing to meet local needs in both urban and rural areas of the district. To provide homes in a way that promotes sustainable communities, providing a mix of house sizes, types and tenures to meet identified needs, and respond to the changing demographic profile of the District. 4. Economy - To provide for a range of sizes and types of employment land and premises in the right locations to respond to the forecast changes in economic activity, the location of new residential development and the specific needs of the rural economy, including the equestrian and horseracing industries. 5. Infrastructure Requirements – To ensure that infrastructure needs (including community services and facilities) arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided in a timely and coordinated manner, which keeps pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. 6. Green Infrastructure - To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of well-connected and multi-functional green infrastructure which provides an attractive environment to live, work and spend leisure time, providing benefits for health and opportunities for formal and informal recreation. 7. Transport - To put in place a sustainable transport network which supports the growth in West Berkshire, links existing and new development, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport and provides a genuine choice of modes. Traffic management measures will minimise the impact of new development on the existing network. 8. Retail – To achieve growth in retail activity and consequently increase the vitality and vibrancy of town centres in West Berkshire. To meet the range of shopping needs for residents and visitors largely through completion of the Parkway development and through the regeneration of Thatcham town centre. To provide for local shopping need in town, district and local centres to serve the needs of existing and future residents. 9. Heritage - To ensure that development to 2026 is planned, designed and managed in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic and natural environment in West Berkshire's Towns, villages and countryside. 	<p>The Core Strategy provides the framework for the more detailed policies and site specific proposals to be contained within the SAD DPD.</p>
West Berkshire Council Local Transport Plan (2011 – 2026)		
<p>Sets out the Council's transport policy framework. West Berkshire's vision for transport is "to develop effective transport solutions for all by increasing choice and minimising congestion". This means delivering a transport system which supports the economic vitality of West Berkshire, as well as providing choice and opportunities for residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve travel choice and encourage sustainable travel • To support the economy and quality of life by minimising congestion and improving reliability on West Berkshire's transport networks; • To maintain, make best use of and improve West Berkshire's transport networks for all modes of travel; • To improve access to services and facilities; • To improve and promote opportunities for healthy and safe travel; 	<p>Ensure that the policies have regard to the vision and objectives of the Plan. West Berkshire is geographically diverse with a mix of rural and urban areas, each with its own set of issues and opportunities. The LTP uses the same spatial approach as the Core Strategy: Newbury & Thatcham, The Eastern Area, The North Wessex AONB and The East Kennet Valley</p>

Overall aim or purpose of document	Objectives / Targets	Implications for the West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD
to be able to access the services they need in a sustainable way where possible that minimises harm to the environment. For transport solutions to be effective, transport networks need to be managed in a way which promotes safety and minimises the existence and impacts of congestion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise energy consumption and the impact of all forms of travel on the environment. 	
Sustainable Community Strategy – A Breath of Fresh Air		
Sets out a long-term vision for the District up to 2025.	<p>The Plan is based on five key themes which reflect the principles of protecting what are seen to be strengths of the District whilst recognising that there are areas where improvements are needed. Each of the five following themes have priority outcomes identified for improvement. The themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosperous Accessible Greener Safer Stronger 	As the Community Plan is a key document for the West Berkshire Core Strategy it will need to reflect the emerging key themes and their priority outcomes identified within the Draft Community Plan.
West Berkshire Council Strategy 2013 - 17		
<p>Sets out the Council's priorities and a realistic set of objectives that can be delivered over the next four years.</p> <p>The strategy's overarching vision is: Keeping West Berkshire a great place in which to live, learn, work and do business.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out four key priority areas which are underpinned by a set of universal principles to guide how the council are responding to the changes in policy, financial and legislative landscape. The four priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for and protecting the vulnerable Promoting a vibrant district Improving education Protecting the environment 	The Council strategy is a key document for the Local Plan
The West Berkshire Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008-2011		
The Partnership Plan sets out the targets of the Safer Communities Partnership, whose role is to work together with the community to help reduce crime and anti social behaviour. The Partnership's Vision is 'working to create a safer West Berkshire'.	<p>The document includes specific objectives and targets that the Partnership will be concentrating on. The six strategic priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the effectiveness in the way in which anti-social behaviour is dealt with in West Berkshire Reduce the risk factors for vulnerable young people and families of offending and anti-social behaviour Reduce re-offending through more effective offender management Reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder Reduce incidents of domestic abuse Respond to local concerns of crime and disorder in West Berkshire 	The West Berkshire Core Strategy will need to reflect the priorities of this Strategy.
West Berkshire Council's Corporate Equality Plan 2007 - 2011		
<p>West Berkshire Council aims to promote equality of opportunity for all residents of West Berkshire, irrespective of race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, religious belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, geographical location or any other status.</p> <p>The purpose of the Plan is to integrate an equality perspective into all aspects of Council functions,</p>	The Corporate Equality Plan (CEP) sets out how the Council will promote its wide ranging equality agenda and what action will be taken over the next three years to ensure equality of opportunity for both its staff and customers. The Plan builds on the commitments made in the Council's first Race Equality Scheme, adopted in February 2003.	The West Berkshire Core Strategy will need to reflect the priorities and agenda of this Plan.

Overall aim or purpose of document	Objectives / Targets	Implications for the West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD
policies and services. However, it does not offer a 'quick-fix' strategy. Instead, it sets out a process for sustainable improvements as to how the Council can best promote equality through advancing its way through the requirements set out in the Local Government Equality Standard.		
Homelessness Strategy 2008-2011		
The Homelessness Strategy for West Berkshire lays out a vision for tackling homelessness over the next 3 years, based on a comprehensive review of the current position and an analysis of future trends.	There are five main objectives, which are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preventing homelessness 2. Improving customer service. 3. Improving support for vulnerable groups 4. Improving standards in the provision of temporary accommodation 5. Increasing the supply of affordable housing 	The need to increase the supply of affordable housing has clear linkages with planning policy and implications for the West Berkshire Core Strategy.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
The health and wellbeing strategy sets out how the Council will manage Public Health, bridging the gap between health and social care systems.	The Strategy's priorities for the first 2 years are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing childhood obesity in primary school children • Giving every child and young person the best start in life • Supporting those over 40 years old to address lifestyle choices detrimental to health • Supporting a vibrant district • Promoting independence and supporting older people to manage their long term conditions. 	Ensure that the SAD takes into account the priorities set out within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment		
The PFRA provides a high level overview of flood risk across West Berkshire from local sources of flooding. Including surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. It also considered flooding from main rivers because of the interaction between main rivers and local sources of flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe arrangements for partnerships and collaboration for the ongoing assessment of flood risk, data collection and means of public engagement. - Summarise the methodology used for the PFRA and the scrutiny and review procedures. - Assess historic flood events within West Berkshire from local sources and the consequences of these events. - Assess the potential harmful consequences of future flood events within West Berkshire. - Review the indicative Flood Risk Areas 	The PRFA supports and informs the SFRA and provides details on areas susceptible to flooding that may need to be considered within the SAD DPD.
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan		
The Management Plan emphasises sustainable development that brings together environmental, economic and community benefits. The Plan gives a background to the area and the issues facing it to facilitate the area becoming more well known as an entity. 74% of West Berkshire is located within the AONB.	Each year the North Wessex Downs AONB will develop a delivery plan which sets out who is doing what, describes the North Wessex Downs AONB team in action, identifies the lead body, and defines the outcomes to be delivered. The delivery plan includes 19 objectives, which are based around 8 themes: about the land; land management; biodiversity; historic environment; natural resources; development; communities; leisure and tourism. These objectives help to deliver an overall vision for the North Wessex Downs AONB.	Ensure that policies have regard to the themes and objectives set out in the Management Plan.
Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan – Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Mitigation Standards for Residential Development		
The delivery plans aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a strategic approach to identifying avoidance measures to prevent in combination/ cumulative impacts on the SPA arising from recreational pressure with new residential development; • Define the nature, scale and general location 	<p>The broad goal of the Plan is to ensure that the delivery of current housing allocations complies with the requirements of the Habitat regulations with respect to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.</p> <p>The Thames Basin Delivery Plan is intended as a research and information document which will be implemented through the LDFs that include the Thames Heath as an SPA.</p>	The West Berkshire Core Strategy needs to consider the Draft Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plans as this has implications for development within the South East corner of West Berkshire.

Overall aim or purpose of document	Objectives / Targets	Implications for the West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD
<p>standards of avoidance measures, to be met for housing development through green infrastructure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the quality of the local environment through the provision of green infrastructure; semi natural informal greenspace; • Assist local planning authorities in providing greater clarity for developers / public over where and how new housing development may be undertaken; • Streamline determination of planning applications. 	<p>The Delivery Plan is a key component of a three part approach to mitigating recreational impacts; off site avoidance measures, on site access management and on site habitat management. All three approaches are required in parallel to safeguard the SPA from recreation impacts that may arise from new housing development.</p>	
AWE Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations		
<p>AWE Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations</p>	<p>The Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPPIR) aims to protect members of the public from a radiation emergency that could arise from work with ionising radiation. The regulations establish a framework of emergency preparedness measures to ensure that members of the public are properly informed and prepared, in advance, about what to do in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency occurring, and provided with information if a radiation emergency actually occurs.</p> <p>REPPPIR adopt many of the emergency planning principles of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and formalise into regulations previous emergency planning arrangements with local authorities that have been in place around nuclear licensed premises for many years.</p>	<p>In West Berkshire Council area there are two sites which need to comply with the above legislation. These two sites are both run by Atomic Weapons Establishment who have sites, both based in West Berkshire: AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield.</p>

Summary of Key Emerging Local Level Objectives/Targets:

Level/Topic	Relevant Objectives (amalgamated from Review of National Policy) <i>Target (where relevant)</i>
Local	
Environment	Conserve and enhance landscape character and diversity, remoteness, tranquillity, biodiversity, preserve the historic environment including battlefields and sites of historic significance, protect and improve the urban environment, raise the profile of West Berkshire's unique and innovative cultural benefits
	Identify an appropriate balance between recreation and nature conservation and improve access to the countryside
	Ensure appropriate level/distribution of open space and recreational facilities to meet local needs, enhance open space within the defined settlements
	Protect the best and most versatile land, avoid fragmentation, support some farm diversification and agricultural development
	Protect, restore and manage grazing heathland- Greenham and Crookham Commons
Resources	Support the restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal and enhance its recreational value without harming the environmental character and ecology
	Sustain natural resources, promote low carbon economy and energy conservation
	Overcome issues associated with the availability of water resources and recent low flows, promote water conservation
	Increase the amount of waste to be recycled
Social	Make maximum use of urban land
	Develop appropriate skills for the future
	Reduce the risk factors for vulnerable young people and families of offending and anti-social behaviour.
	Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
	To achieve greater social inclusion and to tackle all forms of social exclusion
	Support vibrant communities
To improve educational standards	
Encourage sustainable travel	

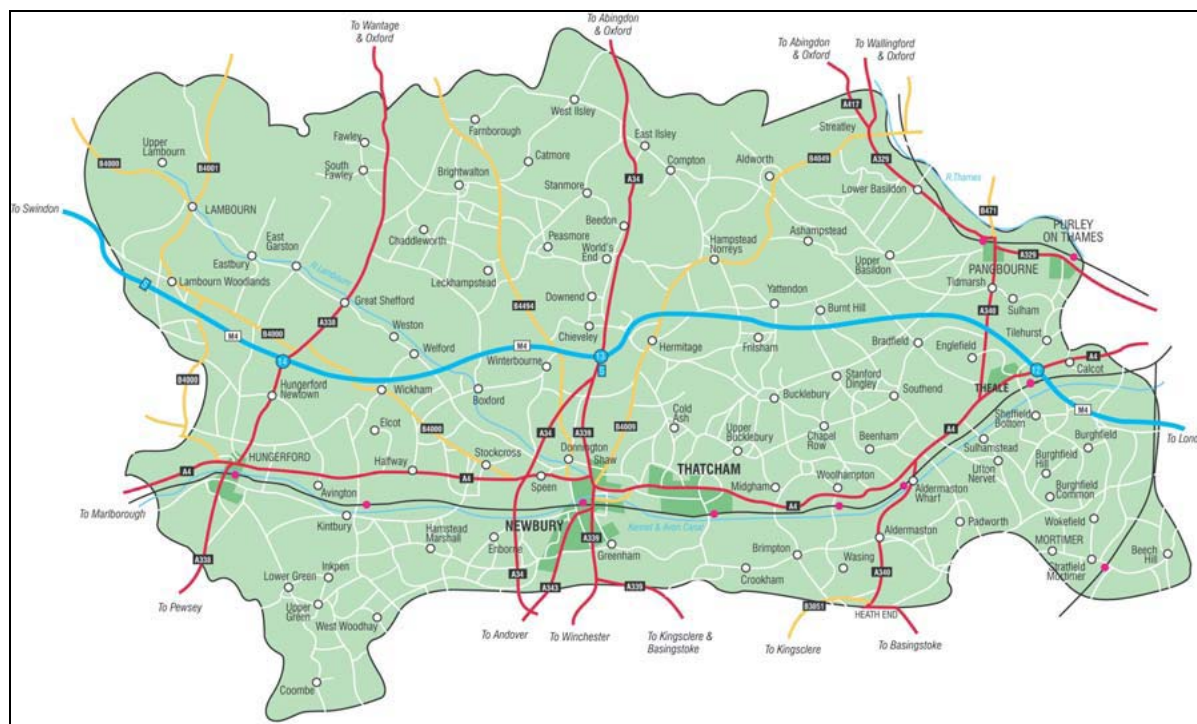
Level/Topic	Relevant Objectives (amalgamated from Review of National Policy) <i>Target (where relevant)</i>
	<p>To address the needs of all disadvantaged and excluded groups particularly focusing on older people, put in place preventative measures for vulnerable children and young people</p> <p>Plan for the delivery of 10,500 dwellings of a variety of types in a variety of locations to meet identified housing needs. Locate housing to have regard to sustainable development, provide affordable housing to meet local needs, and ensure the creation of quality housing schemes which maintain and enhance the character and appearance of the area in which they are located.</p> <p>Develop appropriate skills for the future</p>
Economy	<p>Direct development to most sustainable locations</p> <p>Enable some limited development to take place in rural areas</p> <p>To improve road safety, accessibility, buses and community safety, in addition to prioritising areas relating to congestion, air quality, safer roads and accessibility</p>

Appendix 2 - Baseline Information

1 Context

West Berkshire is located in the South East of England, within the former administrative area of the county of Berkshire. It is a Unitary Authority and covers an area of 704 square kilometres, extending from Hungerford in the west to Calcot in the east. In land use terms the area is predominately rural in character, with approximately 74% of the land area making up part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford, Theale, Purley, Tilehurst, Calcot and Burghfield Common are the largest settlements in the area.

Figure 1 - Context of West Berkshire



2 Social

In 2011 the Census showed West Berkshire with a population of 154,000. Figures indicate that the population has increased by 6% between 2001 and 2011. Approximately 75% of the population is concentrated in the Kennet Valley at strategic points along the A4 and on the western side of Reading. The remaining area comprises smaller settlements sitting within a diverse landscape. West Berkshire has one of the most dispersed populations in the South East with 253 people per hectare.

17% of the West Berkshire population is of retirement age (65 years and over) compared with a national average of 18%. The average age in West Berkshire is 39.4 years, the same as the national average. The 20 to 34 years age group makes up 16% of the population.

When compared nationally, there is a significantly lower proportion of people in West Berkshire who define themselves as coming from a black or ethnic minority (BME) background (5% of West Berkshire residents as a whole, compared to 14% of people in England and Wales). Although this is a relatively small proportion of the total population, this amounts to some 8,000 residents in the District.

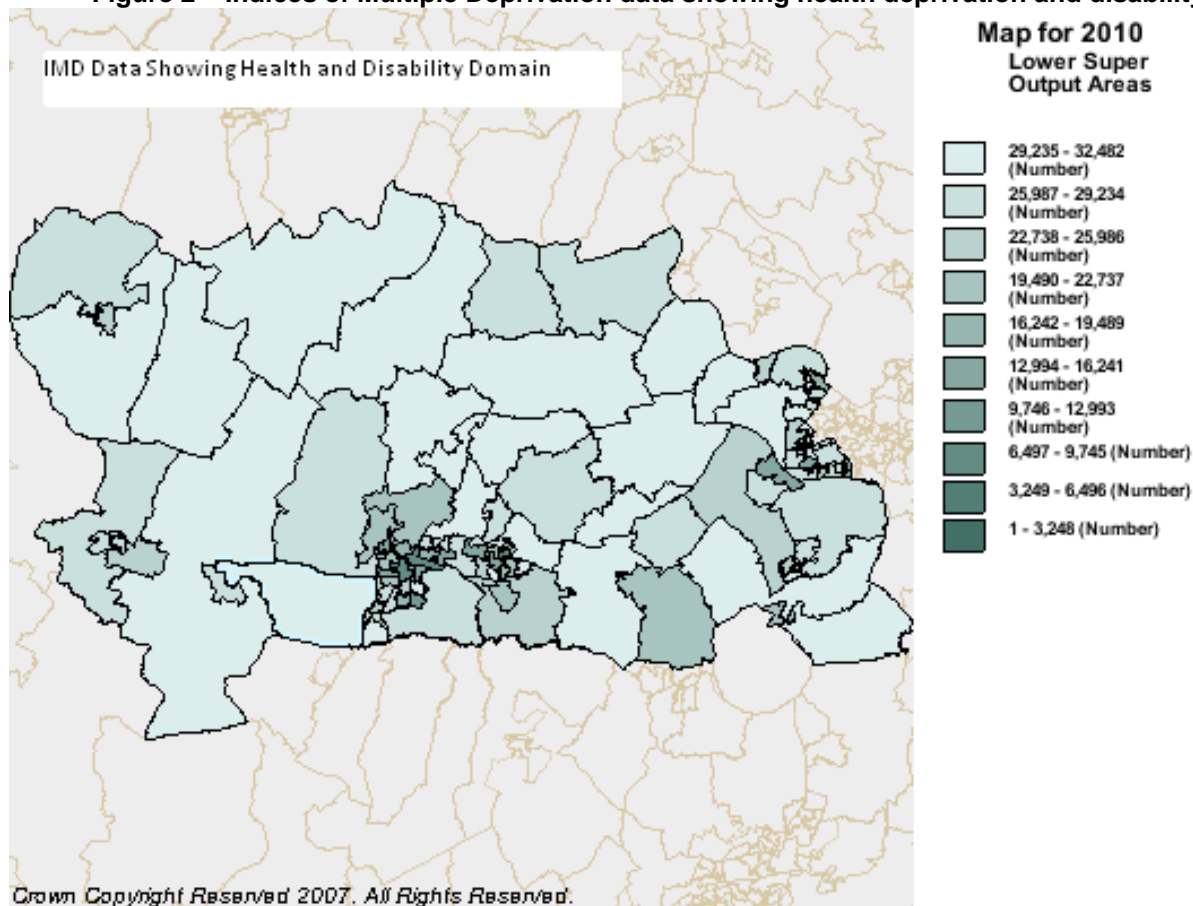
Future trends: In the future, there is likely to be a large increase in the proportion of older people. The population of the area as a whole is projected to rise by 10% to 170,100 by 2021, and the population of over 65 yrs is forecast to grow by almost 64% between 2006 and 2026¹. In comparison, it is predicted that the population in the South East Region will rise by 10% 2021, while the population of those aged over 65 will rise by 34%. The number of people aged 85+ is expected to rise by 41%, by 2021, which will have implications on adult social care provision within the district.

¹ ONS, Subnational Population Projections, 2008

2.1 Health

People in West Berkshire consider themselves relatively healthy. According to the 2011 Census, 86% of people stated that their health was 'good' - compared with 84% of people in the South East and 81% of people nationally. The map below uses ODPM's Indices of Multiple Deprivation to show relative levels of deprivation across the district in terms of selected social care factors. These include relative ages of residents, proportion of people with a limiting long term illness, proportion of people whose health is "not good" and numbers of unpaid carers providing 20 hours or more care per week.

Figure 2 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation data showing health deprivation and disability.



Source: ODPM, Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2010

Wards in the darker colours show the most deprived areas in the District in terms of social care. We can see these are spread over the more rural areas across the district and within and around Newbury. A lot of the wards on the Reading fringe do not feature significantly.

In the 2001 Census, over 2,100 households reported having a child with a limiting long term illness. Disabled children account for approximately 2% of the school age population in West Berkshire - a figure of 1,103 according to the 2001 Census (Data from 2011 census is not yet available and will be added when available).

Future trends: Nationally, we are living longer and have greater long-term care needs. It is acknowledged that people want quality services that meet the full range of individual need, more local care, and the ability to take greater control over their health whilst being supported to remain as independent as possible. Changes in population and communities mean that we are less likely to be part of a close knit family providing support. For isolated rural communities this may mean additional transport links to services and the increased availability and use of broadband and other ICT technologies to provide local access to information about health, social care, housing and other Council services. Increased need for home adaptations or more specialised accommodation geared to allow as much independence as possible while supporting changing abilities is also likely.

2.2 Education

West Berkshire has a higher than average proportion of people with higher qualifications (HND, degree or higher) at 32% of people of working age. Despite the district's relatively good performance in education, significant numbers of the working population have no qualifications (17% compared to 23% nationally) and

poor literacy and numeracy skills. This has important social implications since there are significant links between basic numeracy / literacy and levels of crime and health. Low levels of skills also potentially acts as a break on the economy with local employers unable to find people with the necessary skills from the local labour pool. Skills and labour gaps exist in certain key areas, particularly in the public sector, the construction industry and tourism.

Future trends: Educational trends are moving towards higher levels of achievement. West Berkshire has a high performance standard in primary schools with over 80% of children leaving primary schools with good literacy (87%) and numeracy (82%) skills. Overall, a higher proportion of 16-17 year olds remain in education and training in West Berkshire, compared to the South East more generally and to England. Significantly, West Berkshire has a much higher retention of 17 year olds in education or training than compared to either the region or nationally. Small increases in children reaching school age are placing increasing pressure on school places where schools are already at capacity.

In response to improving the basic skills of adults, the Council is continuing to steer provision to certain groups of the population, achieved through a combination of adult funding arrangements, fee concessions for students aged 60+, encouragement, funding and professional support for the development of provision targeted at addressing learning needs of prioritised groups and curriculum planning.

2.3 Housing

According to the 2011 Census, 70% of all housing in West Berkshire is owner-occupied - compared to 64% nationally. A very small proportion (1%) is being purchased under a shared ownership scheme whilst the remainder of households are in rented accommodation. About half of all rented accommodation is rented from a Registered Social Landlord (i.e. a housing association).

The average size of households in West Berkshire is 2.46 people. This is roughly in line with the average in Berkshire of 2.48 although is slightly higher than the national average of 2.36. Both nationally and within the district, overall household size has been declining since the 1950s. An easily overlooked consequence of this relatively rapid decline is, of course, that more dwellings are needed to accommodate the same population.

House prices have risen by 194% between 1995 and 2013 making West Berkshire one of the most expensive places to buy a house outside London. Prices have fallen as a result of the economic downturn, but they are still higher than the national average and are now very similar to their 2007 values. In January 2013 the average house price in West Berkshire was £233,906. A single income household would need to earn considerably above the average wage to receive a 90% mortgage on an average flat. This highlights the increasing need for affordable housing for local people and key workers within the district.

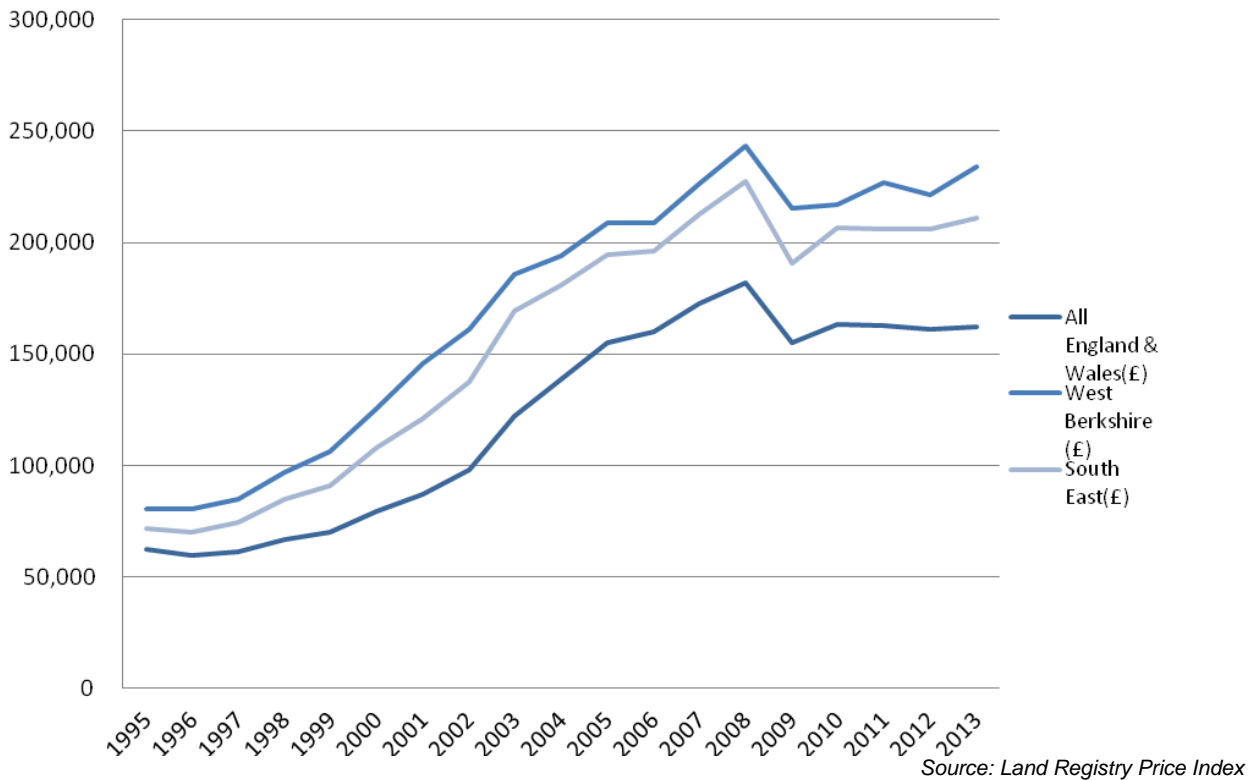
Table 1 below shows the average annual house prices (all tenures) 2000-2013:

	Average House Price (£)	
	West Berkshire	South East
January		
2000	125,731	107,729
2001	145,568	121,077
2002	160,884	137,742
2003	185,607	169,516
2004	194,114	181,152
2005	208,678	194,518
2006	208,589	196,165

	Average House Price (£)	
	West Berkshire	South East
January		
2007	226,503	212,640
2008	243,352	227,610
2009	215,479	190,898
2010	216,919	206,868
2011	226,876	206,051
2012	221,685	206,037
2013	233,906	211,054

Source: Land Registry

Figure 3 – Average house price for West Berkshire compared to the South East and England and Wales



Future trends: A single income household would need to earn considerably above the average wage to receive a 90% mortgage on an average flat, which would therefore be out of reach of many wage earners without some form of assistance. This has a major impact on the ability to find and retain younger staff in general and key workers in particular and a growing impact with the escalation in the projected need for care workers in the community. As of April 2012 there were 4076 households registered on the Common Housing Register, an increase from 2785 in April 2006. This increase is partly due to the economic downturn and it is possible that West Berkshire could experience a sharper increase in the number of applicants in the coming months. The housing transfer list for West Berkshire is held by Sovereign Housing Association. There are a high number of local people who either need a home of their own or require more suitable accommodation. The highest requirement is for one bedroom accommodation which reflects the increasing numbers of single person households trying to get on the property ladder. A shortage of affordable housing in rural areas which are popular and attractive places to live is a particular problem. Demand for new houses is high with local people competing with new residents such as commuters, people with second homes and the retired to purchase houses. This can create unbalanced communities, drive up house prices and deny local people the chance of securing a home of their own.

2.4 Deprivation

Overall, the district of West Berkshire ranks 288 out of 326 local authority areas, making it the 39th least deprived district in England. West Berkshire has a total of 97 Super Output Areas (SOAs) and the ten most deprived are shown in table 2 below. The table also shows the overall ranking out of all SOAs in the country. None of the West Berkshire SOAs fall within the top 20% most deprived in the country. The England ranking is 1 to 32,482 with 1 being the most deprived and 32,482 being the least deprived.

Table 2 – Top ten most deprived SOAs in West Berkshire (2010)

Rank in West Berkshire	SOA	Ward	Rank of IMD in England
1	E01016295	Greenham	6258
2	E01016673	Calcot	10495
3	E01016336	Thatcham North	10971
4	E01016347	Victoria	11225
5	E01016346	Victoria	11362
6	E01016325	Speen	11954
7	E01016280	Clay Hill	14190
8	E01016279	Clay Hill	14746
9	E01016312	Northcroft	14857
10	E01016340	Thatcham West	14962

In terms of 'Barriers to Housing and Services' (one of the IMD indices), a large proportion of the District is classified as being deprived; mainly due to the rurality of the area. Communities that are highlighted as being most deprived will have limited access to services and affordable housing. The generally high affluence of the region and of West Berkshire masks pockets of deprivation and exclusion. There are communities with individuals and families who experience particular difficulties as a consequence of being poor within a generally wealthy region.

Future trends: The main deprivation issue facing the area is that of barriers to housing and services. The need for affordable housing is likely to increase over the coming years. Sufficient and affordable housing in rural areas is also likely to remain a major concern, often resulting in young adults unable to buy or rent accommodation locally.

2.5 Crime and Safety

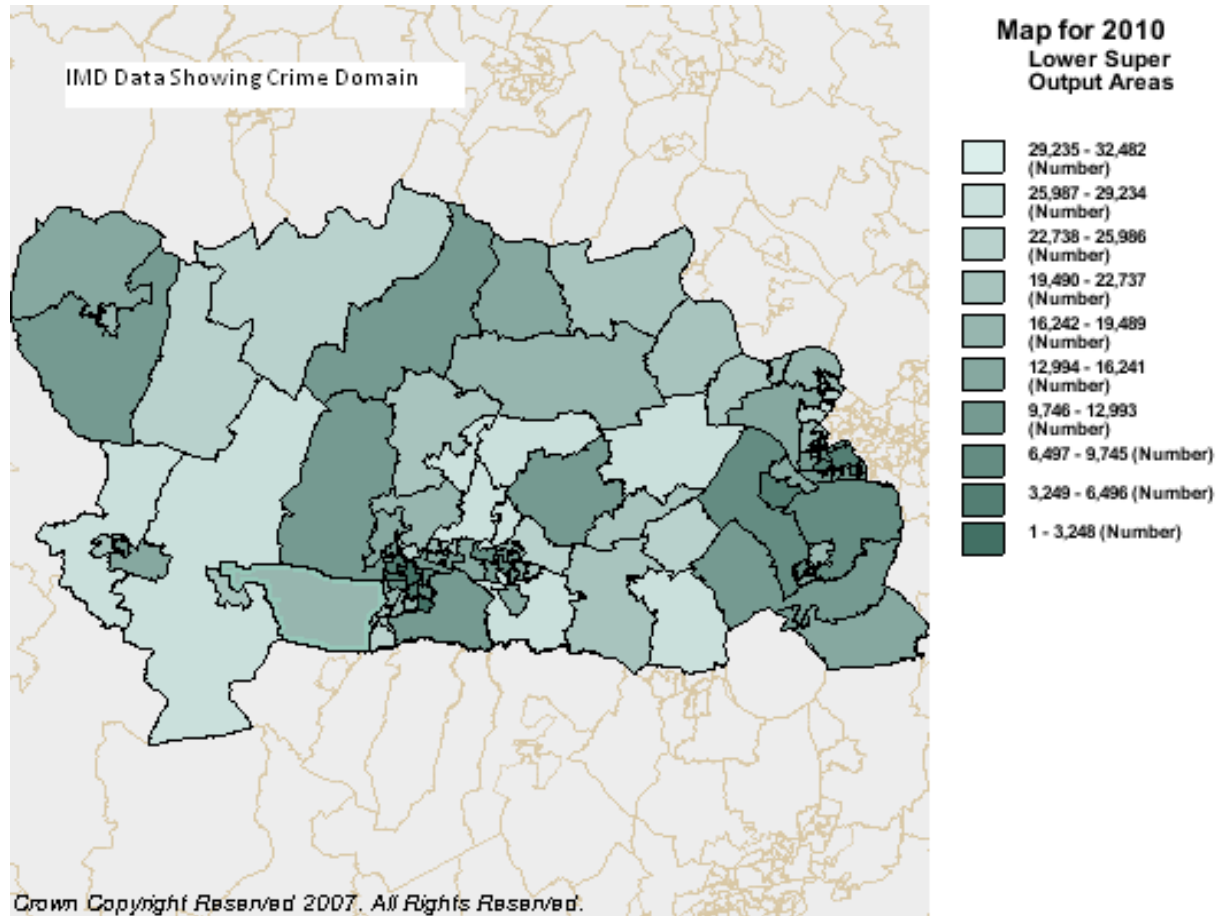
Nationally levels of crime have been declining; the year ending March 2013 saw a 7% decrease in police recorded crime on the previous year. Over the same period West Berkshire saw a 13% reduction in all crimes committed. Local priorities identified by the community and the police are largely associated with Speeding, Theft, Anti-Social behaviour and Rural Crime.

The majority of crime in West Berkshire naturally occurs in the more densely populated areas, with Newbury being the main hotspot for crime as well as attracting crime to it. Crime in the district occurs mostly in the evenings and especially overnight.

Most offenders are young and between the ages of 14 and 24, however younger people (aged 16 to 50) make up the majority of victims, with the risk of experiencing crime decreasing as age increased.

The map below shows crime across the district according to DCLG's Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This measures the incidence of crime for the four major crime themes (burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence) and represents the occurrence of personal and material victimisation.

Figure 4 – Indices of Multiple Deprivation data showing crime and disorder.



Source: DCLG, Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2010

One of the main areas for offending is Newbury town centre with the peak time for offending being between 9 pm and midnight on a Friday and 9 pm – 3 am on a Saturday and Sunday, which shows a direct link to the night time economy. The 3 motorway service areas in West Berkshire are hotspots for thefts from family vehicles and lorry loads. Both Membury and Moto Service Stations are also significant hotspots for making off without payment/bilking offences.

The results of the West Berkshire Council Community Safety survey 2008 showed that the majority of people, 87%, feel safe outside during the day in their local area. This changes after dark where almost a third of residents did not feel safe. The most commonly perceived anti social behaviour problems in West Berkshire are speeding vehicles, teenagers hanging around and inconsiderate parking. Despite a relatively low crime rate in the district, perceptions and fear of crime does not appear to diverge significantly from the national picture. The 2007/8 West Berkshire Council Annual Satisfaction Survey shows crime is of universal concern irrespective of where people live.

Future trends: Although the level of crime is of importance to the residents of the area, it is antisocial behaviour that is of more concern as this has a direct effect on the quality of life and general appearance of the area. A large number of the complaints received relate to anti-social behaviour attributed to young people and in some cases this is more to do with lack of tolerance by older residents. However, since the district is in line to see an increase in the older population, this is likely to lead to less tolerance towards the behaviour of young people.

2.6 Formal and Informal recreation and sport

The Council is responsible for maintenance, management and enhancement of all parks and open spaces owned by the Council. The West Berkshire Open Space and Leisure Assessment of Need 2005 highlighted the following:

- There is sufficient provision of open space, in quantitative terms and public opinion of West Berkshire’s open spaces is generally positive. There is however concern that open spaces should not be sold, but retained.
- It is considered that the quality and accessibility of open spaces can be enhanced through the provision of seating and toilets; improving access and use for all and creating more effective links to increase accessibility.
- The provision of sports halls and swimming pools exceeds demand based on the demand and supply modelling carried out as part of the study.

The assessment does not give indication of likely future condition of recreational facilities nor future demand. A new assessment will be done as part of the evidence base for the SAD.

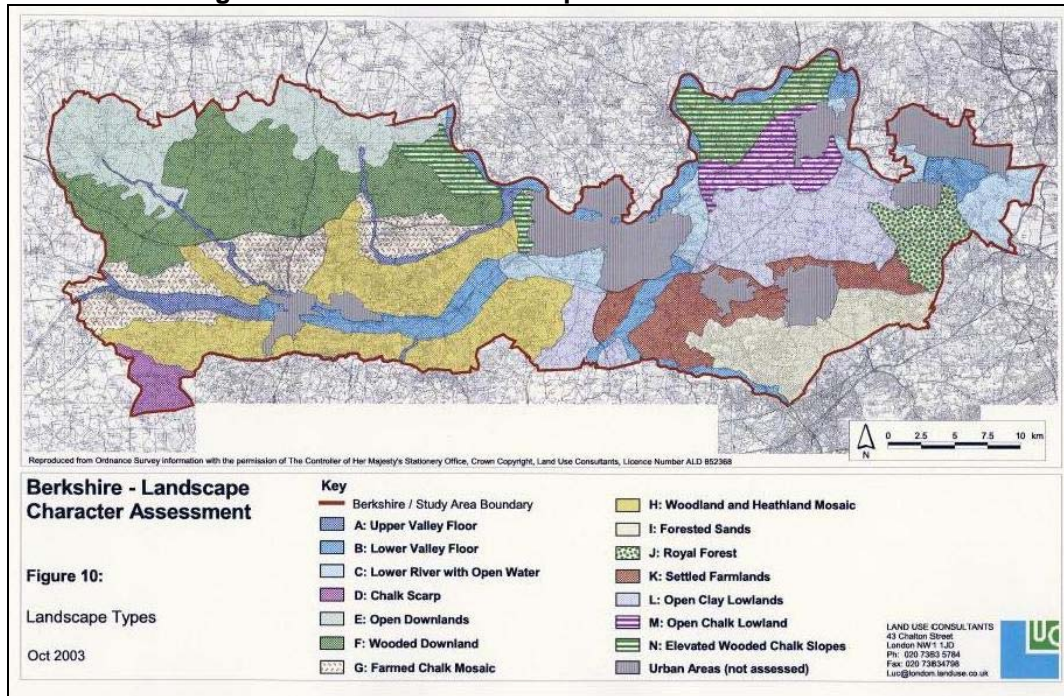
3 Environment

3.1 Landscape

The District can be divided into five national Countryside Character Areas, these are Thames Basin Heaths (in the south), Hampshire Downs, Berkshire and Marlborough Downs (in the north), Chilterns (in the north-east) and Thames Valley (in the south-east)².

The Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment³ (2003) identifies 14 landscape types which are subdivided into potential character areas.

Figure 5 – Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment



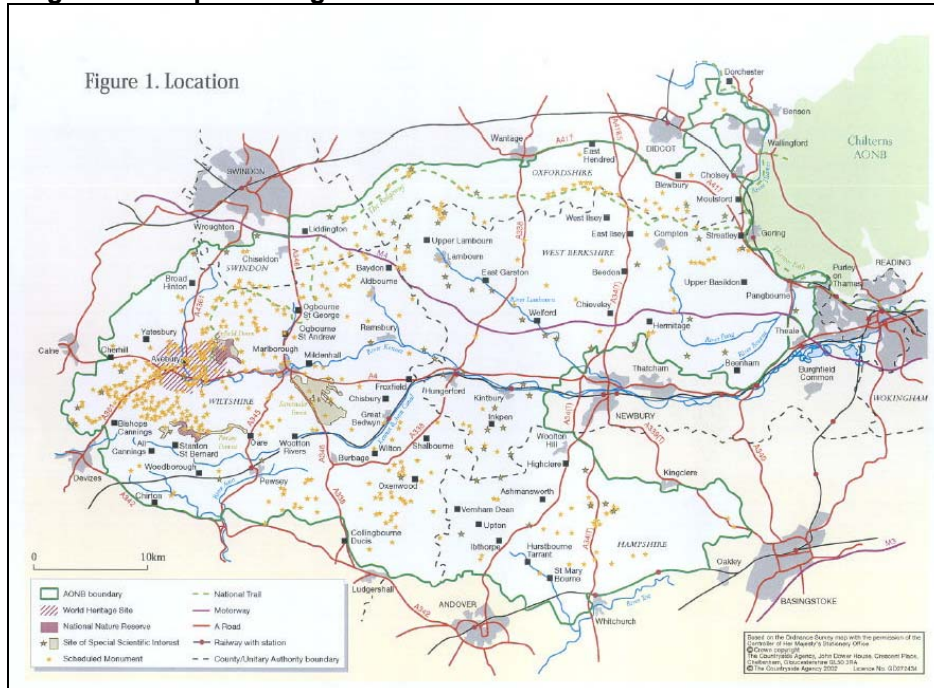
Source: Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment, 2003

74% of West Berkshire lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is a landscape of national importance. Within the AONB the diversity and mix of landscapes include⁴: Chalk Upland; Chalk Dipslopes and Lowland and Chalk with Tertiary or Gravel Deposits; Western Wooded Chalkland; Lambourn Valley; Pang Valley; Kennet Valley; Thames Valley; Wooded Lowland Farming; Gravel Plateau Woodlands with Pastures and Heaths; Plateau-edge Transitional Matrix; London Clay with Gravel Ridges; Small scale Wooded Valley Farmland; Large scale Valley Farmland; Parkland.

² The Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map, Natural England, 2005

³ Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment, Joint Strategic Planning Unit, 2003.

⁴ North Wessex Downs AONB Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, 2002

Figure 6 – Map showing the location of the North Wessex Downs AONB

Future trends: The Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment states that the current driving forces relating to landscape change are agriculture/forestry, recreation and development. Agriculture is currently in recession and inevitable restructuring of the agricultural economy is resulting in increased farm units and expansion, or conversely land coming out of production resulting in lifestyle and hobby farms. In addition, a loss of markets in forestry has resulted in a decline in woodland management especially those of ancient origin managed under traditional regime. Development is also a powerful force for change. The increasing pressure from expanding business economies and the need to accommodate housing is threatening landscape character. Other potential changes to landscape character relate to energy crops, mineral extraction (although sympathetic restoration has resulted in the creation of important new wetland landscape and habitats) and telecommunications. Tourism and recreation can also threaten landscape character.

3.2 Biodiversity

The District has a number of designated sites of international, national, regional and local conservation importance.

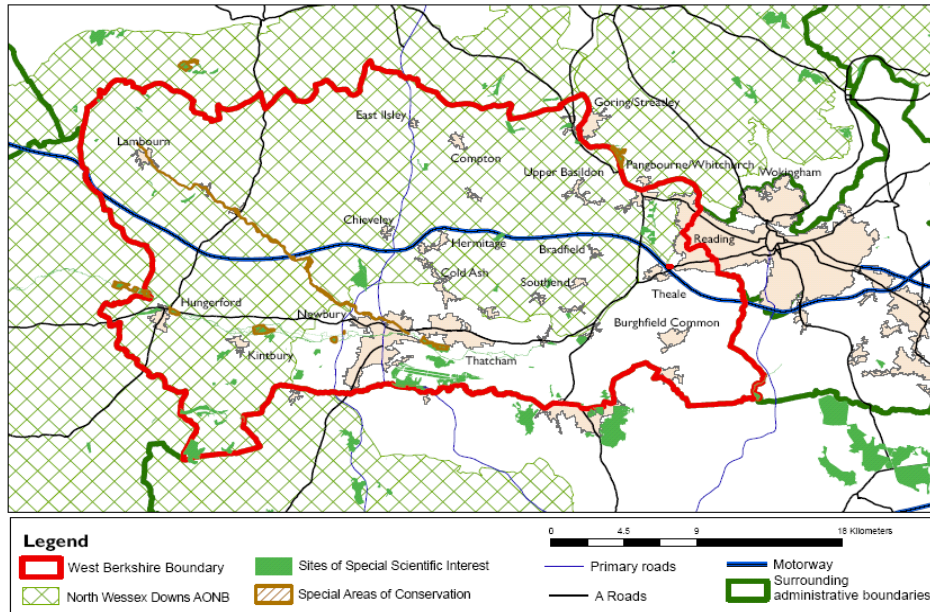
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** River Lambourn, floodplains of Rivers Kennet and Lambourn, and Kennet Valley Alderwoods.
- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** West Berkshire currently has 51 SSSIs (1,348.9 ha)⁵.
- **Special Protection Areas (SPA):** There are none in West Berkshire, however the south eastern corner of the District (around the village of Beech Hill) falls within the 5km zone of the Thames Basin Heath SPA.
- **Local Nature Reserves:** There are three sites within the District, these are Thatcham Reed Beds, Hose Hill Lake, Burghfield, and Padworth Common.
- **Wildlife Heritage Sites (WHS):** There are 508⁶ sites (6,401.69 ha) designated for their Wildlife Heritage in west Berkshire.
- **Other sites:** West Berkshire has a rich range of habitats including hedgerows, veteran trees and wildlife corridors as well as conservation verges which are managed differently to normal verges and are sympathetic to the wildlife that flourishes on them. In addition, smaller extant features, which form a mosaic of fragmented sites throughout the area, are important when considered as a whole and connections to and between such sites are also of great value.

⁵ English Nature, 2007

⁶ Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), 2007

- Protected species:** The water vole is Britain’s fastest declining mammal. The Thames region is one of the country’s strongholds for the animal and even here the decline has been dramatic. Farmland still supports large numbers of birds, but great changes have occurred to the management of farmland over the past 30 years and a downward trend can be seen.

Figure 7 – Location of SSSIs and SACs in relation to West Berkshire and the North Wessex downs AONB.



Future trends: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre have stated that without adequate protection, conservation and enhancement, the biodiversity and ecology of existing areas will continue to be threatened by development pressure.

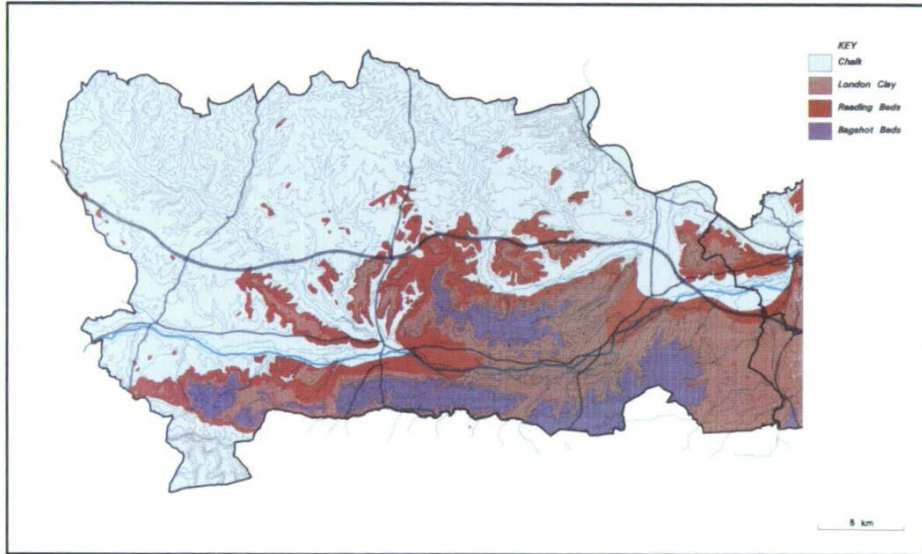
3.3 Common Land

West Berkshire has a chain of commons throughout the area under pressure from recreational use, including town commons still under traditional grazing, such as Hungerford Common.

3.4 Geology

The main elements of West Berkshire’s underlying geology are Chalk, London Clay, Reading and Bagshot Beds. In many areas alluvial deposits and plateau gravels are superimposed upon this geology. Chalk underlays much of the area covered by the AONB, while the Bagshot Beds are found to the south of the District stretching from the west to the east. The London Clay and Reading Beds are located in areas between the Chalk and the Bagshot Beds.

Figure 8 – Solid geology of West Berkshire.



Source: Newbury District Wide Landscape Assessment, Landscape Design Associates, 1993.

Rushall Farm Pit is currently the only Regionally Important Geological/ Geomorphological Site (RIGS) in West Berkshire. Although some SSSIs have been identified for their geological value.

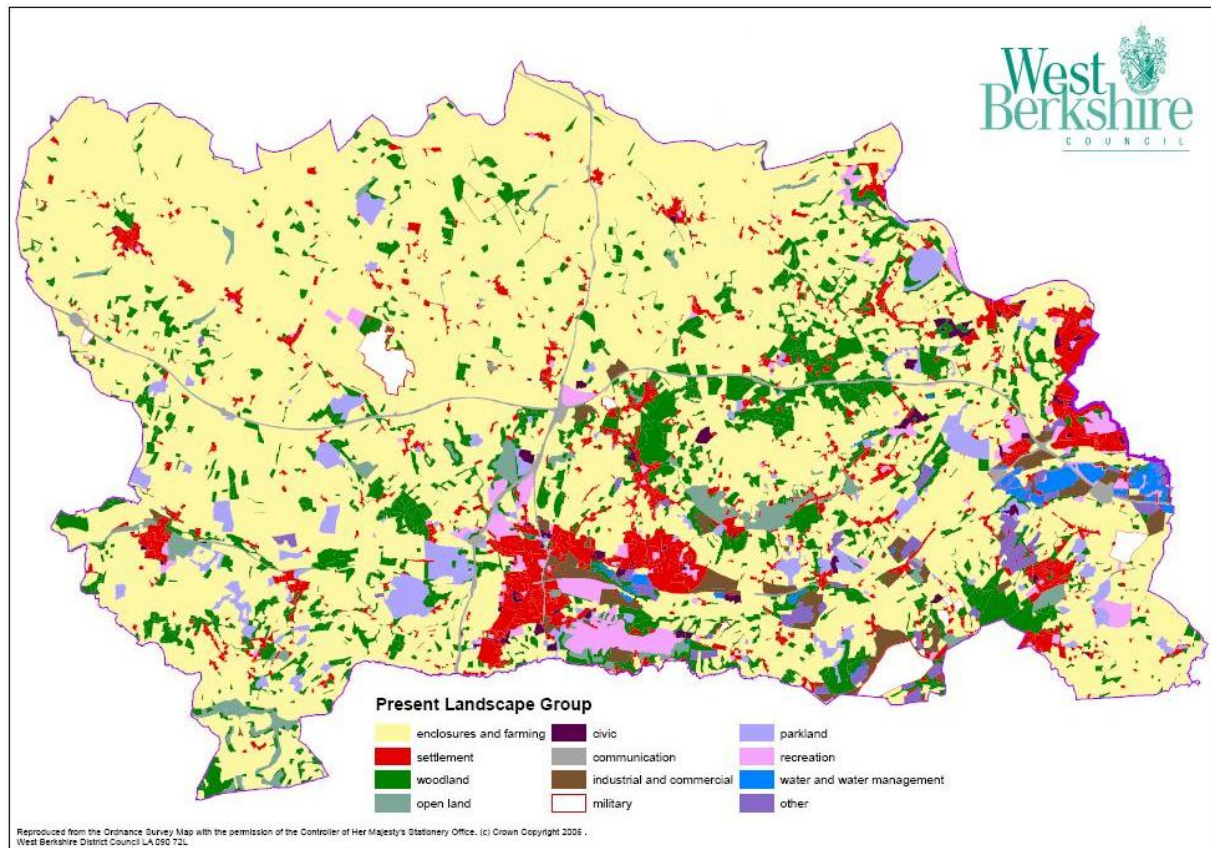
3.5 Historic Environment

West Berkshire's statutory designations include:

- **Listed Buildings:** The District has 1877 listed buildings; 42 Grade I, 107 Grade II*, and 1,728 Grade II. These include the Tudor mansions at Shaw House and Ufton Court, the Georgian mansion at Basildon Park, the Norman church of Avington, and the 1950's St Johns Church in Newbury. The 2012 list by English Heritage of buildings at risk included 8 listed buildings and structures at risk in West Berkshire.
- **Conservation Areas:** There are 52 designated conservation areas.
- **Scheduled Monuments:** Nearly 100 sites/structure are identified as Scheduled Monuments, including sites that lie across the District boundary. These include a wide range of types and chronological periods, including the Neolithic Long Barrow at Combe Gibbet, the extensive collection of Bronze Age barrows in the Lambourn Seven Barrows Group, the late medieval and Civil War site at Donnington Castle and the Cruise Missile storage facilities (GAMA Site) at Greenham Common.
- **Historic Parks and Gardens:** West Berkshire has 13 registered Parks and gardens which are formally designated by English Heritage.
- **Historic Battlefields:** There are two Historic Battlefields; Newbury I and II Civil War Battlefield sites.

Mapping of current and past land use has recently been undertaken for all of West Berkshire as well as for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

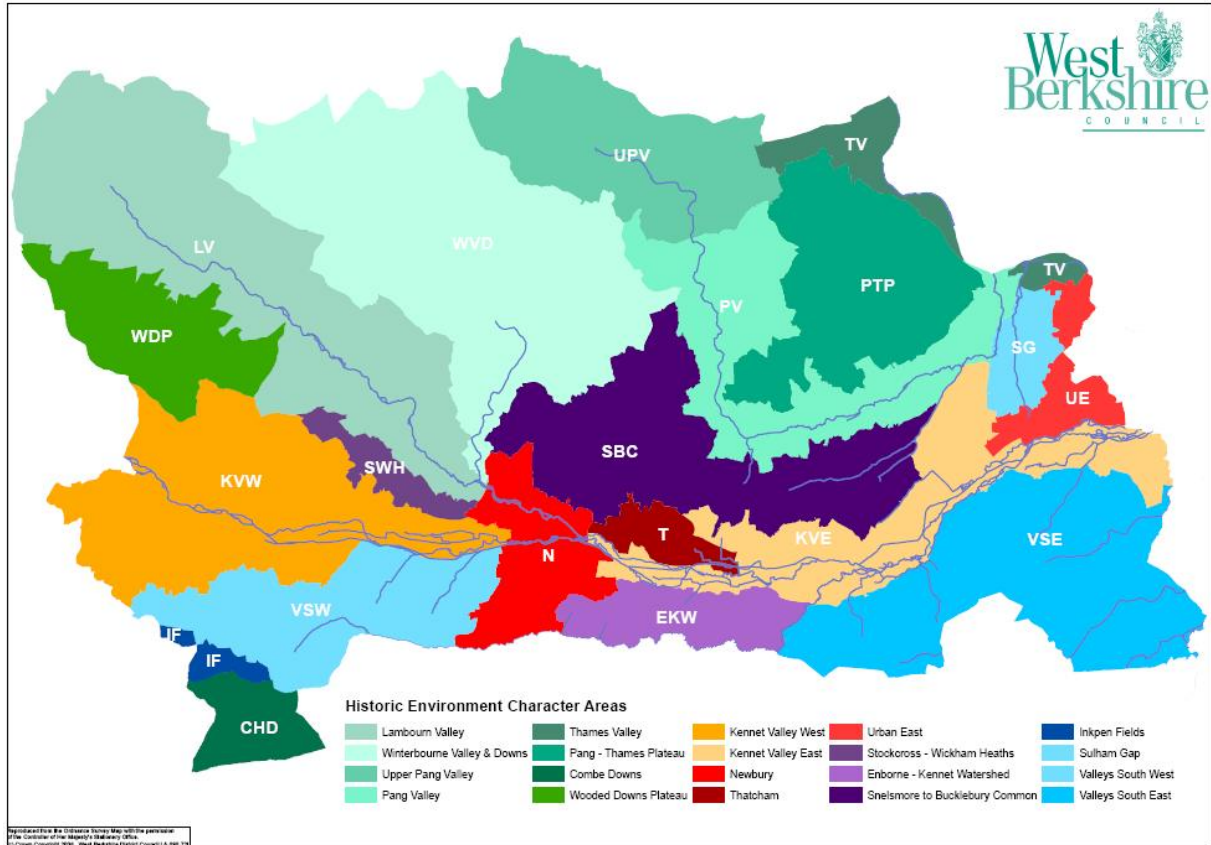
Figure 9 – Present land use according to the Historic Landscape Characterisation Study for West Berkshire⁷.



The Historic Environment Character Zoning (HECZ) project carried out by West Berkshire Council's Archaeology Service aimed to identify distinct areas and zones where common characteristics could be mapped. Its objective was to provide a more comprehensive account of the historic environment resource that will enable the valuable and non-renewable historic features of the district to be better understood and better cared for into the future. The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project did not consider archaeology. The result of this process was the division of the district into 23 Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs), which were further subdivided into 91 Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs). Each HECA has a similar landscape history and evolution as well as geographical characteristics; HECZs were identified by having common traits in archaeological monuments, buildings, land-use or settlement patterns.

⁷ Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, West Berkshire Council, 2007

Figure 10 – Historic Landscape Character Areas for West Berkshire⁸.



Future trends: Conservation Area status has contributed to the conservation of the historic character of West Berkshire, although this is difficult to quantify. The conservation of historic buildings and areas has helped to sustain the distinctive communities in the District. Conservation needs are not necessarily incompatible with building new housing for local needs if care is taken over design.

3.6 Climatic Factors

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) requires the calculation of averages for consecutive periods of 30 years, with the latest covering the 1961-1990 period. However, many WMO members, including the UK, update their averages at the completion of each decade. Thirty years was chosen as a period long enough to eliminate year-to-year variations. These averages help to describe the climate and are used as a base to which current conditions can be compared.

Changing weather patterns may be seen as direct indicators of climate change. The Met Office's average figures for the South East of England (South East and Central South) for 1981-2010 indicate that minimum daily temperatures ranged from 1.4°C in February to a minimum of 12.2°C in July, while maximum temperatures ranged from 7.5°C in January to 22.0°C in July. Average monthly rainfall in the South East varies from 51.7mm in July to 92.8mm in October with an average annual total of 787.6mm.

⁸ Historic Environment Character Zoning Project, West Berkshire Council, 2007

Figures 11 and 12 - Average annual rainfall (mm) and the average annual maximum temperature (°C) for 1981-2010.

Figure 12 – Average annual rainfall 1981 – 2010

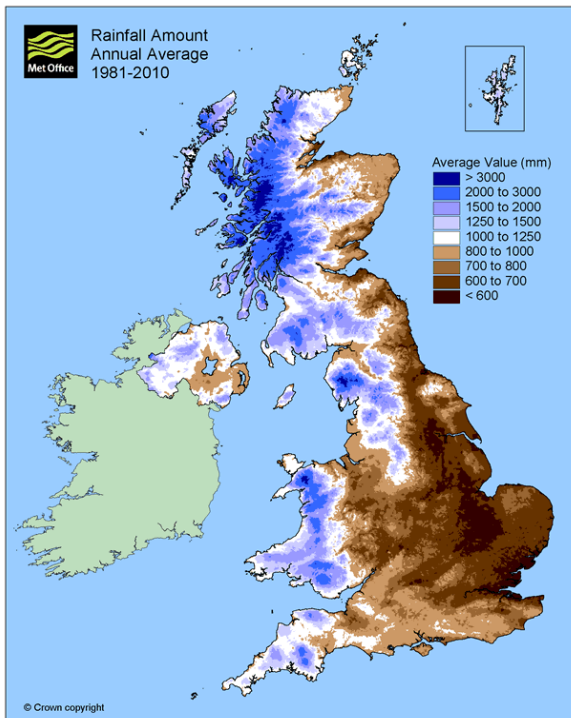
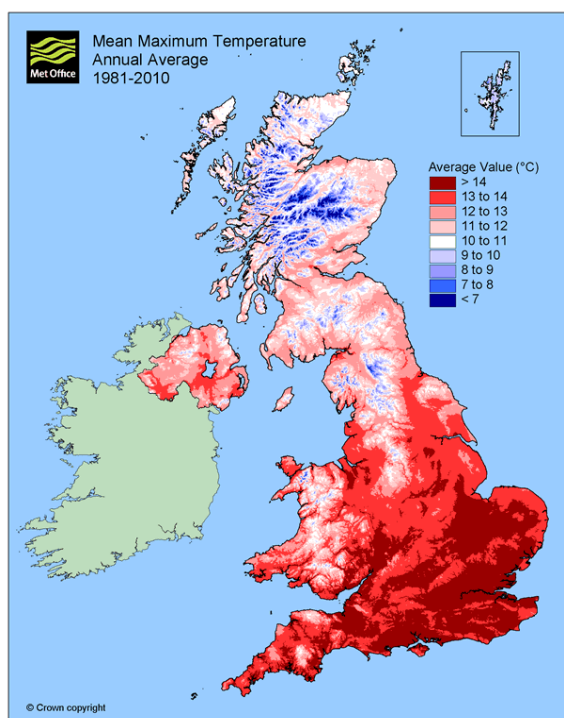


Figure 13 – Average annual maximum temp. 1981 - 2010



Source: Met Office (Crown copyright). www.metoffice.gov.uk

The next set of climate change scenarios for the UK is known as UKCIP08⁹. The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends¹⁰ is the first in the UKCIP08 series of reports. Its summary of the main findings are:

- Warming of the global climate system is unequivocal, with global average temperatures having risen by nearly 0.8 °C since the late 19th century, and rising at about 0.2 °C/decade over the past 25 years.
- It is very likely that man-made greenhouse gas emissions caused most of the observed temperature rise since the mid 20th century.
- Global sea-level rise has accelerated between mid-19th century and mid-20th century, and is now about 3mm per year. It is likely that human activities have contributed between a quarter and a half of the rise in the last half of the 20th century.
- Central England Temperature has risen by about a degree Celsius since the 1970s.
- Temperatures in Scotland and Northern Ireland have risen by about 0.8 °C since about 1980, but this rise has not been attributed to specific causes.
- Annual mean precipitation over England and Wales has not changed significantly since records began in 1766. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable, but appears to have decreased in summer and increased in winter, although with little change in the latter over the last 50 years.
- All regions of the UK have experienced an increase over the past 45 years in the contribution to winter rainfall from heavy precipitation events; in summer all regions except NE England and N Scotland show decreases.
- Severe windstorms around the UK have become more frequent in the past few decades, though not above that seen in the 1920s.
- Sea-surface temperatures around the UK coast have risen over the past three decades by about 0.7 °C.
- Sea level around the UK rose by about 1mm/yr in the 20th century, corrected for land movement. The rate for the 1990s and 2000s has been higher than this.

⁹ UK 21st Century Climate Scenarios, UK Climate Impacts Programme, 2008.

¹⁰ The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends, Geoff Jenkins, Matthew Perry and John Prior, Hadley Centre, Met Office, Exeter (December 2007)

Future trends: Understanding and adapting to the realities of climate change will be one of the challenges the District will be faced with. Climate change scenarios for the UK (UKCIP02) provide the best information on which to form an understanding of climate change, it shows that it is expected to be more pronounced in the South East than in any other UK region. Nationally it is estimated that there will be an annual warming by the 2080s of between 1 and 5 °C, with greater summer warming in the south-east than the north-west, and with greater warming in summer and autumn than in winter and spring. Over the same period, although annual rainfall totals are not expected to show much change, winters are expected to be up to 30% wetter than at present, and summers up to 50% drier¹¹. A changing climate will bring about more storms, heavier rain, stronger winds and more summer heat-waves. It will have an impact on the landscape and our lifestyles; rare wildlife habitats and species may be threatened by the changing climate; farming could suffer from more pests, worse soil erosion and a decrease in agricultural land; more intense rain, rising sea levels and wetter soils will increase flood risk; and water supplies will be affected along with our demands made on them.

3.7 Air Quality

The Council monitors air quality within West Berkshire. The principal source of air pollution in West Berkshire is exhaust emissions from road traffic.

Under the Environment Act, Councils are required to review and assess air quality in their area. If any standards are being exceeded or are unlikely to be met by the required date that area should be designated an air quality management area and the Council must draw up and implement an action plan aimed at reducing levels of the pollutant.

National air quality objectives have been designated for priority pollutants - benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles (PM10), sulphur dioxide, ozone and PAH. These have been set on the basis of scientific and medical evidence on the health effects of each pollutant, and according to the practicability of meeting standards. In West Berkshire all the air quality objectives are generally being met except for nitrogen dioxide on some busy roads and intersections. As a result of this an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared at one section of the A339 in Central Newbury. The associated Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) has been developed and is being implemented. Levels of nitrogen dioxide are declining, which could be associated with the improvement to emissions from vehicle exhaust as well as implementation of the AQMP.

Future trends: Air quality continues to be monitored across the district, and delivery of the AQMA continues in the AQMA.

3.8 Water Quality

High levels of nitrates are found in areas of poor water quality. There are no Nitrate Sensitive Areas in West Berkshire, but there are large areas covered by Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs). NVZs apply to areas where surface and/or groundwater contains nitrate concentrations in excess of 50mg/l. The widespread classification of NVZs in West Berkshire is reflective of the land use within the area and the intensive agricultural practices which are employed. As a consequence farmers within NVZs are required to comply with mandatory Action Programme measures designed to protect both ground and surface waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agriculture.

In September 2011 62% of England was designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). Approximately three quarters of West Berkshire is now designated as a NVZ, including Newbury, Thatcham and the eastern part of the district including Theale and Calcot.

Three different types of NVZs have been identified in West Berkshire:

- Surface Water;
- Groundwater; and
- Existing.

The most prominent is the groundwater NVZ, which covers much of the northern and western areas of West Berkshire.

Future Trends: The South East Plan highlights that meeting water quality standards is a challenge for the region. Together with tightening water quality standards, a growing population and development

¹¹ UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios for the UK, UK Climate Impacts Programme, www.ukcip.org.uk.

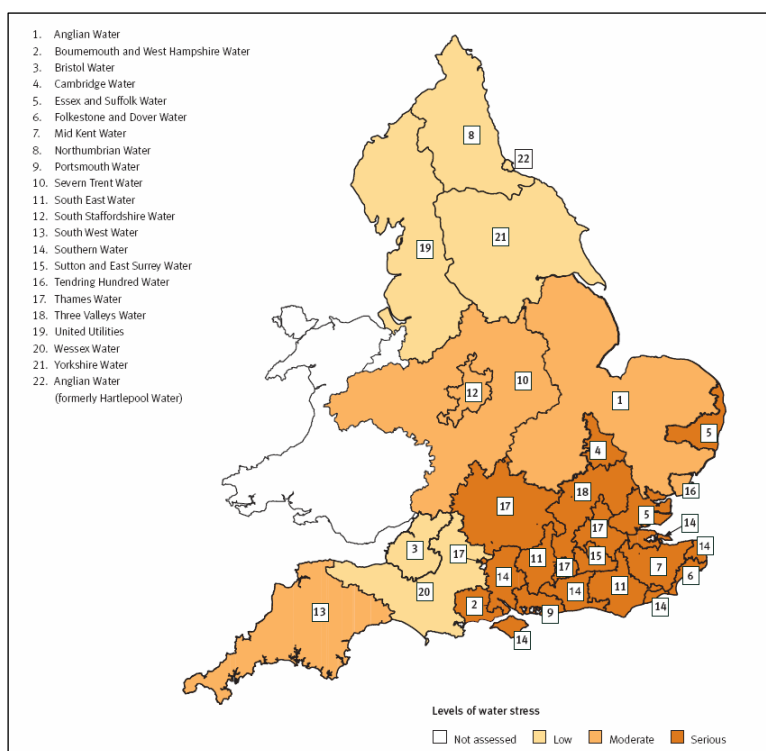
pressures, are placing extra demands on the sewerage treatment infrastructure and the waters receiving effluent. Turbidity of the water in the Kennet is also an issue locally.

3.9 Water Resources

Water resources within West Berkshire are managed by water and wastewater services company Thames Water. The District is located within two (2) Water Resource Zones; the Kennet Valley Resource Zone and the Swindon and Oxfordshire Resource Zone (SWOX). Above ground water resources include the rivers Pang, Lambourn and Kennet. The primary groundwater resource is the chalk aquifer that underlies much of eastern and southern England, this aquifer is tapped by a number of bores that supply potable water to the district. The Environment Agency, in its document *Water for People and the Environment (2009)*, indicated that West Berkshire is within an area with “serious levels of water stress”. In addition, much of the district has water resources that are either over licensed, over abstracted or there is no water available for abstraction¹².

Future Trends: Climate change is anticipated to have an impact on water supply due to more extreme climatic variability. Hotter summers are expected to result in increased water usage and reduce the period when groundwater sources can refill, in addition, soil moisture is expected to be reduced in summer, resulting in increased use of irrigation for crops. Overall, increased population and the effects of climate change are going to place greater pressures on a finite resource. The Environment Agency suggests that within less than thirty years there will be a major water shortage in the South East unless there is a reduction in the amount of water used or new resources are found. Thames Water has forecast that there will be a deficit of water of 60 million litres per day by 2030 in the SWOX zone unless new water resources are found. Water conservation measures are going to be required to ensure an adequate water supply into the future.

Figure 13 – Water Stressed Areas in England



Source: Environment Agency (Crown Copyright). www.environment-agency.gov.uk

3.10 Flood Risk

There are various forms of flooding which all present various levels of risk. Flooding can occur from rivers, the sea, from land, groundwater, sewers, reservoirs, canals and other artificial sources. West Berkshire has undertaken a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)¹³ as required by the NPPF, in

¹² Water for people and the environment, Water Resources strategy for England and Wales (2009), Environment Agency, www.environment-agency.gov.uk

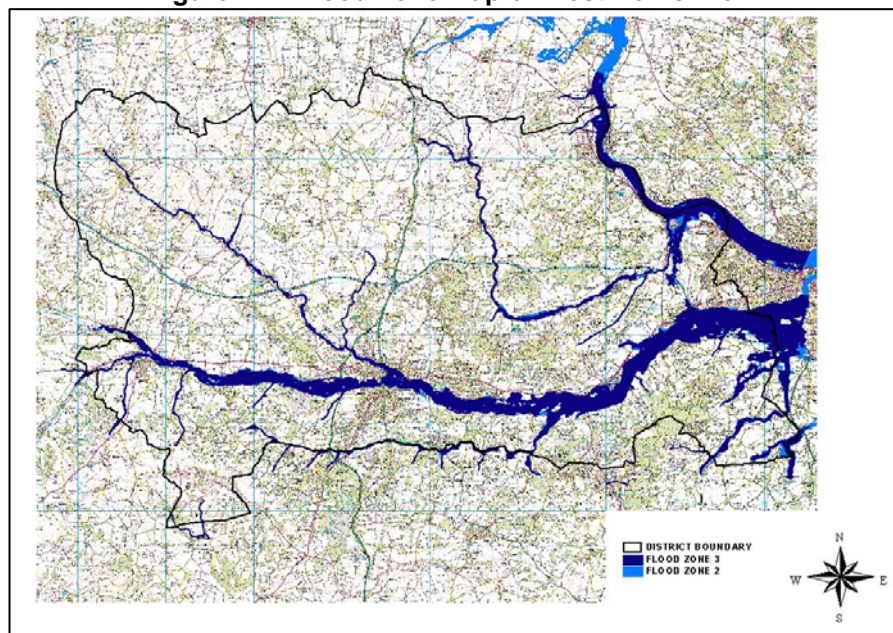
¹³ West Berkshire Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1, May 2008

consultation with the Environment Agency to “determine the variation of flood risk across and from their area as the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management for these areas”.

The SFRA will inform the West Berkshire Core Strategy DPD and Site Allocations DPD and highlights requirements for specific development sites in relation to flood and drainage infrastructure.

The risk of flooding within West Berkshire is widespread, arising not only from rivers but also from surface water and groundwater flooding. The events of the summer of July 2007 were a timely reminder of the impacts that flooding can have upon the local community. A relatively large number of homes and businesses within West Berkshire are at risk of flooding, arising from a number of sources including river flooding, localised runoff, groundwater flooding and sewer flooding. The SFRA has delineated the District into zones of ‘low’, ‘medium’, and ‘high’ probability of fluvial flooding in accordance with PPS25, it has modelled the impacts of climate change, and it has investigated the risk of groundwater and surface water flooding which has resulted in a series of ‘Critical Drainage Areas’ being identified to inform the planning process.

Figure 14 – Flood Zone Map of West Berkshire



Source: Environment Agency (Crown Copyright). www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Future Trends: A considerable amount of research is being carried out worldwide in an endeavour to quantify the impacts that climate change is likely to have on flooding in future years. Climate change is perceived to represent an increasing risk to low lying areas of England, and it is anticipated that the frequency and severity of flooding will change measurably within our lifetime.

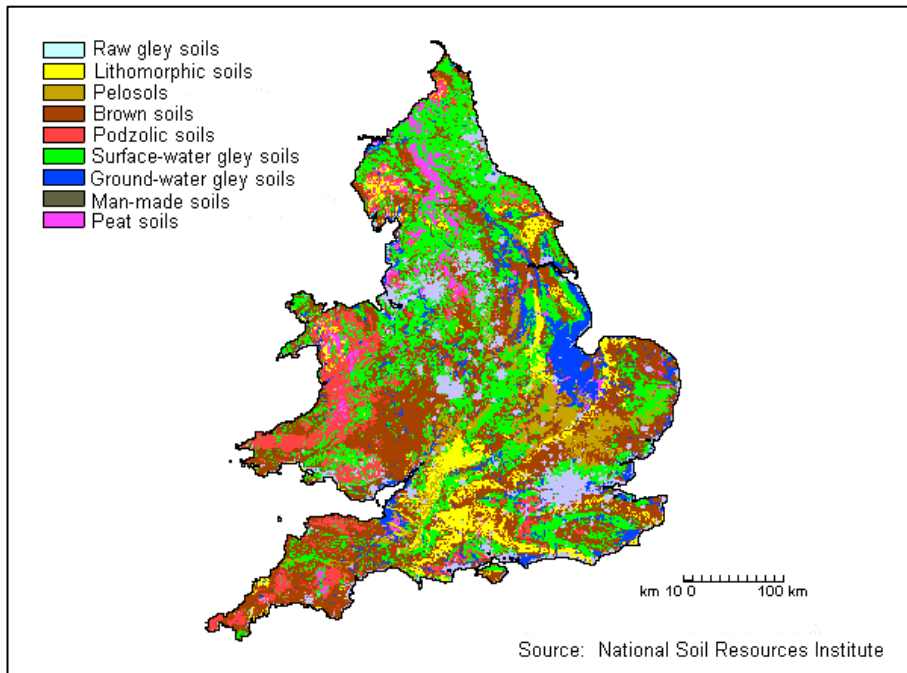
According to the SFRA for West Berkshire, climate change will not markedly increase the extent of river flooding within most areas of the District, however those properties (and areas) that are currently at risk of flooding may be susceptible to more frequent, more severe flooding in future years. The ‘best practice’ approach adopted throughout England is that Flood Zone 2 Medium Probability is considered a reasonable approximation of the likely extent of the High Probability Flood Zone in 100 years as a result of climate change. Climate change will also potentially increase the frequency and intensity of localised storms over the District, this could exacerbate localised drainage problems.

Climate change will increase flood risk as more intense rainfall will increase peak river flow. In the summer, dry soils are unable to absorb heavy rainfall fast enough which results in severe localised flooding. Winter soils will tend to be wetter on average and will similarly be unable to absorb heavy rainfall fast enough. These changes in rainfall duration and intensity will have direct implications on river flooding, local flash flooding and we could see areas not previously flooded experiencing flooding for the first time.

3.11 Soil

West Berkshire has a number of different soil types ranging from sandy with low fertility, to loamy with high fertility. There are naturally wet soils associated with river valleys and dry well drained soils on hillsides. The Environment Agency, DEFRA, and other research bodies concerned with soil science, such as the National Soil Resources Institute, have been undertaking research on soils in the UK and are actively promoting the protection of soil health. Healthy soils are vital to a sustainable environment. They produce food and timber, filter water, store carbon, support wildlife and the built landscape, and preserve records of our ecological and cultural past.

Figure 15– Soil types of England and Wales



Erosion of soil through intensive agricultural activities, contamination by heavy metals, nutrient loss, degradation of soil biodiversity, atmospheric pollution and the effects of climate change are all threats to the ongoing sustainable use of soils in the UK. In West Berkshire, increasing urbanisation, the continuation of unsustainable agricultural activities and the potential for increased flooding due to climate change are the major concerns.

Future Trends: There is evidence that soil degradation is continuing in the UK and around the world despite greater awareness of the importance of soils. DEFRA has developed a *Soil Action Plan for England (2004-2006)* and issued a draft *Soil Strategy for England* in March 2008. The intention of the Action Plan and Strategy is to increase the sustainable use of soils in England and ensure that the protection of soil health is a consideration in decisions made relating to land use planning. There is increasingly a better understanding of the importance of soils to sustainable agriculture and food production. Sustainable agricultural techniques and organic food production methods have increased in recent years and are predicted to continue to gain importance in the future. The European Commission adopted the Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection and had been working towards a 'Soil Framework Directive'.

4 Material Assets

4.1 Previously developed land

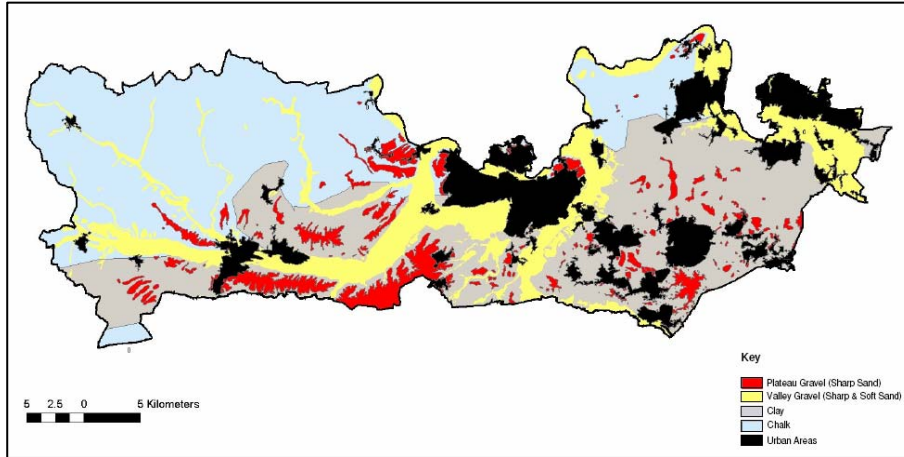
The NPPF encourages the re-use of previously developed land, and as such 78.5% of West Berkshire's gross completions (2006/07 – 2011/12) have been on previously developed land

Future Trends: In line with continuing trends for the South East of England, it is anticipated that the amount of previously developed land available for development in West Berkshire will decline as government policy of focusing development on previously developed land continues to take effect. The reduced reliance on windfall development contributing to supply may also mean that the level of Greenfield allocations may need to be higher than in the past.

4.2 Minerals

West Berkshire has long been a major area for mineral extraction. Historically, clay and chalk were the main minerals produced, however since the beginning of the 20th Century, aggregates such as sand and gravel have been the main minerals extracted to supply the building and construction industry.

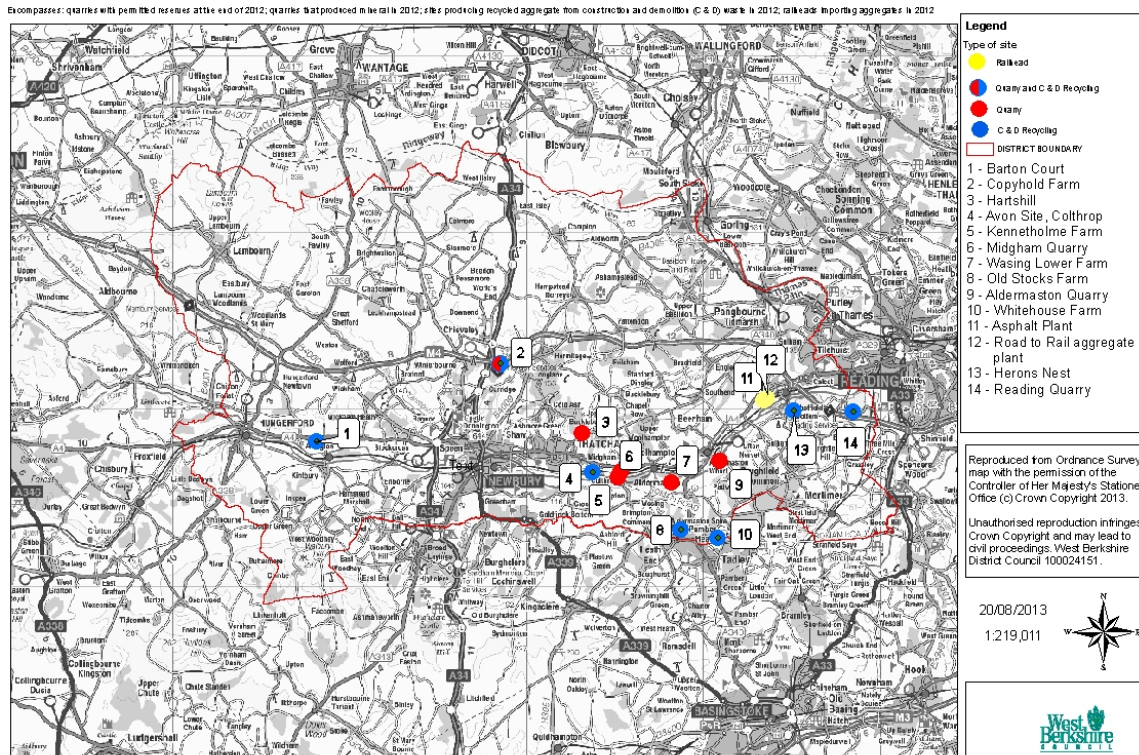
Figure 16 – West Berkshire Simplified Geology



Source: Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit, Annual Monitoring Report 2007

West Berkshire includes two major depots for importing aggregates by rail. These are situated on adjacent sites at Theale, importing crushed rock from South Wales and Northern Ireland and marine dredged sand and gravel from Thames wharves. The map below shows West Berkshire’s active minerals sites.

Figure 17 – Mineral sites in West Berkshire



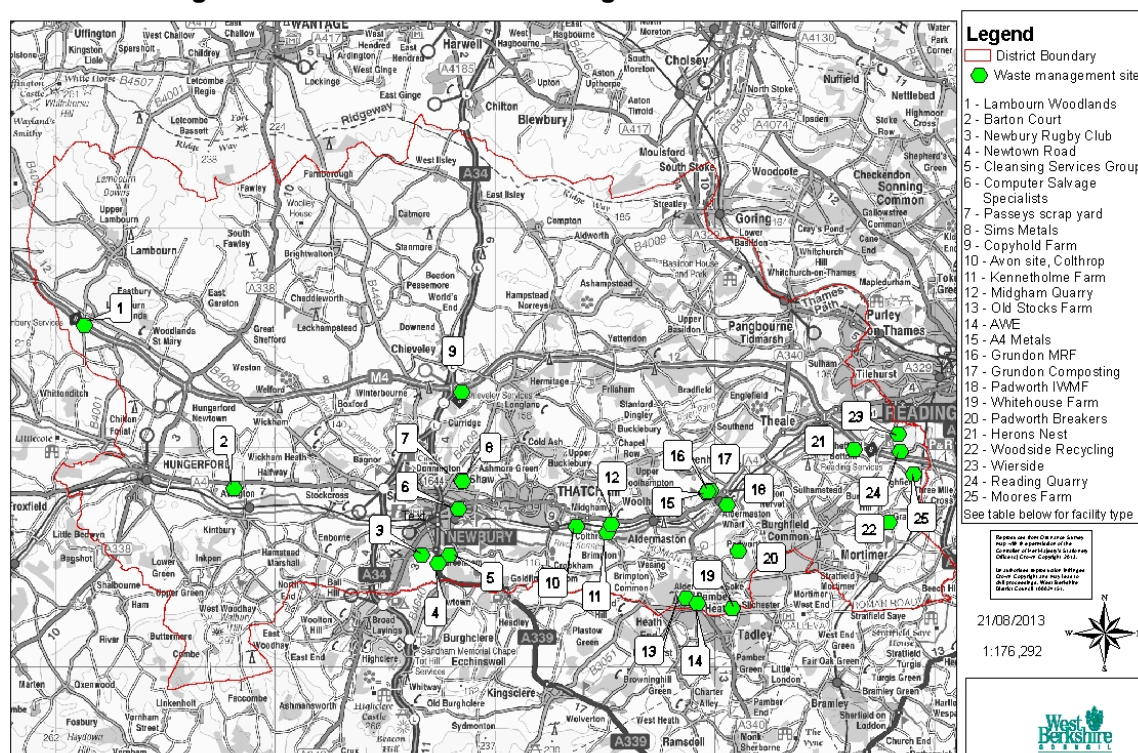
Future Trends: The recycling of aggregates is likely to increase in the future, with the demand for virgin aggregates for building and construction largely dependent on the economic situation.

Minerals are a finite resource and the reserves between Newbury and Thatcham and outside the AONB are largely worked out, as a result of this there is likely to be pressure for mineral development in the AONB.

4.3 Waste

In England about 228 million tonnes of waste per year is produced, about a quarter of which comes from homes and businesses. In West Berkshire just under 500,000 tonnes of waste was produced in 2011/12. Of this 16% was municipal solid waste, 31% from commercial and industrial waste, 49% from construction, demolition and evacuation and 4% hazardous waste. The map below shows the locations of permitted Waste management sites in West Berkshire.

Figure 18 – Permitted Waste Management Sites in West Berkshire



Reliance on landfill for municipal waste has reduced over time, from 65% of all waste in 2008/09 to 20% in 2011/12. The table below shows the trend in waste management.

Table 3 – Waste generated by West Berkshire

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
% Composted	2.2%	16.9%	17.6%	21.2%
% Recycled	31.7%	22.8%	23.2%	24.4%
% Disposed of to Landfill	65%	47%	44%	20%
% energy from waste	0.3%	11.6%	13%	31.4%

Source: Waste Management, October 2012, West Berkshire Council

Future Trends: The Government has set challenging targets to increase the recycling of household waste and reduce dependence on landfill. The England Waste Strategy 2007 sets out targets for recycling and composting. For recycling and composting of household waste the target is at least 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020; and in the recovery of municipal waste 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020.¹⁴ The use of technologies, such as Anaerobic Digestion and using Combined Heat and Power are also becoming more prevalent with the increasing pressures of carbon emission reduction. In response, to these challenges, West Berkshire Council has developed a Waste Management Strategy (2002–2022) to tackle the above strategic waste management issues facing West Berkshire and to plan for the future.

¹⁴ England Waste Strategy 2007, DEFRA

4.4 Renewable Energy

West Berkshire is one of the highest electricity users in the South East, and is in the upper quartile of local authorities for CO₂ emissions within the region. On a per capita basis domestic CO₂ emissions are higher than the national average (2.7 tonnes compared to 2.4 tonnes nationally¹⁵).

The Climate Act 2008 established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below base year levels by 2050.

Development plans should support in principle the development of renewable energy and develop criteria based policies. Such development needs to be located and designed to minimise adverse impacts on landscape, wildlife and amenity. A strategic landscape sensitivity study for wind turbine development has been undertaken by the North Wessex Downs AONB which will be used to inform the production of the SAD DPD.

Future Trends: Domestic energy consumption has been declining since 2005 accompanied by a decline in domestic CO₂ emissions. It is likely that with continued promotion of reducing energy consumption and policies aimed at improving energy efficiency that this decline will continue.

4.5 Economy

West Berkshire is located in the Thames Valley sub region which is a world class business region and one of Europe's fastest growing economies. The Thames Valley sub-region accounts for 15% of UK computer services employment. Over the next 10 years, according to the Thames Valley Economic Partnership (TVEP), this area will grow at a faster rate than the South East and the UK as a whole, and is expected to generate 105,000 new jobs by 2015. The Thames Valley sub region is a base for 65 of the world's top 250 company spenders on Research and Development.

West Berkshire has a strong industrial base characterised by new technology industries with a strong service sector and several manufacturing and distribution firms. International companies with an office or base in West Berkshire include; Vodafone, Bayer and Striker. The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston is also an important centre for employment. In 2012 82.6% of the working age population in West Berkshire was economically active (i.e. are either employed, or unemployed but available to start work, looking for work, or waiting to start a job). As well as having a higher proportion of people economically active, the district also has a significantly larger proportion of people in employment – and as a consequence, a lower proportion of people unemployed.

Like other areas nationally, West Berkshire is experiencing the negative effects of the economic downturn. There has been a decrease in house prices and a rise in unemployment in the area. The number of job seekers in West Berkshire is now at levels not seen since the last recession. However, West Berkshire, like other areas in the Thames Valley, is a resilient economy and likely to drive economic recovery. Despite this, the recession will present a number of challenges for West Berkshire Council and other bodies.

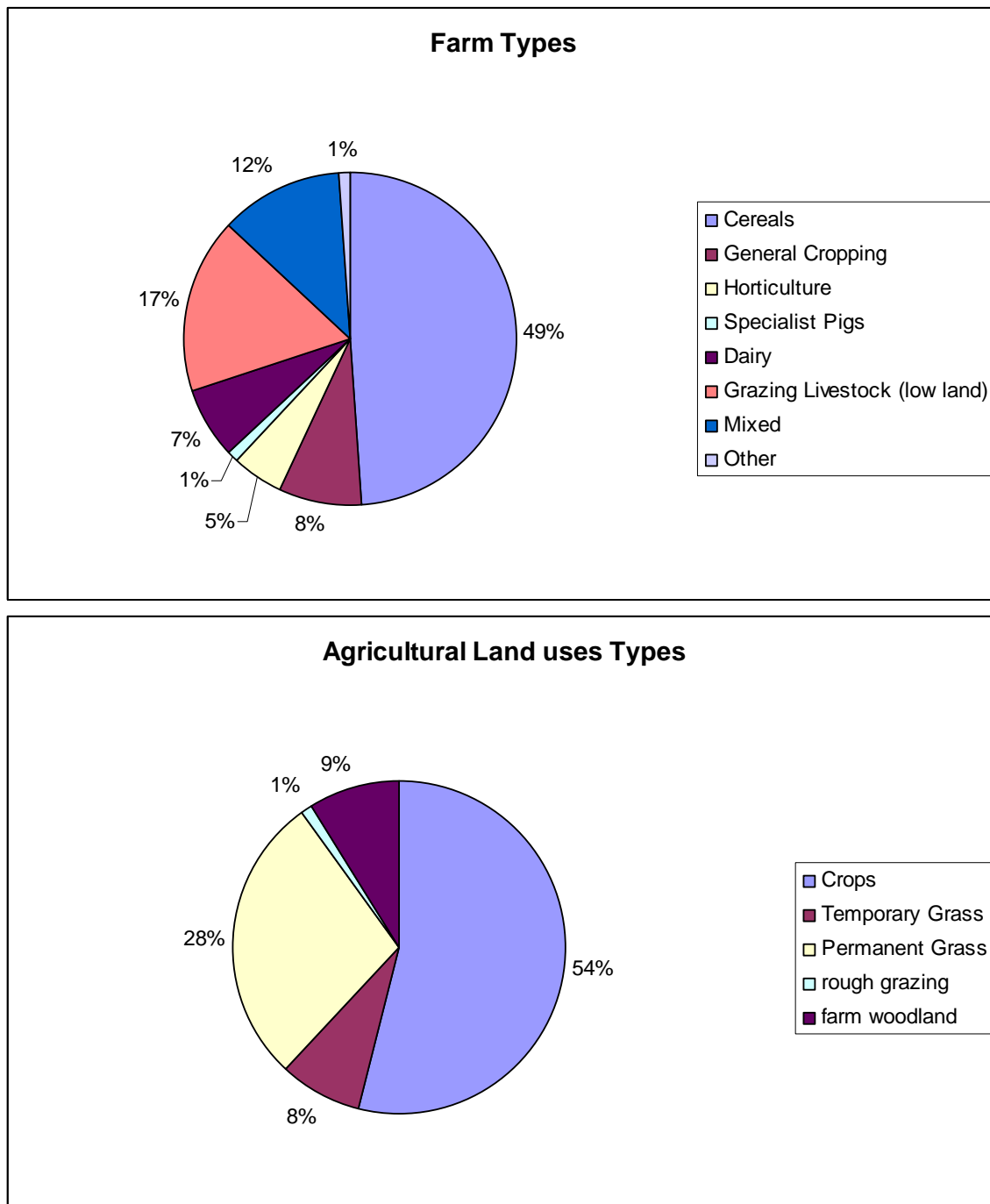
4.6 Agriculture

Defra's agricultural census for June 2010 shows that there were 65,580 ha of agriculturally managed land in Berkshire managed by some 635 agricultural holdings. There are 2284 people employed directly in the agricultural sector in West Berkshire.

Over half of the agricultural area was under arable cropping (54%), and around one third was grazed. Defra assigns each of the registered agricultural holdings to a main farm type on the basis of their principal outputs. This shows that nearly 50% of farms were devoted to cereal crops such as wheat, 29% were grazed livestock farms (i.e. beef and sheep). The charts below show the different agricultural land use and farm types in West Berkshire.

¹⁵ HECA Data Report West Berkshire Council, United Sustainable Energy Agency, 2010

Figures 19 and 20 - Farm types and Agricultural land use types in West Berkshire



(Source: June 2010 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey – England)

Future Trends: The Government has identified a vision for the future of British agriculture in Defra’s *Farming for the Future Programme*¹⁶. Key themes arising for this are the need to cut carbon emissions resulting from farming activities, increasing the efficiency of the management of nutrients on farms and reducing pollution. There are further plans to increase the skills to make UK farming more competitive, and achieve higher standards of animal health¹⁷.

4.7 Tourism

Tourism is significant for West Berkshire but not a major industry. A report: *The Economic Impact of Tourism* was prepared by Tourism South East Research Services on behalf of West Berkshire District

¹⁶ Farming for the Future Programme, <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/future/index.htm>

¹⁷ Information taken from Defra Departmental Report 2008, Defra, May 2008. www.defra.gov.uk

Council in July 2007. The report details the following information on tourism in West Berkshire and its contribution to the local economy:

“Overall, an estimated 485,500 staying trips were spent in West Berkshire District in 2005, of which around 396,000 were made by domestic visitors (82%) and 89,700 by overseas visitors (18%). Staying trips result in an estimated 1.53 million bednights in the District. Domestic visitors account for 62% of these nights and overseas visitors accounted for 38%. Approximately 3.43 million tourism day trips were made to the District (lasting more than 3 hours and taken on an irregular basis) in 2005. Total expenditure by visitors to West Berkshire is estimated to have been in the region of £199.91 million in 2005.

With the addition of other expenditure such as the expenditure on goods and services by friends and relatives visitors were staying with, or visiting, total expenditure associated with overnights trips to West Berkshire in 2005 was approximately £211,682,000.¹⁸

Future Trends: One of the priorities of A Breath of Fresh Air, West Berkshire’s Sustainable Communities Strategy, is to realise the tourist potential and increase the number of tourist visitors to West Berkshire.

4.8 Employment

82.6% of the working age population in West Berkshire are considered to be economically active, a slight decrease on the figure in 2010/11 (82.9%). Of these 78.8% are in employment, compared to 74.6% in the south east and 70.5% nationally. 11.7% of the working age population are self-employed compared to the national rate of 9.6%.

Despite the recession levels of unemployment in West Berkshire have remained relatively low, and continue to be below the national average. In August 2012, 1.8% of working age people in West Berkshire were claiming Job Seekers Allowance, a rise from 0.8% in January 2008, although claimants peaked at 2.1% in February 2009. Nationally 3.8% of the working age population are claiming Job Seekers Allowance. The table below indicate the main sectors of employment in West Berkshire:

Table 4 – Employment by sector

	West Berkshire (%)	South East (%)	England & Wales (%)
Manufacturing	8	7	9
Construction	8	8	8
Retail / Wholesale	16	16	16
Public Utilities (electricity, gas, water)	2	1	1
Information & Communication, finance & Insurance activities	14	10	8
Public Admin, education & Health	24	28	28
Professional, scientific & Technical activities	8	8	7
Accommodation & Food service activities	4	5	6
Transport & Storage	4	5	5
Other	13	13	12

Source: ONS, Census 2011

Over 85% of businesses have 10 or fewer people working in them and these account for 23% of total employment, meaning that the majority of businesses in West Berkshire are small to medium in size.

Future Trends: There are a number of issues facing West Berkshire due to its location within the Thames Valley. Sustainable economic growth in the area is threatened by congestion, delays on the area’s transport systems, a shortage of labour with the appropriate range of skills, the high cost of housing in the area and pressures on essential services and infrastructure. The Council’s Core Strategy aims to “to help maintain a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base in West Berkshire.”

¹⁸ The Economic Impact of Tourism, West Berkshire, July 2007, Tourism South East Research Services.

4.9 Transport

West Berkshire is served by the M4 motorway, and the A4, A34 and A339 trunk roads providing good road access to major urban areas outside of the district, including Oxford, London, Swindon and Bristol. Although links to and from the area are good, the largely rural nature of West Berkshire makes accessibility within the district more of an issue. A large proportion of the residents live in rural towns, villages and hamlets and, through the difficulty in providing viable public transport to these areas, are dependent on the motor car for access to services and facilities.

According to the Movement Framework for Newbury (Atkins, 2005), at present, demand exceeds available capacity on the highway network, particularly at peak times, resulting in an average delay per vehicle of between 35% and 43% of an average journey time on key routes within Newbury in the morning peak being spent in delays or queuing.

Newbury, Thatcham and the Reading corridor have a reasonable public transport service, with up to 5 buses and 3 trains per hour. Reading - just to the east of the district - is a major confluence on the strategic rail network, providing direct and efficient access to key urban centres across the country. The disabled are quite well catered for both as individuals and as groups on public transport in West Berkshire; buses have a terminal and priority access to Newbury's principal shopping street, and there is a telephone information service for bus and route times. Bus services are provided in the majority of towns and larger villages in West Berkshire. In addition there are a number of community transport schemes ranging from community buses to cars that help ensure provision and access across the district.

The rural nature, dispersed population and affluence of West Berkshire can be considered problematic for the provision of a frequent and financially viable bus service as people tend to sway towards the convenience of the car. There is a relatively high level of car ownership and usage in West Berkshire. The 2011 census shows that there were 132,000 vehicles licensed in the district (Department for Transport Vehicle License Data). Of these vehicles 105,000 are cars and this amounts to 1.6 cars per household in the district, compared to 1.6 for the South East, or 1.4 for England more widely.

The 2011 census shows that for West Berkshire, 71% of people travelled to work by car. This is significantly higher than the South East average of 66%, or for England and Wales (62.6%). A relatively lower proportion of people use public transport to get to work, perhaps reflecting the geographically dispersed nature of the population and the marginally longer distances travelled. A relatively similar proportion of people either work from home, or walk to work. Noticeable is the small proportion of people who cycle to work, although this is reflected nationally also.

Table 5 – Modes of travel to work

	West Berkshire (%)	South East (%)	England and Wales (%)
Work mainly from home	7.6	6.6	5.4
Public Transport	8.9	14.3	26
Car / Motorcycle	70.9	66.5	63.4
Bicycle	2.6	3	2.9
Walk	9.4	10.9	10.7

Source: Census 2011

Accidents: In 2012, there were 484 casualties in West Berkshire, (21% of which occurred on the A34 and M4). The number of vehicle accidents in West Berkshire resulting in fatalities or serious injuries has been decreasing over the last seven years. Since 2003 the rate of casualties (total of fatal, serious and slight) per 1000 population has been consistently lower for West Berkshire than for the rate for the Thames Valley as a whole

Future Trends: Despite traffic levels showing a decline in overall traffic levels, it is estimated that the longer term trend of continual traffic growth will continue. Forecasts from the National Transport Model suggest that motor vehicle traffic in 2035 will be 43% higher than in 2003.

Rail passenger demand is predicted to continue growing, especially with electrification of the line between London and Newbury.

The West Berkshire Local Transport Plan aims to implement a number of policies relating to road, rail and public transport, in particular, increased usage of public transport and a reduction in the use of the car. There are also objectives in relation to encouraging walking and cycling.

Appendix 3 – Compatibility of the SA Objectives with the West Berkshire Site Allocations Objectives

	Sustainability Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD Objectives	To secure provision of sufficient good quality housing to meet objectively assessed needs	To improve health and well being and reduce inequalities	To safeguard and improve accessibility to services and facilities	To improve and promote opportunities for sustainable travel	To protect and enhance the natural the environment	Ensure that the built, historic and cultural environment is conserved and enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To improve the efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption of natural resources and mange their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets objectively assessed economic needs
A: Tackling Climate Change	+	+	+	++	++	0	+	+	++	++	+
<i>Comments:</i>											
B: Housing Growth	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	?	++	?	?	+
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/7/8/9/10: Care needs to be taken to also ensure that new development adheres to sustainable development principles and minimises consumption of natural resources										
C: Housing Needs	++	++	++	+	+/?	0	?	++	?	?	+
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/7/8/9/10: care needs to be taken to also ensure that new development adheres to sustainable development principles 11: consideration needs to be given to the proximity of housing proposals to local employment opportunities										
D: Economy	++	+	+	+	+/?	0	?	+	?	?	++
<i>Comments:</i>	4: it is anticipated that new development opportunities will be sited in close proximity to the public transport network where possible, will advocate travel plans and promote travel to work via alternative modes of transport. 5/6/7/9/10: potential conflicts may occur depending on the siting and type of new development										

	Sustainability Objectives										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
West Berkshire Site Allocations and Delivery DPD Objectives	To secure provision of sufficient good quality housing to meet objectively assessed needs	To improve health and well being and reduce inequalities	To safeguard and improve accessibility to services and facilities	To improve and promote opportunities for sustainable travel	To protect and enhance the natural environment	Ensure that the built, historic and cultural environment is conserved and enhanced	To protect and improve air, water and soil quality, and minimise noise levels throughout West Berkshire	To improve the efficiency of land use	To reduce consumption of natural resources and manage their use efficiently	To reduce emissions contributing to climate change and ensure adaptation measures are in place to respond to climate change	To ensure a strong, diverse and sustainable economic base which meets objectively assessed economic needs
E: Infrastructure Requirements	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
<i>Comments:</i>	5/6/7/8/9/10: care needs to be taken to also ensure that new development adheres to sustainable development principles										
F: Green Infrastructure	+	++	+	+	++	+	+	0	+	+	+
<i>Comments:</i>	11: There is evidence that the provision of quality open spaces contributes to increased well being and a stronger economic performance.										
G: Transport	+	+	++	++	+/?	0	?	0	?	?	+
<i>Comments:</i>	7/9/10: More sustainable patterns of development should assist in reducing carbon emissions from car use										
H: Retail	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	?	?	+
<i>Comments:</i>	7/9/10: Car needs to be take to also ensure that new development adheres to sustainable development principles										

I: Heritage	+	0	0	0	++	++	+	0	0	0	0
<i>Comments:</i>											

Key:	
++	Strongly supports sustainable objectives
+	Supports sustainable objectives
0	Neutral
?	Uncertain
-	Works against sustainable objectives
--	Works strongly against sustainable

SAD Objectives:**1. Tackling Climate Change**

To exceed national targets for carbon dioxide emissions reduction and deliver the District's growth in a way that helps to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change

2. Housing Growth

To deliver at least 10,500 homes across West Berkshire between 2006 – 2026. These homes will be delivered in an effective and timely manner, will maximise the use of suitable Brownfield land and access to facilities and services and will be developed at densities within make the most efficient use of land whilst responding to the existing build environment.

3. Housing Needs

To secure provision of affordable and market housing to meet local needs in both urban and rural areas of the district. To provide homes in a way that promotes sustainable communities, providing a mix of house sizes, types and tenures to meet identified needs, and respond to the changing demographic profile of the District.

4. Economy

To provide for a range of sizes and types of employment land and premises in the right locations to respond to the forecast changes in economic activity, the location of new residential development and the specific needs of the rural economy, including the equestrian and horseracing industries.

5. Infrastructure Requirements

To ensure that infrastructure needs (including community services and facilities) arising from the growth in West Berkshire are provided in a timely and coordinated manner, which keeps pace with development in accordance with the detail set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

6. Green Infrastructure

To ensure that West Berkshire contains a strong network of well-connected and multi-functional green infrastructure which provides an attractive environment to live, work and spend leisure time, providing benefits for health and opportunities for formal and informal recreation.

7. Transport

To put in place a sustainable transport network which supports the growth in West Berkshire, links existing and new development, prioritise walking, cycling and public transport and provides a genuine choice of modes. Traffic management measures will minimise the impact of new development on the existing network.

8. Retail

To achieve growth in retail activity and consequently increase the vitality and vibrancy of town centres in West Berkshire. To meet the range of shopping needs for residents and visitors largely through completion of the Parkway development and through the regeneration of Thatcham town centre. To provide for local shopping need in town, district and local centres to serve the needs of existing and future residents.

9. Heritage

To ensure that development to 2026 is planned, designed and managed in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the local distinctive character and identity of the built, historic and natural environment in West Berkshire's Towns, villages and countryside.

Appendix 4 – Glossary

Term	Acronym	Definition
Adoption		Formal approval by the Council of an LDD whereupon it achieves its full weight.
Alternatives		Different ways of achieving the Plan objectives. Sometimes referred to as Options.
Annual Monitoring Report	AMR	Annual statement analysing the implementation of policies. Produced in December. This is a statutory requirement of the new planning system.
Appropriate Assessment	AA	Regulations require that an appropriate assessment is carried out to determine the impact of plans and projects on sites of European importance for nature conservation.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	AONB	Areas of land designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, where the primary purpose is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which includes protecting flora, fauna, geology and landscape features. Natural England is responsible for formally designated AONBs and advising on policies for their protection. 74% of West Berkshire is within the North Wessex Downs AONB.
Air Quality Management Area	AQMA	Area designated (under the Environment Act) by local authorities following local assessment of air quality where individual pollutants are forecast to exceed standards defined in the National Air Quality Strategy.
Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	BBOWT	An independent country-based trust working to conserve and enhance wildlife
Biodiversity Action Plan	BAP	A Plan with a list of actions designated to protect and restore biological systems
Biodiversity Opportunity Area	BOA	An area identified to have the greatest opportunity for habitat creation and recreation
Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method	BREEAM	An environmental assessment method for buildings which sets standards for best practice in sustainable design
Conformity		LDD's normally have to fit in to the policies set out in higher documents = conformity
Conservation Area		Area of special architectural or historical interest.
Core Strategy		Document setting out the overall spatial planning policies and objectives for an area.
Council Strategy		Statement of the Council's aims and priorities.
Council		In this context, the local planning authority; in this case West Berkshire Council. References to full Council are to the meeting of all elected members which is the Council's supreme decision making body.
Cumulative Effects		Effects that result from changes caused by a project, plan, programme or policy in association with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future plans and actions.
Department of Communities and Local Government	DCLG	Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue. Replaced the ODPM.
Development Plan Document	DPD	A Local Development Document which forms part of the statutory development plan, including the Core Strategy, Proposals Map and Area Action Plans. A statutory document which is the primary consideration in determining planning applications. It is required to undergo public before an independent inspector.
Environment Agency	EA	Public body for protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.
Evidence Base		Background information on the District, including its needs and predictions of what might be needed in the future
Examination		In this context the forum at which an independent inspector considers the soundness of a development plan document.
Executive		In this case, the Council's lead decision making body comprised of elected members.

Term	Acronym	Definition
Geographical Information System	GIS	Technology that manages, analyses, and disseminates geographic knowledge.
Housing Trajectory		Diagram showing housing delivery and expected trends of development.
Indicator		Measurement of change to a system or objective.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	IDP	A document which identifies future infrastructure and services needs for the district over the Core Strategy period
Landfill		The disposal of waste material by tipping into voids in the ground.
Local Development Documents	LDD	The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states, Local Development Documents will comprise both statutory development plan documents and non-statutory Supplementary Planning Documents. LDDs are likely to include core policies, area action plans, proposal map, site-specific policies and a Statement of Community Involvement.
Development Framework	DF	The portfolio of documents that provides the framework for delivering the spatial strategy for the area.
Local Development Scheme	LDS	A timetable and project plan for the production of all the LDDs relating to an LDF.
Local Strategic Partnership	LSP	A grouping of local stakeholders – local councils, business, voluntary sector – working together in the local community. The local LSP is the West Berkshire Partnership Board.
Local Transport Plan	LTP	A plan setting out a transport planning policy framework and strategy for the delivery of local transport measures until 2026
Listed Building		Building included on a list of buildings of architectural or historic interest.
Material consideration		A factor or document which can be taken into account in deciding a planning application.
Mitigation		Measures to avoid, reduce or offset the adverse effects of the plan on sustainability
Monitoring		Check of effectiveness of policies
National Planning Policy Framework	NPPF	The Government's framework setting out planning policies for England. Has replaced the majority of PPGs and PPSs.
Objective		Statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change
Office Deputy Prime Minister	ODPM	Former government department whose responsibilities have now been taken over by the Department of Communities and Local Government
Planning Inspectorate		National agency which supplies independent planning inspectors. Their main work is the processing of planning and enforcement appeals and holding examinations into regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks.
Previously Developed Land	PDL	Previously Developed Land. Defined by Government as land which 'is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure.' ¹
Planning Policy Guidance	PPG	Government statement issued by DCLG of its policy on planning issues.
Planning Policy Statements	PPS	Government statement issued by DCLG, setting out the Governments policy on planning issues.
Public Examination	EPP	See Examination above.
Primary Aggregates		Naturally occurring sand, gravel and hard rock used for construction purposes
Recycled Materials		Aggregate materials that are recovered from construction and demolition processes and from excavation on construction sites.
Special Area of Conservation	SAC	An SSSI additionally designated a Special Area of Conservation.
Special Protection Area	SPA	An are designated to protect the habitats of threatened species of wildlife under EU Directive 92/43
Sustainable Community Strategy		Strategic objectives and action plan produced by the LSP (see LSP Below).

¹ Definition taken from NPPF, Annex 2

Term	Acronym	Definition
Sustainable Urban Drainage	SUDs	
Sustainability Appraisal	SA	A single appraisal tool which provides for the systematic identification and evaluation of the economic, social and environmental impacts of a proposal
Scheduled Ancient Monument		Nationally important archaeological site included in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments.
Statement of Community Involvement	SCI	Adopted document setting out the Council's policy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of planning policy documents, and in the consideration of planning applications within the District.
Scoping		Process of deciding the scope and level of detail of the SEA.
Screening		Process of deciding if a plan or programme requires an SEA or other assessment.
Spatial Strategy		An integrated planning/development strategy aiming to achieve a range of objectives.
Stakeholder		In this context an organisation or individual with an interest in local planning matters.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	SEA	A process to ensure that significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated to decision-makers, monitored and that opportunities for public involvement are provided.
Special Protection Area	SPA	Strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. The nearest such area to West Berkshire is the Thames Basin Heaths.
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A local development document which does not have DPD status but which provides supplementary guidance to the main policies and is a material consideration in determination of planning applications. Part of the Local Development Framework.
Supplementary Planning Guidance	SPG	Local planning guidance produced under the previous planning system. They gave additional guidance in support of policies in statutory planning documents. The equivalent in the new system is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
Site of Specific Scientific Interest	SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Areas of national nature conservation or wildlife importance protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. SSSIs are identified by Natural England
Submission		Stage at which a prepared DPD is presented to Secretary of State. Similar to the deposit stage under the old system in that formal representations can be made.
Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre	TVERC	A 'not for profit' operation run by a partnership of organisations that collect or need to use information about the natural environment
Unitary Authority	UA	Administrative unit of Great Britain. Since 1996 the two-tier structure of local government has ceased to exist in Scotland and Wales, and in some parts of England, and has been replaced by unitary authorities, responsible for all local government services.
Village Design Statement	VDS	Local design guidance produced by local community and adopted by the Council.
West Berkshire Core Strategy	WBCS	See Core Strategy
West Berkshire Partnership	WBP	The LSP for West Berkshire.