LITTLE MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
BACKGROUND EVIDENCE STUDIES
PART 3

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Oct 2017

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

In order that the village can have a greater say in housing development, Little Milton has chosen to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. As part of this process, a South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) screening opinion published 19 December 2016[1] concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required as part of a Little Milton Neighbourhood Plan. (Strategic Environmental Assessment is a requirement of the EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This is enshrined in UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which introduced environmental assessment as a requirement for most planning documents in the UK.)

The screening opinion stated that:

> The Little Milton NDP will contain policies to safeguard the individual character and vitality of the historic village and protect its rural environment, whilst supporting sustainable developments that meet the needs of residents.
>
> No sites will be allocated and policies relating to development character and village amenities will be in accordance with the emerging Local Plan 2032.
>
> It is therefore concluded that the implementation of the Little Milton NDP would not result in likely significant effects on the environment.

Nevertheless it is important that the Little Milton NDP considers the environmental factors which influence the options for development in the parish. Thus it was decided at an early stage to carry out an Environmental Appraisal, covering similar ground to that which would be addressed in a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Background

Little Milton is a small village (population ~500) and is situated 7.5 miles south east of Oxford, in the county of Oxfordshire and the district of South Oxfordshire. The village sits on a low ridge surrounded by open agricultural land. The historic core of the village is a Conservation Area and contains a number of listed buildings or buildings of historic interest, some dating back to the 16th century. Much of the land to the east of the village is a nature reserve owned by BBOWT[2].

Approach to determining the Policy Context

With the assistance of SODC and after reviewing examples of completed SEAs, we drew up a list of relevant policy documents which are listed at Appendix 2. From these documents we extracted key environmental factors that are relevant to our parish as follows:

- biodiversity, flora and fauna
- population and human health
- soil and agriculture

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1 SODC Screening statement on determination of need for SEA 19 Dec 2016

2 Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

- water
- air
- climatic factors
- material assets
- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape
- any interrelationships between these issues

When it come to considering the key policy documents in the context of environmental impact, issues of sustainability were also identified.

The relevant Local Plan for all Neighbourhood Development Plans within South Oxfordshire is currently the policies in the adopted South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012) and saved policies from South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011. However Little Milton's Plan is likely to come into force after the adoption of SODC's Local Plan to 2033, so our evidence base also highlights the relevant policies in the emerging Plan. The key policies which influence the Little Milton Neighbourhood Plan in environmental terms are:

1. South Oxfordshire will continue to be a beautiful and prosperous district, and a desirable and sustainable place to live, work and visit
2. The natural and built heritage of South Oxfordshire will be prized as our most important assets . We will have enhanced the quality of the built environment in our towns and villages, maintained the predominantly rural nature of the district.
3. New developments will be built to a high level of environmental and design standards, and will enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the district's towns and villages; the local character of the different places within South Oxfordshire will have been respected

BASELINE INFORMATION

Introduction

The following baseline information describes the village of Little Milton, its people and its environment.

Nature of the Village

Little Milton is a small village of about 500 people which is situated on a low ridge overlooking the valley of the River Thame. It developed primarily as a farming community and the historic farms still form the nucleus of the village. However, after the Second World War employment in agriculture declined and now many of the population commute from the village to centres of employment in Thame, Oxford, Reading, the Science Vale, and London. A small but significant number of people also work from home.

There are a small number of light industrial units located on farming land half a mile west of the centre of the village. These units lie off main road and are accessible along farm roads only. Traffic from these units does not come into the village.

The A329 coming south from Junction 7 of the M40 runs through heart of the village and carries a heavy volume of traffic, particularly during rush hours. HGV traffic through the village is a particular concern as the road in the centre of the village is not wide enough for two HGVs to pass and minor collisions occur with monotonous regularity.

Stone built houses and cottages, many of them thatched, predominate in the core village and define the nature of the village. There are 29 listed buildings, which are mainly focused in the Conservation Area, reflecting the historic character of Little Milton as a village of medieval origin consisting of a group of large farms and smaller cottages set around a church and Manor House within its own historic fields.

Some more modern houses were built as infill in the core village before the Conservation Area was designated in 1984. However these do not detract from the essential nature of the core village as a picturesque community.

The village is surrounded on all sides by open farm land with wide open views to the Chiltern Hills in the east and to the River Thame in the west.

Landscape & Topography

The village is located at an elevation of 80m on a low sandy ridge above Oxfordshire Clay. In the South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment[3] and Natural England Profile 108[4] the majority of the parish is characterised as Oxfordshire Clay Vale, comprising undulating open and semi-enclosed vale. However there are some local limestone intrusions which, in the past, have been quarried to provide local stone for buildings. Land adjacent to the River Thame and the Haseley Brook to the west of the A329 is characterised as Flat Floodplain Pasture.

Environment, Soil and Agriculture

Despite lying close to areas of Oxfordshire clay, the soil in the parish is free draining and loamy, with the southern part of the area tending to be slightly acidic[5]. This southern part is slightly less fertile than the northern part, but nevertheless much of the parish is Grade 1 or 2 Agricultural Land[6].

The village lies in the South Oxfordshire Area of Great Landscape Value[7].

Land to the north-east of the village belongs to BBOWT[8]. Some areas of this land are left fallow to encourage wild life. Otherwise all the land around the village is farmed, mainly for arable crops but with some fields given over to livestock (sheep and cattle). Much of the land around the village is very open. However, there are also some small and scattered areas of woodland within the parish. There are no specialist farms or growers in the area.

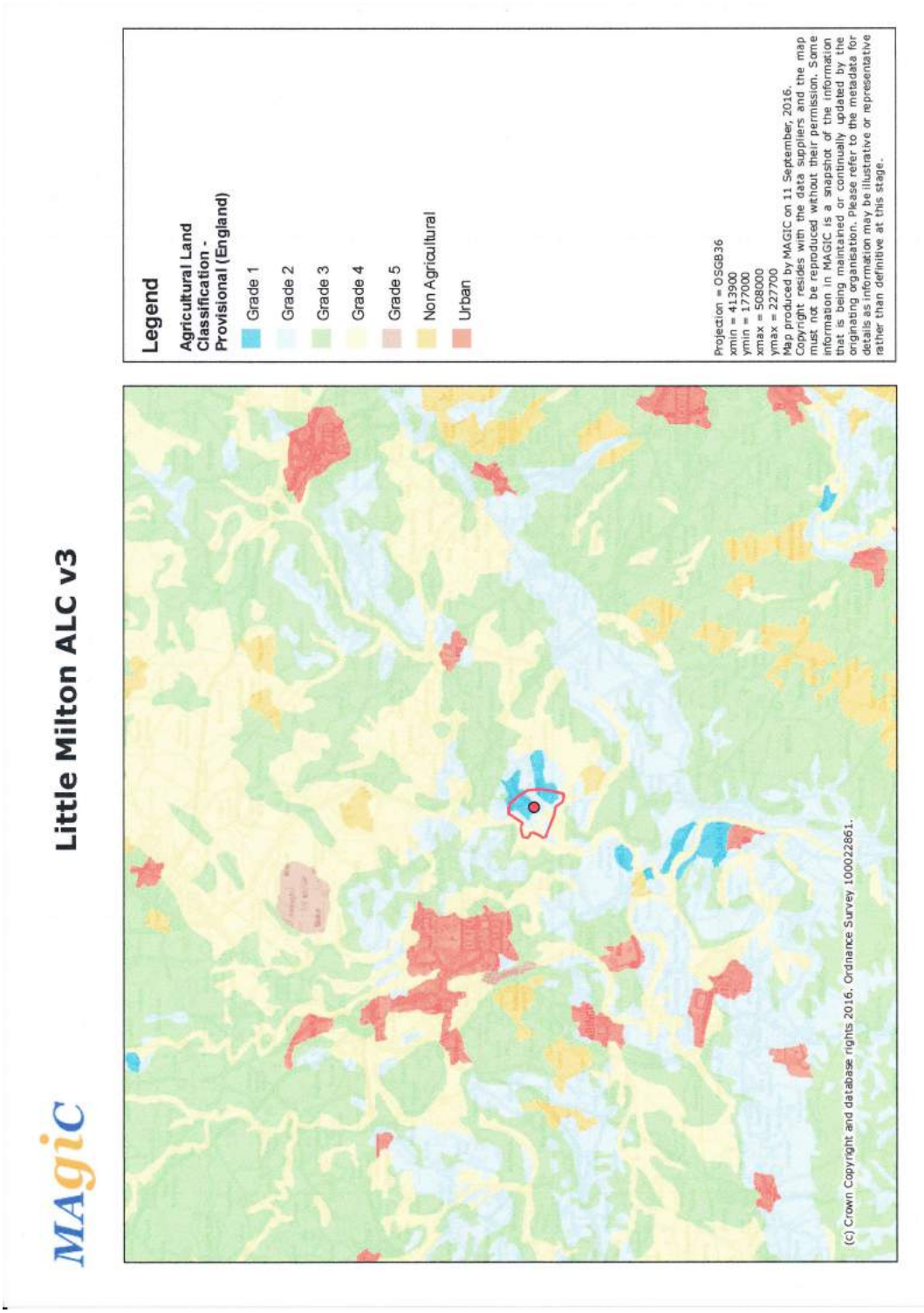
There is an extensive network of public footpaths in the parish, plus some permitted footpaths which serve as nature trails on the BBOWT land

Wildlife seen in the area includes deer, badgers, foxes, red kites, buzzards, sparrowhawks, barn and other owls, and kingfishers

Agricultural Land Classification

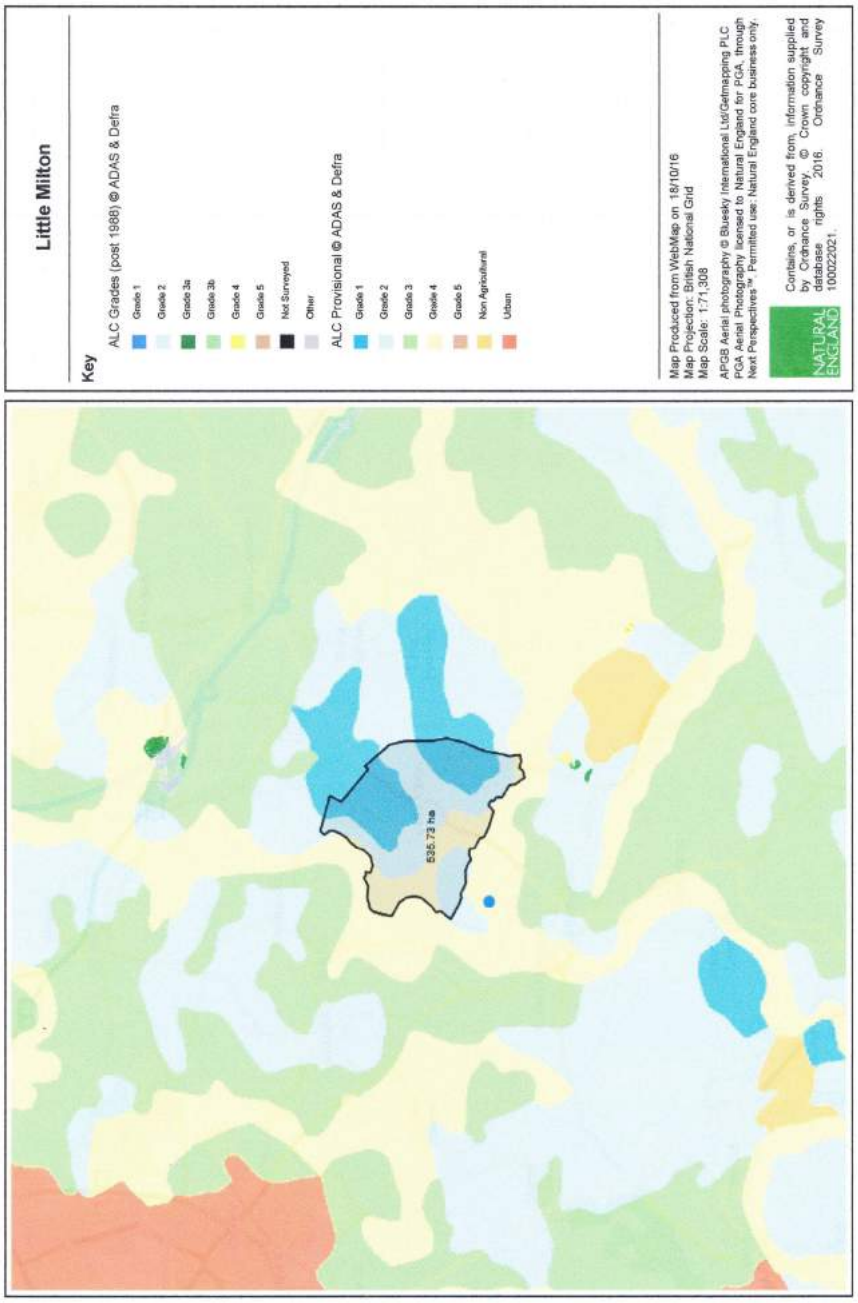
The pre-1988 provisional Agricultural Land Classification map for South Oxfordshire below shows the Little Milton NDP area outlined in red. This shows that the parish encompasses one of only two significant areas of Grade 1 or 2 (highest quality) agricultural land in the district.

3 South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment 1998
4 Natural England National Character Area Profile 108 – Upper Thames Clay Vales
5 National Soil Resource Institute, Cranfield University
6 Agricultural Land Classification -Provisional (England)
7 South Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment, adopted as SPG in July 2003, by Atlantic Consultants
8 Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust



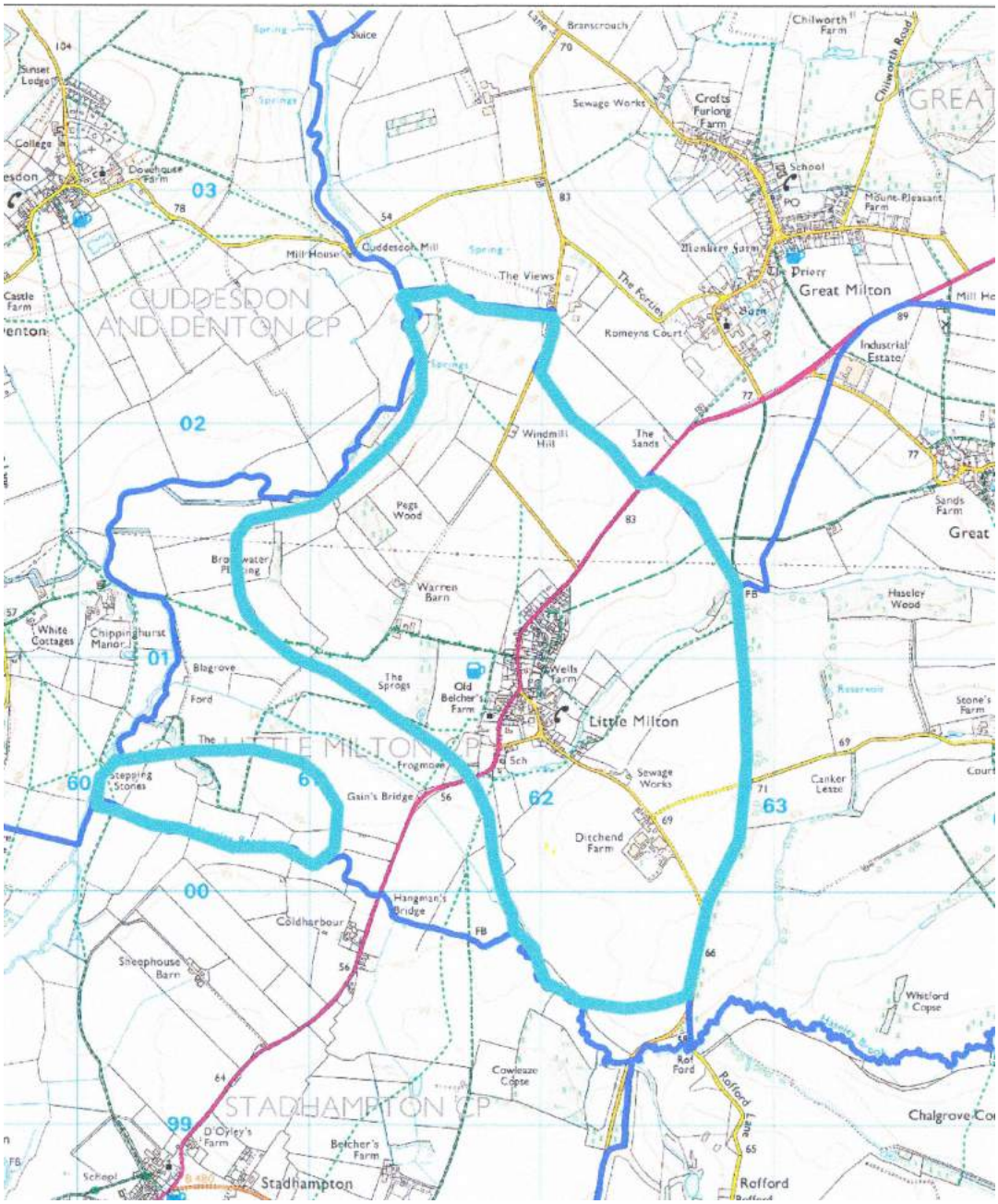
This data can only be viewed at a scale of 1:250,000 in the Magic system[9] and larger scale mapping is not available on-line. However Natural England[10] has confirmed that no post-1988 classification data is available for Little Milton and that therefore the provisional data compiled prior to 1988 should be used. Further, Natural England has provided a map of the parish data at a larger scale as follows:

9 DEFRA Magic interactive on-line mapping system
10 Natural England consultations team email 19 Oct 2016



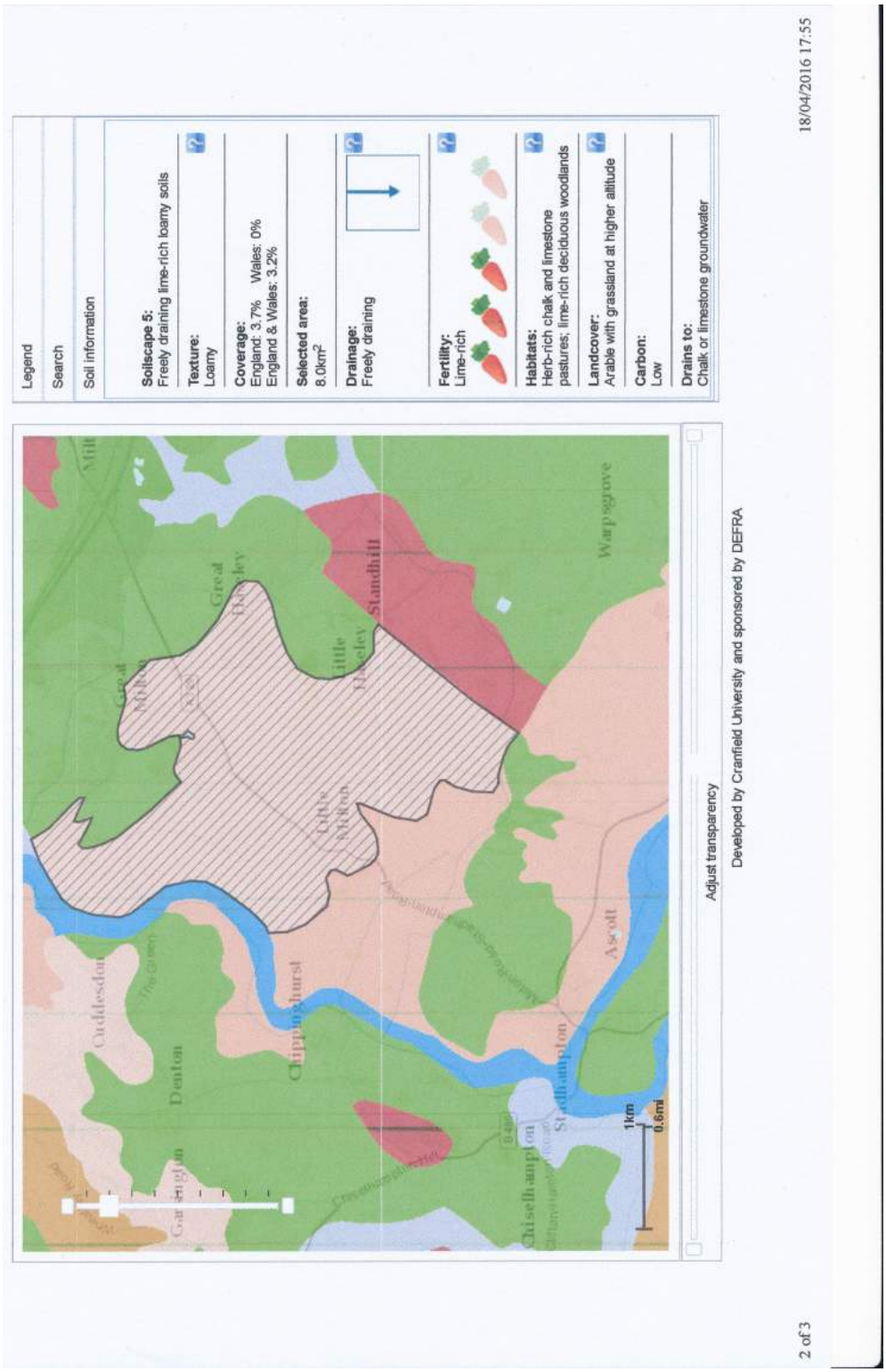
The following map shows an <u>approximate</u> delineation at an even larger scale = parish outlined dark blue, Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land within the parish outlines in light blue.

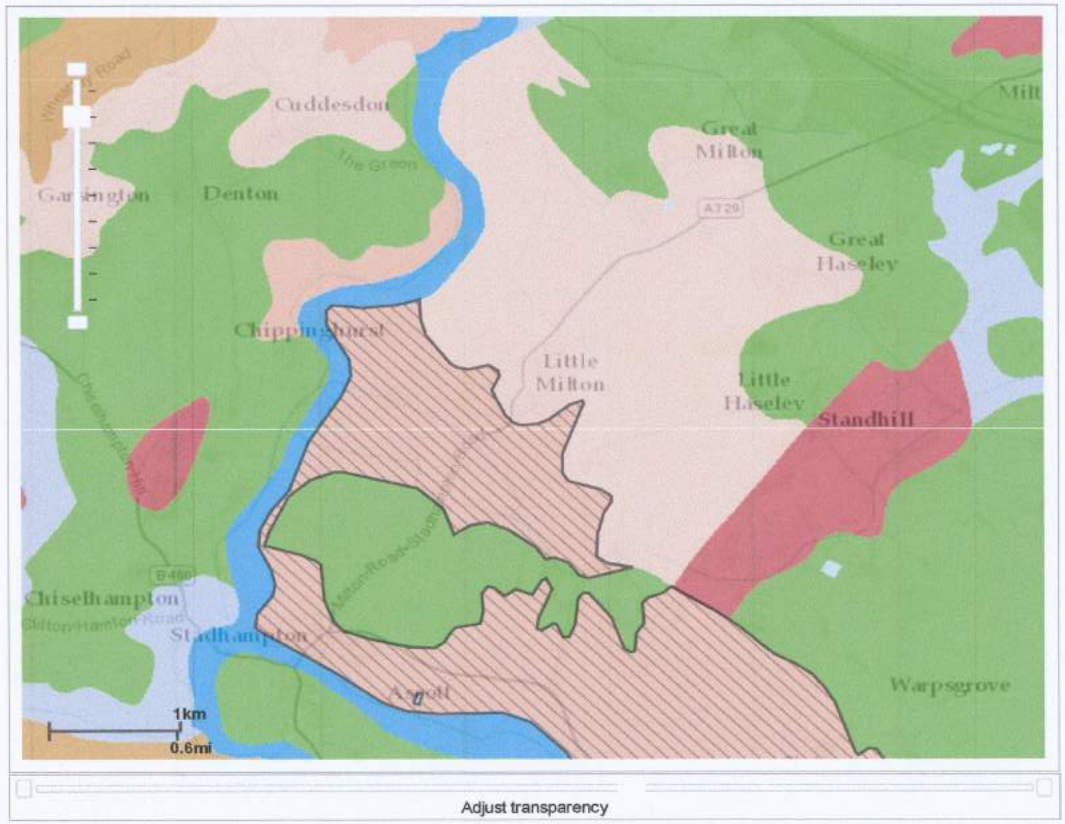
HIGH GRADE AGRICULTURAL LAND



Soil Types Maps

The following two maps show the correlation between the grade of agricultural land and the soil types. The description of each soil type applies to the area shaded on the map.





Adjust transparency

Developed by Cranfield University and sponsored by DEFRA

Legend

Search

Soil information

Soilscape 6:
Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils

Texture:
Loamy

Coverage:
England: 15.5% Wales: 24.4%
England & Wales: 16.7%

Selected area:
8.7km^2

Drainage:
Freely draining

Fertility:
Low

Habitats:
Neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands

Landcover:
Arable and grassland

Carbon:
Low

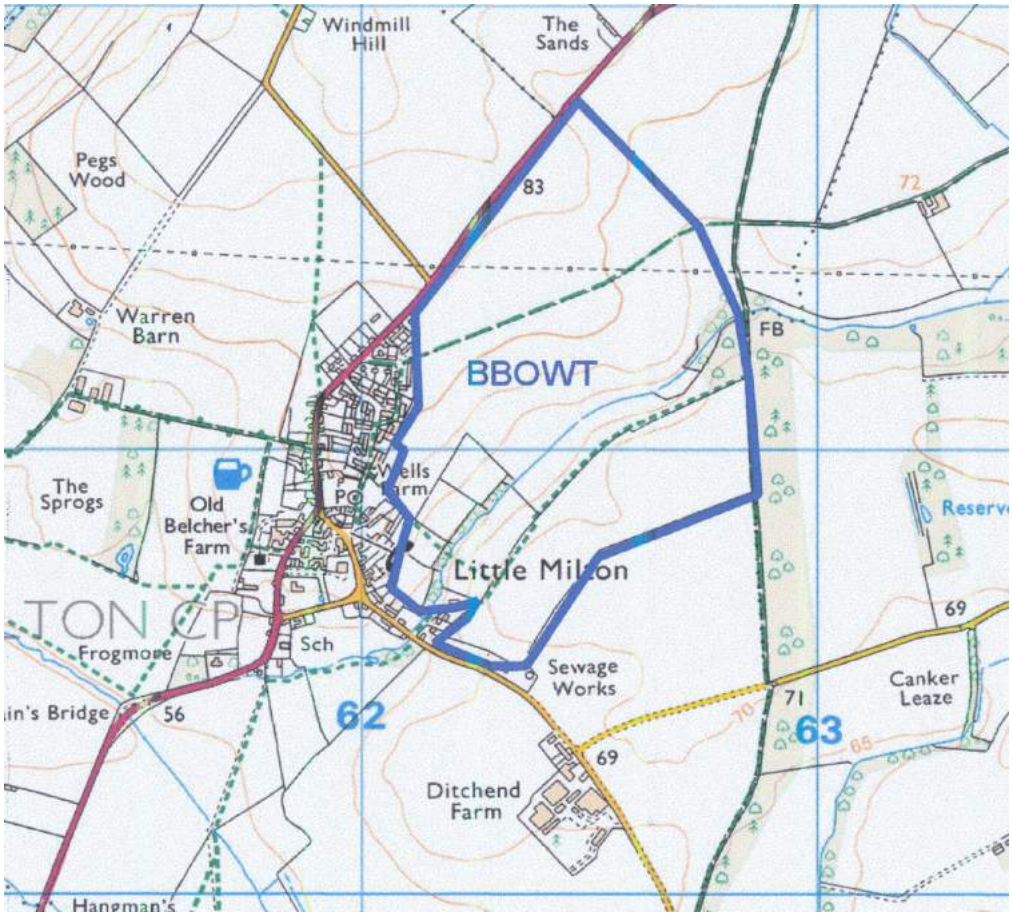
Drains to:

National policy guidance[11] states that where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a and is the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver food and non food crops for future generations. Natural England has a statutory role in advising local planning authorities about land quality issues.

Natural England's Technical Information Note[12] states as follows:

> Government policy for England is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012 (paragraph 112). Decisions rest with the relevant planning authorities who should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality. The Government has also re-affirmed the importance of protecting our soils and the services they provide in the Natural Environment White Paper The Natural Choice:securing the value of nature (June 2011), including the protection of best and most versatile agricultural land (paragraph 2.35).

Wells Farm BBOWT Land (outlined in blue)



11 DCLG NPPG 026
12 Natural England TIN 049

The land at Wells farm is held on a long lease by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). The conditions of the lease[13] require the tenant to use the property for agricultural purposes consistent with supporting the charitable purposes of the tenant and to ensure that the property is used in a manner which is sympathetic to the needs of wildlife. The lease also stipulates that no building whatsoever may be erected on the property except the farmyard.

At Wells Farm BBOWT is striking a balance between farming wheat and barley and creating a thriving habitat for wildlife[14].

The open fields are edged by six-metre wide margins that have been sown with a colourful wildflower seed mixture which attract insects and small mammals. In addition, a wide grassy bank crossing the arable fields from north to south has been sown with a variety of tufted grasses to provide cover for spiders and beetles. These in turn help to control pests. Retained winter stubble and seed-bearing crops provide food and shelter for mixed flocks of finches in the colder months.

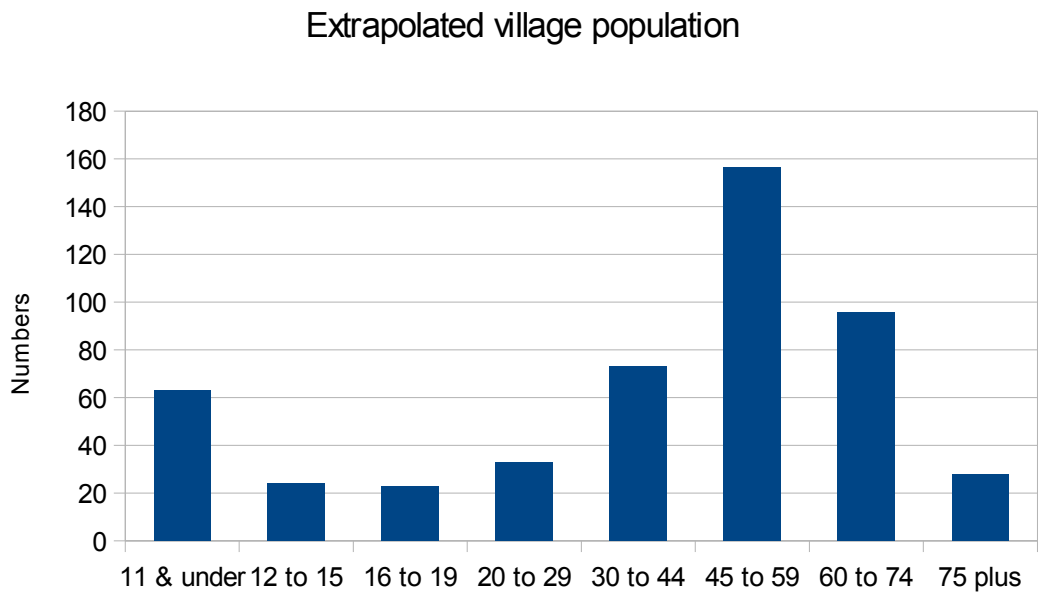
The farm is named after the numerous springs emerging on the valley side. In the valley bottom, a wildflower meadow has been created, and a small tree-lined brook links two ponds, attracting a wide range of wildlife such as frogs, toads, moorhens and dragonflies.

A community allotment project is also underway where local people are being encouraged to grow their own organic produce and live in a more sustainable way by reducing their food miles.

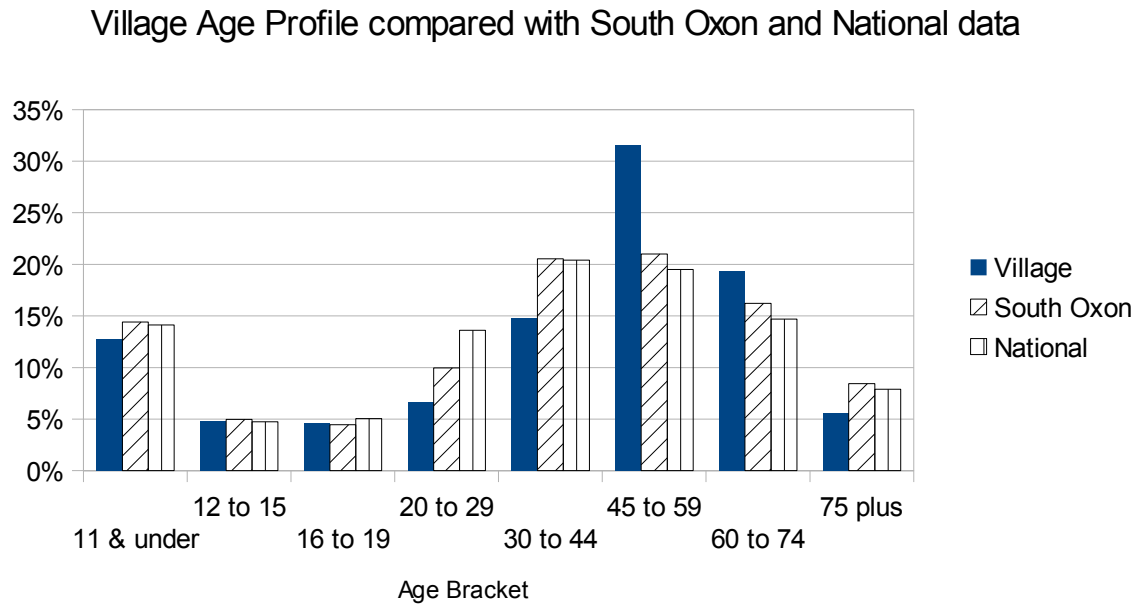
Population

The 2011 Census[15] measured the population as 486. The 2013 village survey conducted for the Village Plan[16] estimated the population as 500.

The 2013 village survey indicated a demographic split as follows:

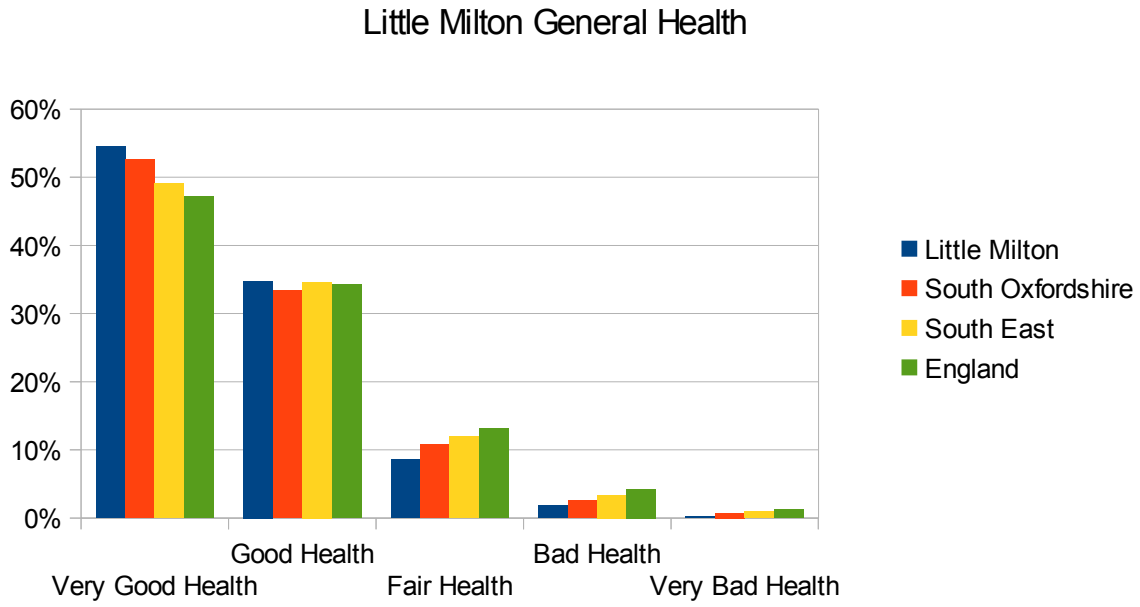


13 Wells farm lease dated 9 Dec 1990
14 BBOWT website – Wells farm
15 ONS 2011 Census Key Statistics Little Milton (Parish)
16 Little Milton Village Plan 2014



Health

2011 data[17] indicates that the level of general health in the village is slightly above regional and national averages. The number of people whose activities are limited by poor health is below average.



17 ONS 2011 Census Little Milton: Health

Fresh water

Although there are numerous wells and springs around the village, all dwellings in the core village are connected to mains fresh water

Capacity of Sewage and Drainage Systems

All properties within the core village are connected to main drains. The network runs to a pumping station at the lowest point in the village at the Haseley Road bridge. A main sewer serving Great and Little Haseley also runs to this point, after crossing the fields between the villages. The pumping station feeds the sewage treatment plant built on top of the rise on the Haseley Road between Little Milton and Ditchend. The clean outlet from the plant runs back into the stream just downstream of the Haseley Road bridge.

The various phases of building in the village, particularly at the north-eastern end, have put a strain on the sewage and drainage systems. In the winter of 2012/13, the drainage system was shown to have insufficient capacity during heavy rainfall, which resulted in raw sewage flowing down the main road outside the primary school. In 2015 it was identified that a major problem was being caused by water ingress into the main sewer running across the fields from Great Haseley and it has been part of Thames Water's strategic plan to rectify this. This work was completed in Octover 2016

Thames Water has advised[18] that the sewage treatment plant itself has the capacity to take the additional load for developments in the range 10-50 new houses. However they have also advised that the the water water network does not have the capacity and that before any development of that scale goes ahead, the sewerage system would need be upgraded

18 Carmelle Bell emailed consultation response 11 Nov 2016

Climate

The following table shows the data for Oxford, 7.5 miles from Little Milton.

The village experiences a typical southern-central England climate with no climatic extremes.

Oxford climate

Climate station map | Averages maps | Averages table | Averages graphs | Location comparison

Oxford (Nearest climate station to Oxford)
Climate period: 1981-2010

Month	Max. temp (°C)	Min. temp (°C)	Days of air frost (days)	Sunshine (hours)	Rainfall (mm)	Days of rainfall >= 1 mm (days)	Monthly mean wind speed at 10m (knots)
Jan	7.6	2.1	8.5	62.5	56.6	11.5	8.3
Feb	8.0	1.8	9.1	78.9	42.5	8.9	8.9
Mar	10.9	3.7	3.8	111.2	47.6	10.1	7.8
Apr	13.6	5.0	1.7	160.9	49.1	9.1	8.3
May	17.1	7.9	0.1	192.9	57.1	9.7	7.9
Jun	20.3	10.9	0.0	191.0	48.0	8.0	7.1
Jul	22.7	13.0	0.0	207.0	48.9	7.9	7.4
Aug	22.3	12.9	0.0	196.5	56.5	8.1	7.0
Sep	19.1	10.7	0.0	141.2	54.1	9.1	6.7
Oct	14.8	7.8	0.9	111.3	69.6	10.9	8.0
Nov	10.5	4.6	4.0	70.7	66.6	11.3	8.4
Dec	7.7	2.3	9.1	53.8	63.1	10.9	8.9
Annual	14.6	6.9	37.1	1577.9	659.7	115.5	7.9

Air quality, pollution and CO2 emissions

There are no significant static sources of pollution or CO2 emissions within the area. Noise, dust and vibration pollution plus CO2 emissions do, however, emanate from the high volume of traffic on the main A329 through the village.

Nevertheless, air quality is generally within statutory limits and an ad-hoc project in 2013 to measure air quality at the school, which is adjacent to the main road, showed air quality at the time to be within limits.

However Little Milton has now been the subject of continuous air quality monitoring since 2013.

See http://www.oxfordshire.air-quality.info/

Against a annual mean statutory limit for NO2 of 40, the annualised reading since 2013 are:

Year	Annual Mean NO2
2013	34.8
2014	37.7
2015	32.3
2016	36.0

Air quality hot spots have been identified[19] within the areas of Thame, Didcot, Little Milton and Stadhampton. Monitoring and careful management is required in these areas to ensure the air quality objective levels are not exceeded, as these are potential candidate AQMAs.

Some background noise disturbance comes from the military helicopters operating out of RAF Benson which is 6 miles from the village. Helicopters occasionally overfly the village.

The sound of traffic on the M40 motorway 2.5 miles to the north-east of the village can only be heard in the village very occasionally and is not a significant source of noise pollution.

19 SODC Sustainability Appraisal for the Publication Version of the Local Plan Oct 2017

Power Lines

High voltage power lines run east-west just to the north of the village. There is no statutory minimum buffer zone between power lines and dwellings. Certain safety clearance distances are laid down in National Grid publications[20]. However good design practice[21] suggests building immediately under power lines represents poor design. In addition, such houses would be unlikely to sell. In Didcot for example, where power lines run through the heart of the Ladygrove Estate built some 20 years ago, the closest point of any dwelling to the centreline of the power lines is of the order of 22-24m.

National Grid will support policies in development plan documents which seek to control, on amenity grounds, built development under and immediately adjacent to lines

20 National Grid – Development Near Overhead Lines – Planning and Amenity Aspects of High Voltage Electricity Transmission Lines and

21 National Grid – A Sense of Place – Design Guidelines for Development near High Voltage Overhead Lines

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna and Nature Reserve

The Nature Reserve owned and managed by BBOWT exemplifies the nature of the area in terms of biodiversity, flora and fauna, The Nature Reserve is a working farm run in harmony with wildlife and is home to a variety of lowland farmland birds including corn bunting, yellowhammer and partridge. BBOWT strikes a balance between farming wheat and barley and creating a thriving habitat for wildlife.

The open fields are edged by six-metre wide margins that have been sown with a colourful wildflower seed mixture which attract insects and small mammals. In addition, a wide grassy bank crossing the arable fields from north to south has been sown with a variety of tufted grasses to provide cover for spiders and beetles. These in turn help to control pests. Retained winter stubble and seed-bearing crops provide food and shelter for mixed flocks of finches in the colder months.

The Nature Reserve is criss-crossed by paths which make it accessible to all. Deer, badgers, foxes, red kites, buzzards, sparrowhawks, barn and other owls, and kingfishers are regularly seen in the area.

There are no specific wildlife habitats identified in the parish in the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study 2004 (OWLS).

OWLS does identify the lowland meadows of the Thame flood plain as follows:

- Neutral grassland is associated with soils which are neither too alkaline nor too acid. These are frequently the heavy clay and alluvial soils bordering rivers and watercourses in the flat, low-lying vales. These include the floodplains of the Thames, Cherwell, Thame, and Ock rivers.
- In the past, many of these areas would have been susceptible to winter flooding which restricted grazing to the summer months. Many would have been managed as hay meadows, which meant that they were usually cut in mid-July and then grazed until conditions became wet once again.
- This combination of management and heavy, poorly-drained soils favoured characteristic plants such as great burnet, devil's bit scabious, meadow rue and pepper saxifrage.

Water Courses

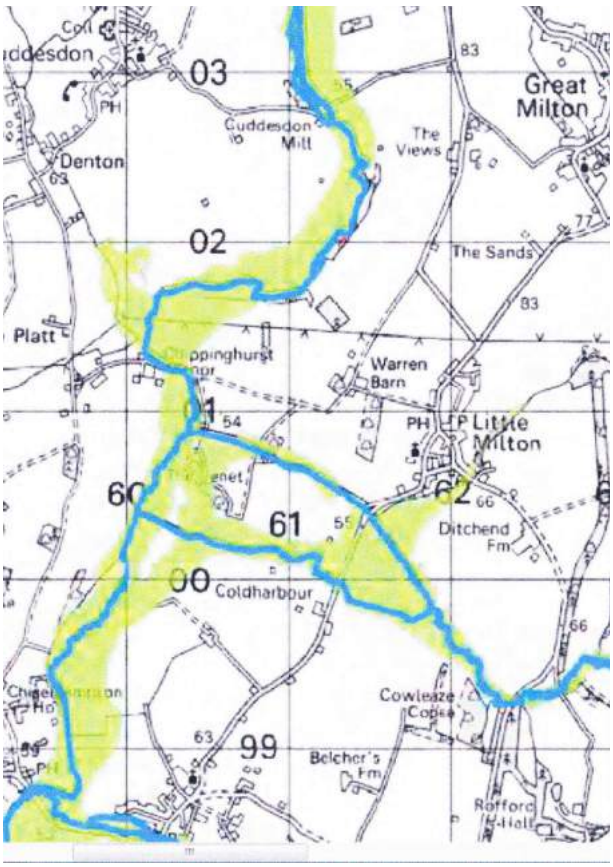
The River Thame forms the western boundary of the parish and NDP area. This river regularly floods in winter; there are no dwellings on the flood plain.

The Haseley Brook runs along the southern boundary of the area and this also regularly floods across farmland in winter. Again there are no dwellings on the flood plain.

The Gainsbridge Brook runs closest to the village. There is a flood risk, but no history of significant flooding, from this watercourse, particularly in the vicinity of the Haseley Road bridge and adjacent to the main road at Frogmore. There are a number of dwellings located close to this stream. In 2015 the Parish Council undertook a project in co-operation with riparian landowners to clear obstructions from this watercourse.

The flood plain areas of the western and southern portions of the parish are shown shaded green on the following map[22]:

22 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map - The Functional Flood Plan - SODC

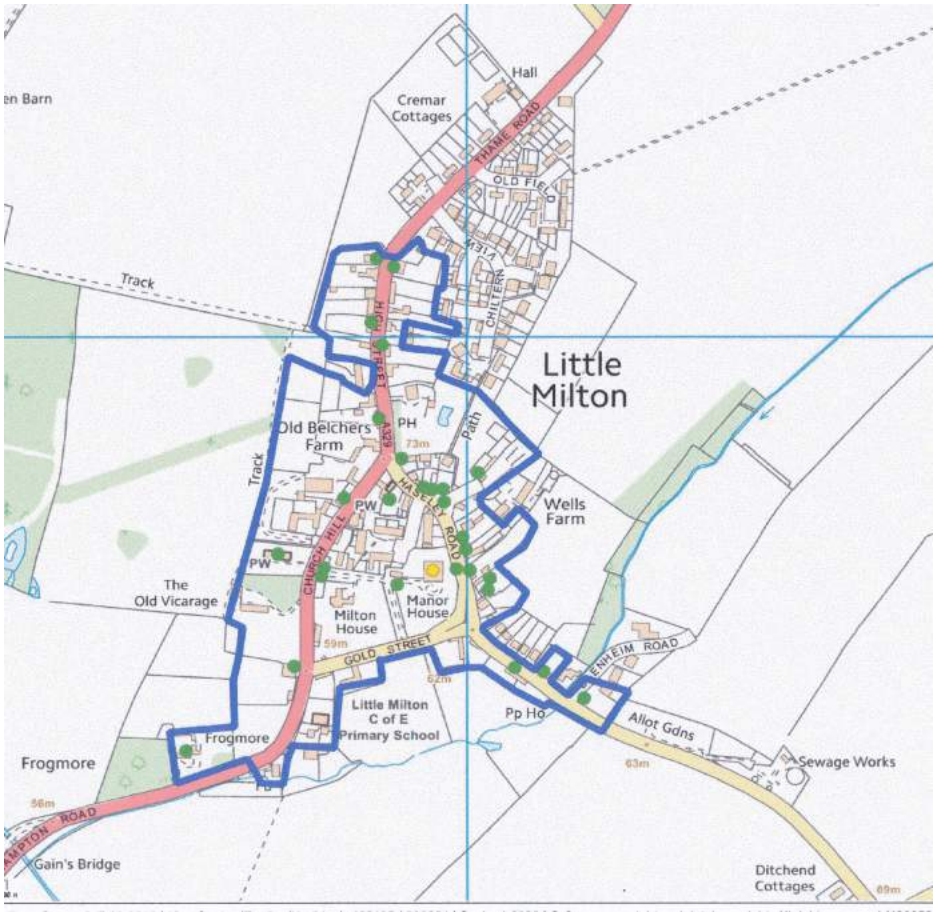


Note: derived from Environment Agency data

Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and Historic Interest Buildings

The older core of the village is a Conservation Area[23]. This contains a number (29) of listed buildings or building of historic interest.

Apart from the newer houses of Milton Manor Drive, the conservation area dwellings are mainly constructed of local stone, and this is a feature of the village. Many are also thatched.

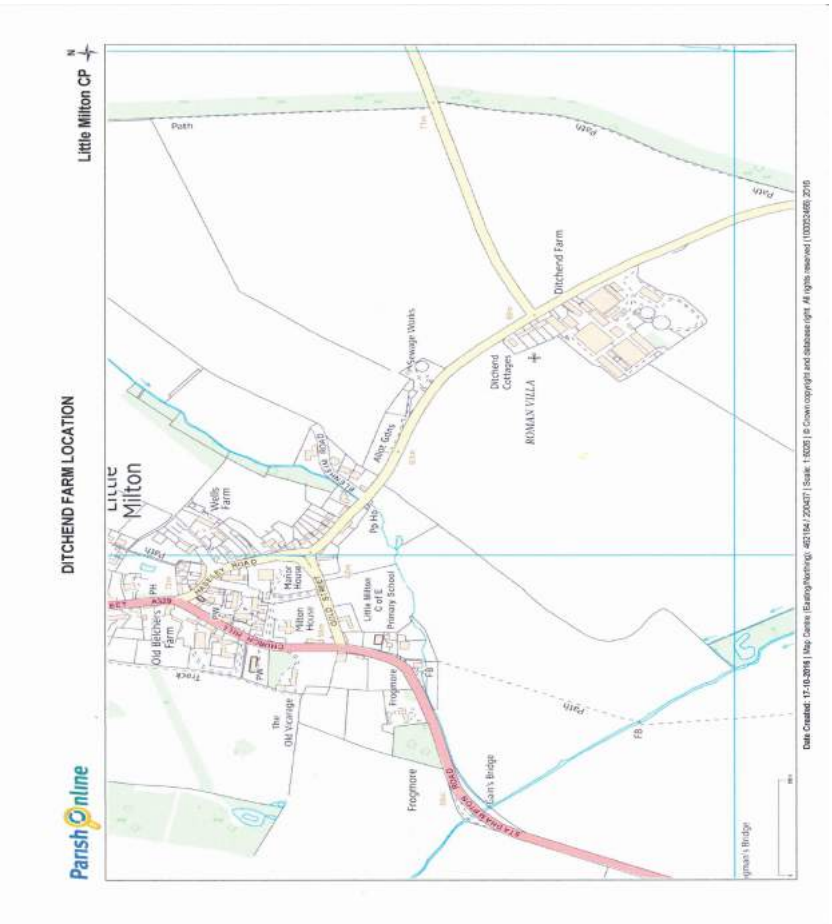


Only one new house (Holly Cottage in the High Street) has been built in the Conservation Area since it was established.

Sites of Archaeological Interest

There is only one known site of archaeological interest actullay shown on maps of the parish and that is the site of a Roman villa adjacent to Ditch End.

23 Little Milton Conservation Area Designated 11 December 1984



Historic England[24] have advised that additional sites recorded on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record include evidence of human occupation from the Neolithic period until the Middle Ages suggesting a high potential for the presence of archaeological remains in the areas surrounding the village. Notable features include the site of a Roman villa located at Ditch End and several recorded burials of prehistoric and/or Roman date from within the Parish. The source of a Roman road also runs through the parish and is likely to a focus of Roman and later activity.

24 Historic England Little Milton NP Area Designation RLS Comments 22 July 2016

APPENDIX 1: Relevant Policies and Programmes

Documents assessed in the review of the Policy Context for key messages were:

Policy, Plan or Programme	Description
European/International	
Kyoto Climate Change Protocol, 1997 and subsequent 2015 Paris agreement on climate change	Aims to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees Celcius and aim to keep it below 1.5 degrees Celsius by reducing emissions and to mitigate impacts of climate change
The European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992	Relevant objectives of the Directive are: a. to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna
European Sustainable Development Strategy, May 2001	Objectives and priorities focus on: a. limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy b. addressing threats to public health c. combating poverty and social exclusion d. dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing population e. managing natural resources more responsibly f. improving the transport system and land use.
The European Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (The Air Quality Framework Directive) 1996, and subsequent Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008	Relevant objectives are to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.
European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, 2006	The main objectives of this strategy are: a. preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions: • When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use, • Management patterns, and • When soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. b. restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.
The European Water Framework Directive, 2000	The overarching objective is ensuring sustainable water use, including both surface and ground water resources.

	River Basin Management Plans' summarise the actions required in order to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	Objectives are: a. conservation of biological diversity b. sustainable use of its components c. fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
National	
The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)	'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which 'should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking'
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Includes info on local planning processes for proactive and positive local heritage management. Info on connecting communities producing Neighbourhood Plans with local museums and Record Offices Link to Building in Context website: a toolkit that helps local authorities, developers and communities to enhance new development proposals so that they respond well to the historic area, local context and wider surroundings
County	
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	Connecting Oxfordshire is our new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) setting out our proposed transport solutions for the county up to 2031, …we have a huge challenge to enable people to make the journeys they need to as the population grows, and avoid damage to the economy caused by severe congestion, as well as to protect the environment. Over-arching transport goals: • To support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality; • To reduce transport emissions and meet our obligations to Government; • To protect, and where possible enhance Oxfordshire's environment and improve quality of life; and • To improve public health, air quality, safety and individual wellbeing
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	Sets outs TW's plan to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water over a 25-year period. EA's Thames River Basin Management Plan aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystems and show how it is adapting to climate change
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action	Conserving biodiversity for Oxfordshire's wildlife and

Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	people. The need for biodiversity action planning and protection of the main biodiversity hotspots in the county.
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Strategies to ensure water availability within the Thames Corridor, especially at low flows. Seek to ensure that new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)	Oxfordshire has Europe's largest concentration of multi-million pound science research facilities, underpinning its leading position in advanced engineering, manufacturing and life sciences.
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (OCC)	Safeguarding Rights of Way and their management.
District	
South Oxfordshire District Council Emerging Local Plan 2033	How development will be planned and delivered across South Oxfordshire to 2033.
South Oxfordshire District Council Core Strategy (2012)	Sustainable development; provide homes
South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2011 (2006) saved policies	Sustainable development; provide homes
South Oxfordshire District Council Housing Strategy 2008-2011	Housing
South Oxfordshire District Council Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026	Economic growth, social exclusion and climate change
South Oxfordshire District Council Refined Options Sustainability Appraisal (2015)	Sustainable development
The emerging Science Vale Action	SODC and VWHDC are producing a Science Vale Area

Plan.	Action Plan, to support the implementation of a Science Vale Vision and delivery of the strategic sites in the local plans. This will be a positive planning tool that will help shape, coordinate and deliver sustainable growth across the area.
South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Final Report (July 2013) (SODC & VOWH)	The FRA provides general advice for planners and developers on flood risk and other issues that need to be considered when carrying out development close to watercourses. General guidance is given for planners and developers to cover all types of development, including: • Permitted development within the Flood Zones and requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) and applying the Sequential and Exception Tests • Taking into account other sources of flooding • Surface water runoff and drainage • Making development safe • River restoration and enhancement • Existing watercourses, defences and assets • Developer contributions to flood risk improvements • The WFD and water quality General advice: If a site within Flood Zone 1 site has been identified by the SFRA as having a known drainage problem, or has experienced flooding from other sources, then a detailed FRA is required… the proposed development should include the appropriate application of sustainable drainage techniques so as to maintain, or preferably reduce the existing runoff and flood risk in the area
South Oxfordshire District Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014)	Provide homes, mix of homes is needed, meet needs of specific groups within the population.
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Proactive and positive local heritage management. Enhance new development proposals so that they respond well to the historic area, local context and wider surroundings
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	Jobs, housing growth and economic vitality; reduce transport emissions; protect and enhance environment and improve quality of life; improve public health, air quality, safety and well-being
Water Resources Management	Maintain the balance between supply and demand for

Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	water. Protect biodiversity and ecosystems. Adapting to climate change.
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	Conserve biodiversity
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Seek to ensure that new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (2014)	Jobs, economic growth
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (Oxfordshire County Council)	Safeguarding Rights of Way and their management.
Local	
Little Milton Village Plan 2014	**Traffic:** Reduction of impact, speed and volume, particularly HGVs **Village Improvements:** Sewerage and Flooding; Faster Broadband; Maintenance and Litter; Village Hall; Village Shop & Post Office; Bus Services; Young People; Green Energy; Carbon Capture; Cycle Paths; New Activities; Volunteers; Dog Fouling

APPENDIX 2: Relevance of Policies and Programmes to Little Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policy, Plan or Programme	Relevance to Little Milton NDP
European/International	
Kyoto Climate Change Protocol, 1997 and subsequent 2015 Paris agreement on climate change	Housing design criteria; public transport
The European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Habitats Directive) 1992	Informs environmental objectives of NDP
European Sustainable Development Strategy, May 2001	Thread running through whole NDP
The European Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (The Air Quality Framework Directive) 1996, and subsequent Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008	Roads policies
European Commission Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, 2006	Policies affecting development on high grade agricultural land
The European Water Framework Directive, 2000	Flood risk, clean water supplies and waste water management
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	Local rural environment and most particularly to conservation of BBOWT Nature Reserve
National	
The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)	Whole NDP and all policy setting
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Conservation area and protection of character of the village, listed buildings and buildings of historic interest
County	
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	Roads policies
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) &	Protection of local water courses

River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	Local rural environment and most particularly to conservation of BBOWT Nature Reserve
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Indirect
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)	Indirect
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (OCC)	Local rural environment
District	
South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2033	Whole NDP and all policy setting
South Oxfordshire District Council Core Strategy (2012)	Whole NDP and all policy setting
South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan 2011 (2006) saved policies	Whole NDP and all policy setting
South Oxfordshire District Council Housing Strategy 2008-2011	Whole NDP and all policy setting
South Oxfordshire District Council Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026	Whole NDP and all policy setting
South Oxfordshire District Council Refined Options Sustainability Appraisal (2015)	Whole NDP and all policy setting
The emerging Science Vale Action Plan.	Indirect

South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Final Report (July 2013) (SODC & VOWH)	Flood risk areas
South Oxfordshire District Council Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2014)	Housing need and mix
National Heritage Protection Plan Historic England 2012/13	Local heritage management; conservation area; design criteria.
Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 – 2031 (2015)	Sustainability; roads policy
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (Environment Agency)	Flood risk; drainage, water supplies, waste water management
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (Oxfordshire County Council)	Local rural environment and most particularly to conservation of BBOWT Nature Reserve
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (Environment Agency)	Indirect
Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (2014)	Jobs, economic growth
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (Oxfordshire County Council)	Local environment and rights of way
Local	
Little Milton Village Plan 2014	Roads policies; Sewerage and Flooding; Infrastructure; Carbon Capture;