

***Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan  
October 2015***

***Scoping  
Report***

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<b>Project Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Actions Summary</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Researcher</b>	Graham McGrath	Graduate Consultant	Prepared 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft		/10/15
<b>Project Manager/ Technical Specialist</b>	Alex White	Associate Director	Reviewed 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft		/10/15
<b>Director/QA</b>	Steve Smith	Technical Director	Approved 1 <sup>st</sup> draft		/10/15
<b>Qualifying Body</b>	Kingsclere Parish Council		Reviewed draft alongside Local Planning Authority		

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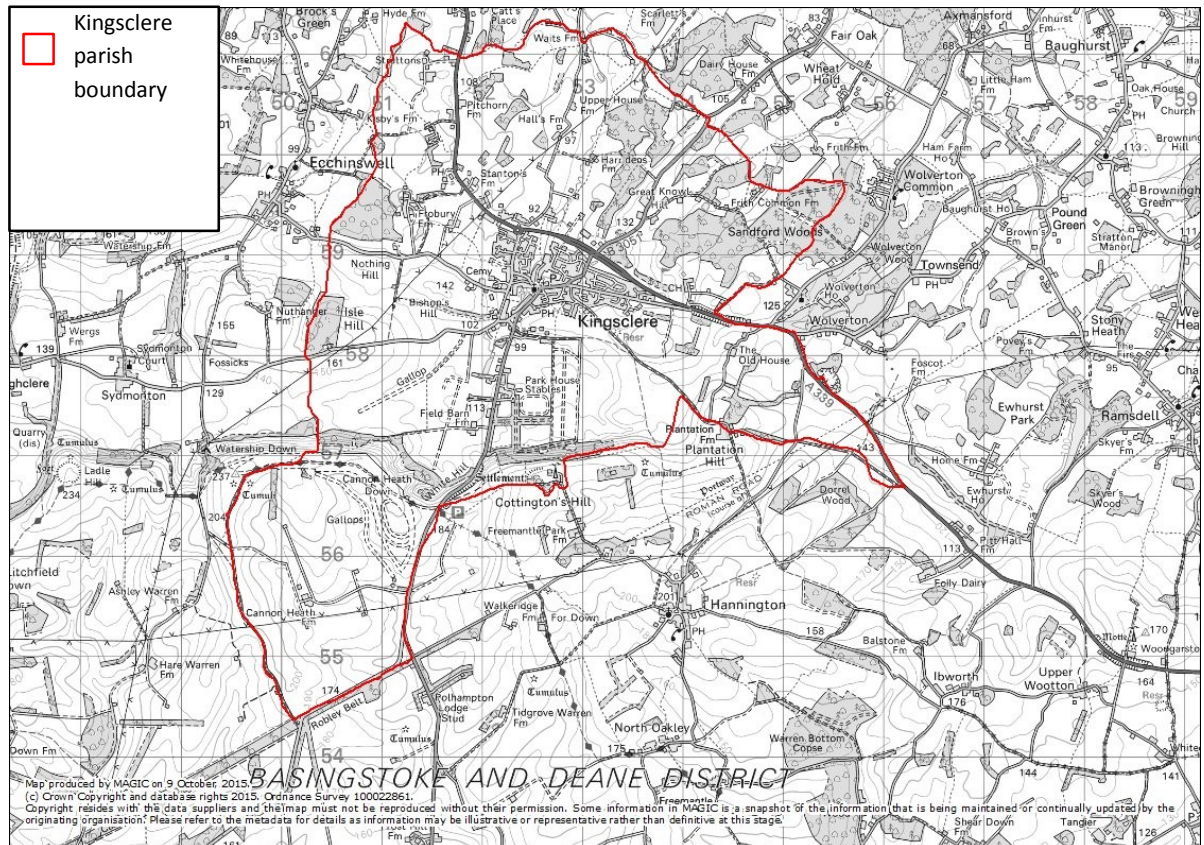
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# *Introduction*

01

# 1 Background

- 1.1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in support of the emerging Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan (KNP) which covers the Kingsclere Parish area indicated in **Figure 1.1**.



**Figure 1.1:** Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan area.

- 1.1.2 The KNP is currently being prepared by the Kingsclere Parish Council under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. The Plan is being prepared in the context of the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029. The Local Plan is currently undergoing examination and is anticipated to be adopted in spring 2016. It will, when adopted, provide a framework for how future development across the borough will be planned and delivered.
- 1.1.3 Once completed, the KNP will set out a range of policies for the parish. **Box 1.1** presents the initial objectives which have been created for the NP.

**Box 1.1:** Objectives of the Kingsclere NP

**Objectives:**

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

## 1.2 SEA explained

- 1.2.1 The KNP is being developed alongside a process of SEA, a legally required process that aims to ensure that the likely significant effects of an emerging draft plan (and reasonable alternatives) are systematically considered and communicated.
- 1.2.2 It is a requirement that SEA is undertaken in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, (the 'SEA Regulations') which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the Directive.<sup>1</sup>
- 1.2.3 In-line with the SEA Regulations, a report (the 'Environmental Report') must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that essentially presents information on the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and reasonable alternatives.<sup>2</sup> The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 of the Regulations lists the information that must be presented in the Environmental Report.

1.2.4 Presenting the required information in the Environmental Report essentially means answering the following four questions -

1. What's the scope of the SEA?
2. What has plan-making / SEA involved up to this point?
  - Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan - making / SEA iteration. 'Reasonable alternatives' must have been assessed.
3. What are the SEA findings at this stage?
  - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
4. What happens next (including monitoring)?

### 1.3 This scoping report

1.3.1 The first stage of the SEA process (stage A) is known as Screening. This step determines whether a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, and as such whether it will require an SEA. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has advised that KNP has the potential to create significant effects; consequently this plan requires an SEA. Scoping is the second stage in the SEA process and is required before actual assessment work can commence.

1.3.2 The purpose of the scoping stage is to establish which sustainability issues are relevant to the plan, and those that will, and will not be a focus of subsequent assessment work. The aim is to ensure that assessment work is appropriately focused, effective and efficient.

1.3.3 In line with guidance set out in the NPPG, Scoping involves:

- Context review – i.e. review of sustainability issues and objectives established by national and local government, as well as other influential organisations.
- Baseline review – i.e. a review of available data-sets and sources of qualitative evidence to establish the situation locally, in terms of the issues/objectives established through context review.
- Establishment of the SEA 'framework' – i.e. refinement of the issues / objectives established through context and baseline review, with a view to developing a concise list that can be used as a methodological framework for structuring subsequent assessment work.
- Consultation with the 'statutory bodies', i.e. Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency for five weeks.

1.3.4 This Scoping Report relates to the final bullet point. It presents the outcomes of context/baseline review and issues/objectives analysis, with the aim of gathering the view of stakeholders so that they might be taken on-board prior to assessment work commencing.



## 1.4 Structure of this report

1.4.1 Information on context/baseline/issues/objectives is presented below under the following topic headings:

- Air quality;
- Biodiversity;
- Climate change (including flood risk);
- Economy and enterprise.
- Health and well-being;
- Historic environment and landscape;
- Land, soil and water resources;
- Population and community;
- Transport

1.4.2 The selected topics reflect those suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the scope has been widened to include socio-economic factors (e.g. the economy and transport).

1.4.3 The topics covered by this scoping report include all three (environmental, social and economic) dimensions of sustainable development. This reflects that sustainable development is a stated objective for neighbourhood planning.<sup>4</sup>

1.4.4 **Appendix 1** presents the series of objectives and sub objectives identified for each topic heading, this comprises the SEA Framework.

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<sup>3</sup> 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]

<sup>4</sup> At examination all neighbourhood plans must demonstrate that they meet the 'basic condition' of contributing to sustainable development.

## *Scope of the assessment*

## 2 Air quality

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air pollution sources</li> <li>• Air quality management</li> </ul>
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### 2.1 Context

2.1.1 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.

2.1.2 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.

### 2.2 Baseline

#### Current baseline

2.2.1 There are no areas within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council area that have been declared as AQMA<sup>5</sup>. As such; there are no locations within Kingsclere Parish known to be at risk of exceeding national air pollutant limits. No locations are subject to air quality monitoring, and there are no AQMA.

2.2.2 The car is the predominant mode of transport for those travelling to work in the parish area. More sustainable forms of transport that have less negative impact on air quality such as cycling, walking, or public transport see a much lower level of use<sup>6</sup>. The nearest AQMA to Kingsclere Parish is located around junction 11 of the M4 which is on the southern city limits of Reading<sup>7</sup>. This is approximately 18km away.

<sup>5</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Air quality information* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=80> accessed 9 October 2015

<sup>6</sup> ONS (2011) *Method of travel to work (QS701EW)* [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=>. Accessed 9 October 2015

<sup>7</sup> Defra (undated) *AQMAs interactive map* [online] available at: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps> accessed 9 October 2015

### Future baseline

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

*"Development which is sensitive to pollution<sup>8</sup> will only be permitted where: a) There would be no detrimental impact on quality of life as a result of existing, historic, or nearby land uses and activities; and b) It would not lead to unacceptable risks to human health or the natural environment, as a result of existing, historic, or nearby land uses and activities; or c) Adequate remedial or mitigation measures are proposed and can be implemented"*<sup>9</sup>

## 2.3 Conclusions

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

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<sup>8</sup> Pollution is defined within the Local Plan as anything that affects the quality of land, air, water or soil, which might lead to an adverse impact on human health, the natural environment or general amenity

<sup>9</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/34953/Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf> accessed 9 October 2015

## 3 Biodiversity

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

#### Biodiversity

- Habitats and species
- Nature conservation designations
- Geological features

### 3.1 Context

3.1.1 At the European level, the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>10</sup> 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”*.

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

- Contribute to the government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible.
- Promote the ‘preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks’ and the ‘protection and recovery of priority species’. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- Set criteria based policies for the protection of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, giving weight to their importance not just individually but as a part of a wider ecological network.
- Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including green infrastructure (i.e. ‘a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’).
- Plan positively planning for ‘green infrastructure’ as part of planning for ‘ecological networks’.
- High quality open spaces should be protected or their loss mitigated, unless a lack of need is established.

3.1.3 The ‘Natural Environment White Paper’ (NEWP)<sup>11</sup> sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It was in part a response to the UK’s failure to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2010; it signalled a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity in nature reserves to adopting a landscape approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The NEWP also aims to create a green economy in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other and

<sup>10</sup> 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](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5b1%5d.pdf) accessed 9 October 2015

<sup>11</sup> 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> accessed 9 October 2015

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.

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

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

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

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

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

*a) There will be no significant impact on the conservation status of key species; and*

*b) There will be no adverse impact on the integrity of designated and proposed European designated sites; and*

*c) There will be no harm to nationally designated sites; and*

*d) There will be no harm to locally designated sites including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); and*

*e) There will be no loss or deterioration of a key habitat type, including irreplaceable habitats; and*

*f) There will be no harm to the integrity of linkages between designated sites and key habitats”<sup>12</sup>*

## 3.2 Baseline

### Current baseline

- 3.2.1 No sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest are present in Kingsclere Parish. The closest European designated site is the Kennet and Lambourn Flood plain, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It is approximately 5.3km to the north of the parish.
- 3.2.2 There are also no sites within the Kingsclere parish which have been nationally designated for nature conservation (e.g. Special Sites of Scientific Interest) However, the parish is located within Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) of two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The closest SSSI is Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows, which is located approximately 2km to the east and has been designated for its habitat quality, diversity of communities and number of rare and threatened species. It is mostly classed as being in unfavourable but improving condition – with some areas of the SSSI being classed as favourable.
- 3.2.3 The second SSSI is the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. This is located 3km to the north and has been designated for extensive areas of dry heath, acid grassland and neutral grassland. It is mostly classed as being in unfavourable but improving condition – with some areas of the SSSI being classed as favourable, while others are unfavourable.
- 3.2.4 The risk to these SSSI’s is most pronounced in the north of the parish. Here, any residential developments with a total net gain in residential units is listed as a risk. Further south in the parish, any developments of 50 or more residential units is listed as a risk<sup>13</sup>.
- 3.2.5 The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies a number of ‘priority habitats’ present within the parish, that are characteristic of Hampshire and which make a significant contribution to the UK aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan. There are a number of these habitats present in the parish area including:
- coastal and flood plain grazing marsh
  - lowland calcareous grassland
  - deciduous woodland and, wood pasture and parkland.
- 3.2.6 In addition, some areas of the deciduous woodland have been identified as ancient woodland. This is woodland which has existed since before 1600 in England meaning that it

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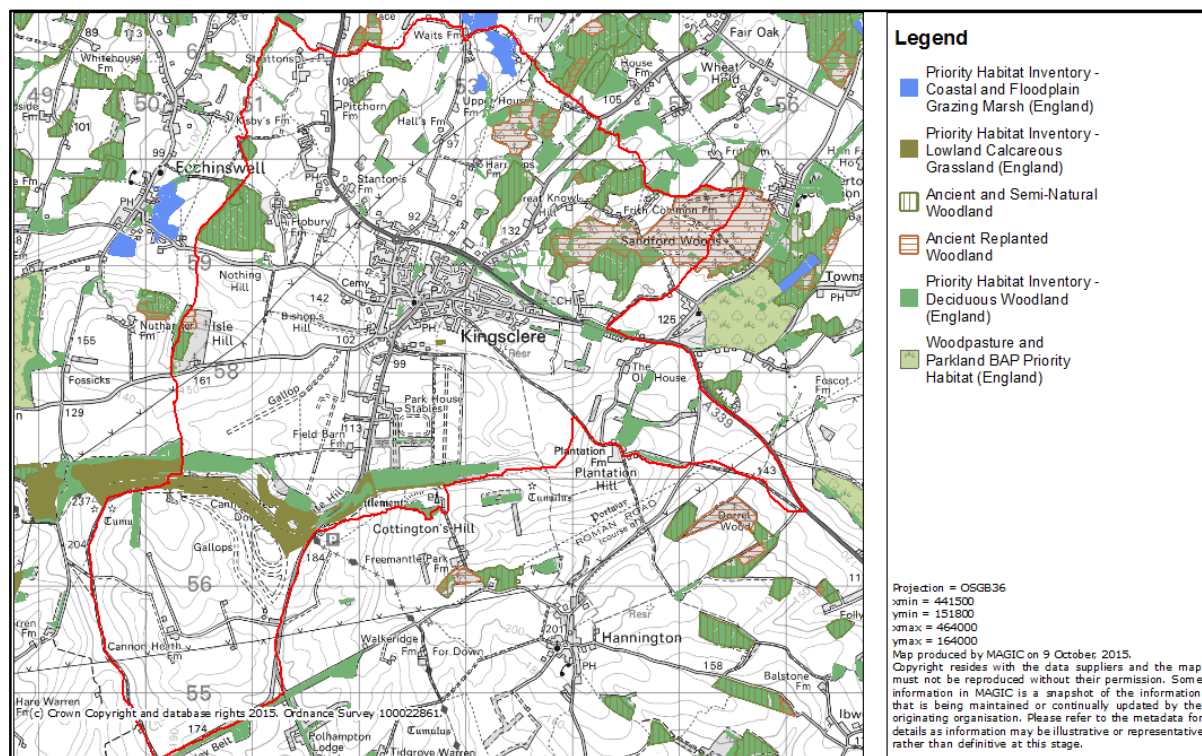
<sup>12</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/34953/Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf> accessed 9 October 2015

<sup>13</sup> Defra *Magic Interactive Map* [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> accessed 9 October 2015



will typically be composed of native species and will have an especially high biodiversity value<sup>14</sup>.

3.2.7 The location and spatial extent of these BAP priority habitats and areas of ancient woodland within the parish are shown below in **Figure 3.1**.



**Figure 3.1:** BAP priority habitats and ancient woodland in Kingsclere Parish<sup>15</sup>

3.2.8 There are also a number of areas designated as SINC within the parish. This is a non-statutory designation, which aims to protect areas that are valuable for plants and wildlife. Two of these SINC are located on potential development sites<sup>16</sup> and as such there is potential for significant negative effects from future development.

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

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

#### Future baseline

3.2.11 Sites of biodiversity importance, such as the areas of BAP priority habitats and ancient woodland, have the potential to come under pressure from an increase in the population size, and associated development. However, these are currently protected under Section

<sup>14</sup> Parliamentary Office For Science and Technology (2014) *Post note number 456: Ancient woodland*.

<sup>15</sup> Defra *Magic Interactive Map* [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> accessed 9 October 2015

<sup>16</sup> URS (2014) *Kingsclere Neighbourhood plan site assessment review final report* [online] available at: <http://www.hugofox.com/shared/attachments.asp?f=59cd6af8-f774-4566-aeeb-b00ca90e021c%2Epdf>



41 of the 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006', and this protection is likely to continue.

- 3.2.12 The sustainability appraisal (SA) of the pre-submission draft of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough local plan 2011-2025 notes that, after considering environmental, economic, and social aspects; the preferred approach for Kingsclere is an allocation of 50 dwellings. Kingsclere parish is located within IRZs of the two SSSI's, which suggest that a housing allocation of this number will present a risk to the condition of these SSSI's.
- 3.2.13 The Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI is classified as either unfavourable, but improving, or in favourable condition. There is no a causal relationship between the condition and trend; suggesting that this is more down to management regimes. The Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI is mostly classed as unfavourable but improving, however some areas are classified as unfavourable with no change. As such, any negative effect that the NP has on this SSSI should be carefully considered.
- 3.2.14 If the two potential development sites which contain SINC's are chosen for development, these SINC's will be at significant risk of damage or removal.

### 3.3 Conclusions

- 3.3.1 The plan has a role to play in conserving areas of biodiversity value, and could also deliver targeted enhancements to biodiversity through measures (e.g. 'green infrastructure') to enhance ecological connectivity. There are no sites internationally designated for their nature conservation interest within the parish area. The nearest of these is 5.3km to the north of the parish, and therefore is unlikely to be affected.
- 3.3.2 The Kingsclere parish is located within the IRZ of two SSSI's: Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI. In the north of the parish any residential developments with a total net gain in units is considered a risk. Further south in the parish, any developments of 50 or more residential units is listed as a risk<sup>17</sup>.
- 3.3.3 The SA of the of the pre-submission draft of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough local plan 2011-2025 has recommended an allocation of 50 dwellings on unspecified sites within Kingsclere Parish. Due to the parish's location within IRZ's of SSSI's, the impact which this development will have on these should be carefully considered. There is also a significant number of BAP priority habitats and areas of ancient woodland within the parish.
- 3.3.4 On this evidence, it is recommended that biodiversity should be a focus of the assessment work. As such, the following objectives have been suggested:

- 1) Protect, and where possible enhance designated biodiversity features and other features of significant biodiversity value.**

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<sup>17</sup> Defra *Magic Interactive Map* [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> accessed 9 October 2015

3.3.5 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objectives:

- Protect and enhance the integrity of the designated habitats in the parish.
- Protect and enhance areas of ancient woodland in the parish.
- Protect and enhance SINC's located in the parish
- Minimise, and where possible avoid, negative impacts on Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI.

## 4 Climate change

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

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

4.1.1 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°C.<sup>18</sup> 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.

4.1.2 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 2008<sup>19</sup>. Specifically, planning policy should support the move to a low carbon future through:
  - Planning for new development in locations and ways which reduce GHG emissions;
  - Actively supporting energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings;
  - Setting local requirements for building's sustainability in a way that is consistent with the government's zero carbon buildings policy;
  - Positively promoting renewable energy technologies and considering identifying suitable areas for their construction; and
  - Encouraging 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

<sup>18</sup> 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>

<sup>19</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.

4.1.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010<sup>20</sup> highlights that alternatives to traditional engineering approaches to flood risk management include:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retro-fitting properties at risk (including historic buildings);
- Utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding, for example through the management of land to reduce runoff and through harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water;
- Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Planning to roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion ; and
- Creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)<sup>21</sup>

4.1.4 Further guidance is provided in the document 'Planning for SuDs'<sup>22</sup>. This report calls for greater recognition of the multiple benefits that water management can present. It suggests that successful SuDS are capable of *"contributing to local quality of life and Green Infrastructure"*.

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

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

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

*"Climate change mitigation and adaption, and minimising carbon emissions will be key for the future success of the borough; our approach will therefore embrace cleaner and smarter growth that focuses on productivity gains which do not compromise the quality of the environment."*<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>21</sup> Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 came into force on 1 October 2012, making it mandatory for any development in England or Wales to incorporate SuDS.

<sup>22</sup> 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>

<sup>23</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Revised Pre-Submission Local Plan 2011-2025* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26203/2%20Revised%20Pre-Submission%20Local%20Plan.pdf> accessed 9 October 2015

- 4.1.7 A range of policies are in place to deliver specific aspects of the climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives. With regards to adaptation, Policy EM5 – ‘Green Infrastructure’ and its accompanying green infrastructure strategy highlight that green infrastructure can be used to create natural drainage, flood water storage, and pollution and microclimate control.
- 4.1.8 Policy EM7 – ‘Managing Flood Risk’ ensures that an increased flood risk - which has been identified as an impact of climate change - is taken into account for development, as identified by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- 4.1.9 With regards to mitigation, the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council climate change strategy<sup>24</sup> outlines a council plan up to 2017 to: *“Take action to reduce energy use and introduce renewable energy, both for our own premises and the borough”*. The strategy outlines the specific actions which will be undertaken to achieve this plan. This includes a green investment fund which will be used to support borough residents, businesses and community groups to finance proposals to introduce renewable energy and improve insulation.
- 4.1.10 Until the emerging Local Plan has been adopted, the extant Local Plan (1996-2011)<sup>25</sup> still carries significant weight in the planning process. The adopted plan does not contain any specific policies or strategies relating to climate change, however it does contain a number which are pertinent to managing the effects of, and mitigating, climate change. These include;
- Policy E8, which states: “development will not be permitted if it would increase the number of people or property at high risk of flooding, or be likely to increase the risk or severity of flooding elsewhere”
  - Policy E1, which states that, as part of its requirement for high standard of design all development proposals should: “incorporate features to minimise the energy consumed in the construction and future use of the building, conserve water and minimise water use.”

## 4.2 Baseline

### Current Baseline

- 4.2.1 The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team<sup>26</sup>. 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.

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<sup>24</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2014) *Climate Change Strategy for Basingstoke and deane borough Council* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/doclib/334.pdf> accessed 12 October 2015.

<sup>25</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (2006) *adopted local plan 1996-2011* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/DP01> accessed 12 October 2015

<sup>26</sup> The data was released on 18th June 2009: See: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

4.2.2 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the South East by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario<sup>27</sup> 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%.

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

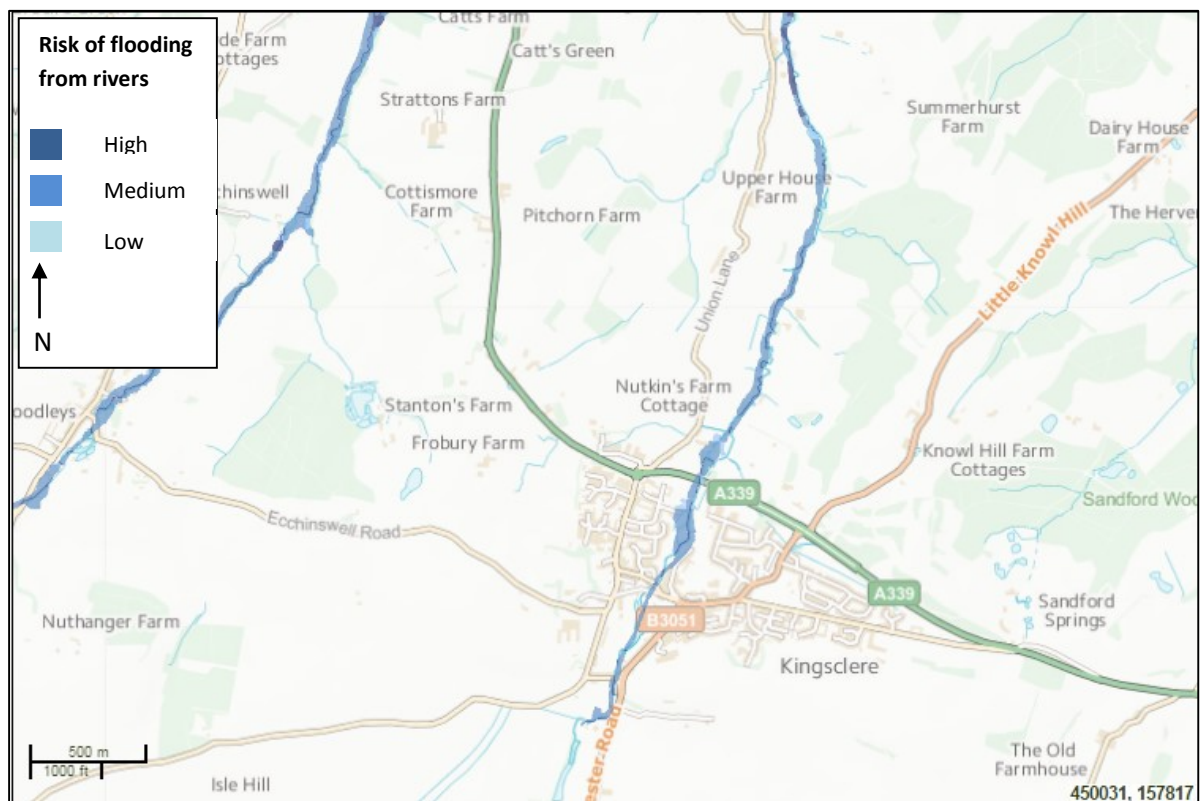
- increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- increased incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- increase in health problems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

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<sup>27</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290> accessed 12 October 2015

- 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.

4.2.4 The flood plain of the Gailey Brook runs through the village of Kingsclere, this results in a predominantly medium risk of flooding along the length of the Gailey Brook. As shown in **Figure 4.1**.



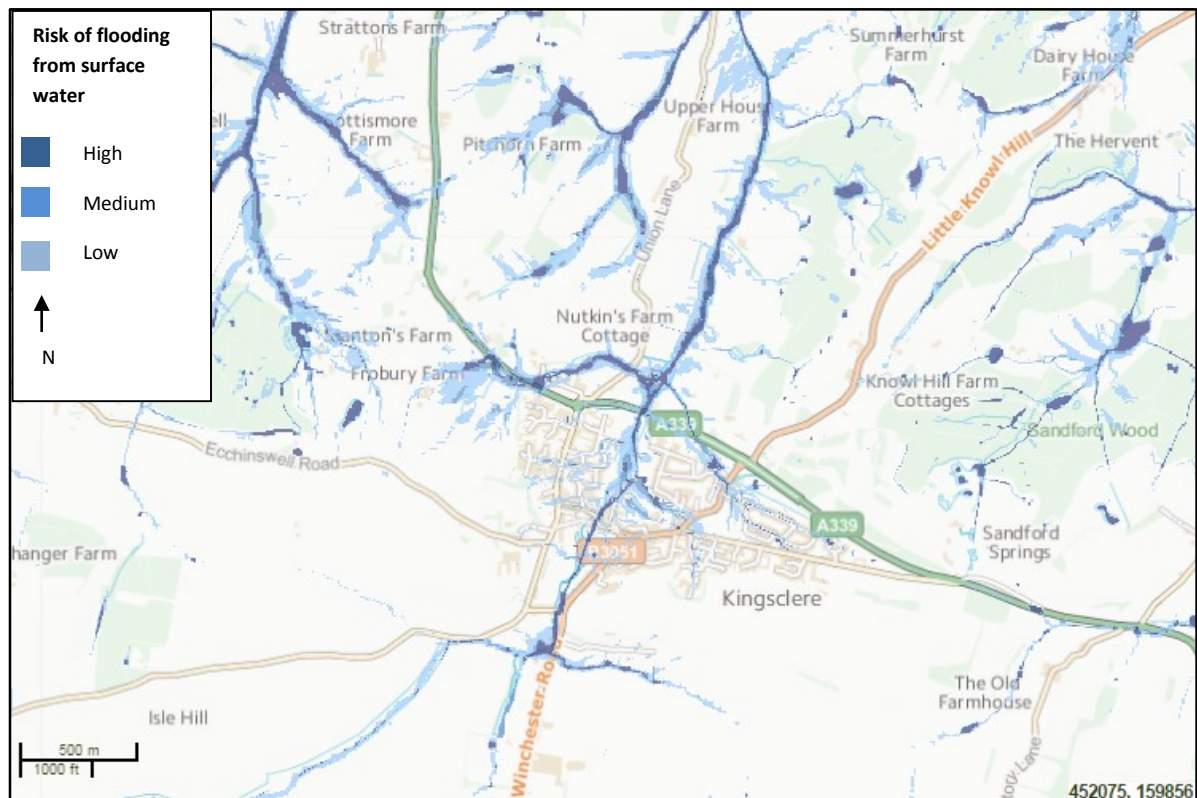
**Figure 4.1:** The risk of flooding from rivers in Kingsclere parish.

4.2.5 The Basingstoke and Deane strategic flood risk assessment report (SFRA)<sup>28</sup> notes that despite this risk, no incidents of the stream over topping are known of. The report does

<sup>28</sup> Halcrow (January 2010) *Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/26006/1%20Strategic%20Flood%20Risk%20Assessment.pdf> accessed 12 October 2015



however note that surface run off is a problem in the south east of the village. **Figure 4.2** displays the risk of flooding from surface run off for the whole of the parish.



**Figure 4.2:** Risk of surface water flooding in Kingsclere parish

- 4.2.6 As **Figure 4.2** illustrates there is a significantly larger area of land at some level of risk of flooding from surface water when compared to risk from river flooding. Surface water flood risk is important to taken into consideration within the NP because, as noted by the Basingstoke and Deane SFRA, development has the potential to alter the pattern of flood risk and therefore impact on areas outside the development site.
- 4.2.7 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change<sup>29</sup> (shown in **Table 4.1**) suggests that Basingstoke and Deane borough has had consistently higher *per capita* emissions than for Hampshire, the South East and England since 2005. The borough has seen smaller reductions in emissions *per capita* between 2005 and 2012 (16.5%) compared to Hampshire (23.3%), the South East (18.3%) and England (a 17.7% reduction).

<sup>29</sup> 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 15 September 2015)



**Table 4.1** Carbon dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita 2005-2012

	<i>Industrial and commercial (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Domestic (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Road and transport (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Total (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>
<b>Basingstoke &amp; Deane</b>				
2005	3.3	2.5	3.9	9.7
2006	3.2	2.6	3.8	9.7
2007	3.1	2.5	3.8	9.5
2008	3.0	2.4	3.6	9.1
2009	2.7	2.2	3.4	8.4
2010	2.8	2.3	3.4	8.6
2011	2.5	2.0	3.3	7.9
2012	2.6	2.2	3.2	8.1
<b>Hampshire</b>				
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
<b>South East England</b>				
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

	<i>Industrial and commercial (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Domestic (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Road and transport (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>	<i>Total (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</i>
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
<b>England</b>				
2005	3.7	2.5	2.3	8.5
2006	3.7	2.5	2.2	8.4
2007	3.5	2.4	2.2	8.2
2008	3.4	2.4	2.1	8.0
2009	2.9	2.1	2.0	7.1
2010	3.0	2.3	2.0	7.3
2011	2.7	2.0	1.9	6.7
2012	2.9	2.2	1.9	7.0

4.2.8 In relation to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by end user, between 2005 and 2012 the proportion of emissions originating from industrial and commercial sources in the borough fell slightly from 34% to 32%. In the same period the proportion of total emissions from domestic sources increased slightly from 25% to 27%; road transport remained the same.

#### Future baseline

4.2.9 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the parish, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team have estimated that under a medium emissions scenario, the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is an increase of 16%<sup>30</sup>, while there is estimated to be an average drop in summer precipitation of 19%. This is likely to increase the risk of flooding in winter months and increase water shortages during summer months with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

4.2.10 The Climate Change Partnership for the South East has produced a report detailing the risks faced in the region from climate change. Flooding was identified as a major risk, particularly to businesses and the local economy, where it could cause damage to assets,

<sup>30</sup> UK climate projections (2009) *South East 2050s medium emissions scenario* [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>

stock, and premises. The possibility of un-insurability and reputational damage represent significant threats.<sup>31</sup>

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

## 4.3 Conclusions

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

**2) Mitigate the impacts of climate change in Kingsclere parish**

**3) Support the resilience of Kingsclere parish to the potential effects of climate change.**

- 4.3.5 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objectives:
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Support reduced car dependency and increased walking, cycling and public transport use
  - Improve parish resilience to the estimated increase in frequency and severity of winter flooding, and summer time water shortages, through appropriate measures (i.e green infrastructure).

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<sup>31</sup> Climate South East (2012) *A summary of Climate Change Risks for the South East of England* [online] available at: [http://www.climatesoutheast.org.uk/images/uploads/South\\_East\\_LOW\\_RES.pdf](http://www.climatesoutheast.org.uk/images/uploads/South_East_LOW_RES.pdf) accessed 12 October 2015

## 5 Economy and enterprise

SEA Topic	Themes considered
Economy and enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Economic and employment sectors</li><li>Skills and qualifications</li></ul>

### 5.1 Context

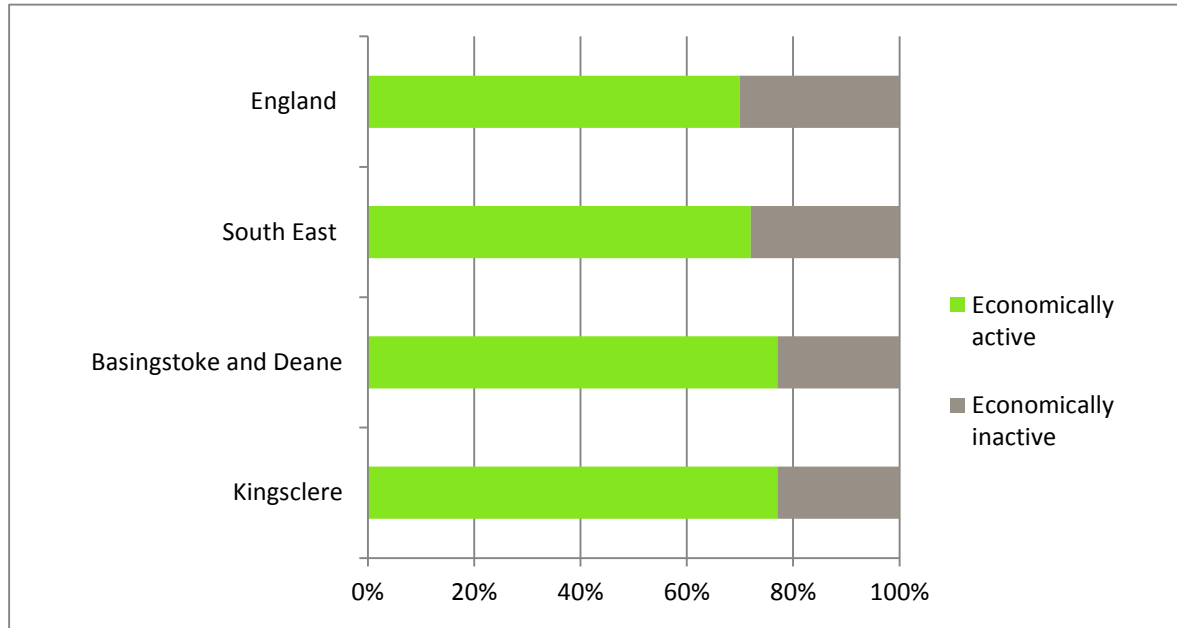
5.1.1 Key messages from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include:

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

### 5.2 Baseline

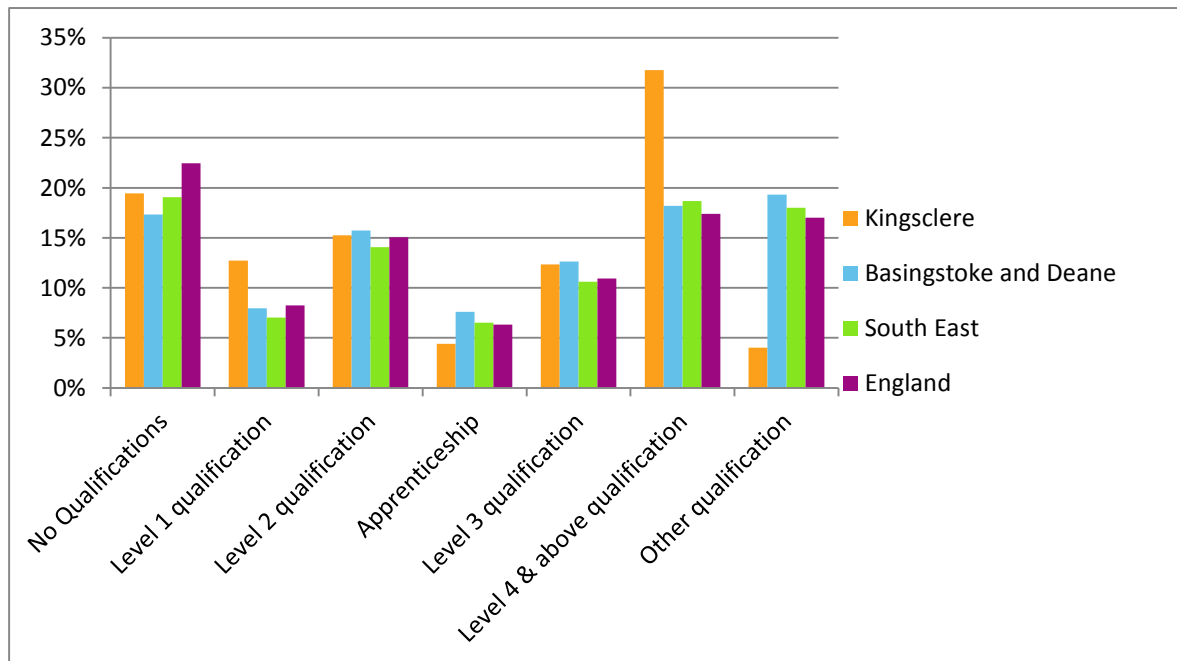
#### Current baseline

- 5.2.1 **Figure 5.1** illustrates that economic activity rates within the parish are in line with borough levels. These levels are higher than regional and national averages. Rates of full time employment (59%) in Kingsclere are higher than across Basingstoke and Deane (47.9%) and significantly higher than regional (40.5%) and national (38.6%) levels.
- 5.2.2 Rates of self-employment (both with and without employees) are also higher than borough, regional, and national averages. In contrast, the number of retired residents is broadly comparable with national averages.



**Figure 5.1:** economic activity of residents aged 16-74

5.2.3 **Figure 5.2** shows the highest level of qualification attained by residents in Kingsclere compared with the Basingstoke and Deane Borough, the South East, and England averages<sup>32</sup>.



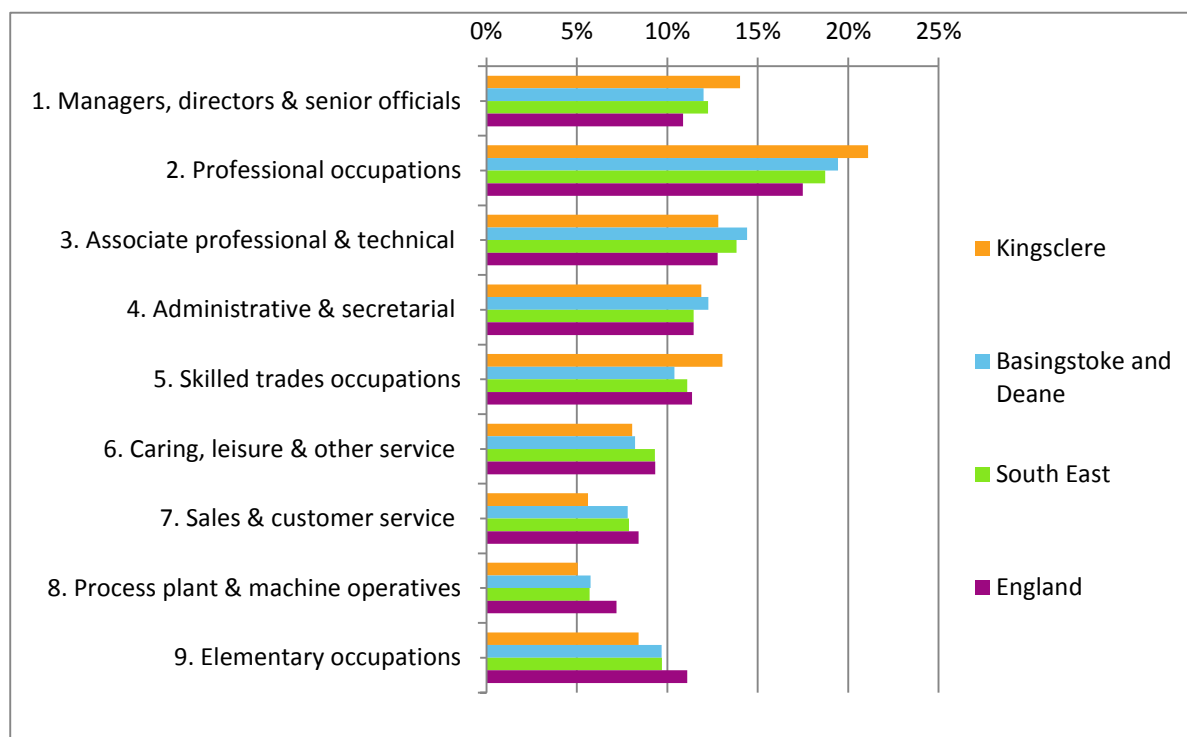
**Figure 5.2:** Highest level of qualification

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

<sup>32</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Highest Level of Qualification (QS501EW)

averages. **Figure 5.2** also indicates a below national average level of apprenticeships in the area.

5.2.5 **Figure 5.3** demonstrates the occupation of working-age residents. Overall, the occupation profile shows that there are larger numbers of: managers, directors & senior officials; professionals; and skilled trade's people, than when compared with borough, regional, and national averages.



**Figure 5.3:** Employment occupation of residents aged 16-74<sup>33</sup>

5.2.6 Conversely there are fewer people working in sales and customer services, and caring, leisure and other service based roles than borough, regional, and national averages. This, together with the educational information found in **Figure 5.2** indicates a highly educated, skilled workforce.

### Future baseline

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

## 5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 The local economy in Kingsclere is remarkably strong in a national context. Economic activity of residents aged 16-74 are inline with borough values, and higher than regional and national averages. The workforce is also highly qualified, with a higher proportion of

<sup>33</sup> ONS (2011) *industry 2011* (KS608EW) [online] available at: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=> accessed 12 October 2015

residents working in skilled jobs such as trades persons and professional occupations when compared to regional and national averages.

- 5.3.2 The local economy is strong, and the NP objectives thus far considered (as shown in **Box 1.1**) do not set out significant objectives with regard to the local economy or aspects of this such as job creation. After consideration of the scale of development likely to occur within Kingsclere, and review of the baseline data, it is concluded that economy and enterprise can be scoped out of the SEA.

## 6 Health and well-being

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

Health and well-being

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

### 6.1 Context

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 In relation to other key national messages in relation to health, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*<sup>34</sup> (‘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”*.

6.1.3 The increasing role that local level authorities are expected to play in providing health outcomes is demonstrated by recent government legislation. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred responsibility for public health from the NHS to local government<sup>35</sup>, 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.

<sup>34</sup> 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>

<sup>35</sup> Upper tier and unitary local authorities



## 6.2 Baseline

### Current baseline

**Table 6.1:** General health<sup>36</sup>

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

6.2.1 As highlighted in **Table 6.1** general health across Kingsclere Parish is broadly favourable when compared to regional and national averages, and slightly less favourable than the Basingstoke and Deane average. 49% of people in Kingsclere reported that they were in ‘very good’ health<sup>37</sup>, which is slightly below borough values, similar to regional averages and above national averages. The proportion of people in ‘very bad health’ is slightly higher than borough averages, but lower than regional and national averages.

6.2.2 No data exists for the plan area for life expectancy and health indicators. However, at the borough level the 2014 Health Profile<sup>38</sup> shows that life expectancy in Basingstoke and Deane is 80.8 for men and 83.0 for women; slightly above the national average of 79.2 and 83, respectively. Life expectancy is 6.7 years lower for men and 4.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Basingstoke and Deane than in the least deprived areas. Local priorities in Basingstoke and Deane include lifestyle risks, healthy ageing, and mental health.

### Future baseline

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

6.2.4 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue in the UK by health professionals, and one that will contribute to a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer<sup>39</sup>. 2011 data for Basingstoke and Deane shows that the borough has an adult obesity level of 23.9%. This is broadly comparable to the national average of 24.2% and

<sup>36</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

<sup>37</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

<sup>38</sup> Public Health England (2014) Health Profile 2014 [online] available at:

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

<sup>39</sup> NHS (2014) [online] available at: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/obesity/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

suggests that obesity could contribute negatively to the health of the Kingsclere Parish population in the future.<sup>40</sup>

## 6.3 Conclusions

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

### **4) Promote the health and well-being of Kingsclere's residents**

- 6.3.4 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objectives:
- Promote accessibility to health and community facilities, particularly for older age groups.
  - Provide and enhance the provision of community access to active recreation (e.g. walking and cycling).

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<sup>40</sup> Public Health England (2011) *Health Profile 2011 Basingstoke and Deane* [online] available at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=50461>

## 7 *Historic environment and landscape*

<i>SEA Topic</i>	<i>Themes considered</i>
Historic environment and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Designated and non-designated sites and areas</li><li>• Setting of cultural heritage assets</li><li>• Landscape and townscape quality</li><li>• Archaeological assets</li></ul>

### 7.1 Context

7.1.1 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.

7.1.2 The government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England<sup>41</sup> 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.

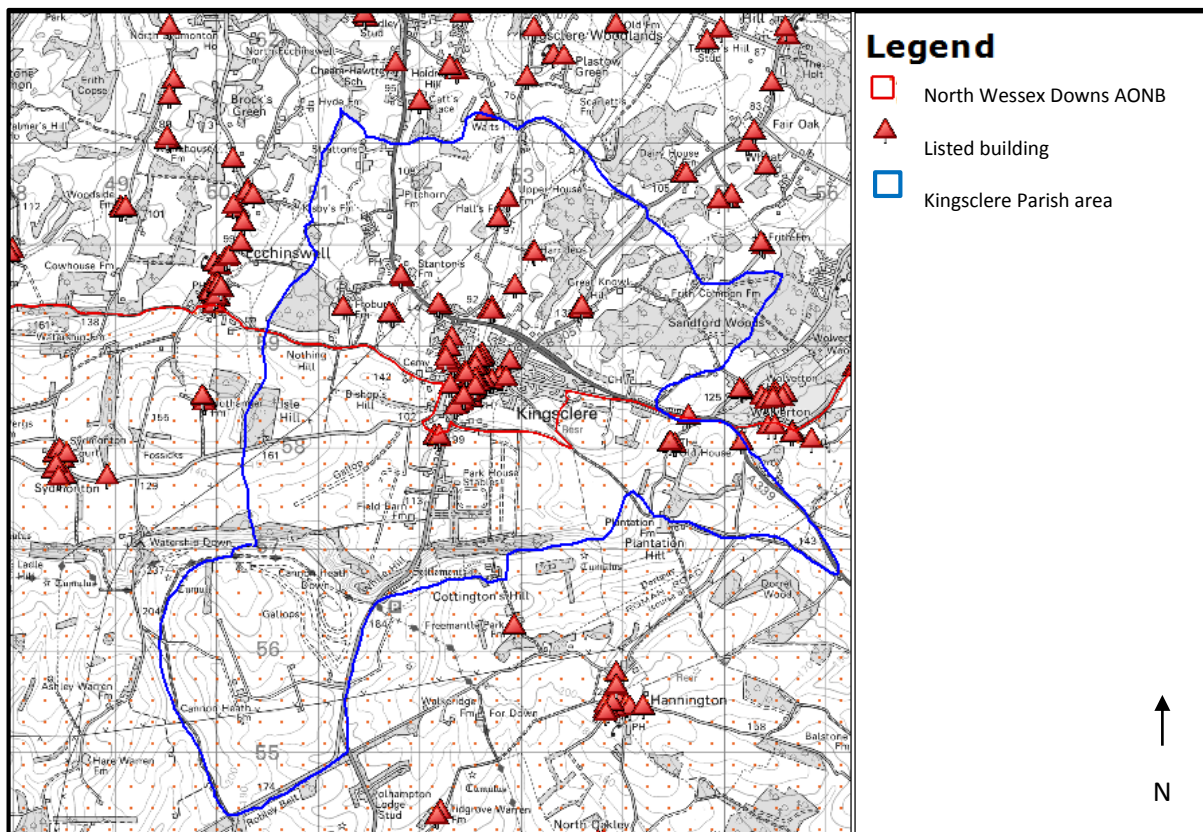
7.1.3 A significant portion of the southern area of Kingsclere parish is situated within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The consultation draft of the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 sets out a wide ranging vision for the AONB, incorporating aspects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

<sup>41</sup> 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](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx)

## 7.2 Baseline

### Current Baseline

- 7.2.1 The Kingsclere Parish is particularly sensitive in regard to historic environment features, heritage assets and surrounding landscape. **Figure 7.1** provides an over view of some of the key constraints (listed buildings and the North Wessex Downs AONB). There is a high density of listed buildings within the parish area –particularly within Kingsclere Village.



**Figure 7.1** Listed buildings and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the parish

- 7.2.2 The village also has a designated conservation area, which recognises the special architectural and historic interest present in the settlement. In this regard there is a total of 65 listed buildings in the conservation area, of which there are two grade II\* building's (the Church of St Mary and 20 Swan Street). A grade II\* listing denotes that these buildings are of national importance. The remaining 63 buildings are listed as grade II (of local or regional interest). Outside of the conservation area, there is a total of 38 other grade II listed buildings present within the parish<sup>42</sup>.
- 7.2.3 As previously stated, a significant portion of the parish is located within the North Wessex Downs AONB. The boundary of the AONB extends east-west across the parish area immediately to south of Kingsclere Village. Consequently land area to the south of the

<sup>42</sup> Basingstoke and Deal borough Council (2004) *Conservation area appraisal: Kingsclere* [online] available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/33822/Conservation%20Area%20Appraisal%20for%20Kingsclere.pdf> accessed 13 October 2015

A339 (in the east of the parish), and south of Ecchinswell Road (in the west of the parish) falls within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

- 7.2.4 The North Wessex Downs were designated as an AONB in 1972 under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. Following the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the government confirmed that the landscape qualities of National Parks and AONBs are equivalent. As such the protection given by the land use planning system to natural beauty in both types of area should be equivalent
- 7.2.5 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 woodland, and arable lands.
- 7.2.6 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II\* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. The 2014 Heritage at Risk Register<sup>43</sup> highlighted that there are no features in the parish deemed to be at risk.
- 7.2.7 It should be noted that not all of the area's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. For example, although not listed, many buildings and areas are of historic interest, and are seen as important by local communities. For example, there are no registered parks or gardens within the parish area, however, there are likely to be parks and wider historic landscape assets which are important to the residents of the parish. Undesignated actual or potential archaeological finds in the area are also of significance

#### Future baseline

- 7.2.8 New development areas in the parish have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets. This includes through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and Local Plan policies will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance.
- 7.2.9 New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. Kingsclere is likely to be particularly susceptible to this due to its historic village core, and the large proportion of the parish within the North Wessex Downs AONB.

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<sup>43</sup> Historic England (2014) Heritage at Risk Register [online] available at: <http://risk.historicengland.org.uk/register.aspx> accessed 13 October 2015

## 7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The NPPF outlines guidance on the value of local historic areas and valued landscapes, whilst promoting the enhancement and conservation of 'irreplaceable resources'. In this context, Kingsclere parish is home to a total of 106 listed buildings, 68 of which are within the Kingsclere Village conservation area. Of these listed buildings two are designated as grade II\* showing that they are of national importance. However, none of these buildings have been identified by Historic England as at risk.

7.3.2 A significant portion of the parish area - south of the A339 and Ecchinswell Road - is located within the North Wessex Downs AONB. In the context of the high density of listed buildings and sensitive landscape it is deemed necessary to consider the impacts on the historic environment and landscape within the SEA.

7.3.3 In order to consider the historic environment and landscape, the following objectives are proposed:

**5) Protect, maintain and enhance Kingsclere's cultural heritage resources, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.**

**6) Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes.**

7.3.4 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objectives

- Preserve and enhance the setting and integrity of heritage assets
- Support access to the historic environment
- Protect and enhance townscape features
- Protect and enhance the North Wessex Downs AONB

## 8 Land, soil and water resources

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

Land, soil and water resources

- Soils and agricultural land
- Water resources
- Waste management

### 8.1 Context

8.1.1 The EU's Soil Thematic Strategy<sup>44</sup> presents a strategy for protecting soil resources in Europe. The main aim of the strategy is to minimise soil degradation and limit associated detrimental effects linked to water quality and quantity, human health, climate change, biodiversity, and food safety.

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

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

8.1.3 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'.

<sup>44</sup> European Commission (2006) Soil Thematic Policy [online] available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)



- 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.

8.1.4 At the national level, other key documents produced by Defra include '*Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England*'<sup>45</sup>, which sets out a vision for soil use in England, and '*Water for Life*' document<sup>46</sup>, 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*<sup>47</sup> recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

## 8.2 Baseline

### Current Baseline

- 8.2.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into five grades (plus 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are the 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. The entire Kingsclere parish is defined as Grade 3 'good to moderate'. However, it is unclear from the available data whether this is 3a or 3b land.
- 8.2.2 There is a recycling centre at the provided at the Fieldgate Community Centre in Kingsclere. The nearest household waste centre, and next closest recycling centre, is located on Newtown Road, Newbury which is 6.9 miles away from Kingsclere Village. Kingsclere is close to the border with West Berkshire and as such, many residents tend to use facilities provided in Newbury rather than Basingstoke.
- 8.2.3 Regarding surface water bodies, as discussed in Chapter 4, Gailey Brook runs through the parish area. It enters from the north and flows through Kingsclere Village to the south.
- 8.2.4 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 groundwater contamination in the area. Regarding the susceptibility of ground water within the parish area to pollution, there is a Zone 1 and Zone 2<sup>48</sup> SPZ underlying Kingsclere Village.

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<sup>45</sup> 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>

<sup>46</sup> Defra (2011) *Water for life (The Water White Paper)* [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Defra (2011) *Government Review of Waste Policy in England* [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> A Zone 1 is defined as the 50 day travel time for from any point below the water table to the source. This zone has a minimum radius of 50 metres, a Zone 2 is defined by a 400 day travel time from a point below the water table



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

#### Future Baseline

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

8.2.7 Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates and move towards zero waste to landfill. However, the population size and level of development foreseen within the parish is unlikely to impose a significant negative effect on recycling and waste management facilities within the Basingstoke and Deane Borough. Furthermore, Defra's estimation for waste growth shows that national waste growth and estimates of future waste arising are expected to remain consistent with current levels<sup>49</sup>. This is because widespread initiatives to reduce waste and improve materials reuse and recycling are likely to reduce long-term production of waste.

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

8.2.9 Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought which is estimated to become increasingly prevalent in the South East, as the effects of climate change take hold<sup>50</sup>

### 8.3 Conclusions

8.3.1 The entirety of the Kingsclere parish is defined as Grade 3 agricultural land. However, it is unclear whether this is 3b, or 3a (the best and most versatile) land. There is one significant surface water body in the area: the Gailey Brook, which flows north-south through Kingsclere Village. There is also a Zone 1 and Zone 2 SPZ, located directly underneath Kingsclere Village. This indicates that the groundwater in this area is susceptible to pollution causing activities. An area to the south east of the village is designated as an NVZ,

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<sup>49</sup> Defra (2015) Provisional Statistics on Waste Managed by Local Authorities in England including April to June 2014.

<sup>50</sup> UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/22290>

and a there is an area in the south of the parish designated as at risk from eutrophication. On this evidence, it is recommended that Land, Soil and Water resources should be a focus of the assessment work. As such, the following objectives have been suggested:

- 7) Ensure the more efficient use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.**
- 8) Protect, and where possible enhance, groundwater and surface water bodies**

8.3.2 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objectives

- Promote the use of previously developed land where possible
- Minimize the risk to groundwater SPZs, and where possible avoid development which has potential to negatively impact on these.
- Protect, and where possible enhance the quality of Gailey Brook and other surface water bodies.

## 9 Population and community

<i>SEA Topic</i>	<i>Themes considered</i>
Population and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population characteristics</li> <li>• Deprivation</li> <li>• House prices and affordability</li> </ul>

### 9.1 Context

#### 9.1.1 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’.

9.1.2 The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report ‘Ready for Ageing?’<sup>51</sup> warns that society is underprepared for a proportional increase in the number of older people within the population. The report says that *“longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises”*. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

## 9.2 Baseline

### Current baseline

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

**Table 9.1** Population growth 2001 - 2011<sup>52</sup>

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

9.2.2 The age structure of Kingsclere in comparison to Basingstoke and Deane, the South East, and England wide averages is shown in **Table 9.2**. 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.

<sup>51</sup> 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/> accessed 12 October 2015

<sup>52</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Population Density, 2001 (UV041) [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=13692258&c=kingsclere&d=14&e=16&g=6428635&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1444740416006&enc=1&dsFamilyId=75> accessed 12 October 2015

**Table 9.2:** Age structure (2011)<sup>53</sup>

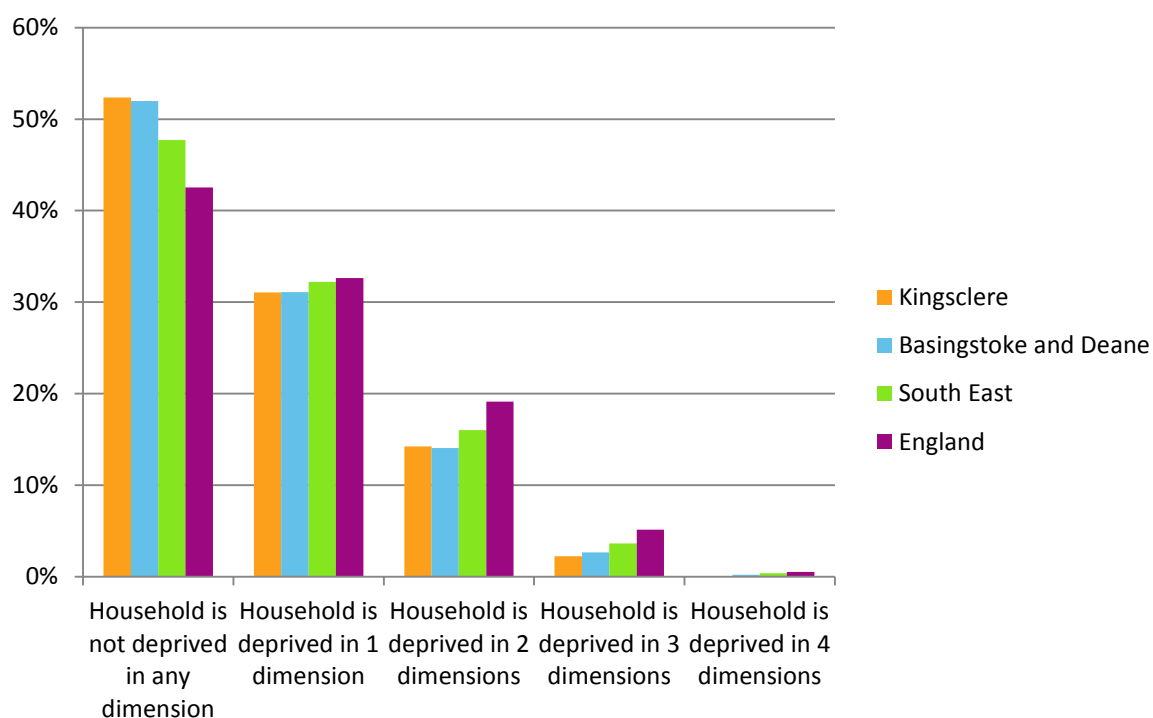
<i>Age group</i>	<i>Kingsclere</i>	<i>Basingstoke and Deane</i>	<i>South East</i>	<i>England</i>
<b>0-15</b>	557 (18%)	33,852 (20%)	1,642,084 (19%)	10,022,836 (19%)
<b>16-24</b>	253 (8%)	16,339 (10%)	969,055 (11%)	6,284,760 (12%)
<b>25-44</b>	728 (23%)	48,548 (29%)	2,289,335 (27%)	14,645,152 (28%)
<b>45-59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

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

9.2.4 Census statistics measure deprivation across four 'dimensions' of deprivation<sup>54</sup> including: any member of a household not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick; education (no person in the household has at least level 2 education, and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student); health and disability (any person in the household has general health 'bad or 'very bad' or has a long term health problem); and housing (household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating -1 or less, or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating). Based on these dimensions, Kingsclere has deprivation levels that are slightly lower than that of borough, regional, and national averages, and with a lower proportion of households with deprivation in 2 and 3 dimensions than the borough, regional and national averages. This shows that proportionally there are fewer deprived households, and as such, more households with a higher quality of life. This is shown in **Figure 9.1**

<sup>53</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS102EW)

<sup>54</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Households by Deprivation Dimensions, 2011 (QS119EW)



**Figure 9.1** Relative household deprivation dimensions

9.2.5 Data from the DCLG indicates that the median selling price of property<sup>55</sup> 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.

9.2.6 The affordability ratio illustrates the relationship between the average income in the area to average house price in the area; the affordability ratio for Basingstoke & Deane in 2013 was 6.89, a decrease from 7.36 in 2010. This is higher than the average ratio of 6.72 for England<sup>56</sup> and means that homes are less affordable in the area than the national average.

9.2.7 **Figure 9.2** shows the tenure of households<sup>57</sup> in Kingsclere Parish in comparison with those in Basingstoke & Deane, the South East, and England. A slightly higher proportion of Kingsclere residents live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (68.8% in total), than borough (67.7%), regional (67.6%) or national (63.3%) averages. Conversely Kingsclere has a lower proportion of people that rent privately (8.8%) than at borough, regional and national level.

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

<sup>55</sup> 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:

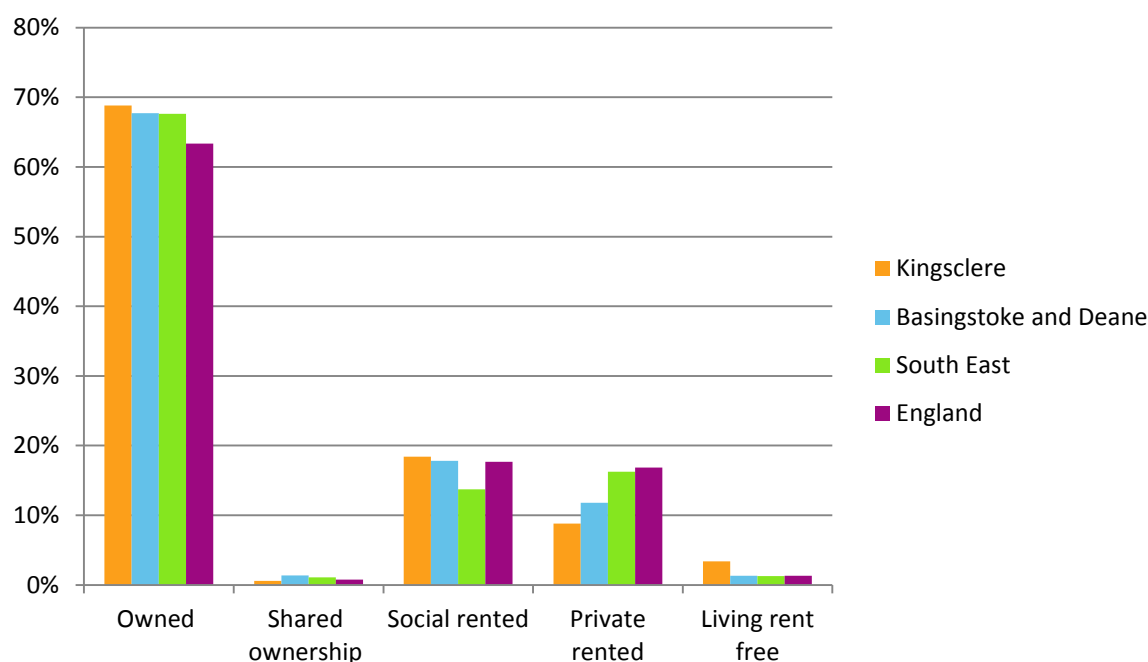
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> (accessed 06/11/2014)

<sup>56</sup> 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.

<sup>57</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Tenure - Households, 2011 (QS405EW)



**Figure 9.2:** Tenure by household

9.2.9 In 2013 there were 6,673 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Basingstoke and Deane, an increase of 595 since 2010.<sup>58</sup> There has been a decrease of 409 households on local authority housing waiting lists in Hampshire as a whole from 2010 to 2013.

#### Future baseline

9.2.10 The proportion of older people within the population is likely to continue to increase in the future, while the total number of residents may stay relatively stable or decrease slightly, as seen from the 0.2% decrease in population size between 2001 and 2011. **Table 9.2** suggests that there are currently significantly lower levels of residents aged 25-44 compared with national averages. As such it is important to create and maintain future employment opportunities in the local area to encourage a proportional increase in numbers of working age residents within the population of Kingsclere Parish.

9.2.11 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 NP. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

## 9.3 Conclusions

9.3.1 Kingsclere has a population base which is largely consistent with national, regional and local levels between up to the age of 24. However, it has a lower proportion of those in the 25 to 44 age group, and as discussed previously, a higher proportion of residents over the age of 59 when compared with borough, regional, and national averages. Levels of deprivation within Kingsclere are broadly comparable with Basingstoke and Deane, and lower than regional and national averages.

<sup>58</sup> 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.

9.3.2 An issue which requires consideration not only within Kingsclere, but across England is an ageing population, and as discussed previously, plans need to consider the provision of housing for older residents. Furthermore, population growth in the area will need to be appropriately managed to minimise potential impacts and maximise accessibility to services, facilities and amenities and new community and employment provision in the parish should reflect existing and future needs.

9.3.3 Therefore, the following objective is proposed in relation to population and communities:

**9) Provide a range of housing types appropriate for the local community including; affordable housing and starter homes, specialist housing for older persons, and a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.**

9.3.4 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objective

- Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities.
- Address the population decline and imbalance in the resident population age profile.



## 10 Transport

### SEA Topic

### Themes considered

Transport

- Traffic flows and congestion
- Car ownership and travel to work

### 10.1 Context

10.1.1 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. Specific policies from the plan which contribute towards aims found in UK and European transport plans are:

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

### 10.2 Baseline

#### Current baseline

#### Rail network

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

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

10.2.3 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*

10.2.4 Kingsclere is connected to both Basingstoke and Newbury via the number 32 link bus, with services every 30 minutes Monday to Saturday (except Banks Holidays). In addition there is a service between Kingsclere and Basingstoke at 35 min past the hour starting at Wellmans Meadow from 9.35am to 2.35pm.

#### *Road network and congestion*

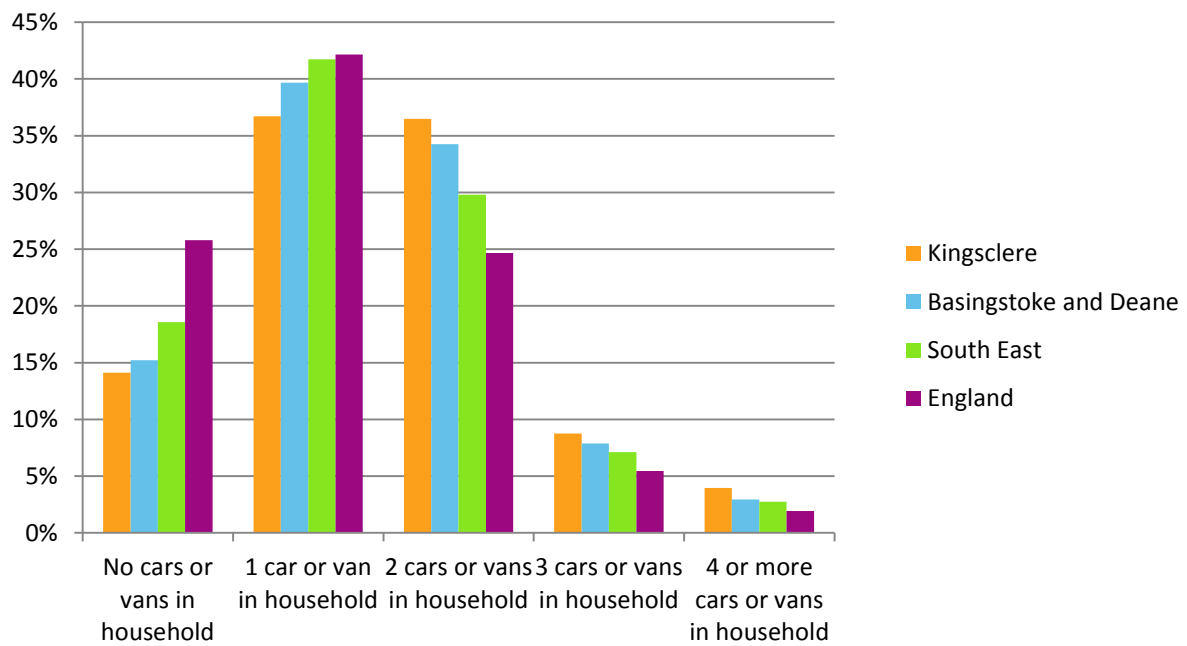
10.2.5 Kingsclere is located adjacent to the A339, which is the main north-south road from Basingstoke to Newbury. The A339 has been de-trunked from the M40 but remains a heavily used primary route, particularly by HGVs travelling between Midlands distribution centres and the south of England. The A339 is heavily loaded at peak hours and the South East England Regional Assembly Transport Plan predicts heavy peak hour congestion on the Greenham Common. There are also reported to be frequent congestion problems in the centre of the village, exacerbated by parking on double yellow lines<sup>59</sup>

#### *Availability of cars and vans*

10.2.6 **Figure 10.1** highlights the availability of cars and vans in the parish. The proportion of car or van ownership is slightly higher than borough average, in that the proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly lower than regional and national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly higher than regional/national averages, and slightly higher than borough averages. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is higher than all comparators. High car ownership in the parish reflects the relative affluence of the plan area and its rural nature.

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<sup>59</sup> Kingsclere Parish Council *The Kingsclere Village Plan* [online] available at: [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/kingsclere\\_plan.pdf](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/kingsclere_plan.pdf) accessed 12 October 2015



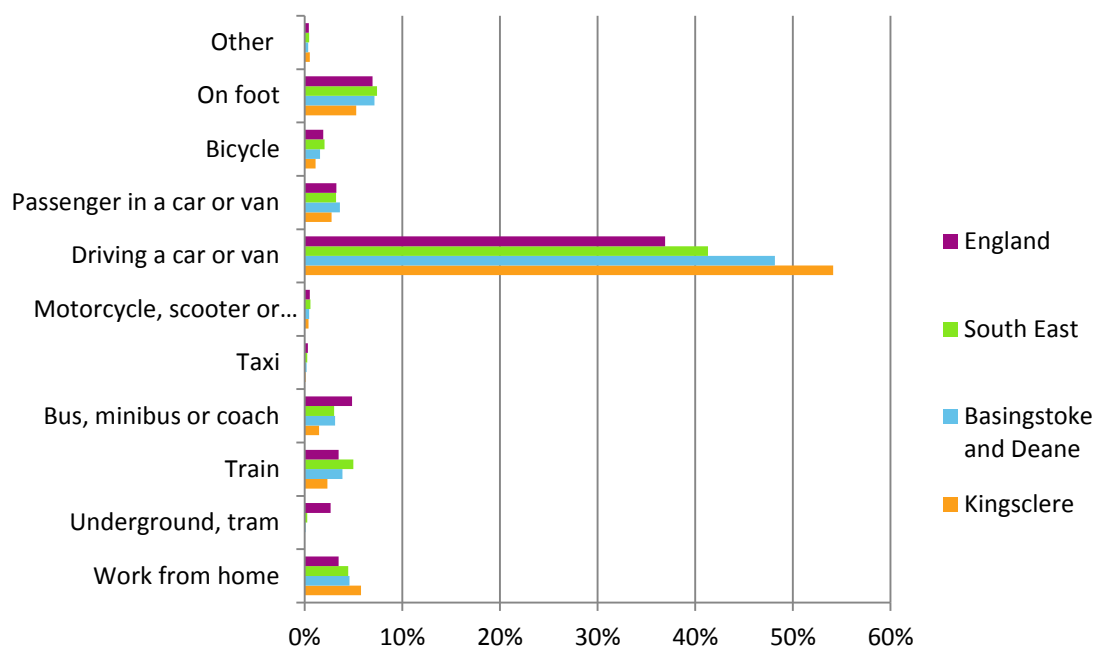
**Figure 10.1:** Availability of cars<sup>60</sup>

**Figure 10.2** shows the method of travel to work for residents in the plan area, compared with borough, regional and England averages. The proportion of people traveling work by driving a car or van is higher than borough averages, and significantly higher than regional and national averages.

10.2.7 than regional and national averages; this is likely to reflect the rural, and relatively affluent, nature of the parish. Conversely a much higher proportion of people in Kingsclere parish work from home than compared to borough, regional, and national averages.

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

<sup>60</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW)



**Figure 10.2:** method of travel to work<sup>61</sup>

#### Future baseline

10.2.9 **Figure 10.2** illustrates the high level of car use in the area, and an increase in Kingsclere's population has the potential to lead to increased traffic and congestion. This may exacerbate congestion within Kingsclere Village, and heavy traffic on the A339. This has the potential to be at least in part mitigated by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan. In addition, the viability of addition bus and rail services may be supported by future population growth.

### 10.3 Conclusions

10.3.1 It is likely that the car will remain the primary mode of transport for residents within Kingsclere. New development will be likely to add to congestion unless strategies are implemented to reduce these impacts.

10.3.2 Whilst negative effects of new development are likely to be mitigated in part by measures outlined in the Local Plan and the Hampshire Local Transport Plan, it is important that new development is situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car and also address issues of on-street parking causing unnecessary congestion.

10.3.3 Therefore, the following objective is proposed for transport:

**10) Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.**

10.3.4 Policy proposals can be assessed in terms of this objective and the following sub objective:

- Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development

<sup>61</sup> ONS (2011) Census 2011, Method of Travel to Work (QS701EW)

## 11 Next Steps

11.1.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage in a six-stage SEA process:

- Scoping (NPPG Stage B)
- Assess reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan (NPPG Stage C)
- Assess the draft plan and prepare the Environmental Report with a view to informing consultation and plan finalization (NPPG Stage D / E)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/SEA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage F)

11.1.2 The next stage will involve assessing 'reasonable alternatives' for the NP.

11.1.3 The findings of the alternatives assessment of these options will be fed back to the Parish Council so that they might be taken into account when preparing the Draft Plan. Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Parish Council, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.

11.1.4 Subsequent to consultation on the draft NP / Environmental Report the plan will be finalised and submitted to the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for Examination.

11.1.5 Eventually, the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will be in a position to 'make' the plan, i.e. to make it part of the development plan. At this time an 'SEA Statement' will need to be prepared. The role of the SEA Statement is essentially to explain the plan-making / SEA process, all the way up to the point of adoption. In doing so, it must demonstrate how environmental / sustainability considerations have been addressed. There is also a requirement to present 'measures decided concerning monitoring'.

# *Appendices*



## ***Appendix A: Regulatory requirements***



## Interpretation

**The report must include...**

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

# ***Appendix B: SEA Framework***

<i>SEA topic</i>	<i>SEA objective</i>	<i>SEA Sub Objective</i>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Protect, and where possible, enhance designated biodiversity features and other features of significant biodiversity value.	Protect and enhance the integrity of the designated habitats in the parish.
		Protect and enhance areas of ancient woodland in the parish.
		Minimise, and where possible, avoid negative effects on Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows SSSI, and the Greenham and Crookham Commons SSSI.
<b>Climate change</b>	2) promote climate change mitigation in Kingsclere parish	Limit the increase in the carbon footprint of the parish as a result of population growth
		Support reduced car dependency and increase, walking cycling and public transport use
	3) Support the resilience of Kingsclere Parish to the potential effects of climate change	Improve resilience to the estimated increase in frequency and severity of winter flooding, and summer time water shortages, through appropriate measures (e.g green infrastructure)
		Where possible reduce the flood risk, and ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased (either in the immediate vicinity of a proposal, or in neighbouring locations due to alterations in the flood risk pattern).
<b>Health and well-being</b>	4) Promote health and well-being of Kingsclere's residents	Promote accessibility to health facilities
		Provide and enhance the provision of community access to active recreation (e.g walking and cycling)
<b>Historic environment and landscape</b>	5) Protect, maintain and enhance Kingsclere's cultural heritage resources, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	Preserve and enhance the setting and integrity of listed buildings and conservation areas.
		Support access to the historic environment

<i>SEA topic</i>	<i>SEA objective</i>	<i>SEA Sub Objective</i>
	6) Protect and enhance the character and quality of landscapes and townscapes	Protect and enhance townscape features. Protect and enhance the North Wessex Downs ANOB.
<b>Land, soil and water resources</b>	7) Ensure the more efficient use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings	Promote the use of previously developed land where possible.
	8) Protect, and where possible enhance, groundwater and surface water bodies	Minimise the risk to groundwater SPZs, and where possible avoid development which has the potential to negatively impact on these. Protect, and where possible enhance the quality of Gailey Brook and other surface water bodies.
<b>Population and community</b>	9) Provide a range of housing types appropriate for the local community, including: affordable housing and starter homes, specialist housing for older persons, and a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.	Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities, particularly for older age groups.
<b>Transport</b>	10) Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel	Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development.

