

Sustainability Appraisal of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan



SA Scoping Report

December 2014

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Images from top to bottom:

Top Left: Overton, Hampshire (Adam Trickett)

Top Right: Children paddle in the River Test at Overton (Angus Kirk)

Middle Right: Overton Cottages (Charles D P Miller)

Bottom Left: St Mary's Church, Overton (Adam Trickett)

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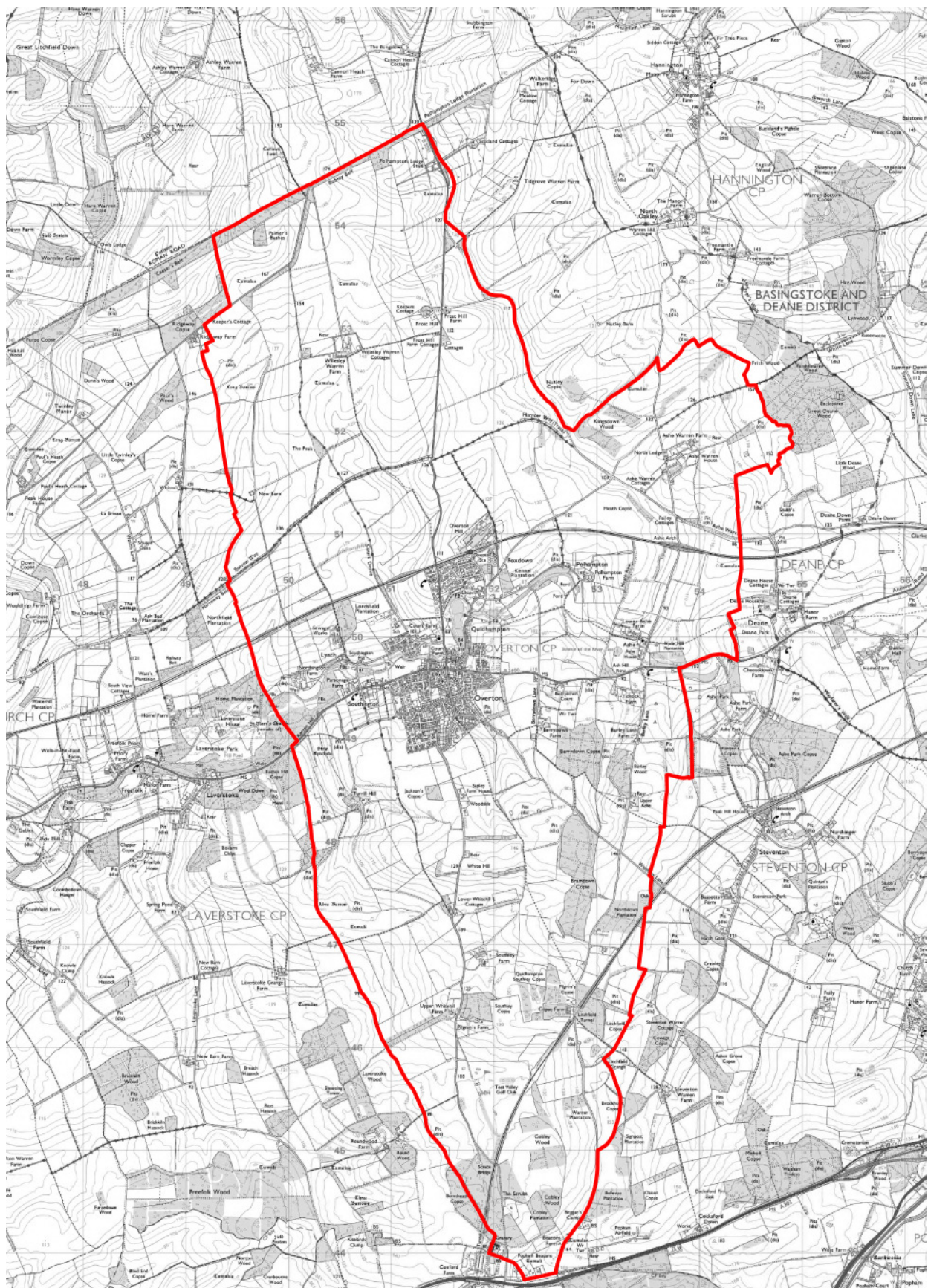


Figure 1.1: Map of the Overton Neighbourhood Area

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 URS has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of Overton's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Overton Neighbourhood Plan (ONP), which incorporates the Neighbourhood Area of Overton Parish (Figure 1.1), is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) under the Localism Act 2012.
- 1.1.3 Key information relating to the ONP is presented in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Overton Neighbourhood plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Overton Parish Council
Title of Plan	Overton Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood plan
Purpose	The Overton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in conformity with the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.
Timescale	To 2029
Area covered by the plan	Overton Parish (see Figure 1.1)
Summary of content	The Overton Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision, strategy and range of policies for the plan area. Box 1.1 below presents the vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan
Plan contact point	Laura Harley Clerk, Overton Parish Council Oak Tree Lodge Roundwood Micheldever Winchester SO21 3BA Email address: clerk@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Relationship of the ONP with the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan

- 1.1.4 The ONP is being prepared in the context of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029.
- 1.1.5 The Local Plan is currently undergoing Examination and is anticipated to be adopted in 2015. It will, when adopted provide a framework for how future development across the borough will be planned and delivered.
- 1.1.6 The Local Plan identifies 150 dwellings to be delivered in Overton by 2029; however it does not identify where these should be located. The ONP therefore provides an opportunity for meeting the community aspirations of Overton whilst also helping to deliver the Local Plan's main objectives for the Neighbourhood Area.

Vision and aims of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1.7 The vision and goals for the ONP developed during the initial stages of plan-making are presented in Box 1.1.

Box 1.1: Vision and objectives of the Overton Neighbourhood Plan

Vision

- *To conserve and enhance the things people value most about living in Overton.*
- *To do all in our power to improve the quality of life in the Parish, not only for ourselves but for future generations as well. That means everything we plan to do must be sustainable.*

Above all, we want Overton to remain a village, set in its open landscape. We therefore want to ensure that new housing has the least possible adverse impact on the features we value most, whilst welcoming newcomers to our community.

In 2030 we want Overton to continue to be a place where people of all ages and abilities can thrive, feel safe and be healthy, with opportunities to learn, work, be part of our community, take exercise, enjoy our rural landscape and heritage and lead fulfilling lives.

We want to enhance the village environment and play our part in protecting the global environment.

Objectives

New housing should:

- H1 Respond to the needs of local residents
- H2 Conserve and enhance views within the village and to the open countryside
- H3 Fit into the context in terms of design and location, contributing to the character of the village
- H4 Be phased in a series of small developments over the plan period
- H5 Efficiently conserve natural resources, reduce pollution and promote biodiversity
- H6 Be 'Secured by Design' to reduce crime and the fear of crime
- H7 Be fully supported by adequate infrastructure.

Working

- W1 To encourage proposals leading to more local jobs for local people to reduce commuting and CO2 emissions, the cost of travel and the time it takes.
- W2 To seek suitable sites for employment land without a significant increase in traffic congestion.
- W3 To explore how we can support local employment by making the village attractive to tourists and visitors.

Shopping

- S1 To support shops in the parish to promote local prosperity and reduce the need for travel outside the village.

Learning and skills

- L1 To support life-long learning and opportunities to improve skills and educational attainment both for personal development and job prospects.

Getting around

- T1 To encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport and reduce reliance on cars.
- T2 To improve provision of parking facilities in the village and at Overton Station.

Community services

- C1 To ensure that our community services continue to meet the needs of an expanding and ageing population.

Enjoyment

- E1 To support social, sporting and recreational facilities in the village for people of all ages and abilities.
- E2 To work with statutory bodies to protect
 - The Conservation Area
 - The River Test which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and land near the river which is part of the Test Valley Environmentally Sensitive Area
 - Land north of the London to Exeter railway which is part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- E3 To protect and improve the green areas and open spaces within the village.
- E4 To encourage access to the countryside and riverside for walkers and the use of these facilities.

1.2 SA explained

- 1.2.1 SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SA for the ONP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

1.2.2 SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹. It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) included within Local Plans; however a Neighbourhood Plan is not a DPD and SA is not therefore legally required.

1.2.3 However, the ONP has been determined by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. To meet this requirement, the ONP is undergoing an SA process which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. This mirrors the approach currently being taken for the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

1.2.4 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Directive are that:

- 1) A report (the 'SA Report') is published for **consultation** alongside the Draft Plan that presents an appraisal of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives; and
- 2) When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA Report there is a **consultation** with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues.

[This scoping report](#)

1.2.5 This 'Scoping Report' is concerned with (2) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SA so that the nationally designated authorities (which, in England, are Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage) can provide timely comment.

1.3 SA 'scoping' explained

1.3.1 Developing the draft scope presented in this report has involved the following steps:

- 1) Exploring the sustainability 'context', i.e. reviewing high level messages (e.g. from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of *broadly* what the SA needs to focus on.
- 2) Establishing the 'baseline', i.e. the situation in the area in the absence of the ONP, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
- 3) Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SA.
- 4) Developing a SA Framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the draft plan.

1.4

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC

1.5 Structure of this report

Key sustainability issues

1.5.1 The outcomes of the scoping 'steps' 1–4 introduced above have been presented under a series of key sustainability topics, as follows:

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

1.5.2 The selected topics incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive². These were expanded to encompass a fuller range of factors as is required for a Sustainability Appraisal. They also reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

1.5.3 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these topic headings will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under the ten topic headings will provide a methodological 'framework' for the appraisal of the draft plan and alternatives.

1.5.4 The discussion of each topic has been presented In Sections 0 to 10.

SA Framework to assess policy proposals

1.5.5 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be defined and subsequently analysed based on standard 'tests'. Each proposal put forward for the ONP can then be assessed consistently using the framework.

1.5.6 The SA objectives and appraisal questions utilised for the SA of the ONP are presented under each of the topics in Sections 0 to 10.

² The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on 'the environment, **including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors**' [our emphasis]

2

AIR QUALITY

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air pollution sources Air quality hotspots Air quality management

2.1

Headline sustainability issues: Air Quality

- Air quality in the parish is currently good, with **no significant issues** identified.
- However new housing and employment provision in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide.
- To limit such effects ONP should seek to promote appropriate locational policies which reduce the need to travel by the private car and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport use. It should seek to facilitate the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, including new and improved pedestrian and cycle links and enhancements to public transport networks.
- Whilst due to the absence of air quality issues in the plan area, **air quality has been scoped out for the purposes of the SA process**, SA objectives and decision making questions addressing issues of congestion and traffic flows have been presented under the **transportation** theme below (Chapter 9).

2.2

Sustainability context

2.2.1

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

- 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan'.*
- New and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.

2.2.2

In terms of the local context, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is required to monitor air quality across the borough, report regularly to Defra and take action where nationally set levels are likely to be exceeded. Monitoring is undertaken to assess levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene and particulates. Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and local authorities are required to produce an Action Plan to improve air quality in the area. No AQMA have been declared in the Overton Neighbourhood Area.

2.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 2.3.1 The main input to air pollutants in Overton is road traffic and, at some times of the year, burning of agricultural crops. However, air quality is generally good in the parish with no significant issues. No locations in the parish are at risk of exceedences of air pollutants- as such no locations are currently subject to air quality monitoring for air pollutants.

Summary of future baseline

- 2.3.2 Whilst no significant air quality issues currently exist in the Neighbourhood Area, new housing and employment provision both within the parish and outside of the parish has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide. Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be within the more congested parts of the village and the routes with highest traffic flows, such as the B3400. This may be offset in part by factors such as measures implemented through the Hampshire Local Transport Plan to encourage modal shift from the private car and the improved fuel economy and efficiency of vehicles.

3 BIODIVERSITY

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats • Species • Nature conservation designations • Geological features

3.1 Headline sustainability issues: Biodiversity

- The River Test SSSI passes through the main built up areas of the Overton Neighbourhood Area. The SSSI has been assessed as being in an 'unfavourable no change' condition. Therefore the ONP should seek to support the nature conservation value of the SSSI, including through reflecting the presence of the SSSI Impact Risk Zone.
- Areas of biodiversity value within the Neighbourhood Area should be protected and enhanced. Their integrity should also be supported through improved ecological connections in the plan area, including through the provision of green infrastructure enhancements.
- Features of biodiversity value such as trees, hedgerows and meadows should be protected from the impacts of future development and where possible enhanced.
- The integrity of the Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and SINC's present in and around the Neighbourhood Area should be supported through the ONP, with due regard to the key habitats and species present at these sites.
- The ONP should seek to support the nature conservation value of the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI.

3.2 Sustainability context

At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy³ was adopted in May 2011 in order to deliver an established new Europe-wide target to '*halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020*'.

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

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

³ European Commission (2011) Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf

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

3.2.2 The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)⁴ sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK's failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. It includes commitments to:

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

3.2.3 At the local level the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire reviews the status of wildlife in Hampshire and sets out a framework for action in two parts.

3.2.4 Volume One, *the Strategic Plan*, sets out the objectives of the Partnership, describes Hampshire's biodiversity, and identifies habitats and species of priority concern. It also presents a strategy for information, data and raising awareness of biodiversity. Volume Two contains individual action plans for priority habitats and species and topics that have a considerable influence on the conservation of biodiversity.

3.2.5 The *Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan* was prepared in 2009⁵. It seeks to identify the key principles set out internationally, nationally and regionally, with the aim of applying them at a local level within Overton Parish. It also identifies key biodiversity resources locally and presents suggestions on how they may be preserved and enhanced.

⁴ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf>

⁵ Overton Parish Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2009) Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014

3.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 3.3.1 No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in the Neighbourhood Area. The closest European designated site is the River Itchen SAC, which is approximately 11km to the south of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.3.2 In terms of nationally designated nature conservation sites, two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are present in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.3.3 The River Test passes through the centre of the parish in an east to west direction. The river has been designated as an SSSI for its interest as one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England⁶.
- 3.3.4 The condition assessment for the River Test SSSI undertaken in February 2013 deemed that a main part of the SSSI within the Neighbourhood Area (comprising the river channel) is in an 'unfavourable no change' condition. This is due to the SSSI units not complying with existing river profile or river planform targets, and failing the targets for river bank vegetation and the target for the presence of non-native plant species⁷. The area of the SSSI comprising neutral grassland west of Southington has been assessed as being in an 'unfavourable recovering' condition due to low water levels and inappropriate scrub control⁸.
- 3.3.5 Reflecting the presence of the River Test SSSI in the central areas of Overton village, a significant part of the built up area of the Neighbourhood Area is within the SSSI's Impact Risk Zone⁹ for the types of development likely to be proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.3.6 One further SSSI is located in far the south of the Neighbourhood Area, the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI. The 32ha site comprises 19th century chalk spoil heaps, derived from railway cuttings, which exhibit various stages of colonisation by a range of plant communities. The site has been designated for its exceptional botanical importance.
- 3.3.7 The SSSI has been assessed as being in an 'unfavourable recovering' condition due to a lack of corrective works and inappropriate scrub control.¹⁰
- 3.3.8 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of 'priority habitats' that are characteristic of Hampshire and for which Hampshire makes a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

⁶ River Test SSSI citation: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/2000170.pdf

⁷ River Test - river channel unit - source to Bourne: <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1027757> [accessed 5th November 2014]

⁸ <http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/UnitDetail.aspx?UnitId=1027724>

⁹ SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs.

¹⁰ Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI citation:

<http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001316&SiteName=Micheldever&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

- 3.3.9 Key areas of BAP Priority Habitat in the Neighbourhood Area include: Deciduous Woodland and Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh BAP Priority Habitat along and close to the River Test; numerous areas of Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat scattered across the south east of the plan area; small areas of Lowland Meadows BAP Priority Habitat in the south of the Neighbourhood Area, including at Quidhampton Southley Copse; and a number of areas of Traditional Orchard BAP Priority Habitat in the vicinity of Overton village. Many of the areas covered by Deciduous Woodland BAP Priority Habitat have also been classified as ancient woodland.
- 3.3.10 Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are sites locally designated for their habitat and/or species interest by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) against a set of agreed criteria. There are 17 SINCs present in the Neighbourhood Area. HBIC also holds survey records for approximately ten further sites of nature conservation interest which have not been designated.¹¹
- 3.3.11 In relation to geodiversity, the underlying rocks of the parish form part of the Hampshire Basin, a geological feature in which the rocks slope gently from the north to the south. The oldest rock in the Neighbourhood Area is Cretaceous chalk which was formed over 65 million years ago. This chalk is a porous, porous, fine grained limestone which is generally highly permeable and alkaline.¹²

Summary of future baseline

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

¹¹ Information from Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan

¹² Information from Overton Parish Biodiversity Action Plan

3.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the biodiversity sustainability topic?

3.4.1 Table 3.1 presents the SA Objective and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the biodiversity topic.

Table 3.1: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the biodiversity topic

ONP SA OBJECTIVE	SA APPRAISAL QUESTIONS: BIODIVERSITY
Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support continued improvements to the status of the River Test SSSI? • Support continued improvements to the status of the Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI? • Protect and enhance the integrity of the SINCs present in the plan area? • Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats? • Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species? • Achieve a net gain in biodiversity? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

4 CLIMATE CHANGE

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions by source Greenhouse gas emissions trends Effects of climate change Climate change adaptation Flood risk

4.1 Headline sustainability issues: Climate change

- An increase in the built footprint of the plan area (associated with the delivery of new housing and employment land) has the potential to increase overall greenhouse gas emissions.
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions for Basingstoke and Deane borough continue to be higher than for Hampshire, South East and England averages, and are also falling at a lower rate.
- Domestic sources are an increasing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions borough-wide.
- Groundwater and, to a lesser extent, fluvial flooding is an issue for the Neighbourhood Area.
- The ONP should seek to support adaptation to the risks associated with climate change in the area.

4.2 Sustainability context

4.2.1 In its 2007 strategy on climate change, the European Commission assesses the costs and benefits of combating climate change and recommends a package of measures to limit global warming to 2° Celsius.¹³ In relation to energy, the Commission recommends that the EU's energy efficiency improves by 20% and the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020.

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

- Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'.
- There is a key role for planning in securing radical reductions in greenhouse gases (GHG), including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008¹⁴. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:

¹³ Commission of the European Communities (2007) Limiting Global Climate Change to two degrees Celsius: The way ahead for 2020 and beyond [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0002:FIN:EN:PDF>

¹⁴ The Climate Change Act 2008 sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

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

4.2.3 The Flood and Water Management Act¹⁵ highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings)
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)¹⁶

4.2.4 Further guidance is provided in the document Planning for SuDs.¹⁷ This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of 'contributing to local quality of life and green infrastructure'.

¹⁵ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

¹⁶ N.B. The provisions of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into force on the 1st of October 2012 and makes it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDs.

¹⁷ CIRIA (2010) Planning for SuDs – making it happen [online] available at:

<http://www.ciria.org/service/knowledgebase/AM/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx?Section=knowledgebase&NoTemplate=1&ContentID=18465>

4.3 Baseline summary

4.3.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team¹⁸. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

4.3.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario¹⁹ are likely to be as follows:

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

4.3.3 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Overton Neighbourhood Area. These include:

- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- effects on water resources from climate change;
- reduction in availability of groundwater for abstraction;
- adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain;
- increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;
- changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- a need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- a need to upgrade flood defences;
- soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- changes to global supply chain;

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

¹⁹ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> (accessed 11/2014)

- increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage due to higher temperatures;
- an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for business;
- increased demand for air-conditioning;
- increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- flooding of roads.

4.3.1 In terms of flood risk, groundwater and, to a lesser extent, fluvial flooding are issues for the Neighbourhood Area. This includes related to the presence of the chalk aquifer under the parish and the presence of the River Test. Key areas at risk of flooding include Southington, Glebe Meadow and Bridge Street.

4.3.2 The Basingstoke and Deane Strategic Flood Risk Assessment²⁰ summarises flood risk in Overton as follows:

‘The floodplain of the River Test runs through the town. There are some properties within the floodplain, but in general there seems to be adequate green space around the river to accommodate the floodplain – further development should avoid encroaching on this area. There are three instances of flooding from the drainage system; all of these are close to the river so may be partly due to backing up at high water level. A potential susceptibility to groundwater flooding is indicated in the groundwater emergence maps.’

4.3.3 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change²¹ suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher per capita emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has also seen smaller reductions in emissions per capita between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).

Table 4-1: Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita 2005-2012

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Road and Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Basingstoke and Deane				
2005	3.3	2.5	3.9	9.7
2006	3.2	2.6	3.8	9.7
2007	3.1	2.5	3.8	9.5

²⁰ Halcrow (January 2010) Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework

²¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> (accessed on 05/11/2014)

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Road and Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2008	3.0	2.4	3.6	9.1
2009	2.7	2.2	3.4	8.4
2010	2.8	2.3	3.4	8.6
2011	2.5	2.0	3.3	7.9
2012	2.6	2.2	3.2	8.1
Hampshire				
2005	3.5	2.5	3.0	9.0
2006	3.2	2.5	2.9	8.7
2007	3.3	2.4	2.9	8.7
2008	3.2	2.4	2.7	8.3
2009	2.9	2.2	2.6	7.7
2010	2.9	2.3	2.6	7.8
2011	2.1	2.0	2.5	6.6
2012	2.2	2.2	2.5	6.9
South East England				
2005	3.0	2.6	2.6	8.2
2006	2.9	2.6	2.6	8.1
2007	2.8	2.5	2.6	7.9
2008	2.7	2.4	2.4	7.6
2009	2.3	2.2	2.3	6.9
2010	2.4	2.3	2.3	7.1
2011	2.1	2.0	2.2	6.4
2012	2.2	2.2	2.2	6.7
England				
2005	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.7	2.5	2.2	8.4

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Road and Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
2007	3.5	2.4	2.2	8.2
2008	3.4	2.4	2.1	8.0
2009	2.9	2.1	2.0	7.1
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.3
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.7
2012	2.9	2.2	1.9	7.0

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

Summary of future baseline

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

4.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Climate Change sustainability topic?

4.4.1 Table 4-2 presents the SA Objective and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Climate Change topic.

Table 4-2: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the Climate Change topic

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

5 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Historic environment and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated and non-designated sites and areas • Setting of cultural heritage assets • Landscape and townscape quality • Archaeological assets

5.1 Headline sustainability issues: Historic environment and landscape

- Inappropriate scale, design and layout of development in the Neighbourhood Area has the potential to affect the integrity of the North Wessex Downs AONB and conservation areas present in the plan area.
- New development has the potential to lead to effects on the historic environment, including through affecting the setting of cultural heritage assets and landscape/townscape quality.
- Traffic and congestion has effects on the quality of the public realm in some parts of the Neighbourhood Area.
- New development could lead to pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes/townscapes, including from loss of key built and natural features.

5.2 Sustainability context

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

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

5.2.2 The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England²² sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life.

²² HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx

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

5.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 5.3.1 The northern part of the Neighbourhood Area (north of the railway line) falls within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The North Wessex Downs were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent. As such the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should be equivalent
- 5.3.2 The primary purpose of AONB designation is '*conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area*'. In this context the North Wessex Downs AONB was designated for its dramatic, undeveloped and locally distinct chalk downlands with extensive areas of semi-natural chalk grassland, interspersed with well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and secluded valleys. The part of the Neighbourhood Area within the AONB has been classified by the AONB Management Plan as 'Downland with Woodland'.
- 5.3.3 The Neighbourhood Area has a rich historic environment. A number of features and areas for the historic environment in the plan area are recognised through historic environment designations. These include listed buildings and scheduled monuments, which are nationally designated, and conservation areas, which are designated at the local level. English Heritage is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent. The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms.
- 5.3.4 There is one conservation area located within the plan area: the Overton Conservation Area, which was designated in 1971. Whilst the original designation related only to the medieval core of the village, located to the south of the River Test, the conservation area boundary was extended in 1987 to encompass St Mary's Church and Court Farm, the settlements of Southington to the south-west, and Quidhampton and Polhampton to the north-east. All are linked to Overton by the river, visually and historically. A Conservation Area Appraisal was prepared in 2003²³.
- 5.3.5 The Neighbourhood Area contains numerous listed buildings. In this context the parish includes three Grade I listed structures at Berrydown Court, four Grade II* listed building (Barn to the South of South Litchfield Grange, the Chapel at Quidhampton, the Church of St Mary and Court Farmhouse), and 50 Grade II listed buildings.

²³ Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2003) Conservation Area Appraisal, Overton
<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1DD295F1-BBC0-4DDE-8818-74802EE13CAB/0/Overton.pdf>

- 5.3.6 Scheduled monuments are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. According to the National Heritage List for England, there are six scheduled monuments in the Neighbourhood Area, comprising long and round barrows and a cemetery. There is part of one registered park and garden in the parish, (Laverstoke Park) and no historic battlefields.
- 5.3.7 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2013 Heritage at Risk Register²⁴ highlighted that there are no features or areas deemed to be at risk in the Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.3.8 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and which are seen as important by local communities. Examples of these in the plan area are likely to include parks and the wider historic landscape. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance.
- Summary of future baseline**
- 5.3.9 New development areas in the Neighbourhood Area have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings.
- 5.3.10 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the plan area. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There are also likely to be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.
- 5.3.11 There are likely to be small scale and incremental changes in tranquillity in and around the plan area, affected by changes in the levels of light and noise pollution.

²⁴ Heritage at Risk Register (2013), <http://risk.english-heritage.org.uk/register.aspx> [accessed 10/12/14]

5.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Historic Environment and Landscape sustainability topic?

5.4.1 Table 5.1 presents the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Historic Environment and Landscape topic.

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

6 LAND, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Land, Soil and Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils resource • Soil quality • Waste management • Watercourses • Water availability • Water quality

6.1 Headline sustainability issues: Land, soil and water resources

- There is a lack of availability of previously developed land in the parish.
- Significant areas of land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 2 and 3a) are present in the Neighbourhood Area, including around Overton village.
- Developers should be encouraged to adopt sustainable construction practices, including handling waste arisings, recycling, and disposal in a sustainable manner as part of a life cycle approach to resource use.
- Water conservation and reuse should be supported in lieu of potential future issues linked to the regional availability of water.
- Sewage infrastructure in the plan area will need to be updated to accompany new development areas.

6.2 Sustainability context

6.2.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy²⁵ presents a strategy for protecting soils resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

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

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

²⁵ European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm (accessed 28/02/2014)

- Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

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

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

6.2.4 Other key documents at the national level include *Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England*²⁶, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the Water White Paper²⁷, which sets out the Government’s vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources. In terms of waste management, the *Government Review of Waste Policy in England*²⁸ recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials

6.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

6.3.1 The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into five grades (plus ‘non-agricultural’ and ‘urban’), where Grades 1 to 3a are the ‘best and most versatile’ land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. In terms of the location of the best and most versatile agricultural land in the plan area, land classified as Grade 3a agricultural land is located around Overton village. There are also areas classified as Grade 2 agricultural land to the west and north east of the village. Whilst agricultural land quality the rest of the plan area has not recently been assessed, the Provisional Agricultural Land Classification established it as Grade 3 land²⁹.

²⁶ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf> (accessed 28/02/2014)

²⁷ Defra (2011) Water for life (The Water White Paper) [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

²⁸ Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

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

- 6.3.2 There is no Household Waste and Recycling Centre in the plan area. The nearest is located in Basingstoke off Wade Road.
- 6.3.3 The main watercourse in the parish is the River Test. The river flows westwards from its source near the village of Ashe, passing south of Quidhampton, through Overton village and north of Southington. Water supply in the area is provided by South East Water and waste water provision is provided by Southern Water. The Test and Itchen Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy highlights that there is '*Restricted Water Available for Licensing*' in the area. This indicates that if all licensed water is abstracted there will not be enough water left for the needs of the environment.
- 6.3.4 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. Reflecting the vulnerability of groundwater in the area to pollution, a SPZ underlays much of the southern part of the Neighbourhood Area south of Overton. A further SPZ extends east from the centre of Overton village to Ashe and beyond.
- 6.3.5 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. In this context the whole of the plan area is underlain by a eutrophic and groundwater NVZ.

Summary of future baseline

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

6.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Land, Soil and Water Resources sustainability topic?

6.4.1 Table 6.1 presents the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Land, Water and Soil Resources topic.

Table 6.1: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the Land, Soil and Water Resources topic

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

7 POPULATION AND COMMUNITY

OVERTON NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Population and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population size Population density Age structure Deprivation House prices and affordability Homelessness Education and skills

7.1 Headline sustainability issues: Population and Community

- Population growth in the plan area will need to be appropriately managed to minimise potential impacts and maximise accessibility to services, facilities and amenities.
- An ageing population has the potential to lead to implications for service provision in the plan area.
- New community and employment provision in the plan area should reflect existing and future needs.

7.2 Sustainability context

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

- To 'boost significantly the supply of housing', local planning authorities should meet the 'full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing' in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
- With a view to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities' authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
- In rural areas, when exercising the duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate. Authorities should consider whether allowing some market housing would facilitate the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.

- The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
- The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
- The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities
- Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
- Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Ensuring that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ is of ‘great importance’ and there is a need to take a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.

7.2.2 The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report *Ready for Ageing?*³⁰ warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says that ‘*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*’. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

7.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of the parish of Overton was 4,315³¹. This was an increase of 367 from the 2001 census, or a 9.3% population growth (see Table 7.1). The rate of growth in Overton parish is significantly higher than regional and national comparators, and slightly lower than the borough growth rate.

³⁰ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) *Ready for Ageing?* [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/>

³¹ Office for National Statistics (2011) *Neighbourhood Statistics* [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

Table 7.1 – Population growth, 2001-2011³²

Date	Overton	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
2001	3,948	152,573	8,000,645	49,138,831
2011	4,315	167,799	8,634,750	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	9.3%	9.98%	7.93%	7.88%

7.3.1

Table 7.2 highlights the age structure of Overton parish compared with Basingstoke & Deane, South East and England averages. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total population of each age group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

Table 7.2: Age structure (2011)³³

Age group	Overton	Basingstoke & Deane	South East	England
0-15	759 (17.6%)	33,852 (20.2%)	1,642,084 (19%)	10,022,836 (18.9%)
16-24	315 (7.3%)	16,339 (9.7%)	969,055 (11.2%)	6,284,760 (11.9%)
25-44	1032 (23.9%)	48,548 (29%)	2,289,335 (26.5%)	14,645,152 (27.5%)
45-59	925 (21.4%)	34,720 (20.7%)	1,716,857 (19.4%)	10,276,902 (19.4%)
60+	1,284 (29.8%)	34,340 (20.6%)	2,017,419 (23.3%)	11,832,806 (22.3%)
Totals	4,315 (100%)	167,799 (100%)	8,634,750 (100%)	53,012,456 (100%)

7.3.2

The Neighbourhood Area has a significantly lower proportion of individuals across the 0-44 age range than all other comparators. There is a higher proportion of the 45-59 age group within the plan area than national and borough averages, and a significantly higher proportion of residents aged 60 and over when compared to Basingstoke and Deane, the South-East and England. There are 1,284 people aged 60 or over living in the plan area, which is 29.8% of the population.

³² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV02)

³³ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS108EW)

7.3.3 Census statistics which measure deprivation across the four 'dimensions' of deprivation³⁴ including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating), show that the parish of Overton has deprivation levels that are largely in line with the borough of Basingstoke and Deane (see Figure 7.1), with lower levels of deprivation in 2 and 3 dimensions than the regional and national averages.

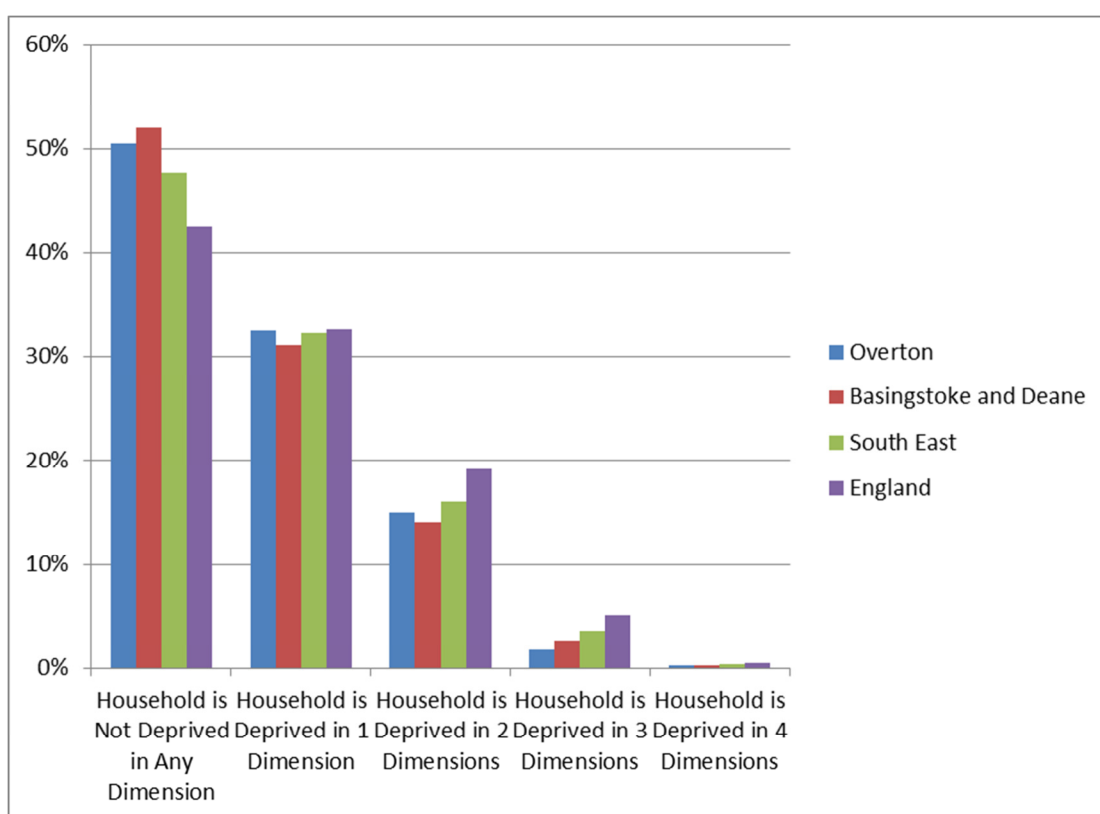


Figure 7.1 – Relative deprivation dimensions

7.3.4 Data from the DCLG indicates that the median selling price of property³⁵ in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane in the fourth quarter of 2012 was £253,337, higher than the 2012 England-wide median of £242,127, but lower than the Hampshire County median of £271,537. The median house selling price in Basingstoke & Deane increased from £225,000 to £254,000 from 2008 to 2011.

³⁴ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)

³⁵ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 581 Housing market: mean house prices based on Land Registry data, by district, from 1996 (quarterly), [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

- 7.3.5 In terms of the house price to income ratio, which illustrates the multiple of the average income in the area to average house price, the affordability ratio for Basingstoke & Deane in 2013 was 6.89, a decrease from 7.36 in 2010. This is higher than the ratio of 6.72 for England.³⁶
- 7.3.6 Figure 7.2 shows the tenure of households³⁷ in Overton parish in comparison with those in Basingstoke & Deane, the South East, and England. A higher proportion of Overton residents live in housing owned outright or with a mortgage (69.4% in total), than borough (67.7%), regional (67.6%) or national (63.3%) averages. Conversely Overton has a significantly lower proportion of people that rent (10.3%) than tenure values at borough and national level.
- 7.3.7 The plan area has similar proportions of social rented tenures as borough and national averages, which are significantly higher than the regional level.
- 7.3.8 In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.³⁸ There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.

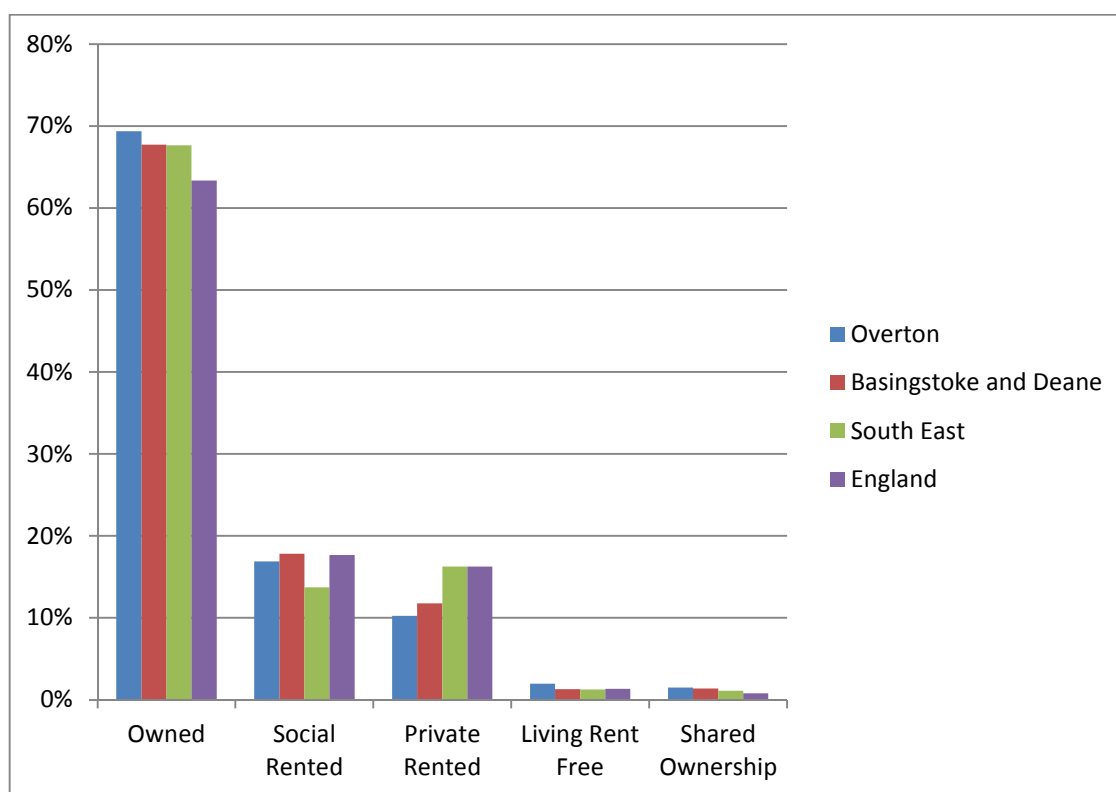


Figure 7.2 – Tenure by household

³⁶ Government Statistics, Live tables on housing market and house prices, Table 577: ratio of median house price to median earnings by district, from 1997, [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

This data is not available at ward or parish level.

³⁷ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Tenure - Households, 2011 (QS405EW)

³⁸ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district: England 1997 to 2013.

- 7.3.9 The population of the plan area is generally well qualified, with 33.8% of residents aged 16 and above having at least a Level 4 Qualification³⁹, as shown in Figure 7.3. This is significantly higher than the borough level (30.5%), regional (29.9%) and national (27.4%) averages⁴⁰. Conversely, more people have no qualifications (21.1%) than borough (17.3%) and regional (19.1%) averages. This remains however significantly lower than national values (22.5%).

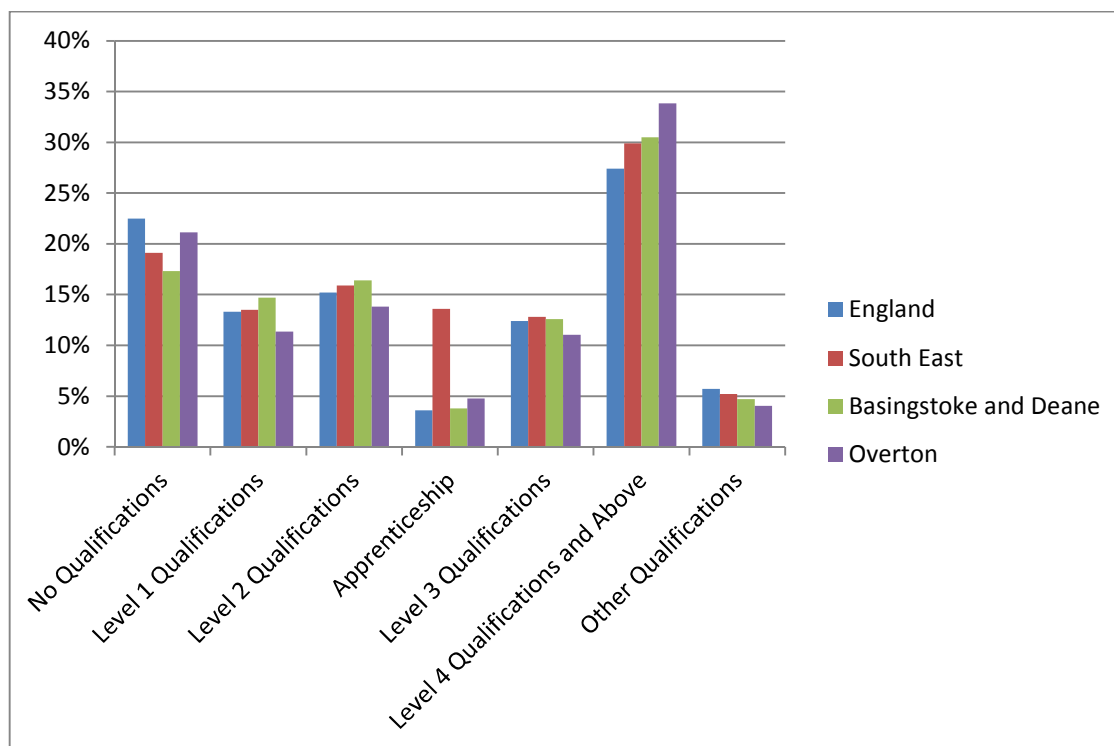


Figure 7.3: Highest Level of Qualification, 2011 (KS501EW)

Summary of future baseline

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

³⁹ Level 4 and above qualifications cover: Degree (BA, BSc), Higher Degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher Level, Professional Qualifications (Teaching, Nursing, Accountancy).

⁴⁰ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Qualifications and Students (KS501EW)

7.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Population and Community sustainability topic?

7.4.1 Table 7.3 presents the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Population and Community topic.

Table 7.3: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the Population and Community topic

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

8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

OVERTON NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health indicators • Healthcare inequalities • Sport, fitness and activity levels

8.1 Headline sustainability issues: Health and wellbeing

- General health in Overton parish as reported through the 2011 census is slightly less favourable than Basingstoke and Deane Borough averages.
- The Neighbourhood Area, in common with many other areas, is experiencing an ageing population. This will have implications for health service provision and the provision of other services, facilities and amenities.
- Health, leisure and recreational facilities should be expanded to reflect population growth in the Neighbourhood Area.
- Investment in open space, sports facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure should be supported in order to encourage increased physical activity.

8.2 Sustainability context

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

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

- 8.2.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*⁴¹ ('The Marmot Review') investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *'overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'*.
- 8.2.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in producing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent Government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government⁴², giving local authorities a duty to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. This will require a more holistic approach to health across all local government functions.

8.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

- 8.3.1 As highlighted in Table 9.1, general health across the parish is broadly favourable compared to regional and national averages, and slightly less favourable than Basingstoke and Deane averages. In this context 50% of people reported that they were in 'very good' health⁴³, which is slightly below with borough values, and above regional and national averages. Likewise the proportion of people in 'very bad health' is slightly higher than borough averages, and lower than regional and national averages.

Table 8.1: General Health

	Overton	Basingstoke and Deane	South East	England
Very Good Health	50%	50.7%	49%	47.2%
Good Health	34.1%	35.1%	34.6%	34.2%
Fair Health	12.3%	10.8%	12%	13.1%
Bad Health	2.8%	2.7%	3.4%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	0.8%	0.7%	1 %	1.2%

- 8.3.2 6.2% of residents of Overton parish reported that they were limited 'a lot' with day to day activities due to long-term health problems or disabilities, with 9.6% or people limited 'a little'. The levels of long term health and disability⁴⁴ in Overton are broadly in line with borough, regional and national averages.

⁴¹ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf>

⁴² Upper tier and unitary local authorities

⁴³ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

⁴⁴ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Long-Term Health Problem or Disability, 2011 (QS303EW)

- 8.3.3 No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators; however at the borough level the 2013 Health Profile⁴⁵ shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; above the national average of 73.8 and 79.3, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

Summary of future baseline

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

8.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Health and Wellbeing sustainability topic?

- 8.4.1 Table 8.1 presents the SA Objective and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Health and Wellbeing topic.

Table 8.1: SA Objective and appraisal questions for the Health and Wellbeing topic

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

⁴⁵ Public Health England (2013) Health Profile 2013 [online] available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=50215&SEARCH=basingstoke%20and%20deane&SPEAR=> (accessed 6/11/2014)

9 TRANSPORTATION

ONP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation infrastructure • Traffic flows and congestion • Accessibility • Car ownership • Travel to work

9.1 Headline sustainability issues: Transportation

- Occasional congestion issues exist on London Road and the High Street.
- New development areas should be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by the private car.
- New development should seek to support improvements in bus routes.
- Continued enhancements to public transport and walking and cycling networks should be promoted.

9.2 Sustainability context

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

9.3 Baseline summary

Summary of current baseline

Rail network

- 9.3.1 The Neighbourhood Area is well connected by rail. The parish is served by Overton railway station (in Quidhampton immediately north of Overton village) and Micheldever station (which is located just south of parish boundaries c.6.5km from Overton village). Basingstoke station, which has a wider range of rail services, is located c.13km from Overton village.
- 9.3.2 Overton station is located on the London Waterloo to Salisbury / Exeter line with direct services to London Waterloo (approximately 1 hour), Andover (13 minutes), Woking (29 minutes), and Salisbury (33 minutes).
- 9.3.3 Micheldever station is located on the main London Waterloo to Southampton / Bournemouth / Weymouth line. However, most direct services from the station comprise part of the London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour service via Fareham. Direct services from Micheldever include Winchester (8 minutes), Woking (38 minutes), London Waterloo (65 minutes) and Portsmouth Harbour (70 minutes).

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

Bus network

- 9.3.5 Overton is connected by bus to Basingstoke and Oakley, Whitchurch, Andover and Winchester via Stagecoach services number 76 and 86. Journey times to Basingstoke are approximately 25 minutes from Overton, approximately every half hour. On Sundays the 76 bus passes through Overton on an hourly basis.

Road network and congestion

- 9.3.6 The main route through the Neighbourhood Area is the B3400, which connects the plan area with Oakley and Basingstoke to the east and Whitchurch and the A34 to the west. The B3051 connects the area to the A339 in the north to the A303 at the southern boundary of the parish.

Availability of cars and vans

- 9.3.7 Figure 9.1 highlights the availability of cars and vans in the Neighbourhood Area. The proportion of car or van ownership is largely in line with the borough average, in that the proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than regional and national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is higher than all comparators. High car ownership in the Neighbourhood Area reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

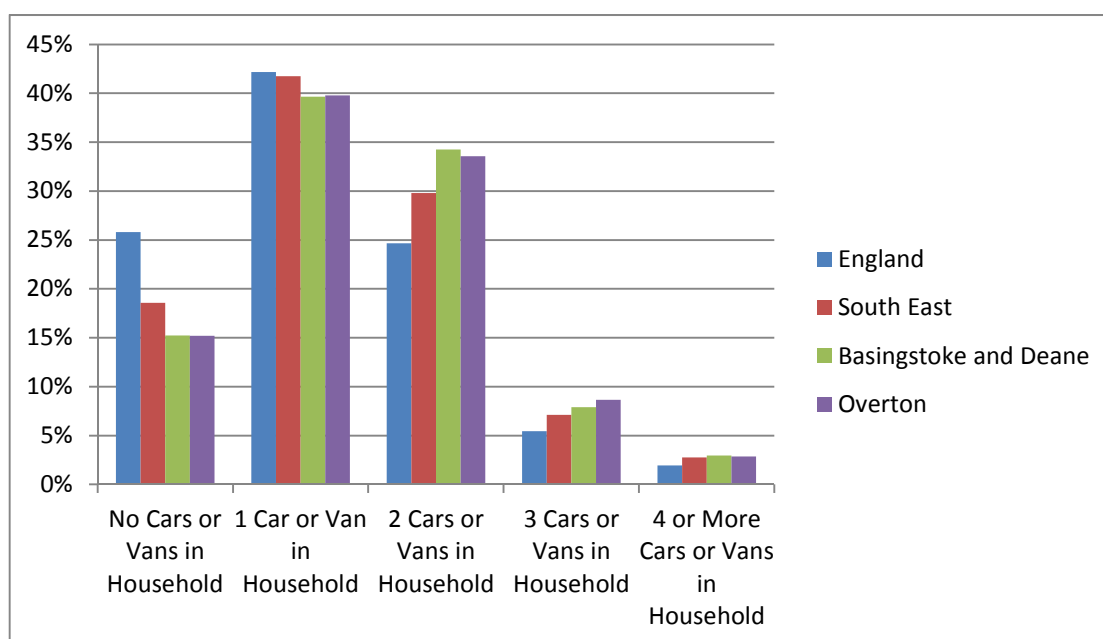


Figure 9.1: Car and van ownership⁴⁶

⁴⁶ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Car or Van Availability (QS416EW)

Travel to work

- 9.3.8 Figure 9.2 shows the method of travel to work for residents in the plan area, compared with borough, regional and England averages. As highlighted by the figure, the proportion of people who travel to work by foot in Overton is lower than all comparators. Conversely, a higher proportion of people travel to work by train. Fewer proportions of people travel to work by bus or bicycle than all other comparable areas. A higher proportion of people travel to work by car or van than regional or national averages. This proportion however is lower than the borough average, with more people in Overton working from home and travelling by train to work.

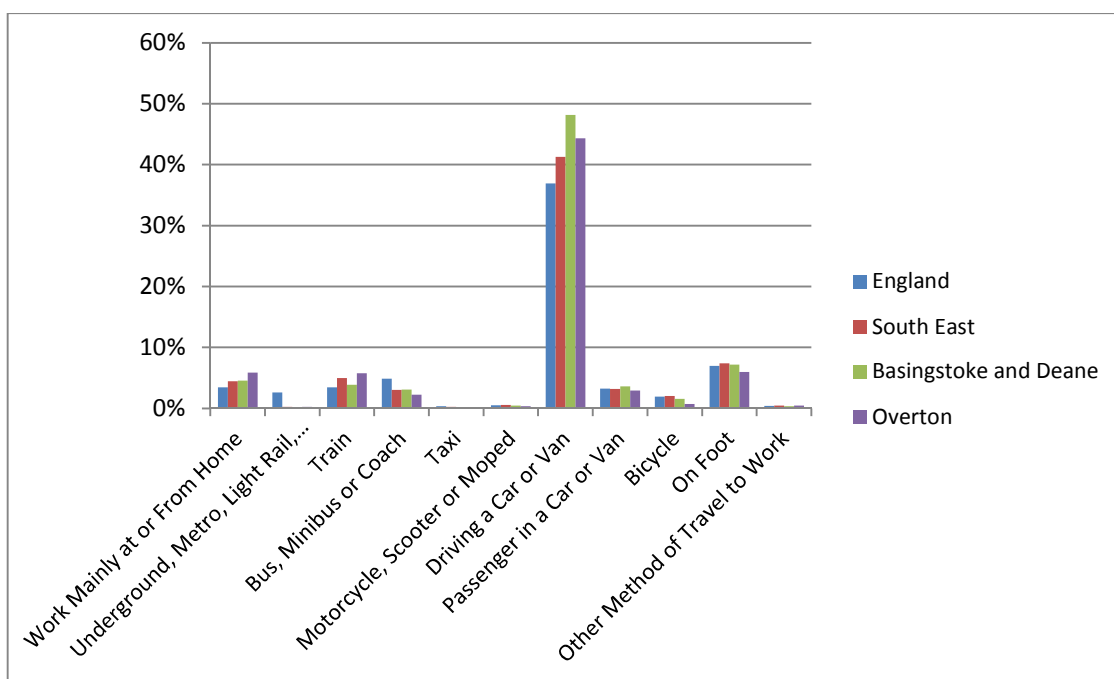


Figure 9.2: Method of Travel to Work⁴⁷

Summary of future baseline

- 9.3.9 An increase in the Neighbourhood Area's population has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan.
- 9.3.10 The viability of additional bus and rail services may be supported by future population growth.

⁴⁷ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW)

9.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Transportation sustainability topic?

9.4.1 Table 9.1 presents the SA Objective and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Transportation topic.

Table 9.1: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the Transportation topic

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

10

ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE

OVERTON NP SA TOPIC	THEMES CONSIDERED
Economy and enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic sectors Skills and qualifications Employment sectors Sites, premises and travel to work

10.1

Headline sustainability issues: Economy and enterprise

- Economic activity rates in the parish are below those for Basingstoke and Deane.
- The vitality and viability of Overton as a key local centre should be maintained and enhanced.
- Employment provision should be accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

10.2

Sustainability context

10.2.1

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

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

10.3

Baseline summary
Summary of current baseline

10.3.1

As Figure 10.1 illustrates, economic activity rates in the plan area are broadly in line with regional averages, but lower than borough values.

10.3.2 Rates of full-time employment in Overton (44.5%) are lower than across Basingstoke and Deane (47.9%) but are significantly higher than regional (40.5%) and national (38.6%) rates. Rates of part-time employment in Overton are significantly lower than comparators.⁴⁸

10.3.3 Rates of self-employment (with employees) are broadly in line with borough, regional and national level, with a higher percentage of part time sole traders (3.7%) and a lower percentage of full time sole traders (4.9%) in the Neighbourhood Area than other comparable areas. The proportion of residents who are unemployed is largely in line with borough and regional averages, but below the national average. The proportion of people retired (18.2%) in the plan area is significantly higher than borough (12.6%), regional (13.7%) and national (13.7%) averages.

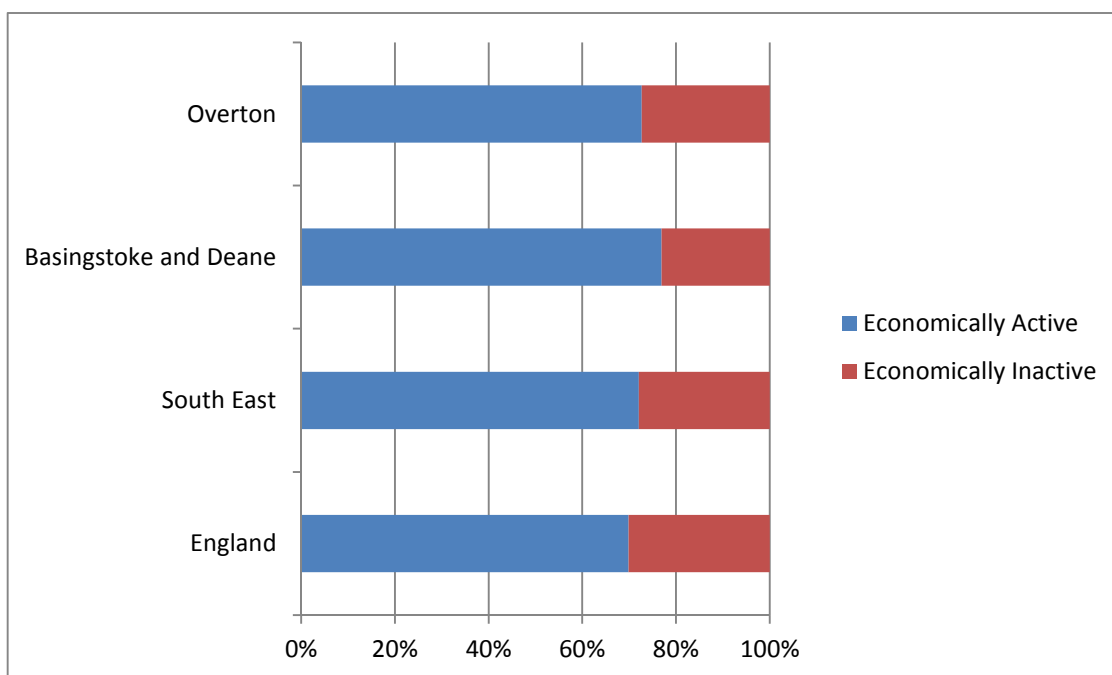


Figure 10.1 – Percentage Economic activity of residents aged 16-74

10.3.4 Figure 10.2 shows the highest level of qualification attained by residents in Overton, compared with Basingstoke and Deane, South East and England averages. In this context the plan area has a highly qualified population compared to borough, regional and national averages, with 33.8% of working-age residents of the plan area qualified to NVQ level four or above.⁴⁹ There is however a higher proportion of residents in Overton parish (21.1%) that have no qualifications, when compared with borough (17.3%) and regional (19.1%) averages. This is slightly below the national average (22.5%).

⁴⁸ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Economic Activity (QS601EW)

⁴⁹ Level 4 qualifications include bachelors degrees, NVQs at Level 4, HNDs and HNCs.

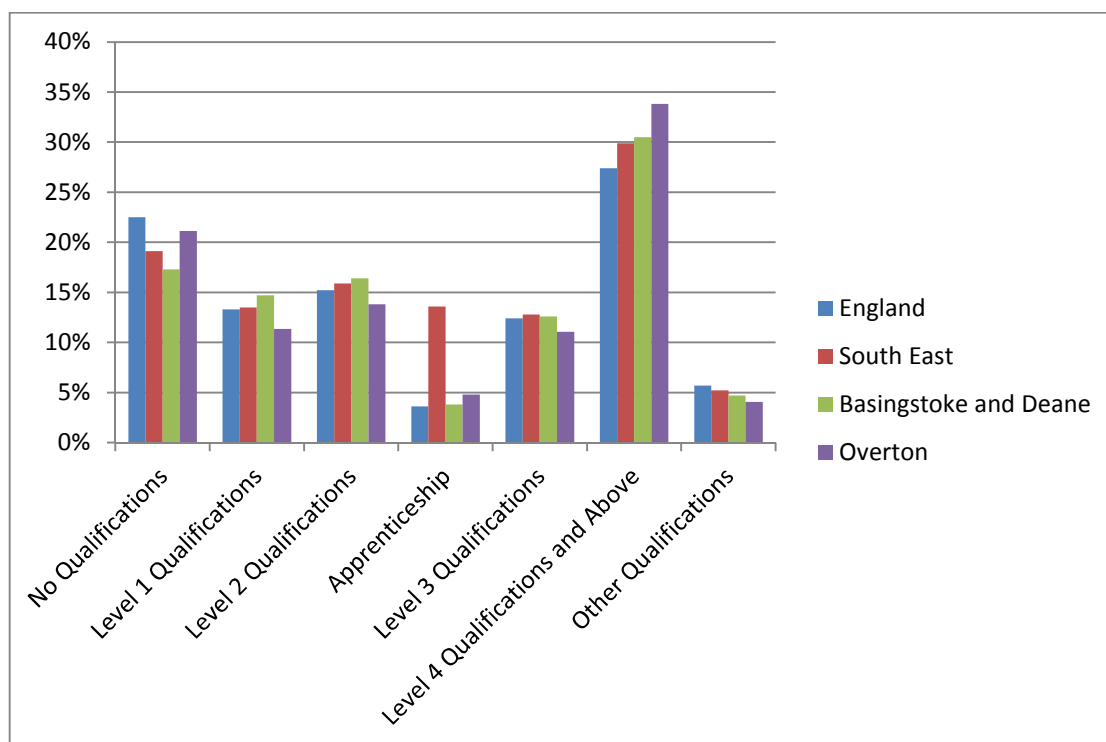


Figure 10.2 – Highest Level of Qualification⁵⁰

10.3.5

Figure 10.3 shows the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile for Overton is largely similar to borough, regional and national averages, with some notable exceptions. The plan area has larger proportions of people working in ‘manufacturing’, ‘information and communications’, and ‘professional, scientific and technical activities’. Conversely, the plan area has lower proportions of workers in ‘arts, entertainment and recreation’, ‘accommodation and food service activities’, ‘wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles’, and ‘construction’.

⁵⁰ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Highest Level of Qualification (QS501EW)

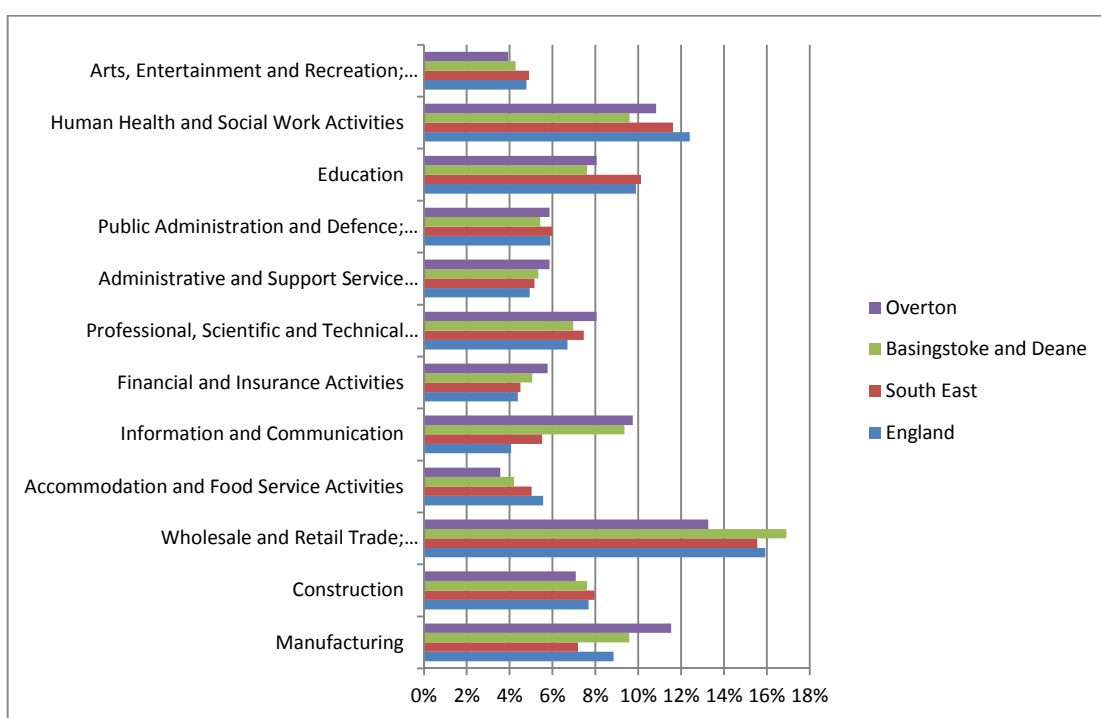


Figure 10.3: The industry of usual residents aged 16 to 74 in employment in the week of working-age residents⁵¹

Summary of future baseline

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

10.4 What are the SA Objectives and appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the plan for the Economy and Enterprise sustainability topic?

- 10.4.1 Table 10.1 presents the appraisal questions that will be used to appraise the ONP in relation to the Economy and Enterprise topic.

Table 10.1: SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions for the Economy and Enterprise topic

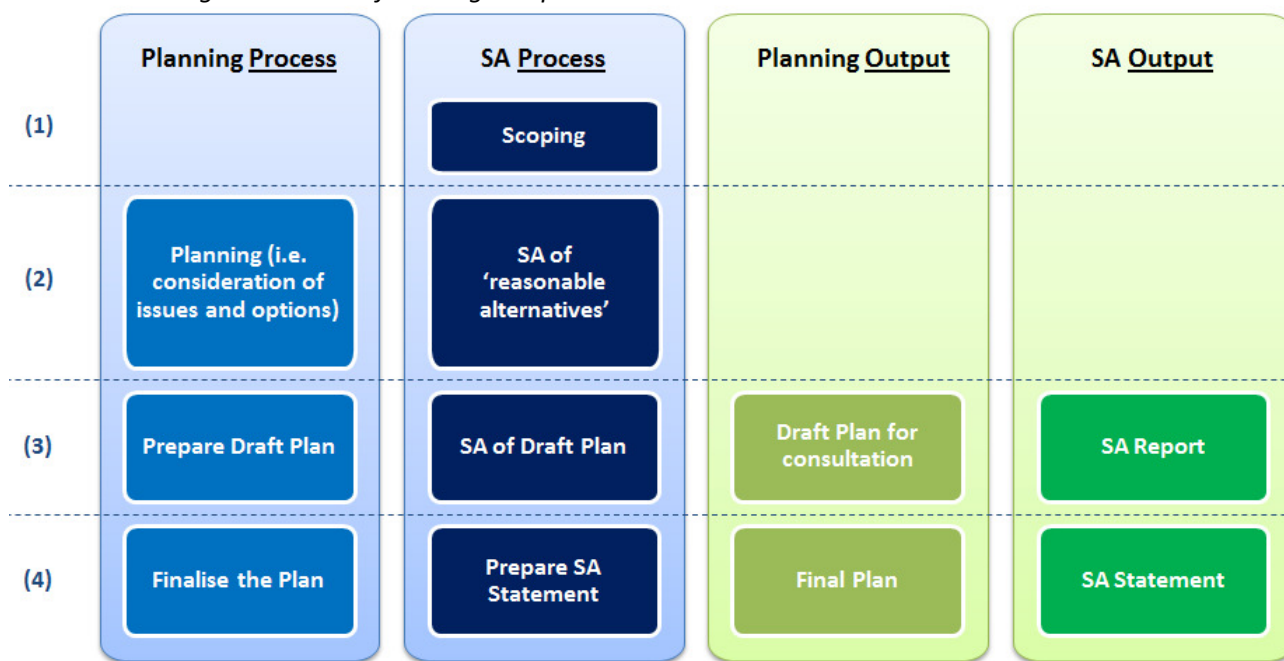
ONP SA OBJECTIVE	SA APPRAISAL QUESTIONS: ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE
Enhance the vitality and viability of the Neighbourhood Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the community offer of Overton and the range of services and facilities available? Support the economy of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to employment opportunities?

⁵¹ ONS (2011) Industry 2011 (QS605EW)

11 NEXT STEPS

11.1.1 SA scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a four-stage plan-making / SA process (see Figure 11.1).

Figure 11.1: The four stage SA process



11.1.2 The next stage (Stage 2) will involve appraising 'reasonable alternatives' for the Neighbourhood Plan. This will consider a range of options for delivering the parish's housing allocation put forward by the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.

11.1.3 The findings of the appraisal of these options will be fed back to the Neighbourhood Group so that they might be taken into account when preparing the Draft Plan. It is also anticipated that the findings will support the consultation events due to be undertaken in late January 2015.

11.1.4 Once the 'Regulation 14' Draft Plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Group, it will be subjected to SA and an SA Report prepared for consultation alongside it.

11.1.5 The SA Report must contain a range of specified information, essentially: 1) an appraisal of the Draft Plan and reasonable alternatives, 2) 'outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with'; and 3) other information including a summary of the SA scope and a description of 'measures envisaged for monitoring'.

11.1.6 The purpose of providing this information in the SA Report is to inform both a) those who might want to make representations on the Draft Plan approach / alternatives; and b) those tasked with finalising the Neighbourhood Plan subsequent to the Draft Plan consultation.

11.1.7 Subsequent to consultation on the Draft Plan / SA Report and Examination the plan will be finalised and undergo referendum. At the time of Plan adoption an 'SA Statement' will be prepared. The role of the SA Statement is essentially twofold:

- 1) It must bring the story of plan-making / SA up to date. Whereas the SA Report must only explain the reasons behind selecting the Draft Plan approach subsequent to a consideration of alternatives, the SA Statement must also explain the reasons behind decisions taken subsequent to the consultation on the Draft Plan (and the influence of the SA Report).
- 2) It must present 'measures decided concerning monitoring' (as opposed to the SA Report, which must present only 'measures envisaged concerning monitoring').

Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 11.1.8 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. At this scoping stage, the SA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 11.1.9 The statutory consultation bodies are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 11.1.10 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SA, the identified key issues and the proposed SA Framework.

Download and viewing details

- 11.1.11 The Scoping Report can be downloaded at:
<http://www.overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>
- 11.1.12 This consultation period runs from 12th December 2014 until 16th January 2015. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
 Laura Harley, Clerk, Overton Parish Council
 Email address: clerk@overtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- 11.1.13 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SA where appropriate.