



LONG WITTENHAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Consultation draft 1.0

Status: Draft  
24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Report purpose

This document is the scoping report for a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (LWNDP).

A South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) screening opinion published 11 November 2014 concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was required. 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.

A Sustainability Appraisal is more comprehensive than strategic environmental assessment since it covers the effects of plans on the economy and society, as well as the environment. The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are embodied into all levels of planning policy. By undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal of the LWNDP, we will therefore fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive.

## 1.2 Background

Long Wittenham has an active community which has been discussing its development needs over many years. This has included community-led planning of which the most recent was “Wittenham Vision” published in 2010. Wittenham Vision Action Plan involved two years of consultation including a village survey. The aims were to:

- Identify key changes and improvements that the community would like to see.
- Identify a clear set of priorities
- Ensure a consistent and ‘whole village’ approach to developments
- Communicate clearly and involve the whole village.

Wittenham Vision identified a range of action points:

- Improve village appearance
- Relocate and build a village hall
- Improve outdoor play areas
- Consider options to provide a village shop

- Build a footpath/cycle path to Clifton Hampden
- Increase community activity
- Improve traffic flow and parking
- Consult village on options for Ward's field

Many of these actions have been successfully executed. A lot of work was done to try to progress the relocation of the village hall, development of a village shop and establishing a path to Clifton Hampden. These actions have not yet been achieved, but a “village hub” project idea emerged that would include a new school, village hall and shop/café, possibly on one site. The Parish Council commissioned a feasibility study of the Village Hub project. This identified potential locations within the village for the hub and looked at ways the project might be funded, mainly through the development of the existing school and village hall land for housing and building additional housing together with the new village hub.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced Neighbourhood Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders which enable neighbourhoods to influence housing development. Once passed by more than 50% of people in a referendum of residents, these spatial development tools become part of the statutory planning framework. The parish council felt that the new statutory tools were appropriate for addressing the local spatial development issues that previous engagement had identified.

Even at this early stage, some aims were already emerging which will have relevance for the Neighbourhood Plan:

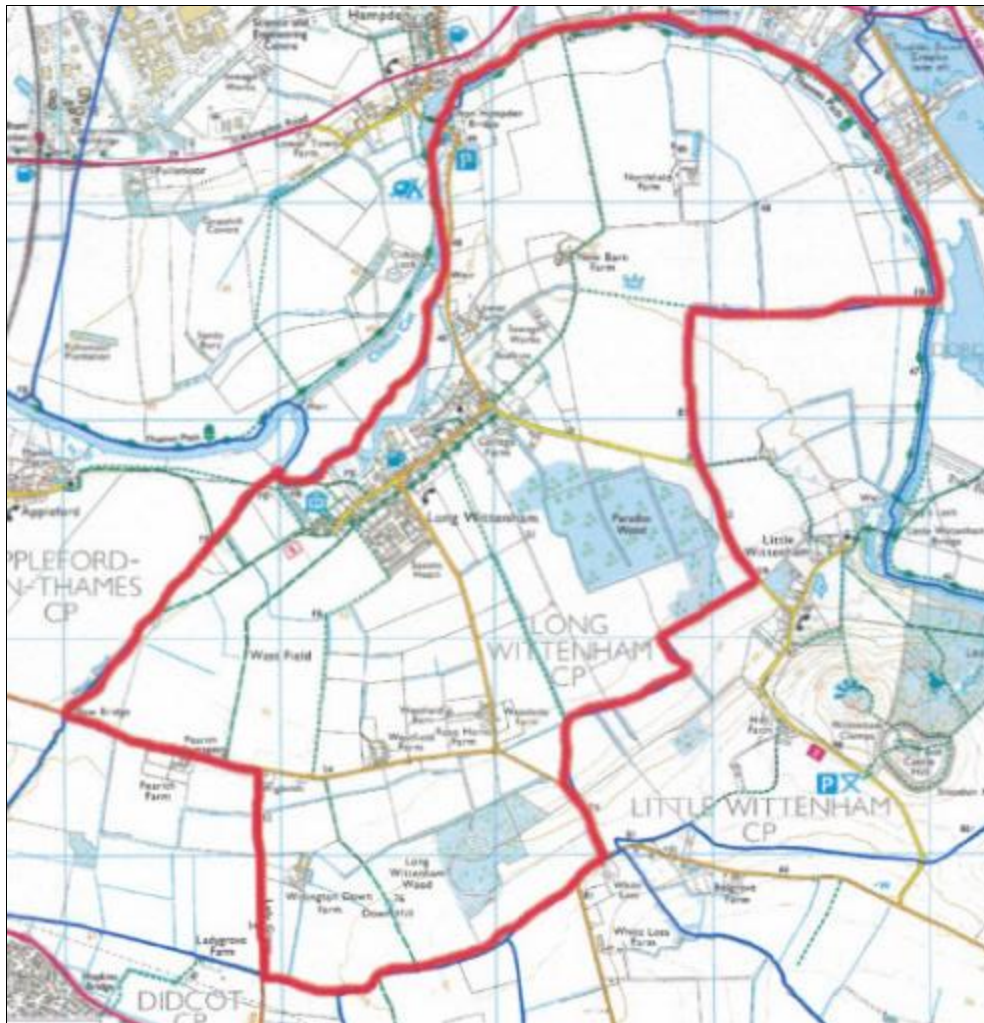
- to enable the development of the village hub and associated buildings
- to re-engage residents in this process
- to identify the housing needs of our community
- to update the village led plan, identify new issues and build a strategy for addressing these

### **1.3 Approach**

The LWNDP was initiated by Long Wittenham Parish Council in summer 2014 to make progress on the spatial development issues identified in earlier community engagement, with advice from SODC and professional help from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). The costs of the neighbourhood plan are being met by the Parish Council and available grants from the District Council and governmental sources.

In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, SODC publicised the neighbourhood plan application from Long Wittenham Parish Council and advertised a 6 week consultation period ending on 14 September 2014. The Head of Planning at South Oxfordshire District Council designated the area shown in Figure 1.1 below as the 'Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Area' on 26 September 2014.

Figure 1.1 Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Area



This area does not include the whole parish as it was at that time. The South West corner of the parish will be transferred to Didcot Town Council as a result of a large housing development.

The LWNDP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is preparing a new Local Plan referred to as the Local Plan 2031, which is scheduled to be adopted in 2016. At

the time of drafting this sustainability scoping report for LWNDP the development plan in South Oxfordshire consists of:

- South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012)
- Saved policies of the Local Plan 2011 (2006)

We have taken advice from SODC to ensure consistency with the SODC Core Strategy and that all relevant legislation and policies identified as relevant and necessary by SODC (see Appendix 2) have been incorporated in the LWNDP Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

There are two options for a Neighbourhood Plan, the more rigorous Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. On the advice of the Planning Department at SODC we agreed to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal. While there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) the steering group chose to do so to ensure that the LWNDP will contribute to achieving sustainable development.

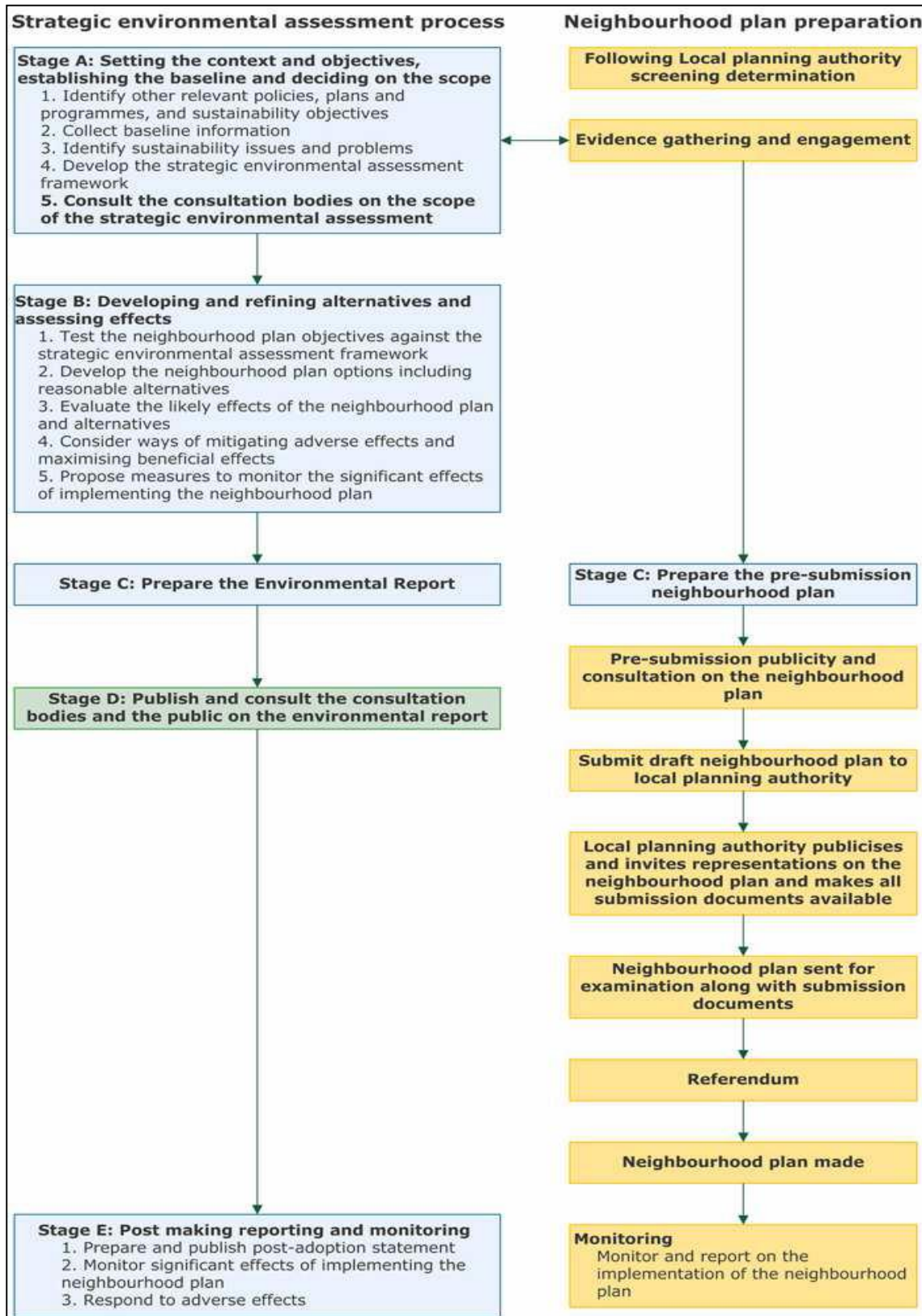
The National Planning Practice Guidance suggests a five stage (A-E) approach that an NDP should follow in the production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment. These stages can also be applied to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The relationship of these five SA stages to the stages of the plan preparation is shown in Figure 1.2 over the page.

This scoping report documents 'Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope' of the SA process'.

Chapter 1 sets out the Sustainability Appraisal scoping report process. Chapter 2 captures the relevant policies, plans and programmes as supplied by SODC (listed in Appendix 2) and draws out the key messages which form the foundation of the SA Framework. Chapter 3 provides a summary of the environmental, social and economic baseline information relevant to Long Wittenham and Chapter 4 describes the sustainability issues and challenges emerging from the evidence. Chapter 5 sets out our sustainability objectives and how they will be used to assess the effects of the neighbourhood development plan; including the plan's vision, objectives, policies and the development sites to be allocated.



Figure 1.2 Five stages of Strategic Environmental Assessment. (replace with high quality image)





## 1.4 Process

### Personnel

A working party comprising residents and parish councillors was established soon after the area was designated to carry out the neighbourhood plan process. The parish council nominated a core steering group of councillors comprising Tom Bowtell, Simon Thompson and Peter Rose. A larger steering committee was convened comprising the above parish councillors and other residents representing interested parties. A request was circulated via the parish magazine for any other interested person to volunteer.

The full group :

Peter Rose	Parish Council	Chair
Jean Lisle	Resident	Secretary
Tom Bowtell	Parish Council	
Simon Thompson	Parish Council	
Steve Brown	Parish Council and Good Neighbour's Group	
Barrie Henderson	Village Hall Committee	
Cath Nicholson	Wittenham Vision	
Gabriel Hemery	Sylva Foundation	
Janet Haylett	PCC and history group	
Carol Dunne	Headteacher, LW Primary School	
Lynn Parker	Chair of governors, LW Primary School (Until May 2015)	
Bob Worsell	Governor, LW Primary School (From May 2015)	
Lydia Jones	LW Pre-school (until May 2015)	
Claire Beveridge	LW Pre-school (from May 2015)	

A grant from Locality enable us to engage support from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and in consequence Fiona Mullins and Tom McCulloch became advisors to the steering group.

### Meetings

The following meetings were held and minutes are available, including who was involved and what their views were.

Table 1.3 Meetings

Date	Meeting	What we did (explain your SA process)	Who was involved
13 August 2014	Parish Council steering group	Decision to proceed with Neighbourhood Plan. Focus of LWNDP. Suggestions for LWNDP steering group members	PR ST TB
31 August 2014	Steering group	Steering group appraised of LWNDP process and objectives (Anton Nath). General discussion of aims and barriers identified	All
25 Sept 2014	Open meeting for residents	28 people present. Explained LWNDP process, invited comments on issues of concern including traffic, housing, flooding, village hub, impact on neighbouring villages.	
24 Sept 2014	Initial meeting with Peter Canavan SODC Planning Dept	Discussion of LWNDP process, grants available, support and help available from SODC	PR ST
October 2014	Meeting with Peter Canavan/ Hannah Guest. SODC planning	Discussion of progress and clarification of steps to be taken and information required and discussion of how development would fit with Local Plan	PR FM
16 December 2014	Steering group	Discussed policy context, confirmed next steps, SG members signed up to write sections of the baseline evidence. Discussion of first draft of survey. SWOT analysis	All
20 Feb 2015	Survey development meeting	Detailed discussion of survey content and prioritisation of topics	PR TB TMCC
10 March 2015	Review meeting with Hannah Guest	Discussion of potential application by a developer. Review of progress	PR FM
15 May 2015	Steering group	Progress report. Discussion of survey distribution and important messages. Presentation by Fiona Mullins of next steps	All
11 June 2015	Parish open meeting	Approx 30 residents. Progress and imminent survey discussed	
1 September 2015	Steering group	Survey results SA objectives Communications	All

## Advice

The LWNDP process has run smoothly over the first year and has kept in time with projected milestones. There has been good engagement from the village through public meetings, the village survey (both in volunteers to distribute and good response rate). Help from SODC

and ORCC has facilitated this process and the steering group has made significant contributions in research for and writing up the Scoping Document.

### **Survey**

A survey was commissioned by Long Wittenham Parish Council (Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan Survey report, ORCC, July 2015). This was distributed to every household in June 2015 and ORCC analysed the comments and presented results to the Steering Group. There was a lot of support for main principles in the survey.

### **Problems faced**

Throughout the LWNDP scoping process a number of problems were identified and taken into account by the steering group:

1. Concerns that village has been surveyed too often in recent years and that engagement will be difficult. Our response was recognition of the need for good communication with the village.
2. An issue was raised by a village newcomer at an open meeting 15/05/2015 that the survey assumed the village wanted to relocate school and hall. Our response was that work in 5 years prior to the LWNDP, had demonstrated that this project was a village priority, but we accepted that newcomers since this decision were not party to the previous work. In consequence an explanatory paragraph was inserted in the survey.
3. Scepticism among some village residents that the plan would not fulfil its aims. This related to lack of progress in some of the Wittenham Vision aims.
4. Concerns that any development would exacerbate traffic problems. The Parish council commissioned a traffic survey in Spring 2014 which provides a basis for assessing this.
5. Concerns that any discussion about the need for a new school would cause anxiety amongst current parents about the current school site.

## 2. Policy context

### 2.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> states that the information to be provided in the required ‘environmental report’ should describe the “relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” and the “environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant...” This is often referred to as the ‘policy context’ within which a plan or programme is created. This is described in both the National Planning Practice Guidance (UK Government, 2014) (‘NPPG’) and the Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005) (The ‘Practical Guide’) as: ‘Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives’. The purpose of this chapter of the report is:

- To establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors
- To suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed
- To help identify SEA objectives

### 2.2 Approach

For the policy context, we looked at all the policy documents relating to possible development in Long Wittenham. SODC provided a list of 15 relevant plans and programmes (see Appendix 2). Respondents to the consultation on Long Wittenham’s designated area also suggested policy documents:

- English Heritage: supporting information on heritage and the built environment.
- Vale of White Horse District Council: the emerging Vale Local Plan 2031; and the emerging Science Vale Action Plan.

From these we extracted key messages that are relevant to our parish and recorded these for each of the relevant issues that must be considered to meet SEA requirements:

- biodiversity, flora and fauna
- population and human health
- soil
- water
- air
- climatic factors
- material assets

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC (the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment), Article 5(1), Annex 1 (a) and (e)

- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape
- the interrelation between these issues

The initial work on the policy context was undertaken by Peter Rose and subsequently discussed at a steering group meeting. SODC advised us to use a “rolling” table to document the key messages from the policy context, then identify the baseline situation against each, and from this identify sustainability issues and possible sustainability objectives. The full table, including a detailed review of the key messages from these plans and programmes for each SEA issue (population, human health, soil etc) is in Appendix 3.

The key messages from each of the policies and programmes are summarise in Table 2.1.

*Table 2.1: Key messages from policies and programme*

<b>Policy/programme</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Relevance / Key messages</b>
The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)	1) Allows people and communities to participate in planning 2) A presumption in favour of sustainable development that is the basis for every plan,	1. ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’, which ‘should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking’
South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012) (SODC)	Sets out a vision for South Oxfordshire to 2027.	Many, see Appendix 3
South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 (2006) (SODC)	District-wide policies on planning.	Many, see Appendix 3
South Oxfordshire Housing Strategy 2008-2011 (SODC)	Housing is one of SODCs main priorities, with support of homes for local residents.	2.Affordable housing to support vulnerable people within communities giving them access to services they need to lead independent lives. 3.Older residents are a priority as they need suitable housing to remain near families and friends. 4.There is a growing need for smaller 2-bed households.
South Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026 (SODC)	Overarching vision for the District including the economic future of South Oxfordshire, social exclusion and climate change	5.Create the conditions that encourage vibrant and thriving economies in villages and towns. 6.Increase housing numbers to meet people’s current and future housing need. 7.Meet the housing and support needs of vulnerable groups including older people 8.Plan services for an ageing population

Policy/programme	Description	Relevance / Key messages
		9. Increase participation in sport and active recreation.
Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (EA)	Sets out 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	10. The River Thames runs through the parish to the north.  11. The EA's prediction of flood risk is relevant for the Parish, although any flooding typically affects the road network causing some significant delays rather than homes or business premises 12. No potential development plots fall into areas zoned by EA as Flood Risk categories 2&3.
Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (EA)	Strategies to ensure water availability within the Thames Corridor, especially at low flows.	13. Seek to ensure that new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.
Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)	Oxford has Europe's largest concentration of multi-million pound science research facilities, underpinning its leading position in advanced engineering, manufacturing and life sciences.	14. Long Wittenham is near to the Science Vale development. Plans for sustainable growth at strategic sites nearby could affect Long Wittenham.
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 (OCC) & South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009) (SODC & VOWH)	The SFRA 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. The built up areas of LW are not highlighted in the flood risk maps and tables in these reports.	15. Consider how surface water and drainage will be managed on any development site
Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2030 (2011) (OCC) <sup>2</sup>	Key objectives: • Create a better, safer and more healthy transport system: – improve economy – reduce transport emissions – promote greater equality	16. Ensure that any transport proposals promote fuel economy, lower carbon, accessible and healthier forms of transport.

<sup>2</sup> This plan quoted has since been superseded by the Local Transport Plan 4: adopted by OCC on 8 September 2015. Volume 2 part ii: "Area Strategies, A420 Route Strategy and Freight Strategy" is of most relevance. The new Thames crossing is listed as proposal SV 2.13 on page 12.



Policy/programme	Description	Relevance / Key messages
	– improve quality of life new Thames crossing proposed in LTP4	
Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (OCC)	Conserving biodiversity for Oxfordshire's wildlife and people. The need for biodiversity action planning and protection of the main biodiversity hotspots in the county.	17. Long Wittenham parish is categorised in the low/med biobands but has some areas that are home to priority species for conservation.
Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (OCC)	The safeguarding of Rights of Way and their management.	18. Ensure that the rights or way and their management are safeguarded and promote their use.
Wittenham Vision 2010 – village plan	Action Plan based on local community consultation	19. Seek to achieve the longer term goals with spatial development aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair cycle path to Didcot</li> <li>• Build a new, larger community village hall facility with parking and a central location</li> <li>• Encourage the development of team sports</li> <li>• Explore other shop or market formats for the Village</li> <li>• Establish a more direct path following the road to Clifton Hampden</li> <li>• actions to improve traffic and parking in the village</li> <li>• Establish a community space by the river</li> </ul>
Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2008-2013 (Draft plan published for 2014-2019, final plan scheduled to be published in spring 2014) (The Chilterns Conservation Board)	The major themes within this document are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserving and enhancing natural beauty</li> <li>2. Biodiversity</li> <li>3. Water environment</li> <li>4. Historic environment</li> <li>5. Development</li> <li>6. Understanding and enjoyment</li> <li>7. Social and economic wellbeing</li> </ol>	20. AONB adjacent to village. Ensure disruption of views to AONB are minimised
North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2014-	Sets out objectives and policies for AONB partners that are believed to be realistic and achievable in the	21. The North Wessex Downs AONB is approx. 10km south of LW so this is not directly relevant

Policy/programme	Description	Relevance / Key messages
2019 (North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners)	next five years. Emphasis on AONB Partnerships to protect precious environments. Local communities will be at the heart of delivery.	
* Historic England report: National Heritage Protection Plan overview 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	21. Much of the village is in the Long Wittenham Conservation area. Support good practice advice on local heritage in any development.
*The emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031;	District-wide policies on planning.	22. Strategic sites eg Milton Park and Harwell will impact LW, eg pressure on traffic, demand for cycle path, more residents, demand for school places.
*The emerging Science Vale Action Plan.	SODC and VWHDC are producing a Science Vale Area 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.	23. Plans for sustainable growth at strategic sites could affect Long Wittenham, and ambitions for “significant investment in local infrastructure, for example, roads, cycleways, water supply, and schools.” 24. The consultation document states “... The attractive countryside will continue to be an important asset ... will be maintained and where needed, improved to support a high quality of life for residents.”

\*Additional plans and policies suggested by respondents to consultation on Long Wittenham’s Designated area.

The rest of this report summarises the baseline situation in Long Wittenham (Chapter 3) for these issues, looks at the sustainability issues (Chapter 4), and defines a sustainability appraisal framework for LWNDP (Chapter 5).

## 3. Baseline assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

The results of the policy assessment were tabulated and discussed by the steering group who agreed to use their local knowledge together with published material to establish the baseline situation in Long Wittenham. The following sub-sections document their findings.

*Table 3.1 Steering group contributors to the baseline assessment*

SA aspect	Topics	Steering group member
Environmental	Landscape, townscape, traffic, transport	Steve Brown
	Soil, water, air, climate	Gabriel Hemery
	Material assets, cultural heritage	Janet Haylett
Social	Education, community	Lynn Parker
Economic	Population, health, employment, communication	Peter Rose

### 3.2 Landscape

Long Wittenham is a village of with a population of 825 people living in approximately 330 dwellings. It is situated centrally in the triangle formed by the towns of Abingdon, Wallingford and Didcot. The main part of the village is shown in map A1 in Appendix 1.

The northern boundary is the River Thames and its southern borders Didcot however as a significant part of the southern area, which is only sparsely populated, is now included in the Northern Development Area of Didcot's planned expansion this is excluded from the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. Map A3 in Appendix 1 shows the extent of the Parish and its relationship to our immediate neighbours of Little Wittenham to the east and Clifton Hampden across the River to the north.

Map A3 in Appendix 1 also shows the adopted policy areas surrounding the Parish. Apart from the Conservation Area none of the parish is protected by green belt or AONB areas. However across the river the whole of the other bank forms the boundary of greenbelt and the boundary with Little Wittenham coincides with the boundary of the AONB protection the area around Wittenham Clumps.

There are excellent views from the village towards The Clumps from properties in Fieldside and Didcot Road and there is easy access to a good network of public rights of way from the village making it safe and convenient to walk off road to Little Wittenham, Appleford and towards Sires Hill areas. The Thames Path National Trail runs along the parish bank of the Thames from Clifton Hampden towards Days Lock in Little Wittenham. There is also a well used cycle route from the village towards Didcot taking cyclists and pedestrians on a hard surfaced off-road route into Lady Grove.

There are two routes which villagers would like to see implemented: an off road route to Clifton Hampden; and a circular route starting near the Pendon Museum and taking in Clifton Hampden Lock area using the weir at the upstream end of the lock cut. The Wittenham Vision survey in 2010 showed 80% of respondents would use the path between several times per week to several times per year for recreation, dog walking or to access services in Clifton Hampden.

### 3.3 Townscape

The village has four main housing elements of differing character. The High Street and immediate environs includes many historic and listed buildings in the conservation area shown Map A3 in Appendix 1 and also includes the historic St Mary's Church, village school and two pub/restaurants.

- Westfield Road is a 1960s private housing development
- Saxons Heath is also a 1960s development of formerly social housing some of which is now owner occupied.
- Poplars Park is a pitch park home development.

The village benefits from a thriving primary school with approximately 90 pupils on the roll. The Grade 1 listed Church and cemetery are central to the village and we have 3 pub/restaurants in the parish, The Plough, The Vine and Spice in the main village centre and The Barley Mow, although this last pub is right next to the boundary with Clifton Hampden by the bridge over the river.

There is a very central village hall which is widely used by community groups and supports a vibrant pre-school group.

Long Wittenham has excellent traffic links to Didcot (with its main line rail facilities) and Wallingford and is on the direct commuter route from Didcot to Oxford and the M40.

Other village/parish facilities and amenities include:

- Bodkins Field sports pitches and play-area
- Caravan and camping site adjacent to The Barley Mow where there is also a large surfaced carpark.
- A well used fishing area at the Maddy
- Access to Neptune wood on Little Wittenham Road
- Two village allotments at either end of Fieldside
- Acklings Village play and sports area opposite Poplars Park
- Pendon Model Railway Museum

There have been people living in this area since the Stone Age with Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements nearby. Remains of an important Anglo- Saxon settlement have been excavated in the village. The village is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086.

### 3.4 Education

Long Wittenham Pre-School is a registered charity and is managed by a small committee made up of volunteers who are parents and carers. The pre-school is based at the village hall and is currently fully subscribed. The building poses some limitations in terms of size of indoor and outdoor space and also having to share the space with all the other requirements of the village. The pre-school and primary school work as closely together as possible given that they are at separate locations. Not all primary school pupils have attended the pre-school and likewise, not all the pre-school children go to the primary school.

Long Wittenham Primary School is currently the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the Local Education Authority (LEA). The school has capacity of 115 but currently has 82 pupils on roll. The age range is from 4 - 11 years (reception to Year 6) and the catchment area is Long and Little Wittenham. However the school would not be sustainable with pupils from this area only as there are too few young children living in the village. About one third of pupils come from other areas which have included Appleford, Abingdon, Berinsfield, North Moreton, Sutton Courtenay, Didcot, Dorchester and Drayton. This leads to the challenge of parking and transportation as these parents obviously need to drive to school. The intake numbers vary from year to year and the school losing some pupils every year at the end of Key Stage 1 (age 7) when they move to private education.

The primary school has Forest School sessions where the children are taken to Neptune Woods and this has taken place for a number of years. The children go for swimming lessons in Berinsfield, the school also use the sports hall at Berinsfield as it larger than the one at school and enables the children to access appropriate sports facilities. The school was built in 1856 and has been adapted at various times throughout the years which has eaten into the outside space which no longer meets current standards. The current school building poses some challenges with the room sizes, layout and circulation space but the school benefits from a strong caring ethos and dedicated staff. Pupil attainment at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is higher than both the average for Oxfordshire and that for England.

Children living in the village are in a dual catchment area for secondary schools which is unusual. We are in the catchment area for St Birinus and Didcot Girls in Didcot and also Wallingford School. The majority of pupils from Long Wittenham Primary School go on to these 3 schools but for the children not in the catchment area it can be less straightforward as it depends upon available spaces as well as parental preference. Children have gone on to schools in Wantage, Abingdon as well as the private sector.

There is no post-16 education provision in the Parish and most post-16 students travel to Abingdon and Witney College, the designated post-16 centre, by special bus or travel to schools or colleges some distance from the village by car or extra buses.

### 3.5 Village Facilities

Long Wittenham is a thriving village with a strong community. There are a number of facilities that Long Wittenham benefits from including 2 central pubs, primary school, village hall, pre-school and some sports and play facilities and also two plots of allotments. There are however some notable exceptions including a village shop or post office the nearest facilities being at Clifton Hampden, 2.6km away. Whilst the distances to a Job Centre and a Secondary School are higher than the England average, distances to a Public House, GP Surgery and Post Office are all at or below the England averages.

With regards to sports there are active communities for football, cricket and yoga, as well as 2 playing fields and a playground. Other active clubs and societies include History, Women's Institute, bell ringing, a monthly lunch club and a monthly Good Neighbours Group. There are also a number of community events including the May Fair, annual Witt Fest music festival, an annual fun run, bonfire night event and concerts in the church. Although the village hall provides a useful base for many activities it does not provide a community hub.

Residents use facilities outside of Long Wittenham such as gyms, swimming, tennis clubs, and golf. For day centres, residents would need to travel to Didcot, Abingdon or Wallingford. The rural surroundings are an important leisure asset and Long Wittenham's rural position by the River Thames provides many opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding and other outdoor pursuits. Additionally, there are a number of allotments located within Long Wittenham, providing recreational activities and also provide locally grown food.

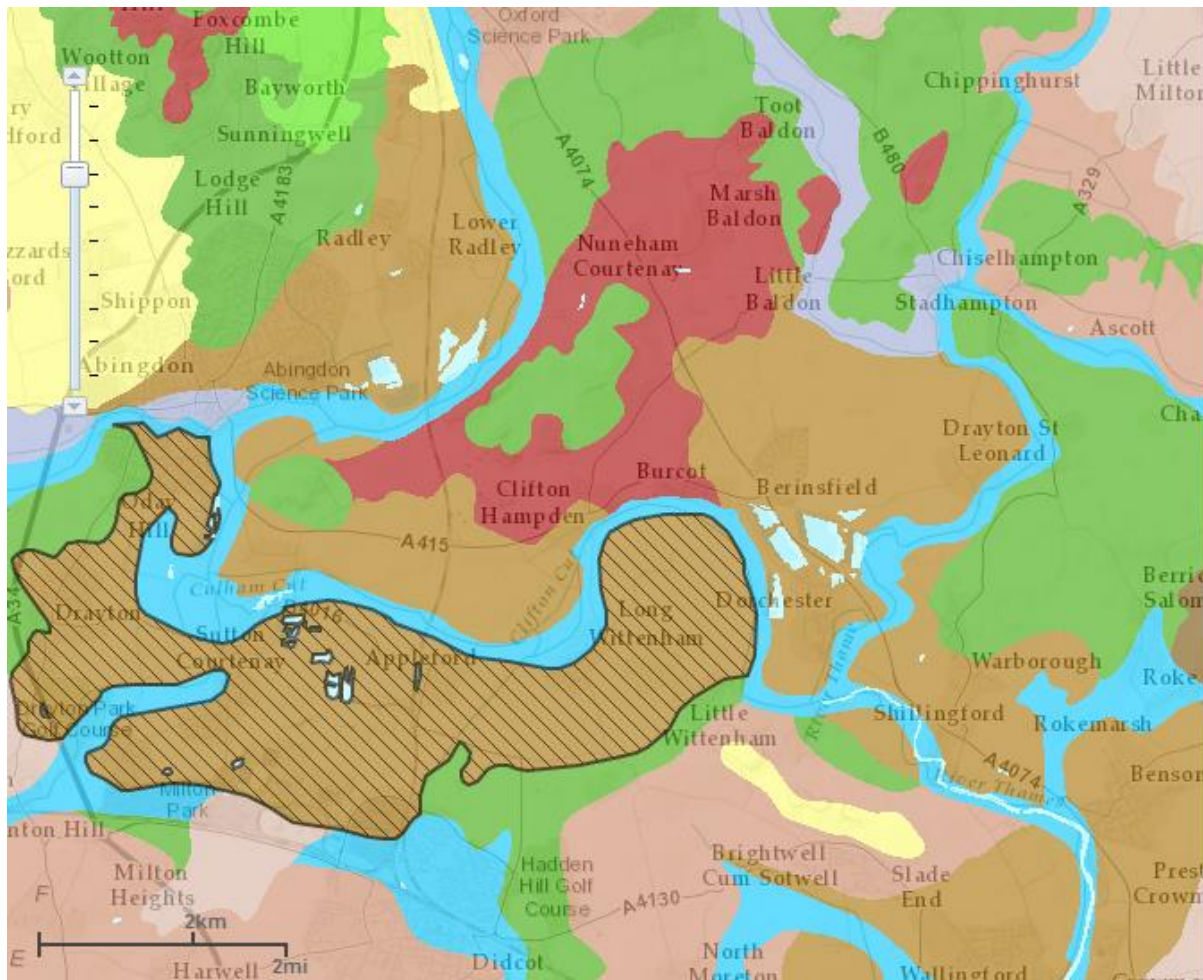
### 3.6 Soils

Long Wittenham is located on the former floodplain of the River Thames, and broadly the whole village shares a similar soil type.

The local soils are freely-draining base-rich in nature but slightly acid. They contain low levels of carbon. They have a loam texture and have high natural fertility; making them highly valuable for arable and grass farming systems. Their free-draining nature also makes them liable to upwards percolation, meaning that low-lying areas can be prone to standing water when the water table is high.

To the south of the village, as the altitude increases, soils change to loam-clays which are slowly-permeable with impeded drainage, and only moderate fertility.



Figure 3.2 Map of Soilscape<sup>3</sup>

### 3.7 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

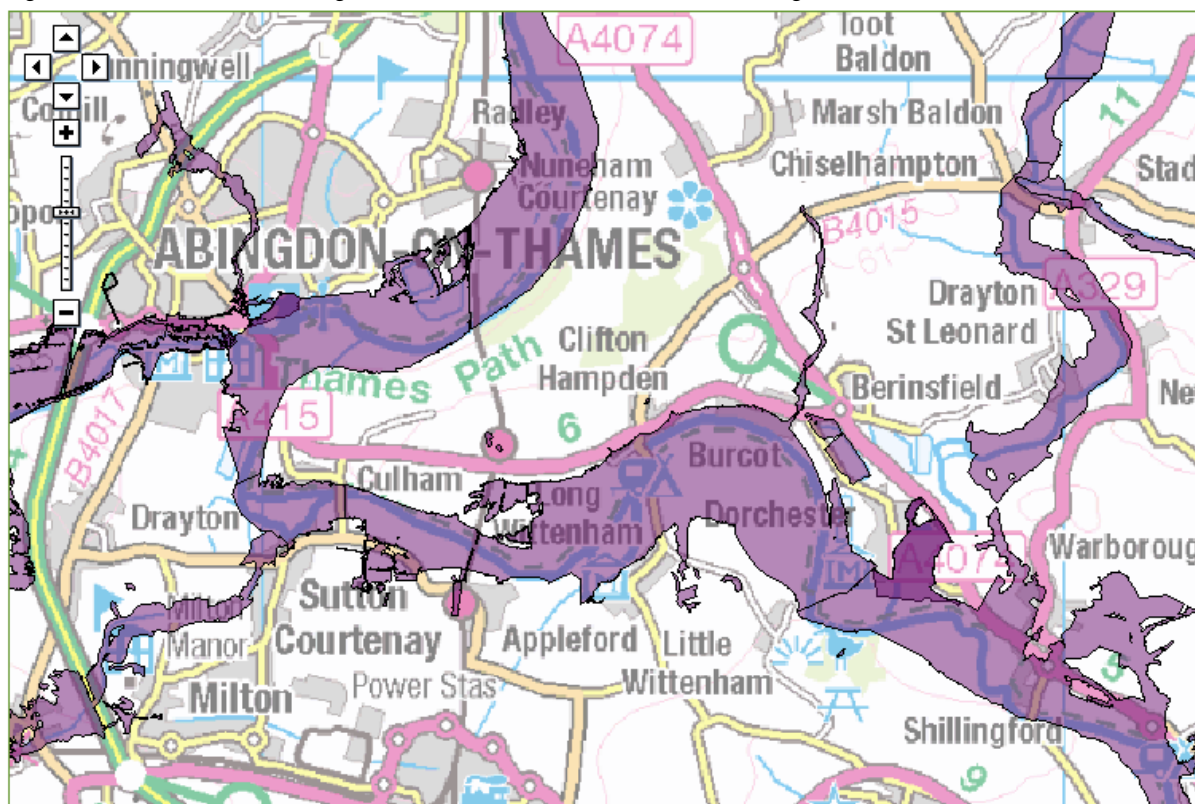
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report concluded that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal” and “it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century”. Carbon dioxide emissions from South Oxfordshire decreased between 2005 and 2012, from 8.2 to 7.0 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per capita. (source DEFRA CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data). This is below the Oxfordshire average of 7.3 tonnes per capita. Just over 36% of South Oxfordshire’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from industrial and commercial sources, 37% from domestic sources, 27% from road traffic. (DEFRA “Local and Regional CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Estimates for 2005-2012” June 2014)

<sup>3</sup> Soilscape. Developed by Cranfield University, supported by Defra. Accessed January 2015.  
<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscape>

### 3.8 Water

The village is frequently governed by flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency, although any flooding typically affects the road network rather than homes or business premises.<sup>4</sup> For instance the road to Clifton Hampden is often flooded by the River Thames, which spills onto the road to the north of the village, sometimes at a depth making passing impossible except by 4x4 vehicles. This has implications for residents who typically commute north to Oxford or to Abingdon. The nearest alternative crossing points over the River Thames are at Sutton Courtenay (which is also liable to flooding) or Wallingford.

Figure 3.3 Areas around Long Wittenham issued with Flood Warnings.



The section of the River Thames near the village is covered by a River Basin Management Plan. It is deemed to be of low ecological value, predicted to rise to 'moderate' in 2015.

The whole village area is categorised as a 'Surface Water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone' – meaning that surface waters contain at least 50mg per litre nitrate. This has implications for farms in the area; farms must comply with NVZ rules.

<sup>4</sup> Environmental Agency – interactive maps for flooding and water quality. Accessed January 2015.  
<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Water samples from Clifton Hampden Ditch (near the road bridge) and Moor Ditch (west of the village) taken in 2009, were graded good for chemistry but poor for biology. Very high levels of nitrates and phosphates were found in the samples.

### 3.9 Air quality and pollution

There are no samples for air quality taken within the immediate boundary of the village recorded on the Environment Agency website<sup>5</sup>. The village was included in an Air Quality Action Plan consultation led by South Oxfordshire District Council in 2014, in fulfilment of the 1995 Environment Act<sup>6</sup>. Long Wittenham is not been categorised as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), unlike nearby Wallingford whose centre suffers from queuing road traffic which leads to high levels of NO<sub>2</sub>. Nonetheless, as traffic levels are anticipated to increase in the village, with no planned improvements to traffic flow, levels of NO<sub>2</sub>, sulphur dioxide and particulates may need to be monitored closely in future.

A number of sources for pollution are noted in the local area. These include:

- Jet Laboratory, Culham Science Centre - radioactive materials
- Waste recycling centre, Culham – mixed materials
- Gravel extraction, Sutton Courtenay- mining waste
- Didcot Power Station, Didcot - Didcot A, coal-fired, now closed. Didcot B, gas-powered.
- Adjacent landfills, both old and live

There is a 7.5 tonne weight restriction at Clifton Hampden bridge so lorry traffic to or from any of these sites will not go through Long Wittenham, unless making a local delivery.

### 3.10 Climate

Long Wittenham is situated at 50 metres above sea level in a flat landscape, its climate largely unaffected by local topography. The nearest Met Office weather station to Long Wittenham is located at Benson. Thirty year averages (1981-2010) from this station indicate the following averages for the local area:<sup>7</sup>

- Average annual max temperature 14.4°C (warmest month July 22.6°C)
- Average annual min temperature 5.9°C (coldest month February 0.8°C)
- Average annual rainfall 112.3mm (highest rainfall month November 11.1mm)

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5 Environmental Agency – interactive maps for air quality and pollution. Accessed January 2015.  
<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk>

6 South Oxfordshire Air Quality Action Plan (2014)  
[https://consult.southoxfordshire.gov.uk/portal/south/health\\_and\\_housing/ep/](https://consult.southoxfordshire.gov.uk/portal/south/health_and_housing/ep/)

7 Met Office: thirty year data for Benson. Accessed January 2015.  
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/gcpjw35jy>

Climate change projections, according to a high emissions scenario (known as A1F1) – and therefore the worst case – indicate that the climate for the south east of England (finest resolution of current projections) can be summarised as changing as follows for 2050 and 2080:<sup>8</sup>

Table 3.4: Climate change projections

	2050	2080
Winter mean temperate	increase of 2.5°C	increase of 3.7°C
Summer mean temperature	increase of 3.1°C	increase of 4.9°C
Summer mean daily maximum	increase of 4.3°C	increase of 6.7°C
Annual mean precipitation	increase of 0%	increase of 1%
Winter mean precipitation	increase of 19%	increase of 30%
Summer mean precipitation	decrease of 19%	decrease of 29%

In summary, it is likely that the changes with the greatest effect will arise from significantly higher winter rainfall – which would exacerbate seasonal flooding – while summer drought is likely to impact on farming and other businesses that require water.

### 3.11 Biodiversity

South Oxfordshire contains a rich variety of natural habitats of local, national and international importance. There are a total of 203 designated nature conservation areas in South Oxfordshire including 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), 38 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 157 proposed or confirmed County Wildlife Sites (CWS) and 4 Local Nature Reserves. None of these falls within the Long Wittenham neighbourhood plan area.

Most of Long Wittenham parish is categorised in the low/med biobands. The parish landscape is mainly lowland village farmlands which do not support habitats that are deemed to be of national or international important.<sup>9</sup> However there are areas of river meadowlands which include reedbed habitat (Site Code: 59L01) and wet willow woodland which are both national nature conservation priority habitats, and the Lodden lily which is a rare plant is found mainly in wet areas along the Thames in Oxfordshire and Berkshire and the River Lodden in Berkshire. Kingfishers nest in a bank on one site. A wet meadow (site code 59M03) that has escaped agricultural improvement and is managed as pasture or is cut for hay is a type of habitat that is a national priority for nature conservation. Wildflowers on this site include great burnet, ragged robin, sneezewort and abundance of the yellow flowered marsh marigold. Marsh orchids have been seen here. There is also a seasonal pond

<sup>8</sup> UK Climate Projections (UKCP09). Accessed January 2015.

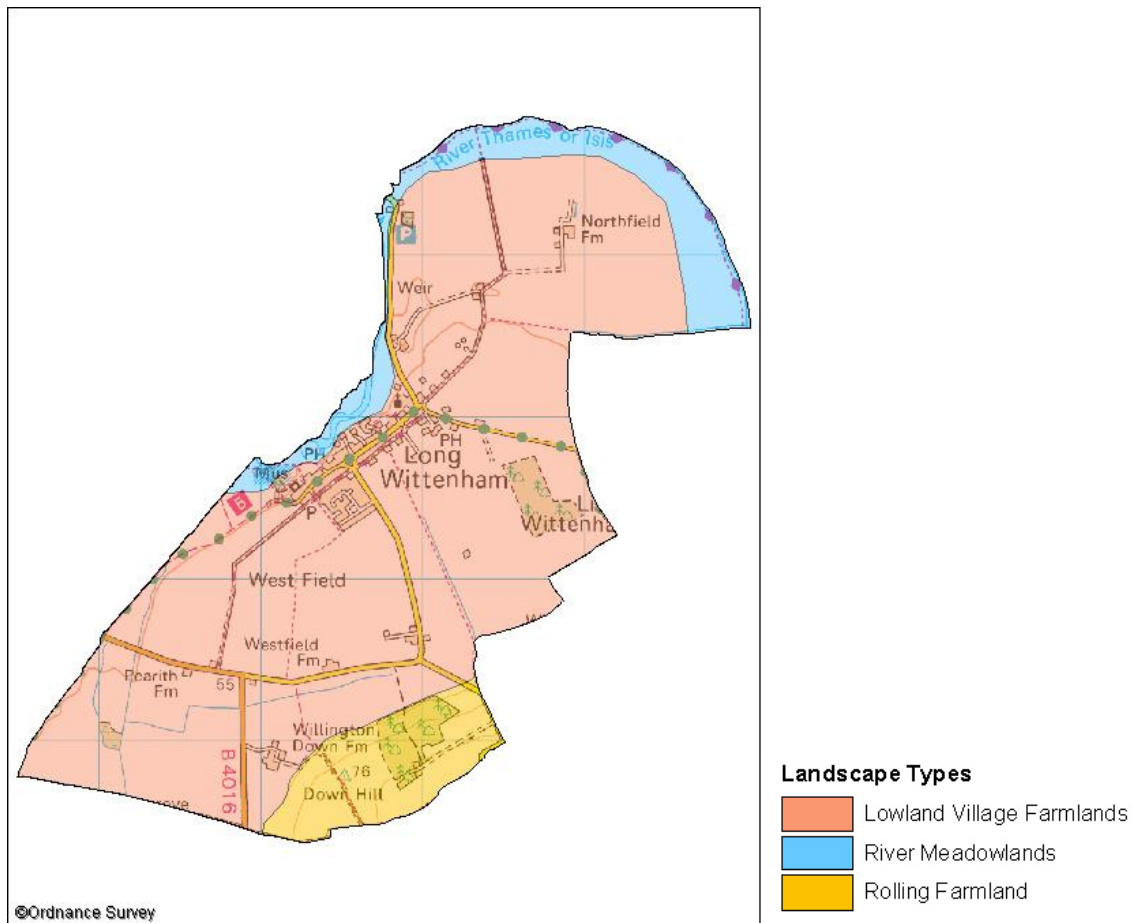
<http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk>

<sup>9</sup> (<http://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/OWLS/Home/>)



in the meadow. Skylarks, which are a national priority for nature conservation due to the rapid decline in its UK population, can be seen here.

Figure 3.5 Long Wittenham biobands



### 3.12 Traffic and Transport

As set out above the Village is well served with easy access to Didcot and Wallingford. However access north towards Oxford and Abingdon is constrained by the one way working at Clifton Hampden Bridge. The centre of the village is protected by a 30 mph speed limit and there is a system of traffic calming with one way priority shuttle working at 3 locations through the High Street. There is also a 30 mph limit on the approach to the Barley Mow. All of the built up areas of the village benefit from a system of street lighting although this provides only low level lighting.

Approximately 2500 vehicles per day used the main road through the village and attached as appendices are historic traffic volumes over the last 7 years taken from the 3 permanent traffic counters surrounding the village.

In Spring 2014 a detailed traffic count and speed survey was completed at each end of the main road through the village to check daily flows and speeds. These are summarised in Appendix 4. Traffic volumes and speeds were one of the top priorities discussed at recent

village meetings in preparation for drafting the Neighbourhood Plan. Data from the traffic count and speed survey is also included in the appendices.

Also summarised and shown on a map in the appendices are records of traffic collisions (RTC) over the last 5 years from 2010 to 2014 inclusive. Fortunately there have only been a relatively small number of (reportable) collisions in the Parish and the only obvious cluster is at the junction at the north end of the Long Mile/LadyGrove road. There are only two recorded accident locations within the main part of the village, one near the Crescent and one just east of The Plough on High Street.

There is a very limited bus service in the village and at the time of drafting the contract is subject to re-negotiation by Oxfordshire County Council.

### **3.13 Material assets**

#### **Village Hall**

Long Wittenham has a village hall, built around 1916/1917 which has had many extensions and upgrades over the past century. It is owned by the Parish Council on behalf of the parishioners and managed by a Village Hall Committee which includes representatives of the main groups that use the hall regularly. The Committee works hard to provide a low-cost but good standard venue for the village.

The main user is Long Wittenham Pre-school, but it is also used by village groups: Brownies, Pilates, Karate, WI, Lunch Club, Good Neighbours Group, Twinning Group, History Group. It is available for hire for parties, dances, quizzes, fund raising fetes, fairs, sales and similar events.

The hall is centrally located in the village but has limited parking (4 spaces) and only the car park as outside space. There is only one main hall with no separate meeting rooms, so that when in use by Pre-school, no other groups can meet there, limiting the opportunities for other groups to form and use it as a base.

#### **Church**

St Mary's is a fine grade I listed church built by the Normans in 1120. It retains many of its early features such as the Norman chancel arch, lead font and small sculpted memorial to one of the early Lords of the Manor, Gilbert de Clare, which dates from 1295.

#### **Public Houses**

We have three pubs in the Parish, The Plough Inn which hosts several village events such as the annual Fun Run and the church fete, The Vine and Spice which is now an Indian Restaurant as well as a traditional pub, and The Barley Mow near the bridge which dates from the 14th century and is mentioned in J K Jerome's 'Three Men in a Boat'.



## **Museum**

One other historic pub, The Three Poplars, is now the Pendon Museum of miniature landscape which has a wonderful scale model landscape of the Vale of White Horse on a summer's day in 1930. It is home to the well-known Madder Valley scale railway layout.

## **Village Cross**

Centrally sited at the heart of the village tradition has it that St Birinus preached Christianity to the villagers in the seventh century. The cross was restored in the late nineteenth century but the base is much older, possible original. It has always been a focal point in the village.

## **School**

There has been a school in Long Wittenham since the 1830s. It moved to its current site in 1854 when it was designated a National School. It has been added to and improved but the old school building is still an integral part of the school. It takes pupils from 5-11 not just from Long Wittenham but from Little Wittenham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay and Didcot. The most recent OFSTED inspection report (2014) rates the school as 'Good' and the pupils attain above average SATs. It is a small school which provides a friendly and supportive learning environment to its approximately 90 pupils.

## **The War memorial**

Designed by Guy Dawber, the memorial bears the names of fourteen men from the village who died as a result of the First World War. They are remembered each Armistice Day at a short service attended not only by villagers but the children from our village school who keep alive those names from the past.

## **Cultural heritage**

There have been people living in this area since the Stone Age with Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements nearby. The Wittenham sword and the Wittenham shield, both from the Iron Age are on display in the Ashmolean Museum and the Iron Age hill fort on the Clumps at Little Wittenham is part of our close landscape. When the Romans came they built a small town at Dorchester; one of them walked this way and dropped a brooch which was later found in Church Cottage. Local metal detectorists have found many Roman artefacts at various locations.

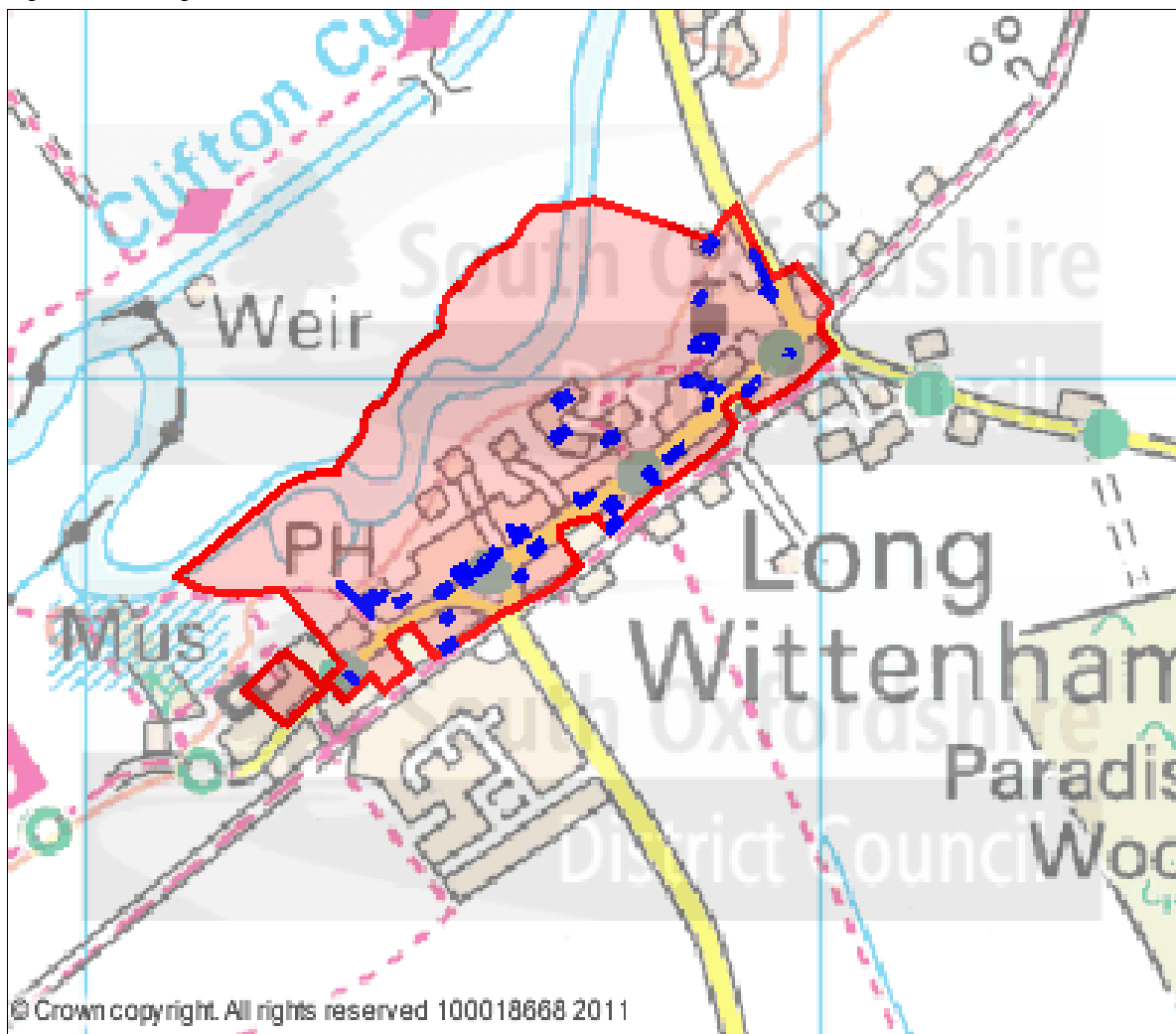
The village was founded by Witta and his family, in the fifth century AD. An important Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been partially excavated on what is now Saxons Heath, site of the council estate built in the 1950s. It is expected that further investigations will be needed to establish the extent of the cemetery and any other Anglo-Saxon remains. There are extensive crop marks within the parish boundary including those of a Romano-British farmstead at Northfield Farm.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. At the time of the Conquest, the manor had been owned by Queen Edith wife of Edward the Confessor. When she died in 1075, William the Conqueror gave it to Walter Gifford, his cousin, who had come with him in 1066. From then on there were a succession of Lords of the Manor until it was bought by Sir Thomas White in the mid 1550s and given to his foundation of St John's College in Oxford to provide the College with an income of money and crops. Only fairly recently has the College sold most of the houses and much of the land.

### 3.14 Conservation area

Much of the village is in the Long Wittenham Conservation area.

Figure 3.6: Long Wittenham Conservation Area



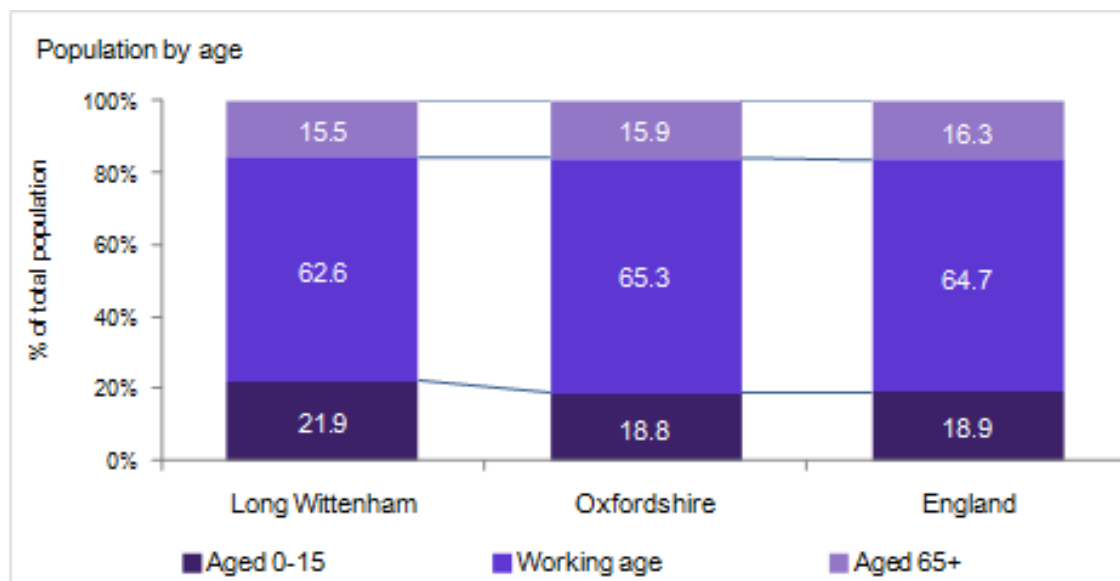
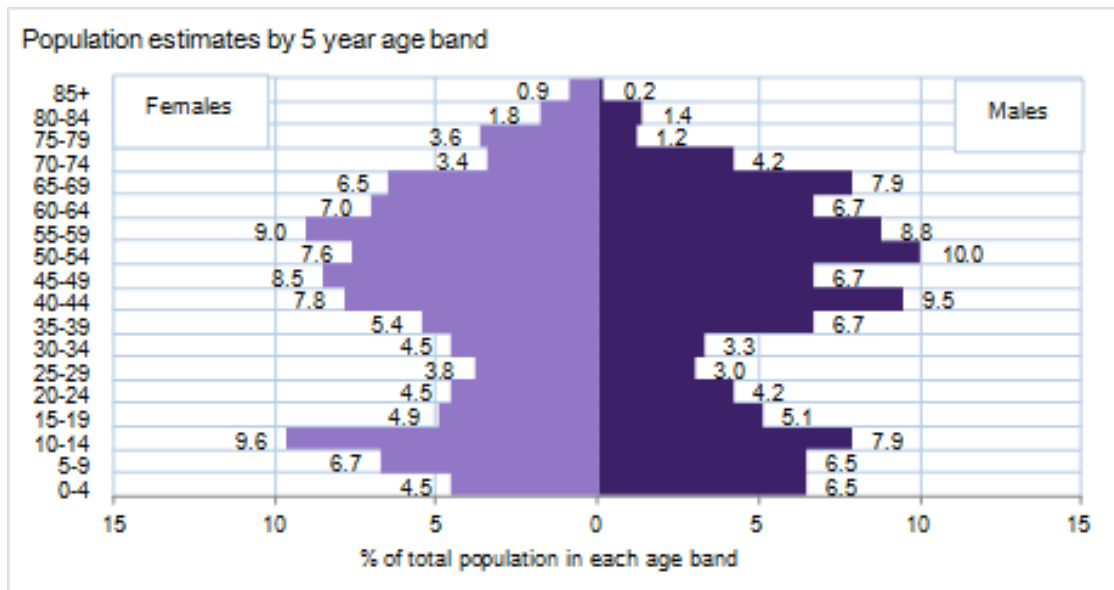
There are 31 grade II listed buildings in the village including nine with cruck frames although not all the crucks are still visible. The Barley Mow, outside the village near the bridge at Clifton Hampden has a visible cruck frame. Cruck Cottage which has a fine cruck frame is one of the oldest domestic buildings in the area. The village cross and war memorial are also grade II listed. St Mary's church is grade I listed.

### 3.15 Population

The total population of Long Wittenham according to the 2011 Census is 875 people living in 325 houses. There are 190 children under 16, 550 working age adults, 135 adults over 65 years and 55 people from Black and ethnic minorities (BME). There are less BME people than the national average (6.4 v 20.2%) and slightly more children (21.9 v 18.9%) but otherwise these population profile is similar to that of the UK.

The total population is stable but of note since 2001 there has been a net migration out of 37 people aged 15-24.

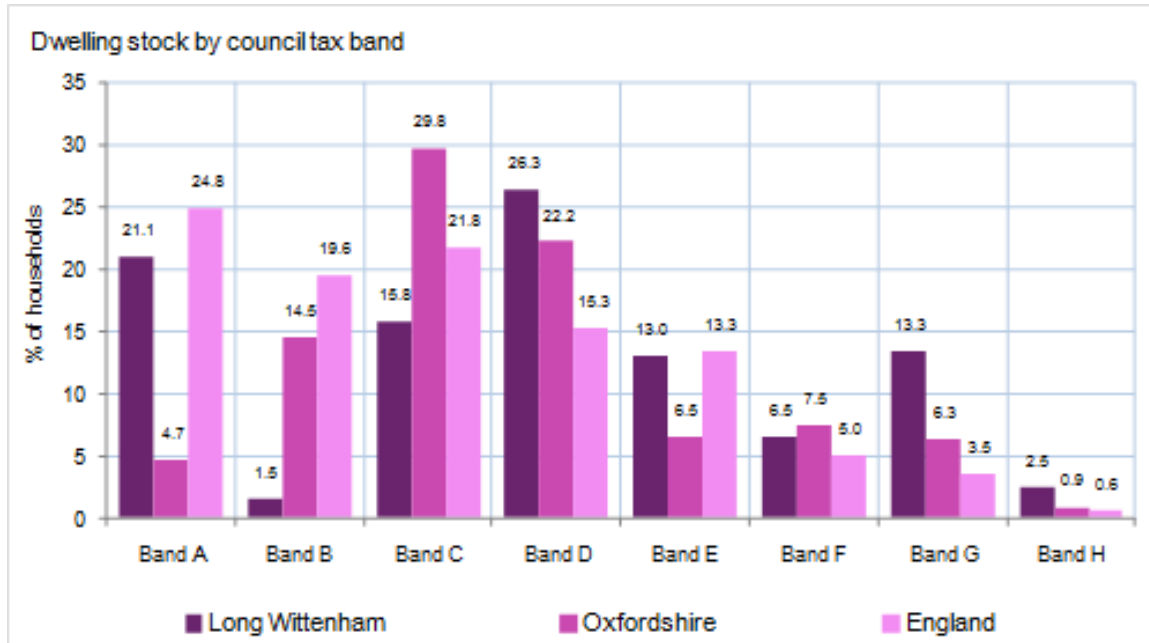
Figure 3.7: Population



### 3.16 Housing

2011 Census shows that there are 291 detached/semi-detached /terraced houses (87.1 v 77.5% England). There were also 17 flats and 26 caravans. 264 houses are owner occupied (81.5% v 64.1% England) and 36 that is socially rented, either through the local authority or housing association (11.1% v 17.7% England). In addition 24 other residences are rented.

Figure 3.8: Dwelling stock



The diagram (Source: Valuation Office Agency 2011) shows that Long Wittenham has less housing in lower Council Tax bands (the smaller houses) with the exception of Band A due to the caravan site. Houses are generally more expensive than average England prices (Median detached house price £495,000 compared with £320,000). The affordability ratio is 14.4 compared to 15.4 in England. This ratio compares the average house price in the lower quartile with the lowest quartile of household income: houses in the lowest quartile in Long Wittenham are 14.4 times the lowest quartile household income. 8 households are overcrowded (2.5% compared with 8.7% England average) and there are 10 vacant household spaces

### 3.17 Crime

Overall crime rates (19.9 compared with 37.6/1000) and specific types of crime are lower in South Oxfordshire compared with England

### 3.18 Prosperity

The prosperity of Long Wittenham is above average with low deprivation score (3rd decile for multiple deprivation), low levels of benefit claims (Housing 9.9 compared with 20.6% England, income support 0.5 compared with 3.2% England). Weekly household income estimate after housing costs is lower than Oxfordshire (£470 compared with £498) but significantly higher than England (£423)

### 3.19 Health

There is no GP or nurse in the village, the nearest facilities being at Clifton Hampden, 2.6km away. GP provision is adequate although increasingly stressed by the needs of the village's aging population. Access to health and social care services is difficult for some residents without the use of a private car, as public transport services are limited. There is a pool of volunteers to take residents without a car to the surgery and collect prescriptions.

- The John Radcliffe in Oxford is the nearest Accident & Emergency
- The local District General Hospital is the John Radcliffe and Churchill in Headington, Oxford. The average travelling time by public transport to Oxford hospitals is 113 minutes (2 hours) (Oxon average 58 minutes).
- The Abingdon Community Hospital provides important out of hours doctor care
- The nearest chemists are in Didcot
- The dispensary attached to the Clifton Hampden Surgery is highly valued
- The nearest dental surgery is in the Ladygrove Estate in Didcot, 5.8km away with the nearest dental practice taking NHS 7.7km away in Didcot or in Berinsfield.
- The nearest optician is in Didcot 6.3km away

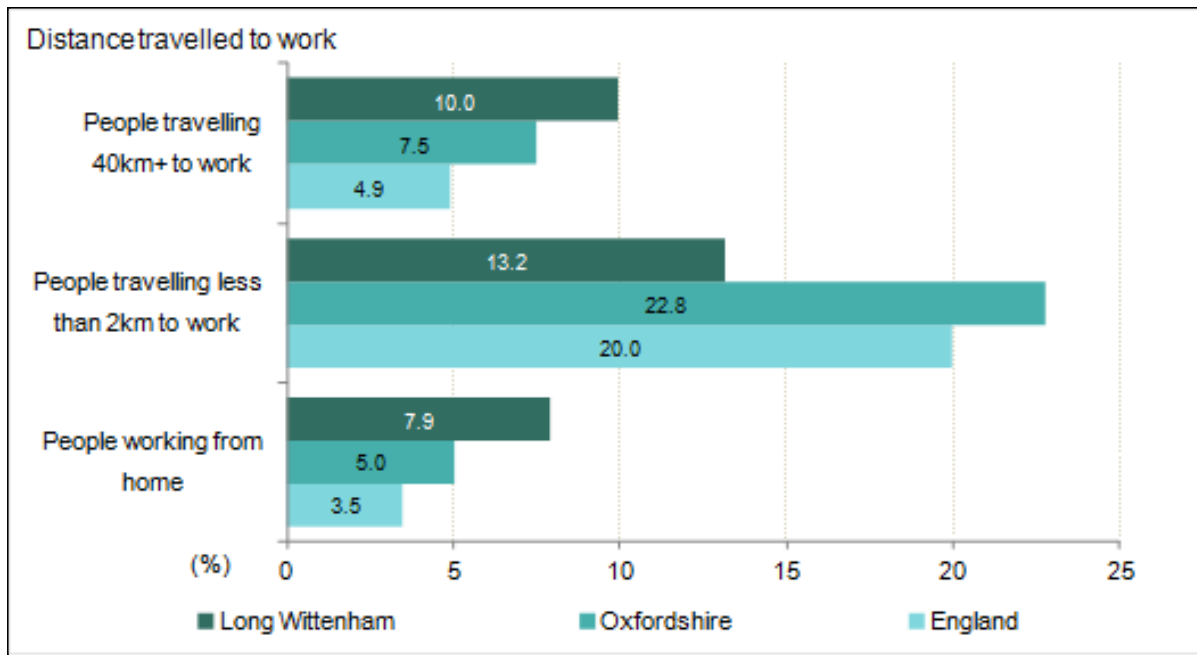
*Table 3.9 Health of Long Wittenham residents*

	<b>Long Wittenham</b>	<b>South Oxon</b>	<b>England</b>
Population	875	13,4257	5,3012,456
Health status:	%	%	%
Very good	54	53	47
Good	34	33	34
Fair	9	11	13
Bad	3	3	4
Very bad	1	1	1

### 3.20 Employment

The 2011 census showed that there are 490 adults age 16-74 who are economically active (76.0% compared with 69.9% England). Of those economically active, 285 are full time, 95 are part time, 83 are self-employed (12.9% compared with 9.8% England) and 50 work from home (7.9% compared with 3.5% England). There are 26 unemployed people (4.7% working age adults compared with 9.8% England – DWP figures 2012 and 2013).

Significant numbers of people travel significant distances to work (see Figure 3.10).

Figure 3.10 Travel to work distances<sup>10</sup>

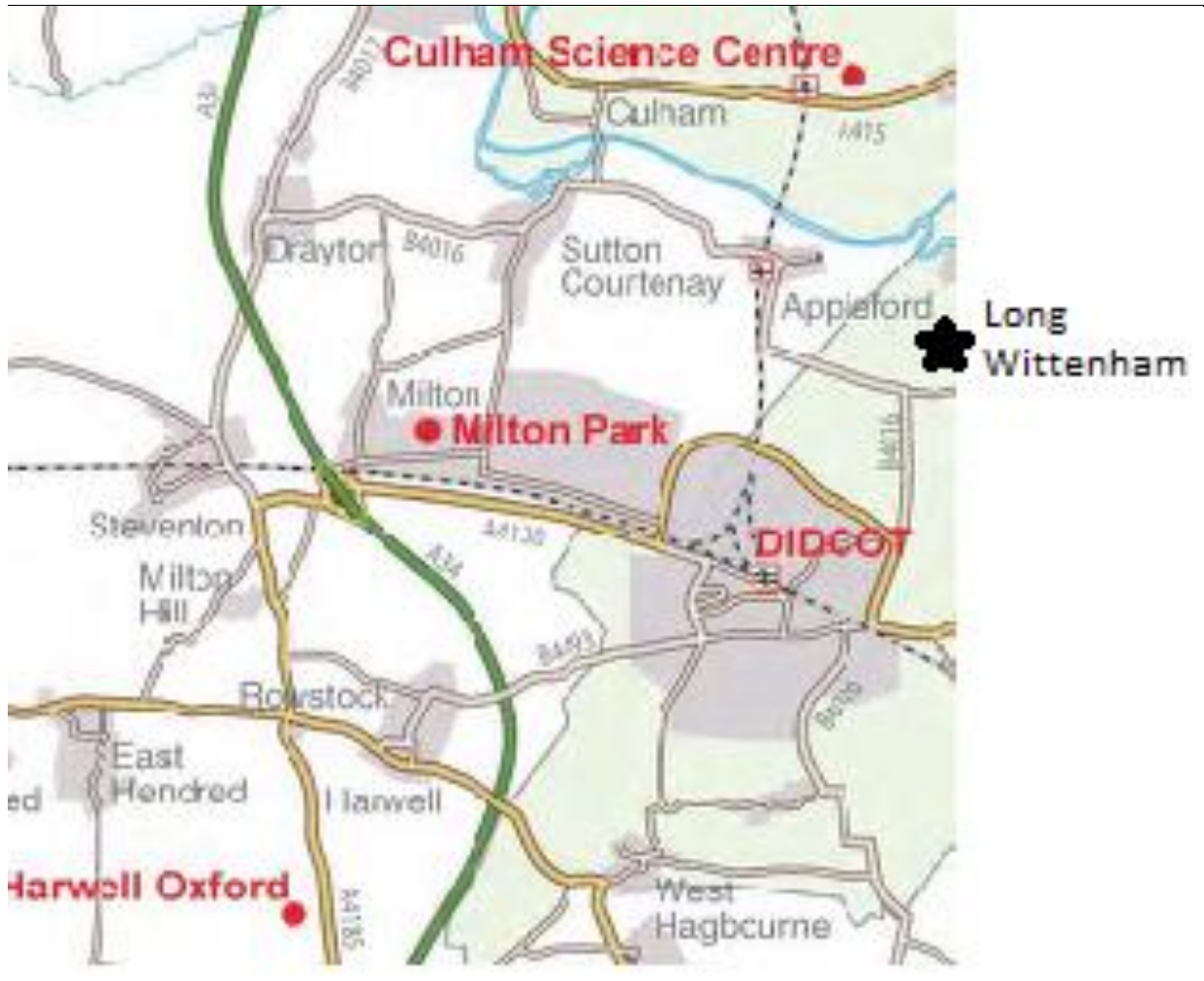
There are a small number of employers in the village offering employment in addition to those people who are self-employed / working from home: Long Wittenham Primary School; Vine and Spice; Plough; Barley Mow; Leather works and several farms. More recently the Wood centre has opened for start-up wood related craft businesses.

Long Wittenham is within the Science Vale UK area of economic growth which includes Harwell, Milton Park and the Culham Science Centre.

<sup>10</sup> Source: Working from home (Census 2011 Q5701 EW), Distance travelled to work (Census 2011 UV 35)



Figure 3.11: Proximity of Science Vale UK employment areas



### 3.21 Communication

Long Wittenham is poorly served by Broadband. There is no fibre optic broadband in the village and so provision relies on telephone wiring with quoted speeds between 5.5 and 7.5Mb download speed. However, Gigaclear, a private company has agreed to install high speed broadband cable into the village in 2015/6.

Table 3.12 3G Mobile phone coverage as quoted by the main companies

Company	Indoor	Outdoor
EE	Variable	Should work most areas
O2	Good	Good
Vodafone	No	Yes

### 3.22 Neighbourhood Plan survey

The steering group commissioned a survey of all residents which forms part of the baseline evidence for the LWNP. The full results are available in a separate document<sup>11</sup>. The survey identified that what people like about living in Long Wittenham are its friendliness, community spirit and that it is quiet and peaceful. What people most dislike is the volume of traffic, poor transport connections and lack of a shop.

Respondents were asked about 3 possible community hub sites that had been identified in earlier feasibility work before the LWNDP began and were encouraged to make comments. Landowners were also invited to put forward any further sites. Sites 1 (72% support) and 2 (74%) received more support than site 3 (47%).

Figure 3.13: Possible community hub locations



<sup>11</sup> Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan Survey report, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, July 2015

53% of respondents agreed with the development of 30 to 40 new houses to fund the hub, and about 20% would accept some smaller amount of housing.

The main need for new housing is for smaller or starter homes (%) for existing residents and those living outside with strong demand for family homes (%) and affordable housing (%). Cost of housing and lack of suitable housing were the main reasons given for wanting to move but not being able to move within the village or from outside the village.

Parking is a problem for 20% of respondents, and 73% supported the concept of a village car park. 43% found parking associated with school runs to be a problem. 96% of respondents supported lobbying for the new bridge to address traffic issues, and most supported retaining traffic calming or alternatives to the existing traffic calming measures. 92% of respondents support opening a new footpath (a circular walk popular with walkers) over the weir and 88% support a cycle path to Clifton Hampden. See map below of potential routes.

Figure 3.14: Possible circular walk route





### 3.23 SWOT Analysis

The steering group met in January 2015 to discuss the Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats of the village. The results are recorded here as part of the baseline evidence.

*Table 3.15 Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats*

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <p>Heritage – ancient village, conservation area, beautiful houses</p> <p>Location , proximity to towns with good facilities, transport links</p> <p>Community spirit –people like living here</p> <p>Excellent school</p> <p>Countryside, by the Thames, AONB , Clumps</p> <p>3 pubs</p> <p>Community events organised by various groups- WI, church, good neighbours group, lunch club</p> <p>Pre-school</p> <p>Church</p> <p>Twinning (French )</p> <p>Football club with ‘own’ ground</p> <p>Village Hall provides central focus for many of the groups</p> <p>Good footpaths and cycle routes</p> <p>Library visits</p> <p>Play areas for children</p> <p>Defibrillator in the former telephone box</p> <p>Very Low crime</p> <p>Caring and friendly community</p> <p>Rich Archaeology</p> <p>Pendon museum and other attractions to visitors</p>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <p>Traffic: congestion, speed , ratrun</p> <p>Parking: throughout the village and no car park available to be used by villagers (NB village car park at Barley Mow)</p> <p>Poor bus service</p> <p>Dangerous junctions</p> <p>Dangerous cycling and walking</p> <p>No shop</p> <p>Lack of Affordable Housing</p> <p>No central focal point for the village</p> <p>Slow broadband and mobile phone reception</p> <p>Limitations on accommodation/facilities for new groups starting in the village</p> <p>No medical services</p> <p>Wide mixture of social groups- some may feel isolated</p> <p>Flooding on the roads out of the village</p> <p>Village Hall is limited in scope and expensive to maintain</p> <p>School is small by modern standards and lacks outdoor facilities, including sufficient car parking.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p>Neighbourhood plan offers opportunity to reconsider villagers’ needs .</p> <p>College Farm Sylva project offers employment and tourism</p> <p>New Community Hub ( school, pre-school, village, shop)</p> <p>Increase in tourism possible</p> <p>Archaeology offers scope for community involvement.</p> <p>New Thames crossing- will effect a bypass</p> <p>Cycle path to Clifton Hampden</p> <p>New footpaths: Circular walk, inc. Thames Path + Pilgrim Route to Dorchester</p> <p>Limited housing development ( Affordable for <u>local</u> first time buyers)</p> <p>Culham Science Centre expansion may generate more jobs</p> <p>High speed broadband</p> <p>More bus services (?community bus)</p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <p>Increased traffic through the village from local towns’ housing developments</p> <p>NE Didcot development, traffic, threat to community facilities</p> <p>Gravel extraction quarry: noise and dust + traffic</p> <p>2031 SODC local plan may require a housing development beyond local needs.</p> <p>Growth of Culham Science Centre will generate even more traffic unless a new river crossing is built.</p> <p>Heritage ( constraints to new developments because of need to maintain historical identity)</p>

## 4. Sustainability issues and challenges

### 4.1 Issues and challenges

Based on the policy context, baseline evidence, and the SWOT analysis, the steering group identified the key sustainability issues and problems that the LWNDP could address in the pursuit of sustainable development. These are shown in detail in the rolling table in Appendix 3 and are summarised here:

#### Environmental

- **Sustainability:** the LWNDP should address environmental sustainability issues relating to any housing and other development in the village including energy conservation, carbon emissions (including from road traffic), and impacts on soil, water and air
- **Flood risk:** Sites adjacent to the River Thames are prone to flood risk and the LWNDP should ensure that these are not used for development.
- **Biodiversity:** The LWNDP should aim to minimise impact on important local flora and fauna. Some sites adjacent to the River Thames are national nature conservation priority habitats.
- **AONB:** Long Wittenham is adjacent to an area of AONB: The LWNDP should ensure that any development minimises the effect on houses currently overlooking this or block important view lines.
- **Conservation areas:** The LWNDP should ensure that any development does not have adverse environmental impact on the Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham conservation areas.
- **Heritage:** There are potentially important archaeological sites in Long Wittenham. The LWNDP should ensure assessment of these before any development is approved.

#### Social

- **Suitable housing:** The LWNDP survey identified the need for some smaller market housing to enable younger people to move from the parental home but within the village and to enable older residents to downsize. The LWNDP survey identified a very small local need for social housing.
- **Community facilities:** a “village hub” project idea emerged from the Community Led Plan in 2012, Wittenham Vision. This could include a new school, village hall and shop/café, possibly on one site. The idea of a community hub was supported by over 70% of respondents to the 2015 LWNDP survey. In addition, need for additional sporting facilities, for example a badminton court in the village hall, outdoor facilities for school and village has been identified, mainly from Wittenham Vision.

- Community involvement: many comments in the LWNDP survey appreciated the opportunity for involvement in local decisions about development and requested additional community input, which the LWNDP can support.
- Village identity: The SWOT analysis and community consultation survey identified a strong desire to maintain our village identity as separate from Didcot.

#### Economic

- Thriving economy: the survey identified a need for the village to continue to grow sustainably, attract families, and maintain and enhance community facilities, in order to continue to thrive economically and socially. This reinforces the need to ensure that a school continues in the village and provides up-to-date facilities.
- Traffic speed, congestion and road safety: The LWNDP survey identified traffic flow and speed as a significant problem for residents. A recent traffic survey confirmed issues of excessive speed and traffic volume at peak times also cause concerns although the total flows would not look particularly high. The expansion of Didcot and the further development of the Science Vale sites will probably worsen traffic impact on the village. The new Thames crossing will mitigate this if the proposal goes ahead (proposal SV2.13 LTP4).
- Parking: The survey identified significant concerns about parking. New development must minimise impact on current parking problems (or even improve it) and the Hub should have its own parking provision.

The next chapter proposes a set of sustainability objectives that address these key issues and problems that have been identified.



## 5. Sustainability Appraisal framework

### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report considers how we will move forward to the next phase, developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects, which is Stage B of the SEA process (see Figure 2.1, Chapter Two).

This section summarises how the LWNDP Sustainability Objectives are consistent with those of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2014), and also how they address the other plans that affect Long Wittenham. It then proposes how we will test the emerging NDP aims and options against our sustainability objectives.

### 5.2 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The steering group derived sustainability objectives for each of the sustainability issues and challenges identified in the last chapter. These are set out in table 5.1 below.

*Table 5.1: Sustainability Objectives*

LWNP sustainability issues and challenges	Proposed sustainability objectives
Environmental	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability: the LWNDP should address environmental sustainability issues relating to any housing and other development in the village including energy conservation, carbon emissions, and impacts on soil, water and air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To reduce harm to the environment by seeking to minimise pollution of all kinds especially water, soil, and air pollution.</li> <li>b. To ensure sustainable building practices which conserve energy, maximise the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources, conserve water resources and materials and minimise impacts on soil and water.</li> <li>c. To assess and minimise the effects of increased road traffic from any new development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flood risk: Areas adjacent to the River Thames are prone to flood risk and the LWNDP should ensure that these are not used for development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. To reduce the risk of flooding and resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</li> <li>e. To ensure that the design and location of new development is resilient to the effects of climate change.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity: The LWNDP should aim to minimise impact on important local flora and fauna. Some areas adjacent to the River Thames are national nature conservation priority habitats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. To conserve and enhance biodiversity.</li> </ul>

<b>LWNP sustainability issues and challenges</b>	<b>Proposed sustainability objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONB: Long Wittenham is adjacent to an area of AONB: The LWNDP should ensure that any development does not affect houses currently overlooking this or block important view lines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g. To conserve and enhance Long Wittenham's countryside setting and minimise impact on sight lines to AONB</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation areas: The LWNDP should ensure that any development does not have adverse impact on the Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham conservation areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h. To protect &amp; enhance areas designated for their conservation importance.</li> <li>i. To ensure that new development is of a high quality design and reinforces local distinctiveness.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage: There are potentially important archaeological finds in Long Wittenham. The LWNDP should ensure assessment of these before any development is approved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j. To ensure that new development does not irrevocably impact important archaeological assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Social</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable housing: The LWNDP survey identified the need for some smaller market housing to enable younger people to move from the parental home but within the village and to enable older residents to downsize. The LWNDP survey identified a very small local need for social housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k. To help provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home that is suitable to their needs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community facilities: a "village hub" project idea emerged from the Community Led Plan in 2012, Wittenham Vision, that could include a new school, village hall and shop/café, possibly on one site and a new village green behind the war memorial should the school be relocated to the Hub. The idea of a community hub was supported by over 70% of respondents to the 2015 LWNDP survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l. Promote the development of new and improvement of existing community facilities which will contribute to community cohesion and improve people's health and well-being.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation and health: the survey identified strong support for footpath and cycle path provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>m. Ensure new developments are well connected to the village centre and amenities by creating new footpaths and/or cycle paths and improving existing accessibility.</li> <li>n. To ensure that opportunities for additional sports facilities are considered in any new development.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community involvement: many comments in the LWNDP survey appreciated the opportunity for involvement in local decisions about development and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o. To ensure that the community, landowners/developers and key stakeholders</li> </ul>

LWNP sustainability issues and challenges	Proposed sustainability objectives
requested additional community input, which the LWNDP can support.	are involved constructively in the preparation of the neighbourhood plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village identity</li> </ul>	p. To ensure that the village identity is maintained and separate from the Didcot settlement
Economic	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General: the survey identified a need for the village to continue to grow sustainably, attract families, and maintain and enhance community facilities, in order to continue to thrive economically and socially.</li> </ul>	q. To assist in the development of: a strong, innovative and knowledge-based economy that delivers high-value-added, sustainable, low-impact activities; small firms, particularly those that maintain and enhance the rural economy; and a thriving village economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic speed and congestion: The traffic survey and the LWNDP survey identified significant problems with traffic speed and volume through the village at peak times. There are potential cumulative impacts on road safety, pollution and congestion when the Science Vale strategic developments are built and as a result of developments in Didcot.</li> </ul>	r. To reduce the impact on residents' lives of the volume and speed of traffic and ensure continued safety for pedestrians and cyclists s. To ensure adequate parking spaces in village areas

### 5.3 Cross check against policies

One of the key reasons for preparing a sustainability appraisal alongside our neighbourhood development plan is to ensure that we consider the relevant plans and programmes.

Appendix 3 shows how these sustainability messages relate back to key messages from the Policy context and to the specific Plans and programmes that are relevant to Long Wittenham's LWNDP.

Table 5.2 indicates how the LWNDP Sustainability Objectives relate to the environmental issues listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive.

*Table 5.2: Cross check of sustainability objectives against SEA Directive issues*

SEA Directive issue	LWNDP Sustainability Objectives
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	f) biodiversity, h) conservation
Human population	k) decent home l) community facilities o) community involvement p) village identify s) parking
Human Health	d) flooding n) foot/cycle path k)decent home n) sports facilities q)thriving economy r) traffic speed/safety s) parking
Soil	a)pollution b)sustainable building
Water	a)pollution b)sustainable building

Air quality and climate factors	a) pollution b) sustainable building c) traffic volume d) flooding e) climate change
Material assets	l) community facilities m) foot/cycle path p) village identity
Cultural heritage	i) design/local character j) archaeological
Landscape	g) AONB

Table 5.3 indicates how the LWNDP Sustainability Objectives relate to the key messages identified in Section 2 from each of the Policy documents. The rolling table in Appendix 3 summarises key messages in more detail for each of the SEA issues.

*Table 5.3: Cross check of sustainability objectives against key messages from policy context*

<b>Policy/programme</b>	<b>Key messages</b>	<b>LWNDP Sustainability Objectives</b>
NPPF	1. Sustainable development	a) pollution b) sustainable building c) traffic volume d) flooding e) climate change f) biodiversity h) conservation
SODC Core Strategy	2. Vision to 2027	All
SODC Local Plan	3. Policies on planning	All
SODC Housing Strategy	4. Affordable housing 5. Older residents housing 6. smaller 2-bed households.	k) decent home
SODC SCS	7. thriving economies 8. current and future housing need 9. housing older people 10. ageing population 11. sport and active recreation.	k) decent home q) thriving economy l) community facilities m) foot/cycle path
Water Resources Management Plan (EA)	10. The River Thames 11. flood risk	d) flooding e) climate change
Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (EA)	13. water conservation.	b) sustainable building
Oxfordshire LEP	14. cumulative impacts strategic sites	c) traffic volume r) traffic speed/safety
FRA South and Vale	15. surface water and drainage	b) sustainable building
Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan	16. fuel economy, accessible and healthier forms of transport.	c) traffic volume m) foot/cycle path r) traffic speed/safety
Oxfordshire's BAP	17. priority species for conservation.	f) biodiversity, h) conservation

Policy/programme	Key messages	LWNDP Sustainability Objectives
Rights of Way Management Plan	18. rights of way	m) foot/cycle path
Wittenham Vision 2010 – village plan	19. local spatial development aims	k) decent home l) community facilities m) foot/cycle path s) parking
Chilterns AONB	20. AONB adjacent to village. Ensure disruption of views to AONB are minimised	g)AONB
North Wessex Downs AONB	Not directly relevant	-
* Historic England	21. local heritage	i) design/local character j) archaeological
* Vale of White Horse Local Plan	22. Cumulative impacts strategic sites	c) traffic volume r) traffic speed/safety s) parking
* Science Vale Action Plan.	23. Cumulative impacts strategic sites 24. attractive countryside	f)AONB c) traffic volume r) traffic speed/safety

#### 5.4 Sustainability Assessment framework

From the sustainability objectives, the steering group has designed a sustainability framework which we will use to assess the LWNDP objectives and options. Sustainability objectives provide a way of checking whether the LWNDP objectives are the best possible ones for sustainability. These are used as tests of sustainability or prompts for questions about sustainability. They can be used to compare the effects of alternative options. The sustainability objectives should inform the emerging LWNDP objectives so that sustainability considerations are built in at the earliest stage. As the LWNDP evolves and is consulted on, the LWNDP objectives may change and the sustainability objectives and the SA framework may be refined.

Following consultation on the SA scoping report, the steering group will use the SA framework below to define emerging NDP objectives, and will use the same method to assess refined revised and added objectives later in the process, taking into account feedback that is received.

Table 5.4: Sustainability Assessment Framework

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	<b>Emerging NDP objectives (examples)</b>			
	Developme nt of village hub	Meet local housing needs	Cycle path	Footpath
a) pollution				
b) sustainable building				
c) traffic volume				
d) flooding				
e) climate change				
f) biodiversity				
g) AONB				
h) conservation				
i) local character				
j) archaeological				
k) decent home				
l) community facilities				
m) foot/cycle path				
n) sports facilities				
o) community involvement				
p) village identity				
q) thriving economy				
r) traffic speed/safety				
s) parking				

Key	Pos+	Pos	Neutral	Neg	Neg+	?Uncertain
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This template will be used to assess whether the emerging objectives of the Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan are positively compatible with or have a neutral or detrimental effect on the SA objectives.

Once consultation on this scoping report has been completed, this framework will be refined and then used to assess NDP alternatives including site options, as illustrated below.

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b>	<b>NDP alternatives/sites (to be defined) eg 1. Village Hub</b>			
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4
a) pollution				
b) sustainable building				
c) traffic volume				
d) flooding				
e) climate change				
f) biodiversity				
g) AONB				
h) conservation				
i) local character				
j) archaeological				
k) decent home				
l) community facilities				
m) foot/cycle path				



n) sports facilities				
o) community involvement				
p) village identity				
q) thriving economy				
r) traffic speed/safety				
s) parking				

## 6. Next Steps

This scoping report has been/will be reviewed by South Oxfordshire District Council as the local planning authority before being sent for formal consultation as required by the Directive, which includes seeking the views of the following statutory bodies:

- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage/ Historic England

In addition, the LWNDP steering group will consult:

- Neighbouring parishes: Clifton Hampden; Burcot
- Other local stakeholders: Sylva and the Earth Trust
- Local residents as part of the NDP communications strategy

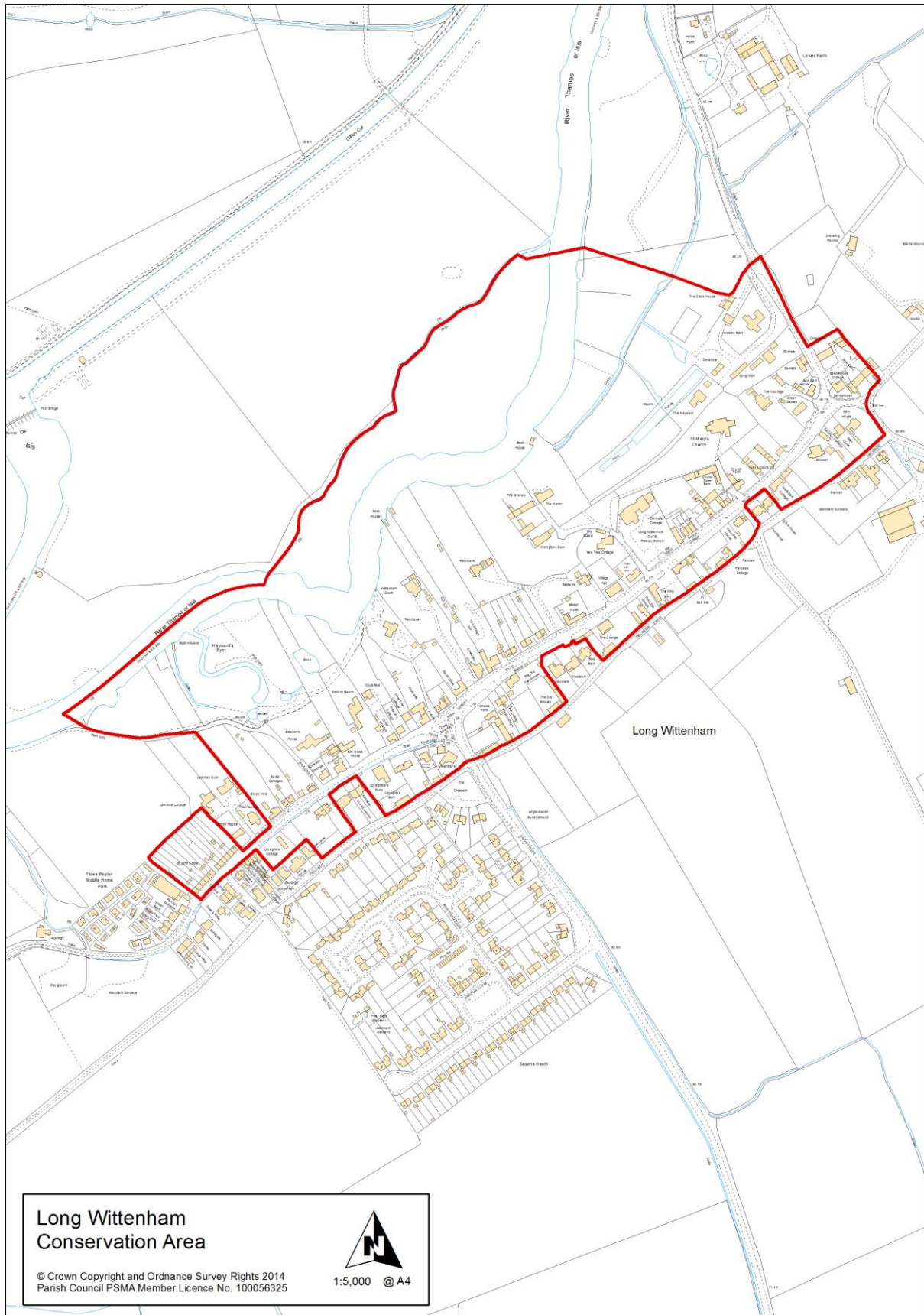
Comments will be recorded and appended to this report (see Appendix 5)

# Appendix 1: Maps of the area

Map A1: Long Wittenham village

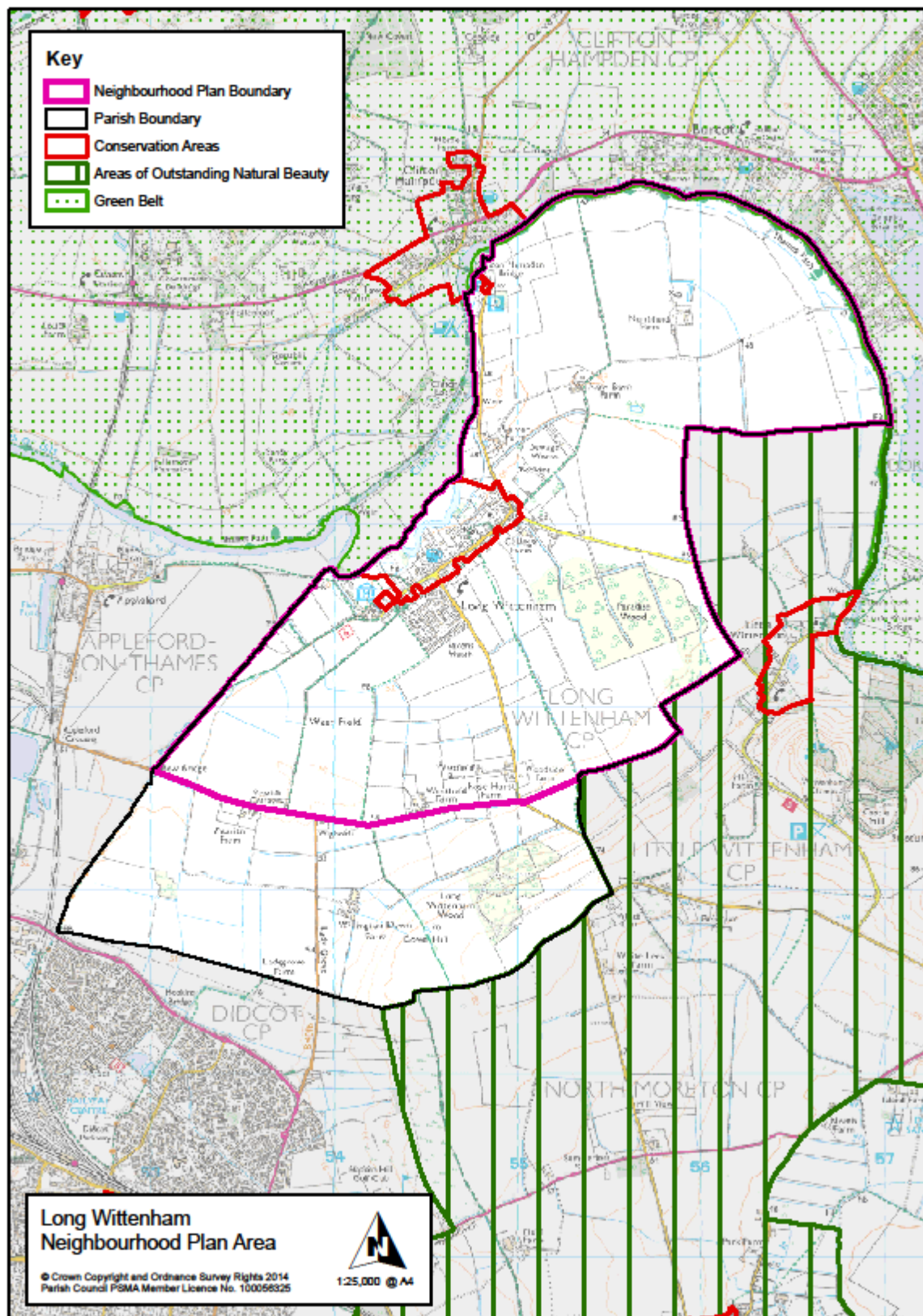


MapA2: Conservation area





MapA3: Environmental Constraints



## Appendix 2:

# Relevant Policies and Programmes

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

- 1) The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) & National Planning Practice Guidance (2014) (DCLG)
  - 2) South Oxfordshire Core Strategy (2012) (SODC)
  - 3) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 (2006) (SODC)
  - 4) South Oxfordshire Housing Strategy 2008-2011 (SODC)
  - 5) South Oxfordshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026 (SODC)
  - 6) Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) & River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (EA)
  - 7) Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (EA)
  - 8) Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan (March 2014)
  - 9) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 (OCC) & South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2009) (SODC & VOWH)
  - 10) Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan (2011), superceded on 8 Sept 2015 by LTP4 (OCC)
  - 11) Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (OCC)
  - 12) Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan 2014-2024 (2014) (OCC)
  - 13) Village appraisals/design statements/parish plans (relevant parish council/community group)
  - 14) Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2008-2013 (Draft plan published for 2014-2019, final plan scheduled to be published in spring 2014) (The Chilterns Conservation Board)
  - 15) North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners)
- \* Historic England report: National Heritage Protection Plan overview 2012/13
  - \* The emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031;
  - \* The emerging Science Vale Action Plan.
- \* These are additional Plans and Programmes identified by statutory consultees during area designation consultation and included in the policy review.

## Appendix 3: Context, baseline, sustainability issues

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
<b>ENVIRONMENT/RESOURCES</b>					
<b><i>Population/human health</i></b>					
Meet housing needs of older and younger people	SODC housing strategy Sustainable community strategy	Village need for more social housing very limited	Survey identified small need for smaller more affordable housing	Ensure any new development provides some smaller market houses	k) decent home
Encourage young people to stay	SODC core strategy	11 people under 25 identified local housing need	Survey identified small need for affordable housing for this age group	Ensure any new development provides some smaller market houses	k) decent home
Improve access to health and social care	Sustainable community strategy	Out of scope of LWNDP	Problem for those without transport. Access to GP addressed by volunteer car service	Issue addressed by existing car service	--
Cater for ageing population-health, housing	SODC core strategy	No significant need identified	Survey did not identify significant need	No need for sheltered accommodation identified, but smaller houses needed	k) decent home



<b>Key messages from policy context</b>	<b>Policy documents</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Baseline situation</b>	<b>Issues and challenges</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)</b>
Promoting healthy community-increased opportunities to meet, safe crime free environment	National planning policy framework		Low crime	Hub would address increased meeting opportunities	l) community facilities
Promote healthy lifestyles and participation in sport/recreation. Identify need for increased sport/recreation facility	National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy	Need for cycle/footpath to Clifton Hampden	Good local provision within village and neighbouring towns Survey	Supports need for new footpaths and cycle tracks	m) foot/cycle path
No building on existing open spaces (eg playing fields) unless they are replaced	National planning policy framework		Issues if Bodkins a chosen site	Bodkins is not currently a preferred site	--
<b><i>Soil/water/air/climate</i></b>					
Balance supply and demand for water  Protect biodiversity and ecosystems	Water Resources Management Plan 2015-2040 (Thames Water) River Basin Management Plan – Thames River Basin District (2009) (EA)	The River Thames runs through the parish to the north.	The ES's prediction of flood risk is relevant for the Parish, although any flooding typically affects the road network rather than housing or businesses	No potential development sites fall into areas zoned by EA as Flood Risk categories 2&3.	a) pollution b) sustainable building d) flooding f) biodiversity

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
Ensure water availability within the Thames Corridor, especially at low flows.	Thames (2014) & Cherwell, Thame and Wye Catchment Abstraction Licensing Strategies (2012) (EA)		Note when plans	new development supports greater autonomy of water supply and can manage during periods of low flow.	b) sustainable building
Development should be located and designed to enable more sustainable use of the region's natural resources	Regional planning guidance for South East SODC local plan SODC housing strategy Sustainable community strategy		Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	a) pollution b) sustainable building d) flooding e) climate change
10 dwellings or more , 20% energy from renewable or low carbon sources. All new developments should be energy efficient and acknowledge climate change	SODC core strategy		Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	b) sustainable building e) climate change
Environmental protection- pollution, noise, surface water, groundwater	SODC local plan SODC core strategy National planning policy framework	Flooding	Flooding significant problem which might get worse	Avoid sites with potential flooding problem	d) flooding
Development on greenfield sites only after consideration other sites. Use worst quality agricultural land first	Regional planning guidance for South East National planning policy framework	Development on greenfield sites only after consideration other sites. Use worst quality agricultural land first	Note when plans	All available prospective sites are greenfield as no brown field etc sites available	--

<b>Key messages from policy context</b>	<b>Policy documents</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Baseline situation</b>	<b>Issues and challenges</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)</b>
New development must follow principles of good design including water and energy efficiency	SODC local plan SODC core strategy National planning policy framework National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy	New development must follow 9 principles of good design including water and energy efficiency	Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	a) pollution b) sustainable building d) flooding e) climate change
Protect and improve the quality of the land, air and water environments	SODC local plan		Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	a) pollution b) sustainable building c) traffic volume d) flooding e) climate change
Reduce water usage	Thames river basin management plan		Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	b) sustainable building d) flooding e) climate change
Mitigate effects of floods and droughts	Thames river basin management plan	Mitigate effects of floods and droughts	Note when plans	Avoid sites that flood. Ensure development cannot contribute to flooding problems	d) flooding
Reduce water pollution	Thames river basin management plan	Reduce water pollution	Note when plans	Ensure any development addresses environmental sustainability	a) pollution b) sustainable building d) flooding e) climate change
Developments should be aware of impact on Chilterns and North Wessex AONB	Chilterns AONB management plan 2014-2019		Note when plans	AONB adjacent to village. Ensure disruption of views to AONB are minimised	f) AONB

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
	North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014				
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
Conserving biodiversity for Oxfordshire's wildlife and people. The need for biodiversity action planning and protection of the main biodiversity hotspots in the county.	Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 (OCC)		Long Wittenham parish is categorised in the low/med biobands but has some areas that are national nature conservation priority habitats and home to national priority species for conservation.	Need to ensure that national priority habitats and species are conserved	f) biodiversity h) conservation
Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity- LW is on Thames flood plain	SODC local plan National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy			Ensure sites will minimise impact on flora and fauna	f) biodiversity h) conservation
Continued protection of the region's biodiversity and enhancement of its	Regional planning guidance for South East SODC local plan SODC core strategy		Note when plans	LW is surrounded by potential sites of archaeological interest. Need to assess	j) archaeological

<b>Key messages from policy context</b>	<b>Policy documents</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Baseline situation</b>	<b>Issues and challenges</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)</b>
landscape and built and historic heritage	National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy			archaeological potential of each site	
Conserve habitats that depend on water	Thames river basin management plan	Conserve habitats that depend on water	Note when plans	Avoid sites adjacent to River Thames	d) flooding e) climate change
<b><i>Landscape</i></b>					
Development must not harm a conservation area. (Little Wittenham a Special area of Conservation)	SODC local plan Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan			Ensure sites will have no impact on Little Wittenham conservation area	g) AONB
River Thames corridor and AONB- landscape assessment and enhancement consideration necessary for any new development	SODC local plan SODC core strategy		Note when plans	Avoid sites adjacent to River Thames	d) flooding e) climate change
Developments must take account Thames river basement management plan	Thames river basin management plan		Note when plans	Avoid sites adjacent to River Thames	d) flooding e) climate change
<b><i>Material assets</i></b>	<b><i>SODC core strategy</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>	<b><i>Baseline situation</i></b>		
Sufficient and affordable housing should be provided (40% of total development)	Regional planning guidance for South East SODC core strategy National planning policy framework SODC housing strategy Sustainable community strategy		Note when plans	Social housing as required but also ensure any new development provides some smaller market houses as identified in survey	k) decent home

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
Support limited housing development in small villages if need shown	SODC core strategy	Need identified	Survey identified small need but over 50% agreed some housing to fund village hub acceptable	Housing needed to fund village hub	l) community facilities
Encourage range of new housing for mixed sustainable communities	SODC local plan SODC housing strategy Sustainable community strategy		Survey- as above	Ensure any new development provides some smaller market houses	k) decent home
Ensuring existing houses are fit for habitation. Unfit houses identified by 5 yearly House Condition Survey	SODC housing strategy		No issues currently	Not an issue	--
Listed buildings- not relevant for LWNDP	SODC local plan				
<b>Cultural heritage</b>					
There will be a presumption in favour of physically preserving nationally important archaeological remains, and their settings	SODC local plan National planning policy framework		Depends on site chosen- important archaeological sites noted	LW is surrounded by potential sites of archaeological interest. Need to assess archaeological potential of each site	j) archaeological
	Historic England: National Heritage Protection Plan overview 2012/13	Much of the village is in the Long Wittenham Conservation area.		Any development should be in keeping with the local character	i) design/local character

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
<b>SOCIAL</b>					
Proposals that would result in the provision of additional community facilities/services or support local economy within settlements will be permitted with provisos. Foster community initiatives	SODC local plan SODC core strategy National planning policy framework		Village hub satisfies this condition	Village hub would provide shop, meeting place, mutual support for those working at home, home for Good neighbours group.	l) community facilities q) thriving economy
Ensure day to day services for villages through community initiatives, ensuring sustainable communities	SODC core strategy Sustainable community strategy		No shop Poor bus service	Housing development increases viability of shop and more residents to support (poor) bus service	k) decent home l) community facilities q) thriving economy
<b>Transport</b>					
Sustainable transport policy-encourage public transport, footpaths, cycleways, manage off street parking, encourage traffic management measures	Regional planning guidance for South East SODC local plan SODC core strategy National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan		Need identified for new pathways to Clifton H /Culham Parking problems Current traffic calming inadequate	New development must provide adequate parking. New development must minimise impact on current parking problems (or even improve it). New development must minimise impact on traffic flow. New development must address road safety. Improved cycle and foot paths already being addressed	m) foot/cycle path r) traffic speed/safety s) parking



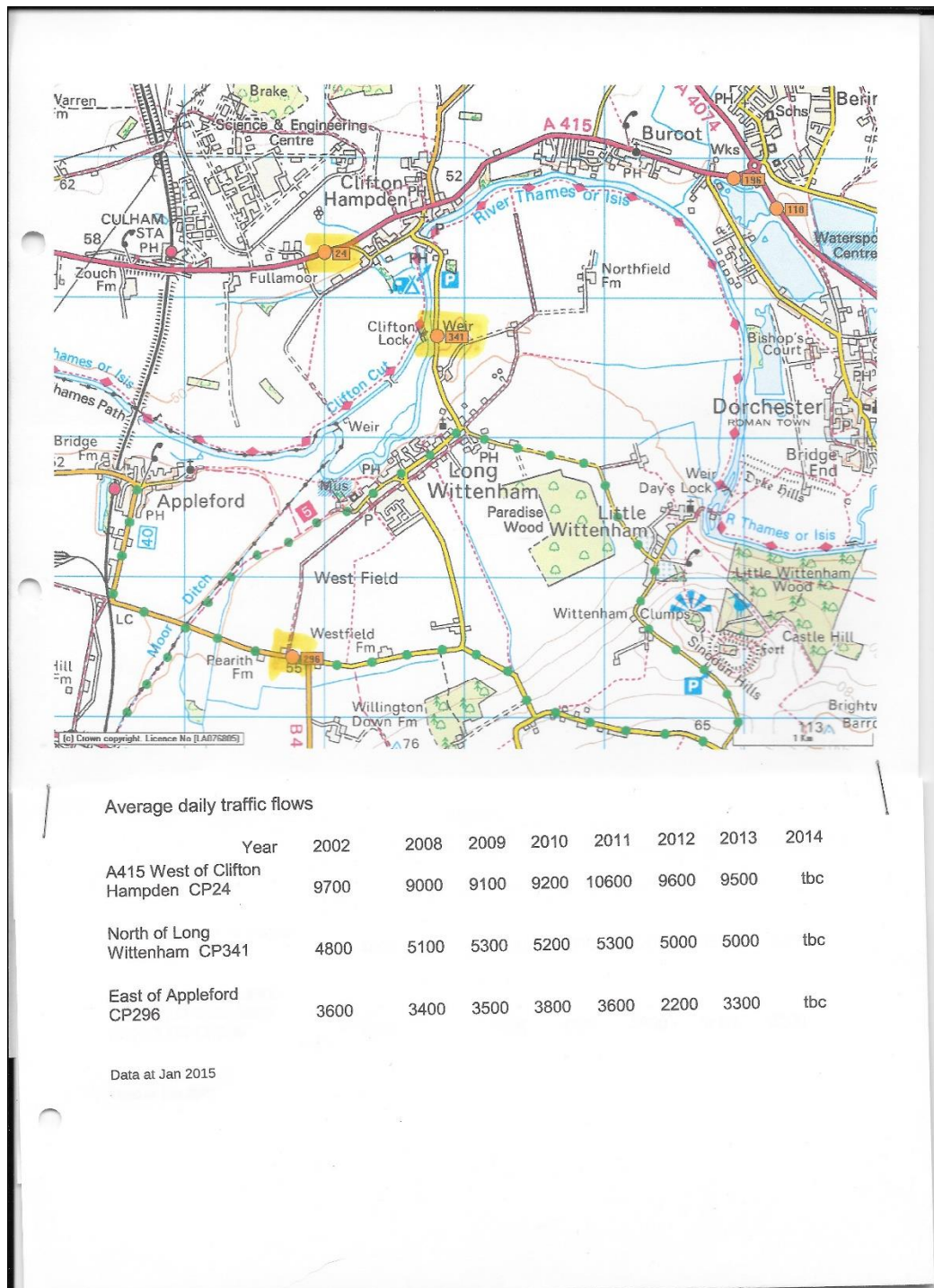
<b>Key messages from policy context</b>	<b>Policy documents</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Baseline situation</b>	<b>Issues and challenges</b>	<b>Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)</b>
New Thames crossing proposed	Local Transport Plan 4 (OCC)	Proposal Sv2.13 p12 Vol 2 part ii	Traffic survey showed excessive speed and volume at peak times	Traffic volume at peak times also cause concerns	c) traffic volume
Tailored transport solutions for rural communities	Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2030 (2011) (OCC)		Need for improved bus service	Housing development could provide more residents to support bus service. Actual provision out of scope of LWNDP	--
Rural transport initiatives encouraged	SODC core strategy		Need for improved bus service	Housing development could provide more residents to support bus service. Actual provision out of scope of LWNDP	--
Deliver integrated transport improvement programme	Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan		Need for improved bus service	Housing development could provide more residents to support bus service. Actual provision out of scope of LWNDP	--
New developments need adequate car parking	SODC local plan SODC core strategy		Note when plans	New development must provide adequate parking.	s) parking
Ensure traffic flow around Didcot to employment sites (NB Culham)	SODC core strategy		Need for cycle route	New development must minimise impact on traffic flow.	r) traffic speed/safety
Communities should identify needs for rights of way, make sure maintenance is undertaken and promote their use	Oxfordshire Draft Rights of Way Management Plan		Role undertaken by Parish Council		m) foot/cycle path

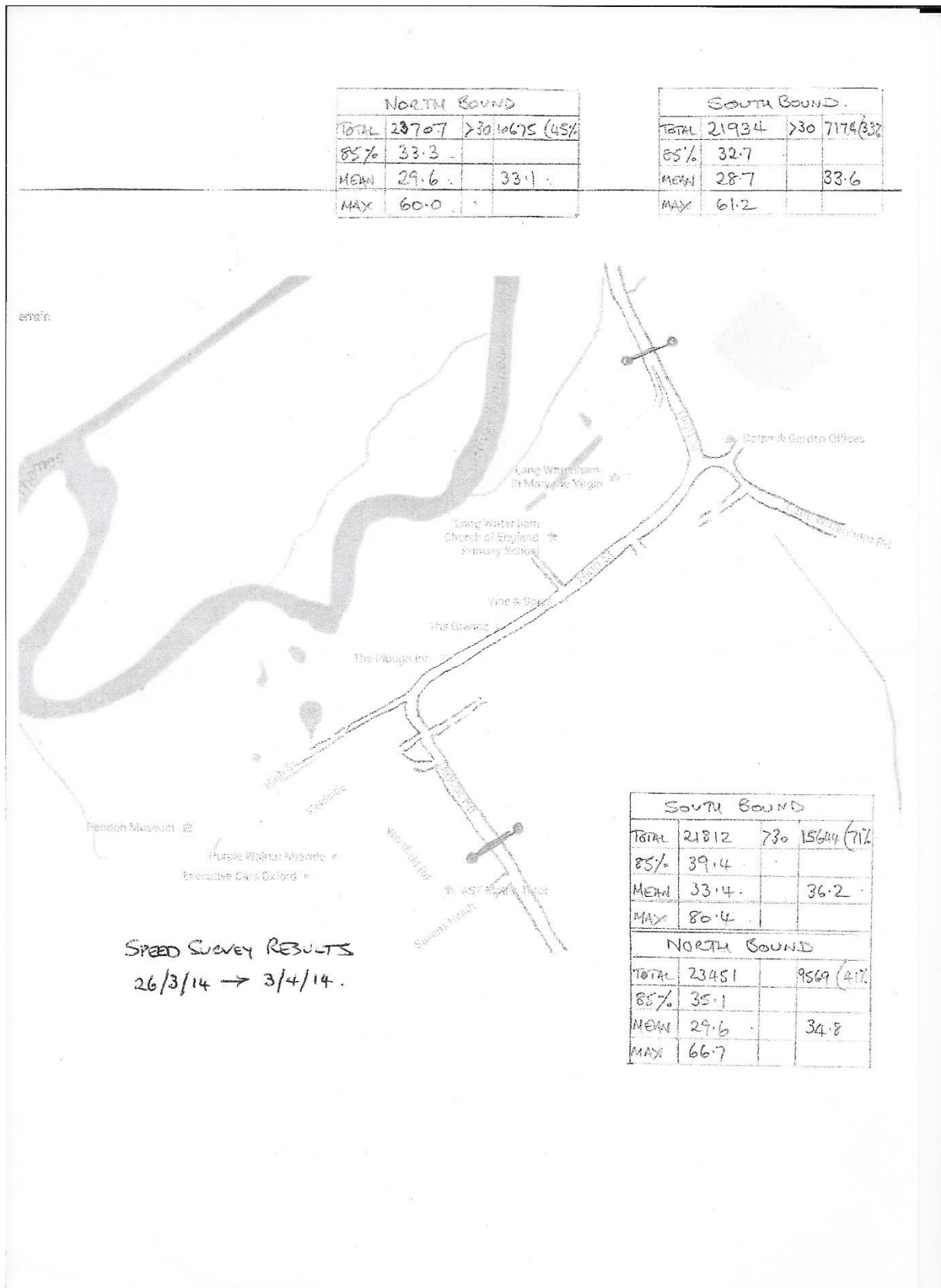
Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
Improve road safety	Sustainable community strategy		Good road safety record	New development must address road safety.	r) traffic speed/safety
New developments should be aware of traffic flow through Chilterns AONB	Chilterns AONB management plan 2014-2019			No issue	--
<b>ECONOMIC</b>					
The life of the countryside and rural communities should be sustained through economic diversity	SODC local plan		Hub would enable this	Ensure hub provides facilities for home workers	l) community facilities q) thriving economy
Ensure sufficient choice of school places	National planning policy framework	Supports plan for new school	School facilities need updating	Hub addresses this	l) community facilities
Improve infrastructure for education	Sustainable community strategy	Mentioned but NOT supported in Local Plan	School facilities need updating	Hub addresses this	l) community facilities
Support measures that ensure young people leave education with skills needed and employers identify skills gap	SODC core strategy Sustainable community strategy	Sylva project	Sylva project will contribute	Outside LWNDP	--
Promote agriculture and land based businesses	National planning policy framework		Sylva project	Outside LWNDP	--
Tourism- promote tourism and improve visitor facilities and make more use of historic/cultural attractions eg River Thames	National planning policy framework Sustainable community strategy Thames river basement management plan		Improved car parking and hub would facilitate	New development must minimise impact on current parking problems (or even improve it).	s) parking

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
Oxford Vale Science park development	Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan	New river crossing now proposed will ensure traffic will bypass LW	Need to consider implications- housing traffic flow, employment	New development must minimise impact on traffic flow.	r) traffic speed/safety
<b>Communication</b>					
Expand/improve high speed broadband (SODC:Aspire to 100mbps broadband speeds)	SODC core strategy National planning policy framework	High speed cabling to be installed in village-approved July 2015	Identified as need but addressed by Gigaclear Summer 2015 laying cable	Already addressed	--
Deliver broadband investment	Oxfordshire LEP Strategic Economic Plan		Identified as need		--
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>					
	The emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031		Strategic sites eg Milton Park and Harwell will impact LW, eg pressure on traffic, demand for cycle path, more residents, demand for school places.	Possible cumulative impacts eg traffic, school places	c) traffic volume l) community facilities n) foot/cycle path r) traffic speed/safety
	The emerging Science Vale Action Plan		Plans for sustainable growth at strategic sites	Possible cumulative impacts eg traffic, school places	c) traffic volume l) community facilities n) foot/cycle path r) traffic speed/safety

Key messages from policy context	Policy documents	Notes	Baseline situation	Issues and challenges	Sustainability Objective (these cross reference with table 5.1 in text)
			could affect Long Wittenham, and ambitions for “significant investment in local infrastructure, for example, roads, cycleways, water supply, and schools” could be an opportunity”		

## Appendix 4: Summary of traffic survey results





## Appendix 5: Consultation Responses

Comments that are received in response to the statutory consultation on the SA scoping report will be recorded here:

Commenter	Comment	Our response